



Lifelong Learners

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Newsletter

Spring 2014

“Lifelong Learning for Age 50 and Over”

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

Rallah Madison

I cannot speak for all of you, but I was pleased that some of the ice and snow finally started to melt. It has been a “long hard winter” so to say. Likewise for Lifelong Learners, at least so far as finances are concerned. Since almost all of our revenue is obtained from membership payments and curriculum class registrations it is difficult to make ends meet unless we are continually growing in numbers. There are some exciting opportunities to participate in upcoming fund raising events but those will most likely not meet our financial needs. Our program events strive to break even, but are not designed to be money making. There is a crucial need for some creative thinking – and

action – in terms of fund raising for Lifelong Learners as an organization. Do any of you know of someone who has an interest/talent/passionate desire to get involved in that endeavor? Several have expressed an interest in “helping” to do that, but we need a willing, inspired leader to convene a group to make that happen. There have been some discussions with the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Development to provide a window through which bequests could be funneled through the Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation for the benefit of Lifelong Learners, but that does not help us at the moment. Please give it some thought. Take Action!

A BRIEF LOOK AT BRUCE BIRKEMEYER COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

In the spring of 1999 I retired from a thirty-six year career in secondary education. I taught economic theory to seniors, critical thinking to juniors and seniors and oral communications to sophomores. In the 1970’s I created the critical thinking curriculum to better prepare students for college. Having the equivalent of a double major in social studies and speech I coached debate, directed plays and coached students for speaking contest.

In 1964 I graduated from Mankato State University, followed by summers of graduate work.

I also did graduate work in acting at San Diego State, environmental studies at Wisconsin University – Superior, and many summers of grant studies in foreign relations at the University of Iowa.

From 2002 to 2012 I served as Lay Leader at Centenary United Methodist Church. While Lay Leader I was appointed to the Apportionment Committee of the Southwest District. Now I’m on the State United Methodist Foundation Board. Occasionally, I teach an adult class on literature with religious insights.

Continued page 2

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Elizabeth Peters

More than thirty members braved the frigid temperatures on Saturday, March 1, to visit with other new members, hear from committee chairs about the activities available to Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, and learn about ways to participate while enjoying coffee and cookies.

We met at the Fellowship Hall at the United Church of Christ in Mankato. Nancy Croce played lively piano music as people arrived.

Thanks to the membership committee members for planning, phoning, and organizing the event. They are: Nancy Croce, Pru Gushwa, Linda Karow, Sandy Mutch and Elizabeth Peters. Thanks to Anita Dittrich for organizing the flyer and thanks to all the committee chairs that attended and described the program.



A Brief Look...continued from page 1:

During the summer months I pursue my rock hobby. I prospect for rocks and minerals, cut and polish them. Using my artistic eye I make jewelry and prepare specimens for show. In 2005, in St Louis, Missouri I was awarded first place in the nation by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in the lapidary arts. I had entered into completion a display of polished stones visually telling the story of the "Lord of the Rings". The three judges from across the U. S. said it was the most creative thing they had ever seen done with stones.

In the cold, dark days of winter I like to write. So far I have had one short story published. In 2009 I won the Minnesota play writers contest with a choral reading about school kids having the flu. Last winter I finished a series of short stories about old men. I respected each of these men for how they handled life, differently – lessons for all of us there. One of my pieces is in the Life Long Learners book, "Reminiscing" put together by Robert Utermohlen and Harold Butch. I've written a humorous novel about two rabbits told through the dairy written by one of them. Written from a rabbit's point-of-view you will fall off your chair laughing.

I consider myself retired, but I still farm. My city friends call me a dirt farmer. I doubt it will be of use to the Life Long Learners Council, but I can tell you anything you want to know about soils.

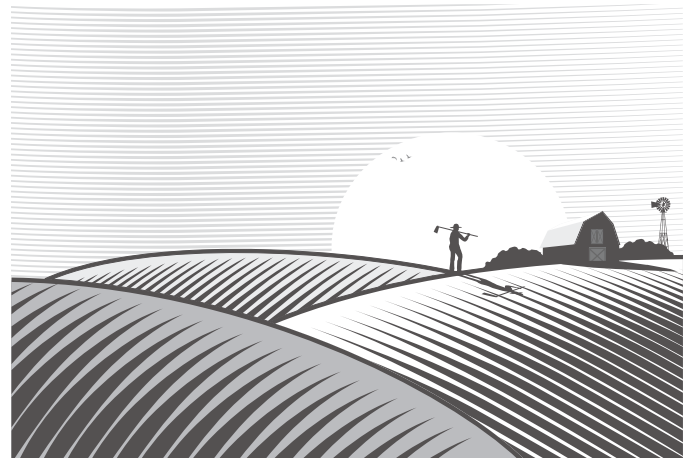
NOTE: Bruce Birkemeyer will be the Great Decisions speaker on Wednesday, April 9. The topic is **FOOD AND CLIMATE**.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Marlene Buker	John Sandry
Carol Deremeo	Sharon Schindle
Paul Dumdei	Christa Schloesser
Marcella Eilders	Evelyn Solo
Nancy Fenrick	Mary Stokman
Linda Giersdorf	Vera Trio
Maruta Grean	Lynda Tweten
Jan Hess	Phyllis Wisen
Patricia Jones	Patty Wright
Lori Pommerenke	

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



GREAT DECISIONS

Elizabeth Peters and Jack Kent

The third season of GREAT DECISIONS begins on Wednesday, April 9, with Bruce Birkemeyer leading the discussion on FOOD AND CLIMATE. On May 14, Bill Davnie, from Minneapolis, a returning speaker at Great Decisions, will discuss ISLAMIC AWAKENING. Paul Brandon leads the topic of ENERGY INDEPENDENCE on June 11 and Dwain Petersen will present TURKEY'S CHALLENGES on July 9.

Meetings of Great Decisions are held the second Wednesday of the month from 2:00-3:30. We have a new meeting place this season at Honsey Hall on the Bethany Lutheran College campus. Those registered for Great Decisions will receive a reminder e-mail, with specific meeting and parking directions. Briefing books can be picked up at the Mankato Lifelong Learners office in the Wiecking Center on the University campus, mornings 9-12.

2014 50+ LIFESTYLE EXPO

Elizabeth Peters

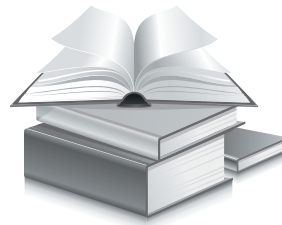
This year the EXPO has a new name, and a new time! The 50+ LIFESTYLE EXPO will be held at the Verizon Center, Tuesday, May 13, 2014, from 2:00-7:00 P.M. This will be the 10th year of the EXPO. MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS will have a booth and volunteers are needed to staff it for an hour or two during the EXPO.

It's fun to be at the booth, talk about MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS, meet people and have an opportunity to see the rest of the exhibits. The LIFESTYLE EXPO is a great way to be involved for a short time.

Please call the office (389-2011) and suggest a time that is good for you to help at the booth.

BARNES & NOBLE HOSTS BOOKFAIR TO BENEFIT MANKATO AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

Karen Sandersfeld

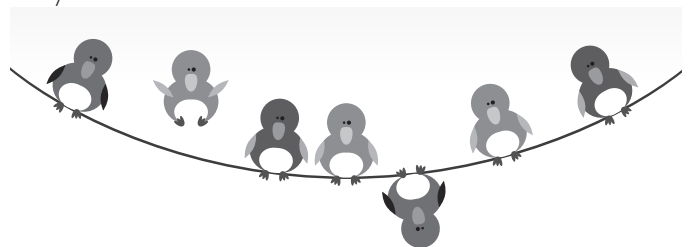


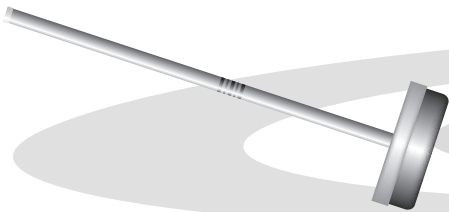
Support Mankato Area Lifelong Learners on Friday, May 2, 2014, at Barnes & Noble in the River Hills Mall. MALL is working together with Barnes & Noble Booksellers by hosting this bookfair.

Barnes & Noble will contribute a percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher to MALL. Vouchers are included with this newsletter. They will also be available at the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners office. Another way you can support MALL is by shopping online at www.bn.com/bookfairs from May 2 to May 7 and include the Bookfair voucher ID on the payment page during checkout.

During the Bookfair on Friday, May 2 we will host two special events. Beginning at 10:30 A.M. MALL member Merrill Frydendall, Professor Emeritus Minnesota State University, Mankato, will present, "Spring Birds of Minnesota." Merrill is well known for the many Birding Walks he conducts for members. At 1 P.M. Al Batt, humorist and storyteller from rural Hartland Minnesota, will join the event. Al has entertained audiences around the globe and he is certain to have a tale for us. His new book is, A Life Gone To The Birds.

Please help Mankato Area Lifelong Learners by shopping at Barnes & Noble at the River Hills Mall on Friday, May 2, 2014 with a Bookfair voucher or shopping online at www.bn.com/bookfairs from May 2-7.

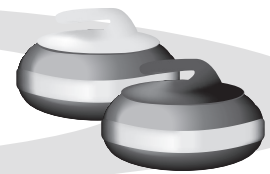




COMMUNITY ADVENTURES

The Curling Tradition

Tricia Nienow



A unique tradition in the Greater Mankato Area that sets it aside from most communities is the unique Scottish sport of curling. Its official origins go back to 1866 when the Blue Earth Valley Burns Club was established in the home of Joseph Dobie Sr. near the Village of Mapleton. However, we know the Scottish settlers curled on the Maple River before Minnesota became a state. By 1896 an improved outdoor rink was created in the Village of Mapleton. It had the advantage of being able to draw water from the town's water tower, making it possible to create better ice. In 1904 – 1905 curling became more formalized and the organization was incorporated as the Heather Curling Club. An indoor facility with two sheets of ice and a viewing area was built. The current ice rink, built in 1950, continues to be the highlight of winter life in Mapleton and surrounding community.

However, this curious sport did not stop in Mapleton. In 1903 parties in Mankato became interested in curling and formed a club. Today, The Mankato Curling Club (formally the Caledonia Curling Club) is a vibrant part of the Mankato community.

Mankato and Mapleton curlers participate in their respective bonspiels. Curling enthusiasts enjoy viewing these competitive games in a comfortable gathering spot conducive to the social traditions.

Curlers appreciate their modern facilities which provide indoor precision ice, and a warm viewing area; made possible through member's hard work and generous support. However, on occasion there is a harkening back to curling's early years. For the past six winters, during Waseca's Sleigh and Cutter Festival, curling on Clear Lake's frozen ice has become a growing and favorite feature of their festival. An outdoor curling event on Bass Lake has also been held during the winter months. This year they held a 21 team bonspiel.

This lifelong sport with its Scottish tradition, understood etiquette, and strange vocabulary remained largely out of the national spotlight until 1998 when it achieved the status of an Olympian sport. Curling had come unto its own and the eyes of the world were watching. The eyes of the Greater Mankato Area were watching too, as a curler from Mapleton was on the 2014 Olympic team.

Information for this article came from area curlers and the following websites:

www.mapletoncurlingclub.org/
www.mankatocurling.org/

Interested readers are encouraged to check out these sites.



NOBEL CONFERENCE

Joyce Sandry




Nobel Conference 50 will be held October 7 and 8, 2014. Gustavus provided the following information. "Nobel Conference 50: Where Does Science Go From Here? will be an assembly primarily of previous Nobel Conference participants in all areas of science, economics, and mathematics and as is our tradition, will include philosophers and theologians to help us put it all in perspective."

Information regarding ticket pricing for Lifelong Learner members will be provided as soon as it is available.

SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

A One Stop Shop
for Minnesota Seniors
1-800-333-2433
www.MinnesotaHelp.info
website for resources
connected to
Senior Linkage Line

PLEASE SEE CLASS SCHEDULE FOR CLASSES AND PRESENTATIONS LOCATIONS.

APRIL						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Medieval World DVD Series 2-4 P.M.	4	5
6	7	8	9 Great Decisions 2-3:30 P.M.	10 Medieval World DVD Series 2-4 P.M.	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			 Midwest Lifelong Learners Conference			
20	21	22 The Terrorist Threat 2-4 P.M.	23	24 Medieval World DVD Series 2-4 P.M.	25	26
27	28	29	30 Understanding Pain 2-4 P.M.			

MAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Birding Walks 8-10 A.M.	2 Bookfair ALL DAY	3
4	5	6	7	8 Medieval World DVD Series 2-4 P.M.	9	10 Birding Walks 8-10 a.m.
11	12	13 Carnegie Art Center Tour 2-4 P.M. 50+ Lifestyle Expo 2-7 P.M.	14 Great Decisions 2-3:30 P.M.	15 Birding Walks 8-10 A.M. Inevitability of Change 6:30-8:30 P.M.	16	17 Special Event: Lost Front Street Excursion 1-3 P.M.
18	19	20	21	22 Medieval World DVD Series 2-4 P.M.	23	24 Birding Walks 8-10 A.M.
25	26	27	28	29 Birding Walks 8-10 A.M.	30	31 Prairie Tours 10 A.M.- NOON

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JUNE						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Chankaska Winery Tour 1-3 P.M.
8	9	10	11 Great Decisions 2-3:30 P.M.	12	13	14
15	16 Epicurean Experience Part 2 7-9 P.M.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Prairie Tours 10 A.M.- NOON
29	30					



MIDWEST LIFELONG LEARNING CONFERENCE

The second annual Midwest Lifelong Learning Conference will be held April 16-18 at the Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Il. The conference promoters provided the following information. "This year's theme is Engagement. Presenters and participants will address the challenges of engaging learners, communities, volunteers and instructors as the concepts of leisure time and retirement continue to evolve. Small group settings and dynamic discussions will enhance the conference theme for your lifelong learning group."

For more information see
<http://eucontinuingeducation.cmail3.com/t/y-l-tuidihy-gdrkuhdm-y/>>

CORRECTION

In the winter edition of the Newsletter, Joe Hogan was not given credit for the article entitled: Spread the Word About Lifelong Learners and the /s/ was omitted from Learners. This was an error of the editor.

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

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Admin & Finance: Rosemary Kinne
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 Publicity: Joe Hogan
 Special Events: Kay VanBuskirk

Pot Luck

Co-Chairs:

Great Decisions Group

Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Peters
 Jack Kent

Bridge:

Co-Chairs: Mary Bliesmer

Food Groups:

Chair: Jan Rozeboom

Book Club

Chair: John Gushwa

Outdoor Activities

Chair: Pru Gushwa

Classic Film Club:

Chair: Matthew Sewell

Nobel Conference

Chair: Joyce Sandry

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