

# MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

 MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

Promoting vitality in later life

Fall 2018

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Georgia Holmes

Since this is my first "President's Report," I want to say how honored I am to be affiliated with such a vibrant volunteer-run organization. Mankato Area Lifelong Learners is, indeed, blessed to be represented by such talented, engaged and dedicated members. I also want to thank David Allan for having led the organization for the last year. I am constantly amazed at the depth and breadth of the knowledge of our committee and council members. This year's Vice President is Mary Jo Surprenant, its treasurer is Nancy Zwickey, and its Secretary is JoAnn Rom. All of the officers are talented, but the real strength of the organization lies in its committee structure.

The many activities offered by Lifelong Learners are organized by committee members and their chairs. If you are a new member and not yet too busy, consider volunteering to work with one of the committees. It is a great way to learn about the organization.

At its last meeting, the council discussed the need to develop a new brochure for the organization. The council voted to establish an "ad hoc" committee to develop something that could be handed out to prospective members. If you have skills in this area and would like to serve on this committee, contact Pam in the office to let us know.

## LANDSCAPE ART QUILTS

Carolyn Becker

I first became acquainted with this technique in the spring of 2018 when I happened upon a step-by-step book written by Ann Loveless. There are no corners to match and no cutting of countless identical pieces. This is a "fusible fabric collage."<sup>(1)</sup>

The collage is started with a muslin/cotton backing, thin cotton batting and a double-sided fusible web. Then a landscape picture is chosen (magazine, post-card, photograph, etc.). Starting at the top of the picture/collage, 1.5 inch x 6 inch wedges of material are overlapped ¼ inch. Eventually, the raw edges are topstitched. Once the background is complete, additional details are added using fusible web. She recommends anywhere from four to 15 different prints of each color category.

My landscape art quilt was inspired by a photograph in Minnesota Monthly of Itaska State Park. Currently, I am working on a second quilt and have a photograph enlarged for a third one.



Carolyn Becker Quilt, Reserve Champion, Blue Earth County Fair

(1)Landscape Art Quilts, Ann Loveless, Kansas City Star Books, Copyright 2014, cover page

# GETTING TO KNOW NANCY ZWICKEY

## Treasurer

I've been asked to submit a short biography to the Newsletter so that you will get to know your new treasurer. At my age, this seems more like an assignment to write my obituary... but I'll give it a try.

I was born in Minneapolis and raised in rural SW Bloomington. I started my college education at the U of M for two years and then transferred to Mankato State, majoring in biology, chemistry & physical education. I walked into Crawford Center and saw this guy 'working the room,' and I was instantly intrigued. It took a while for me to get his attention (long story) but Jim Zwickey never had a chance. We married in 1964, when I started teaching at Lake Crystal, and he started working at Mankato State (soon to be University), where he became the student union director. Heather and Derek were born in 1969 and 1970. I taught health and P.E. for 15 years and then moved into the science department, where I taught biology, anatomy & physiology and biochemistry. I had students competing with their science research in the local, state and international science fairs.

Jim and I retired in 1999 and I was widowed in 2000 after Jim had a fatal car accident. Bill Steil came on the scene a year after Jim's death (I was never marrying again!), but he was Derek's godfather, and I wasn't aware that we were dating... until it was too late. I never had a chance. We've been loosely married (long story) for 14 years and have traveled all over the world.

I've served on the Mankato State Alumni Board and the MNSU Foundation Board, served as a trustee of ISJ Hospital & Mayo Health System, worked on the committee to fund and organize Central Freedom School in Mankato, and served on the board of directors for ECHO Food Shelf. I'm currently volunteering with Connections Ministries, where several Mankato churches serve the homeless in rotating shelters. I am a Master Gardener and write a column with another MG every week for the Lake Crystal Tribune.

I belong to the Lifelong Learners' book club and play bridge with the Lifelong Learners gals. While I like the game, I really enjoy getting to know the women who are so much fun! Bill and I have belonged to various dining groups. I wound up as the treasurer because a few silver-tongued members of the Council (who are in the book club) told me that Lifelong Learners needed a treasurer...and what an easy office this would be. They neglected to tell me that there were three different 'bank' accounts, but they did say that the Office Manager, Pam, was a 'peach' to work with, and that is true. You now know more than you ever wanted to know about your treasurer.



*"How beautiful the leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days." John Burroughs*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Melodie Andrews  
Susie Carlin  
Richard Chambers  
Jack Considine  
Dave & Dee Czech  
Tom Dahlen  
Owen Dundas  
Stacey R Edwards Jones  
Linda Engstrom

Gretta Handke  
Kay Herbst Helms  
Maggie Jones  
Denise Kiecker  
Bruce Kinsella  
Lori Krueger  
Amy Magnus  
Debra Malmanger  
Jim Muyres

Bruce Nowlin  
Marcia & Ronald Olason  
Linda Schmeckpeper  
Paul Sobocinski  
Ann Stewart  
Don Strasser  
Art Westphal

**We look forward to meeting you at our events and welcome your suggestions.**

## SPRING SOCIAL

Joyce Sandry

Spring will soon be here! Yes, yes ... we must first get through the fall and winter, but time goes by so quickly, and before you know it, it will be time for the Lifelong Learners annual Spring Social. This next year, the Membership Committee is thinking of changing things "up" a bit. Maybe a musical event? Perhaps some dance? A Poet? Artist? Theater? We are open to suggestions to provide a fun way to meet new members and brag a bit about our great organization. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact Joyce Sandry at [katosandry@gmail.com](mailto:katosandry@gmail.com) and include your preferred contact information.



Mason City July Tour Group

*"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone." - Andy Rooney*

## BLUE EARTH COUNTY FAIR

Tricia Nienow

Florida, Arizona, California. I wondered if anyone from the Mankato area was going to visit our Lifelong Learners booth at Blue Earth County Fair on Senior Day. And then they came, interested in us and our programs, and signing up for door prizes granting each winner free attendance to two Lifelong Learner presentations. Elizabeth Peters ably headed the booth with help from Tim and Deb Sutton and Tricia Nienow. Behind the scenes, organizing and preparing materials was Pam Blair, office manager, whose help assured that all went smoothly.

## NEW DINING GROUPS BEING FORMED

74 members are participating in the September-December Dining Groups. If you are not currently involved and wish to join an evening or lunch group, please let us know! Contact Pam by calling 507-3889-2011 or emailing [LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu](mailto:LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu).



For those who missed the presentation on healthcare, *Fix It*, a documentary film by Vincent Mondillo and Richard Master, is available for check-out in the office library.

Clip and Save

### Mankato Area Lifelong Learners Coupon

This coupon allows any prospective member to attend one quarterly presentation at no charge.  
(Excludes Great Decisions and Special Events)

Limit one coupon per person. No duplicated coupons are accepted.

Coupon expires June 30, 2019

\$10 Value

\$10 Value

Know someone who would enjoy Lifelong Learners? Clip this coupon for them!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

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## Save the Dates

Afternoon Tea

Curiosi-Tea House

October 11

December 6\* (Holiday Tea)

\*registration required

Holiday Luncheon

Mankato Golf Club

Friday, December 14

Tom Hanson Returns

Saturday, January 19

## HOLIDAY AFTERNOON TEA (HIGH TEA)

Harriet Plotz

The Afternoon Tea Group invites all members to attend our special Holiday Afternoon Tea on Thursday, December 6, 2-4 p.m. at the recently relocated Curiosi-Tea House at 1745 Commerce Drive, North Mankato.

The three-course menu and tables decorated with holiday linens and china will delight us as we sample savory finger sandwiches, scones, fruits and holiday treats, all served on tiered trays.

The \$16 cost per person is payable at the Curiosi-Tea House.

Register by calling or emailing the office by December 3. Seating is limited, so register early!

### OFFICERS:

#### President

Georgia Holmes

#### Vice President

Mary Jo Surprenant

#### Treasurer

Nancy Zwick

#### Secretary

JoAnn Rom

### Past President

David Allan

### Members At Large

Andy Foster

Joyce Sandry

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

#### Admin & Finance Co-Chairs

David Janovy

Rallah Madison

### Presentations Chair

Sue Howard

### Great Decisions Co-Chairs

Bruce Birkemeyer

Elizabeth Peters

### Membership Chair

#### Publicity

Joe Hogan

### Special Events Co-Chairs

Bruce Birkemeyer

Mary Bliesmer

### SOCIAL GROUPS CHAIRS:

#### Afternoon Tea

Harriet Plotz

#### Book Club

Jim Booker

#### Bridge

Mary Bliesmer

### DINING GROUP CHAIRS:

#### Pot Luck

Jan Rozeboom

#### Restaurant

Harriet Plotz

#### Soup Supper:

Kathryn Hanson

### OFFICE MANAGER

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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