

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Celebrate Good Times! (Come On!)

Website

www.mrti.org

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Congratulations, New Retirees!

In our first meeting at the Eagles' Club since the pandemic closed us down in March of 2020, MRTI members welcomed a group of thirteen new retirees (some from 2020 and some from 2021).

A festive occasion for all, we enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by energizing entertainment by local cabaret artists, **Erin & Jay**. Filling the air with music, their show, "**Rockin' on Broadway**," followed the history of Broadway musicals from Irving Berlin's wistful "*What'll I do?*" written in 1923, to the raucous "*Let the Sunshine In*," from the 1968 Broadway smash hit, *Hair* and "*When You're Good to Mama*" from 1975's *Chicago*.

Bill of Fare

October 19 - Beef stroganoff with noodles;
apple crisp

November 16 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes;
cherry pie

December 21 - Fried chicken, cole slaw,
potato salad; carrot cake

January 18 - Open-faced hot roast beef
sandwiches; chocolate pudding

The Eagles Club has a new kitchen manager and chef - Maggie. She is very cooperative and easy to work with.

As always, a vegetarian option is available; just let your caller know or contact Gayle Marko. No other options are possible. The lunch price is now \$20.00, which includes lunch, tax, tip and the program. We happily accept cash or checks.

Phone callers record both names and phone numbers for reservations, which will be checked off at the ticket table. Should you need to cancel your reservation, call Gayle prior to the meeting. No-shows will be billed for the cost of the luncheon.

If you have **NOT** been called by **Monday, a week before the luncheon**, and you wish to attend, please call **Gayle Marko** to make a reservation:

952-920-1395.

MRTI supports the effort to control and eradicate the CoVid-19 pandemic which has cost so many people their lives and their health. We encourage all members to be fully vaccinated and we ask that, if you have not been vaccinated, be prepared to wear masks and observe social distancing at all indoor MRTI functions.

Did You Know...

MRTI contributes to many programs that support Minneapolis children? Your dues support annual contributions to:

- The Assistance League
- Mary's Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Twin Cities
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

MRTI's Annual October Craft Fair will not be held this year, due to the short time available to organize it. Marian Anderson has agreed to coordinate the Fair for next year.

Fall Program Schedule



October 19, 2021

Author Patrick Mader presents
Minnesota Olympians.



November 16, 2021

Tracy Tolzman, Grand Sheik
Laurel & Hardy Blockheads Tent



December 21, 2021

“Side by Side” - a Women’s
Octet, presents a Holiday Musical program



January 18, 2022

Rod Martel, Local Filmmaker
and MRTI member, discusses his film, “Lost
in Berlin.”

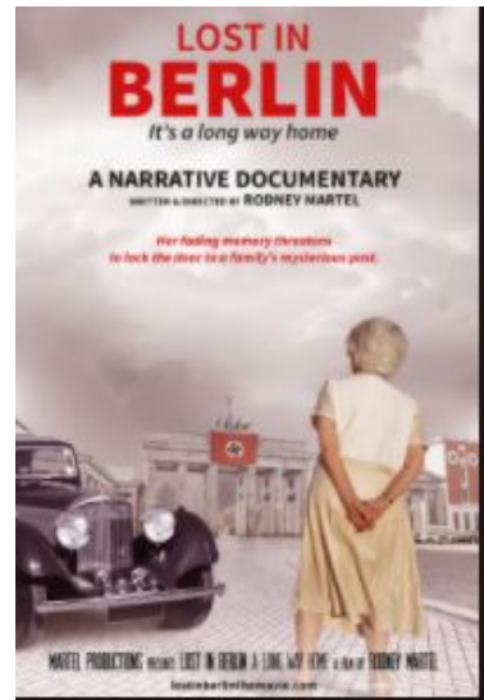
Interested in political activity?

Retired Teachers Council 59 (RTC 59)
“Gathering, Learning and Action”

**On September 28, October 26 &
December 7. we will meet via
Zoom at 10:00 AM**

**Look for your invitation/link in your
email**

Your Homework Assignment



JANUARY 18 MRTI PROGRAM PREVIEW

Rod Martel, a MPS retired colleague, has taken up documentary film production. His most recent effort was producing an oral history with his mother, Gerda Freund Martel. The film, *Lost in Berlin*, explores her experiences during the holocaust. At our January 18 luncheon program he will share how he created this and other documentary films. *Lost in Berlin* has garnered 21 awards and 10 nominations including Best Feature Film at the Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival, the Salt House Festival (Melbourne), Best Documentary London Film Festival, Best Feature Film at the Central Florida Film Festival, and Best Director at the Seattle Film Fest.

You are encouraged to visit the website:

lostinberlinthemovie.com

where you can learn more about this documentary and view the trailer for the film. Directions for viewing the entire film prior to our January 18th meeting will be included in the next issue of “After School” and posted on the MRTI website. www.mrti.org as soon as they are available.

We congratulate Rod on his success in this endeavor and look forward to his program.

THE BEST TRIP EVER

- ELMER KOCH

Through the years, my wife, Jackie, and I have been fortunate to have been able to do a lot of traveling...in the U.S and abroad. I have often been asked if I have a favorite destination/trip, and I find that an easy question to answer. For me, without a doubt, it was our Viking river boat cruise in China in the Fall of 2004.

Our 18-day vacation began on a Sunday morning at 5:00 am with our flight to Shanghai via Chicago and San Francisco...a long day, arriving early evening on Monday in Shanghai. We were met by our guide, Angela Guo, who would be our tour escort for the entire trip. We were in a group of 20 travelers who had taken the pre & post cruise packages added to the cruise and we became a very bonded group during the next weeks of our journey.

SHANGHAI- TONGLI-SUZHOU

Up early on Tuesday for the first of two days in Shanghai, we took in a host of special venues: the "Bund" a shopping area along the Yangtze River (Yellow River...which is really brown due to the silt) and viewing the 88 story TV tower across the river, housing apartments and restaurants as part of the modern skyline there in contrast to the European architecture on the Bund



Then it was on to a shopping bazaar (crowded with what seemed like most of Shanghai's 16 million people). The bazaar was housed in a unique, restored, 200

year old teahouse in the center of a small pond, accessible by a crooked bridge.



Next it was on to the Children's Palace...an after-school enrichment venue for children of any age, where they can pursue special interests in arts and crafts, drama, music, etc. Classes meet weekly for a fee of \$50 for 1/2 year. Visiting these classes was an interesting experience.



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Day two started with the usual hotel buffet breakfast with “Western style” food (lunch and dinner were more specialized Chinese dishes, usually served at large round tables with a lazy susan for food in the middle and beer as the normal beverage offered). The round tables added to the bonding of our “Gang of 20” as we later called ourselves. Chopstick skills were a challenge, especially at dinner, as we were offered 100 year old eggs, sweet-sour fish, lotus root, moon cakes, and several unidentifiable items to savor.

Today’s touring began with a two hour visit to the Shanghai Museum to enjoy exhibits of jade, porcelain, bronze work, and ancient sculptures. Then it was off to a silk rug factory before a free afternoon to rest up for the evening



performance of Chinese Acrobats at the Shanghai Center Theater.

Thursday morning we had a 2 hour

bus ride to Tongli, a walking town (bikes and motorbikes only, no cars) with narrow streets and unique buildings, preserved as an “old Chinese town.”



After lunch we boarded an excursion boat at the town of Suzhou on the Grand Canal, a 1000 year old waterway from Beijing to Suzhou, which connects 5 rivers. A unique site was a 1000 year old bridge to the “small city” of Suzhou...just under 2 million people! We were taken to our Sheraton hotel, and after dinner we toured an ancient “garden” comprised of a series of rocks, water,

and trees.....not a flower in sight!

The next day was filled with more sightseeing: the Humble Administrator’s Garden (largest of Suzhou’s many...400 years old and 12 ½ acres in size), then off to a silk factory to view mulberry trees...worms in various stages....threads from 7 filaments of silk finally forming cloth for weaving.



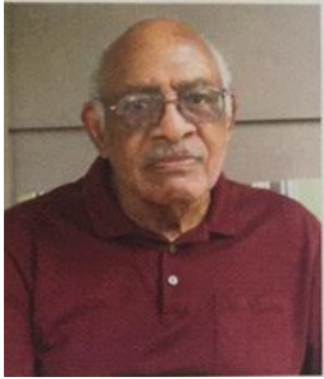
After lunch we went to the National Embroidery Institute where we saw women at their looms doing very delicate silk thread work creating intricate designs and pictures.

WUHAN - YANGTZE RIVER - JUNSHAN ISLAND

Saturday morning we left Suzhou for a 2 hour bus ride back to Shanghai. After lunch we went to the old Shanghai airport for a short 1 ½ hour flight to Wuhan. We learned that China has a rule that a city must have more than 2 million people in order to build an airport (poor Suzhou fell a bit short), thus the reason for our return to Shanghai to catch a plane.

Wuhan, a city of 7.3 million, is one of the five

Hall of Fame Honors for Richard Robinson



Richard Robinson, a 1954 graduate of Minneapolis Central High School, was a seven-time letter winner in football, basketball and track. At Augsburg College, he lettered eight times in the same sports. During his 30 year career in

MPS, Richard was head football coach at Central High from 1972 - 1982, and head football coach at North High from 1982 - 1992. He taught U.S. history at both schools, and served as Athletic Director at North from 1988 - 1998. He retired from his history teaching career in 1996.

His programs at North and Central produced 19 Division I

and I-AA football players and 5 NFL players, including Peter Najarian, Russell Gary, Rodney Lewis, and Joe Fuller, and also Fred Bryan, who is currently a referee for the NFL.

Many of his other players went on to play football and graduate from small private and public colleges around the state and country.

A two-time *Conference Coach of the Year*, a former head coach of the *Metro All-star Team* and a

member of the *Minneapolis City Conference Coaching Staff of the year*, Richard is the winner of the *2007 Cal Stoll Award* and was inducted into the Augsburg Hall of Fame in 1979, where he is a member of the *150 years of Augsburg Football Team*. Richard was inducted into the *Minnesota Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame* on August 13, 2021, at a ceremony and banquet held in St. Louis Park. He was one of five coaches inducted for 2021, and the first African-American coach in the 57-year history of this Hall of Fame.

In a statement to the MN Coaches Association, Robinson wrote, "Personal highlights of my coaching have to do with building programs and having players be recognized and recruited for college football."

His other personal highlights include a long, happy marriage to retired Minneapolis North teacher, Martha Harris, four children: Rich, Jeff, Ronel and Reggie and being the brother-in-law of retired MPS teacher, Corinne Robinson. He enjoys traveling in Europe, the Mediterranean and throughout the US.

Congratulations to an outstanding Minneapolis teacher and coach!



Richard Robinson with **Justin Reese**, head coach at Fridley High School, who received the last award of the evening: Minnesota High School Coach of the Year for 2021.

MRTI Needs YOU!

We are looking for a person to serve on our Board. This is a 2-year position, during which you will learn all about the inner workings of MRTI.

For more information, contact: RomaLee Rasmussen (rl.rasmussen@comcast.net)

or

Barbara Kuenne (BGKWOW1@gmail.com)



MRTI President, Barbara Kuenne, welcomed everyone back to our first in-person meeting since March of 2020. Among our special guests, MPS Superintendent, Ed Graff, was there to congratulate our new retirees, thank them for their service and thank MRTI for the moral and financial support we have given Minneapolis teachers and students over the years.



MRTI members sang right along with Erin on Rogers & Hammerstein's, "My Favorite Things" and cheered her rendition of "Nobody's Gonna Rain on My Parade!"

What a great way to start off the 2021-22 school year!!





MRTI TEACHER GRANTS AT WORK



Students make their own jump ropes in Kyle Hansen's P.E. Classes at Bethune Arts Magnet School using materials purchased through an MRTI Grant. - Photos by Kyle Hansen

A group of Southwest High School students enjoy the picnic table that Jacob Nielsen's Special Ed students built with funds from an MRTI grant.

- Photo by Larry Risser



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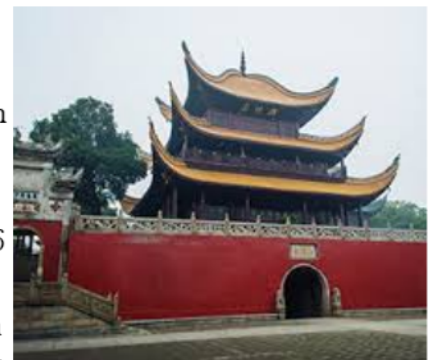
Mitchell Trockman - 763-545-7500
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The Best Trip Ever, cont.

biggest cities in China. It is an auto manufacturing center (Citroen and Hyundai) and a technology hub for fiber optics, along with fishing and lotus root production. It was here that we boarded our home for the next 7 days, the Century Star river boat on the Yangtze.

Our first night on board we enjoyed an American style dinner! A friendly staff of 100 served the 110 passengers (full capacity would be 185). So, our "gang of 20" made up a significant portion of the passenger count. At breakfast the next morning, we had a "small world" experience. We met a couple from Rochester, MN...both retired from Mayo Clinic...a doctor and nurse. And even more amazing, they now lived in Fountain Hills, AZ (where Jackie and I have often spent some Winter time) and they knew friends of ours there who own a local coffee shop! To top it off, the boat's chef was from Brainerd, MN. What a fun way to start our cruise on the Yangtze, the 3rd longest river in the world.

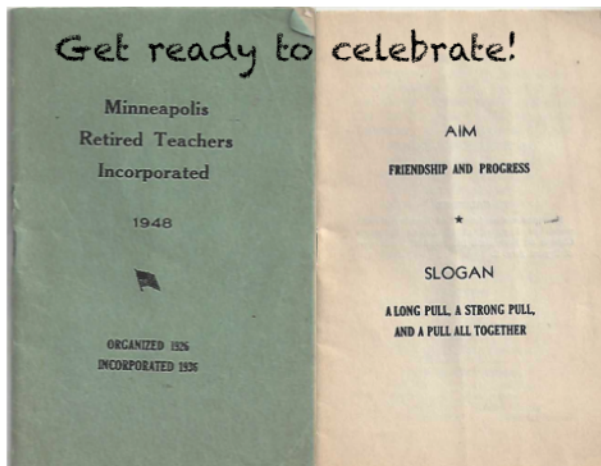
After lunch we arrived at Junshan Island in the Dongting Lake (largest freshwater lake in China) for an excursion. On the island we climbed the Yueyan Tower, built in 716 and reconstructed in 1985. It has no foundation and is held up by 4 posts! Junshan Island is the home for growing the rare and expensive "silver needle" tea, which "dances" while brewing! We returned to our boat for dinner and our first of many where the "Gang of 20" reorganized the dining room so we could have our own "banquet" table arrangement!



To be Continued



MRTI's 100th birthday is coming!



Funds are available for medical reimbursement.
Give TRA a call to request an application.

651-296-240

Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF)
(administered by the Teachers Retirement Association)



Overview

The Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF) was established in the 1930s through a bequest of a retired Minneapolis teacher.

A trust was established to reimburse certain medical costs of retired Minneapolis teachers, and is administered by the Teachers Retirement Association.

To qualify for reimbursement, a retiree must have been a Minneapolis Special School District #1 teacher.

Reimbursements

Eligible retirees may request reimbursement for:

- Allowable medical expenses
- Health insurance premiums (when funds permit)

Medical Expenses

Allowable medical expenses, if these expenses are not covered by Medicare or any other form of insurance, include:

- inpatient or outpatient procedures performed at hospitals, clinics or surgery centers; and
- licensed nursing care or prosthetic devices.

Expenses that are **not eligible** include: dental care, nursing home care, medication, therapy, glasses, outpatient services, non-medical items.

Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.

How To Apply

- Call TRA to request information. If expenses are determined to be eligible, an application will be mailed to you.
- Complete and return the application to TRA, along with expense receipts.

Health Insurance Premium Expenses (when funds permit)

To be eligible for health insurance premium reimbursement, a retiree must meet all of the following criteria:

- be age 65 or older;
- have retired after May 1, 1974, but before July 1, 1999; and
- not be eligible for free Medicare Part A coverage.

Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.

Contact Us

Teachers Retirement Association
60 Empire Drive, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55103-4000
651.296.2409 or 800.657.3669
651.297.5999 (FAX)

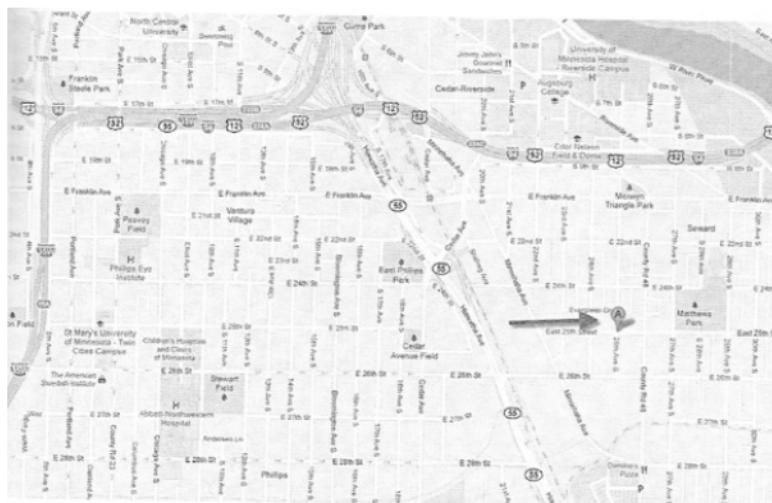
MRTI Newsletter October 2021
Chris Poppe, editor

Our meeting location
Eagles Club #34 American Legion
(On the corner of E. 25th St. & 25th Ave. S)
2507 E. 25th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Articles, opinion essays and
comments are welcome and
should be directed to:

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Plenty of Free parking

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