



FALL QUARTER 2024 PRESENTATIONS

Presentations \$5 each for **Silver** members

Non-member fee: \$10 each session

Registration prior to attendance requested.

Gold members: Please **register** via email or phone.

Contact Mankato Area Lifelong Learners at (507) 389-2011 or LifelongLearners@mnsu.edu

#1: Monday, October 7th, 2 - 4 p.m. – Green Burials: A New Look at an Old Tradition

There is an increasing interest by the public in alternatives to more traditional burial and cremation practices. Joel Rimstad, founder of Evergreen Burial Company, will discuss Green Burials and compare them with more traditional funeral practices.

Presenter: Joel Rimstad has educational and professional experience in mortuary science.

Location: Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St, Mankato

Sponsor: Greg Suskovic

#2: Thursday, October 17th, 2-4 p.m. — Health & Beauty Secrets of the Past

Lydia Pinkham's Compound, crushed beetles, and arsenic complexion wafers are just a few of the questionable substances used by women in the past. Find out which have stood the test of time, and which are extremely dangerous! Are consumers being duped by questionable products?

Presenter: Susan Hynes makes learning about history colorful and engaging by performing as a costumed historical interpreter. She frequently volunteers at the historic Hubbard House in Mankato. Over the past twenty or so years you may also have seen her at any of the following: Betsy-Tacy Society, Cox House in St. Peter, Waseca Historical Society, Chaska History Center, LeDuc Estate in Hastings, History Fest at Jack McGowan's Farm, Friends of the Boy in Blue Civil War Symposium, or the Cannon Old West Society.

Location: Pioneer Bank, 1450 Adams St, Mankato

Sponsor: Tricia Nienow

#3: Thursday, October 24th, 2 – 4 p.m. — A Visit with Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was author of the Declaration of American Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, father of the University of Virginia. (He didn't consider being President worth mentioning – he referred to it as “a splendid misery”). He was also a lawyer, natural scientist, applied mathematician, agronomist, inventor, architect, moral philosopher, linguist, amateur musician, and gourmet. As a lifelong slave owner, he worked throughout his life to end that institution and failed – both in the civic arena and in his own affairs. Join Tony Filipovitch as he portrays Jefferson, offering some of this renowned and multi-talented character's thoughts on democratic government, civil society, and public service. Dr. Filipovitch will conclude by making himself available for questions and conversation.

Presenter: Tony Filipovitch: Tony Filipovitch, Ph.D., retired MSU professor, has been re-enacting Thomas Jefferson for over 30 years.

Location: Bethlehem Lutheran, 720 S. Second St. Mankato-Heritage Room

Sponsor: Anne Fletcher

#4: Tuesday, October 29th, 1 - 3 p.m.— Service and Sacrifice: The WWII Military Intelligence Experience

From 1944 to 1946, Minnesota was home to the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) that trained mostly Nisei (Japanese American) soldiers to serve as linguists during World War II. These Nisei men and women served their country, while also fighting prejudice at home. Join Peggy Doi and Karen Tanaka Lucas of the Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League to hear about their fathers' lives (Saburo Bill Doi and Walter Tanaka) and experiences in military service.

Presenters: Karen Tanaka Lucas and Peggy Doi

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#5: Monday, November 4th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Who Will You Believe? Me or Your Lying Eyes?

Dr. Alexander Kovic will give a talk about the pitfalls of eyewitness testimony and false memories.

Presenter: Dr. Alexander Kovic PsyD, LP is a licensed psychologist practicing at HealthPartners in Minneapolis. He splits his practice between general mental health and specialties in sex therapy and gender affirming care. He has a BA in Criminal Justice with a certificate as a paralegal from Hamline University, a Master's in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University and a PsyD from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on sexual health and gender diversity.

Location: The Pillars, 3125 Prairie Rose Drive, Mankato

Sponsor: Greg Suskovic

#6: Tuesday, November 5th - January 21st 2 - 4 p.m. --The Life and Art of Vincent van Gogh

11 sessions total (no meeting on December 24); You are welcome to join even if you cannot attend all sessions.

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most widely recognized, and one of the most widely misunderstood, artists of the modern world. What was the secret of his amazing output — over 800 paintings in less than a decade? How did he arrive at such a deeply individual and expressive style of art? Did he really commit suicide? The centerpiece of this course will be 15 lectures (each 20-to-30 min long) from the Great Courses [In the Footsteps of Vincent van Gogh](#). The course has 114 reviews, 110 of which are 5-Star. Lectures will be supplemented by material from YouTube including: a 3-part BBC documentary, virtual museum tours; analyses of individual paintings; and explorations of van Gogh's mental illness. At the end of the course we will watch a remarkable and visually stunning 2017 Oscar-nominated feature film, [Loving Vincent](#), which examines the circumstances of his 1890 death.

Presenter: Retire Psychologist **Steve Gilbert** minored in art history as an undergrad; his senior thesis was a psychological study of Van Gogh. Steve has long been interested in Vincent's life, personality and art. In preparation for facilitating this course he is reading the most recent biography of van Gogh, 2011's 976-page *Van Gogh: The Life by Steven Naifeh & Gregory White Smith*.

Registration Fee: Free for Gold Members. \$20 for entire course for Silver Members.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#7: Monday, November 11th, 2 - 4 p.m. - Asset Preservation in Estate Planning

Protecting your assets with proper estate planning is more than simply creating a Will or Trust. It involves organizing and coordinating the ownership and distribution of your assets so that your wishes regarding the distribution of your property will be accomplished.

In this presentation, Mankato Estate Attorney Steve Fink will address the components of asset preservation including a detailed approach to proper estate planning, the use of a Will or a Trust, the importance of a thorough asset review, ownership of those assets and beneficiary designations.

Presenter: Steve Fink began his law career at a general practice law firm in 1986. He served as assistant city attorney for several municipalities before joining the Farrish Johnson Law Office in 1997.

Steve focuses his practice primarily in the areas of estate planning, real estate, and business formation. Steve is a native of Mankato. He received his undergraduate degree from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN in 1983, and his law degree from Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, MN in 1986.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert

#8: Monday, November 18th, 2 - 4 p.m. — Famous Trials: The Congdon Murder Trial

On June 27, 1977 Elisabeth Congdon, heir to the Congdon family fortune, was found brutally murdered along with her night nurse at the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth. The investigation would lead to the arrest of Elisabeth's daughter Marjorie Congdon Caldwell along with her second husband Roger Caldwell. What would appear to be a strong circumstantial evidence case against both would result in the conviction of Roger, but the acquittal of Marjorie, in one of the most bizarre and yet most famous Minnesota criminal cases ever tried. This lecture will follow the investigations of both Roger and Marjorie, their trials and the head scratching outcome of each case.

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

#9: Thursday, January 16th, 2 - 4 p.m. — What's Funny About Aging? Part Two

Bring your sense of humor! Again! Linda Good will share more gems from her extensive collection of entertaining memes, cartoons, and short videos on getting older and the aging process. We can laugh because we can relate to the issues whether presented in jest or satire, are silly or insightful, witty or droll. A collection of humorous and affirmative memes and short musical videos about aging will be presented and used to facilitate discussions about both the joys and challenges of aging.

Presenter: Linda Good is a retired MSU professor of early childhood education and human relations. She is a quilter, an avid reader and recently completed her bucket list goal of traveling around the world. She currently facilitates the VINE Memoir Writers' Group. She is a frequent presenter at VINE and other local venues.

Location: Pathstone Latitude, 115 Rogers Street, Mankato

Sponsor: Steve Gilbert