

2021 ISD 88 Hall of Fame Bios

Darla Cordes Gebhard – Class of 1966

A 1966 graduate of New Ulm High School, Darla has been a lifelong resident and a passionate advocate for keeping the stories alive of New Ulm's past. She has served four terms on the Junior Pioneers Board of Directors. It was during that time that she worked fervently to protect the park through land negotiations. She has worked on the Minnesota Historical Society oral history projects. Her extensive knowledge of New Ulm's history, and more specifically the US-Dakota War of 1862, led to her working with Twin Cities Public Television, taking them on tours of the city and Milford so they could film a documentary on the subject. Darla secured a grant to assist with the cost of placing cemetery markers on all the unmarked graves at the New Ulm city cemetery of those that died in the US-Dakota War of 1862. Darla's effort to preserve the history of that war provided her the opportunity to co-author a book, *Eight Days in August* that detailed the stories of the survivors and those that lost their lives in the uprising. Her commitment to preserving New Ulm's history is an asset to all. In her role as a research librarian for the Brown County Historical Society and Museum, she doubled the family genealogical files that are now available there from 2,500 to over 5,000. Her enthusiasm for history has led to many opportunities for the community to benefit from learning more about the past and upholding it for generations to come.