



LAKE VERMILION CULTURAL CENTER

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NEWSLETTER • SPRING & SUMMER • 2026

EVENT SCHEDULE • 2026

- **The Four -Travelogue presentations are all on Thursdays at the Vermilion Park Inn, Soudan •**
- May 7 • 5:30 PM:** Travelogue & Potluck, Ecuador! Presented by Terry & Jill Wagoner
- May 21 • 5:30 PM:** Mary Batinich Presents Highlights From Her 18 Trips to the Holy Land
- May 28 • 5:30 PM:** Travelogue & Potluck, Thailand! Presented by Patty Phillips & Sharon Legg
- June 11 • 5:30 PM:** Travelogue & Potluck, Guatemala! Presented by Shelby Vaske, Lauren Vaske & Mario Campa

EVENT LOCATION KEY:

LVCC (Lake Vermilion Cultural Center, Tower) • VPI (Vermilion Park Inn, Soudan) • CC (Herbert Lamppa Civic Center, Tower)

Sat., June 6

11 AM: Kids Day! Dahlia Meyer's Dog Agility Show, stories, lunch & Marge McPeak Reading Tree Dedication (VPI)

Fri., June 12

7 PM: Irene Hartfield's birthday concert (& cake)- Ely native-singer, songwriter, keyboardist (LVCC)

Sat., June 20: MIDSUMMER GALA

5 PM: Social Hour, Cash Bar & Silent Auction (CC)
6 PM: Dinner seating. (CC) **Pat & Donna Surface** entertainment following dinner (LVCC)

Wed., June 24

6:30 PM: Mary Erickson, "Finnish Himmeli" straw mobiles (LVCC)

Tues., July 7

7 PM: Northern Lights Music Festival Chamber Concert (LVCC)

Fri., July 10

7 PM: Courtney Yasmineh Folk, rock, country singer, songwriter & author (LVCC)

Thurs., July 16

1 PM: Kids Watercolor Fun Sea Turtles! With local artist Linda Smith (VPI)

Thurs., July 23

2 PM: Mandalas for Young and "Old" With artist Diana Magner, VPI; Kids class (VPI)
6:30 PM: Mandalas and Margaritas II, Adults & older youth (VPI)

Thurs., July 30

7 PM: Dale Mulfinger Writer, Architect & "Cabinologist" (LVCC)

Tues., Aug. 4

6:30 PM: Bailey Conger & Marjorie Miller pianists perform Ink and Ivory "Stories Told in Duet" (LVCC)

Thurs., Aug. 6

6:30 PM: Wine and Watercolor-Linda Smith local artist, butterfly painting (VPI)

Sat., Aug. 8

7 PM: Jukebox Time Machine - Pat & Donna Surface, sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church (LVCC)

Fri., Aug. 14

7 PM: Sam Miltich & Band performing Jazz, "Mileitici New Music from the Old Country"

Mon., Aug. 17

6:30 PM: Stephanie Hansen Author & Host of Emmy award-winning TV show "Taste Buds with Stephanie," Author of "True North Cabin Cookbook" (LVCC)

Thurs., Aug. 27 7 PM: Steve Solkela hosts a Variety/Comedy/Talent Show, showcasing local acts & talent (LVCC)

Sept - Events are in the works. Stay Tuned!

Sat., Oct. 31

6 PM: Mary Batinich's 90th Birthday Bash! It's a BIG one so SAVE THE DATE (LVCC)

IF YOU'VE GOT SOME TIME TO SPARE...

Volunteers Are Greatly Needed

Have you ever pulled weeds? Is painting your thing? How about setting up and taking down chairs for events? **Lend a hand to our burgeoning needs by signing up on our volunteer sheet at one of our events or by calling the LVCC at 218-753-4100 (leave a message)**



FOR MIDSUMMER DETAILS...SEE ENCLOSED INVITATION

JOIN IN THE FUN...THE AUCTION STARTS HERE!

We invite everyone to view & bid on items prior to the event on June 20.

Bidding begins June 12 at 9 AM and ends June 20 at 6 PM.

Use QR code or link at: website32auctions.com/LVCC2026



New LVCC Strategic Plan Being Developed

This is a very exciting time for the LVCC. Not only has the building been progressing and new programs getting booked, but the board has been working on a new strategic plan. This exercise has been very enriching as the board members have coalesced around a vision and mission statement and they are now working on goals for the next 5+ years. This work is re-energizing focus on sharing and supporting the different cultural strengths of our community. We look forward to releasing the strategic plan later in 2026. The Board of the LVCC wishes to thank Sven Risom for guiding this process.

Board of Directors: Mary Batinich-President, Elaine McGillivray-Chair, Shelby Vaske-Vice Chair, Ryan Bajan-Treasurer, Members at Large: Tom Baldrice, Dr. Amy Banks, Greg Dostert, Karel Winkelaar, Doug Workman, Scarlet Stone-Administrative Assistant & Secretary

Auction Winners Enjoy Fun Outdoor Activities



The Helmberger family enjoy a pontoon rental donated by "Your Boat Club" and won at the silent auction. (From left) Victoria Ranua, Richard Helmberger, Zac Helmberger, Clair Helmberger



Thanks to Elizabeth and Sean Furrh for donating a week in their French Alpine Chalet. Winners were Aaron Kania and friends.



Wood-fired pizza party event host, Linda Smith (top) and friends. (From left) Arlene Bergquist, Wendy Brown and Julie Petrusha



SAVE THE DATE · FOR A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

October 31, 2026 is a good day to dress up for Halloween and help Mary Batinich celebrate her 90th birthday. The theme will be "The Roaring 20's" and as you can see, Mary has already selected her outfit! Join in the fun at The Lake Vermilion Cultural Center where Debbie Prutsman and The Road Kill Boys Bluegrass Band will be performing.

This delightful event is a LVCC fundraiser to help complete our elevator.

Up Up And Away....details to follow.



BOARD BITS ◦ HAIL AND FAREWELL

Thank You to Sandy and Maddy



Since her retirement from a long career in social work, Sandy Wallin has served as Vice-Chair and Fundraising Chair for the LVCC. With support from Senator Grant Hauschild and representative Dave Lislegard, a \$100,000 state grant was secured for the LVCC. Sandy and husband David recently sold their Lake Vermilion home and now reside in Virginia as well as Florida in the winter. Sandy plans to continue helping us with grant-writing and fundraising.

We bid farewell to Maddy Zupancich who plans to continue volunteering for us as we move forward. Although educated as a teacher, Maddy has chosen to assist in managing Zup's, her family's store in Tower. She will miss being with us at Midsummer this year because she will be running in Grandma's Marathon in Duluth that day. Maddy and her fiance Drew Aho are busy planning their 2027 wedding.



Welcome To Our New Board Members

At our annual meeting, the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center was pleased to welcome local Soudan residents Doug Workman and Greg Dostert to the Board of Directors. Both men bring a great amount of experience to the LVCC and the community.

Doug Workman is a dedicated community and cultural supporter who brings a vast background of skills to the Board. He has been on our Building and Grounds Committee for five years and has also been a long-time member of the Midsummer Singers. Doug has been a very dedicated volunteer since he moved to the area in 2013 and is an active member of the Tower-Soudan Historical Society where he served as President for ten years. With a background in the Presbyterian ministry, Doug has served as a pastor for over forty years accumulatively, and recently retired from St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower. He occasionally fills in as guest pastor at area churches when needed and is still involved with the Presbyterian Mission Conference located in Pennsylvania. He is the father of four children and a proud granddad.



Doug Workman

Greg "Dusty" Dostert brings a lifetime of hands-on experience, leadership, and service to the LVCC Board. With a background in sheet metal work, he has worked on projects both in the United States and internationally in Greenland, Afghanistan, New Zealand, Iraq and Antarctica and through his travels has gained valuable global perspective and practical problem-solving skills. In addition to his construction career, he owns IBI Construction and is also a bus driver for the Vermilion Charter School in Tower. Dusty has served as President of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soudan for thirty years and has also served on the Breitung Township Board for seventeen non-consecutive years. Known for his strong work ethic and dedication to service, Dusty brings practical knowledge and community insight to the Board. In his spare time, he has been extremely active in youth sports activities such as serving as the coach for Juniors baseball. He and his wife Joan live in Soudan and have three sons and six grandchildren.



(From left) Ryan Bajan-Treasurer, Shelby Vaske-Vice Chair, Greg Dostert-Board Member, Mary Batinich-President, Elaine McGillivray-Chair

In Addition, Kathy Siskar of Soudan (Lake Vermilion) will begin her term in July.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and are tax exempt. Please consider a donation or annual pledge to the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center and help bring our vision to completion. vermilionculturalcenter.org

LVCC Building Project Update

Hello again from the Building Committee at the LVCC! Despite just having a snowstorm at the time of this writing, plumbing work has already begun. We are very excited to have the basement plumbing infrastructure in place and are waiting for spring thaw to do more of the work outside. After that, we will pour basement concrete, knock down the back wall of the auditorium and prepare for the summer events. We are grateful for our revised architectural plans which took months to complete but were necessary to comply with building modifications and code changes. Thanks to all who have supported this enormous project over the years. We hope you will join us at events this summer to see our progress.



LVCC on Tower's Main Street

by Building Committee Chair-Amy Banks

Donations: Mid November 2025 - April 2026

*Included are the following Memorial Donations: Sandy Erickson, Gwen Lilya, Tom Pearson
Commemorations: Elaine McGillivray, Mary Batinich*

Karen Abe	Brenda Duyan	Kathy Meyerle	David Seppelt
Stephen Abrahamson	Don Erickson	Marjorie Miller	Mary Shedd
Kent & Amanda Adams	Jill Fagerlund	Dan & Faye Mobilia	Curly & Roberta Skogman
Doug & Cathy Anderson	Bruce & Karen Ferrara	Jim & Carol O'Connor	David & Vivien Smith
Tom Anzelc	Richard & Kay Hanson	Mark Peil	Jeff & Linda Smith
Gary & Roberta Batinich	Renee Holloway	Rob & Judy Pennington	Craig Stepec
Mary Batinich	Mike & Bergetta Indihar	Patty Phillips	The Sweatt Foundation
Edward & Peggy Bonach	Willis & Betty Irons	Kate Piper	Sandy Sweatt
Donald Brown	Colette Johnson	Thomas & Monica Pustovar	Thrivent Choice
Dan Carnicom	Ruth Katz	Sven & Laura Risom	Sigurd & Sissy Ueland
Matt & Carrie Cotter	John & Lisa Kentworthy	James & Kay Ryan	Stephanie Van d'Elden
Tom & Sue Cramer	Kathleen Krider	Greg & Karen Saarela	Jill Wagoner
Jet Galonsky	Charles & Anne Leck	Stephen Schaitberger	Deborah Walsh
Francisco Diez-Gonzalez			

We try to be as thorough as possible with compiling our lists of donors. However, if we missed or misspelled your name please let us know so we can update our database. Thank you for your understanding.

Clip & Return In Enclosed Envelope

I wish to contribute to the exciting restoration of St. Mary's Hall and the building of the Lake Vermilion Cultural Center

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Call me about a dedicated space at LVCC _____

I wish to make an annual pledge of \$ _____ for _____ years _____

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