Music Appreciation with OboeBass!
is grant funded by the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State’s general fund. OboeBass! is the engaging and entertaining team of Carrie Vecchione and Rolf Erdahl from Apple Valley, MN. They chart new territory for their combination of instruments in music that is accessible, challenging, enlightening, and virtuosic. This course will meet on Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the lower level of the New Ulm Library. The duo will present various musicians in history and explain the make-up of an orchestra. They will also host a concert open to the public in early February.

Climate Change Lecture Series will involve five separate presenters with varied opinions and knowledge of the Earth’s climate. All lectures will be at the New Ulm Community Center meeting rooms. Respectful discourse will be appreciated.

Instructor John Olson from Courtland, MN is a retired environmental science, biology, zoology and human anatomy/physiology educator. He will present “Global Climate In a Nutshell” on Friday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m.

On Friday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m., retired educators Roger & Ann Bruellman from Winthrop, MN will give information from their travels to Antarctica.

Prof. Christopher Ruhland, Mankato State, will present conclusions based on his years of research onsite in Antarctica in a lecture titled ‘What’s With Climate Change and the Plants in Antarctica?’ on Tues, Feb. 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Elmer Beauregard will be the final presenter at 3:00 p.m. on February 21, with a humorous but skeptical presentation on the Global Warming concept.

The History of Antarctica
Retired MLC Professor Martin Sponholz will lead a course on ‘The History of Antarctica’ on Mondays, February 17, 24, March 3, 10 and 17 at 3:00 p.m. upstairs at the New Ulm Community Center, Room 111. Marty has incredible expertise on Antarctica and its environment. This will be a fascinating look into the exploration of the continent, from Captain Cook and the seal hunters to Admiral Byrd and the Plateau Station of today.

If you have a tablet or Ipad and would like to participate in a class from home, let us know.
Wayne Laitinen
Wayne graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He was a pastor at Arlington Avenue Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. Next, he accepted a call to Palos Lutheran Church in a southwest suburb of Chicago. From there he moved to Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Pastor Laitinen has served St. John's in New Ulm since July of 2001.

John Olson
With an MA in biology and an emphasis in lake ecology John taught high school science for two years in Fosston, MN and taught environmental science, biology, zoology and human anatomy/physiology at New Ulm High School for 38 years. John enjoyed teaching students how the process of science works and sharing a respect for the environment. His hobbies revolve around the outdoors; kayaking, canoeing, cross country skiing, bird watching, wood working & photography.

Ann & Roger Bruellman
Roger taught junior high life science and senior high biology, was the guidance counselor at Gaylord Junior-Senior High School and Sibley East School. Ann taught in LeSueur Public School in first grade. After retirement, they served fourteen years as Adjunct Faculty in the College of Education at Minnesota State University Mankato. Travel has been a major emphasis in the Bruellmans’ lives. They have camped in nearly every state & several Canadian provinces, and visited every continent, trying to become “travelers” rather than “tourists”. They seek to savor the interaction with different cultures and languages, climates and landscapes; not so much for the facts and details, but for the relationships and personal growth opportunities that travel provides.

Elmer Beauregard
Elmer works with Minnetonkas for Global Warming. His presentations take him all over the state of Minnesota.

Dana Melius & Ed Lee
Dana Melius is currently the editor of the River Valley Extra and has worked with newspapers in the region for many years. Ed Lee earned a degree in mass communications at Minnesota State University-Mankato, worked 20 years for daily and weekly newspapers in New Ulm, Winona and St. Peter; and has served the past nine months as the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

OboeBass!
The Vecchione/Erdahl Duo's efforts have effectively created a new repertoire for oboe/English horn and double bass through the music that has been written for them. They perform across the country on recital series, at colleges and universities, and at conferences. Carrie teaches at the MacPhail Center for Music, subs with the MN Orchestra and appears as Principal Oboe of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra. Rolf subs for the MN Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Minnesota Opera. He teaches bass at Luther College & Gustavus Adolphus College.

Chris Ruhland
Dr. Christopher Ruhland is Professor of Biology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has been on faculty at MSU for 13 years. Since 1995, Chris’ field team has traveled to the Antarctic Peninsula studying terrestrial ecosystems. The major focus of his research is examining how rapid climate change influences plant production, carbon and nitrogen cycling and predicting long-term effects on carbon storage. Other projects include the effects of elevated ultraviolet-B radiation (UV-B) associated with ozone depletion and the effects of warming on vascular plants and terrestrial ecosystems in Antarctica. All total, Chris has spent almost 2 years of his life ‘on the ice’ with climate research.

Martin Sponholz
Martin was a chemistry/physics teacher and department chair at Luther High School in Onalaska, Wisconsin as well as an adjunct Prof. of Science at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. Marty was also professor of Physics and the History of Science at Martin Luther College. He has served the United States Weather Bureau as a weather observer and pilot briefer at Billy Michell Field in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and a Forecast Meteorologist at the Regional Forecast Center in Chicago. and a Research Meteorologist for the Office of Meteorology Research - Polar Group in Washington D.C. He was with the National Science Foundation on a wintering over expedition to the High Plateau in East Antarctica. He also served the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition across the Antarctic Convergence Zone in the South Indian Ocean and at Syowa Base, Antarctica. Marty served U.S. interests by visiting and reporting on Russian activity at Molodezhnaya Antarctica in compliance with the Antarctic Treaty.

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