



Chris Koza

Lecture Series

Great Decisions

If the Edina Library's copy of *War and Peace* is checked out, consider its Great Decisions lecture series a worthy substitute. Since 2005, the Minnesota International Center has coordinated this monthly dialogue at the library, featuring such local speakers as retired Foreign Service officer Thomas Hanson and Robert Flaten, the former U.S. ambassador to Rwanda, illuminating topics as diverse and complex as the global food supply and the Middle East in the 21st century.

• 5280 Grandview Square, Edina. 952-847-5425, hclib.org

Fall Hike

Lake Maria State Park

No need to fly off to Vermont to relish the glories of autumn color—not with Lake Maria State Park right here in Monticello. Scarcely an hour from downtown Minneapolis, the park holds one of the few remaining remnants of the so-called Big Woods, the maple, oak, and basswood forest that once covered south-central Minnesota. Sixteen miles of hiking trails wind through 1,590 acres that blaze with hues of red, gold, and yellow come fall—all without flight delays and traffic jams. • 11411 Clementa Ave. NW, Monticello. 763-878-2325, dnr.state.mn.us

Public Artist

Wing Young Huie

The Minneapolis photographer's six-mile-long "University Avenue Project" is the most ambitious public-art exhibition in Minnesota since, well, his last one, the seminal "Lake Street project." In fact, Huie

FUN

Emerging Music Star

Chris Koza

When Koza crashed the local rock-and-roll party six years ago with his remarkable debut, winning Minnesota Music Awards for best male vocalist and best pop recording, he seemed a local Ben Folds, melodic and playful and exquisitely angel-voiced. This

year, the singer-songwriter has arguably become Minnesota's most ambitious musician, forming the folk-pop band Rogue Valley from among the Twin Cities' sharpest indie-rockers and slating four new releases before the year's up. That's in addition to collaborating with such notable locals as pop-rockers Jeremy Messersmith, jazz thrush Alicia Wiley, and poet Alex Lemon. • chriskoza.com

New Fitness Class

American Swedish Institute

It's the Ikea of exercise—simple, modern, and widely accessible. Margaret Nelson, a Stockholm native and former dancer with the Royal Swedish Ballet, has translated her movement skills into a new regimen that she teaches in weekly sessions at the American Swedish Institute. It starts with a tame cardiovascular workout followed by strength training and stretching, incorporating Swedish music, of course, and often a Swedish dance step, a perfect counterpoint to the institute's famous smorgasbords. • 2600 Park Ave., Mpls., 612-871-4907, american-swedishinst.org