

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

David Janovy

A Year in Review

As the song says, "It Was a Very Good Year." Due to the dedication and hard work of our Council and committee members, a lot of good things happened in our organization. Here are a few of those good things. We sponsored three well-attended community events: Maud Hixon, Tom Hanson, and the Russian Ukrainian presentation. A cooperative relationship has been established with Gustavus Adolphus College to enhance our membership base and make way for other joint activities. We produced over fifty classes on a wide variety of topics. (FIFTY !) We have a new logo and clarified our identity by avoiding the use of "MALL" and stressing that we are "Lifelong Learners." Our unit partnership with Minnesota State Mankato was changed to the Chesley Center on Aging as our missions closely coincide. We have had modest membership growth but, of course, welcome new members at any time. We have a formal account within the Minnesota State Mankato Foundation to which gifts and bequests can be sent for our benefit. (Fully deductible.) We became a member of the Minnesota Council on Nonprofits, a valuable resource as we move forward. Our Great Decisions program has flourished with over 60 members this year. Those of us in the Dining Groups and Chef's Choice ate well. Special Events took us to Luverne and the Hapsburg

Exhibit at the MIA. We developed a close relationship with the Free Press which has led to several articles spotlighting our activities. Yes—it was a very good year. As we soon move into a new membership period, we can be proud of what we do and have done.

We do, however, have challenges. The greatest among these is that our fiscal situation does not allow us to take actions to promote growth both in numbers and programming. (We get no money from Minnesota State Mankato—only valuable in-kind support.) We will be actively seeking external funding in the coming year and also inviting you to help in building a stronger and sustainable organization for us and for future Lifelong Learners.

Hoping to see you at the annual meeting on September 24 at Old Main Village. Our speaker is Don Ebel, Ph.D., Director of the Aging Studies program and the Chesley Center on Aging at Minnesota State Mankato. Paul Hustoles and his troupe will also stop by to entertain us. A final thought:

"That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way."

– Doris Lessing

Special Events Policy

Doris Gasteiro

When you register for a special event, it has to be paid in advance because we have made commitments which have to be honored. If you find you cannot attend after you have paid for an event and if there is a waiting list, someone from the list may be called to take your place. If there is no waiting list, you may find a replacement but we cannot give refunds because we have already committed to certain costs involved in the trip. Members pay the stated charge. Non-members may attend by paying \$10 more than the member price, with the understanding that members get first chance at all events. We hope that non-members will realize that paying dues of \$25 per year is better than paying the extra charge for attending Lifelong Learner events.

GREAT DECISIONS

Elizabeth Peters - Bruce Birkemeyer

Great Decisions meets the second Wednesday of the month from 2-4 P.M. at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato. Our last seminar for 2015 will be November 10. This continues to be a popular program with knowledgeable speakers followed by discussion. The registration for Great Decisions 2016 will be e-mailed in early November to all Lifelong Learners members.

- September 9 - **SYRIA'S REFUGEE CRISIS:**
Bill Davnie, former diplomat
- October 14 - **PRIVACY in the DIGITAL AGE:**
Chuck Woodbury, St. Paul
- November 10 - **HUMAN TRAFFICING IN THE 21st CENTURY:** Randy Czeswik, St. Paul, co-founder of the Mankato Great Decisions Group

For questions, please call
Elizabeth Peters 385-1685 or
Bruce Birkemeyer 388-3510.

2015 RESTAURANT GROUP REPORT

Harriet Plotz

The Restaurant Group program has become very popular with Lifelong Learners and continues to grow. This program offers an opportunity to meet new people and try new and different dining experiences in the Mankato area. Currently, we have about 70 people that like to dine together with 18 of these people selecting a "Lunch Only" option.

Dining groups are formed at random with seven to nine people in each group. The group composition changes three times a year: September - December, January - April, and May - August. Usually groups dine together four times during each period.

We hope you can join us.

To register: Lifelong Learners Office - 507-389-2011
email: lifelonglearners@mnsu.edu

Questions: Harriet Plotz - 507-387-3990
hplotz@hickorytech.net

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Elizabeth Peters



New member coffee will be held on **Saturday, October 17** at the home of Elizabeth Peters. This event is a great opportunity for new members to meet each other, meet the committee heads and Council members, and learn about volunteer opportunities.

Please phone Elizabeth (507-385-1685) AFTER October 1 to let the membership committee know that you will be attending and to get directions.

THE ARTS PROJECT

Jack Kent

Mankato Area Lifelong Learners is partnering with the Carnegie Gallery in conducting a series of 5 art participation work shops to be held at the Gallery, (the old library on Broad Street). We feel the Carnegie is an excellent resource for us to explore member interest in the Arts.



The series will include: Water Color Painting, Print Making, Art Photography, Drawing and An Active Overview of the Arts. Class size is limited depending on the topic being presented. The first workshop, Water Color Painting is limited to 5 participants. This is done to ensure that the instructor, Bob Williams, has time to work with each participant. If we develop a waiting list for this workshop, a second session will be scheduled in the near future. The first workshop will be held at 2 P.M. on **October 9, 16 & 23** at the gallery. Cost is \$35 plus \$10-15 for supplies.

Future workshops have not been scheduled yet, nor has the costs or class size been determined. We hope to get all 5 scheduled over the winter months.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mankato Area Lifelong Learners extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Hilda Parks
Carolyn Swan

Janice Miller Gorman
Hal and Sandra Walberg

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Doris Gasteiro

Three-part Learning Event

The Mayo family is a vital part of our southern Minnesota history. Lifelong Learners has put together a series of offerings to acquaint us with their lives and heritage in the field of medicine in Minnesota.

On **September 25th**, the Presentations Committee is offering a trip to Le Sueur to see the Mayo house, home of the parents of the Mayo brothers, where Dr. Will was born. (Dr. Charlie was born in Rochester.)

On **October 2nd** there will be a presentation on the art displayed at the Rochester Mayo Clinic. Then on **Wednesday, October 2st**, the Special Events Committee has a trip planned to Rochester for a guided tour of the former home of Dr. Charles H. Mayo, co-founder of the world renowned Mayo Clinic. This historic Mayowood Mansion has its original furnishings. After lunch at Chester's, we will have a tour of the Mayo Clinic art to see first-hand the art we learned about on Oct. 2nd.

Register with the Lifelong Learners office and pay for the Rochester trip by **October 9th**. Cost is \$55, including the entrance fee for Mayowood. Lunch is on your own at Chester's. We leave Mankato from Madison East NW side at 8:30 A.M. and return to Mankato about 4:30 P.M.

Guided Tour of Arts Center of St. Peter

Mankato Area Lifelong Learners are invited to the Arts Center of St. Peter at 2 P.M. on **Friday, October 9th**, for a guided tour of the juried Art Exhibition. This is a wonderful opportunity, without hours of travel, to see this exhibit. The address is 315 South Minnesota Avenue. Parking is scarce so car pool as much as possible. Call Doris 386-0476 if you can drive or if you need a ride. If you arrive before 2 P.M., you can browse on your own, and then at 2 P.M. our guide will tell us about some of the art pieces and answer questions. The art exhibition is free but donations are welcomed.

*Thank You
Doris Gasteiro*

for giving Lifelong Learners a
coffee pot!

PRESENTATIONS

Carlienne Frisch

The Presentations Committee (formerly the Curriculum Committee) strives to offer variety every quarter. Among fall quarter's topics are living in China, the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and the controversy over the Confederate battle flag.



Are you ready to board a plane to China, to spend six months living and working there—and traveling with a toddler? You can do so vicariously as Joel and Susie Carlin describe their experiences. How did they feel about representing our country when Joel taught at China's first liberal arts undergraduate college? What experiences were the most poignant? In addition to describing their day-to-day life in China, the Carlins will address questions of Chinese and American perceptions of each country at an evening presentation on **Wed., Nov. 18**.



If it's controversy that interests you, join local historian and teacher Bryce Stenzel, M.A., in discussing the Confederate battle flag. Should states and individuals have the right to display this flag? What meanings can we ascribe to its display—a statement of racial hatred, an expression of individual freedom, the flying of an historic symbol, or...? Join the fray the afternoon of **Sat., Nov. 7**.

Do you appreciate the soaring melodies of Phantom of the Opera, the innovative tunes of Cats, or the energizing music of Jesus Christ Superstar? Andrew Lloyd Webber's diverse and creative compositions are the topic of a two-part series, "Marvelous Musical Melodies," offered the afternoons of **Oct. 15 and Oct. 22**. Dr. Albert Wortman, who directed 50 musicals during his 30 years as a Minnesota State Mankato music professor, will provide musical clips of many of Webber's pieces and a discussion of the works of this musical genius.



A Word for the Wise

What you leave behind is not what is
engraved in stone monuments,
But what is woven into the lives of others.

~Pericles



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THE LUVERNE TRIP

Bruce Birkemeyer

The twelve of us who went on the Luverne Trip on July 17th had a riotous time. Merrill Frydendall identified the native prairie plants and the birds we heard and saw as we toured Blue Mounds State Park where the bison are coming from this fall to Minneopa.

Gary Peterson, a new member originally from Luverne, guided us on the trip. The Jim Brandenburg photography collection in the old Rock County jail was interesting. The second floor of the jail houses the WWII artifacts collection. This left us in awe. Many of us want to go back and spend more time there. The third floor displays artifacts from the wars after the Second World War.

There was much sharing of reactions to what we saw on the way home. Those of you who didn't go really missed a great outing.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

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