



MARCH 2024 MARSP NEWSLETTER



Megan Powell, Marketing and Development Director of the Midland Recording Library, presented the program at the March 7th MARSP meeting. The Recording Library is a Midland based non-profit offering free audio services to those in need. The clients who make use of the Recording Library include those who are blind or low-vision as well as those individuals who can no longer handle a physical book, magazine, or newspaper. Volunteers are needed! Call 432-682-2731 for more information about volunteering or using the Recording Library services.

The next meeting will be held on April 4, and the program will be presented by Nathan Hodges. Nathan is the Director of Special Collections at the Centennial Library. He is in charge of the Redfern Genealogy Library and the “Reclamation Station”. Nathan will talk about the resources available at the Redfern library for genealogy studies and research. He will also explain how the “Reclamation Station” can be used to recover and convert old media into modern media.



THE MAYFLOWER ESL PROJECT

Due to religious persecution, 64 Chinese Christians, known as Mayflower Church, were forced into exile since 2019. In collaboration with the US government, numerous organizations, and dedicated supporters, ChinaAid, a Christian human rights organization in Midland, Texas, helped rescue, advocated for and resettled Mayflower Church in safe places. In December 2023, all 64 members moved to Midland and Odessa to make their permanent home. To empower them during their resettlement process, ChinaAid plans to offer intensive English classes for the 30 adult members this summer (April & May). Local volunteers are crucial in supporting these asylum seekers. Whether you are an experienced educator or are interested in sharing love with newcomers in your community, we invite you to learn more about these great volunteer opportunities near you. Please, don't hesitate to contact Ruth Hill at r.hill@chinaaid.org or 858-644-9164 for more information.



MAYFLOWER CHURCH





If any MARSP members are aware of members in need of sympathy or a “Thinking of You” card, please contact Patti Watson at pnw1000@gmail.com or 432-697-1170. This is a very important request that ensures our members know that they are being thought about during difficult times. A “Thinking of You” or Sympathy card was sent to the following:

Thinking of You—Mary Smith

Sympathy Card—Family of Orin Wade

Thinking of You—Robert and Nancy Stewart

Panhandle Relief

MARSP members put \$500 in this year's budget for Disaster Relief. At our meeting March 7, we voted to send it to active and retired teachers who have been affected by the wildfires in the Panhandle. Members at the meeting wanted to contribute more, and I felt that those of you who weren't there might also want to add to the amount we are sending. **If you do, please make your check payable to TRTF and mail it to P O Box 4954, Midland, Texas 79704. The deadline will be March 31st.** Thank you for your generosity! Deborah Jordan, MARSP President.

Volunteer Hours

Thank you to all our members who contributed their time in 2023. The Midland Retired School Personnel reported 24,036 volunteer hours to TRTA for 2023. The volunteer hours equates to \$764,344.80 as per the 2023 Independent sector rate of \$31.80 per hour. Terrell Littlejohn had the most volunteer hours with a total of 5,260. 36 people reported hours to Helen Whiteside.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear MARSP Members,

We are in an active time of the year for our organization. At our April luncheon we will have the Redfern Genealogical Library speak to us about what they offer and how very extensive their records are. The recipients of our two \$2500 scholarships will be announced. Our 2024-2026 officers and chairpersons will be reported. We will disclose the amount of our donation to TRTF to aid active and retired teachers affected by the fires in the Panhandle. Membership forms have been mailed to all our members. We look forward to you renewing your MARSP membership for 24-25.

Then at our May meeting, we will present the awards to the scholarship recipients. And we will induct our officers for this next year. Please plan to attend and hear all the great things MARSP is doing for our committee. Looking forward to seeing you at the April meeting.

Deborah Jordan. MARSP President



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

And....it starts! TRTA closed their membership portal in late February and started their 2024-2025 membership drive March 1st. MARSP has already mailed the 2024-2025 bulk membership renewal forms. Please check for the accuracy of your information on the form, indicating any changes in the right column and return your membership form with your dues check in the provided envelope to the MARSP post office box. The bottom of your form is your receipt, so please keep it. If you have any questions or concerns about MARSP/TRTA membership, please email Paula Knight, pvknight432@gmail.com. MARSP and TRTA are always working for their members and keeping them informed!

As members are added or updated to the MARSP roster, their information will be right here in the MARSP Membership Newsletter article. Please add or update the following members to your 2023-2024 yearbook:

1. Sally Smith, swsmith56@att.net, 260-2680, 1706 Northrup Dr., Midland, TX 79705, 9/22
2. Margaret Saunders's email address is, 7thmargaret@gmail.com.

Remember to reach out to other retirees!

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.--Maya Angelou Thank you!

Paula Knight, MARSP 1st VP/Membership

Help Retirees Impacted by TEXAS Wildfires by Donating Today

TRTA already is aware of significant losses suffered by members to their homes and property. Please consider donating to TRTF Disaster Relief Fund. TRTF is providing grants to retired and active educators impacted by these wildfires. You may donate to the Disaster Relief Fund through TRTF's LEHR-Pritchard "A Helping Hand" Endowment Fund. Long onto help@trtf.org or call 1-800-880-1650 **OR** send your donation by March 31st to the following address and it will be added to the MARSP Chapter donation, **Please make your check payable to TRTF and mail it to P O Box 4954, Midland, Texas 79704. The deadline will be March 31st.**

April Meeting

Bring a fellow teacher or school personnel friend and join us on April 4th at 11:30.

Good Friends, Food and Fellowship!

