

MRTI News

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.

March 2013

Founded in 1926

Vol. 64 No. 1

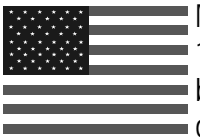
MRTI Spring Programs

April 16, 2013 **Alive & Kickin' - a Musical Journey**



Alive and Kickin' is an inspirational group of 25 high-spirited, charismatic seniors who spread their musical message as they explore contemporary genres of music ranging from pop to gospel to Motown. Love is Alive and Kickin' is a musical journey on the roller coaster of love.-- City of Bloomington Briefing.

May 21, 2013 **Peter Vodenka - Journey for Freedom**



Minnesota author Peter Vodenka vividly describes his heroic escape from communist Czechoslovakia in 1983 with his wife and two young children in the middle of a cold, dark, rainy night while being chased by borders with machine guns, search lights, and dogs. Peter has the uncanny ability to pull his audience directly into the story as he tells of events leading up to their defection, relates the compelling story of his family's ordeal, and their joy in the beauty of life in America today. He wants us as Americans to appreciate our freedoms and not take them for granted. And he wants us to understand why he and his family gave up everything for the opportunity to come to America. The story of his family's journey to freedom is particularly timely as we approach the Memorial Day holiday. Website: www.journeyforfreedom.com



June 12, 2013 - Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - a fun day of music & song!!
Watch for sign-up at the April meeting and check the MRTI website www.mrti.org.

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.

Book Exchange

Let's keep it going.
Bring a book, take a book.
Clean up those cluttered spaces.
Share a good read with the rest of us.
Leave with a book you can't wait to start reading.

Cleaning Bookshelves Yields Two Classics

George Schell recommends *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville and *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain.

Do YOU have recommendations for a good book?
Send me an e-mail. Becky Grover at rlgrover14@gmail.com.
You'll see it in the Fall Newsletter.

Thank You Scholarship Contributors

The total contributions, given by 174 members, is \$6865.
Let Sylvia Farrells know if there are any additions or corrections to be made.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Marjorie Fitzsimmons Adamsick | Richard Friedrichsen | Kay McLean | Pauline Strom |
| Jean Albrightson | Rosemary Fruehling | Eunice Milbrath | Pat Swanson-Proulx |
| Astrid Alexander | Joyce Ovick Fuhrman | Norman/Pat Moen | Alan Sweet |
| Allen Anderson | James Gersich | Robert Monson | Hazel Tanner |
| Ed Anderson | Mary Ann Gilbertson | Avis Morgan | Joan Threet |
| Jeanette Anderson | Bernadette Green | Nancy Morin | Margaret Tuma |
| Karen M. Anderson | Carole Gupton | Gwendolyn Mosberg | Phyllis Waldsmith |
| Doris Arnold | Marlyce Gustafson | Mildred Mueller | Bruce Waller |
| Cheryl Creecy Awobamise | Barbara Hall | Karen Nelson | JoDiane Ward |
| Doris Bakken | Judy Hoel | Marybeth Nelson | Velma Warder |
| Marcia Birney | Robert Hoisington | Cecelia Newton | Florence Wertz |
| Marvin Bjorlin | Mabel Hokanson | Arids Niemann Noonan | Ida Lorraine Wilderson |
| Robert Blackmur | William Holden | Elaine Olson | Daniel Willette |
| Monico Blanco | Bonnie Holtzman | Jack Oman | Jo Anne Wilson |
| Janet Blume | Sandra Hoverson | Eleanor Oren | Roger Wold |
| Mary Boardman | Sandra Irwin | Margaret O'Shaughnessy | Sheila Woodbeck |
| Louise Botko | Joyce Jackson | Eileen Oslund | James Salwasser |
| Elizabeth Bragg | Bette Jacobs | Tom Patterson | Marlys Sanford |
| Phyllis Brooks | James Jacobsen | Mary Peterson | Karen Scheib |
| Eleanor Zanna Brown | Suzanne Jebe | Joan Petroff | Margaret Seath |
| JoAnne Buggy | Lauren Johnson | Virginia Pfeiffer | Judith Shapiro |
| Susan Bunnell | Stella Jones | Pixie Pixler | Robert Shelton |
| Norman/Jessie Busse | Ruth Katz | Shirley Poliquin | Margaret Shryer |
| Katherine Cady | Cynthia Kelly | Christine Poppe | Beverly Shupe |
| Kathleen Cahill | Gaile Sovell Kenyon | Mary Poulsen | Nancy Simonetti |
| Alphonsa Cannon | Dorothy Keprios | Ruta Praulins | Diane Simmons |
| Don Cieminski | Elmer Koch | Edward Prohofskey | Helen Smith |
| Charles Clarke | Elizabeth Koenig | Lynne Raphael | Donald Sovell |
| Karen Coppicus | Robert Kreuser | Corinne Retzlaff | Pauline Strom |
| Barbara Covart | Barbara Kuenne | Barbara Riskin | Pat Swanson-Proulx |
| Jacquelyn Cronin | Kathryne Kuhns | Marilyn Risnes | Alan Sweet |
| LuEllen Curran | Margaret LaFleur | Larry Risser | Hazel Tanner |
| Judith Davidson, | Joanne Lambrecht | Sara Roberson | Joan Threet |
| Dorothy DeFreese | Susan Larsen | Cynthia Rogers | Margaret Tuma |
| Anne Desmond | Javan Larson | Kathy Runchey | Phyllis Waldsmith |
| Jeanette Doolittle | Carol Lauder | Maira Runganadhan | Bruce Waller |
| Mary Karen Dorniden | Harriet Lerdal | Donald Ryberg | JoDiane Ward |
| Rita Drone | Mary Jo Livgard | Robert Ryder | Velma Warder |
| Lewis Duckett | Marlene Locascio | James Salwasser | Florence Wertz |
| Ethel Dzubay | Dan Loewenson | Marlys Sanford | Ida Lorraine Wilderson |
| Jean Ellefson | Ruth Lofgren | Karen Scheib | Daniel Willette |
| Clement Engen | Britt Lundgren | Margaret Seath | Jo Anne Wilson |
| Pam Evangelist | Marjory Maier | Judith Shapiro | Roger Wold |
| Lee/Mary Ann Fabel | Art Maillet | Robert Shelton | Sheila Woodbeck |
| James/Sylvia Farrells | Gayle Marko | Margaret Shryer | Doris Zachary |
| Emma Foss | Zoe Martinez | Beverly Shupe | Patricia Zajac |
| Nancy Fowler | Kathy May | Nancy Simonetti | Joseph Zetah |
| Shirley Franklin | Robert May | Diane Simmons | Deb Zwickey |
| Nan Fraser | Jane Mayer | Helen Smith | |
| Carol Freeman | Wanda McCaa | Donald Sovell | |

Chris & Lisa Go to Africa

Part I

I have always been fascinated by Africa. In 1976, my parents lived there for 7 months while my father was a visiting professor at Rand Afrikkans University in Johannesburg. They loved it so much that they went back for another half sabbatical 7 years later. When my daughter Lisa was born in 1976, their first gift to her was a little stuffed warthog which we still have!

Last year I wrote a column about my rose-growing hobby. What does that have to do with going to Africa? It's amazing how one thing can lead to another. In October of 2011 I attended the American Rose Society's Fall convention in Los Angeles where, at dinner one night, I sat next to a woman who had come to the convention from South Africa. Sheenagh Harris, the President of the World Federation of Rose Societies, had come to LA to promote the 2012 WFRS convention in South Africa...

Almost exactly one year later, on October 6, Lisa and I boarded a plane for Johannesburg, South Africa, to attend the World Federation of Rose Societies convention. With an 8-hour layover in London on the last day Buckingham Palace would be open for the season, I had gotten tickets for the 2:15 tour. We saw all 19 State Rooms, including the Long Gallery shown on TV when the Queen met James Bond before the Olympics Opening Ceremony. (She did it in one take!)

Plus, there was a special exhibition of some of the Queen's personal diamond jewelry. The Crown Jewels in the Tower of London belong to Britain, but these jewels belong to the Queen, herself. Most are inherited, like the diamond diadem made in 1820 for George IV, or the "Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara" which the Queen calls "Granny's tiara" because she was given it as a wedding present by her grandmother, Queen Mary. These are jewels she wears often, and we got to see them from just inches away.



The stars of the show, so to speak, were 7 of the 9 major stones cut from the 3,000 carat Cullinan Diamond – the largest diamond ever found. Given the original rough by the mine's owner, the Queen's great-grandfather, Edward VII, had it cut into two huge diamonds, the "Stars of Africa" (530 carats & 317 carats) which he gave to the nation and had set into the Scepter and Imperial State Crown. He kept the other 7 major stones ranging from 7–94 carats each, 96 "small brilliants," and 9 carats of unpolished stones. Set in a ring, 3 brooches and one of the pendants on a magnificent emerald and diamond necklace called "the Delhi Durbar" necklace, this was the first time that all seven major Cullinan diamonds were on display together. And we saw all of them – up close! Besides that, we saw two jeweled swords, several other diamond tiaras, and the small diamond crown worn by Queen Victoria at her Diamond Jubilee. What a fantastic exhibition!



More From the Trip Down Under by George Schell

Tips, observations, and notes from my two months plus of travels in Australia during January, February, March, 2010. This further article is prompted by many questions and comments after the initial writing in the October 12 MRTI News.

The most frequent comment was about the long plane trip to Australia. Most people said that they could not endure a 14 or 15 hour flight. If you're in half-way good health, this is nonsense! In today's modern planes, there is no real problem—just think of it as sitting in your favorite living room chair, going 600 miles per hour! Airlines encourage walking about and exploring the plane. The Qantas Airbus planes even have an elevator! There are at least five major airlines that serve Australian cities and most of the planes leave around midnight to fly over the Pacific. Then, crossing the International Dateline, you arrive in time for breakfast almost the same day you left!

Travel in this large country is not cheap especially on domestic airlines. I traveled mostly by train and found these fares best with vacation and East Coast packages. The highest fare I paid was on the transcontinental train from western Perth to east coast Sydney. The senior discount fare is about \$1500 including all meals and compartment sleeper service. The total trip is three days and three nights! One sidelight—a motorail service is offered. Many people drive out to the west, then put their car on the train for the trip back across the huge country. You recover your car at the end of the journey—all washed and ready to go. The fare is around \$900 for this rail journey for your car!

Intercity passenger trains are efficient, fast and comfortable. The trip from Sydney to Melbourne took 12 hours, longer than I expected, but the track goes inland a ways then almost in a straight line, down to the southern city. Seats are all reserved, so that when a train pulls in to the station, the platform is painted in a lettering guide, with the doors of the cars exactly on the mark. Seats are comfortable airplane type design with fold-down trays. There is no dining car, but a full car devoted to buffet dining choices and even wine or beer. People are so friendly, which makes the trip go faster. One man bought me a beer and explained the country-side as we went from the lush rainy ocean side to the brown dry outback country. I was sorry to see him get off at Waga Waga—yes, the names seem strange (Aborigine is origin) but really no different than the Indian names for some of our cities.

Two years ago, gas (petrol) was double our price per gallon, anywhere from \$5 to \$6. Petrol stations posted signs at \$1.35—but that was for a liter. Multiply that by four and you have an imperial gallon—a little more than the standard gallon here. Groceries were comparable to prices here except Australian-grown produce was much cheaper. Australian wine was about the same, but beer was a bit more expensive and Australians are great beer drinkers. Whiskey, bourbon and spirits, are high at \$40 or more for a bottle smaller than ours!

Eating out is expensive, almost double the price on menus for the same food at a good restaurant. For morning tea time, one cafe advertised coffee and a muffin for \$6. The traditional morning tea or coffee break, plus biscuit or cookie is quite common, along with the same for an afternoon break. When you are invited to "Come for tea," that means come for dinner (or supper in our terms). The evening meal always begins with an appetizer or anti-pasto plate. Dinner usually ends with dessert, coffee or tea and chocolates. Dessert can be a meringue and fruit Pavlova, a trifle with cake or pudding, or mixed fruit served with a heavy cream or ice cream.

One nice plus is that there is no tipping anywhere in the country, not in a restaurant, or for the taxi driver, or the bellboy. Tipping is simply not done, nor is it expected. One comment was, "You Americans take this to the extreme!" I can agree with that!

In Perth, Western Australia, I was on my own and did many "touristy" things. This is a great city for that. The highlight was an all-day wine region tour with tastings at three wineries. There were beautiful valley settings with rows and rows of grape vines. The tour included a brewery where hand crafted beer was served. The last stop of the day was the Margaret River Chocolate Company where all of us on the tour met our downfall, purchasing many kinds of delicious concoctions.

In Sydney, the highlight, of course, was the famous Opera House which dominates one of the key harbors. The Harbor Bridge is the other icon opposite the Opera House. For those not afraid of heights, a climbing tour is offered. For \$198 per person, you are tied to a group of ten with a guide for the climb to the top where the view of the whole harbor is great.

I stuck to the Opera House side of the harbor where I saw a full production of "La Traviata," which was truly awesome. Just being in the Opera House was thrill enough, all done in a light blonde wood and red upholstery seats. I was second row, center balcony, and paid \$208 for a senior discount ticket. Well worth the price—the opera was sung extremely well with stars getting seven curtain calls each. Sung in Italian, but lyrics were flashed in English above the huge stage. A two-hour backstage tour could be had with continental breakfast for \$150!

The people, the places, the culture and events are all fascinating for any traveler. Plan at least a two week stay (longer is better), and call me for advice and to borrow my guidebooks!

Updates to Yearbook

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 Elizabeth L Schraeder 5916 W 104th St Bloomington MN 55438 952-835-4149
 Helen V Turnbull 9327 Dunlap Av Circle Pines MN 55014 763-786-2749

We Say "Good-bye"

The following former Minneapolis Public Schools' Teachers
 have passed away since the publication of the 2013 Yearbook.

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Paul Boranian | Mary B Hutchins | Kathleen M McLaughlin | Richard J Scott |
| George A Decker | E Ray Johnson | Ann V Mikkelson | Margaret J Shane |
| Daniel J Farrell | Jerry L Jones | Steven C Miller | Arnold J Sirotiak |
| Barbara R Fraser | Wallace A Kennedy | Jean P Olin | Reynold J Skotte |
| Bon D Grussing Jr | Lars G Kindem | Karen B Olin | Ann B Smith |
| Reva D Haining | Jim Kottom | Francis 'Tom' Randall | William G Steuber |
| Ruth H Hammer | Elwood Larson | Kenneth Raymond | Bernice O Strawn |
| Dorothy Hendrickson | Gerald R Lutz | Richard E Reichow | Lois E Strickland |
| | | | Mary Ellen L Wensing |

Twin Cities Rose Club
Master Rosarian
PLANT SALE

Roses ~ Clematis ~ Iris ~ More
Specially Blended Natural Fertilizer
Cocoa Bean Hull Mulch



~ TO ORDER ~
twincitiesrose.org
612-824-5702

Pick-up on April 13 & 20 ~ Amounts Limited

Saturday, April 13, 9 am - noon; Saturday April 20, 9 am - 11 am
Bare Root Shrub Roses, Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas
Miniature Roses, Clematis, Iris, Cocoa Bean Hull Mulch, Organic
Rose Fertilizer <http://twincitiesrose.org/events/fundraiser2013.html>



NIAGARA FALLS & TORONTO TOUR

M. J. Savaiano, escort

September 14 – 22, 2013

\$100 deposit; final due 6/24

\$820 includes motor coach, lodging,
14 meals, guided tours, and more...

Call for flyer: 651.257.1944

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@gmail.com.

*** 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 | 2013-2014 |
| Elmer Koch | Asst. Corresp. Secretary | 2013-2013 |
| Gayle Marko | Corresp. Secretary | 2013-2014 |

Directors

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (3 years)

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Rebecca Grover | Past President | 2012-2013 |
| Margaret Tuma | | 2012-2014 |
| Barbara Kuenne | | 2013-2015 |
| Josephine Bunton | | 2011-2013 |
| Mitch Trockman | | 2013-2015 |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Elmer Koch | Advisor to the Board | 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.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.

P.O. Box 24034

MRTI Newsletter March 2013
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!