

MRTI News

Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website www.mrti.org

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All Aboard for our End-of-the-School-Year Field Trip!



Spend a leisurely afternoon cruising on Lake Pepin - the largest natural river lake on the Mississippi River. Ride the Pearl of the Lake – a genuine replica of an 1800's Stern Wheeler!

When: Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Cost: \$37.00

Where: Bus leaves the Eagles Club at 10:00 am

Return to the Eagles Club around 3:00 to 3:30

What's Included:

- Bus ride ****Handicap accessible****
- Lunch on the boat
- Boat ride

Reservations will be taken from April 21st until May 20th

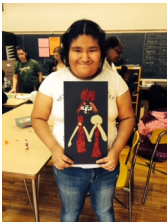
Questions: Call Denny Lander 612-926-8478 or dlander222@gmail.com

Teacher Grants Are Making a Difference

MRTI President David Rolek received the following email from Candida Gonzalez, a Roosevelt teacher and IB Coordinator who won an MRTI grant to bring an Artist-In-Residence to her class:



"We absolutely loved the opportunity to have Katrina here with our DCD students. They did amazing work together. Katrina worked with 28 students from three different classrooms once weekly for an hour. They created self-portraits, collages, and other pieces with crayon, marker and paint. Their identity collages were presented at the October RHS Arts Crawl and they participated in simple mosaicking for the RHS Arts mural. "We have secured another grant to keep Katrina with us through the end of the year, and are exploring options for next year. Thank you so much for the opportunity to bring her in this year- the students loved it!"



Jenny

Adapted Art Class



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.

Updates on the Committee of 13 and its work available on the Committee's website:

www.committeeof13.com

MRTI Luncheon Menus

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 **Monday, a week before the luncheon**, and you wish to attend, please call **Gayle Marko** to make a reservation: **952-920-1395**.

Spring Program Schedule



April: Shawn Sweeney

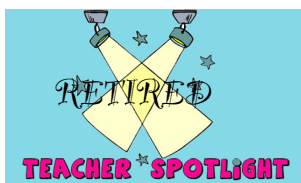
"Music that Tickles"

An expressive voice, an off-beat sense of humor and wonderful musicianship give the listener a touching and uplifting musical experience.



May: The Guthrie Theater

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



FROM CLASSROOM TO GALLERY: A NOVEL RETIREMENT

The poet Mary Oliver asks the question, “Tell me what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” This question confronts retirees with heightened urgency as they transition from a defined career to an unscripted future.

Of all the paths that beckon a retiree—leisure, travel, care-giving, service, work--George

Roberts chose the path less traveled by—the serious pursuit of a dream. The dream was



prompted by a neglected building he passed on the corner of Russell and Plymouth on his daily walk to North



High School where he taught English and Creative Writing. The dream was to

build a gallery and studio from the shambles of that building. George felt that his Homewood neighborhood in

Minneapolis needed a center that would nourish and exhibit the creative talents of his neighbors.

He believed that artistic expression was not a luxury but a basic, human need, that art builds bridges and saves lives. George couldn't wait for retirement. He launched that career before he retired in 2001. He bought the building in 1998 and spent every available minute of the next 18 months in gallery construction.

In transforming the dream into a reality, he tapped skills of diplomacy, persuasion, and negotiation that had never been tested before, then dived into the gritty business of construction. To proceed, he exercised two skills that he knew he had—the ability to



seek out advice and the ability to read and make use of the library.

First, George needed a business plan for zoning approval. Then there were building permits and a hearing for rezoning, and a permit to accommodate the requirements of a gallery. He found the business plan expertise he needed among his neighbors who also helped in drawing up the architectural design.



Untold trips downtown for approval and permitting would have dulled the will of most people and made cynics of them with all the paperwork, but George took a philosophical view, saying that he came to realize the great responsibility public officials have to maintain the safety of all the buildings in the city.



It took 20 dumpster loads of demolition debris to strip the building; then he had to haul in sheetrock for all the walls and ceilings. George leveled the floor, reinforced the roof, and fitted the doors. He did all the construction himself except for the plumbing, electrical and window installation work. As it progressed, the gallery

project garnered the highest number of community votes for support from Neighborhood Revitalization Project funds. This welcome aid allowed him to complete three more studio spaces, purchase sun-screening shades and develop a rain garden behind the studio.

The opening show at Homewood Studios in December of 1999 was called "A Hand



in the Show." For this, George gave an 18" x 24" piece of art paper to everyone who had a hand in the project, from city permitting bureaucrats to those who helped with construction. He invited them to fill the sheet with any art or content they wished, and that launched the gallery which has been operating now for 15



years. The open invitation continues today with a small display space reserved for a 1x1x One show. This little gallery space features one piece of art for one month by one artist and is often filled with work by neighborhood children.

George has an uncanny knack for pulling people in and making them partners. When a group of kids was hanging around the project as it was under construction, he asked which of them was the artist, and they immediately identified one of their own, thereby connecting them with the project. Later, when the gallery opened, he played the teacher role he knew so well. As neighborhood youth came into the gallery at openings where there were tables of food,



George told them that they were welcome to have some, but first they had to look at all the art, pick out their favorite piece, then find the artist, introduce themselves and tell the artist which work they liked best. And when people stopped by the gallery to ask if they could use the rest room, George said yes, but they must spend 15 minutes looking at the art.



In addition to the gallery space, there are four artist studios, most of them shared by two artists. George, a poet

and letter press print artist, rents studio space along with the other artists, and once a year they have a collaborative show. The gallery is self-supporting with rent for studio space and a fee for a show in the gallery. Artists displaying their work pay a flat fee and then keep all the proceeds from the work they sell. There is a waiting list for shows, and the resident artists keep their studio spaces for multiple years.



Beyond exhibits of visual art, George makes Homewood Studios available, free of charge, for a host of other cultural events. These include a community dialogue series, writers group, book talks, journaling, tai chi, a sewing class for children, and a wide variety of programs.



What will become of this cultural oasis on Plymouth Avenue when its inspiration and founder can no longer continue? That remains to be seen, but community voices are already saying that when that time comes, they can't let Homewood Studios go.

by Larry Risser



MRTI Board *cont. from p1*

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mitch.trockman@comcast.net

Cheer & Service Committee

If you know a member who is ill, hospitalized, in a care residence or just needs a kind word, or if you know of a member who has died. please contact Doris Arnold (952-431-7471). Please contact Kari Dorniden (952-941-7471) to have a birthday card sent.

Minneapolis Retired Teachers are Cheerful Givers

During 2014, the following 184 contributors gave a total of \$8970.00 to the MRTI Scholarship Fund:

A

Jean Albrightson,
Astrid Alexander,
Allen Anderson, Edwin Anderson,
Karen Anderson, Doris Arnold

B

Anne Bartel, Aroti Bayman,
Nancy Bell, Marcia Birney,
Linda Bjorklund, Marvin Bjorlin,
Mary Boardman, Louise Botko,
Dolora Brewer, William Brody,
Eleanor Zanna Brown,
JoAnne Buggey, Susan Bunnell
(in memory of Norm Busse)

C

Kathleen Cahill, Janelle Camp,
Al Cannon, Darryl Carter, Violet
Carter, Don and Pat Cieminski,
Kathleen Cooper, Kathy Coppicus,
Barbara Covart, Marilyn
Cramolini, Carole Cranbrook,
Cheryl Creecy, Jackie Cronin,
Luellen Curran

D

Judith Davidson, Jean
Doolittle, Drolsum Family (in
memory of Joyce Drolsum),
Rita Drone, Lewis Duckett,
Michele Dunn

E

Jean Ellefson, Pam Evangelist,
Barbara Evenson

F

Lee and Mary Ann Fabel, James and
Sylvia Farrells, Sheila Fitzgerald,
Nancy Fowler, Carol Freeman, Geri
Fridgen, Richard Friedrichsen,
Rosemary Fruehling, Mary

G

Ellen Gallick, MaryAnn Gilbertson,
Kathe Gouette, Bernadette Green,
Jane Grubb, Carole Gupton

H

Sajjad Haider, Richard
Hanson, Walter Hartmann, A.
James Heller, Dale and Lynne
Hendrickson, Mary Hewitt,
James Hilgendorf, Judy Hoel,
Robert Hoisington

I

Art Indelicato, Sandra Irwin

J

Bette Jacobs, James Jacobsen,
Suzanne Jebe, Lauren Johnson,
Stella Jones

K

Evangeline Karakatsanis, Marilyn
Karasov, Ruth Katz, Cynthia Kelly,
Mary Ellen Knapmiller, Elmer Koch,
Elizabeth Koenig, Robert Kreuser,
Barbara Kuenne, Kathrynne Kuhns

L

Margaret LaFleur, Joanne Lambrecht,
Javan Larson, Robert Larson,
Carol Lauder, Harriet Lerdal, Jo
Livgard, Marlene Locascio,
Dan and Marsha Loewenson

M

Marjory Maier, Arthur Maillet, Gayle
Marko, Barbara Mattill, Katherine May,
Wanda McCaa, Michael McClure,
Kay McLean, Lafayette Mickel, Eunice
Milbrath, Norman and Patricia Moen,
Robert Monson, Nancy Morin,
Gwendolyn Mosberg

N

Karen Nelson, Marybeth Nelson,
Rodney Nelson, Ardis Niemann
Noonan, Nancy Novak, Sarah Novotny

O

Elaine Olson, C. Jack Oman,
Joanne Ortendahl-Lucas, Eileen Oslund,
Joyce Ovick Fuhrman

P

Tom Patterson, Judith Peters, Mary
Peterson, Roberta Peterson, Joan
Petroff, Robert Pierce, Shirley

Poliquin, Christine Poppe,
Mary Poulsen, Ruta Praulins,

R

Lynne Raphael, Roma Lee Rasmussen,
Margaret Reed, Connie Retzlaff,
Barbara Risken, Larry Risser, Rosalind
Robbins, Sara Roberson, Cynthia
Rogers, David Rolek, Beth Ronald,
Bonnie Rowell, Kathleen Runchey,
Susan Ryan- Nelson, Donald Ryberg,
Robert Ryder

S

Marlys Sanford, Catherine Scanlon,
Karen Scheib, Steve Schmid, Judith
Shapiro, Barbara Shin, Margaret Shryer,
Beverly Shupe, Nancy Simonetti,
Donald Sovell, Anthony Sutton,
Alan Sweet

T

Hazel Tanner, Genevieve Taylor, Joan
Threet, Margaret Tuma

U

Janet Ulvin

V

Gary Vettleson, David V

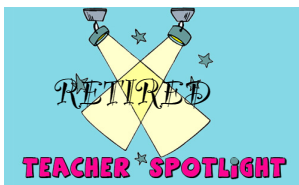
W

Phyllis Waldsmith, Velma Warder,
Marilyn Watson, Florence Wertz,
Daniel Willette, Jo Anne Wilson, Mary
Wise, Roger Wold, Sheila Woodbeck,
Donise Wright

Z

Doris Zachary, Patricia Zajac,
Joseph Zetah

**Thank you for your
generous support of
Minneapolis Public
Schools teachers
and staff.**



The Shutterbug

January 26, 2015

BY: JIM
WALSH



Larry Risser at home: "I like photos that tell a story."
Photo by Jim Walsh

It's no secret that we live in an unprecedented time of visual stimulation and documentation, where everyone with a smart phone makes like Ansel Adams and blasts their artwork out to the world. This area of the city is especially photogenic, inspiring neighbors' quick pics that gloriously glut the daily newsfeed with all stripes of sunsets, sunrises, surprises.

Long before the digital camera revolution, Larry Risser was enamored with photographing the many charms of Lake Harriet, a sampling of which can be seen in all its slide-show glory [here](#).

(ed. note - go to Southwest Journal website to see slide show)

A lifelong photographer and former English teacher at West and Southwest high schools, Risser has lived in Linden Hills/Lake Harriet for 50 years with his wife, Edis, and has spent much of the past decade walking and photographing the lake named for Harriet Lovejoy, the wife of Colonel Henry Leavenworth, who lived at Fort Snelling in the 1800s. "I see the lake the way you write about music, as such a refuge and such an important part of life," Risser told me recently, sitting in his living room surrounded by his photos. "I see people coming there in grief, and celebration, and romanticism; a desire to work out and get in shape, and everything. It's just a place that sort of meets the human needs in every aspect of life."

Risser's photos capture as much, from lovers in a poignant post-bike

continued on p.9

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 Club of the Greater Twin Cities
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Groveland Food Shelf
- Bridging
- St. Joseph's Home for Children
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities
- Teacher Grants
- Scholarships for teachers and MPS employees



repose; a marathon-running flag-waving Marine; a peaceful father-son fishing team; a flurry of eagles, owls, fox, ducks, geese and birds of prey; the simple majesty of Rose Garden weddings, the regulars, characters, and kooks that populate the shore; stolen moments between lovers; the sailors and fisherpeople; the always interesting parade of all-season runners and walkers, and more.

"I like photos that tell a story," said Risser. "I want my photos to say something, not just be there. I do a lot of street photography, and I frequently tell people, 'I think I just got a good picture of you,' and I always offer to email it to them, and I've had some really interesting responses. Usually just a short 'thank you,' but once in a while people just pour out a whole story."

A native of Stewartville, Minnesota, and a graduate of Macalester College, Risser was obviously born with the skills that make any good photojournalist tick: a terrific eye and a passion for people and the art of photography.

"I found a little camera when I was 7 years old," he said, "and I remember it didn't have protection against double exposure, and I had my sister, kind of Chagall-like, sitting on top of the house, and I thought, 'My god, this is fabulous! You can do things with this other than just take a straight picture!'"

"Then in 10th or 11th grade, a teacher let me use the school's Crown Graphic sheet belt camera, and I took sports pictures and stuff for the school newspaper. I went to Macalester as an English major and art minor, and I took a class with Jerome Liebling, who was a classic photographer, and I've been at it off and on ever since. I still have my dark room in my basement, and I won't give it up."

He's done professional photography work and continues to shoot all over the Twin Cities, but Risser's first love is the lake that sits a couple hundred yards from his home. "You can go all over the world and explore and find all kinds of things, and I love to travel, but you walk around that lake and I never know what I'm going to find," he said. "You're cosmopolitan in your own back yard, aren't you?"

"There's endless possibilities. The lake draws ethnic diversity from all over; people come to the lake for all kinds of reasons. It just pulls people."

*Jim Walsh lives and grew up in East Harriet.
He can be reached at jimwalsh086@gmail.com*

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Minnesota Treasure Hunt by Bob Ryder

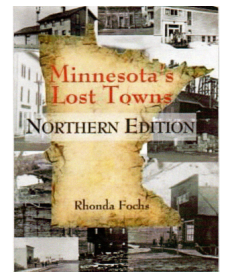
What do the making of bricks, the unsolved murder of a young girl and a visit from Al Capone have in common? They all happened in Minnesota towns that no longer exist.

In a recent book by Rhonda Fochs, Minnesota's Lost Towns – Northern Edition (c 2014), stories, pictures and narration tell the histories of 32 counties and the lost/abandoned towns that were once found there.

On our annual motorcycle trip, my son, Chris, and I began searching for a few of these "lost towns" and discovered another fun treasure hunt, reminiscent of one we did previously, following Tales of the Road – Highway 61 by Cathy Wurzer. But this new expedition covered a much larger area with many more "treasures" to be found.

But, back to our three questions: The bricks were made in Brickton, a Mille Lacs County town that once existed just north of Princeton on Hwy. 169. From 1889 – 1929, Brickton bricks were regarded as among the nation's finest but all that remains now is a brick pillar with a plaque commemorating the once proud town of Brickton. All is not quite lost, however, since you can see a building built of Brickton bricks by going to the Princeton, Minnesota railroad station.

Traveling west to Morrison County, you find the former town of Darling, Minnesota on Hwy 10, northwest of Little Falls. Although the town hasn't existed for a century, a large R.R. sign still marks its former location. Back near the turn of the 20th century a young woman, Annie



Passage to India
Reflections on a 3 week trip to the Indian sub-continent
November 20 -December 10. 2014

India is a study in contrasts (no surprise there) and everything you have heard or read about India is true. It is not for the faint of heart. It is beautiful and brutal, contemplative and careless, spiritual and cynical. In the course of three weeks, we traveled to Bangalore, Mysore, Ooty and Hyderabad in the South, Agra, Jaipur and Delhi in the North. During our trip, a Regional Conference of the World Federation of Rose Societies, my daughter, Lisa, and I visited beautiful palaces and immaculate rose gardens, saw acres and acres of pristine tea plantations, went on a game drive in a tiger reserve (didn't see any tigers, but did see wild elephants, monkeys, bison and mongoose) and



*Riding an elephant
up to the Amber Fort
in Jaipur*

were treated to the most exquisite dinner I've ever experienced at a 7-star hotel which was formerly the palace of the local maharajah. We rode on luxurious tour busses, some pretty miserable local busses, jeeps, rickshaws, airplanes, elephants and a tuk-tuk and we walked and walked and walked.

November -December is wedding season. At our hotel in Hyderabad, for one wedding, workers took two days to create a white and gold false Gothic façade at the entrance, with arched doorways and a glassless rose window above the main entry. A plush red carpet led inside, lined by white columns festooned with swags of orchids, roses and other flowers. An arched cloth canopy was hung with crystal chandeliers and the groom arrived in a white horse-drawn carriage. Women wore fragile silk sarees edged with gold embroidered bands 6 inches wide, studded with large, creamy pearls or other sparkling gemstones and wearing ropes of gorgeous pearls around their necks.

A few hundred yards from the hotel's entrance, families are living on a garbage dump in a makeshift tent consisting of a ragged plastic tarp held up at one end by a crooked stick. No clean drinking water; no running water; no sanitation. In cities and towns, nice-looking small, stucco-walled homes have open-ended pipes projecting from the concrete pads underneath them, draining into an open sewer trench that runs all along the street in front of homes, shops, cafes, etc. We toured magnificent



palaces with solid silver doors 10 feet tall; every wall, floor, ceiling and pillar decorated with exquisite paintings of flowers, people, animals and geometric designs. And we saw villages consisting entirely of corrugated tin shacks with no plumbing, no paved roads, and electrical connections that



would give nightmares to anyone in Western Europe or North America. In the cities, electric substations are set in the middle of sidewalks on inadequate wooden or metal supports. At best there might be a bit of chainlink fencing around them; most have no barriers at all. And the wires leading from them to homes and businesses are a crazy quilt that no one could unravel. In the country it's the same except that there are no sidewalks, so the power substations are just set wherever.



Cattle are sacred in India; we visited a temple in Bangalore dedicated to the Big Bull. But other animals also roam the cities and villages freely. Chickens, many dogs, goats, monkeys, but no cats, wander around in search of food.

Cattle are everywhere: sleeping on traffic islands, stopping traffic as they wander across streets, grazing the garbage dumps. In the country, cow pies are collected by the hundred, set in the sun to dry and then stored for use as fuel for cooking and heating. In the city, I don't know what they do with it.



Being a pedestrian is to take your life in your hands. Vehicles do stop for red lights, but crosswalks are merely hopeful suggestions. You can use them but there's no assurance that motorists will honor them. In Delhi, I saw a sign proclaiming, "Lane driving is safe driving." In most of the world, two lanes means two vehicles, with the occasional addition of a bicycle or motorcycle. In Mysore, I counted up to 9 vehicles squashed into two lanes. The roads and highways are clogged with tour busses, commuter



busses, mini busses, trucks, regular cars, taxis, rickshaws, three-wheeled vehicles called tuk-tuks, two-wheeled scooters, motorcycles and bicycles, to say nothing of the ox carts, donkey carts, hand carts, camels, horses, elephants and people on foot!



*A Snake Charmer
Live cobra in basket*

If drivers didn't have horns to beep, traffic would come to a stand still. They beep their horns to indicate anything from "Hey! Get out of my way!" to "Hey I'm here, watch out for me!" They also seem to have several degrees of horn beeps available, from the single beep to a fanfare of tweedles and tunes which can indicate the seriousness of the situation or the seriousness of the driver's intention.

India has great beauty in its people and its environment, but it all threatens to collapse under the weight of the popular perception that "someone else will take care of it." At the convention closing ceremony, a worker removed a trash can overflowing with plates, cups and partially-eaten food. I watched as people came to the spot where the trash can had been, saw that it was gone, and dropped their trash there anyway!! They made no attempt to find another trash can or to wait for the worker to come back with an empty can. Just dropped it there on the assumption that "Someone else" would pick up after them! In the cities you see large, empty dumpsters with piles of garbage on the ground around them.



Monkeys are everywhere

In Delhi, there is a large "population clock" which indicates the number of people living in the city. When we were there, the number was 17 million plus and the numeral on the far right, indicating individual births, was just spinning. Even at new, modern hotels, like the Novotel in Hyderabad, you must brush your teeth with bottled water, avoid ice cubes and never drink from a bottle that was opened before being served to you. Failure to do this leads immediately to nasty gastrointestinal consequences. Hot tea and coffee are okay because the water has been boiled.

The Caste system, dividing Indians into one of five groups, from Brahmins to Dalits (or Untouchables) is a source of controversy. Numerous recent laws provide for people of the lower castes to be educated and rise in society, but it is the unusual person who is able to do so. Theoretically outlawed, the caste influence is most strongly felt in the selection of marriage partners. Many Indians still have arranged marriages and

families rarely choose partners of lesser status or wealth (i.e., from lower castes) for their children.

Although India is now a democracy, there are still several hereditary Maharajahs governing their principalities. (How they work that out, I'm not sure). In Jaipur, we visited the huge City Palace, built between 1729 and 1732.



Chris and friend

Although the mosque and much of the palace is now a museum, there is one section, painted bright yellow and off limits to tourists, where the 15 year old Maharajah lives with his family, governing Rajahstan Province while still in high school.

The legendary wealth of Indian princes has always been dazzling, like the Maharajah who owned a 100 carat cut diamond he used as a paperweight, or the 6 foot high stone bathtub, filled to overflowing with diamonds, rubies and pearls, given to celebrate a prince's birth or the two 5 ft. tall sterling silver jugs (officially the largest sterling silver vessels ever made) which were made to carry 4000 gallons of Ganges River water for the Maharajah to drink while on a trip to England in 1901. Although most of the Maharajahs are gone, the wildly inequitable division of wealth remains, with a very small minority owning the vast majority of the country's wealth and the vast majority barely scraping by. The wealthy live in gated communities with armed guards at the entrances, while the ordinary people live without potable water. Often, a new luxurious apartment building or town house with a tall, armored fence around it stood right next door to a building consisting of three or four floors, but no front. I couldn't tell whether it was being built or being torn down, but people were living there in lean-to tents with laundry lines strung from the ceilings.



Since we were attending a regional convention of the World Federation of Rose Societies, we had a chance to see many lovely gardens in the towns and cities we visited. Some gardens were planted over 150 years ago; others in the last 25 years. But all were immaculate points of great pride for their communities. Some rose beds stood alone; others were the highlights of larger Botanical Gardens or Municipal Gardens. In Hyderabad, the municipal rose garden puts the Lyndale Rose Garden



to shame. On the shore of Hussain Sagar Lake, the garden is framed by hills at each end, with terraced rose beds dug into each side of the hills. In the center of the garden is a series of fountains, spraying water from multiple levels. At the far end of the garden, waterfalls cascade down the hillside, framed by terraced rose beds and at the top of the hill, a series of triangular rose beds in a semi-circle form the points of a six-pointed star.



India's long and complex history is documented in the art and craftsmanship of the many historic buildings like the exquisite Taj Mahal and the Royal Palace at Mysore, but also in thousands of small temples dotting the cities and

towns with intricately carved, multi-colored tributes to the Hindu gods. Artisanal crafts such as gemstone designs inlaid in marble, four-color block printing on fabric or making hand-knotted carpets keep alive ancient skills that are needed to repair and restore ancient artifacts and provide an opportunity for tourists to take home "a bit of India," which, of course, we did.



Namaste!

- Chris & Lisa Poppe

Photos by the authors



Minnesota Treasure Hunt (cont. from p. 9)

Kintop, who rode the train along the tracks in the picture and returned to Darling only to be waylaid, brutally murdered and found in a nearby swamp with a handkerchief tied around her throat. The killer was never found.

The Darling church, built in 1897 and long abandoned but kept up by the locals, sits beside a beautifully tended cemetery. Finally, along the North Shore of Lake Superior, just northeast of Silver Bay, you can find Illgen City. A green highway sign marks the location where Rudy



and Mary Illgen started the town, which they carved out of the wilderness in 1924. The Aztek Hotel was rumored to have hosted Al Capone, the famous Chicago mobster. The hotel burned down in 1958 but the attached "cabinolas" and Whispering Pines Motel are still there

If this brief look at Minnesota's lost towns peaks your interest, why not get a copy of the book and start hunting on your own.? It will take you into some beautiful Minnesota country and down a few dirt roads as you rediscover places that have disappeared but were once important to the people who lived there. I don't know if a "Southern Edition" is planned, but I can hope. Meanwhile, I plan to continue looking for the over 100 towns that are left for me to find. It could provide for lots of future motorcycle trips

Photos by the author

Master Rosarians Plant Sale

Sat. April 25, 2015 & Sat. May 2, 2015
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Roses, potted and bareroot
Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, Miniature Roses, David Austin English Roses, Shrub Roses

Lily Bulbs & Peony Roots
Rare, unusual, not available in stores

Specialty blended natural fertilizer

Twin Cities Rose Club
Order forms and information on website:
www.twincitiesrose.org

Nellie Stone Johnson's Place of Honor



As part of the Minnesota State Capitol's extensive renovation, the Legislature has authorized the placement of a bust of Nellie Stone Johnson, the nationally-renowned civil rights activist and educational leader in Minneapolis Public Schools, in a prominent location in the Capitol rotunda. The project was allocated \$30,000 on condition that a matching amount be raised.

In her long life as an activist, Johnson (1905-2002) campaigned for the Non-Partisan League on horseback in 1918, became an elected leader of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union in the 1930s, played a role in the merger of the Farmer-Labor Party and the Democratic Party in 1944, helped shape Hubert Humphrey's famous 1948 speech on civil rights at the Democratic National Convention, and led a campaign for Minnesota civil rights legislation in 1955 — the Employment Practices Act. She also was the state's first black elected official, winning election to the Minneapolis Library Board in 1945. In 1982, Governor Rudy Perpich appointed Johnson to the Minnesota State University Board.

Johnson shared her life story in a series of interviews with journalist David Brauer, which he edited and published as Nellie Stone Johnson: The Life of An Activist (Ruminator Books, 2001). The play "Nellie," written by local playwright Kim Hines and produced by History Theatre in 2013, chronicled Johnson's life and the toll she paid in her personal life for her commitment as a labor and political activist. A Minneapolis elementary school, Nellie Stone Johnson Community School is named in her honor.

State Rep. Joe Mullery, DFL-Minneapolis, led the legislative effort to authorize the matching funds for a bust of Johnson in the Capitol. The committee raising funds to meet the match includes: Louise Sundin

former president MFT Local 59; Nancy Goldman, president of UNITE HERE Local 17; former Minnesota AFL-CIO presidents Danny Gustafson and Ray Waldron; and AFSCME retiree Chas Martin.

Since the passage of the initial bill authorizing the bust of Johnson, the authorization has been expanded to permit a full-size statue of her to be erected instead. Naturally, this will be even more expensive, but with the placement of Johnson's statue, we have the opportunity to honor not only a Minnesota woman who fought for civil rights and educational excellence, we have the opportunity to remind Capitol visitors and school children of the important role African Americans have played in Minnesota.

Individual citizens and community groups are encouraged to donate toward the creation of this most worthy addition to our State Capitol.

**Please make checks out to the
NSJ Capitol Fund and send them to:
Union Bank and Trust,
312 Central Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

Blochinger • Carlson • Damon • McDaniels

4 artists 6 neighborhoods

Opening Saturday, May 9th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM
St. Paul

4 artists 6 neighborhoods
Showing from May 9th to June 13th, 2015
Opening reception, Saturday, May 9th 7-9 PM

The FrameWorks
Gallery and Custom Framing
In St. Paul at Ford Pkwy and Cleveland
Phone: 651 • 698 • 3372

For information regarding the artists
and/or future showings of this exhibition
Contact: 651 • 695 • 9563 or E-mail:
gregorylm@ustfamily.net

\$

Limited Medical Assistance Fund

Do you have medical expenses that exceed your insurance coverage? Do you have medical expenses which your insurance will not pay for? The MRTI Limited Medical Assistance Fund may be just what you need!

TRA has money held in a trust for MRTI to help members pay for medical costs that fall within these guidelines:

- Reimbursement is **not for co-pays, prescriptions or office visits**
- 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
- Distribution of funds is made throughout the year, with **no particular deadline**.

To obtain an application form, call TRA at 651-296-2409

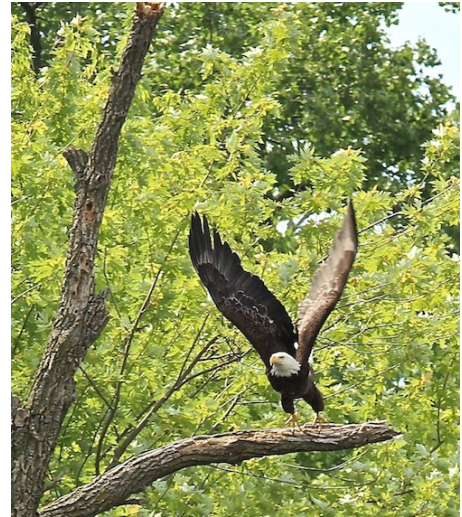
At the end of the year, if more money is available from the trust than was needed for the health care reimbursement of our members, the balance will be distributed toward the cost of health care insurance premiums. This eligibility is more strict than the process for medical expense reimbursement.

- The retiree must be 65 or older
- The retiree must have retired from a Minneapolis Public School after May 1, 1974 and before January 2000 **and**
- The retiree must not be eligible for free Medicare Part A.

Not sure if you qualify? Fill out the form and give it a try. The worst they can do is say, “No”!

\$

As you take off for a wonderful summer....



Keep an Eagle eye out for fun...



And we'll see you in September!





Sharing Our Passions

Do you have an interesting hobby, collection or travel experience you'd like to share with fellow MRTI members? The Program Committee would like to talk with you about presenting a luncheon program. The Twin Cities has an amazing amount of art and cultural activities going on all the time and retired teachers are among the most active. Call or email Becky Grover (612-920-6357 or rlgrover14@gmail.com) or Margaret Tuma (612-756-2808) to talk it over. It's such fun and so encouraging to share your hobbies with others!



To keep cut tulips fresh, keep them as cool as possible and change the water daily. Do NOT add floral preservative to the water!

Keep the Book Exchange Active

Share a Good Read

Bring books (and magazines which are not "time sensitive") to display on the table provided at our luncheon meetings.

Take some time to browse through the books and choose the ones you want.

You do not have to bring a book to take one (or more).

After the meeting is over, please take home any remaining items you brought.

Advertising in the MRTI Newsletter

Advertising in the MRTI Newsletter offers you a chance to get your product or service to a large number of people for a very reasonable price.

Who may advertise?

MRTI members, their family members and charities which MRTI supports.

Content must not be of a political, religious or illegal nature.

Rates for black and white, camera-ready copy for one-time placement:

Page size	Member	Non-member
1/8	\$15	\$20
1/4	\$25	\$35
1/2	\$40	\$55

Copy needs to be submitted for committee approval and space availability to Chris Poppe at chpop001@gmail.com.

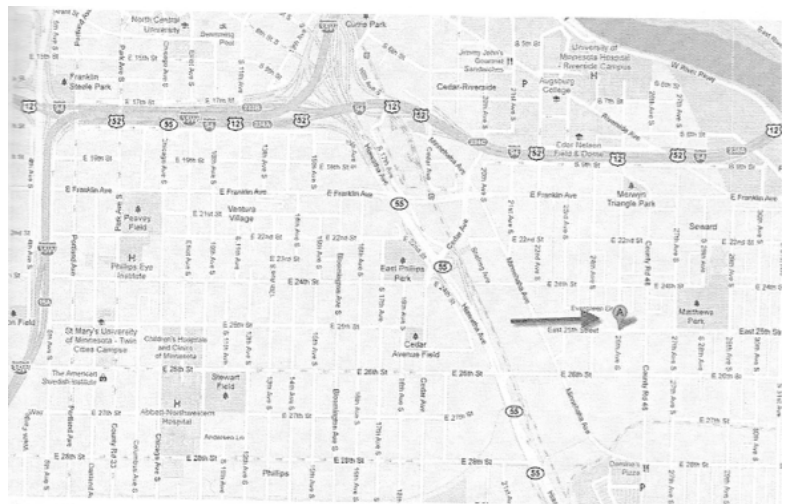
Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.
P.O. Box 24034
Minneapolis, MN 55414-0034

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

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

Chris Poppe
3851 Queen Ave. N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
chpop001@gmail.com



Plenty of free parking!