

After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

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www.mrti.org

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Happy New Year!



Todd Anderson - The Holiday Crooner

Our festive December luncheon was enhanced by the entertaining singing and informative background information provided by Todd Anderson. The Holiday Crooner presented a variety of songs, from "White Christmas" introduced by Bing Crosby to "Blue Christmas," introduced by Elvis Presley, each song sung in the style of it's original presenter.

Todd gave interesting background information about each of the songs in the program. For example, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," made famous by Burl Ives, was originally

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SPOTLIGHT ON Ann McCarthy & Patty Thornton



Ann McCarthy, 2024



Patty Thornton, 2024

2024 Mondale Award Recipients

After Walter Mondale returned to Minnesota in 1997, having served with distinction as Ambassador to Japan, the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) created the Mondale Award for Japan-Minnesota Partnership to recognize outstanding contributions to the building of understanding, cooperation and respect between the people of Japan and Minnesota.

Ann and Patty are the pioneers of K-12 Japanese language education in Minnesota, fostering international friendships and intercultural understanding. Ann initiated the first high school Japanese program at Washburn High School in 1986, followed by Patty's program at Susan B. Anthony Middle School in 1988.

Together, they developed the first generation of middle and high school Japanese learners in the state. In 1987, they collaborated with Concordia Language Villages to launch a Japanese language immersion summer program, with Ann's camping experience proving invaluable. They actively recruited students and support from the community and contributed to curriculum development.

Both educators began their journeys as high school exchange students in Japan, which inspired their majors in Japanese at the University of Minnesota. They have since created numerous K-12 programs, led student trips to Japan, and engaged in various cultural events.

Ann won the Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award in 2004 and continues to support Japanese educators in Minnesota. Patty has served as a pre-service teacher educator and

Summer Program Director at Concordia Language Villages, where she helped establish a teaching philosophy that is now integral to all its programs.

Their dedication spans over 35 years and continues to impact students and the community.



"I just want to take a minute to brag about my sister, **Ann McCarthy**. In

November, she and her good friend, **Patty Thornton**, received the Mondale Award from the Japan America Society of Minnesota! " said her sister, Mary McCarthy Cowen.

"Ann has been instrumental in advancing the study of Japanese in Minnesota for countless students both via the Concordia Language villages, where she was the first

Bill of Fare

January 21 - Chili with fritos scoop chips, cole slaw and marble cake

February 18 - Meatloaf w/ mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and cherry cheese cake for dessert

March 18 - Corned beef & cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots and mint frosted brownie for dessert

April 15 - Tacos with "fixins", fresh fruit bowl & cookies

May 20 - Sloppy Joes with chips, potato salad and strawberry shortcake cups

The dining room opens at 11:30
A vegetarian option is available; include the request when making your reservation. No other options are possible.

The lunch price is \$22.00, which includes the 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 Marko** by the Sunday prior to the meeting or be billed for your non-attendance.

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.

If you make your reservations by **email** with **JanWahl**, please do not make one with a caller.

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

This month's MRTI Luncheon email reservations will come to you from the following address:

Janwahl @comcast.net

If you requested an email contact for lunch but did not receive one, please do the following BEFORE Jan 14:

1. Check your spam folder
2. Send an email to the above address
3. Call Gayle Marco at 952-920-1395 to reserve a spot at the upcoming luncheon.

Interested in political activity?

**Retired Teachers Council 59
(RTC 59) 10 AM**

"Gathering, Learning and Action"
January 28, February 25 & March 25
will be Zoom meetings

April 22 & May 27 Meetings will be at the
Local 59 office 67-8th Avenue NE.
Watch for notices in your email

Winter & Spring Program Schedule



January 21, 2025

Doug Ohman
"Name that Town"

Journey through the rich history of various locations and cities with interesting and entertaining stories relating to the town names.



February 18, 2025

Debbie Bigelow Music



March 18, 2025

Laura MacKenzie with
Daithi Sproule, a program
on Minnesota Gaelic
Heritage.



April 15, 2025
Bango Games



May 20, 2025
Malt Shop Melodies

A Grant Committee Request

MRTI members have been very generous in contributing, not only to the Grant/Scholarship fund but also in responding to calls for items requested by active teacher grant applicants.

You have donated guitars, a banjo, tools, and lumber in the past. Now, we're checking to see if you might have a sewing machine in good working order that you're ready to part with for the benefit of a teacher with a class, ready for sewing projects.

If you do, contact

Larry Risser at
612-922-6596

or email

lerisser10@gmail.com.



HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

新年快乐新年快乐



THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

HMMM...

Ann McCarthy, cont.

Dean of the Japanese Language Village and in her career as a teacher, first at Washburn High School in Minneapolis and then at Eastview High School in Apple Valley. She has hosted Japanese students and teachers visiting Minnesota, inspired others to become teachers and mentored teachers, both new to the professions and those well along in their careers. In 1994, she won the Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher award, which was presented to her by Walter Mondale.



Three sisters

"Our sister, Karen Jordan, flew from Tucson to attend the gala along with my husband, Paul, and me," Mary continued. "It was a wonderful event and we were so excited to be there by her side!"

"My daughter was in one of Ann's first classes at Washburn," said Corinne Robinson. "Liz had taken French in Junior High and 3 years at Washburn and wanted to do something different during her Senior year. Within her one year with Ann, when Liz sat in church and translated the gospel as printed in the bulletin into Japanese, I knew something very special was happening in Ann's class!"



Mori - No - Ike, 1988
Congratulations to two outstanding
Minneapolis Teachers!

Christmas Crooner, cont.

offered to, and rejected by, Gene Autry, one of the many Cowboy singers of the 1950's. When it became a huge hit, Autry commissioned another "novelty" song. "Frosty, the Snowman," but it was introduced, and made famous, by Jimmy Durante.

Other holiday favorites included, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," several songs made famous by Frank Sinatra and Neil Diamond and a "Jingle Bells" sing-a-long to get the audience involved.

Everyone enjoyed our musical introduction to the Holiday season - especially two of the happiest lovebirds in MRTI - **Sharon and Denny Lander, who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary with us!**



Congratulations
Denny & Sharon

Thank You So Much for Your Generosity

As of December 31, 2024, the following 180 contributors gave \$9900.00 to the MRTI Scholarship and Grant fund in support of active classroom teachers and staff.

If you would still like to contribute, send a check payable to MRTI Scholarship/Grant Fund to
MRTI Scholarship Committee, 5318 West 111th Street, Bloomington, MN 55437

A

Ed Andersen
Jeanette Andersen
Jackie Anderson
Karen M. Anderson
Patricia Arnold

B

Anne Bartel
Aroti Bayman
Margaret Bostelmann
Elizabeth Bragg
William Brody
Eleanor Brown
Susan Bunnell
Josephine Bunton

C

Kathy Cahill
Kathleen Cameron
Janet Carey
Darryl Carter
Bounna & Bunkhean Chhun
Kathleen Cooper
Karen Coppicus
Robyn Cousin
Carole Cranbrook
Cheryl Creecy-Awobamise
Jackie Cronin

D - E

Dennis Debe
Anne DeMuth
Joan Dillon
Jeanette Doolittle
Claire Dryke
David Dudycha
Michele Dunn

Karen Erickson
Kristi Erickson

F

Patricia Fahey
James & Sylvia Farrells
Ron Finger
Shirley Franklin
Carol Freeman
Geri Fridgen
Richard Friedrichsen
Stanley Fure

Mary Ellen Gallick
Warren Gerecke
James Gersich
Barbara Glas
Margaret Gilland
Renata Goepfrich
Carole Gupton

H

Steve Halverson
Bruce Hansen
Gail Hanson
Patricia Hauser
Janet Heidinger
Dale & Lynne Henrickson
Joann Heryla
Judy Hoel
Marcia Hokenson
William Holden
Carol Horswill
Sandra Hoverson
Maxine Hughes
Susan Hughes

I - J

Sandra Irwin
Carla Iverson
James Jacobsen
Grace Jaggers
Suzanne Jebe
Joan Jemison
Robert Jibben
James Johnson
Stella Jones
Lynn Jorgensen

K

Joan Kallas,
Evangeline Karakatsanis
Shirley Keating
Cynthia Kelly
Patricia Kelly
Jeanne Knox
Elmer Koch
Camille Kohner
Carla Korb
Karyn Kosek-Rovder
Coleen Kosloski
Barbara Kuenne
Janet Kujat

L

Margaret LaFleur
Joanne Lambrecht

Javan Larson
Carol Lauder
Darwin Lee
Mary Leoni
Jane Lodholz
Dan Loewenson
Britt Lundgren

M - N

Arthur Maillet
Gayle Marko
Virginia May
Michael McClure
Kay McLean
JoAnn Meade
Charles Metsala
Ray Meyer
Paul Modell
Jon Monda
John Mundahl

Karen Nelson,
Paula Nelson
Richard Nohel
Lynne Nordgren
Sally Novotny

O-P

Alvin Odermann
Patricia Oleska
Elaine Olson
C. Jack Oman
Joanne Ortendahl-Lucas

Rochelle Patten
De Nise Pellinen
Diane Penn
Marjorie Penner
Judith Peters
Roberta Peterson
Virginia Pfeifer
Mel Pibal
Pixie Pixler
Chris Poppe
Joanne Pruett

R

Roma Lee Rasmussen
Margaret Reed
Robert Rees
Arnie Rehmann
Karl Reinhard
Larry Risser

Barbara Roach
Kathy Roberts
Corinne Robinson
Tamara Rogers
Ilene Rohner-Guttenfelder
David Rolek
Bonnie Rowell
Connie Rubenstein
Harvey Rucker
Sandra Rucker
Kathleen Runchey
Susan Ryan-Nelson
Robert Ryder

S

M.J. Savaiano
Anne Scheible
Stephen Schmidt
Pam Schreurs
Sandra Sevre
Robert Shelton
Barbara Shin
Nancy Simonetti
Diane Simmons
Deborah Smith
Rose Ellen Stelton
Diane Stephens
Patricia Stinson
Lynne Stylianou-Jensen

T-U-V

Joan Threet
Lori Tierney
Merry Tilleson
Joan Toohey
Bruce Turnbaugh
Hazel Turner
Janet Ulvin
David Vos

W

Jan Wahl
Jo Ward
Robert Wedl
Mary Wells
Sandra Westby
JoAnne Wilson
Mary Wise
Roger Wold

Z

Doris Zachary
Patricia Zajac
Deb Zwickey

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mitch.trockman@comcast.net

MRTI's Grant Program at Work

Last spring's IB art show at Washburn was an unqualified success with a gym full of young artists, parents, grandparents, and siblings. Snacks and music enhanced the experience.

MRTI grant funds paid for art materials for a number of secular triptychs that students made.



Kathleen Cassidy, IB Art teacher at Washburn

-photo by Larry Risser

Visit the MRTI Website

One of the services for MRTI members is our website:

www.mrti.org

Check it out for information on our luncheon programs, the grant and scholarship programs, Committee of 13 updates, lists of Board Members, Limited Medical Assistance Fund, lists of deceased members and more.

Use this resource...it's for you!

Funds are available for medical reimbursement.

Give TRA a call to request an application

651-296-2409



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

Overview	Medical Expenses	Health Insurance Premium Expenses
<p>The Limited Medical Assistance Fund (LMAF) was established in the 1930s through a bequest of a retired Minneapolis teacher.</p> <p>A trust was established to reimburse certain medical costs of retired Minneapolis teachers, and is administered by the Teachers Retirement Association.</p> <p>To qualify for reimbursement, a retiree must have been a Minneapolis Special School District #1 teacher</p> <p>Reimbursements</p> <p>Eligible retirees may request reimbursement for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowable medical expenses• Health insurance premiums (when funds permit)	<p>Allowable medical expenses, if these expenses are not covered by Medicare or any other form of insurance, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inpatient or outpatient procedures performed at hospitals, clinics or surgery centers;• licensed nursing care or prosthetic devices. <p>Expenses that are not eligible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• dental care, nursing home care, medication, therapy, glasses, outpatient services, non-medical items. <p>Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.</p> <p>How To Apply:</p> <p>Call TRA to request information. If expenses are determined to be eligible, an application will be mailed to you.</p> <p>Complete and return the application to TRA, along with expense receipts.</p>	<p>(when funds permit)</p> <p>To be eligible for health insurance premium reimbursement, a retiree must meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p>Reimbursements are reviewed and disbursements made twice a year.</p> <p>Contact us at:</p> <p>Teachers Retirement Association 60 Empire Drive, Suite 400 St. Paul, MN 55103-4000</p> <p>651.296.2409 or 800.657.3669 651.297.5999 (FAX)</p>

MRTI Newsletter January,2025
Chris Poppe, editor

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

Chris Poppe

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chpop001@gmail.com

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



Plenty of Free parking

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