

# *MRTI News*

## Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.

February 2010

Founded in 1926

Vol. 61, No. 1

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### MRTI Tuesday: Nourishment for mind and body

The MRTI program committee promises another year of interesting and fun lunches for 2010. Becky Grover, Elmer Koch, Denny Lander, Gladys Sheehan and Margaret Tuma have garnered a rich group of artists who will both teach and entertain.

#### February 16

Bette Sack "What I Know Now"

Bette Sack is an independent writer and editor with a monthly column in *Mpls/St. Paul* magazine. She writes from a personal perspective on subjects as serious as violence and depression, and as frivolous as musing why Americans pay billions of dollars each year to host themed birthday parties for their pets, dressing Fido or Fifi in designer dresses and jewelry.

#### March 16

Monroe Crossing "The Best in Bluegrass"

Monroe Crossing, known as "The Midwest's Premier Bluegrass and Gospel Quintet," has for ten years entertained audiences of all sizes from coast to coast and from Canada to the Caribbean. The five members combine talents, personalities and differing musical styles for a truly unique musical sound. People often comment that they had never liked bluegrass music—Until they heard Monroe Crossing. [www.monroecrossing.com](http://www.monroecrossing.com)

#### April 20

Jasper Bond "Iditarod Tales of a 19-year Checkpoint Volunteer"

Just back from his 19<sup>th</sup> Iditarod, Bond shares the adventure of the "Superbowl of Sled Dog Races," complete with visuals. Leaving his home in Sauk Rapids, he serves as a volunteer checker at a rest cabin: chops wood, cleans the cabin, unloads single engine planes, transports hundreds of pounds of food, and erects tents.

#### May 18

Cathy Wurzer "Tales of the Road: Highway 61"

Cathy Wurzer, Public Radio personality, TV's Almanac co-host, author, and graduate of South High will share some of the "adventures" and "mis-adventures" she experienced while traveling northern Minnesota preparing for the TPT television special and her subsequent book, *Tales of the Road: Highway 61*. Come prepared to enjoy a great journey; it will maybe even inspire you to buy a copy of the book!

#### June 15

Wisconsin Great Northern Train Ride  
See separate article on page 6

### Don't forget the change in the lunch reservation process

Beginning with the January 2010 luncheon meeting, phone callers will 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.

If you have NOT been called by Wednesday before the Tuesday lunch and want to attend, you may call Carol Lauder to make a reservation. You may also call by that day to cancel a reservation.

The Board has been struggling with this problem for years and hopes that this new policy will help us provide accurate numbers to the caterers.

## IMPORTANT NOTES TO REMEMBER!

\*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](mailto:dlander222@comcast.net)

\*Cheer and Service Committee: If you know someone who is ill or just needs a cheer, contact Sharon Hollinbeck 612-916-1925 [shollinbeck@gmail.com](mailto:shollinbeck@gmail.com) to have a card sent.

Mary Karen Dorniden, 952-941-8833, [mkdorniden@msn.com](mailto:mkdorniden@msn.com) will send birthday and sympathy cards.

\*Food Shelf: Bring non-perishables to each meeting; monetary gifts are also welcome.

\*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 the trip of a lifetime or read a great book? Contact Judy Yung to contribute an article to the Newsletter. 612-374-5795 or [judyjung@comcast.net](mailto:judyjung@comcast.net)

\*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 Robert Ryder, MRTI, PO Box 24034, Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034

\*Committee of 13 Website: Get updates on the Committee of 13: [www.committeeof13.com](http://www.committeeof13.com)

\*Parking: Parking in addition to the church lots is available in the AA lot directly across 1st Avenue from the church and at Albin Chapel, 2200 Nicollet, a block west from the church.

## Board of Directors

Officers	Jan. 1-Dec. 31 (2 year terms)	
Rebecca Grover	President	2010-11
Joanne Lambrecht	VP/President Elect	2010-11
Judy Yung	Recording Secretary	2010-11
Greg McDaniels	Asst. Rec.Secretary	2010-10
Elmer Koch	Corresp. Secretary	2009-10
David Rolek	Asst. Corr. Secretary	2010-11

Directors	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (3 year terms)	
Gayle Marko	Past President (2 yrs)	2010-11
Margaret Tuma		2009-11
Barbara Kuenne		2010-12
Josephine Bunton		2008-10

## Board Appointments

Ed Andersen	Legislative Chair
Denny Lander	Membership Chair
Charles Dorniden	Investments Chair
Judy Yung	Newsletter Editor
Robert Ryder	Treasurer
Sylvia Farrells	Asst. Treasurer/Scholarship Chair

## Lunch reminders

**Lunch location:** First Christian Church, 2201 First Avenue South, Mpls

All buffet lunches cost \$9.00; sit-down lunches in September and December are \$12.50.

**Not Called:** If you want to attend a lunch meeting, but have not been called for a reservation by the Wednesday preceding the Tuesday lunch, you may call Carol Lauder, the chair of the telephone committee: 763-557-6564.

Accurate numbers are important.

**Meatless Choice:** Sandy Morgan, church volunteer in charge of the monthly lunches, has agreed to provide a meatless dish. When you are called for a reservation, you must request that option.

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

# Welcome the 2010 MRTI leadership group

Gayle Marko has relinquished her president's gavel to new MRTI president Becky Grover, former vice president and program chair. Greg McDaniels has been elected to fill Dotte Anderson's position as Assistant Recording Secretary for 2010 and Barbara Kuenne begins her first three year term as Director. Members re-elected to the Board are Joanne Lambrecht as Vice President, Judy Yung as Recording Secretary, and David Rolek as Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

If you are interested in participating in MRTI activities as a chair person, board member or committee worker, speak up! You know we can always use your talents.



## *Additions/Changes for 2010 Yearbook*

Doug Backhaus  
8449 RICH AVE S  
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55437  
952-831-4518

Nancy P Benson  
4136 HARRIET AVE  
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55409  
612-822-1372  
npbenson@ties2.net

Judy Davidson  
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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55417  
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Donald L Genereux  
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ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422  
763-537-2570  
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Rozeanne Peterson rozepete@earthlink.net  
Judy Paine jfpret@usiwireless.com  
Updated phone # Launa Ellison 612-377-2403

Gwendolyn N Gentry  
600 3rd AVE NW  
NEW BRIGHTON, MN 55112-6812  
651-633-1110

Marguerite T Hoffmann  
4124 19th AVE S  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407  
612-802-9038

Robin A Ingram  
7940 HALIFAX N  
BRKLYN PARK, MN 55443  
763-566-5993

Kathleen S Kieffer  
5180 BONA RD  
NEW BRIGHTON, MN 55112-4943  
763-786-5522

James W Long  
2318 VINCENT AVE N  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411  
longx033@umn.edu

Nick Lovdjieff  
3 ALTON ON AUBURN  
ROLLING MDWS, IL 60008-2369  
847-397-3318  
nlvdjieff@pobox.com

Patricia G O'Brien  
10510 REDWOOD ST  
COON RAPIDS, MN 55433  
763-571-1826

Charles O Olson  
3424 WILSHIRE PL NE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418  
612-781-4769

# AchieveMpls scholarships offer wide opportunities

Winter signals the beginning of the scholarship season at AchieveMpls. The professional staff at AchieveMpls, the local education fund supporting the Minneapolis Public Schools, administers several dozen scholarships district-wide that support the post secondary aspirations of MPS spring graduates.

Scholarship resources and opportunities range in size and scope. Lillian Lindsten, a retired MPS teacher, bequeathed a major gift to AchieveMpls to provide renewable scholarships to one female graduate from each MPS high school every year and for decades to come. The Olson family makes a \$1,000 contribution each year to fund a memorial scholarship at Roosevelt High School in their mother Viola's name, honoring her career as a teacher in the district. Each scholarship, regardless

of its size, reinforces the message that our community supports the goals of our young people.

New this spring, the Ross and Doris Taylor Scholarship will be offered to graduates of four MPS high schools who intend to pursue studies in mathematics or science. Graduates from other high schools will be eligible for the Taylor Scholarship in coming years, sustaining Ross' interest in and commitment to mathematics education.

Contact Janet George at AchieveMpls (612-455-1548; [jgeorge@achievempls.org](mailto:jgeorge@achievempls.org)) to discuss ways to extend your lifelong commitment to education through a scholarship program of your design.

Erin S. Larson : Communications Manager AchieveMpls

612.455.1564 : p

952.210.9197 : m

612.455.1531 : f

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

## C-13 seeks solutions to TRA funding problems

The Minneapolis teachers are now integrated into the Teacher Retirement Association (TRA) of the State of Minnesota. Because of the economic crisis and previous pension increases that were not fully funded, the TRA funding ratio has dropped significantly in the past two years. The Committee of Thirteen is proposing ideas to the legislative commission on pensions.

We need to address the funding problem this year and not wait, which would make the problem larger. The solution should involve all stakeholders: retirees, actives, schools and the state. Contribution increases by actives and employers should be phased in over time. Active teachers should not have their pension benefits reduced; retired teachers should not have permanent reductions in their COLA's, but a temporary freeze in COLA's is a possibility.

To protect the education of our children, local property tax levies could be an option to cover pension costs.

Ed Andersen

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## MRTI Silent Auction = Success!

Members attending the October 20 MRTI meeting generously supported our Silent Auction for a total of \$304.00! Forty-six "lots" of historical silver serving pieces from the early days of MRTI, many engraved with "MRTI," were available for bidding. Sixteen members walked away with these treasures ranging from spoons and forks, to tea/coffee servers, to serving trays, to a full tea/coffee serving set with large tray. The proceeds will be added to the MRTI Scholarship Fund. In addition, forks and spoons that had not received bids were delivered to "Bridging" for distribution—for a special use.

The founder of Bridging, Fran Heitzman, tells a story about a little girl and her mom who were referred to Bridging by a social service

agency and when they were given kitchen items to stock their apartment, the little girl was so excited by all the flatware that she exclaimed to her mom, "We won't have to share the spoon any more!"

Because of this story which Fran has told so often, someone at Bridging was going to loop the handles of these spoons we contributed so they could be attached to key chains as a reminder of the new start and hope that clients receive from their visit to Bridging, as well as the impact that these donations of goods and time have on their clients.

Thanks to all MRTI members who participated in this fun and worthwhile auction.

# Bob's summer vacation: A Top Notch trip

I find it fun to go to out-of-the-way places. Some of them are not far off. Take, for instance, the Northwest Angle. Ever heard of it? Many haven't, with no idea of its location.

This summer I continued taking a trip on my old 1982 Honda V45, 750 Sabre motorcycle, a trip I've taken every summer since the late 70's (not on the same cycle, of course). Along with my 42 year old son Chris, and a close friend of many cycle trips, Bob Hollinbeck—a fellow MRTI member—we decided to return to the Northwest Angle, a place I'd visited on motorcycles once before, with former MRTI President and current Membership chairperson, Denny Lander.

The angle is that small notch of land along the northern Minnesota border that stretches up into Lake of the Woods. To access it by land one must travel approximately 50 miles through Canada on a dirt road. It's a good dirt road, mind you, but any dirt road after a series of rainstorms is likely to be less than pleasurable, especially on a motorcycle. Mud is the keyword—lots and lots of mud.

We arrived on a Saturday afternoon, covered with mud, but satisfied that none of us had “gone down” on the road and it hadn't actually rained on us while on the dirt road. After signing in for our reserved cabin (old but serviceable), we did some exploring of the area followed by a steak dinner at a nearby resort. For the next day we signed up for a guided fishing trip.

Sunday morning 8 a.m. there was our guide waiting for us. He is currently a teacher in Grand Forks, ND—middle school graphics. He took us to a small cabin perched on a rock to get our Canadian fishing licenses. Then it was off in search of walleyes.



We chose the Canadian part of the lake because the weather was iffy—low, overhead clouds and windy—and the guide told us that the 14,000 islands on the Canadian side would afford much more protection than the half-dozen American ones.

Having over 300 GPS locations on his fish finder, it didn't take us long to start hauling them in—and we caught some beauties! Several were saved on ice for our shore lunch and the rest were returned to the lake. That lunch was fabulous—more walleye than any human can ever expect to eat. We pigged out! A large snapping turtle nestled under our boat, waiting for the fish carcasses to be flung into the lake for his lunch. Many sea gulls, also having learned that shore lunches provide lots of food, hovered overhead.

The rest of the afternoon was spent reeling in lots of fish, all of which we threw back. The weather improved through the day, and by 8 p.m. we were standing on the dock where this most fun day had begun. We were certainly a group of happy guys. The next morning it was back on the

bikes, back on the now dry dirt road, back through Canada to Warroad, Minnesota, and then home a day later.

Now I'll begin looking for another destination for next summer. Any suggestions? Let me know.

Bob Ryder, MRTI Treasurer

## *How can you help?*

- \*\***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.

# Who we are and what we do: MRTI defined

The MRTI “Articles of Incorporation” state that the general purpose of our organization is to advance, promote, and administer charitable, social, and educational gains relevant to the membership. The MRTI organization accomplishes this by several methods.

We provide scholarships to assist individuals with training for careers in education. We contribute to child-focused charities: receiving money from us this past year were the Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis, St. Joseph’s Home, Mary’s Place, People Serving People, Bridging, Inc., Harriet Tubman Center, Minneapolis Recreation Development, and the Jeremiah Program. AchieveMpls receives honorariums to recognize deceased MRTI members.

Services to members include an annual directory, periodic newsletters, timely information for retirees on pension

data, volunteer opportunities, etc., and monthly luncheons during the school year with entertaining and informative programs.

As an organization MRTI is assisted monetarily in attaining its purpose through memberships, member contributions, and the income it receives from the MRTI investment account. Our investment account has been affected by the same economic conditions that everyone else has experienced during the down market. The MRTI Board has worked hard to keep very tight controls on spending during these times while still promoting the purposes of our organization. We have been experiencing some very positive moves recently in our portfolio, but are still working toward the point where we were before the market went on its downward trend.

## *Ride the Wisconsin rails with MRTI in June*

MRTI June Excursion: The Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad Train Ride

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am to 4:30pm – Ride the bus to Spooner, Wisconsin, board the train and have lunch while riding on the train. Cost: \$36

The Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad is an historic excursion and dinner train operating on approximately 20 miles of former Chicago & North Western track between the northern Wisconsin towns of Spooner and Springbrook along the picturesque Namekagon River. This family-oriented attraction combines historic railroad equipment with exciting special events to entertain and educate all age groups.

The mission of the volunteers and employees that make up the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad family is to give visitors an historical excursion ride aboard beautifully rebuilt cars and locomotives from the “Golden Era of Passenger Travel.” Everyone involved with the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad is deeply interested in the preservation of this glorious mode of transportation. The family’s pride and enthusiasm are evident from the moment one of the highly polished locomotives pulls up to the station.

The railroad was founded on April 1, 1997 by members of *Greg Vreeland* family and a few close friends who have spent thousands of hours to bring this valuable operation to Northwestern Wisconsin. The railroad

operates locomotives from the 1940’s and a fleet of mahogany interior passenger cars built between 1910 and 1930. The cars have been tastefully rebuilt to give passengers the flavor of rail travel from this time period.

Reservations will be taken as of our April meeting. If you cannot attend the April or May meetings, please contact Denny Lander, at 612-926-8478 or [dlander222@comcast.net](mailto:dlander222@comcast.net)

## **Keep the Book Exchange active: Share a good read**

\*Bring books (and magazines which are not “time sensitive”) to display on the provided table.

\*Before, during, and after lunch, browse through the items others have brought and select any you want to take home.

\*At the end of the luncheon, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING THE BOOKS AND MAGAZINES YOU BROUGHT, either to take home again or drop off at the nearest charity.

\*You do not need to bring a book/magazine in order to take a book/magazine, although that would be nice.

# Members generously give to MRTI scholarships

Marjorie Adamsick, Carole Adelman, Jean Albrightson, Allen Anderson, Karen Anderson, Doris ArnoldAroti Bayman, Nancy Benson, Marcia Birney, Linda Bjorklund, Louise Botko, Carol Brant, Delora Brewer, Mary Brinda, Phyllis Brooks, Eleanor Brown, Susan Bunnell, Robert Burke, Norman and Jessie Busse, Andrea Canter, Christine Carr, Jean Clary, Kathleen Cooper, Richard Cornwell, Barbara Covart, Jacquelyn Cronin, LuEllen Curran, Bernice Davitt, Dorothy DeFreese, Anne Desmond, Charles and Mary Karen Dorniden, Joyce Drolsum, Rita Drone, Lewis Duckett, Jean Ellefson, Karen Erickson, Mary Jo Erickson, Lee and Mary Ann Fabel, James and Sylvia Farrells, Douglas and Catherine Fielder, Joy Fisher, Emma Foss, Nancy Fowler, Nan Fraser, Carol Freeman, Richard Friedrichsen, Rosemary Fruehling, Beverly Fussy, Newell Gaasedelen, Roslyn Gantt-Simmons, Mary Ann Gilbertson, Marion Gillquist, Bruce Graff, Richard Griffin, Carole Gupton, Delores Hagen, Nancy Hall, Leona Hansen, Richard Hanson, Larry Harris, Mabel Hokanson, Sandra Irwin, Joyce Jackson, Bette Jacobs, James Jacobsen, Suzanne Jebe, Mary Pat Johnson, Bruce Kane, George Kane, Cynthia Kelly, George Keprios, Elmer Koch, Elizabeth Koenig, Barbara Kuenne, Kathryne Kuhns, Carol Lauder, Harriet Lerdal, Jo Livgard, Marlene Locascio,

Dan Loewenson, Larry Lorenz, Britt Lundgren, Marjory Maier, Art Maillet, Marie Maland, Gayle Marko, Maureen Mashek, Mildred Mastbaum, Kathy May, Virginia May, Kay McLean, Eunice Milbrath, Norman and Patricia Moen, Robert Monson, Bertha Montgomery, Dave Moore, Shirley Moore, Nancy Morin, Gwendolyn Mosborg, Michael Myers, Eileen Nelmark, Karen Nelson, Marybeth Nelson, Rodney Nelson, Judith Olsen, C. Jack Oman, D. Eleanor Oren, Eileen Oslund, Alan Peabody, Mary Peterson, Roberta Peterson, Joan Petroff, Shirley Poliquin, Roxy Prenevost, Lynne Raphael, Barbara Risken, Cynthia Rogers, Kathy Runchey, Moira Runganadhan, Don Ryberg, Robert Ryder, James Salwasser, Steve Schmid, Norma Shannon, Judith Shapiro, Margaret Shryer, Beverly Shupe, Lou Anne Siefert, Bill and Diane Simmons, Nancy Simonetti, Helen Smith, Donald Sovell, Rebecca Strandlund, Louise Sundin, Alan Sweet, Genevieve Taylor, Phyllis Thornley, Joan Threet, Irene Timm, Margery Torgerson, Margaret Tuma, David Vos, Phyllis Waldsmith, Bruce Waller, Velma Warder, Florence Wertz, Ida Lorraine Wilderson, Jo Anne Wilson, Roger Wold, Sheila Woodbeck, Donise Wright, Doris Zachary, Patricia Zajac, Deb Zwickey

**Total contributions to date \$6,136**

## *Utilize the 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.

## MRTI Newsletter February 2010

Contributions and Communications  
should be directed to:

Becky Grover

[rgrover14@msn.com](mailto:rgrover14@msn.com)

612-920-6357

Or

Judy Yung

1940 Dupont Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

612-374-5795

[judyjung@comcast.net](mailto:judyjung@comcast.net)

### Become a member of the RED INK CLUB

The editors are offering a FREE MRTI LUNCH (for the regular meetings only, not the "sit-down" lunches in September and December) to one lucky reader who spots and reports a/the misspelled word (not a name) in this issue of the newsletter.

1. Use US mail to send a card to Editor Judy Yung (for fairness sake, no email or telephone).

2. Due to the vagaries of bulk mail delivery AND distances involved, a new process: All cards received within one week of the first to arrive will be eligible and a drawing will be made from those for the free lunch.

3. Board members are not eligible for the drawing.

Norm Anderson, newly retired, was already reaping the benefits of MRTI membership by being the lucky winner of the Red Ink Club drawing at the September meeting. Other contributors spotting mistakes were Debby Carlson, Mary Michael Connolly, Mary Ellen Gallick, Dorothy Nichols, Jon Nordstrom, and Ray Skotte.

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