



Lifelong Learners

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Newsletter

Spring 2013

"Lifelong Learning for Age 50 and Over"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karen Frydendall

For almost two months I have been President in Absentia, basking in the sun, more or less, in South Texas. After receiving the newsletter in December containing the program line-up for Winter Quarter, I heartily regretted not being able to attend those courses. The Curriculum Committee did a superb job once again, and I'm looking forward to seeing the listing of programs for Spring Quarter, which I will be able to attend. I have also missed seeing many of my friends at programs and at council meetings and look forward to personal contact and seeing the smiles again.

Today I was mentally comparing the members of Lifelong Learners, beloved by me, and the "Winter Texans" living temporarily here at 1015 RV Park in Weslaco, whom I also love. The huge difference is that the Lifelong Learners still in the Mankato area have stuck it out during the MN winter, while the people surrounding me here have decided they've had enough of winter, whether it was in MN, WI, MI, IA, WY or Canada. From there on, it was the similarities that struck me. In both places I find people who have passed their 50th birthdays, most quite a while ago and counting. In both places I find people who are excited about life, enthusiastic about what

they're doing, whether it's presenting or attending a class or playing Bingo. People who like to volunteer to make sure their organization keeps humming along. Friendly people who gather to enjoy a good presentation, whether it's the story of the Dakota Conflict, or watching the weekly entertainers, many of them with ages matching their own. The Food Groups from Lifelong Learners would undoubtedly like our weekly Rec Hall breakfasts, the Saturday hamburgers and, yes, the monthly potlucks! So what makes these groups as enjoyable as they are? It's the energy and enthusiasm which disguise the years, bringing out qualities of youth. I will be happy to return to my MN playmates in March.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE



Carlienne Frisch

FILM DISCUSSION GROUP

If you enjoy watching classic or foreign films, you're in good company. Lifelong Learners are now forming a Classic and Foreign Film group. If you would like to be notified when the group begins meeting to watch and discuss films, please contact the Lifelong Learners office at 507-389-2011.

Breaking News regarding Great Decisions Speakers!
May - Paul Brandon - FUTURE OF THE EURO
June - Mary McCormick - MYANMAR AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

SPECIAL EVENTS

Anita Dittrich

WARNING: Special Events activities such as trips to plays and concerts in the Twin Cities, etc. may have to be DISCONTINUED if we do not get more participation from the membership. Only 15 members signed up (as of 2/20/13) for the March 13 trip to Plymouth Playhouse to hear the music of Johnny Cash -- which does NOT bring in enough money to pay for the bus.

If we are not sponsoring the kind of events that you would like to attend, please let any of the Special Events Committee members know, and please volunteer to help us plan future events:

Thurs., April 25: History Theatre – ‘This Side of Paradise,’ musical story of F. Scott Fitzgerald and his muse Zelda, capturing both the joy of their romance and their struggles for artistic identity and fame. Flyer has been mailed, SIGN UP NOW if you have not done so yet / call the Lifelong Learners office if you have lost the flyer.

Confirmed:

Wed., May 29: Chanhassen Theatre, “Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”

In the planning stage:

June - day - trip to Winona to visit the Minnesota Marine Art Museum and have lunch at the Hubbell House

July - Padelford Riverboat on the Mississippi River at Harriet Island in St. Paul plus lunch

In discussion stage: day - trip to New Ulm to visit Turner Hall, Hall of Music (accordion), Wanda Gag’s House, etc. Question: Will there be enough interest, or have many people been there already?

Wish/Suggestion: Call Anita 387-7180

GREAT DECISIONS

Jack Kent

Rollah Madison

Elizabeth Peters

Great Decisions, the discussion of international topics based on essays from the National Foreign Policy Association, begins the 2013 season on April 12. This year we will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at the Eide Bailly LLP building, 1911 Excel Drive, in Mankato. We meet April through November, from 2- 3:30 P.M.

For the April meeting, we are delighted to have Bill Davnie, former diplomat from the State Department, lead the topic, CHINA IN AFRICA.

At the beginning of April, members registered for Great Decisions will receive an e-mail with specific directions on locating the meeting site, and any other pertinent information. The briefing books are at the Lifelong Learners office which is open 9 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. If you are not able to get to the office before the first meeting, please phone Patrice at the office (389-2011) and your book will be brought to the first meeting.

If you are not registered for Great Decisions and would like to attend a meeting, please call Elizabeth Peters, (385-1685) to be sure seating is available. Thirty-seven members have registered for Great Decisions!



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MEMBERSHIP

Elizabeth Peters

Please note that the expiration of membership is now noted on the labels of mailings. Thanks to those who have joined or renewed membership in Mankato Area Lifelong Learners.

Remember, the best way to increase membership is by members talking to neighbors, bringing a friend to a presentation, or perhaps giving a gift membership!

The following people have joined Lifelong Learners since the beginning of 2013:

Noreen Hannaman	Molly Reinemann
Ron Yezzi	Karen Nelson
Ann Kalvig	Gloria Kennedy
Tammy Oachs	

Welcome to Mankato Area Lifelong Learners!

FAREWELL DONNA HANKE

The Mankato Area Lifelong Learners lost a long-time active member with the passing of Donna Hanke on February 19. Her Lifelong Learners involvement included serving as the Council president, then as secretary. Donna, a retired teacher and librarian, was active in the greater community, especially with the International Student Organization at Minnesota State Mankato, with P.E.O. International, Kiwanis International and the Retired Teachers Association of Minnesota.

MIDWEST LIFELONG LEARNING CONFERENCE

April 10-12, 2013

The conference, hosted by Eastern Illinois University, will be held at the Chicago Hilton Suites, Magnificent Mile. Anita states registration is \$295.

www.eiu.edu/adulted.2013midwestconf.php

SENIOR EXPO

Elizabeth Peters

The Mankato SENIOR EXPO will be held at the Verizon Center on Tuesday, May 14. Lifelong Learners will have a booth staffed by members. Information about our organization will be available. This is an excellent way to be involved and encourage prospective members. Please call Elizabeth (385-1685) to volunteer for an hour or two. If you have never been at the SENIOR EXPO, you might enjoy other exhibits and speakers, too.

BRIDGE

Mary Bliesmer

Thus far, two people have signed up for the bridge group. Two additional people are needed to get bridge started. Anyone interested is encouraged to call Mary Bliesmer at 380-4308.

SOCIAL DINING

Jan Rozeboom

Rallah Madison

Home Potlucks, Home Soup Suppers and Restaurant Meals are meeting monthly as planned. The potluck group takes a deep winter break.

We are having great fun together - meeting in various restaurants and homes, dining and having energetic discussions, both formally with a planned topic for part of the evening after dinner in the soup/supper group, and informally constantly. New members are always welcome. If you are interested, please contact my co-chair, Rallah Madison during my winter break until May. rallah@hickorytech.net

COST OF MEMBERSHIP COUPLES AND SINGLES

Karen Frydendall

In Lifelong Learners, the cost of membership has been a hot topic of discussion for a couple of years. It was a shock to many to see dues go up—and up—and up. The Council, under several administrations, was aware and concerned with the deficit budget, realizing this trend could not continue. . So—dues went up to cover the expenses, and I am happy to say that the debt is erased and we are able to continue offering programs and opportunities to our members.

Communication is extremely important in any organization. Many times it comes in the form of mail, sent through the U.S. Postal Service. Postage and printing comprise the major expenses for Lifelong Learners. Rising postal rates have contributed to our budget deficit. We have gone to e-mail when it serves the purpose, but there are some who do not use e-mail and some activities for which it will not serve well. Don't forget that the Council members who raised the dues also pay the higher cost.

In an effort to make our dues and fees adaptable to individual needs, we have set up what looks like a complicated piece of work. One new component is the \$45/couple membership each year, an alternative to paying \$25 each. On the face it looks like discrimination against singles. But remember the major cost of Lifelong Learners—postage and printing. The fact is that couples (who must have the same mailing address) receive only one letter and one set of printing in

each mailing, while two separate people receive two. That presents a saving for Lifelong Learners, and it seems only fair that we pass it on to those who are the cause of the saving. (No, we can't cut dues in half for couples, but thanks for asking!) I hope that understanding the reasoning behind the couples price helps in the understanding of the dues structure.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Beginning with the next issue of our Lifelong Learners newsletter this spot will be devoted to hearing from you. We want very much to know what you like or dislike about our organization. It is your organization and it should meet your needs. Tell us what you would like the curriculum and special events committees to offer. Do you know of a good speaker on a timely topic? Is there a theater or concert experience you'd really enjoy? Would you be interested in an in depth study of a current issue, a book, or other topic? Think of our programs and special events as the "bones" of Lifelong Learners and your suggestions as their "meat." Are there other changes you would like to see Lifelong Learners make? We really need your input. This Editor and our Council look forward to hearing from you. Use this space as your platform!

IN CLOSING

You are here to enable the divine purpose of the universe to unfold. That is how important you are!
Eckhart Tolle



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A BRIEF LOOK AT TRICIA NIENOW - EDITOR

It all began in 1964 when a phone call took me from my graduate audiology class at the State University of New York. This unexpected call was the one that would change the course of my life. The director of the Mankato Rehabilitation Center (now MRCL) was recruiting rehabilitation therapists to staff Mankato's new facility. As a New Yorker, he gave particular attention to N.Y State graduates. After several phone interviews I was hired to develop the Speech and Hearing Department in the new center which would soon be built on Holly Lane. As a fancy free and broke recent graduate, I was open to the adventure.

I arrived in Mankato in August and with competent staff an excellent rehabilitation program provided services to preschoolers through seniors was developed. The services didn't end there. Dick Nienow, an Mankato State College psychology student, was volunteering at MRC to gain experience in testing. After so many years, I can't remember who was chased and who was caught, but we were married in 1966. We eventually settled in Mapleton and Dick began his career in production agriculture, continuing

a family tradition. During this time I worked at Faribault State Hospital, taught at Mankato State College and later contracted with several agencies in Waterville and Mankato to work with the communication needs of adults with developmental disabilities. It was during these years that we raised our three children, Tasha, Sara, and Carl.

The mid 1980's were economically and emotionally stressful times for farmers in Blue Earth County as several severe storms wiped out the crops. Dick and I decided to farm as long as we could but to return to school in the event a career change was required. We selected the Alfred Adler Institute of Chicago. Over a period of several years we earned MA degrees in Counseling Psychology. Although we were fortunate to be able to continue farming, we became licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and practiced for 20+ years as co therapists with couples experiencing marital issues.

Four years ago, we retired from agriculture and moved to Mankato which has been a second home in our heart for years. This move has served us well.

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

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Rallah Madison
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Elizabeth Peters

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