

# MRTI News

## Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

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# Happy New Year!

### Luncheon Programs Educate & Entertain

MRTI's monthly luncheon programs strive to provide education, entertainment & entrepreneurial opportunities for attendees. The programs presented during the past three months have certainly answered that challenge.



*Josh Wise*

The October program offered both education and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our guest speaker, Josh Wise from the Fair Trade Coalition, brought us information about the Fast Track Option to implementing the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement and the effect TPP will have on the already-declining US manufacturing sector. His message of the need for citizens to understand the implications of such a trade agreement and to know where our legislators stand on the issue was very timely, given that the November elections took place just a couple of weeks later.

The annual Craft Fair, organized by Mildred and Charles Clark, offered an entrepreneurial opportunity to our industrious and artistic crafters who brought their unique and unusual items to sell to an appreciative membership.



*Joe Alfano, Cheryl Paschke  
& Val Eng*

In November, we were entertained and educated by *Tjärnblom*, a self-described group of "friends who get together to play Scandinavian music. Minneapolis residents, we travel on a modern "Snoose Boulevard Highway" and go where the music takes us."

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## Teachers Love New MRTI Grants

As part of our on-going support for Minneapolis Public Schools' teachers, MRTI allocates up to \$15,000 each year to provide scholarships for Minneapolis teachers and paraprofessionals who wish to pursue additional licensure or certifications. Earlier this Fall, an MRTI Board member proposed a second program, awarding grants to current Minneapolis teachers who have unmet classroom needs.

An application process was created, along with a way to publicize this new opportunity to active teachers. Thirty-three applications were received, and eleven grant winners selected, spanning elementary, middle and high school classrooms, special ed programs and a few non-traditional experiences as well.

As the grant winners have put their new purchases into use, our Board members have volunteered to visit their classrooms to see the results of our new program. Joanne Lambrecht visited Nancy Erickson's classroom at Folwell Performing Arts School and Larry Risser visited Katie Morris' classroom at Windom. Dave Rolek visited Jenny Lind to see the picture dictionaries and Nellie Stone Johnson to see the new color block rug in classroom use. The following reports and photographs tell the story.

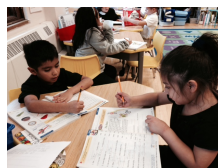
“ I recently had the pleasure of visiting Nancy Erickson's classroom at Folwell Performing Arts School. Nancy was one of the recipients of an MRTI grant this year. She used her grant money to purchase phonics books for her students.



While I was there, the students were working independently and with volunteer tutors using the books. Miss Erickson and



the students were very pleased with, and thankful for the materials. It was a treat to see the



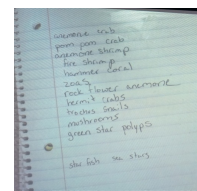
students so purposefully engaged in their work.”

- Joanne Lambrecht

“ I had a great time visiting Windom School last Monday to see the invertebrate aquari-




um in Katie Morris' class. The students were eager to explain to me all the terms on the list at the right.



Katie is so happy with the aquarium light shown in the photos, which was purchased



with a  
\$250.00 grant from MRTI.



The light mimics the daily cycle of the sun, with daytime, nighttime, and clouds all programmed in to give the coral, shrimp, and other aquarium life a natural habitat.



The math classes using the games purchased for three other teachers with MRTI grant funds meet each

day from 8:30 - 9:30 in the morning, so I may go back to visit those classes, perhaps with Bob Ryder.”

- Larry Risser

Photos courtesy of Joanne Lambrecht & Larry Risser



# MRTI Luncheon Menus

2015

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**.

## Programs, cont.



Retired Minneapolis teachers Cheryl Paschke, and Joe Alfano join Val Eng and Mary Crimi to play a varied repertoire of Swedish, Finnish, and American tunes, old and new, both for

dancing and listening, using a variety of authentic instruments such as nyckelharpas, mandolins and a harmonium. The group's name, *Tjärnbloom*, honors Cheryl's grandfather. Translated from Swedish, it means "woodland lake flower".

2 nyckelharpas + 1 mandolin + 1 harmonium =  
 40 strings and 1 bellows strong!



Cheryl Paschke

December's program brought 2014 to a lighthearted, foot-tapping conclusion with Al Sweet's Somewhat Dixieland Band.

Led by 92-year-old trombonist and retired Minneapolis teacher Al Sweet, and in keeping with its name, the band played a variety of music, from Dixieland standards like

\$

**Have you renewed your  
 MRTI membership for  
 2014-2015?**

**It's not too late!**

The 2015 Yearbook has been published, but you can still renew your membership! 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.

Mail your dues to

MRTI

P.O. Box 24034

Minneapolis, MN 55424-0034

\$

"Muskrat Ramble" and "Bill Bailey," with vocalist Rita Andrescik, to medleys of Christmas carols and holiday pop songs, all with a Dixieland zing that had everyone smiling and singing along. It was a lighthearted way to bid farewell to 2014 and sing our way into 2015.



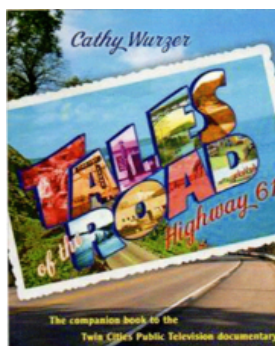
The programs planned for this winter and spring, listed on page 5, offer something for everyone. Come join us!



# A MINNESOTA TREASURE HUNT

## Fun by Car or Motorcycle

by Bob Ryder



For the last several years, my son, Chris, and I have gone on a summer motorcycle trip – a treasure hunt. It's been really fun and you might enjoy it, too. And you don't need a motorcycle!

It all began when I purchased a book called *Tales of the Road – Hwy. 61*, written by Cathy Wurzer, a morning host on public radio KNOW 91.1 FM from 6:00 – 10:00 AM. An MRTI luncheon speaker several years ago, she is a graduate of Minneapolis South High School and has traveled Hwy. 61 throughout her life.



*All that's left of Taconite Harbor*

are 60 of them in the book, including a ghost town. Taconite Harbor, located between Shroeder and Little Marais on the North Shore, was built by the Erie Mining Company for its employees in the 1950s. The town only exists now as weed- overgrown streets & curbs, a few street light poles and a wooded basketball court. Another stop on the route is a playground built in 1963 by a grieving grandfather to honor his 4 year old grandson who was killed by a truck at the family's gas station business. A legendary watering hole, the Oaks Nite Club (not



*Billy Dunn's Playground*



pictured), the home of slot machines, free-flowing liquor and stories of gangster customers, was one we had trouble finding. Hugely popular back in the 30's and early 40's, it was (is) located near the small town of Minnesota City, just north of Winona. On the National Register of Historic Places, the humble building pictured above left was the Willow River Rutabaga plant. Before being closed in 1955, the plant processed thousands of tons of rutabagas each year – ¼ of the national crop!

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MRTI Board *cont. from p1*

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2015

MRTI

Scholarship

Application forms

and guidelines  
will be posted on  
the MRTI website  
by the end of Jan-  
uary.

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

Please spread the  
word to possible  
applicants!

## MINNESOTA TREASURE HUNT,

Besides trying to locate the places along Hwy. 61, we tried to take a photo in the same place, and from the same angle, as the photo in the book, but we included one or both of us in the picture each time. Then I printed the pictures and mounted them in the book beside the book photo. This was very challenging at times, as the places named and photographed for the book were sometimes greatly changed or gone completely. We didn't actually locate every single one: some were inaccessible, the roads having been permanently blocked off, and some buildings were removed completely, replaced by something else. But we found most of them and enjoyed the hunt immensely.

One of the joys of this "treasure hunt" is that it can be done in segments to suit your convenience - anything from a day or two to a week or two at a time. You don't need a motorcycle, either; cars, bikes and rollerblades work just as well.

Looking for a fun way to spend some time away from home with friends or family members? Give Tales of the Road - Hwy. 61 a try!



*The 1894 Hinckley  
Fire Memorial*

### MRTI Awards Nine Scholarships in 2014

Each year, MRTI offers scholarships to Minneapolis teachers, educational assistants and other employees who wish to pursue certification or other educational licensure. In 2014, the Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to nine deserving individuals. Their brief biographical sketches are as follows:


1. **Frances Christensen** is currently employed as a Special Education Assistant and also enrolled full-time in the Hamline University teaching licensure program. Having completed 2/3 of coursework for an initial license in K-12 English as a Second Language, she expects to be licensed in June 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Individualized Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, concentrating in Latin American

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## Coming Attractions...

### MRTI

#### Luncheon Programs


 **January - Peter Geye**, author and storyteller. Minneapolis native, Peter Geye, will discuss his books, The Light-house 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.

**June: Special end of the school year activity**

Date and time to be announced

## Names to add to your 2015 Yearbook

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*MRTI Scholarships cont.*

Studies, Spanish, and Biology. She spent a semester in Venezuela, teaching English as a Foreign Language at VENUSA College, nine years as a substitute teacher in Palma, Alaska and six years as an environmental educator/interpretive park ranger at Denali National Park.

2. **Angie Grafiing** currently teaches Visual Arts in Spanish at Windom Dual Immersion while pursuing a traditional K-12 teaching license in Visual Arts at St. Mary's. A Bilingual Associate Educator at Kenwood Elementary for six years, she studied in Costa Rica at the Universidad de Costa Rica, holds a BA in Spanish, a minor in Art and a limited full-time bilingual art license. In addition to an Art major, Angie plans to earn a Master's Degree in Instruction.

3. **Amanda Hawn** is currently an educator in the Minneapolis Kids program. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota Early Childhood Special Education Master's and Licensure Program, possibly earning certification in Autism Spectrum Disorder. She holds a University of Minnesota Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in psychology and minoring in Family Violence Prevention.

4. **Deidre Ketchel** is splitting her time, doing student teaching/clinical practice in DCD at Washburn High School, then returning to Roosevelt High School as a Special Education Assistant in the Life Skills Program. Having earned a BA in Management from the College of St. Benedict, she is now a student at the University of St. Thomas, pursuing an initial teaching license in Special Education – Developmental Disabilities as well as a Master's degree in Special Education. She intends to finish this fall.

5. **Jenny Kalvik** graduated from North High School and is currently at Harrison Education Center as a Special Education Assistant in EBD. She has a BA in Women Studies and Spanish from Minnesota State University, Mankato and has studied at the University of Guadalajara in Mazatlan, Mexico. Her goal is to earn a teaching license while working toward a graduate degree in a related study, starting this summer or fall.

6. **Nou Moua** is a Bilingual Associate Educator at Anwatin Middle School, having previously held the same position at North High School TAPP. Holding a BA in Social Work from Metro State, Nou has applied to Metropolitan State University's Urban Teaching program to pursue an Urban Secondary Education licensure in Math, beginning this summer or fall.

7. **Jewell Reichenberger**, is a Special Education Assistant at Transition Plus, serving transitional students with disabilities, ages 18-21. A student at

*Cont. from page 6*

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Augsburg College in the Emotional Behavior Disorder/Learning Disability program she is student teaching in two different Transition Plus classrooms: Reading and Relationships. After graduation, she plans to continue at Augsburg or the University of Minnesota, obtaining a Master's degree in Special Education.

8. **Heidi Spickler** has been a substitute teacher in Minneapolis for the past 4 years, primarily in Special Education classrooms. Last February, she was granted a Community Expert License to finish out the year in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade EBD classroom at River Bend Education Center. Holder of a BA in German Language and Literature from the University of Maryland, College Park, this fall she started the University of St. Thomas Special Education (EBD) program, aiming to obtain a Master's degree and licensure in Special Education/EBD.

9. **Alison VonAchen** is a graduate of Southwest High School and the University of Michigan with a BS in Statistics and Economics. She spent two years in the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa, teaching math in French. Currently working at the University of Minnesota's Inter-professional Education and Resource Center/Simulation Center, she will attend the U of M's secondary mathematics licensure program, from June 2014 - May 2015, after which she intends to earn a Masters in Education.

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MRTI Newsletter January 2015  
Chris Poppe, editor

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

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### **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!