INVITE A FRIEND … “TO PROMOTE VITALITY IN LATER YEARS”!

The good news: Thank you for the positive feedback we have received on many Lifelong Learners activities from educational presentations to social activities to Great Decisions. First Friday at the Movies is very popular, and the tea, lunch, and dinner groups as well as the bridge, 500, and book groups all enjoy good turnouts.

The other good news: With our current 226 members, we are making progress towards our goal of regaining our pre-pandemic membership of 250. We will need at least that many to keep a balanced budget in the next fiscal year while honoring our commitment to keeping membership fees the same.

The invitation: Our membership grows largely through personal conversations and invitations. Tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives about Lifelong Learners! Give them a copy of our latest newsletter and invite them to join. A Silver Membership costs only $35, a bargain for our many options that fulfill our mission “to promote vitality in later years.”

LIFELONG LEARNING TIDBITS

Local libraries offer access to e-books, including audiobooks through the Libby app. All you need is a valid library card. You can download the app to your smartphone at overdrive.com and listen to audiobooks while exercising or waiting in the car. This avoids trips to the library, and there are no fines for late returns. Instructions are available through Blue Earth County Library or the North Mankato Taylor Library.

Blue Earth County Library offers Materials by Mail for rural residents and those with accessibility issues. Contact that library to see if you qualify.

GREAT DECISIONS 2024

The Mankato Area Lifelong Learners Great Decisions Program will kick off on April 10th at the Pioneer Bank Community Room with a presentation by Henry Berman on the topic of Mideast Realignment. Henry is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Global Minnesota and an expert on the Middle East. He is a retired businessman who worked at Ecolab for 34 years. Henry has ties to the Middle East region and has spent much time there in the last decade. He has a strong interest in this ever-changing and turbulent part of the world. Additional presentations this quarter will be on May 8th and June 12th. The updated schedule will be provided at a later date to registrants.
Lucky Lindy Coming April 22nd to Mankato Lifelong Learners!

The year, 2024, marks the 97th anniversary of Lindbergh’s historic non-stop, solo flight across the Atlantic from New York to Paris. To commemorate this historic event, Arn Kind, of Historical Experiences, Inc. brings to you:

Lucky Lindy: Charles Lindbergh’s Amazing Transatlantic Flight

In an age when countless passengers fly across the oceans every day, it is difficult for us to truly appreciate what a magnificent feat Lindberg accomplished. At a time when the development of airplanes was still in its infancy and many did not think airplanes had what it takes to make such a trip, Lindbergh refused to listen to the naysayers and searched for and eventually helped to design a plane that could do it. Completing this flight would not just be technologically challenging, but it would prove to be physically challenging as well. Because Lindbergh insisted on making the flight on his own, he had to stay awake at the controls of his plane for the entire 33.5-hour flight, navigating across the trackless Atlantic—a truly amazing feat. Arn Kind, a historian and teacher for 46 years will bring this story to life on April 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the North Mankato Fire Hall #2. The cost is $5.

Maud Hixson Returns with Rick Carlson Trio - April 13, 2024

Maud Hixson is a Twin Cities native who recently made her third appearance at Jazz in New York City’s Lincoln Center. She received a Bistro Award for her 2023 album recording: Permanent Moonlight— the Songs of Richard Rodney Bennett. She has been described as “gently virtuosic”. “Her vocal style is warm, intimate, and compelling”. Her musical storytelling will captivate your heart.

Maud returns for another fundraiser at the Wow Zone, Mankato. The jazz and swing concert benefits the Betsy-Tacy Society, the Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, and the Mankato Area Rotary. Dinner is available from 5-7pm and music is from 7-9pm. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at (507)-381-4279 or pam@wowzonefec.com.

Tour of MSU Jet Simulator and Mankato Airport - June 27, 2024

MSU, Mankato and NorthStar Aviation are excited to have us tour the facilities of one of the largest aviation programs in the country. We will start our tour on campus in the jet simulation room where aviation students take their final flights before leaving for the airlines. At the airport we will tour the facilities and see the fleet of Piper Aircraft trainers, maintenance facilities, meet with students in the MSU aviation program and hopefully enjoy blue sunny skies where you will see students in flight.

Locations: (1) Our tour will start with the jet simulator on campus in Wiecking Center. Park in the #18 Gold parking lot on Ellis Avenue near the corner of Ellis & Birch St. Enter through the doors on the east side of Wiecking.(2) At approximately 2:45 pm everyone will drive themselves from campus out to the Mankato Airport at 3030 N. Airport Road, where we will reconvene, and the remainder of our tour will take place.

Cost of the event is $5. Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Betty Felbrugge  Darlene Korstad  Susan Lake
Gail Lindfors  Becky Weiss
#1: Tuesdays, Apr 9 – Jul 2, 2-4 p.m. Play Ball! The Rise of Baseball as America’s Pastime* (Not just for baseball fans!)  
*Published by the Great Courses, Copyright: The Teaching Company  
**Note:** Member fee is $20 for entire course.  
The story of baseball is, in many ways, the story of America itself. The Great Courses collaborated with the National Baseball Hall of Fame to produce a course which strikes the perfect balance between sports lore & cultural history. Starting in the early-19th century and ending in 1920 when a sense of uniformity in the game was finally achieved, this course is about the history and cultural significance of baseball and its relationship to national events. 24 short lectures guide you through decades of experimentation, change, controversy, and triumph. You will encounter early baseball giants, learn the origins of everything from catcher’s masks to batting averages, and hear the true stories of how women, African Americans, and others overcame adversity on and off the diamond. Each week we will show two 30-minute lectures and supplement those with a relevant video from YouTube, leaving 30-minutes for discussion. We also plan to include a baseball movie (to be determined) as a mid-course break. Note: If you can’t make it every week, that’s okay.  
A more detailed description, including lecture titles and a trailer, can be found here:  
Presenters: Steve and Wes Gilbert. Father-and-son team. Wes fell in love with baseball as a young child, played on Mankato’s traveling teams as a youth, and is a rabid Twins fan with a deep understanding of the history and nature of the game. His daytime job is as the owner and CEO of Mankato Computer Technology. Steve is a retired MSU faculty member who grew up rooting for Mantle and Maris and rediscovered baseball later in life when he had a son who rekindled his interest in the sport.  
Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato  
Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#2: Thursday, Apr 11, 2-4 p.m. — Out of the Ashes: How the Great Chicago Fire Changed American Cities — and America Itself  
Scott W. Berg, author of *38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow, and the Beginning of the Frontier’s End*, returns to discuss his new book, *The Burning of the World: The Great Chicago Fire and the War for a City’s Soul*, an engrossing look at the fire itself and the surprisingly bitter and hard-fought battles for control of the city that took place in its aftermath. Then as now, disaster meant tragedy for some and opportunity for others, as the hairline cracks between political coalitions that had existed before the Great Fire swiftly turned into seismic rifts that would change the very nature of American cities.  
Location: Zoom only (Register to receive the Zoom link by e-mail.)  
Sponsor: Steve Gilbert
#3: **Friday, Apr 19, 2 - 4 p.m. — Tomatoes, Vine Crops, Beans and More- Container Gardening with Vegetables**
Joyce Wilcox has presented for Mankato Area LLL many times and always comes loaded with new, practical, and creative ideas. With little rain in sight, this is a good time to plan for and get started on container gardening.
Presenter: **Joyce Wilcox**, Master Gardener, is chairperson of the MN River Valley Master Gardener Group.
*Location:* Messiah Lutheran Church, 1706 Lee Blvd, North Mankato  
*Sponsor:* Anne Fletcher

#4: **Thursday, April 25, 2 - 4 p.m.— Minnesota Doctors for People: What Are They About?**
MN Doctors for People is a team of volunteers composed of physicians, nurses, interpreters, and lay people who provide free and compassionate healthcare to the underserved people living in the remote areas of Mexico and Guatemala. Over the years, 15,000 patients have been served during 35 trips and 350 volunteers.
Presenter: **Dr. Richard Peller**, Family Physician, Mankato Clinic. A native of Bloomington, MN, Dr. Peller received his medical training at the University of Minnesota.
*Location:* Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato  
*Sponsor:* Tricia Nienow

#5: **Monday, April 29, 2 - 4 p.m. — Nutrition for Senior Health**
April Graff will present how to select and prepare foods for a healthy lifestyle for Seniors. She will also talk about using fresh herbs and ingredients for taste and nutrition.
Presenter: **April Graff, MS, RD, LD**, is a Dietitian for Hy-Vee Inc.
*Location:* Messiah Lutheran Church, 1706 Lee Blvd, North Mankato  
*Sponsor:* Greg Suskovic

#6: **Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 - 10 a.m. — Spring Bird Walks**
6a: May 2—Rasmussen Park Nature Center, Rasmussen Woods Road (off Stoltzman Road) in Mankato. Meet at the nature center parking lot.
6b: May 9—Bray Park (Blue Earth County Park). US Hwy 14 E past Eagle Lake, left on Hwy. 60. Take first road (215) on right (sign for Bray Park), turn left (North) on Hwy. 48(623) to sign for Bray Park. Meet at cabin in camping area.
6c: May 16—William’s Nature Center, NW of the Williams Pipeline Co. on Hwy 68. Meet in the parking lot.
6d: May 23—Sakatah State Trail, Take County Hwy 3 (road between Menards and Fleet Farm) east until you come to a ‘T’. Turn left onto County Hwy 186. Go north ½ mile and turn left into a parking lot.
6e: May 25—Seven-Mile Creek, 7 miles north of Mankato on Hwy 169. Go left into park to the first picnic shelter.
6f: May 30—Indian Lake Conservation Area, State Hwy 66 through Skyline and continue toward Mt. Kato. Go left on gravel road before you get to Mt. Kato. Just before you get to County Hwy 90, turn left in the parking lot.
*Guides:* **Karen Frydendall and Sarah Suskovic**

#7: **Thursday, May 9, 2 - 4 p.m. — Not Written in Stone: History in History Textbooks**
Were the Sons of Liberty traitors or great patriots? Was the Alamo a significant event in US History? Did the US sink its own battleship just to start a war with Spain? The answer is...it depends on which history textbook you read. This program will talk about both older US history and international textbooks to discuss what they say about history and why they say it this way.
Presenter: **Kyle Ward**, Director of Social Studies Education, MSU, Mankato, author of seven books and a workbook series for high schools focused on both what history textbooks are teaching students, both in the US and around the world, as well as military history. He lives with his family in North Mankato
*Location:* Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St (Corner of Adams and Victory Drive), Mankato  
*Sponsor:* Steve Gilbert

#8: **Monday, May 13, 2 - 4 p.m. — Meditation: What It Is and What It Is Not**
Meditation can be practiced by anyone. Meditation is a practice of turning inward to learn about the inner workings of the mind and how thoughts and emotions shape perceptions. Bhante Sathi welcomes questions.
Presenter: **Bhante Sathi** was ordained in the Theravada tradition in his native country of Sri Lanka. He also became Bhikkhu and counseled people from many walks of life. In 2003 he made Minnesota his home and founded Triple Gem of the North. Bhante Sathi has since founded the Metta Meditation Center in Janesville and the Chaska Meditation Center. He gives presentations and workshops across the U.S. and in Sri Lanka. Bhante Sathi is also an avid pickleball player.
*Location:* Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato  
*Sponsor:* Tricia Nienow
#9:  Thursday, May 23, 2 - 4 p.m. — MY Place: How Our Community Came Together to Serve At-Risk Youth
MY Place opened its doors in 2018 to serve at-risk youth. Since that time, it has been working with the community to bring out-of- school opportunities to school-age kids who would not otherwise have access. Come for a presentation by the Executive Director followed by a tour of MY Place.
Presenter: Erin Simmons is the Executive Director since the start of the organization. Erin has lived in Mankato for 22 years with her husband and 4 kids. Prior to serving at MY Place, Erin worked for the American Lung Association.
Location: MY Place, 1315 Stadium Road, Mankato
Sponsor: Anne Fletcher

#10:  Wednesday, May 29, 2 - 4 p.m. — 1995 Mankato Meningitis Outbreak
Ms. Kris Ehresmann is an epidemiologist and served as the director of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division at the Minnesota Department of Health until her retirement in February 2022. As Director, she was responsible for health and immunization programs as well as emerging infections. Ms. Ehresmann has led numerous outbreak investigations including the COVID-19 response in Minnesota, but she will focus her presentation on the 1995 Mankato Meningitis Outbreak and the response by the MN Dept. of Health.
Presenter: Ms. Ehresmann received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Olaf College and her Master of Public Health in epidemiology from the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. Ms. Ehresmann teaches Epidemiology and Public Health at St. Olaf College. She is a member of Delta Omega National Public Health Honorary Society and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her scholarly activity includes publications in peer-reviewed journals and invited presentations at national meetings.
Location: Pioneer Bank Community Room 1450 Adams Street Mankato
Sponsor: Greg Suskovic

#11:  Wednesday, June 5, 2 - 4 p.m. — Voices and Silences: Understanding Stuttering
What do President Biden, James Earl Jones, and Emily Blunt have in common? All are people who have dealt with stuttering. Stuttering is a complex speech disorder that can significantly impact a person's quality of life, occupational and educational opportunities, as well as social behavior and relationships. Professor Strong will explain the basics of stuttering (causes and types), dispel common misconceptions, and showcase the human face of stuttering through video examples, illustrating how it affects people in terms of reduced verbal output, word avoidance, and decreased grammatical complexity. He will also discuss gender differences and the management of and recovery from stuttering. Our second speaker will be retired Minnesota State University, Mankato (MNSU) professor Tony Filipovich, Ph.D. who will share his personal story about stuttering.
The presentation will close with an enlightening TED talk by a performer who stutters.
Presenter: Wm. Eric Strong Ph.D., an American Speech-Language-Hearing Association-certified speech-language pathologist, has served families and children nationwide and in Canada as a clinical pediatric and school-based, speech-language pathologist for the past 33 years. Eric is a person who stutters and an Assistant Professor in the Speech, Hearing, and Rehabilitation Services Department at MNSU. His experience and expertise include stuttering, early childhood and school-age language disorders, and phonological and motor-speech disorders.
Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato
Sponsor: Anne Fletcher

#12:  Thursday, June 20, 2 - 4 p.m. — "Stay the Course": The Election of 1864
2024 is an election year. So was 1864 - one of the most critical in American history. The Civil War had been dragging on for over three years with no end in sight. Things had not gone well for the Union and the public blamed the president. Much was at stake: Lincoln’s re-election would mean the war would continue until the South surrendered. But it also meant that the Union would be preserved, and slavery abolished. The Election of 1864 would also prove that a democratically elected government- “a government of the people, by the people and for the people,” could survive - and this is the most significant legacy of this pivotal moment in American history.
Presenter: Bryce Stenzel, MA History, MSU, Mankato, teaches Social Studies in Janesville. He is a well-known costumed historical interpreter, author of books and articles on Lincoln and the Civil War era, and volunteer.
Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato
Sponsor: Steve Gilbert
2024 SPRING REGISTRATIONS & MEMBERSHIP FORM

Silver Membership: $35/year - Presentations $5 each  
Gold Membership: $140/year - Presentations included  
Registration prior to attendance requested.  
Non-member: Presentation $10

On-line Registration: link.mnsu.edu/lll  
Choose View Membership & Registration, then Registration

☐ New Member | ☐ Renewal | ☐ New Info  
☐ $35 Basic Membership — Member 1  
☐ $140 Bundled Membership — Member 1

Name: ________________________________  
Email: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________  
City/State/Zip: ___________________________

Phone: ______________________ Birth Year__________ Phone: ______________________ Birth Year__________

Annual Membership Fee(s)__________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MBR 1</th>
<th>MBR 2</th>
<th>PRESENTATIONS - $5 each *except series #1</th>
<th>SPECIAL EVENTS - $5 all members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ 1:</td>
<td>☐ 1:</td>
<td>*Tuesdays, Apr 9 - Jul 2 — Play Ball. $20 for the series.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2:</td>
<td>☐ 2:</td>
<td>Thurs, Apr 11 — Out of the Ashes: How the Great Chicago Fire Changed American Cities (Zoom only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 3:</td>
<td>☐ 3:</td>
<td>Fri, Apr 19 — Tomatoes, Vine Crops, Beans and More- Container Gardening with Vegetables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 4:</td>
<td>☐ 4:</td>
<td>Thurs, Apr 25 — Minnesota Doctors for People: What Are They About?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 5:</td>
<td>☐ 5:</td>
<td>Mon, Apr 29 — Nutrition for Senior Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6a:</td>
<td>☐ 6a:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 2 — Bird Walk at Rasmussen Park Nature Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6b:</td>
<td>☐ 6b:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 9 — Bird Walk at Bray Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6c:</td>
<td>☐ 6c:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 16 — Bird Walk at William’s Nature Center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6d:</td>
<td>☐ 6d:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 23 — Bird Walk at Sakatah State Trail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6e:</td>
<td>☐ 6e:</td>
<td>Sat, May 25 — Bird Walk at Seven-Mile Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 6f:</td>
<td>☐ 6f:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 30 — Bird Walk at Indian Lake Conservation Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 7:</td>
<td>☐ 7:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 9 — Not Written in Stone: History in History Textbooks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 8:</td>
<td>☐ 8:</td>
<td>Mon, May 13 — Meditation: What It Is and What It Is Not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 9:</td>
<td>☐ 9:</td>
<td>Thurs, May 23 — MY Place: How Our Community Came Together to Serve At-Risk Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 10:</td>
<td>☐ 10:</td>
<td>Wed, May 29 — 1995 Mankato Meningitis Outbreak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 11:</td>
<td>☐ 11:</td>
<td>Wed, June 5 — Voices and Silences: Understanding Stuttering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 12:</td>
<td>☐ 12:</td>
<td>Thurs, Jun 20 — &quot;Stay the Course&quot;: The Election of 1864</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SE:</td>
<td>☐ SE:</td>
<td>Mon, Apr 22 — Special Event Lucky Lindy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ SE:</td>
<td>☐ SE:</td>
<td>Thurs, June 27 — Special Event Tour of MSU Jet Simulator and Mankato Airport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Presentation Registrations ($5 each except #1)  
Special Event fees $5 for all members  
Total Presentation & SE Fees __________

Grand total all fees __________

Submit payment to Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, 129 Morris Hall, Mankato, MN 56001  
Questions? Contact the office at (507)389-2011 or email: lifelonglearners@mnsu.edu
Free Activities for All Members of Lifelong Learners

First Fridays Movie & Conversation
A monthly movie and conversation will be hosted on First Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. at Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato.
Upcoming movies:
Apr 5: The Quiet Girl (2022) Drama Rural Ireland 1981
Jun 7: The Railway Man (2013) Biography, Drama, Romance, War

For information on each film, enter the name of the movie in the search bar at imdb.com and find a trailer, director and cast list, run time and more. Trailers are also on YouTube. Organizers Ron Yezzi and Steve Gilbert select the movies and facilitate conversation afterwards. No need to pre-register but signing in to validate membership is required. See you there!

Coffee & Current Events meets via Zoom the fourth Friday of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. This monthly discussion group, hosted by Steve Gilbert and Georgia Holmes, is a welcoming place for members to come together for informal conversations about current affairs where we help one another try to make sense of the headlines and newscasts. There is no fee or required preparation and no commitment to attend every month. New members are welcome! To sign-up and receive the Zoom link for the next meeting, simply send an email to coffeeandcurrentevents@gmail.com

Lunch, Dining, and Sip & Chat meet monthly at local restaurants. All members are welcome to participate! Watch your emails for dates and times to join fellow members and their guests for food, fun, and lively conversation.

Our Bridge and 500 (NEW) card groups meet at the WOW Zone on the third Monday of each month at 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. If you’d like to participate in either of these groups, please contact the office.

Enjoy one or both of our Book Clubs. New members are always welcome.
Book Marks reads fiction and meets monthly on fourth Wednesdays.
History & Science book club reads non-fiction and meets at 2 p.m. quarterly second Thursdays in March, June, September & December. 2024 books chosen:
Apr 4 (rescheduled): The Burning of the World: The Great Chicago Fire and the War for a City’s Soul by Scott W. Berg
Sep 12: Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell
Dec 12: Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History by S.C. Gwynn

Want to see a new social activity? Contact the office to get it started.
Email LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu or call (507)389-2011
MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Special Events
Maud Hixson returns
Saturday, April 13, 7 - 9 pm
WOW Zone, Mankato

Arn Kind presents Lucky Lindy
Monday, April 22, 1 - 4 pm
North Mankato Fire Station #2

MSU and North Star Aviation Program Tour of Jet Simulator and Mankato Airport
Thursday, June 27, 2 - 5 pm
Part 1 - Jet Simulator Presentation • 2 - 2:45 pm
Wieking Center, MSU, Mankato
Part 2 - Airport Tour • 3 - 5 pm
Mankato Airport

DINING AT CURIOSITY TEA HOUSE
1745 Commerce Drive, North Mankato

Sip & Chat: Summer Fruit Pies - $5
- Tues, July 16 – Blueberry Pie
- Tues, Aug 20 – Peach Pie
- Tues, Sept 17 – Apple Pie

Afternoon Harvest Tea - $15
- Wed, Oct 30
E-mail or phone the office to reserve your seat.