

# After School...

## The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

### Website

[www.mrti.org](http://www.mrti.org)

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### Christmas, Swedish-style

Scandinavian Christmas traditions permeate the culture of Minnesota. From candle-crowned St. Lucias to deep-fried rosette cookies, Kringle pastries and lutefisk suppers, the traditions of



Christmas delight those of us who are of Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, or Danish descent as well as those people who are Scandinavian by way of just living in Minnesota!

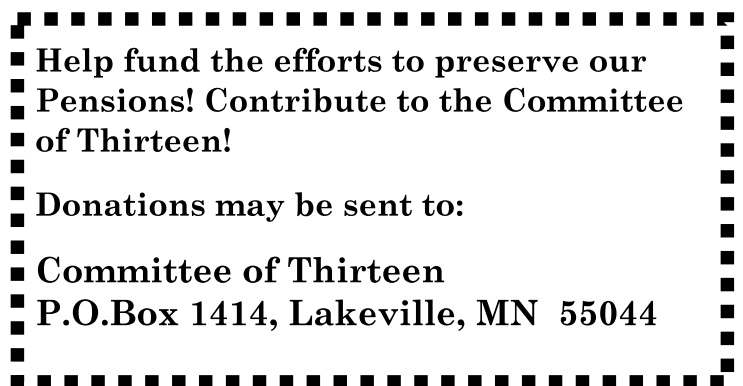
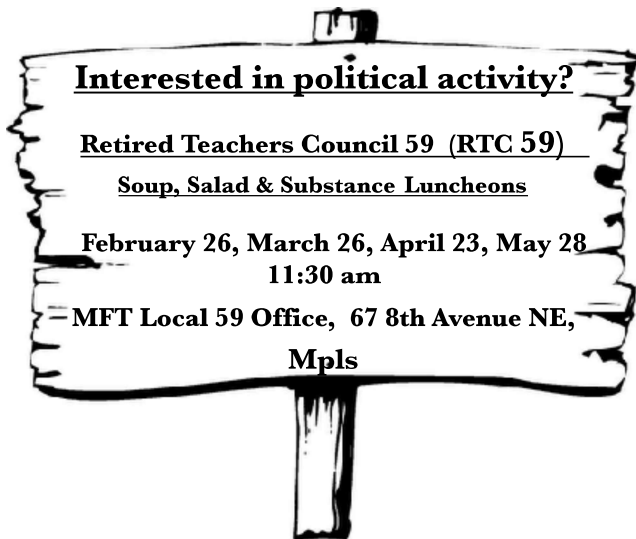
One of the nicest parts of the Scandinavian Christmas tradition is the music – carols and hymn tunes that are familiar – even if the words are elusive – and of course the “pop” songs like “Jingle Bell Rock” that fill the air of every shopping mall in the country. The American Swedish Institute provided not one, but two choral groups to entertain us at the December MRTI luncheon.

# The Craft Fair

The long-time Chair of our annual Craft Fair, Mildred Clark, has "retired." We thank her and her husband, Charles, for their dedication to this event.

So, now we are in need of a new Chair. The Fair takes place before, during and after our October meeting. It really doesn't take a lot of work or preparation time - getting people to participate by bringing their items to the sale is the main job.

If you are interested, or would like more information about the Craft Fair, please call Gayle Marko at 952-920-1395.



# Winter & Spring Program Schedule



January 15 - "Our Neighbor, the Mississippi River," presented by Abbie Moore.



February 19 - University of Minnesota Saxophone Ensemble directed by Dr. Preston Duncan



March 19 - Kiya Edwards, on staff at KARE 11, presents her story, "Career Success of a MPS Grad."



April 16 - "Grand Mound Indian Burial Site." Mattie Harper from the MN Historical Society, shares the story of this unique site in northern Minnesota and its status as a public area.



May 21 - "Music in the Schools," a performance by a group of Washburn High School students.



MRTI holds its monthly luncheon meetings at the Eagles Club in South Minneapolis. Who are the "Eagles"? The Fraternal Order of Eagles philanthropic organization was founded nationally in Seattle in 1898. Their membership has included many celebrities and several past U.S. Presidents! They claim credit for the establishment of "Mother's Day" as a holiday. There are local units throughout the US, and Canada known as "Aeries". We meet at Eagles Aerie #34.

The mission of the Eagles both locally and nationally is to support a variety of charities and community projects. Nationally some \$10,000,000 is donated annually to various needs. In Minnesota over \$1,000,000 was donated, and Aerie 34 last year donated \$58,950. A major effort has been to support development of "Exoskeletons" for victims of spinal cord injuries. Eagles #34 donates \$1000 per month toward this project, as well as \$1000 monthly for Diabetes Research. This Eagles club also donates money to several Minneapolis Public Schools for sports uniforms and other booster club projects. They have helped some schools organize fundraising efforts. Most recently Eagles Aerie #34 donated \$2500 to the Paradise, CA fire victims, and a matching \$2500 from Charitable Gambling to a 501c3 in California who is assisting the fire victims.

MRTI is proud to hold our meetings at this Eagles Club knowing that our presence supports the community-based philanthropy of this organization. The Eagles welcome members who share their goals. If interested in membership, you can call the Eagles or Susan Hutterer, one of the trustees, at 612-724-9714 for more information.

- Elmer Koch



## AN AMAZING TWO-LETTER ENGLISH WORD

A reminder that one word in the English language can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition: UP

Read until the end ... you'll laugh. This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is "UP." It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

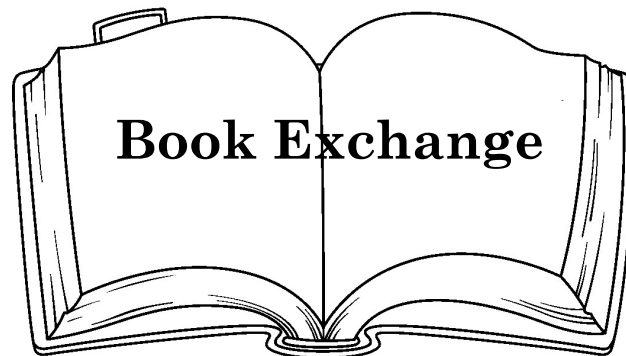
When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP for now ... my time is UP!

Oh ... one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U  
P!

Did that one crack you UP?

Don't screw UP. Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book ... or not ... it's UP to you. Now I'll shut UP!



Winter is the perfect time to curl up with a good book! Just collect any books you've already read, that are sitting around your house collecting dust and taking up space and bring them with you to any MRTI meeting, put them on a table and let others choose the ones that interest them.

The only requirement is that you take home any books that remain unclaimed. Members, feel free to choose any books you want - no limits on the number you can take. If you forget to bring books to donate, don't worry - feel free to take some home anyway. What a deal!



*Swedish Christmas, cont.*

"The Cloudberryes," a women's chorus founded fourteen years ago by Director Carolyn Spargo, sang all their songs in Swedish, including "Nu tandas tusen juleljus" ( A Thousand Christmas Candles Now are Lit),



*(Row 2, center) MRTI Board Member, Mary Poulson*

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## 2018 MRTI Scholarship Fund

Each year, MRTI offers up to three scholarships to teachers, EAs and other Minneapolis education professionals who wish to pursue additional degrees, certifications or licensure to support and improve their teaching. These scholarships are funded by donations from our members. This year, 174 contributors gave a total of \$10,655.

Jean Albrightson, Edwin Anderson, Allen Anderson, Jackie Anderson, Jeanette Anderson, Karen M. Anderson, James “Mike” Andrews, Doris Arnold, Patricia Arnold

Anne Bartel, Grace Belsaas, Nancy Bell, George Beske, Janice Beske, Linda Bjorklund, Louise Botko, Delora Brewer. William Brody, Cynthia Brown, Eleanor Brown, Bonnie Bruinooge, JoAnne Buggey

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Elaine Olson, C. Jack Oman, Eileen Oslund, Nancy Ostmo, Joyce Owick-Fuhrman,

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Lynne Raphael, Roma Lee Rasmussen, Margaret Reed, Karl Reinhard, Corinne Retzlaff, Barbara Risken, Larry Risser, Rosalind Robbins, David Rolek, Bonnie Rowell, Kathleen Runchey, Shirley Russell, Donald Ryberg, Robert Ryder

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Hazel Tanner, Genevieve Taylor, Joan Threet

Janet Ulvin

David Vos

Jan Wahl, Velma Warder, Florence Wertz, Sandra Westby, JoAnne Wilson, Roger Wold, Sheila Woodbeck

Judy Yung

Doris Zachary, Patricia Zajac, Deb Zwickey

### Thank you for your generosity!

Contributions may be mailed to: MRTI Scholarship Fund, Sylvia Farrells, 5208 W. 111th St., Bloomington, MN 55437. Information about 2019 scholarships will be available on the MRTI website starting the week of January 14, 2019. Questions or corrections? Please e-mail Sylvia at [angelseyf@gmail.com](mailto:angelseyf@gmail.com).

## Minneapolis Teachers Celebrate Legislative Accomplishment

Our votes and our financial support of the Committee of Thirteen combined with phone callers, door knockers and letter writers from the Retired Teachers of Local-59 helped elect Tim Walz as Governor, Peggy Flanagan as Lieutenant Governor and 18 women and men who support teacher pensions and major investments in public education in Minnesota. The Committee of Thirteen invested contributors' funds in each of the above candidate's campaigns. The election flipped control of the Minnesota House from the Republicans to the Democrats and retained Democratic control of the Office of the Governor. We look forward to the legislature addressing the educational needs of the Minnesota public education system.

Key legislative leaders will be Rep. Melissa Hortman, DFL-Brooklyn Park, Speaker of the House; Rep. Ryan Winkler, DFL-Golden Valley, House Majority Leader and Senator Paul Gazelka, R-Nisswa, Senate Majority Leader. Long time Minneapolis teacher and longest serving member of the House, Lyndon Carlson, will chair the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Our Committee of Thirteen Lobbyist, Louise Sundin, led the revival of the Public Employees' Pension Coalition (PEPC) which coordinated the efforts to unanimously pass the Pension Reform Act during the 2018 legislative session. This pension law requires additional State of Minnesota funding for our Teachers Retirement Association, lowers our COLA to 1 per cent for 5 years, imposes further restrictions on early retirement benefits and reduces the estimated State Board of Investment returns. We agreed to these reductions in benefits to ensure the financial stability of our pension system for the next 30 years. These reductions in our benefits was agreed to in exchange for increased funds from the State of Minnesota.

We request that the required \$50 million in additional state funding be appropriated in this year's two-year state budget. The Committee of Thirteen will closely monitor the budget items for pensions and public education.

Thanks to Minneapolis teachers whose contributions of funds, efforts and votes brought legislative success.

- Ed Andersen  
MRTI Legislative Chair

### *Swedish Christmas, cont.*

"I morka natten i midvintertid" (So Dark is the Night in Midwinter). Adding to the beauty of their songs, the "Cloudberry" were all dressed in colorful traditional Swedish outfits.

MRTI has a special connection to the "Cloudberry" The director, Ms. Spargo, is the daughter of a Minneapolis teacher and MRTI member, and one of our current Board members, Mary Poulson, sings with the group!



The second American Swedish Institute choral group to entertain us was the ASI Male Chorus, organized in 1936. The Chorus, whose goal is to preserve their Swedish heritage and contribute to the culture of our Minnesota community, has performed nationally and internationally, as well as throughout Minnesota. They give an annual Spring Concert and perform at Midsommar, Svenskarnas Dag and other ASI events.



Under the direction of Jeff Wressell, the 30 voice Chorus performed a number of popular songs in English, including, "Jingle Bells," "Winter Wonderland," and "Sleigh Ride." What a delightful way to get into the Holiday spirit!



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**Better Life**

**Time and time again  
I tried to make things right,  
'Cause all I'm trying to do is  
Live a better life.**

**Things are just going wrong  
But when my brain starts to light,  
I'm going to do this for ma and grandma  
Because I promised to live a better life.**

**From the booklet: The Things We Face,  
Produced by MPS with a grant from MRTI  
and the support of the Hennepin County  
Juvenile Detention Center.**

\$

**Have you renewed your MRTI  
membership for 2019?  
It's not too late!**

Your \$25 dues will provide you with:

- the 2019 Yearbook
- the MRTI Newsletter - 3 times each year
- the opportunity to share our monthly luncheons, excellent programs and special events
- access to our MRTI website
- the chance to stay connected to our wonderful profession, reconnect with colleagues and make new friends.

Mail your check to:  
MRTI

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

\$

**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
- St. Joseph's Home for Children
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

###

**If you have moved within the past year, you should probably contact TRA ([info@MinnesotaTRA.org](mailto:info@MinnesotaTRA.org) or 800-657-3669) to give them your new address, insuring that you get your MRTI membership materials in a timely manner.**



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MRTI Newsletter January 2019  
Chris Poppe, editor

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

Chris Poppe

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Minneapolis, MN 55412  
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### **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

