

UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2005

The 2004 New Year's greeting noted that NASA's rover, Spirit, had just landed on Mars and had sent back one picture of the planet. The scientists were hoping that the rover would start moving and send back pictures for at least three months. Since that time NASA has landed a second rover, Opportunity, and both rovers are operating and sending back pictures. January seems to be the month for successful space exploration. On January 14, 2005 a European spacecraft, after a seven-year trip, sent back pictures and landed on Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Weather: January, 2005 will have the longest stretch of below zero temperatures since 1994. Snowfall is much below normal.

WINTER LUNCHEON MEETING

Mary Ellen Grossman has scheduled our winter meeting for Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at Prairie Inn at 11:45 a.m. The program will be a talk and tour by Jim Gremmels, editor of the Prairie Gate Press at UMM. The agenda will include a drawing for the 3 winners of the art raffle prizes. The pieces include a Hodgell print, Nelson bronze, and a Flicker pottery item. Also, a discussion will be held about changing the meeting dates to the third Wednesday of October and February to prevent complications with the Learning Unlimited programs. We will order pay-your-own lunch from the menu.

SPRING LUNCHEON/ANNUAL MEETING

Wes Gray has finalized plans for the celebration on Thursday, April 28, 2005. The luncheon will be at Prairie Inn with a UMM update from Chancellor Schuman. Four board positions will need to be voted on – the slate will be in the spring newsletter. Please consider volunteering your name – the hours are few and the pay is even less. The afternoon will include a tour of the home of Jenny Nellis and Charlie Fowler. The staff/faculty party will be at the LaFave house. The volunteer committee will call for food donations to cut costs. The spring newsletter will have a complete schedule.

REGIONAL FITNESS CENTER UPDATE

Water Works, an exercise program with an instructor/leader, has been extended to three times a week (Mon., Wed., Fri.) at 4:40 to 5:20 p.m. A punch card is needed. The Tues., Thurs., Fri. open swim is well attended from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. There is no leader so there is no cost, but a lifeguard is present. A winter RFC schedule is enclosed for area UMMRA members. The Yoga Basics class is new and will be led by Asha, a UMM theatre major. She helped the staff develop the program after the 8:00 a.m. swimmers enjoyed a stretching class she held last fall. They need 8-10 people to make it go.

NEWS FROM UMRA – LAIRD BARBER

After the bustle of the summer meeting of the Big Ten Retirees Representatives, Twin Cities UMRA has settled down to its normal activities: recruiting of members and securing benefits for them; monitoring health benefits for retirees; planning future meetings and the June banquet and meeting. Much time is devoted to developing creative and effective measures for the organization's carrying on of these activities.

Two events highlighted the summer meeting of Big Ten representatives: 1. A trenchant talk by former University of Minnesota President Ken Keller about the current state of public higher education in Minnesota and elsewhere. 2. A stimulating presentation about the current state of elder law as it affects the lives of retirees by Ms. Kris Maser, an attorney with the firm of Maser and Amundson, where she manages the Elder Law Department. Ms. Maser's talk was so good that she was invited back to address UMRA's November luncheon meeting. She held the undivided attention of her audience for an hour with an extremely informative and relevant presentation. (Ed. Note: sound interesting for us?)

The winter, 2005 program is as follows:

Tuesday, January 25. Professor Noel Zahler of the University's School of Music.

Tuesday, February 22. Professor Ford Runge of the University's Program in Applied Economics,

Department of Forest Resources, speaking on “Globalization.”

These luncheon meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Campus Club on the fourth floor of the Coffman Union. Reservations are necessary. Call Laird Barber, 589-4254, for further information.

SAD NEWS

Oren Gilbert, husband of Thelma Gilbert, Principal Secretary, Records Office, died in Arden Hills, MN. The funeral was held at First Lutheran Church in Morris on Friday, December 10, 2004. Oren is survived by his wife, Thelma, a son, John, and a daughter, Carole.

Willie Martin, owner of Willie’s Super Valu, died unexpectedly on November 24, 2004. Willie was a good friend and neighbor to faculty and staff at UMM. After reading the tributes to Willie in the Morris Tribune, we learned that he was also a great friend and help to former students who did not forget him after they left Morris.

LEARNING UNLIMITED

The 2005 series of Learning Unlimited is titled “War and Peace.” The series was designed with help from the local American Legion and Auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, and the AmVets and Auxiliary. The programs will be held at the Senior Citizens Center, 603 Oregon Ave., Morris, MN., as follows:

Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 1:00 p.m. “The Role of the National Guard in Peace Time and in War” with Brent Fuhrman and Roland Guyotte. Has the role of the Guard changed? What does that mean for our local unit?

Wednesday, March 9, 2005, 1:00 p.m. “Women at Home and at the Front in the Forties” with Randee Hokanson, Dr. Mariam Frenier and other guests. There will be an emphasis on the life women led during the war years both at home and in the service.

BITS AND PIECES

Travel news will be in the summer issue that goes to all retirees.

--Bettina Blake informed Morris people in November that she bought a residence in Boston and will sell her house of many parties on Circle Pines. So, in early December she invited friends

and colleagues to a last party before she started packing and getting organized for the move in the spring. UMMRA, organized by Cathy Kemble and Bernice Erdahl, assisted her by bringing some of the food and helping with the serving. There was plenty of food (unbelievably gone by 8:00 p.m.), friendly and talkative guests, time to take last looks at Bettina’s treasures and time to marvel at the adeptness of the nine bartenders.

--The news is that the rebuilt Social Science Building will be named for John Q. Imholte. Yeah!

--The fall 2004 “Profile,” a publication from the UMM Office of External Relations, published a picture of Pat and George Fosgate at a Meiningens gathering in Minneapolis. Theatre-goers should recognize the alumni in the photo. Barbara McGinnis, Pat Kahng, and Ruth Gremmels were pictured in the same publication attending the 2004 Old Fashioned Garden Social at UMM. “Profile” also wrote about an introspection of UMM life by alumni Ken and Kathy Kollodge that included stories about Henry Parker and Ray Lammers.

--Gerry Latterell has a grandson, William Rego Huttleston (Louise), born on May 21, 2004. Gerry said that Will “has sparked a light of hope.”

--Martha and Ralph Williams were pictured in the Morris Tribune with the piano cover they donated for the concert grand piano in the Recital Hall.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Francis Bacon reported “that age appears to be best in four things – old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.” To these I would add a fifth – old marriages to keep the spirits bright. Remember the raffle drawing Wednesday, February 23, at the UMMRA meeting. Buy your tickets if you have not done so. They will be available up to the drawing at 1:00 p.m.

Jim Gremmels
President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Wednesday, February 23, 11:45 -- Winter Meeting
- Thursday, April 28 -- Spring Celebration
- April 26 to May 5 -- Bernice Johnson Reagon, Distinguished Visiting Professor, at UMM
- Saturday, May 14 -- Graduation.

MARCH 20 – FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!

