

MRTI News

Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website

www.mrti.org

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MRTI Welcomes New Retirees



Newly retired Minneapolis Public Schools teachers were celebrated with lunch and musical entertainment



at the September 16th MRTI meeting. The standing-room-only crowd of well wishers included Teachers Union President, **Lynn Nordgren** and Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent, **Bernadeia Johnson**. The retiree class of 2014 includes ninety-two teachers and four principals; thirteen attended the luncheon. The complete list of new retirees is on page 4.



The afternoon's entertainment was provided by **Monroe Crossing**, a local Bluegrass band that has gained international acclaim for its high quality combination of musicianship and showmanship. Joining the band for "Nail that Catfish to a Tree" was Mercedes Tuma, an accomplished clog dancer and daughter of MRTI Board member Margaret Tuma.



Important Corrections!

November & December meeting dates in President's letter are incorrect. Correct dates are:

**Tuesday, Nov. 18 &
Tuesday, Dec. 16**

Medicare Supplements Seminar

On June 4, MRTI sponsored an informational seminar for our members, at which Leslee and Bobby Gold, of **Minnesota Medicare Consultants**, discussed ways to get reduced rates on Medicare and Medicare Part D supplement plans. More than 60 members attended - many with their spouses. Meeting at the Jewish Community Center, we enjoyed an excellent salad lunch while the Golds described the available options and the services they can provide at no cost to Seniors. Several Board members have followed their recommendations and report that they are now saving money on premiums while enjoying Medicare service that is the same or better than they had before.

We received such positive responses from those who attended the June 4 meeting that a second seminar has been scheduled for **Wednesday, November 5, 2014**. The meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center (JCC), 4330 Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park (952-381-3400). The seminar will start at 11:00 am with light refreshments being served, and it will conclude at 12:30 pm. If you are interested in attending to learn what health insurance options exist for senior Medicare support and how you can save money on premiums, you need to register by **5:00 pm Wednesday, October 29, 2014**. All attendees must be pre-registered with us per the policy of the JCC; walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

Register by 5:00 pm on October 29, Wednesday:

- **phone** to Gayle Marko (952-920-1395) **OR**
Elmer Koch (952-888-7321)
- **email** to EandJKoch@comcast.net

Bertha Smith - A Loving Memorial

by
Grace Jagers

Many educators across Minneapolis Public School district, neighbors, community members and friends cherish the memory of Bertha Smith. She was a joyful spirit of light for all of us. Bertha helped to develop the paths for countless educators as they

entered the education arena. She retired in 1989, having given 32 years of wonderful service, teaching Special Education through a number of Minneapolis Public Schools programs.



Bertha was the first African American teacher in Minneapolis Public Schools. She knew and believed that it took a village to educate our kids. How astonishing she was, in so many ways! She not only educated students, which she loved with a passion, but she also shared herself by giving, volunteering and helping others.

Bertha was an amazing woman. She did not drive; she walked everywhere she could. Many times she chose to walk rather than take the bus or even accept rides offered to her by others. Bertha was known to share her rich talents through a number of educational outlets, Boards, local and national organizations, volunteering and community service. She also celebrated and supported cultural traditions through financial contributions to help sustain programs in the Arts.

Bertha grew up in the Zion Baptist and the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Churches and throughout her life she continued to be a very active member, especially devoting herself to Missions work and singing in the Choir. She possessed a beautiful soprano voice and she used it well, both locally and internationally.

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MRTI Luncheon Menus

2014-2015

October 21 – Spaghetti (pre-plated)
November 18 - Soup & Sandwich Buffet
Tomato basil or beer cheese soup
Ham, turkey, corned beef, tuna salad
December 16 – Pot Roast & Mashed
potatoes pre-plated)
January 20 - Salisbury Steak (pre-plated)
February 17 – Chicken Breast & Twice
baked Potatoes (pre-plated)
March 17 – Corned Beef & Cabbage Buffet
April 21 – Taco Bar Buffet
May 19 – Picnic –style Buffet
Fried chicken. Potato salad, coleslaw, chips

You may request a **Meatless entree** when you are called for a reservation. Our phone callers record both names and phone numbers for reservations which will be checked off at the ticket table. No-shows will be billed for the cost of the luncheon. If you have **NOT** been called by the Wednesday before the luncheon and you wish to attend, please call **Gayle Marko** to make a reservation: **952-920-1395**.

Bertha Smith (cont.)

Her leadership abilities were felt throughout her church and community. Bertha's heart focused on the well-being of children and others. Toward the end of her life, she focused her missionary work on developing and improving the outreach ministry for Senior Citizens and their needs.

Bertha Smith lived a great life, full of happiness, laughter and fun, until it came to a close on April 18, 2014. Her warm presence will be deeply missed but the legacy of her involvement in church, schools and community will live on.



Retiree welcome cont.



Bluegrass music is a uniquely American art form. Pairing song lyrics which often focus on sorrow and loss with high energy instrumentation by guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin and bass creates a foot-stomping, hand-clapping, smile- generating experience for the audience. It was a delightful way for Minneapolis Retired Teachers to kick off the 2014-2015 school year and a wonderful welcome to our new retirees.



*Photos courtesy of
Larry Risser*

Have you renewed your MRTI membership
for 2014-2015?

It's not too late!

Dues must be received by Nov. 12 to insure your inclusion in the 2015 Yearbook.

Your \$20 donation will provide you with:

- the 2015 Yearbook
- the MRTI Newsletter
- the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful monthly luncheons and programs as well as special events
- access to our MRTI website
- the chance to stay connected to our wonderful profession, reconnect with colleagues and make new friends.

\$

Congratulations to 2014 Minneapolis Public Schools Retirees

Joseph Alfano
Deborah Anderson
Patricia Arnold
Sharon Bahe
Kathleen Beeman
Elizabeth Bonestroo
MaryBrooks
Kathleen Cameron
Lynette Cargill
Margaret Cavanaugh
Bunkhean Chhun
Catherine Clemons
Douglas Dally
Nhat Dang
Elizabeth Davies
Judy Elks
Kristi Erickson
Barbara Eue
Eva Fann
Kim Friesen
Teferi Fufa
Susan Gander
Rebecca Garrett
Mary Gudmundson
Mary Guyer
Suzanne Hagestad
Patricia Hauser
Barbara Haynes
Devin Hazenson
Linda Herron
Susan Hughes
Samlong Inthaly
Mark James
James Keilkenny
Isaac Kingbird Jr.
Susanne Koob
Carol Kramer
Josephine Kuntz
Karen KupferJohnson
Ardella Lagerquist
Darlene Lamker
Sandra Lawson
Anne LeDuc
Richard Leibbrand
Pamela Lindberg
Keith Liuzzi

Ruth Lotzer
Marie Louisell
Brian Mauer
Machael Mazyck
Jacqueline McClees
Marilyn McGovern
Luranne McLean
Suzanne Merriman
Thomas Murray
Laura Myers
Joan Netwal
Gregory Nielsen
Joan Owens
Donna Paige
Ianne Pearson
Sharon Penner
Dosho Port
Beverly Propes
Zhi Qu
Mary Rainer
Karl Reinhard
Barbara Reiter
Kathleen Reynolds
Mary Beth Scallen
Richard Schwartz
Mary Shapiro
Christina Sheran
Jean Sherwood
Lynette Sorensen
Marie Stipkovits
Victor Stoner
Cindy Sundrud
Marcia Sutherland
Margaret Taft
Beverly Tavernier
Terry Lee Tervola
Lee Thao
Gay Thatp
Richard Thomas
Stephanie Wegner
Martha Williams
Roxanne Williams
Mary Wilm
Bennie Zackery
Mariam Zamansky

The following
administrators also retired
in June 2014:

Jay Alexander
Reggie Johnson
Jan Parish
Karen Wells
Carl Wilson

HELP! I NEED A NEW NAME!

My current name, "MRTI
Newsletter" tells what I
am, but it has no

PIZZAZZ!

If you have a suggestion
for a new name for me,
will you email it to Chris
Poppe? She'll present all
the suggestions to the
Board and I hope one of
them will be my new
name!!!

Her email address is:

chpop001@gmail.com

Thanks!

The MRTI Newsletter

Exercise Your Franchise!!

Election Day Is Tuesday, November 4th!

Off-year or mid-term elections (those non-Presidential elections years) are often regarded as unimportant and there can be a pretty dismal turnout. As a result, candidates who are not the choice of the majority may get elected because too many people just stay home.

For the first time, Minnesota voters may vote by absentee ballot at any time between now and November 4. You don't need to give any reason for doing so; just show up with a valid ID and you'll be given your ballot.

The Committee of 13 has been working hard to publicize those candidates who support Minneapolis Public Schools and current teacher pension plans. If you wish to know more about the Committee of 13 and its positions with regard to specific candidates or issues, contact Larry Risser, your MRTI representative to the Committee.

and....

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!

MRTI Awards Grants to Teachers

by David Rolek

Several months ago at an MRTI Board Meeting, a Board member suggested that MRTI should consider giving grants to current Minneapolis teachers. As an organization, we already contribute to several Minneapolis community organizations which directly and indirectly deal with children. We also maintain a scholarship fund for teachers who wish to improve their skills or acquire additional licensure. But we have never offered active teachers funds for use in their classrooms or programs.

After several months of discussion, the Board allocated \$5000 and a committee was formed to create a process for informing teachers of this opportunity, generate the application forms and evaluate the grant requests. When we reached the application deadline, thirty-three teachers had applied and the amount of money requested was more than five times what the Board had allocated!

When the committee finished evaluating all the applications, the results were presented to the Board with the recommendation that "a little more money" be added to the original amount. As a result, we awarded grants to eleven teachers. Grants were awarded to elementary, middle and high school teachers, not only to regular classrooms but to special ed programs and some non-traditional experiences as well. Every teacher who received a grant was absolutely elated and thanked us over and over again.

This was such a rewarding experience that we are discussing the possibility of doing it again this school year. There is a need out there and perhaps we can, in some small way, help fill that need.

Grant recipients are listed on page 7.


Do you have an interesting

story? Did you just take the trip of a lifetime? Do you have a hobby you'd like to tell us about?


Contribute an article to the Newsletter! Contact Chris Poppe at chpop001@gmail.com.


2014 - 2015 Program Schedule


\$\$\$ October: Josh Wise, from the Fair Trade Coalition, speaking about the Fast-track option to the Fair Trade Act. Information you should know as we near the November elections.
October **Craft fair** and sale of items made by MRTI members (10:30am)


 **November: Tjärnblom** – Folk music ensemble featuring Swedish, Finnish and American tunes with MPS retirees Cheryl Paschke and Joe Alfano


 **Holiday program** featuring **Al Sweet and the Somewhat Dixieland Band**

 **January – Peter Geye**, author and storyteller. Minneapolis native, Peter Geye, will discuss his books, The Lighthouse Road and Safe from the Sea.

 **February: “Ole and Lena’s 50th Anniversary and Vow Renewal”** - Husband and wife team, Michael and Julie Bateson, bring the lovable but dim-witted “Scanahoovians” to life.

 **March: Copper Street Brass Quintet-** These Minneapolis-based musicians delight audiences across the world with their combination of modern and classical music.

 **April: Shawn Sweeney** – “Music that Tickles”
An expressive voice, an off-beat sense of humor and wonderful musicianship give the listener a touching and uplifting musical experience.

 **May: Guthrie Theater** Presentation
Louise Chalfant, Director of Education, will present an enlightening look at the Guthrie Theater, past, present, and future.

Did You Know...

MRTI contributes to many programs that support Minneapolis children?

Your dues support annual contributions to:

- Achieve! Minneapolis
- Mary’s Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Mpls
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Groveland Food Shelf
- Bridging
- St. Joseph’s Home for Children
- People Serving People
- Mpls Recreation Development

Committee of 13

- Represents both active & retired teachers
- Functions as a political action committee, aiming to influence state legislators to (a) protect current TRA benefits and (b) gain vital TRA pension improvements solely in the Legislature’s power.

Please give generously to help the Committee of 13 continue its important work.

Past President - Joanne Lambrecht
952-470-4216
joanne.lambrecht@yahoo.com

Legislative chair - Ed Andersen
763-577-9699 ander630@umn.edu

Membership Chair - Denny Lander
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dlander222@gmail.com

Investments Chair - Larry Risser
952-941-8833 lerisser10@gmail.com

Newsletter - Chris Poppe
612-688-8722 chpop001@gmail.com

Program Chair - Becky Grover
612-920-6357 rlgrover14@gmail.com

Advisor to the Board - Elmer Koch
952-888-7321 EandJKoch@comcast.net

Directors:

Grace Jagers - 612-825-0366

Barbara Kuenne -763-542-9890

Mitchell Trockman -763-545-7500
mitch.trockman@comcast.net

Margaret Tuma - 612-756-2808

Streamlining Lunch

Reservations are called into **Chef Denne** the morning of the 2nd Tuesday of the month, so we need your reservation by the 2nd Monday. If you are on a calling list, there's no problem unless you weren't home and a message was left. In that case, be sure to return the call as soon as possible. If you're not on a call list and wish to be, call **Carol Lander** at 763-557-6564.

Cancellations are accepted for any reason: illness, doctor appointment, car won't start, bad weather, leaky pipes, can't get the garage door open, etc. etc. Just be sure to call **Gayle Marko** with your cancellation so you won't be billed.

A vegetarian option is available – let your caller know. It is the only option Chef Denne can offer. No outside food is allowed. Adult beverages and soft drinks are available for purchase at the bar and can be brought into our meeting room.

A waiting list will be set up for late reservations; you will be called as space becomes available. Your other option is to come to the luncheon and wait to see if there are no-shows.

Please call **Gayle Marko** at 952-920-1395 with any lunch questions or concerns. We hope that these changes and clarifications will make lunch go more smoothly. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

MRTI Teacher Grant Recipients

1. Sheilagh Johnson, Hale School, \$995 for computer applications.
2. Kristi Bostad, Hall School, \$500 for a classroom library.
3. Leticia De la Cruz, Windom School, \$454 for math games.
4. Nancy Erickson, Folwell School, \$300 for phonics books.
5. Amanda Lodermeier, Andersen School, \$1,000 for Wolf Ridge field trip.
6. Kathleen Oliver & Candice Greenwood, Lind School, \$500 for workbooks.
7. Candida Gonzalez, Roosevelt School, \$1,00 for an artist-in-residence to work with developmentally/cognitively delayed 9-12 graders.
8. Carissa Tobin, Nellie Stone Johnson School, \$479 for a rug.
9. Tara Kennedy & Katie Murphy-Olsen, Edison & Wellstone Schools, \$1,000 for 200 ESL students to go to the Cowles Center for Dance & the Arts.
10. Katie Morris, Windom School, \$250 for invertebrate tank.
11. Kelly Watson & Katy Allison, Waite Park School, \$1,000 for an EBD program to continue their partnership with Canine Inspired Change.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.
P.O. Box 24034
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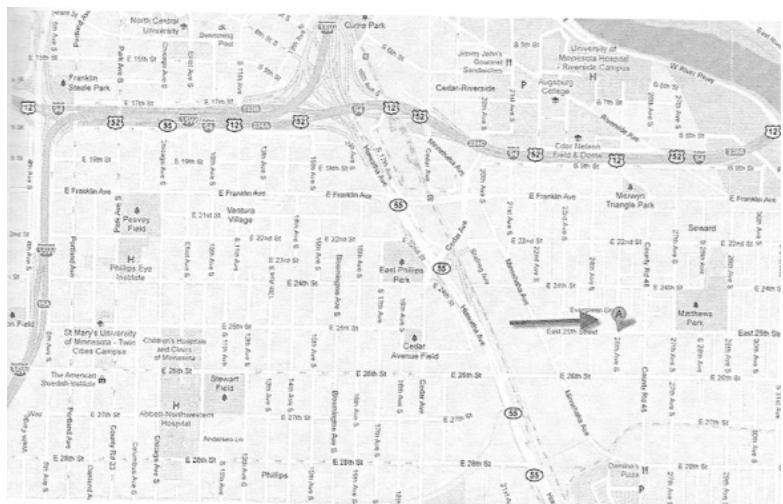
MRTI Newsletter October 2014
Chris Poppe, editor

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

Chris Poppe
3851 Queen Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
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



Plenty of free parking!