



Lifelong Learners

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Newsletter

Fall 2013

"Lifelong Learning for Age 50 and Over"

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Karen Frydendall

At the Annual meeting I will finish my first two years on the Lifelong Learners Council. Following up on the previous year, the Council concentrated on the four areas listed below.

Membership. As with nearly all organizations these days, we find that our members (including us) continue to grow older and fewer younger people are joining. Our emphasis has been to keep the gold and attract the silver. To do this we have adjusted some times of our classes and have started adding new activities designed for younger people. There has not been enough time to evaluate the results; perhaps another year will tell.

Activities. We have added Classic Films, Book Group, Outdoor Activities, and Soup Supper. The Christmas party in December will return. In August we invited the public to a presentation by "Extreme Birder" Lynn Barber telling of her adventures in pursuing a birding "Big Year," which attracted 90 people. Great Decisions continues to grow with membership at 40. We are cooperating with Minnesota State Mankato by presenting an extra session in October open to selected students. We have held focus groups to discover interests of younger people. The sad news in "Activities"

is that Special Events has suffered from a lack of participation, which leads to cancellations. Committee resignations have left two members only, with no chair.

Marketing/Publicity. Our emphasis here is to get our name out so that people become aware of us. You may have noticed the blitz of small posters hanging in public places. We have updated our space on the GreaterMankatoGrowth.com website. We have opened a Facebook account. The Free Press puts our name out frequently. Watch for our ½-page ad in the Winter Community Education and Recreation bulletin in December. **Our best publicity is for you to tell your friends about us. Invite them to meetings. The first three are free!**

Finances. Our financial condition has improved, in large part because you, our members, have accepted the necessity of a larger membership fee. We have been in debt to the University for several years and have eliminated the debt. Your recent donations have been gratefully received. We are ambitious to add more benefits

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for you, which will be the use for that cash. Our Office manager, Patrice Hundstad, and a council member are preparing a presentation for the TV **MNGives** campaign coming up in November. We will alert you of the date and location. A Book Fair at Barnes & Noble is a possibility for November also. In the near future we will be looking into applying for grants.

Outreach. We have become associated with ALLMN, a state-wide coalition of senior learning organizations. We plan to share ideas for programming, raising funds, publicizing our group, attracting younger members (we are all in the same boat) and all relevant topics. We are investigating the possibility of cooperation with the New Ulm group.

In Memoriam. Two long-time and very active members of LL passed on during this year. Marked by energy and devotion from the beginning, Donna Hanke and Winston Grundemeir were strong influences for the success of Lifelong Learners. We miss them.

Finally, we come to the Annual Meeting with no Vice-President and no chairs for the Membership and Special Events Committees.

And that's the way it is. It's been a busy and invigorating two years and it was a pleasure to serve you.

Karen Frydendall.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Carlienne Frisch



CLASSIC FILM SERIES

The Classic Film Series runs the second Saturday of each month, 1-4 P.M., in the Wiecking Center auditorium, Minnesota State Mankato campus. (Parking on streets is permitted on weekends.) Professor Matthew Sewell leads the discussions. The schedule for Fall Quarter includes Saturday, October 12: On the Waterfront (1954), starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden and Eva Marie Saint, directed by Elia Kazan, and Saturday, November 9: The Royal Tenenbaums (2001 contemporary classic), starring Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow and Bill Murray. There will be no classic films in December or January, and will resume in February.

NEW ACTIVITY:

Walk and Bike for Fun and Fellowship



Members of Mankato Area Lifelong Learners are invited to take part in a walking group. The first excursions will be along the Minnesota River trail. Meet at the zoo in Sibley Park at 6 P.M. on Tuesday, October 8 and follow the river for a couple of hours. A biking group may also be formed. If you are interested in either group or have questions, contact Pru at pru.g@charter.net or (507) 345-8528.





THE BOOKENDS

The Bookends book discussion group meets at 1 P.M. the fourth Wednesday of each month. Members take turns choosing the books and leading the discussion. The selection for Wednesday, Sept. 25 is Still Alice by Lisa Genova. (Contact John at john.eg@charter.net or (507) 345-8528.) The selection for Wednesday, Oct. 23 is Lean In by Sheryl Sandberg. (Contact Anita at (507) 387-7180.) There will be no book discussions in November or December, but will resume in January.

NOBEL CONFERENCE 49

The Universe at Its Limits

Dwain Peterson

The 49th Nobel Conference will be held at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter on October 1 and 2, 2013. Presentations start at 10am. Mankato Area Lifelong Learners has 50 seats available with prime seating for current (2012-13) members only. Tickets are \$70 per member. Registration(s) with payment must be in the MALL office by Monday, September 23. Online registration at: www.mnsu.edu/mall. Lunch is available both days for \$12.50. The Nobel Banquet is Wednesday evening, October 2. Tickets are \$30.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dwain Peterson

The Christmas social will be held at Old Main Village dining Room on Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 2-4 P.M. Enjoy conversation and Christmas carols. Cookies, coffee, tea and punch will be served. A free will offering will be taken.

½ MATCHING DONOR CAMPAIGN

Karen Frydendall

In March an Anonymous Donor challenged the members of Lifelong Learners to donate to our organization. The Donor promised to match half of the donations received by August 31 up to a maximum of \$2000. We have called it the 1/2 Matching Donor campaign. Now the totals are in. Members contributed \$1125 to MALL; the Anonymous Donor will donate \$562.50. Thus we will add \$1687.50 to our treasury. That should help keep us in the black and also allow us to increase our offerings to our members.

A big THANK YOU

goes to the following people!!

Margery Anderson	Kathryn Hanson
Al/Mary Berner	Mary Hoffman
Bruce Birkemeyer	Mary Kennedy
Drew Campbell	Curt Martinson
Donelle Casler	Elizabeth Peters
Anita Dittrich	Mary Topp
Doris Gastiero	Janie Witz
Merrill/Karen Frydendall	
Jack/Harriet Kent	
Richard/Patricia Nienow	

GIVE MN

Elizabeth Peters

The GIVE TO THE MAX DAY is Nov. 14. Give MN. org has a website that features easy opportunities for non-profits and schools to contribute to the cause they choose. Watch for Mankato Area Lifelong Learners as we will be included in the nonprofits.

IT'S A GREAT DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN

GREAT DECISIONS

Co-chairs: Elizabeth Peters & Jack Kent

Time flies for all of us and certainly in the 8 month Great Decisions schedule. Only 2 programs left after our September 11th session on a very timely topic: EGYPT!

And we've had a very successful year with an average attendance of over 30 members. When the group was formed a couple of years ago we could only dream about that kind of participation. And if I do say so with our aging came improvements. We've been successful in recruiting top notch presenters both from within our organization and outside presenters as evidenced by our last 3 speakers: A native of Egypt, another from Iran and a retired State Department Services Officer.

Do you have an interest in attending one of our last sessions of the year.....or how about a friend who may have an interest? Our space is limited so you must call and make a reservation with the office at 389-2011 any week day morning. We'll get back to you with a confirmation.

Our October session is on October 9th with Tom Hanson, retired from the State Department, addressing the topic and leading the discussion on: THREAT ASSESSMENT. This session will be held at 2 P.M. in the Heritage Room in the Centennial Student Union on the University campus. Students & faculty may be attending too.

The year end program: IRAN will be presented by Dr. Hage Dokhanch who is on the faculty at the Superior WS campus of the University of Wisconsin. His studies have led him into the

area of "Peace Studies" so a timely view of a controversial topic. It will be held at Eide Baily at 2:30 P.M. on Nov. 13th. Note the later start to accommodate Hagi's travel from Superior.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA!

Karen Frydendall

Christmas will be upon us before we know it. The wise among us are making preparations and buying gifts right now. (At least that's what I hear!) A woman I happen to know (not a member) gave memberships to her mother and her aunt. Both recipients are enjoying the membership immensely as they choose and attend classes together. Recently the woman's mother came up to me after a class and thanked me for the wonderful year she and her sister had enjoyed. Is there someone in your life who would feel the way these women do? You can register online at www.mnsu.edu/MALL or call 507-389-2011. Let us know it's a gift membership and we'll mail a packet containing the Winter schedule (begins in January) for you to present! - Karen Frydendall

MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Peters

THANK YOU to members who have renewed their membership. We also welcome the new members who have recently joined us. As a result of the FOCUS GROUPS, participants were given a year complimentary membership in Mankato Area Lifelong Learners and we welcome their participation in classes and events.

If you have NOT renewed, please consider sending your check to the LIFELONG LEARNERS office so you will continue to receive the mailings.

COMMUNITY ADVENTURES

Tricia Nienow



Once again the downtown streets of Mankato and North Mankato are beautified with 34 sculptures and accompanied with events for everyone. Included are audio tour, City Art Photo Contest, Kids Scavenger Hunt, and citizen input for the People's Choice Award by voting for your favorite. The sculpture receiving this award will be purchased by the City Center Partnership to join the permanent collection of City Center Public Art. The city art walking sculpture tour is a prime example of corporate - community cooperation; another reason to live in the Greater Mankato Area.

Treasurer's Report

Curt Martinson

Fiscal year 2013 (FY 13) ended on June 30th. Our income for the year exceeded our expenses by about \$2,000. That's always a good thing; in that we started the year just over \$3,000 in debt. We ended it just under \$2,000 in debt. This is really less of a debt than a matter of timing though. The cycle of the year usually has more expenses to process than income at the end of the year. We will return to positive numbers as FY 14 gets underway. More detailed information about the budget will be presented at the annual meeting or can be obtained by calling the MALL office (507) 389 - 2011.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

At the recommendation of the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners council, information on the Senior Linkage Line has been published periodically in the newsletter. Recently, I faced a situation regarding my mother who resides in a Skilled Nursing Facility. After receiving unsatisfactory and conflicting information from several sources, I remembered the Senior Linkage Line. A 30 second conversation with their representative clarified the issue. The Senior Linkage Line phone number is: 1-800-333-2433. For me it was the call that does it all.

Tricia Nienow

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Carlienne Frisch

More variety, more hands-on activities, more evening and weekend opportunities—that's what we heard in the Focus Group discussions that we hosted in June. We're using the information provided by the 31 people who participated in the discussions aimed at learning what the next generation—the Baby Boomers—wants in lifelong learning. We'll continue to offer classes on weekday afternoons, but there also will be learning opportunities arranged on some evenings and Saturday. The Fall Quarter schedule, for October through December, reflects the expanded curriculum. In addition to classes and presentations, Lifelong Learners offer the opportunity to view and discuss classic films on the second Saturday afternoon of each month and to read and discuss a variety of books on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month. (Please refer to other newsletter articles for further information on the classic film matinee series, on The Bookends discussion group and Walk and the new activity Walk and Bike.

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Nobel Conference beginning at 10:00 A.M. GAC	3 Nobel Conference beginning at 10:00 A.M. GAC	4	5
6	7 Retro Ron's Road show – 6:30 P.M. Bethel Baptist Church	8 Walking Group 6 P.M. Sibley Park	9 Great Decisions 2 P.M. Heritage Rm. Student Union, MSU	10	11	12 Classic Film Series 1 P.M. Wiecking Auditorium
13	14	15	16 The Great Depression 2 P.M. Bethel Baptist Church	17	18	19 Dementia 6:30 P.M. Snell Community Rm.
20	21	22	23 Bookends 1 P.M. contact Anita 507-387 -7180	24	25	26 Feisty Lydia 1 P.M. Snell Community Rm.
27	28	29 Sleep Disorders 2 P.M. Snell Community Rm.	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Alaska Homesteader 2 P.M. Primrose Community Room
3	4 Art Forger's Apprentice 2 P.M. Snell Community Room	5	6	7	8	9 Classic film Series 1 P.M. Wiecking Auditorium
10	11	12	13	14 Arts Center Overview 6:30 P.M. Twin Rivers Council GIVE MN Give To The Max Day	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien 2 P.M. Snell Community Room	4	5 Christmas Party 2-4 P.M. Old Main Village	6	7
8	9	10 Minnesota Aquatic Mammals 2 P.M. United Church of Christ	11	12 Holy Land Trip 6:30 P.M. St. John's Episcopal Church	13	14
15	16 Living with Wildlife 1 P.M. Bethel Baptist Church	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

For additional information, please refer to the enclosed list of classes and registration form or call MALL office at (507) 389 2011



The Bridge Group is looking for more members!
Please contact Mary Bliesmer at
mary.bliesmer@mnsu.edu
if you would like to join or have questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Margaret & Jim Naslund	Vern Benson	Doris Eichmeyer	Robb Murray
Linda Milow-Riedell	Alice Laukkonen	Barbara Eide	Brian & Katie Ojanpa
Edwin Frydendall	Marie Bonse	Jim Gullickson	Leslie Peterson
Gladys Frydendall	Deborah Filter	Pat Haugen	Connie Robinson
David & Nancy Allen	Pat Jones	Mary Hoffman	Karen Schutz
Richard D. Bliss	Jim & Ruth Amundson	Susan Hynes	Bonnie & Mark Shult
Nancy B. Croce	Suanne Banfield	Karen Knox	Laura Sievert
Donnette Wheelock	Nancy Bushnell	Carol Krosch	Cheryl Temple
Dawn Ulrich	Sharon Chader	Mike Lagerquist	Pam Willard
Kathleen Walsh	John Cross	Lucy Lowery	Mary Stokman
Jan Fox	Jackie Edwards		

A BRIEF LOOK AT RALLAH MADISON

In case you were wondering, allow me to introduce myself. I am a relatively new comer to Mankato Area Lifelong Learners. I had been paying attention and had participated in a few events but became more involved a couple of years ago. What did it take to do that? An invitation from some MALL members added to the fact I was moving into a new phase of my life and was sorting out how to best do that.

Prior to my arrival in Mankato, late in the last century, I had lived in Southwest Minnesota-not Iowa, but you could see it from there, literally. Same is true for South Dakota. So, somewhat different demographics, I owned and operated a sizable-for those days-dairy and crop farm. I attended the University of Minnesota, as well as Winona State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, physics and chemistry –today they have a fancy name for that combination-as well as a Bachelor of Arts in education, psychology, and English literature. I taught the sciences in secondary schools for a few years before I needed to get more seriously

involved in agriculture. Over the years I was involved in local and regional government as well as volunteering as an adjunct teacher in the areas of art appreciation, and art criticism for the new concept of electronic learning in the community colleges. More recently, I did a lot of work with regional, state and national arts organizations as a board member, officer, and facilitator. Same thing with the religious group I am a member of. Both-like MALL-are nonprofit organizations and they started to have operational difficulties brought on, in part, by demographic changes that began in the late 1980's. This was an opportunity in the areas of teaching, psychology, and sociology that I had not sought or anticipated. I am still "farming" but don't drive the tractor anymore and when the cows could run faster than I, they found new homes and now I commute to "work". I hope that I can be-along with all of you-a contributor to the growth and enhancement of MALL so that it can continue offering learning experiences that broaden our minds and enhance our life experiences in this community and beyond.

Call the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners office (389-2011) if you want your name removed from our mailing list.

Officers:

President: Karen Frydendall
Vice President: Rallah Madison
Treasurer: Curt Martinson
Vice Treasurer: Rosemary Kinne
Secretary: Kay VanBuskirk
V. Secretary: David Janovy
Past President: Jack Kent
Ex-officio: Patrice Hundstad,
patrice.hundstad@mnsu.edu

Committee Chairs:

Admin & Finance: Curt Martinson
Curriculum: Carlienne Frisch
Membership: Elizabeth Peters
Publicity: Joe Hogan
Special Events: Anita Dittrich
Al Wortman

University Relations Coordinator: Dwain Petersen
University Liaison/Ext.L: Becky Copper-Glenz

Pot Luck

Co-Chairs: Jan Rozeboom
Rallah Madison
Kay VanBuskirk

Great Decisions Group

Elizabeth Peters

Bridge:

Mary Bliesmer

Newsletter Editor: Patricia Nienow, 625-5912, tnienow@hickorytech.net

Email and Website Addresses: mall@mnsu.edu , www.mnsu.edu/mall

Senior LinkAge Line: 1-800-333-2433



Mankato Area Lifelong Learners • 115 Wiecking Center • Mankato, MN 56001

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This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at 507-389-2011 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY). MALL02NE_09/13

