



*DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI - 2021*

**KARIN WINEGAR**

**CLASS 1968**

Karin Winegar graduated from Albert Lea Senior High School in 1968. Since then, Karin has been a passionate and articulate defender of animals and the environment, and an advocate for good writing.

She is a well-known journalist in the Twin Cities and in the equestrian community throughout the country.

For twenty years after graduating from Carleton College, Karin was a staff reporter for *The Minneapolis Star Tribune*, which published her interviews with such personalities as Anthony Quinn, Dick Cavett, Harry Belafonte, Lauren Bacall, and Norman Mailer, her opinion pieces and her environmental coverage, among other features.

As a freelance writer, her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*.

She is the author of the acclaimed non-fiction book, *SAVED: Rescued Animals and The Lives They Transform*, with a foreword by Dr. Jane Goodall and prologue by Dr. Temple Grandin.

In addition to her public books, she writes commissioned private biographies. Her biographies of corporate leaders and horsemen Doug Leatherdale of Minnesota and Gus Schickedanz of Canada are in the National Sporting Library, the National Racing Hall of Fame and other collections.

She is the winner of numerous awards for her articles about horses, and a Lowell Thomas award for investigative journalism for her feature on pesticide use in airplanes.

More important than her professional accomplishments, ever since high school Karin has been an independent thinker and someone willing to speak her mind.

She identified the troubling trend about land development and its damage to the environment and animal life long before it gained popular attention. And at a time when our society has become increasingly automated and digitized, she has championed the crucial role that animals, especially horses, play in human health and well-being. The growing use and acceptance of service animals in businesses and public places, and the growing recognition of equine-facilitated therapy programs are simply a testament to the fact that she was right all along.

Karin is a wonderful example of how Albert Lea High School provided the intellectual foundation and stimulation for a lifetime of important contributions. Karin is also an articulate and engaging speaker, and it would be a treat for our current students to hear from her.