

# *MRTI News*

## *Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.*

*March 2014*

*Founded in 1926*

*Vol. 65 No. 1*

### *MRTI Programs Coming Up*

#### **March 18, 2014 - Wayne Jorgenson**



Local author Wayne Jorgenson is an expert on the First Minnesota Regiment which provided exemplary service in the Civil War. He shows photos and shares the personal stories of many of those courageous men, some well-known, and some not. We will also see some of the actual artifacts that were on the battlefield with those Minnesota soldiers.



#### **April 15, 2014 - David Taylor, Storytelling Magician**

David Taylor is a lifelong resident of Bloomington who has performed for audiences young and old. He brings a special touch of storytelling to his magical repertoire.



#### **May 20, 2014 - BRAVA!**

BRAVA!, the Twin Cities' premier women's choral ensemble will perform for us again. BRAVA! brings together women from diverse backgrounds, ages and interests. Together they share the common goal of offering outstanding women's choral music.

**June 10, 2014 - Trip to Red Wing, Minnesota: Rusty's Red Wing River Rides** is an ideal way to take a day cruise on the Mississippi river. We will enjoy a buffet lunch at Maries Underground & Tap House in Red Wing. We have space for only 37 people and will take reservations starting at the April 15 luncheon and any time after that. The cost will be approximately \$30 which will include the bus trip, buffet lunch and 2 ½ hour river cruise. Contact Denny Lander at 612.926.8478.



**Monroe Crossing Return!!** Remember that incredible bluegrass group we enjoyed so much a couple of years ago? That incredible banjo and fantastic fiddling? Well, they are coming back! Plan now to welcome them and new retirees on September 16 as we reassemble after our summer break. (There WILL be summer, won't there?)

## Minneapolis Teacher Pensions

All licensed teachers and administrators who work now in or are retired from the Minneapolis Public Schools are members of the Teacher Retirement Association (TRA), which is an agency of the State of Minnesota. All benefits and member contribution rates are determined by legislative action in Minnesota. To ensure active representation of teachers in pension matters a Political Action Committee called the Committee of Thirteen (C-13) was established many years ago. The thirteen board members of the Committee of Thirteen are appointed by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers (MFT), Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc. (MRTI), the Retired Teacher Chapter of Local-59 (RTC-59) and the Minneapolis Principals Forum. We solicit contributions from all active and retired teachers and administrators that we represent at the Minnesota State Capitol. With these funds we hire a lobbyist, testify at legislative committee hearings and make campaign contributions to legislators who support our pension objectives. We will be very active in this fall's election.

The Committee of Thirteen asks for your financial support and urges you to be politically active in supporting candidates in your district who will support our pensions. The Minnesota Teacher Retirement Association is in sound financial condition because of the shared sacrifices we have made to ensure the stability of our defined benefit pension system. Retired teachers have forgone cost of living increases and active teachers are contributing a higher percentage of their salaries to keep our pensions secure.

Conservative legislators want to convert our pensions to a defined contribution system such as a 401k system run by the big financial institutions, which had to be bailed out by us taxpayers in the Great Recession. We pay into TRA all our working lives, lets keep the Minnesota State Board of Investment managing our money and securing a sound retirement system.

Ed Andersen, MRTI Legislative Chair

**MRTI Assists Fire Victims:** At its February meeting, the MRTI Board voted to make a donation to victims of the tragic fire in the north Minneapolis house where fire children died. Each of the two families displaced received \$500. This is in addition to the regular annual donations that MRTI contributes to organizations that provide direct services to Minneapolis Public School students.

## Luncheon Attendees Enjoy Varied Programs

The Mellow Fellows were a hit in February. This group, which began as a male chorus of 3M employees, continues to perform a fun show. There were loads of smiles and lots of toe tapping in the audience, and lots of singing along. Some seemed to know all the words to all of the songs. We could definitely relate to their choice of music, and their corny jokes.

In January Critters and Company returned with their message of diversity. Bob Ryder and Diane Penn volunteered as active participants.

Singers from Field Middle School wowed us with holiday music in December. The seventh and eighth grade singers sang beautifully. The fourth-sixth grade Madrigals numbers included a VERY challenging part of Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols." Ruth LeMay directs both groups.

## Chris & Lisa Go to Africa

### On Safari

After an 11 hour flight and a two hour drive, we arrived at Pilanesburg, the fourth largest national park in South Africa, covering over 220 square miles. There are several gates through which you can enter the Park. We stayed at “Bakubung – home of the Hippo people”. The camp is arranged in a semicircle around a large meadow and watering hole frequented by hippos, elephants and many other creatures. Our room has a wall of windows facing out toward the swimming pool and the meadow and we have our own little patio, with table and chairs where we can sit and watch the animals. About 4:30 we went down to the dining area for a pre-dinner glass of guava juice. As we sat on a bench facing the meadow, a whole troupe of monkeys ran right past us, including a mother who had two babies clinging to her underside! Then a family of warthogs wandered up from the pond, coming right up to the fence. We got quite a few pictures of them while meeting a number of other ROSAFRICA delegates who were as enchanted as we were.

We went on 3 three-hour games drives - two at 5:30 am and one at 4:30 in the afternoon. Pilanesburg is home to all of the Big Five: elephant, lion, leopard, cape buffalo and rhinoceros. The leopards were hiding in the rocks of the high hills surrounding the park and the cape buffalo were hiding in the dense shrubbery, so we didn't see them. But we did see many lions, rhinos, hippos named George and Twiggy, herds of zebras & blue wildebeest (or gnu), springbok, impala, kudu, stenbok, giraffes, jackals and warthogs.

We had two particularly memorable encounters with wildlife. Driving through the park, we saw a small pride of lions (a lioness and a group of juvenile males and females of varying ages) walking along near the road. We stopped when the lions began to cross the road in front of us – all except one adolescent male who got to the middle of the road, looked at our jeep and lay down right there. He stared at us for about 5 minutes, clearly knowing who was in charge and clearly thinking “Going somewhere on my road? Sucks to be you!” When he was sure he had made his point, he got up and strolled off into the bush following his family. What a hoot!



## *Thank You Scholarship Contributors*

Jean Albrighton  
Astrid Alexander  
Allen Anderson  
Karen M. Anderson  
James "Mike" Andrews  
Doris Arnold  
Anne Bartel  
Aroti Bayman  
Nancy Bell  
Marcia Birney  
Marvin Bjorlin  
Monica Blanco  
Janet Blume  
Mary Boardman  
Kay Bonczek  
Louise Bormann  
Louise Botko  
Delora Brewer  
William Brody  
Phyllis Brooks  
Eleanor Z. Brown  
Bonnie Bruinooge  
Joanne Buggy  
Susan Bunnell  
Kathleen Cahill  
Janelle Camp  
Al Cannon  
Darryl Carter  
Rod Chelberg  
Don Cieminski  
Kathleen Cooper  
Karen Coppicus  
Barbara Covart  
Carole Cranbrook  
Cheryl Creecy  
Jacquelyn Cronin  
LuEllen Curran  
Marilyn Dahl  
Dorothy DeFreese  
Anne Desmond  
Jeanette Doolittle  
Mary Karen Dorniden  
Rita Drone  
Claire Dryke  
Michele Dunn  
Ethel Dzubay  
Karen Erickson  
Lee Fabel  
Mary Ann Fabel

James Farrells  
Sylvia Farrells  
Nancy Fowler  
Shirley Franklin  
Carol Freeman  
Geri Fridgen  
Richard Friedrichsen  
Rosemary Fruehling  
Joyce Ovick Fuhrman  
MaryEllen Gallick  
Jim Gersich  
Mary Ann Gilbertson  
Kathe Gouette  
Rosemary Graham  
Bernadette Green  
Carole Gupton  
Marlyce Gustafson  
Richard Hanson  
Margaret Harvey  
Dale Hendrickson  
Lynne Hendrickson  
Irene Hewitt  
Mary Hewitt  
Judy Hoel  
Robert Hoisington  
William Holden  
Art Indelicato  
Sandra Irwin  
Joyce Taborn Jackson  
James Jacobsen  
Grace Jagers  
Suzanne Jebe  
Lauren Johnson  
Stella Jones  
Ruth Katz  
Cynthia Kelly  
Elmer Koch  
Elizabeth Koenig  
Erich Koester  
Ed Korte  
Robert Kreuser  
Barbara Kuenne  
Kathryne Kuhns  
Margaret LaFleur  
Joanne Lambrecht  
Javan Larson  
Carol Lauder  
Marlene Lawson

Harriet Lerdahl  
Jo Livgard  
Marlene Locasio  
Daniel Loewenson  
Ruth Lofgren  
Lee Lundin  
Jo Livgard  
Marjory Maier  
Arthur Maillet  
Sylvia Mansfield  
Gayle Marko  
Katherine May  
Robert May  
Wanda McCaa  
Michael McClure  
Eunice Milbrath  
Paul Modell  
Norman Moen  
Patricia Moen  
Robert Monson  
Avis Morgan  
Nancy Morin  
Gwen Mosberg  
Michael Myers  
Karen Nelson  
Marybeth Nelson  
Rodney Nelson  
Dorothy Nichols  
Elaine Olson  
C. Jack Oman  
Eleanor Oren  
Eileen Oslund  
Barbara Owens  
Thomas Patterson  
Marjorie Penner  
Judith Peterson  
Mary Peterson  
Roberta Peterson  
Joan Petroff  
Virginia Pfeiffer  
Shirley Poliquin  
Christine Poppe  
Mary Poulsen  
Ruta Praulins  
Louiva Puffer  
Joseph Purvis  
Shirley Purvis  
Dora Quanbeck

Lynne Raphael  
Connie Retzlaff  
Willeam Reuben  
Barbara Risken  
Marilyn Risnes  
Larry Risser  
Sara Roberson  
Beth Ronald  
Bonnie Rowell  
Moiria Runganadhan  
Donald Ryberg  
Robert Ryder  
James Salwasser  
Marlys Sanford  
Catherine Scanlon  
Karen Scheib  
Margaret Seath  
Judith Shapiro  
Margaret Shryer  
Beverly Shupe  
Diane Simmons  
Nancy Simonetti  
Helen Smith  
Donald Sovell  
Ted Strand  
Alan Sweet  
Hazel Tanner  
Genevieve Taylor  
Rita Tepper  
Joan Threet  
Marjery Togerson  
Margaret Tuma  
Gary Vettleson  
Phyllis Waldsmith  
Sonja Walker  
Robert Wedl  
Florence Wertz  
Daniel Willette  
Joanne Wilson  
Mary Wise  
Roger Wold  
Robert Wolfe  
Sheila Woodbeck  
Doris Zachary  
Patricia Zajac  
Joe Zetah  
Roberta Zoellmer  
Deb Zwickey



## Newsletter Advertising

MRTI is providing an opportunity to advertise products or services in the newsletter.

**Who May Advertise?** MRTI members, their family members, and charities which MRTI supports.

**Content cannot 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 David Rolek at [dmrdaol.com](mailto:dmrdaol.com). FFI call him at 952.894.4925.

We are also anticipating the opportunity to accept ads in the future for the annual membership directory. Watch for further information.

**Twin Cities Rose Club  
Master Rosarian  
Plant Sale**  
**ROSES ~ CLEMATIS**  
Specially Blended Natural Fertilizer  
Soil Amendment Products  
~For Order Forms~  
or Information  
[twincitiesrose.org](http://twincitiesrose.org)  
612-588-8722  
Order by March 28  
Pick-up on April 26 & May 3



**Women's Golf League**  
16 weeks starting May 8  
Hyland Green Golf Course, Bloomington  
Thursday mornings, 9:45 am  
Lots of fun, relaxing!  
Contact Nina Seery  
Hyland Golf League  
952.884.1802



### OPEN SPACE: Reclaim Your Space, Free Your Life

Do you have a complicated relationship with stuff,  
and dread sorting and discarding it?

#### Contact Carla Breunig:

She helps you understand the source of your  
unease with decluttering, and reclaim your space.  
You deserve an open space for your home or office  
to help you function at your best.

Carla enjoys working with older adults  
and their families who are downsizing  
due to housing and health needs.

Call: 651-271-3721

Email: [carlabreunig@gmail.com](mailto:carlabreunig@gmail.com)

Confidential; References available.

\$25 – 50 per hour/sliding fee

### Breathing Space Unclutter and Organize Your home, your office, your life!

#### Marjorie Huebner is Breathing Space.

She is energized by assisting people find ways to live  
their lives the way it makes sense for them.

She is interested not only in tackling those  
piles of papers and stacks of boxes or rearranging  
things; she wants to get to the ROOT of the unease  
that attends those piles.

**Then YOU can get organized and stay organized.**

Call 612-242-6646

Email: [wren@mnmicro.net](mailto:wren@mnmicro.net)

10 years of experience

Confidentiality • References available

\$25-\$50 per hr/sliding fee

## *Updates to Yearbook*

Barbara C. Johnson 4360 Halifax N Robbinsdale, MN 55422 763-536-1413  
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Milford G (Bud) Yager C/O Marion Yager 8008 Bass Lake Rd. Apt 224 New Hope MN 55428 763-531-7909  
marianyager@gmail.com

Hazel B. Tanner corrected phone number 612-823-3349  
Judith A MacAlpine corrected phone number 218-999-7269  
Virginia T. Garastik corrected name spelling

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## *We Say "Good-bye"*

The following former Minneapolis Public Schools' Teachers  
have passed away since the publication of the 2014 Yearbook.

Frieda Arndt	11/9/2013	Donovan C Folsom	1/4/2014	Eleanor P Nordley	12/13/2013
John B. Bastolich	1/5/2014	Jumior H Gossell	11/15/2013	Jean N Nudell	2/17/2014
Barbara A Bellair	1/8/2014	Mabel H Haggberg	1/9/2014	Joseph A O'Donnall	1/9/2014
Edward R. Carlson	1/2/2014	Jeanne S Jensen	11/22/2007	Virgie Olson	1/29/2014
Christine W Carr	1/21/2014	Lorraine O Jensen	1/30/2014	Thomas E Rolloff	1/6/2014
Jean B Clary	2/14/2014	Evelyn R Larson	1/29/2014	Eleanor M Trnka	1/17/2014
John J Crowley	12/31/2013	Ruth Lysne	1/5/2014	Rodney VanSickle	11/24/2013
Ann R Desmond	2/19/2014	Nedra H Mahaney	12/18/2013	Donald J Wagner	2/17/2014
Michael J Elavsky	1/26/2014	Eleanor Matsois	11/19/2013	Harold J Youngmans	2/8/2014
James H Esselman	1/27/2013	Richard P Nelson	12/18/2013	Marie M Zikan	1/19/2014

## *Important Notes*

### \* 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@gmail.com.

\* **Cheer and Service Committee:** If you know someone who is ill or just needs a kind word or a member who has died, contact Doris Arnold, 952.431.7471 to have a card sent. Mary Karen Dorniden, 952.941.8833, mkdorniden@msn.com will send birthday cards to our honoree members.

\* **Food Shelf:** Donate at our monthly meetings. Just a \$1.00 donation buys \$9.00 of food!

\* **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 a trip of a lifetime or read a great book? Contact Becky Grover to contribute an article to the Newsletter at rlgrover14@gmail.com.

\* **A Little Extra:** 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 Bob Ryder, MRTI. P.O. Box 24034, Mpls, MN 55424-0034.

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

**[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.**

## *Board of Directors*

### **Officers**

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (2 years)

David Rolek	President	2014-2015
Gregory McDaniels	VP/ President Elect	2014-2015
Christine Poppe	Recording Secretary	2014-2015
Mary Poulsen	Asst. Rec. Secretary	2014-2015
Gayle Marko	Corresp.Secretary	2014-2015
Roma Lee Rassussen	Asst. Corresp. Secretary	2014-2015
Joanne Lambrecht	Past President	2015-2015

### **Directors**

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 (3 years)

Grace Jagers	2014-2016
Margaret Tuma	2012-2014
Barbara Kuenne	2013-2015
Mitch Trockman	2013-2015

Ed Andersen	Legislative Chair	Board Appointment
Denny Lander	Membership Chair	Board Appointment
Larry Risser	Investment Chair	Board Appointment
Becky Grover	Newsletter Editor	Board Appointment
Robert Ryder	Treasurer	Board Appointment
Elmer Koch	Advisor to the Board	Board Appointment
Sylvia Farrells	Asst Treasurer/ Scholarship Chair	Board Appointment

## *Lunch Reservations Going Well*

Our phone callers 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.

**Meatless Choice:** When you are called for a reservation, you must request this choice.

If you have **NOT** been called by the Wednesday before the Tuesday lunch and want to attend, you may call **Gayle Marko, 952.920.1395**, to make a reservation.

The Board reports that this policy has helped us provide accurate numbers to the caterers.

**Minneapolis Retired Teachers, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 24034**

## **MRTI Newsletter March 2013**

**Becky Grover, Editor**

Articles, points of view, and  
comments are welcome  
and should be directed to:

Becky Grover  
5904 Oliver Ave. So.  
Mpls., MN 55419  
rlgrover14@gmail.com

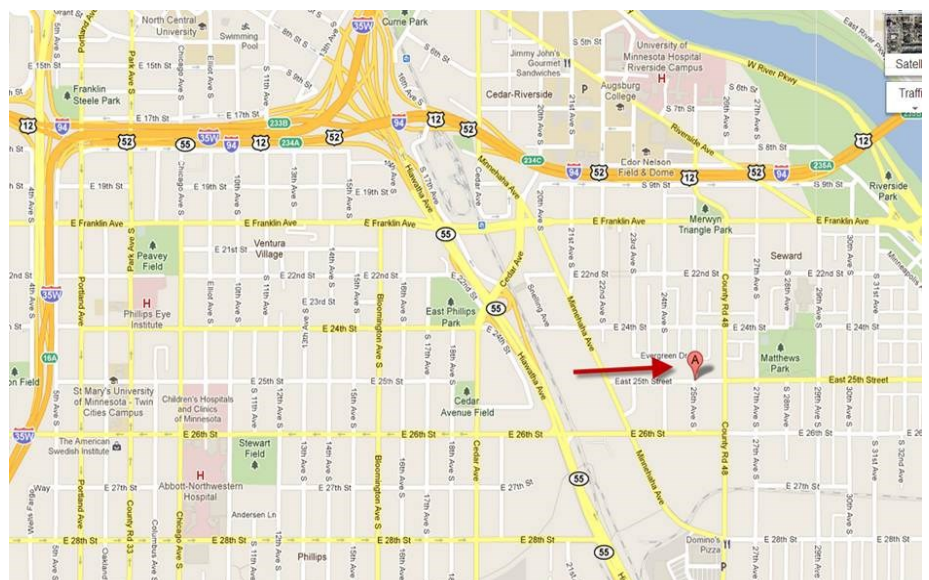
### **Our New Meeting Location**

**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!**