

MRTI News

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.

October 2012

Founded in 1926

Vol. 63 No. 2

MRTI Welcomes New Retirees



Photo by Larry Risser

The meeting hall was filled with excitement, conversation and hugs as 134 Minneapolis colleagues, including 23 newly retired, gathered. It was our September luncheon where MRTI welcomes the newly retired to our active organization. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch of stuffed chicken breast, with cheesecake for dessert.

The Roe Family Singers provided an enjoyable program of heartfelt singing and toe-tappin' old-timey music. Somehow, 18-month-old Oni Roe managed to fall asleep through it all (see photo). And, we all understood when Don, the guitar player, had to leave early to pick up his son from school.

MRTI Programs



November 20, 2012: Woody Guthrie's 100th Birthday Celebration

"One of a handful of the world's greatest all-time balladeers" is how writer Studs Terkel described Woody Guthrie. Long time Minnesota folkies Pop Wagner, Charlie Maguire, and bluesman Tony Glover, come together in a rare collection to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Guthrie's birth in 1912 with a musical tribute to the songwriter.

December 11, 2012: Annual Holiday Music Program

South High School presents a variety of vocal and instrumental selections including seasonal favorites. Once again we are happy to feature a selection of students from one of our Minneapolis high schools.

January 15, 2013: Mila Vocal Ensemble

This talented group of women performs authentic Eastern European folk music. They sing in Bulgarian, Hungarian, Romanian, or the language of wherever a particular song originates. Since many of these languages are foreign to most of us, they tell us what each song is about. They also explain how a song plays a role in its culture.

Mila has performed at many local venues, including with the Ethnic Dance Theater's Danube River Cruise program in 2012, and at the Acadia on the West Bank.

Program Committee member Margaret Tuma said, "When I first heard this group, I was amazed by their vocal power and richness, and I was impressed by their musicianship. They are truly phenomenal!"

MRTI Programs continued from page 1

February 19, 2013: 150 Years Since the 1862 Dakota Uprising

Stephen Osman is an expert on the Dakota Uprising, and also on Minnesota's involvement in the Civil War. He is a published author and is in much demand as a speaker. You may have met him at Fort Snelling, where he was the site director for many years.

It's been 150 years since the "Dakota Uprising" of 1862, a harsh part of Minnesota's past. Historian Osman, an expert on this and other aspects of Minnesota's history, will take us on a short journey through the events that led to that memorable December day in Mankato.

March 19, 2013: Laura MacKenzie, Irish Folk Musician

Irish folk musician Laura MacKenzie is known across the country. She is an accomplished singer and instrumentalist who is also a teacher who informs her audiences as she entertains them. Laura MacKenzie is authentic Irish to the core.

April 16, 2013: Alive & Kickin

Alive & Kickin is a senior choir of 25 singing pop love songs. The choir was started by Michael Matthew Ferrel based on the idea of the documentary film "Young at Heart."

June "Field Trip" -- Lake Minnetonka Boat Ride

On a most glorious Tuesday -- actually a bit chilly but sunny after a miserably hot weekend -- 42 of us set out from Wayzata on an Al & Alma's boat. It was nice enough to sit outside wearing a light jacket and enjoy friends, the scenery, and gorgeous homes. Our crew was three young people -- two young ladies who were so friendly and accommodating, and our personable and knowledgeable captain.

We learned who owns the expensive homes on the lake, just how large they are, and how high their property taxes are. The owners are definitely not teachers! We all enjoyed the lovely lunch. Soon our three-hour odyssey was over. Thanks to Denny Lander for organizing this fun event!

Join us in June of 2013 on our next "field trip," wherever or whatever it may be.

As reported by Gayle Marko

Photo by Larry Risser



We Say "Good-bye"

These retired Minneapolis teachers passed away in 2012

Dorothy Aarness Barbara L Atherton Lillian A Barnes Chris J Behm Samual Bivens Carol J Borne Marie Botko Olha M Breslawec Thomas A Brodie Florence E Burk William B. Chrisholm Nina M. Clemons Douglas C Davis Donald G DeChant Evelyn DeIBoca Lawrence A Dellota Charles A Dorniden Luverne E Eckstrom Patty Epstein	Jeanne P Erlandson Ardis L Falk Solveig C Farseth Delores Folkestad Lavonne I Fredrickson Kathleen M Gawboy Joan P George Richard J Gibbons Margaret D Goodlund Roger C Googins Francis Goschy Larry E Harris Dorothy L Haugee Robert H Hermanson Douglas Hokanson Trudy M Hughes Kathleen E Hummel Raymond R Jarnstrom Christine F Jorgensen Helen E Jorgenson	Ona D Kingbird Willard Kottke Catherine E Koziol Patricia A Lindgren Sonja L Lyngstad John Mamer Gloria McKeen Effie M McKerson Grant A Moosbrugger Patricia E Muedeking James W Murphy Peter J Nekola Clareen R Nyquist Richard C Oliver Robert F Papas Joseph P Papatola Margaret H. Pascoe Aspasia Phillips Anne S. Pineda George B Ploetz	David S Primrose Dorothy B Rambeck Donald S Rinkenberger Barbara A Roback Marcella P Rudek Von E Schwartz Mavis V Scott Amanda M Shepherd Marvin H Skaurud Mary Barbara Spake Harold Strobel Viola R Svensson Violet C Tabb Phyllis Thornley James E Van Drunen Edward D Villwock Marcia Walsh Darrell Yngsdahl Everett C Zellers S Ruth Zimdars
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How to Get Involved

- **Help** keep lunch numbers accurate / call for a reservation or cancellation.
- **Call** AchieveMpls or your neighborhood school to volunteer.
- **Write** a review of the last great book you read or trip you took.
- **Contact** a committee chair to volunteer.
- **Bring** food / money to support the food shelf.
- **Write** a letter to ??? urging action.
- **Provide** a ride for a fellow member.
- **Find** those books / magazines cluttering your house and bring them for others.

OUR PENSION IS AT RISK

The issue is: there are legislators who want to change public pensions to a "defined contribution" instead of the "defined benefit" we now have. Stay tuned to the Minnesota Legislature at www.committeeof13.org

Recommended reading: Committee of Thirteen Newsletter Fall 2012 and *The Betrayal of the American Dream* by Donald Bartlett and James B. Steele.

Keep the Book Exchange Active Share a Good Read

- Bring books (and magazines which are not "time sensitive") to display on the table provided.
- Before, during and after lunch, browse through the items displayed and select any you want.
- At the end of the luncheon, ***You are responsible for removing the books and magazines you brought.***
- You do not need to bring a book/magazine in order to take one (or more).

2012 Scholarship Recipients

Mary Amaya: is a school psychologist in her eleventh year with MPS. She is planning to move to Bogota, Columbia with her family for one year and enroll in a 6-month intensive Spanish course at the University of Sabana. Her goal is to become proficient in speaking Spanish with families about their children's needs. She also plans to take the Spanish Diploma as a Foreign Language exam to ensure her qualifications as proficient in the language

Crystal Ballard: is an AVID teacher at Olson Middle School, also teaches a literacy block so wants to earn her reading license. She has taken the first course in a series of five at the University of Minnesota to complete the K-12 licensure program. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Special Education from Grambling State University in Louisiana, as well as a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota and a certificate in Urban Teaching from Hamline University

Kathryne Chiqui: received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamline University, majoring in Social Justice and Latin American Studies. She is now a weekend college/graduate student at Augsburg College, pursuing a Master of Arts in Education. Her goal is to become a middle school or high school math teacher. Besides going to school full time, she is a Bilingual Associate Educator (Spanish) at the Southside Adult Education Center and a site coordinator at Well Fargo Bank ABE and the mother of a soon-to-be two-year-old.

David Davies: Earned an Associate degree from Mpls. Community and Technical College after serving for four years in the Navy after high school. Currently enrolled in the Urban Elementary Education degree program at Metropolitan State University, he is an Associate Educator (behavior specialist) at Sheridan Global Arts School and a program counselor at Meridian Service Inc. Crisis Group Home.

Melany Mayers: is at Anne Sullivan Communication Center working with kindergarten and second grade classes. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a major in English and has completed a year's study in Augsburg College's Master of Education program with the goal of becoming an elementary teacher.

Anna Sonmore-Costello: is a Level II Community Education Coordinator at Hale Elementary School. She is enrolled at the University of St. Thomas, close to completing a Master's degree in Special Education, Learning Disabilities. Anna plans to obtain a new Academic Behavior Strategist (ABS) license as well, which will require two more courses.

Orlando Villegas: is currently a Bilingual Program Aide for the ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) program in the MPS, enrolled in the Urban Early Childhood Education program at Metropolitan State University. He plans to obtain a Master of Arts at the U of M Early Childhood Special Education program with the goal of becoming a licensed Early Childhood Special Education teacher, using his bilingual skills to help support Latino families in the MPS.

Adelina Wood: is a Bilingual Program Assistant-Spanish with the Early Childhood Family Education (EFCE) program in the MPS. She would like to pursue Parent and Family Education Licensure from the University of Minnesota in order to teach the classes rather than translate the information. A native of Peru, Adelina has a Bachelor of Systems Engineering degree from a university in Peru.

Each year the Scholarship Committee meets to review the applications for scholarships. Minneapolis teachers who wish to change education field, Minneapolis Public School employees seeking to become a licensed teacher, and Minneapolis high school graduates wanting a career change to teaching, are welcome to apply for an MRTI scholarship. FFI: Sylvia Farrells, chair of Scholarship Committee, angelseyf@gmail.com.



A Journey “Down Under” by George Schell



George Schell checks out the engine at a desert fuel stop on the transcontinental train.

“You’re going where? Isn’t that another continent? You’ll be staying for two months? What are you going to do in Australia for that length of time?” Yes, yes, and that’s time to explore the sights and really meet the people. The other thing is that any way you look at it, the flight is about fourteen hours! And well worth it!

In the late seventies and through most of the eighties, Australia welcomed many Minnesota teachers on an exchange program—mainly because there was a shortage of teachers. I was one of those exchange teachers from South High School who took my family and lived in Melbourne for a year, in 1985, teaching at a private school: Wesley College. Twenty-five years later, in 2010, I returned to see the many changes and to renew friendships sustained through the years.

Five major airlines fly to the land down under, but my recommendation is to use Qantas, thought of as the official Australian airline. Los Angeles is a convenient departure city to Melbourne, Sydney or Brisbane. Most of the flights leave around midnight, crossing the Pacific at night and arriving the next morning at the chosen destination. Time gets mixed up as you cross the International Date Line and lose a day. The long flight time is easy to take with the on-board comfort, different activities, wonderful meals, and ample time to leave your seat and walk around the huge plane. One more note: Of the four classes offered for tickets, choose Premium Economy because it offers great accommodations and comfort.

After traveling by train down the east coast from Brisbane, to Sydney to Melbourne on fast express, on-time trains, I again boarded Qantas for a four-hour flight to Perth in Western Australia. Think of where San Diego, California is located and you have a good comparison. Americans have a misconception about Australia’s size. When the outline is superimposed over that of the United States, clearly Australia has the advantage with one state, Tasmania, hanging over the edge. The big difference is that about 90% of Australia is thinly populated and mostly desert, termed the “outback.”

From Perth to Sydney, across the continent, is a three-day, three-night train trip on the Indian Pacific Special. The name comes because the train starts in Perth on the Indian Ocean and ends in Sydney on the Pacific. Or vice versa! There is one stretch of track that is absolutely straight for four hundred miles making for a very smooth ride across the Nullabor Plain. The trip gives one a perspective of the land changes from one end of the country to the other. It’s a wonderful trip. Besides, there are no strangers on a three-day train trip, just fascinating people from all over the world!

These are just some highlights. I have yet to write about the cities, the people, the food and more. If you are considering a trip Down Under, remember there is plenty to do and to see. An important thing is to do your homework and really plan on where you want to go, and what you want to see in order to make the best use of your time. Take enough time to really enjoy the country and appreciate the people.

The best time to travel is after the Christmas holidays when everyone in Australia is on holiday because it is a school break just like here. Remember the seasons are reversed. I traveled during January, February and two weeks into March. I certainly enjoyed the warmth and sunshine of a “Down Under” summer avoiding a harsh Minnesota winter! Here in the Twin Cities there are several reliable travel agents who will be glad to help you plan. The agent I used was very knowledgeable and so helpful with tickets, reservations, and suggestions. Then, I have plenty of advice and travel tips, and three guide books that you are welcome to borrow!

Volunteer Opportunity

What: North Regional Library Homework Hub

We are asking for volunteer commitment of one day a week through the MPS school year at North Regional Library. (When MPS is not in session, then there is no Homework Hub)

Homework Help is for K-12 youth. Goals are to develop relationships with youth and encourage achievement. Online resources are available should a volunteer and a youth need help with a problem.

**When: Tuesday 4 - 7
Wednesday 3:30 - 6
Thursday 4 - 6**

**Where: North Regional Library
1315 Lowry Avenue North**

Volunteers need to apply via the <http://www.hclib.org/> web page. There will be a short interview and all volunteers are screened. Having three or more volunteers available would be awesome, with some helping the younger youth and some helping the teens. Questions? Please contact Lead Mentor Lynn Riskedal at lriskedal@gmail.com or contact the North Regional Librarian, Youth Programs, Anna DeGroot at [612-543-8450](tel:612-543-8450)

Limited Medical Assistance Fund

Access the **Limited Medical Assistance Fund** to help cover medical costs according to the guidelines:

- Reimbursement is *not* for co-pays, prescriptions or office visits.
- The reimbursement is up to a "reasonable amount" of costs remaining after an insurance payment for hospital care, out-patient surgery, treatments, etc.
- You are eligible no matter your age and/or Medicare status, with proper documentation.
- To receive application forms call TRA at 651.296.2409.
- Distribution of funds is made throughout the year, with no particular deadline.

At the End of the Year, if more money is available from the trust than was needed for the health care reimbursement explained above, then the balance will be distributed for health care insurance premiums. This eligibility is more strict than the process for medical expenses:

- A retiree must be 65 or older,
- Must have retired from a Minneapolis school after May 1, 1974 and before January 1, 2000 *and*
- Must not be eligible for free Medicare Part A.

Newsletter Advertising

MRTI is providing an opportunity to advertise products or services in the newsletter.

Who May Advertise? MRTI members, their family members, and charities which MRTI supports.

Content cannot be of a political, religious or illegal nature.

Rates for black and white, camera-ready copy for one-time placement:

Page Size	Member	Non-member
1/8	\$15	\$20
1/4	\$25	\$35
1/2	\$40	\$55

Copy needs to be submitted for committee approval and space availability to David Rolek at dmd@aol.com. FFI call him at 952.894.4925.

We are also anticipating the opportunity to accept ads in the future for the annual membership directory. Watch for further information.

Important Notes

*** MRTI**

P.O. Box 24034
Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034

*** Report** address changes and email addresses to membership chair Denny Lander, 612.926.8478 or dlander222@comcast.net.

*** Cheer and Service Committee:** If you know someone who is ill or just needs a kind word or a member who has died, contact Doris Arnold, 952.431.7471 to have a card sent. Mary Karen Dorniden, 952.941.8833, mkdorniden@msn.com will send birthday cards to our honoree members.

*** Food Shelf:** Donate at our monthly meetings. Just a \$1.00 donation buys \$9.00 of food!

*** We Need You!** Contact a Board member or any committee chair if you want to take an active role in MRTI.

*** Do You Have an Interesting Story?** Do you know a fascinating retired teacher? Did you just take a trip of a lifetime or read a great book? Contact Becky Grover to contribute an article to the Newsletter at rlgrover14@gmail.com.

*** A Little Extra:** Every year there are members who send in their membership dues with a "little extra" as a gift to the organization. Then, too, there are Honorary members who continue to send dues even though they have become non-dues-paying members. These donations are appreciated, and the money is used to defray the costs of scholarships.

*** Gifts or Legacies** given to the MRTI are welcomed and appreciated. You may use these gifts to honor departed friends or relatives. Direct contributions to treasurer Bob Ryder, MRTI. P.O. Box 24034, Mpls, MN 55424-0034.

*** Committee of 13 Website:** Get updates on the Committee of 13: www.committeeof13.com.

www.mrti.org

Be sure to visit the new website for MRTI.

Contact Denny Lander if you have any suggestions to help make the site more informative.

Board of Directors

Officers

Jan. 31 to Dec. 31 (2 years)

Joanne Lambrecht	President	2012-2013
Dave Rolek	VP/ President Elect	2012-2013
Gregory McDaniels	Recording Secretary	2012-2013
Christine Poppe	Asst. Rec. Secretary	2012-2013
Elmer Koch	Corresp. Secretary	2011-2013
Gayle Marko	Asst. Corr. Secretary	2012-2013

Directors

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (3 years)

Rebecca Grover	Past President	2012-2013
Margaret Tuma		2012-2014
Barbara Kuenne		2010-2012
Josephine Bunton		2011-2013

Ed Andersen	Legislative Chair	Board Appointment
Denny Lander	Membership Chair	Board Appointment
Larry Risser	Investment Chair	Board Appointment
Becky Grover	Newsletter Editor	Board Appointment
Robert Ryder	Treasurer	Board Appointment
Sylvia Farrells	Scholarship Chair	Board Appointment

Lunch Reservations Going Well

Our phone callers record the names on the reservations, not just numbers. Those reservations will be held at the ticket table and names will be checked off. No-shows will be billed for the cost of the luncheon.

Meatless Choice: When you are called for a reservation, you must request this choice.

If you have **NOT** been called by the Wednesday before the Tuesday lunch and want to attend, you may call **Gayle Marko**, 952.920.1395, to make a reservation.

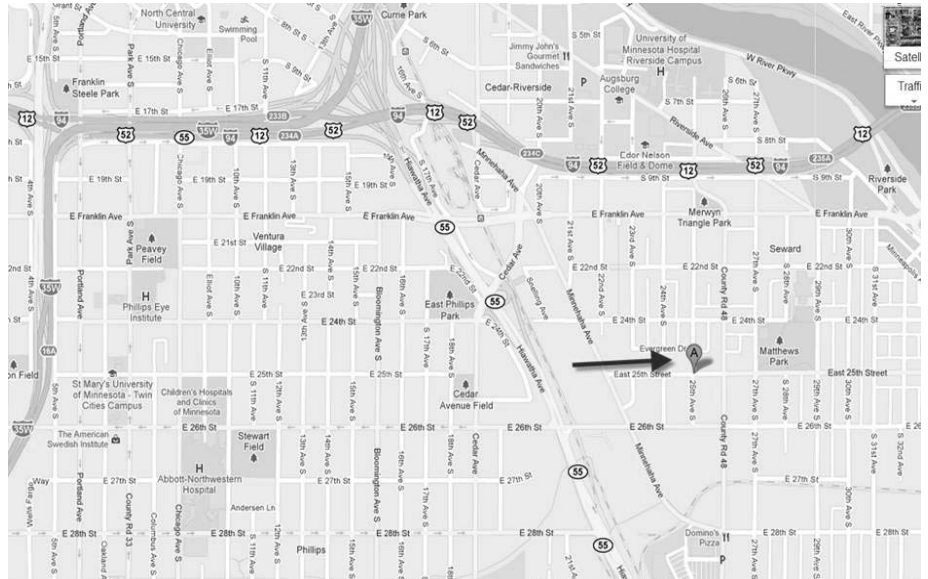
The Board reports that this policy has helped us provide accurate numbers to the caterers.

MRTI Newsletter October 2012

Becky Grover, Editor

Articles, points of view, and comments are welcome and should be directed to:
Becky Grover
5904 Oliver Ave. So.
Mpls., MN 55419
rlgrover14@gmail.com

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



Plenty of free parking!