

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME V, NUMBER 3, WINTER, 2003

HAPPY NEW YEAR --2003

Today (Tuesday, January 14), the temperature is 4 degrees below zero. Last Wednesday and Thursday it reached 49 degrees in Morris; 56 degrees in the Twin Cities, breaking all records for a January high. Bruce Watson, a meteorologist from Roseville, is often interviewed about weather data. He noted that we've had 7 consecutive warmer than usual winters which is similar to a weather pattern during the 1920's. At that time a cycle of warm winters lasted for 10 years and then settled in to the usual pattern of alternate warm and cold.

WINTER LUNCHEON MEETING

Avis Brandt has scheduled the winter luncheon meeting for **TUESDAY, February 11, 11:45 a.m., at Prairie Inn.** Our speaker will be Laird Barber, who will tell us about his recent trip to Japan. He will show slides taken in Kyoto and Nara two of the most historic cities in Japan. We will order from the menu and pay-your-own. Note change in usual weekday.

SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING/REUNION

Harold Fahl is coordinating our busy one-day spring get-together. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2003 at 11:45 a.m. at Prairie Inn and includes our annual meeting and election of officers. Chancellor Schuman will be our speaker, updating us on UMM activities and future outlook. We thank Sam for taking the time to join us each spring. The agenda of later events is in the planning stage and will be in the Spring UMMRA INFO.

REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

We have enclosed a list of programs available at the RFC for retirees. The Senior Strength Training and Pilates Mat Work programs have already started this session but new ones should be scheduled later this year and will be listed in UMMRA INFO. If you have never used the RFC they are giving a free one-week trial pass which can be used to try out most of the program offerings. The offer expires on January 31, 2003. There's always someone who looks better (or worse) than you do in a bathing suit so grab a friend, walking shoes, towel and a bathing suit and help the winter go faster. Information is at the front desk or by calling 320-589-6485.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Cathy Kemble (320-795-2290) and Bernice Erdahl (320-246-3593) planned the Evergreen Circle Reading sessions at West Wind Village for October, November and December. They need volunteers for the rest of January on into May. Please give Cathy or Bernice a call if you could give an hour, for which you get no pay but a lot of satisfaction. The books are at the UMMRA office in the Community Services complex

and Bernice will meet you there and set you up. The Evergreen Reading Circle was started by UMM emeritus professor of education, Leona Classen.

NEWS FROM UMRA (TWIN CITIES)—LAIRD BARBER

This year's president is former UMM Chancellor David Johnson, and he cordially welcomes UMMRA members to attend UMRA meetings. This year these meetings will be held in the Campus Club on the Fourth Floor of Coffman Union. David says the refurbishing of the Campus Club has resulted in very attractive new quarters, and he urges as many UMM people as can to come and see the new rooms. The next UMRA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. The speaker will be Dr. Tim Ebner, Head of the Department of Neuroscience in the Medical School. Dr. Ebner will discuss current research, especially as it applies to senior citizens.

An important new activity of UMRA is planning for the meeting of UMRA's sister retirees' organizations of Big Ten universities, which will be held in August, 2004. For the current year, the urgent concern about retirees' health plans has come to an end—for the time being. One principal concern is membership and recruiting. Like all similar organizations, UMRA needs as many members as possible so that effective programs can be planned for and conducted. Once again, UMMRA's representative on the Board of UMRA is Laird Barber. If you have any concerns or questions about UMRA, call him at (320) 589-4254.

FALL TRIP TO MILAN

A small group drove to Milan, MN. on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They visited the farmstead where Gene and Lucy Tokheim create the unique and distinctive Tokheim Stoneware which is sold from coast to coast. They transfer the Nordic wood carving tradition to the medium of clay. Lucy does the design work and Gene throws the pots. Avis Brandt's lucky relatives received 2 of the pots for Christmas. Avis will leave the board after this year but is willing to remain as coordinator of 1 day trips. Ideas are to return to Milan, take a trip into South Dakota to visit another artist colony, and perhaps a Sunday trip to Mpls. for a noon brunch and see a matinee performance on the Showboat.

SCHS MUSEUM RENOVATION DRIVE

Many UMM retirees regularly support the Stevens County Historical Society through their membership contributions and through volunteer efforts. They are also involved with Heritage Preservers and the "Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance." It is important to recognize that expansion of the SCHS Museum (the old Carnegie Library) will benefit all

Morris area cultural organizations by transforming the building into a center where community exhibitions and events can be held. The SCHS has launched a major fund raising effort to expand and renovate the Carnegie building. Gifts to the drive would be a fine way to memorialize people whose lives are interwoven with the history of this part of Minnesota. Bettina Blake (320-589-4737) is serving on the fund raising committee and could answer any questions.

LEARNING UNLIMITED/HERITAGE PRESERVERS

Heritage Preservers under the umbrella of Learning Unlimited will present the series "Empowering Citizens: Past Knowledge and Future Action" which includes three programs on Minnesota women who have lived in and influenced Minnesota and its environment and three National Issues Forums on Environmental Stewardship. Unless otherwise being noted, the programs will be held at the Morris Senior Center, 603 Oregon Avenue, Morris, MN.

Program 1: "In Her Own Words," a dramatic presentation performed by Carol Day, Athena Kildegaard and Randee Hokanson, using diary and journal selections compiled from Stevens County Historical Museum materials.

Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Program 2: "Coya Comes Back," a one woman play by Kathy Ray. Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at 1:00 p.m.

Program 3: "Mary Gibbs: She Freed the Mississippi, 1903-2003," a presentation with music and photographs, by Charlie Maguire. Sponsored by the Saga Spinners.

Wednesday, April 23, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at the Morris Area Elementary School, South Gym, 600 Columbia Ave., Morris.
"National Issues Forums"

Program 1: What Is Sustainable Development? The presenter will be Paula O'Loughlin followed by small group discussion.

Wednesday, March 5, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Program 2: What Changes In Policy and Attitude Need to Occur? The presenters will be Dorothy Rosemeier and Roger Boleman followed by small group discussion.

Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Program 3: Up Front and Personal: What Are Our Specific Individual Responsibilities in the Implementation of the Goals? Mary Jo Forbord and David Fluegel will be the presenters. Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at 1:00 p.m.

Phyllis Gausman, retired teacher, Chokio-Alberta Schools, will be the convener for the National Issues Forums.

Heritage Days for Morris area sixth graders will be held on April 24 and 25. Details will be in the Morris Tribune.

BITS AND PIECES

-Ellen Ordway reports that UMMRA has 82 members.

-President Fred Farrell announced that UMM is ranked 4th among national public liberal arts colleges in the U.S. News and World Report.

-Stevens County Museum Board Member Bernice Erdahl was pictured in the December 12, '02 Morris Tribune helping to decorate the Christmas tree at SCHS for their annual holiday open house.

-Gerry Latterell is seeing the beauty of her and Joe's work on their land with the historic log home. The bluestem prairie grass bloomed and still adds color to the winter landscape.

The replaced trees have grown enough to entice a pair of blue birds to set up housekeeping in a bluebird house Gerry put in the trees. She had an enjoyable trip to Washington D.C. with two former classmates from St. Benedict's.

-George Fosgate has been busy with his second career as an actor. He was in "Counting Sheep" (with Richard Kind, Alan Arkin and Austin Pendleton), played "Jed" in a TV spot, and played Nunzio Cristano in "Over the River and Through the Woods". Pat and George's travels included trips to New York City, Puerto Vallarta, Minnesota, and Las Vegas. George became familiar with a different meaning for "cast" when he suffered a hairline fracture in his left leg.

-The Fall 2002 Contributions, a publication from the UMM Office of External Relations, had a picture and article about Doris Benson and her history with UMM. Doris' husband, Myron Benson, was a retiree from WCROC.

-LaFave House Advisory Group members, Pat and Jim Tanner, were pictured in the same publication while attending a garden party hosted by Nancy and Sam Schuman.

-The publication also featured Pat Kahng and the student recipient of the Professor Sun Kahng scholarship which is given to outstanding economics and management students.

-Bettina Blake spent two and a half weeks in China with a Columbia University alumni group. The numerous famous sites were reached by "jetliner and subway train, sampan and sedan chair, but much of the time on foot, climbing endless stone steps." A highlight of her fall season was attending the opening of an exhibition of the National Association of Woman Artists at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University. Bettina had donated three of her mother's paintings and they were beautifully displayed at the exhibition.

-Ellen Ordway was part of an Elderhostel tour through Madagascar. They studied the rain forest (before it is destroyed) and wild life, particularly birds, lemurs and chameleons (no bugs).

-Helen Kill, wife of Fred Kill, a retired senior mechanic at UMM, was featured in the 1-7-03 Morris Tribune Spotlight.

-Wes and Avie Gray vacationed at Mazalan last fall. This week they will leave to spend 5 days with their daughter in England and then take a river cruise from Holland to Budapest, Hungary traveling on the Rhine and Danube Rivers.

-Fred Peterson and his art exhibit titled "Retrospectives" were covered in the October 31, '02 University Register.

-Arden and Steve Granger are enjoying the Winnebago motor home they bought from Ralph and Martha Williams. They have taken 2 five-day trips and a 10-day journey to Idaho and Yellowstone. They are planning a winter vacation to the Texas gulf coast, New Mexico and Arizona.

-Avis Brandt was pictured in the Sept. 24, 02 Morris Tribune showing her rosemaking and hardanger during Senior Fest sponsored by the Stevens County Eldercare Foundation.

-Mary Ann Scharf was also shown in the same issue helping prepare the Prairie Renaissance gallery for its opening.

-Ernie and Cathy Kemble spent Thanksgiving on the Dutch island of Aruba and Christmas in Anchorage, Alaska with their daughter and family. They leave this week for a month in southern Spain touring for 15 days and then renting a one bedroom apartment in Torremolinos on the Mediterranean.

SEE YOU ON FEBRUARY 11 AT PRAIRIE INN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

