

# UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME IV, NUMBER 3, WINTER, 2002

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

This Minnesota winter has been kind to us with only one below-zero night and no days below zero. Morris has enough snow to look clean with only one shoveling session. All natives realize it is only the middle of January so we can expect anything. Somehow walking out of the RFC at 5:40 p.m. with wet hair doesn't seem quite so cold when you can see some daylight in the sky.

## REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

In addition to the programs listed in the fall UMMRA INFO, a "Fit after 50" class has been added. It is a chance to develop a complete fitness program that will incorporate strength training using machines and dumbbells as well as a cardiovascular and flexibility program. Times and cost can be obtained by calling the RFC desk at 320-589-6485.

## VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, call Cathy Kemble, 1-320-795-2290 or Bernice Erdahl, 1-320-246-3393. Their names have been given to Judy Riley, President of the Morris Chamber of Commerce, so Cathy and Bernice will know of needs both on campus and in the community. Once again, Arlene Beseman is willing to be our delegate to the Prairie Pioneer Days Committee.

## WINTER LUNCHEON MEETING

Tip Tipcke has scheduled the winter luncheon meeting for Wednesday, February 20, at Prairie Inn at 11:45 a.m. (note the return to our regular meeting place). Our speaker will be Dr. Joan Radcliffe from the Stevens Community Medical Center. She will tell about her background as an orthopaedic surgeon and also have a question and answer period. As always, we will order from the menu and pay-our-own.

## SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

Avis Brandt reports that the spring luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at 11:45 at Prairie Inn. It will also be the annual meeting and beginning of our reunion day. Chancellor Schuman will be our speaker and update us on the state of UMM. The agenda of events will follow previous reunions and will be in the spring UMMRA INFO. Suggestions given for afternoon activities are: tour of newly remodeled science building (now called "The West Wing), tour of LaFave house and a trip through the new social science tunnel. Any other ideas would be appreciated by Avis Brandt.

Suggestions for overnight accommodations if needed:

Morris Motel, 320-589-1212, cost is \$35 plus tax

Super 8 Motel, 320-589-8888 (800-800-8000), cost is \$45.00

Best Western Prairie Inn, 320-589-3030, (800-535-3035), \$48

The American House Bed and Breakfast is not available.

## UMM CAMPAIGN MINNESOTA

Chancellor Schuman announced in November that UMM had reached its Campaign Minnesota fundraising goal of \$6 million. The next phase of the campaign is to fully fund all of the UMM priorities of Campaign Minnesota. You can get more information by talking to our two representatives on the committee, Doris Benson and Bettina Blake.

## NEWS FROM UMRA (TWIN CITIES)

On November 27, 2001, Laird Barber was our representative at the meeting of the University of Minnesota Retirees Association (UMRA) in the Twin Cities. Robert Fahnhorst of Employee Benefits and Steve Burrows, Director of Health Programs, attended the meeting, reported on the current situation of retirees' health benefits, and answered questions.

One thing is certain: retirees over age 65 will remain for 2002 with the SEGIP (State Employees Group Insurance Programs) and be able to keep their present plans (see list of eligible plans on page 4 of the SEGIP "Health Insurance 2002" booklet recently distributed to members). Retirees under age 65 must withdraw from SEGIP and enroll in the University health program.

All else is undetermined: (A) Will the State continue to include U of M retirees over age 65 in SEGIP? (B) Will the plans presently available remain available to this group? (C) What will be the cost for these plans? Costs will be higher, of course, possibly considerably higher. When insured groups diminish in size, rates go up, especially for a sub-group such as the elderly.

It is hoped that by mid-March, 2002, proposals for retirees' health plans will be available for inspection and choice. It must be emphasized that nothing about the future of this matter is definite. Nevertheless, many retirees are concerned that the ill will generated by the University's opting out of SEGIP will affect them unfavorably.

The next meeting of UMRA is on Tuesday January 22, 2002. The speaker will be Richard Pfitzenreuter, Associate Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Budget and Finance, University of Minnesota. Give a call to Laird Barber, 320-589-4254 for more information.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

The fastest way to inform UMM retirees is through e-mail. UMMRA members living in the Morris area can join the e-mail list by calling John Bowers, Computing Service, UMM.

## FALL TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA AREA

Last September eight UMMRA members took a car tour to the Carlos Winery, near Alexandria, and the Pommerenke Apple Orchard, west of Alexandria. The owners at each place were very hospitable and gave interesting tours. It is a good car trip just to watch the plains of Stevens County turn into the hilly

landscape of western Douglas County. The UMMRA board is considering more 1 day car trips for the spring and fall of 2002. Some ideas: Hutterite Colony in Graceville, Milan area (many practicing artists), Pipestone area, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen.

THE SECRET IS OUT!!! The travelers learned “who” carpeted Dean Briggs’ office with sod in the 1960’s. Talk with any of the 8 participants and they may share the information. That incident certainly remains a part of UMM’s history.

#### HERITAGE PRESERVERS (2002)

A change for Heritage Preservers for 2002 is that it is under the umbrella organization LEARNING UNLIMITED. This organization was officially formed in June of 2001 by a cooperative effort of the Heritage Preservers grant project and Morris Area Community Education to coordinate and enrich life-time learning opportunities for older adults in the area.

The tentative schedule for the Heritage Preservers series is:

Session 1: The Heritage and Responsibility of the Minnesota River Watershed – Randee Hokanson, Director, Stevens County Historical Museum

Wed., Feb. 13, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 2: Assessing Environmental Damage: Something Wicked This Way Comes – A National Issues Forum, led by Phyllis Gausman and others

Wed., Feb. 27, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 3: Home Base: Conflicting Environmental Problems and Our Need for Economic Development – A National Issues Forum, led by Phyllis Gausman and others

Wed., March 13, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 4: Spreading the Blame: Must We Do More With Less? – A National Issues Forum, led by Phyllis Gausman and others

Wed., March 27, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 5: Songs of America’s Waterways – Presentation by Charlie Maguire, entertainer, as part of the Morris senior citizen Heritage Days for Morris sixth graders.

Fri., Apr. 19, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

Session 6: Water, Rivers, and Lakes: The Stories They Inspire – Presentation by Minnesota storyteller Julie Goldstein, with an introduction by Laird Barber, Professor Emeritus of English, UMM

Wed., May 1, 2002, 1 p.m., Morris Senior Center

The programs are free of charge and open to everyone. The Morris Senior Center is located at 603 Oregon Avenue, Morris, MN. Bettina Blake is project director of Learning Unlimited and Heritage Preservers. Pamphlets explaining more about the sessions will be available at a later date.

#### SAD NEWS

Beatrice Nelson died on September 28. She was an executive assistant in various UMM departments. In her retirement, Bea was a busy volunteer acting as coordinator of the Stevens Country Food Shelf, was chair of the Morris Human Rights Commission, and served as a court appointed guardian ad litem.

Orville Gunderson died on Thursday, October 18. He worked as an Extension Specialist until retirement in 1981. His wife, Muriel, still lives in Alexandria.

Mel Sunquist died on December 30. He worked as a carpenter at the West Central School of Agriculture and UMM for 30 years. It seemed right that at Mel’s funeral the Shaker hymn “Lord of the Dance” was sung and the recessional was a series of waltzes played on an accordion.

Our sympathy to the families of Bea, Orville and Mel.

#### BITS AND PIECES

-Ellen Ordway reports that UMMRA has 98 paid members. All four issues of UMMRA INFO are sent to paid members. The winter and summer issues are sent to all retirees. The winter issue informs them of the Spring Reunion plans while the summer issue is a reminder to pay dues for membership.

-A picture in the Morris Tribune showed the 5 living generations in Bev Vikander’s family.

-Gen and Curtis Gunvalson were featured in the Morris Tribune receiving “Thank You’s” from the Cyrus Math, Science and Technology Elementary School for the chairpacks they sewed for each student.

-Jack Imholte has recovered very well from his biking accident in Vermont. He volunteers as a member of the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling Cemetery and as a driver for veterans. Lucy’s rotator cuff surgery was a great success and has her garden in “almost” the shape she wants.

-Gerry Latterell has joined the St. Cloud Quilter’s Club and maintains the rural family home she and Joe rebuilt. She spends some winter time in Hawaii with her sister.

-Bettina Blake was part of a large group of volunteers who participated in the 2000 and 2001 Community Thanksgiving Dinners at Assumption Church. This is an annual meal sponsored by area churches. The picture in the Morris Tribune clearly showed Bettina’s maroon and gold UMMRA t-shirt (t-shirts are still available by calling 320-589-1083).

-Lois Hodgell has moved to a senior residence. She hopes to teach some art lessons as part of the activity program.

-Ted and Judy Underwood are rejuvenating a house near Fremont, CA. They plan to spend winters there.

-George Fosgate continues a busy schedule of acting and directing in the Portland, Oregon area. He acted in “Tony and Tina’s Wedding” and “The Crucible”. He also directed Pinter’s “The Birthday Party”. Pat Fosgate was an extra in the climactic downtown Portland chase scene for “The Hunted” with Tommy Lee Jones. Look for her!!!!

-Leona Halbe and Joanne Hagstrom were received as Franciscan Associates on Sunday, October 21 in Little Falls. Franciscan Associates are lay people who live the values of the Franciscan tradition and with the Sisters seek to make the world a more loving, just, compassionate and peaceful place.

-Bettina Blake was in New York City on September 11. She was not able to leave the city until the following Sunday. She said it felt appropriate to be in her hometown at the time of such a frightful catastrophe.

**-Remember the Winter luncheon on Feb. 20 – 11:45 a.m.**

