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Meeting Schedule for 2014-2015

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October 4, 2014



Speakers: *Laurel Gamm*

Topic: *Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) of Minnesota*

Dr. Laurel Gamm is trained in family medicine and has worked as both a family medicine primary care doctor and more recently in the emergency department in rural Minnesota (New Ulm). She is a long-time PNHP member and has been involved in the single-payer movement in MN since the early 1990s. Starting this fall, Laurel is making a career change and has taken a job with Health Care for the Homeless in St. Paul. She will be splitting her time between New Ulm and St. Paul. She is co-chair of PNHP-Minnesota.

November 8, 2014



Speaker: *Lucy & Gene Tokheim, owners of Tokheim Stoneware*

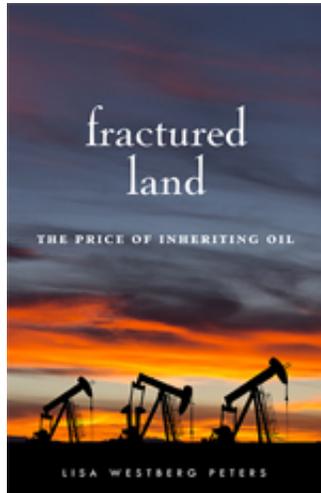
Topic: *Tokheim Stoneware*

Lucy & Gene Tokheim have created wheel-thrown stoneware pottery and sculpture since 1973. Having studied and taught Norwegian folk art both at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, IA, and at Raulands Akademi in Telemark, Norway, their work is inspired by the many details found in Scandinavian folk art. Tokheim Stoneware can be found as part of the permanent collection of the Vesterheim Museum and has traveled in several international exhibitions. The Tokheims' studio is a collection of restored farm outbuildings between Dawson and Montevideo, Minnesota.

**December is our annual fundraising month.
Please consider making a donation to our scholarship fund!**

**To make our December meeting more festive,
consider wearing a bunad if you have one.**

December 6, 2014



Speaker: *Lisa Peters, Author*

Topic: *Book: "Fractured Land: the price of inheriting oil"*

What does an environmentalist do when she realizes she will inherit mineral rights and royalties on fracked oil wells in North Dakota? How does she decide between financial security and living as a committed conservationist who wants to leave her grandchildren a healthy world? Lisa Westberg Peters is the author of many children's books, including several geology-related titles. Trained as a journalist, she now works as an academic writing tutor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul.

Blog: <http://lisawestbergpeters.com/blog2/>

January 3, 2015



Speaker: *Cheryl Grasmoen (Charter Member of Lakselaget)*

Topic: *The Modern Pilgrim*

Since 2007, our charter member, Cheryl Grasmoen, carrying only a 12-pound backpack, has walked nearly 1,000 miles in pilgrimages. This includes the famous Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain, leading to the legendary site of the resting place of the body of St. James, and the Via Francigena, over the Roman road to Rome.

Cheryl's presentation will focus on the modern pilgrim - Who is she? Why does she make pilgrimage? How does she do it? What strengthens and sustains her on this arduous journey? How do her pilgrimage and the people with whom she shares this journey shape her and change her?

As Cheryl transitions into retirement after a long career as a lawyer, she is spending more time on pilgrimage. She currently serves as President of the American Pilgrims on the Camino, a 1,600 member organization that supports past and future pilgrims and the infrastructure of the Camino in Europe. In addition to walking, Cheryl has also managed pilgrim hostels twice in Spain and has volunteered in the Pilgrim Office in Santiago de Compostela during two autumns.

February 7, 2015



Speaker: *Lawrence Moe*

Topic: *Carl Ben Eielson: The Norwegian-American Lindbergh 1897-1929*

Carl Ben Eielson: The flight that brought recognition and fame to this native North Dakotan was the first non-stop transpolar intercontinental flight from Alaska to Spitsbergen, Norway. He was a contemporary of some famous pilots, and he was known as the Father of the Bush Pilots.



Dr. Lawrence Moe is Professor of English and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and has a reputation of being an engaging presenter. He holds the PhD in English from the University of Minnesota, where he also earned the BA with summa cum laude honors in each of his two majors, English and philosophy. Dr. Moe's ancestors came from Norway, settling in northeastern ND.

March 7, 2015

Speakers: *Bonnie Jean Flom, Founder of First Charter School Conversion in Minnesota, Public Educator/Retired Principal*

Topic: *Making School Relevant Through Project-Based Learning*

Bonnie Jean Flom has thirty-one years of experience as a public school teacher and principal in urban, suburban, and rural settings. She currently serves as a member of Prairie Creek Community School Board, as treasurer of



“Community Celebration of Place,” and also as president of the League of Women Voters of Northfield/Cannon Falls.

Bonnie Jean Flom is a very active member of the community in Northfield. She recently served as the President of the League of Women’s Voters (Northfield – Cannon falls chapter). Mrs. Flom is passionate about education and served as a teacher and principal for several years. She even helped found the first conversion charter school in Minnesota. Mrs. Flom is still involved with education and volunteers at her grandson’s school every week.

April 4, 2015: Our month to invite the men in our lives!



Photo Credit: MNDOT

Speaker: *Dennis Gimmestad, MNDOT Engineer (retired)*

Topic: *Bridging Continents, Bridging the River: Norwegian-American Engineers and the Mississippi in the Twin Cities*

The Mississippi River bridges in Minneapolis and St. Paul have long been icons of the Twin Cities. Many were the work of Norwegian immigrant engineers, who came to America with valuable skills for building the nation’s infrastructure. Today, several of their bridges are being rehabilitated by state and local agencies for continuing transportation use.

Dennis Gimmestad is recently retired from the Cultural Resources Unit of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and previously worked for the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society. He serves on the board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association in Northfield, MN.

May 2, 2015



Speaker: *Kari Berit Gustafson*

Topic: *Aging & Caregiving*

Kari Berit brings years of experience and a passion for the subject of aging and caregiving. Caregiving is a concern for 78 million Baby Boomers in the U.S., and the millions of adult caregivers around the globe. Through her radio program, book, speaking engagements and individual consulting, Kari gives gives simple,

commonsense tips and tools to help caregivers. She also works with family caregivers at workshops to help them discuss emotional issues.

An author, speaker, radio show host and regular column contributor, Kari is known for her wit, energy, kindness and insight. She is, as KPNW radio hosts proclaimed, "bubbly, effervescent fun."

June 6, 2015

Members Only Picnic

