



SPRING QUARTER 2025 PRESENTATIONS

Presentations \$5 each for Silver members Registration prior to attendance requested.	Non-member fee: \$10 each session Gold members: Please register via email or phone.
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#1: Friday, April 11th, 3 - 5 p.m. – US Holocaust Museum's Traveling Exhibit: Tour and Speaker

Mankato West High School Social Studies Teacher, Mark Wiese, will give a presentation that addresses the themes of Americans and the Holocaust as well as how it is taught in our local schools. He will also discuss his experience at the Echos & Reflections Advanced Learning Seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel in 2019. Before the presentation, the Lifelong Learners group will have the opportunity to join a guided tour of the Americans and the Holocaust Exhibition.

Presenter: Mark Wiese, Mankato West High School Social Studies Teacher

Location: MNSU Memorial Library, 601 Maywood Ave., Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#2: Thursday, April 17th, 2 - 4 p.m. — The Family in American History

MSU History Prof. Lori Lahlum will talk about the family and shifting ideas about family throughout the history of what became the United States. The family served as the foundation of the household economy, which dominated life in settler communities. As such, independence for youths came with marriage. For single youths, financial obligations to the family continued. The transformation away from this household economy to the nuclear family represents a major development in the past 100 years.

Presenter: Lori Ann Lahlum is professor of history and Distinguished Faculty Scholar at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her research focuses on women, gender, and sexualities in the North American West. She is also a scholar of the Northern Great Plains, Minnesota, and Norwegian America. Recently, she has been presenting papers on American-born women who lost their citizenship between 1907 and 1922 when they married foreign nationals.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#3: Thursday, April 24th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Cycling for all Ages and Abilities

Adults over 50 represent one of the fastest growing segments of bicyclists. The reasons for cycling's newfound popularity with this age group includes the proliferation of e-bikes, a growing number of bike/trike/recumbent options for riders with balance and flexibility limitations, and changes in street design that allow for more comfortable and safer bike trips. All of these trends will be covered during the presentation along with plenty of time set aside for your questions about bike maintenance, e-bike care, and transportation planning. Want to try out an e-bike? Weather permitting, there will be time for that too!

Presenter: Mark Plotz, The Smallest Cog Bike Shop.

Location: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1706 Lee Blvd, North Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#4: Wednesday, April 30th, 10 – Noon — The Art and Craft of Acting

This session will be a tragically truncated history of histrionics, exploring the art and craft of acting from Ancient Greece to Broadway. You will be introduced to the most acclaimed practitioners of the stage throughout the ages (and a tiny few from the screen), as well as the two major schools of acting practice of the last 150 years, including how modern actors train for their profession.

Presenter: Dr. Paul J. Hustoles, BFA, MA, Ph.D., served as Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Minnesota State University, Mankato for 35 years, where he was also Artistic Director of Highland Summer Theatre from 1985 to 2020. He has directed 239 theatre productions and produced over 625 shows in his career. A Distinguished Professor Emeritus of MSU, Paul was appointed by Gov. Walz to serve on the Board of the Perpich Center for Arts Education until 2026, and currently serves as an Artistic Evaluator for the Minnesota State Arts.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#5: Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 - 10 a.m. – Spring Bird Walks

5a: Thursday, May 1—Rasmussen Park Nature Center, Rasmussen Woods Road (off Stoltzman Road) in Mankato. Meet at the old nature center parking lot.

5b: Saturday, May 3—Rasmussen Park Nature Center, Rasmussen Woods Road (See May 1st directions.)

5c: Thursday, May 8—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.

5d: Thursday, May 15—William's Nature Center, NW of the Williams Pipeline Co. on Hwy 68. Meet in the parking lot.

5e: Saturday, May 17—Bray Park (Blue Earth County Park). (See May 8th directions.)

5f: Thursday, May 22—Seven-Mile Creek, 7 mi. N. of Mankato on Hwy 169. Go left into park to the first picnic shelter.

5g: Saturday, May 24—William's Nature Center, NW of the Williams Pipeline Co. on Hwy 68. Meet in the parking lot.

5h: Thursday, May 29—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.

5i: Saturday, May 31—Seven-Mile Creek, 7 miles north of Mankato on Hwy 169. (See May 22nd directions)

Guides: Sarah Suskovic
& Karen Frydendall

#6: Tuesday, May 6th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Brilliant Shade Annuals: Enjoy the Color

This presentation, given by a master gardener, will focus on a colorful variety of shade-loving annuals with tips for planting and care.

Presenter: Joyce Wilcox, who lives in North Mankato, is a regular presenter for Lifelong Learners. She has been a Master Gardener since 2005.

Location: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1706 Lee Blvd, North Mankato

Sponsor: Anne Fletcher

#7: Thursday, May 15th, 2 - 4 p.m. – Strange Tales in Indian Law (*re-scheduled from Feb. 18th)

This presentation will reveal strange tales of representing a tribe and their casino, being held hostage, and kicking the Mafia off the reservation. American Indian tribes have special relationships with federal and state governments allowing varying levels of sovereignty and self-governance, including their own tribal reservations, laws and courts. Representing tribes involves interesting legal and practical challenges.

Presenter: Randall Knutson is a partner at the Knutson & Casey law firm in Mankato, specializing in personal injury claims. He graduated *cum laude* from Hamline University Law School in 1992.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Larry Nicol

*All member registrations from February 18th will automatically be transferred to this date.

New registrations are welcome.

#8: Tuesday, May 20th, 1 – 3 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)

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.

Through in-depth research and extensive interviews, Hanel pieces together Camilla's bewildering transformation from a "gentle, zaftig, arty, other worldly" 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.

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.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

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New registrations are welcome.

#9: Thursday, May 29th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Reparations: Pros and Cons Discussion

Reparations, providing money or other assistance to redress a wrong, is controversial and has expansive possibilities. Should there be reparations for slavery and Jim Crow? For Native American lands and other misappropriations? There is precedent for reparations. Japanese Americans were paid reparations for their internment during WWII and courts regularly award money damages and other relief from others, including the government, for injuries and losses. To what extent should reparations involve social opportunities (e.g., free education, preference in hiring, etc.) rather than money and/or land? Debating Public Policy Series video will be presented and followed by a discussion.

Presenter: Ron Yezzi is an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Minnesota State University, Mankato and author and presenter on numerous ethical issues.

Location: Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St., Mankato (Victory Drive & Adams)

Sponsor: Larry Nicol

#10: Tuesday, June 3rd, 2 - 4 p.m. — Political Authoritarianism

Take an in-depth look at the psychology behind authoritarian beliefs and the ways they shape political attitudes. This presentation will explore concepts in political psychology, such as conventionalism, social dominance and submission and how these factors contribute to authoritarian mindsets. Learn about the psychological patterns that have influenced American politics, both in history and today.

Presenter: Prof. Fred Slocum, MSUM Department of Economics, Ethnic Studies & Government

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#11: Friday, June 13th, 1 p.m. - Founders Event, 2 - 4 p.m. - Famous Trials: The Dakota Uprising Trials and Mass Execution

In August 1862, four starving Dakota Santee warriors attacked a family in Meeker County Minnesota. Frustrated over broken treaties, land encroachments and enduring hardship, Little Crow and other Dakota leaders decided to attack the Lower Sioux Agency and so began a six-week war with white settlers and Federal troops. After the uprising was put down, a military commission tried 392 Dakota. 303 were sentenced to hang. Intervention from Abraham Lincoln commuted 265. The result was the largest mass execution in United States history at Mankato MN on December 26, 1862.

Presenter: James Fleming practiced law in Minnesota for 35 years before his recent retirement; 22 of those years were 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 (Victory Drive & Adams)

Sponsor: Larry Nicol

#12: Wednesday, June 18th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Arts in the Mankato Area: Past, Present and Future

The Mankato area has a vibrant history of integrating art into the daily lives of its residents. Public Art (The Silos, City Art Sculpture Tour, downtown electrical boxes and garbage cans, murals, and more), theater, live music from all genres, festivals, galleries, and more make living and visiting Mankato a fun and enriching experience. Our local university and colleges provide a wide array of plays and musical performances. Learn about what is available, how to get involved and what happens behind the scenes to make it so.

Presenters: Administrative Executive Amy Klugherz and Program Manager Wyatt Miller of the Twin Rivers Council for the Arts.

Location: Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St., Mankato (Victory Drive & Adams)

Sponsor: Larry Nicol

**#13: Tuesday, June 24th, 2 - 4 p.m. — The Truth About Diets: Finding Long-Term Weight Management
(This is a ZOOM Presentation)**

You can lose weight with many different diets, but which ones truly lead to lasting results? Mary Flynn, PhD, RD, LDN will explore popular weight loss diets – discussing the pros and cons of each one, how to spot a fad diet, and which foods promote healthy weight loss and reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Join us and bring all your questions!

Presenter: Mary M. Flynn, PhD, RD, LDN is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Brown University and a research dietitian at the Miriam Hospital. Her main research interest is how food can be used as medicine.

Location: ZOOM

Sponsor: Anne Fletcher



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 Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato.

Upcoming movies:

April 4 @ 1:00 pm ~ The Swimmers (2022) 2h 14m (a biographical drama)

May 2 @ 1:00 pm ~ Wild Strawberries (1957) 1h 32m (a Swedish drama)

June 6 @ 1:00 pm ~ Tick, Tick...Boom! (2021) 1h 55m (a musical drama)

For information on each film, enter the name of the movie in the search bar at [imdb.com](https://www.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. There is no need to pre-register but signing in to validate membership is required. See you there!

Lunch & Dining meets **monthly** at local restaurants. All members are welcome to participate! Watch your emails and FB posts for dates and times to join fellow members and their guests for food, fun, and lively conversation. **Sip & Chat** will be held at Neutral Groundz, 229 Belgrade Ave, North Mankato on **April 22nd and May 22nd**. Check the Update emails for additional dates, times and locations.

Our **Bridge** group meets at the WOW Zone on the third Monday of each month at 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. Our **500** group meets at the Mankato Golf Club at 11:30 on the Second Tuesday of each month.

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. Contact the office.

BookMarks reads fiction and meets monthly on fourth Wednesdays.

History & Science Book Club reads non-fiction and meets at 2 p.m. quarterly on second Thursdays.

June 12th - The Knowledge Machine: How Irrationality Created Modern Science by Michael Strevens

Coffee & Current Events meets via **ZOOM** on the **fourth Friday at 10:00 am**.

Spring dates are **April 25th, May 23rd, & June 27th**.

Pour yourself a "cup of Joe" and join us for a relaxed and engaging discussion of current events. This is a warm and welcoming space where Lifelong Learners come together to talk about the latest news, share perspectives, and deepen our understanding of the world around us. Whether you closely follow current events or just want to hear different viewpoints, you'll find friendly faces, thoughtful listeners, great conversation, and meaningful discussion. We'd love to have you with us - come be a part of the conversation! New members are welcome!

To sign-up and receive the Zoom link for the next meeting, simply send an email to coffeeandcurrentevents@gmail.com.



We need volunteers and leadership for special events committees. Are you willing to revive and reinvent special events for Mankato Area Lifelong Learners? Please contact the office.

Want to see a new social activity? Contact the office to get it started.

Email LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu or call (507)389-2011

30th Anniversary (1995-2025): History of Mankato Area Lifelong Learners

**As We Celebrate 30 Years of Learning, We Remember the Volunteers
Who Worked Together to Establish a Mankato Area Lifelong Learning Institute**

In Memoriam- Founders



Eddice Barber	Aileen Eick	Kelly Gage	Shirley Higginbotham	Robert Wallace
David Boyce	Dena Fischer	Win Grundmeier	Dorothy Lindsay	Bill Witz
Doris Boyce	George Fischer	Fritz Hatfield	Beatrice Moosally	Mary Utermohlen
Mary Dooley	Claire Faust	Denis Haefner	Polly Marshall	Chuck VanBuskirk

Founder Honorees- 30th Anniversary Event

Dave Janovy

Dave Janovy introduced the idea of an MSU Institute for Learning in Retirement to a group of retired educators and with Eddice Barber recruited others to the initial meetings. He helped organize the initial course offerings and was an invaluable consultant for the group. He served as the University Liaison to MSU, Mankato and later ensured that the organization became associated with Chesley Center for Aging. Dave has served as Administration and Finance Committee Co-chair for years and as President in 2014-15. Dave also has provided his expertise by serving on the MN Board of Aging.

Anita Dittrich

Anita was the first part-time office manager for MSU for Seniors and Mankato Area Lifelong Learners. In this role for over 10 years, she was responsible for coordinating and training many office volunteers. Anita served on several committees including Co-chair for Special Events and Chair of the Publicity Committee as well as Secretary for several years. Anita is still a very active member of Mankato Area Lifelong Learners since the end of 1996 when Eddice Barber invited her to join classes. She is responsible for compiling a historical folder of newspaper clippings on the group and attends presentations and social events. She is also very involved in Vine's Memoir and Dance Groups.

Al Wortman

Al was president of MSU for Seniors in 2001-2002. He also served for several years as Chair and Co-Chair of Special Events and worked on the Audit Committee. His connections in the music world were invaluable in setting up special events in music. These included trips to the Minnesota Symphony and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. After his retirement, Al continued to direct choirs in Arizona and worked with community theatre.

Grace Keir

Grace attended the initial organizational committee meetings for MSU for Seniors and attended the first courses in 1996. She assisted with the recruitment of members for the first courses offered by MSU for Seniors, and she served as the Chair of the Curriculum Committee for three years. She also worked on the Nominating Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee, presenting that report to the Council. Grace is a textile historian and continues to research and catalogue donations as a volunteer at the Blue Earth Historical Society. She enjoys Sip & Chat.

Mankato Area Lifelong Learners History Timeline



1995-2000

MSU Institute for Learning in Retirement is organized- classes begin (1996).
Name becomes MSU for Seniors; Constitution and By-laws are passed.
Special events, potlucks, walking tours are added as membership grows.
Office manager, Anita Dittrich, is hired (FY 2010) with 30 hrs/month.



2001-2005

Bridge is added to social events as classes and special events grow.
A membership fee of \$10 is added due to increasing costs.
Membership increases to 250 (summer 2005).
The 10th anniversary ushers in technology and a website.



2006-2010

The name and logo are changed to Mankato Area Lifelong Learners, reflecting the diversity of the members.
Mankato Area Foundation grant (\$2500) is used for Community Forums.
The membership continues to increase to 296 (May 2009).
Anita Dittrich announces her retirement as office manager (2010).



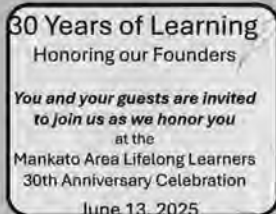
2011-2015

Great Decisions begins in Sept. 2011 and the Restaurant Group expands.
Membership fee increases to \$25 (\$45 per household).
Focus groups are held; the membership age is lowered to 50+ for ~2 years.
Pam Blair becomes office manager after 3 years of turnover in the office.
Logo, identity updated as MSU relationship changes to the Chesley Center.



2016-2020

A 20th Anniversary celebration is held in June 2016.
A Mankato Clinic Foundation Grant is awarded for presentation space .
A fund-raising campaign and membership fees increase in 2019 (\$35) help to balance the budget.
Membership increases to almost 300 in 2018 before COVID hits in 2020.



2021-2025

COVID cuts enrollments by 40% but membership tops 210 by 2025.
Social events expand: First Friday movies, Coffee & Current Events, Teas
Pam Blair retires and Colleen Fritz becomes the new office manager.
Enrollments in presentations and movies increase. A grant-supported consultant survey is evaluated, as the 30th Anniversary Event is planned.