After School...

The Newsletter of Minneapolis Retired Teachers Inc.

Website

www.mrti.org

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Happy New Year!



October: Mercedes Tuma-Hansen, brought us her award-winning program on Ojibwe culture and seasonal life. Mercedes' program

included
historic
objects such
as a birch
bark canoe
and a
hunting bow.





November: Belinda Jensen, from KARE 11 TV shared her story of becoming a meteorologist (assigned a term paper on tornadoes, she wrote to Paul Douglas for help). She often speaks to kids about weather and especially likes talking to 2nd graders, for whom she has written a six-book series on weather phenomena featuring "Bel the Weather Girl."



December: Brava! set a joyful mood with a selection of religious and secular holiday songs. The women's choir is directed by retired MPS music teacher and Principal, Dawn Allen.



MRTI GRANT PROGRAM

On December 9th, the 3rd and 4th graders at Richard R. Green Central Park School presented their Holiday Vocal Concert. They performed The Nutcracker Suite in song and dance under the direction of music teacher Corina Miller. At the end of the energetic and delightful program there was a surprise visit by Santa and their new



school mascot the Wildcat. The mascot costume was purchased with a grant provided by Minneapolis

Retired Teachers, Inc.

- Roma Lee Rasmussen

Green's new mascot meets the kids

MRTI has a long history of supporting education through charitable contributions, which are funded by the organization's investments and bequests.

Beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, MRTI initiated a program of direct grants to classroom teachers. This has proved to be an exciting new venture for those who have followed MRTI activities. The appeal of making direct classroom grants to teachers is that it creates a bond between active and retired teachers and removes organizational structures that separate the giver and recipient. Teachers receiving grants have been generous in their appreciation of the support received from their retired colleagues.

The grant committee currently consists of Board members Barbara Kuenne, Joan Lambrecht, Mary Poulsen, Larry Risser, Dave Rolek, Bob Ryder and Margaret Tuma. Each year the committee solicits grant requests from all active teachers; it reviews the applications, and informs the applicants of their win or loss before the end of the school year, so that teachers know what they can count on for the coming school year.

Grant applicants are encouraged to submit requests for things from the mundane to the fanciful, things that teachers would not otherwise be able to provide for their students. The brief history of the grant program supports that range, since funds have been provided for classroom materials such as math games and books, but also for juggling balls to build student self-confidence, infant manikins for CPR training, art software, and sign-language presenters.

The hard part is matching the applications with limited funds. In its short history, the committee has allocated between \$6,000.00 and \$8,000.00 a year. Proposals are limited to \$750.00 each, and the

Díd You Know...

MRTI contributes to many programs that support Minneapolis children? Your dues support annual contributions to:

- Achieve! Minneapolis
- The Assistance League
- Mary's Place
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Minneapolis
- Jeremiah Program
- Harriet Tubman Center
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Twin Cities
- St. Joseph's Home for Children
- People Serving People
- Minneapolis Recreation Development

January - Soup and sandwich
February - Salisbury steak
March - Corned beef & cabbage
April - Fried chicken
May - Taco 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. Noshows will be billed for the cost of the
luncheon.
If you have NOT been called by

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.**

Safeguarding our pensions

Committee of Thirteen Report to MRTI

The Minnesota Teacher Retirement Association (TRA) needs additional funding to sustain its pension obligations. A recent experience study found that TRA retired teacher's life expectancy has increased by two years. In addition there are serious legislative pressures to lower the expected return on the State Board of Investments (SBI) from 8.50% to 7.5%. These developments mean that our present 2% COLA and 7.5% Employer and Employee contribution rates will not be sustainable.

The TRA Board of Trustees asked all stakeholders to submit plans to address the shortfall in retirement funds. The Committee of Thirteen submitted a plan that called for the State of Minnesota to increase its funding to raise the Employer contribution rate from 7.5% to 10.0% of salary over a five-year period. The Employee contribution rate would increase from 7.5% to 8.0% of salary over the same five-year period. Starting in 2018 the annual retiree COLA would decrease to 1% and return to 1.5% over a 5-year period. The current TRA Board recommendation is our plan except the TRA plan holds the retiree annual COLA to 1% for 5 years and then is fixed at 1.5% thereafter.

The 2016 pension bill that was vetoed by Governor Dayton would have cut the retiree COLA to 1% with no new funding. The present pension law is still in force, therefore the retiree COLA for 2017 is 2% and is the law until a new plan is signed into law. Elections matter and we must all ask our legislators to address the funding problem in a fair and sustainable way.

Please send your contributors to the Committee of Thirteen so that our voices are heard at the Capitol.

> - Ed Andersen Legislative Chair

Contributions may be sent to: Committee of Thirteen P.O.Box 1414, Lakeville, MN 55044

Goodbye, Dear Friend Margaret Rose Tuma

(March 13, 1944 - Dec. 23, 2016)

A child of Minnesota, Margaret was born on the kitchen table in her family's farmhouse in Webster Township, near Northfield on March 13, 1944. Speaking Bohemian as a child, she always remained connected to her Czech heritage. She and her brothers walked to country school, then attended Northfield High School, where she was athletic and always wanted to run track. Margaret earned a BA in



Elementary Education from the University of Minnesota and an MA in K-12 Counseling from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. In California for a year, Margaret attended UCLA and worked for Price Waterhouse. There she met actor Walter Matthau and got to see the sealed Academy Award envelopes being readied for that

year's Oscar ceremonies.

Margaret with Garrison Keillor Mercedes & poet, Phebe Hanson

Back in Minnesota, Margaret's teaching career began at Bancroft School in 1967, followed by assignments at Bremer, the SouthEast Alternatives program at Tuttle, the Free School and the Gifted-Talented Program. She excelled as a classroom teacher,

often being assigned the most challenging children, because her calm demeanor and her wide-ranging interests and curiosity engaged her students so completely.

A life-long Catholic, she attended St. Leonard's Catholic Church

and enjoyed attending church with her daughter, Mercedes, at First
Congregational Church in Southeast
Minneapolis. Out of college, she was a paid soloist at St. Mark's Episcopal
Church and professional singer in the
Unitarian Society Choir. For several years, she sang Handel's "Messiah" at
St. John's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



Margaret and "TR"

Retirement in 2001 gave Margaret the time to pursue her true passion of being Mom to Mercedes. Margaret said that being a mom was the best job she ever had. She raised Mercedes to share her love of history, reading the Betsy Tacy and Laura Ingalls Wilder's books together when Mercedes was a child. Margaret was an avid follower of music, especially Blue Grass, Classical and folk music. She and Mercedes attended MBOTMA Bluegrass Festivals together and even went on a Bluegrass music ocean cruise.

Margaret served on the MRTI Board in numerous positions: Assistant Recording Secretary, Assistant Corresponding Secretary, numerous committees and, her special love, the Program

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Transition to Retirement

by Daniel Hertz

I thought my decision to retire from MPS would be easy. I qualified for the Rule of 90 pension last June, 2016 (age 59 and 31 years). For years I had dreamed and planned for the day I could take my pension and walk out the door. But as the end of the school year inched closer, it was very difficult for me. The future suddenly looked uncertain and was filled with questions. This was very unsettling. I started to take long walks to process the transition and try to calm the tension headaches and occasional panic attack. I started to realize what a gift it had been to spend so many years of my life in such meaningful work. I became very grateful that for all those years I simply had to show up for my job and I was making a meaningful contribution to people's lives and society. I also realized that many people don't have this opportunity. Work felt safe and secure. It gave me a social outlet, meaningful activities, health insurance, a decent salary, structure to my life, and an overall sense of purpose.

I sat on the fence for months with this decision and told the principal many times that I was leaving and also many times that I was staying. I set myself a deadline of June 1 to make a decision. When I finally came to the decision, I asked the principal to sign the separation notice. I scanned and attached the document to an email and saved it, but could not get myself to send it to HR. I knew that with one click on the keyboard I would be giving up my top-step salary and seniority number. I had become the most senior School Counselor in the district. I couldn't get myself to send the email, so I called my wife Nikki and she said to push the button. I took a deep breath and did it.

Once the decision was made, I thought it would be easiest if I left quietly without telling anyone. Over the years I had seen some leave without a word and others with a lot of fanfare. In the end, I decided if I could work up the courage, I would personally tell my colleagues. At the last staff meeting of the year, the principal asked if there

any announcements. I went to the front of the room and sat down.

I talked to the large group about how each school we work in is like a chapter in our lives. Our colleagues become our family during that time and then we move on to a new chapter. I told them that retirement is moving to a new chapter in the book of life. It cannot be denied that there are fewer chapters left in the book. I thanked them for their support and for being great colleagues and friends. As I talked, I realized once again how hard it was for me to come to terms with the decision to leave.

It is now November 1, over 4 months since my last day. The tension headaches and panic attacks have disappeared and slowly I am adjusting to my new sense of freedom. My goal in every decision is to try and do what is best for my spiritual, emotional, and physical health. I have been keeping very busy and also catching up on some needed rest. My wife Nikki and I are taking a Mandarin class in anticipation of a trip to China next spring. She is a practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (acupuncture and herbs). I have continued the routine of walking and biking around Lake Harriet almost every day. Also, I have expanded my offering of Meditation classes and Biofeedback sessions in the community. My website is www.yoga4meditaiton.com if you are interested in more details. I was very happy to be invited to the first MRTI

luncheon. I did not know this group even existed until I received the luncheon invitation in the mail. Thank you.



Daniel and Nikki in Bryce Canyon

National Park

Ed. note: Daniel is very interested in your thoughts regarding the transition to retirement. Contact him at

Daniel@yoga4meditation.com.

Program Schedule



January 17 - Sally Sudo will speak about "The Japanese Experience in World War II".



February 21 - "Crin and Jay Swingin' on Broadway" Crin Schwab and Jay Fuchs entertain with musical selections from the Great White Way.



March 21 - Dunquin Irish Trio of Four - Traditional and popular Irish music, lively jigs and reels.



April 18 - Gary Johnson, of the Better Business Bureau will speak.



May 16 - A student musical group from Sanford Middle School will perform.

Jung - Our annual field trip - TBA Jung 13 or 14

Want more political involvement?

Retired Teachers Council 59 (RTC 59) Soup, Salad & Substance Luncheons

> February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, 2017

> > 11:45 am

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

Margaret Tuma, cont.

Committee. Becky Grover, Chair of the Program Committee credits Margaret with being "the backbone of the Committee. She never wanted to be in the spotlight," but her energy in following the Minnesota Arts scene was indefatigable, attending three, four or more performances a week in search of new, interesting, educational and entertaining

programs to bring to our monthly MRTI luncheons.

Preceded in death by her parents, William and Elaine Tuma and her brother Neil, Margaret is survived by her daughter, Mercedes

Tuma-Hansen, her brothers, Keith, Marvin and William Jr, many relatives and many, many friends who will deeply miss her.

Services were held on January 7, 2017.

In Memoriam 2016

Roy Almen	7/14/2016
John H Anderson	3/11/2016
Coral L Anderson	11/16/2015
Nana C Baraga	1/13/2016
Del L Beckman	12/30/2015
Lillian Bisbecos	10/13/2016
Marvin B Bjorlin	2/15/2016
Kenneth L Breneman	9/1/2016
Mary P Brinda	10/13/2015
Charlene L Briscoe	12/1/2012
Carmen C Caruso	2/28/2016
Arlis E Christeck	11/22/2015
Ronald E Clubb	6/23/2016
Mary L Coghlan	7/7/2016
Philip V Cognetta	1/1/2016
Mary Michael Connolly	5/19/2016
Barbara J Courts	11/11/2016
Evelyn G DelBoca	12/1/2011
Florence I Dudley	8/14/2016
Donald D Eblen	9/29/2016
George W Engdahl	3/2/2016
Sylvia F Fisher	2/9/2016
Marjery M Fjeld	9/3/2016
Kopple C Friedman	10/23/2005
Phebe Hanson	12/16/2016
Evelyn I. Kriesel	9/21/2016
Margaret Tuma	12/23/2016

These names were inadvertently left off the back cover of the Yearbook.

2016 MRTI Scholarship Contributions

As of December 19, 2016, 193 members had already contributed to the MRTI Scholarship Fund for a total of \$8390. Thank you so much for your continued generosity. If there are any errors in the following list, please contact Sylvia Farrells.

Marjorie Adamsick Firzsimmons, Jean Albrightson, Allen Anderson, Christine Anderson, Dorothy L. Anderson, Jeanette Anderson, Karen M. Anderson, Doris Arnold, Patricia Arnold

Sandy Barry, Anne Bartel, Aroti Bayman, Scott Bean, Jules Beck, Nancy Bell, Grace Belsaas, George and Jan Beske, Gregory Beyer, Marcia Birney, Linda Bjorklund, Louise Botko, Delora Brewer, Cynthia Brown, Bonnie Bruinooge, JoAnne Buggey, Susan Bunnell, Josephine Bunton

Kathy Cahill, Gregory Cain, Al Cannon, Darryl Carter, Dorothy Colvin, Kathleen Cooper, Karen Coppicus, Carole Cranbrook, Jackie Cronin, Luellen Curran

Joan Dillon, Jeanette Doolittle, Mary Kay Dorniden, Rita Drone, Claire Dryke, Barbara Dulac, Michele Dunn

Karen Erickson, Kristi Erickson, Pamela Evangelist

Lee and Mary Ann Fabel, James and Sylvia Farrells, Nancy Fowler, Shirley Franklin, Nan Fraser, Carol Freeman, Geri Fridgen, Richard Friedrichsen, Rosemary Fruehling

Mary Ellen Gallick, Jim Gersich, Mary Ann Gilbertson, Kathe Gouette, Bruce Graff, Bernadette Green, Carole Gupton, Charles Gustafson

Stephen Halverson, Richard Hanson, Whitney Hartley, Dale and Lynne Hendrickson, Mary Hewitt, Judy Hoel, Sandra Hoverson

Art Indelicato, Sandra Irwin

Bette Jacobs, James Jacobsen, Grace Jaggers, Suzanne Jebe, Carol Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Stella Jones

Ruth Katz, Cynthia Kelly, Jean Knox, Elmer Koch, Erich Koester, Coleen Kosloski, Raymond Kroll, Barbara Kuenne, Kathryne Kuhns

Margaret La Fleur, Joanne Lambrecht, Javan Larson, Carol Lauder, Judith Leino, Harriet Lerdal, Jo Livgard, Marlene Locascio, Dan and Marsha Loewenson, Nick Lovdjieff, Ann Lovrien, Britt Lundgren

Art Maillet, Gayle Marko, Barbara Mattill,

Katherine May, Virginia May, Michael McClure, Gregory McDaniels, Kay McLean, Richard McNamer, Norm and Patricia Moen, Robert Monson, Nancy Morin, Michael Myers

Helen Nelson, Marybeth Nelson, Rod Nelson, Susan Nelson, Cecilia Newton, Ardis Niemann Noonan, Lynn Nordgren

Elaine Olson, C. Jack Oman, Eleanor Oren, Joanne Ortendahl-Lucas, Peg O'Shaughnessy, Eileen Oslund, Joyce Ovick Fuhrman

Wendie Palazzo, De Nise Pallinen, Thomas Patterson, Marjorie Penner, Judith Peters, Mary Peterson, Roberta Peterson, Joan Petroff, Virginia Pfeiffer, Pixie Pixler, Christine Poppe, Mary Poulsen

Lynne Raphael, Roma Lee Rasmussen, Margaret Reed, Karl Reinhard, Connie Retzlaff, Willean Reuben, Barbara Risken, Rosalind Robbins, Sara Roberson, David Rolek, Dean Rosenow, Bonnie Rowell, Kathy Runchey, Donald Ryberg, Robert Ryder

Marlys Sanford, M.J. Saviano, Karen Scheib, Anne Scheible, George Schell, Stephen Schmid, Margaret Seath, Judith Shapiro, Robert Shelton, Frances Simonson, Donald Sovell, Victoria Speidel, Lynne Stylianou-Jensen, Alan Sweet

Hazel Tanner, Genevieve Taylor, Joan Threet, Mary Tryhus, Margaret Tuma

Barbara Umholtz, David Vos

Verna Warder, Robert Wedl, Tom Wells, Sandra Westby, Katie White, Jo Anne Wilson, Roger Wold, Sheila Woodbeck

Doris Zachery, Patricia Zajac, Joe Zetah, Deb Zwickey

Grants Program, cont.

same proposal cannot be approved for more than two consecutive years. The committee would love to respond to more grant requests but is limited to available resources. In addition to the thrill of making a difference in a teacher's life, the MRTI Board also believes that the grant program introduces the MRTI organization to teachers before they retire and hopes that it will attract future members. - Larry Risser, Committee Chair

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Cora A Lueben 2924 Asbury St Roseville, MN 55113 651-631-8153 clueben@comcast.net

Diana Sullivan 6060 Golden Valley Rd Golden Valley, MN 55422 763-541-4871 diasul@aol.com

Address change

George Dahl 11501 Masonic Home Dr. Apt 213 Bloomington, MN 55437

Afterwords

The following additions or corrections to the 2017 MRTI Yearbook were received after the Yearbook went to press. Please tear out this page and staple it into your 2017 Yearbook for future reference.

Late renewal:

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Corrections

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Velma Warder email address: vgwarder@comcast.net

If you have moved within the past year, you should probably contact TRA (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.

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

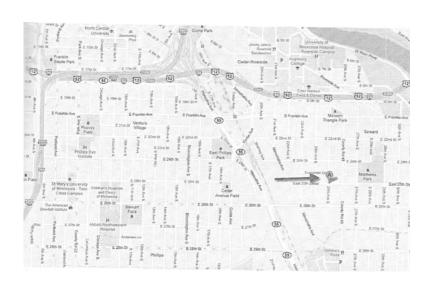
MRTI Newsletter January 2017 Chris Poppe, editor

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!