

# After School...

## The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

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

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## Welcome New Retirees!



Nineteen newly-retired Minneapolis Public Schools teachers and social workers, representing a class of 143, were honored at our



September 19th luncheon. On hand to offer their congratulations and welcome our guests into the wonderful world of retirement were

**Superintendent Ed Graff**, who brought greetings, thanks and congratulations from the District, School Board Chair **Rebecca Gagnon**, TRA representatives **Jeff**



**Altringer** and **Tim Maurer**, Committee of 13 representatives (and MRTI members) **Ed Anderson**, **Larry Risser** and **Janet Kujat** and more than 120 MRTI members.

*Janet Kujat, new retiree*

After a tasty meal of beef stroganoff, salad and apple crisp, we were entertained by Erin Schwab & Jay Fuchs' musical tribute to Judy Garland and Bette Midler, "*Judy, you Bette!*"

Erin's big, versatile voice & Jay's vocal and piano accompaniments have gained a strong following as they perform around the

# Fall Program Schedule



September 19 - Erin & Jay present "Judy - you Bette!"



October 17 - Classic Animated Short Films with popcorn!



November 21 - Matt Guttman will speak on Wills & Trusts



December 19 - Monroe Crossing



January 16 - Steve Chicoine will speak on World World I

# Bill of Fare

September - Beef Stroganoff

October - Chef salad bar

November - Vegetarian lasagna

December - Hot turkey sandwich

January - Make-your-own sandwich bar

As always, a vegetarian option is available; just let your caller know or contact Gayle Marko. No other options are possible. 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.

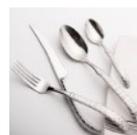
If you have **NOT** been called by **Monday, a week before the luncheon**, and you wish to attend, please call **Gayle Marko** to make a reservation: **952-920-1395**.

## More about lunches



Please note that you are not allowed to bring your own food into the Eagles Club. MRTI lunch reservations are due on Monday, one week before the meeting. If you call after that, you may be put on a waiting list. There are usually cancellations, so call Gayle Marko the night before the meeting to double check.

If you should need to cancel, please call Gayle as soon as possible. If you just don't show up, you will be billed for your missed lunch. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Gayle at 952-920-1395



## Interested in political activity?

Retired Teachers Council 59 (RTC 59)

Soup, Salad & Substance Luncheons

Sept 26, October 24, November 28, 2017  
11:45 am

MFT Local 59 Office, 67 8th Avenue NE, Mpls





## Teachers Love MRTI Grants

In 2014, when the MRTI Board decided to support our active teaching colleagues by offering grants directly to them, we weren't sure if anyone would be interested. Sensitive to the many demands on teachers' time, the Grant Committee created an application form which was simple and easy to complete, and the grants could be used for virtually any purpose, from books for a classroom library, to field trips, to specialized classroom furniture. That first year, we allocated \$5000 to the Grant program and received three applications totaling \$2362.50.

When we offered the grants again for the 2015 school year, we received 33 requests, totaling over \$25,000! The Committee approved 11 applications, but we had to increase the amount allocated for the program to over \$7000 to cover the expenses! Since our Treasury cannot continue to absorb the rising costs of ever-increasing numbers of requests, the Board decided to limit the total annual Grant allocations to \$7000 (more or less) and reduce the maximum amount per grant, to accommodate as many deserving applicants as possible.

The following teachers have been awarded MRTI Grants for the 2018 school year:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Aaron Blum - South                        | Kyle Hanson - Bethune    |
| Laura Byard - Roosevelt                   | Jeff Ponto - South       |
| Nancie Delete - Lake Harriet Lower School |                          |
| Kelly Pier - Lake Harriet Lower School    | Mary Rice - Hale         |
| Joanna Schmidt - Green Central            | Rachel White - Lyndale   |
| Laura Henry - Olson Middle School         | Jill Stark - Edison      |
| A. Z. Jacobsen-Anderson - Pratt           | Jennifer Lucke - South   |
| Lynn Grundtner - Edison                   | Bob Peterson - Wellstone |

### 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.**

### MRTI Scholarship Fund

Each year the MRTI Scholarship Fund offers up to five \$2000 scholarships to current teachers and paraprofessionals who wish to pursue additional degrees or licensure. As of September 20, we have received 134 donations to the Scholarship fund, totaling \$5751. Our goal is to raise another \$2000 during this school year and we thank our members for their generosity in supporting the MRTI Scholarship Fund.

*- MRTI Scholarship Committee*



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Twin Cities. In addition to teaching at the McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Erin's musical credits include *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*

and the national touring company of *School House Rock Live!* Jay holds MA and PhD degrees in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Minnesota, is also on the McNally Smith

faculty and is a popular and sought-after singer, band leader, composer, music director and piano-player. Erin and Jay's friendship, musicianship and



enjoyment of one another infuses their program with a joy that communicates easily to the audience, drawing us into the music. "Erin & Jay - *Swingin' On Broadway*" was a big hit when they entertained us last February.

"*Judy, you Bette!*" included famous songs from each woman's repertoire: *Somewhere Over the Rainbow, The Man That Got Away, Clang! Clang! Clang! Went the Trolley, The Rose, You've Got To Have Friends* and many others. We were delighted to have Erin & Jay participate in the celebration for our newly-retired colleagues and they brought all of us to our feet with enthusiastic applause.

*Photos courtesy of Larry Risser*



**Thanksgiving quiz**

**If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?**

**Answer on p.7**

**AN EXCITING ADVENTURE...**



*c National Geographic Society*

**THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN**

The total eclipse was stunning!

On August 21st my husband and I saw the eclipse from a parking lot in Woodburn, Oregon. We had already planned to be in Seattle at that time, so we didn't make a special trek to see the eclipse but we were both very happy with this coincidence.

Having heard horror stories about how bad the traffic would be, we started off at 3:30 AM. We easily found a spot in a shopping center parking lot in the front row looking over a big field.

It was fascinating to see the sun look like a planet or the moon through the (approved) eclipse glasses. At first, the eclipse reminded me of the phases of the moon. When the moon covered all but the tiniest bit of the sun you could still see pinpricks of light around one edge of the sun. All of a sudden it was as if you turned a light out.

Most of the time it was like dusk or when a storm is coming; an eerie sort of light. It did become noticeably cooler - 10-15 degrees or so - and you could really tell how the sun warms us. The birds were quiet for a few seconds, then started in again. After hooting and hollering when the total eclipse started, the people were pretty quiet, too. I could see many of the brighter stars one usually sees at night. I imagined how ancient people would have felt. No wonder there were so many theories about what happened during an eclipse - and why!

Though the total eclipse only lasted for a little over two minutes, it was worth it! It really was a once in lifetime sight. The next one will be in 2024 and will be seen from places in Indiana and Ohio. See you all there!

- Deborah Smith

# **MRTI Grants in Action**



On May 12, 2017, MRTI Board member Barbara Kuenne visited Sheila Haugen's class at Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning center, where Sheila and her students enjoy the new books purchased with an MRTI grant.

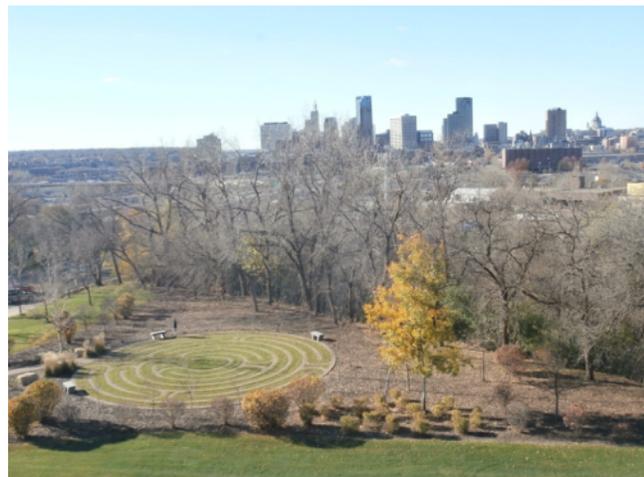


Jim Benick's students at Patrick Henry High School practice CPR on infant manikins purchased with MRTI grant funds.



“Signs Of” - a student photography project at Seward Montessori School, used cameras purchased with an MRTI grant. To see the students' photographs on the Web, go to:

<http://theavidphotoproject.weebly.com>



*cont. from page 1*  
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[mitch.trockman@comcast.net](mailto:mitch.trockman@comcast.net)

\$

**Have you renewed your MRTI membership for 2017-2018?**

**It's not too late!**

There is still time to send in your membership before 2018 Yearbook is published. Your \$20 dues will provide you with:

- the 2018 Yearbook
- the MRTI Newsletter - 3 times each year
- the opportunity to enjoy our tasty 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

\$

**Help fund the efforts to Preserve our Pensions!**  
**Contribute to the Committee of Thirteen**  
 Donations may be sent to:  
**Committee of Thirteen**  
**P.O.Box 1414, Lakeville, MN 55044**

*An opportunity to give back*  
**Befriend an Isolated Elder**

One of our own – Deb Becker – has discovered a gem of a volunteer opportunity through Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly (LBFE). The organization is committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among elders who have little, if any, family or friendship support in their lives. Thanks to dedicated volunteers like Deb, LBFE brings meaningful human connection and advocacy into the lives of elders who are alone in the world. The organization values older adults as an integral and connected part of our community and is committed to supporting their happiness, sense of belonging, well-being and independence.

LBFE offers a host of volunteer roles to connect with elders, including Visiting Volunteer Advocates, Phone Companions and Friendship and Flowers Visitors. You can apply to volunteer directly via <https://www.littlebrothersmn.org/Volunteer/VolunteerApplication.aspx>.

For specific questions, you can also reach out to Georgia Afton at 612.746.0732 or [gafton@littlebrothersmn.org](mailto:gafton@littlebrothersmn.org). LBFE's website is <http://littlebrothersmn.org/>.

Deb also invites you to reach out to her to learn about her passion and her experience working with elders through LBFE. You can reach her at [beledeb@aol.com](mailto:beledeb@aol.com) or 612-339-4772

*“What we do for ourselves dies with us.  
 What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”* Albert  
 Pine

**Georgia Afton**  
**Volunteer Outreach Director**  
**Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly**  
1845 East Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55407  
 612.746.0732

*What do May flowers bring?  
 Pilgrims!*



**Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 24034**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55414-0034**

**MRTI Newsletter October 2017**

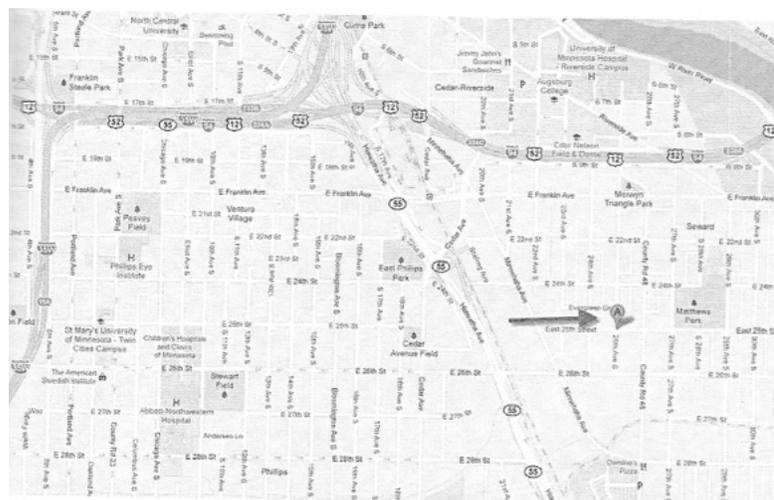
**Chris Poppe, editor**

Articles, opinion essays  
and comments are  
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**55412**  
**[chpop001@gmail.com](mailto: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!**