

NORTHSIDE RESIDENT

Lisa Wiese: a journey from physics to food



Photo provided by Lisa Wiese

Lisa (front) with her family (clockwise): daughter Cora, husband Chris, and daughter Ella.

By Dorothy Wheeler
The Northside News

Lisa Wiese, president of the Northside Community Cooperative, began her journey toward leadership at an early age growing up on a small farm in western Nebraska. She and her sister, the two youngest siblings, had many chores assigned to them including feeding the chickens, ducks and geese.

By the age of eight, Lisa began to cook meals for the family and, by age 12, she and her sister were planning and cooking all the family meals. Some young people might complain about all these chores, but Lisa describes the children of farmers as being very proud of these accomplishments and disdainful of other less productive kids.

School was no problem for Lisa because she was always able to finish her work in the country school she attended. When she entered high school, she found that physics was the only challenging class and she liked it for just that reason. With her high academic standing, she was able to garner a scholarship to the University of Nebraska where she continued to pursue the study of physics.

Graduate school was next because this talented student needed an advanced degree to satisfy her ambi-

tions in the field of physics. By the time she earned her PhD in physics, she was married to Christopher Moore, another physics major, and had two children, Ella and Cora. She was also short-listed for an international award as the result of her thesis. Lisa is proud that she was asked to give talks about her project, one of them at Harvard.

Lisa's full time job in a physics lab brought the family to Madison. She gave up this job about two years ago, not because she doesn't love physics, but because the culture of the physics lab is monk-like, so focused are those scientists. She notes with a smile that she had to talk with the custodians to validate her other life. So Lisa traded places with her husband who was a stay-at-home dad.

This active woman was obviously ripe for another challenge since she never thought of herself as a stay-at-home mom, even though she loves having quality time with her daughters! First she became president of the PTA at Lindbergh Elementary School.

Next she became co-chair of the Northside PTO Coalition through which she met many people in the Northside community and learned more about the issues.

After attending the first grocery store meeting led by Michael Shinnars, this issue became a focus for Lisa. She and Chris talked it over and they decided Lisa could take on a leadership role for this vital community project.

Lisa has strived mightily with other leaders to sign on members for the cooperative but, in the meantime, the idea of having a Northside Farmer's Market surfaced as a wonderful way to bring local food into our neighborhoods and also to promote community spirit.

With the help of Claudia Rosenbaum and Nan Cline, this idea became a reality this summer. Lisa said it was like a physics problem - you start with lots of information, distill it, and then proceed step by step to a completed project.

She is especially proud that the market can serve people on food stamps. Lisa's parents instilled this philosophy in their children: "What you are willing to tolerate for others is what you deserve for yourself."

Trevor Knight

People who touch our lives become a part of us.

They are never lost.

We honor their memory by doing the things we shared together.

Trevor will be with us whenever we run, ski and laugh, forever.

Don't stand by my grave and weep.

For I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glint on new fallen snow.

I am sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awake in morning's hush,

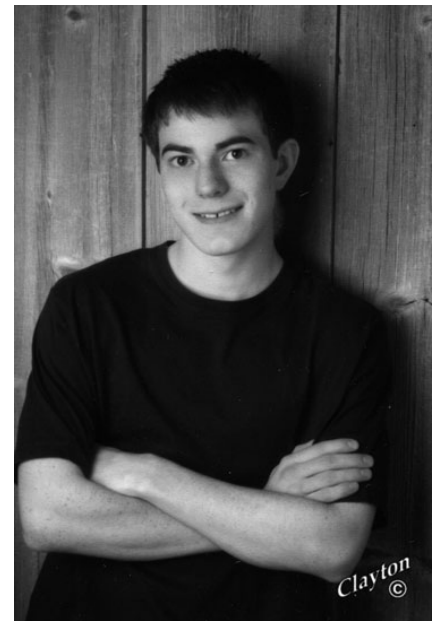
I am the swift uplifting rush

of quiet birds in circle flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand by my grave in tears.

For I will be with you, through all the years.



The Knight family extends our heartfelt appreciation to the Northside Community and to those friends that make it such a special place - for the support and kindness they shared with us after the death of our beloved Trevor. Words cannot express what your caring and compassion have meant to us.

- Rodney Knight

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