

FALL QUARTER 2025 PRESENTATIONS

Presentations \$7 each for Silver members Registration prior to attendance requested.	Non-member fee: \$15 each session Gold members: Please register via email or phone.
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#1: Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m. October 14th through January 27 (no meeting on Nov 25 or Dec 23)

The Tudors & Why They Still Matter (The History of England Part 1) - Session #1

Number of Sessions: 14. Note: It's alright if you have to miss some.

Cost: Free for Gold members; \$25 for Silver members

Step into the thrilling world of the Tudor dynasty — a period of power, passion, and profound transformation that reshaped England and echoes through history to this day. In this dynamic course, you'll explore the rise of the Tudors, from Henry VIII's dramatic break with Rome to Elizabeth I's brilliant leadership and the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Along the way, you'll meet unforgettable characters and dive into scandalous stories of ambition, betrayal, intrigue, and romance. Uncover how sweeping changes in religion, politics, society, and the arts laid the groundwork for England's emergence as a global power — and how the seeds of modern America, constitutional government, and global exploration were sown in this unforgettable era. With all its glory and controversy, the Tudor age offers a captivating lens through which to understand the modern world.

The centerpiece of this course will be 27 lectures (30-minute each) from the Great Courses course "History of England from the Tudors to the Stuarts" by Professor Robert Bucholz. This course has 195 reviews of which 90% are 5 Stars and 6% are 4 Stars. A complete description, list of lectures and a trailer for the course can be found [here](#). The course lectures will be supplemented by host-curated material from YouTube, including videos on daily life, science and superstitions, and the music, art and literature of the Tudor period. We will also watch a theatrical film (to be determined) on the Tudor period.

Presenter: Steve Gilbert - Retired psychologist Steve Gilbert has read widely in British history. He has previously led courses for Lifelong Learners on Vincent Van Gogh, The Beatles, The History of Baseball, and How to Appreciate Great Movies. He plans to offer the second half of this course, on the Stuarts, in the Fall of 2026.

Location: Pathstone Latitude & Landing, 115 Rogers St., Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#2: Monday, October 20th, 2 – 4 p.m. – Growing Old Does Not Have to Mean Growing Weak

This talk debunks the commonly believed notion that we shouldn't be lifting heavy things as we age. We will go into detail on all the benefits of strength training as well as how to better gauge the intensity of your workouts. We will touch on some of the things that happen to our bodies as we get older and how a good strength training regimen can help us age "gracefully" to keep us as active as possible through the entirety of life. Presenter: Jake Nienow, DPT, Mankato Clinic. A Mapleton native, Jake Nienow began his career with the Mankato Clinic right after earning his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He has been practicing for eight years, treating a wide range of orthopedic injuries with a special focus on athletes of all ages. Jake's primary goal as a physical therapist is to help people return to the activities that bring them joy—and if that includes lifting some heavy weights along the way, even better. Outside the clinic, Jake enjoys time with his wonderful family and staying active himself, living the advice he gives his patients.

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Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#3: Thursday, October 30th, 10 – 12 p.m. — Not the Camilla We Knew: One Woman's Life from Small-town America to the Symbionese Liberation Army *(Re-Scheduled from Feb 11th & May 20th)

The mystery of how an ordinary Minnesota girl came to be, briefly, one of the most wanted domestic terrorists in the United States. Behind every act of domestic terrorism there is someone's child, an average American whose life took a radical turn for reasons that often remain mysterious. Camilla Hall is a case in point: a pastor's daughter from small-town Minnesota who eventually joined the ranks of radicals like Sara Jane Olson (aka Kathleen Soliah) in the notorious Symbionese Liberation Army before dying in a shootout with Los Angeles Police in May 1974. How could a "good girl" like Camilla become one of the most wanted domestic terrorists in the United States? Rachael Hanel tells her story here, revealing both the deep humanity and the extraordinary circumstances of Camilla Hall's life.

Camilla's childhood in a tight-knit religious family was marred by loss and grief as, one after another, her three siblings died. Her path from her Minnesota home to her final, radical SLA family featured years as an artist and activist—in welfare offices, political campaigns, union organizing, culminating in a love affair that would be her introduction to the SLA. Through in-depth research and extensive interviews, Hanel pieces together Camilla's bewildering transformation from a "gentle, zaftig, arty, otherworldly" young woman (as one observer remarked), working for social change within the system, into a gun-wielding criminal involved in the kidnapping of Patty Hearst.

During this time of mounting unrest and violence, Camilla Hall's story is of urgent interest for what it reveals about the forces of radicalization. But as Hanel ventures ever further into Camilla's past, searching out the critical points where character and cause might intersect, her book becomes an intriguing, disturbing, and ultimately deeply moving journey into the dark side of America's promise.

Presenter: Rachael Hanel is a Professor of Creative Writing at MSUM and the author of "Not the Camilla We Knew: One Woman's Life from Small-town America to the Symbionese Liberation Army", University of Minnesota Press, 2022.

*All prior member registrations will automatically be transferred to this date. New registrants are welcome.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers St., Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#4: Thursday, November 13th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Famous Trials: Eugene Thompson Murder Trial

On March 6, 1963, Mrs. Harry Nelson was in her kitchen in St. Paul. At 9:00 a.m. the doorbell rang. Nelson answered the door to see a woman covered in blood and in a bathrobe holding her throat. So began the most famous murder trial in St. Paul and possibly Minnesota. The woman was Carol Thompson, married to prominent St. Paul attorney T. Eugene Thompson. The investigation led to a conspiracy on the part of T. Eugene to arrange for the murder of Carol. This presentation discusses the investigation and trial of Thompson.

Presenter: James Fleming practiced law in Minnesota for 35 years before his recent retirement, 22 of those years as a public defender. He served as the chief public defender for the 15 counties of the Fifth Judicial District in southwest Minnesota, based in Mankato, and later for the Second Judicial District (Ramsey County).

Location: Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St, Mankato

Sponsor: Larry Nicol

#5: Friday, November 21st, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. — The End of Night: Searching for Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light

MISSING INFO

Presenter: Paul Bogard is an American author and dark sky advocate. A native Minnesotan, Bogard grew up exploring the forest and watching the stars near a lake in the northern part of the state. He has lived and taught in New Mexico, Nevada, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Virginia. He is currently an associate professor of English at Hamline University. He is the author of [*The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light*](#) (Little, Brown, 2013), [*What If Night?*](#) (Keystone Canyon Press, 2020), and [*To Know a Starry Night*](#) (University of Nevada Press, 2021).

Location: Ecumen Pathstone, 115 Rogers St, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert