

**MILE SPRING 2020**  
**Program Descriptions**

Programs are presented at Middlesex Community College (MxCC), 100 Training Hill Road, Middletown, Chapman Hall, Room 808, Monday thru Thursday at 1:30 pm and Friday 10 am, unless otherwise noted. You will receive weekly emails regarding the programs and any changes in the schedule.

**MARCH 9 – Week 1 – at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30 – 3:30 pm: Friday 10 am - Noon**

**Monday, March 9 – Interactive talk on African Music**

This course will explore the diversity of musical expression throughout the African continent with a combination of listening to recordings, viewing videos, discussion, and hands-on performance. You will learn about the continent as a whole, explore regional features, as well as discuss in depth specific pieces and genres within the countries. Social and political horizons of music, including their role in everyday life will be discussed. Learn how musical experiences have changed in contemporary life. Experience the presence of African music in social media, including the spread and impact of African rap and hip hop.

**Presenter: Prof John Dankwa** earned a PhD (2018) Wesleyan University; M.Phil. (2013) University of Cape Coast, Ghana; and a BA Music (2008) University of Cape Coast. Prof Dankwa taught courses in African music and culture at several universities including Wesleyan University, Kennesaw State University, GA, and University of Cape Coast.

**Tuesday, March 10 – George Washington Speaks on the Constitution**

Watch the impersonation by John Koopman III as George Washington speaking on the Constitution. The presenter will be wearing museum quality attire that Washington would have worn as president. There will be a Q&A followed by a book signing.

**Presenter: John Koopman III** was born and raised in the Boston area. His passion for military history began at an early age. He became involved in Revolutionary War re-enacting in 1998. Since 2006 he has been portraying General Washington at reenactments in CT, MA, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, and Virginia. He has also portrayed Washington in documentaries shown at state and national parks, on television, and for national theatrical release. Some of these include the Mount Vernon Revolutionary War 4D Experience film (2017), the Monmouth Battlefield State Park Visitors Center film (2013), *The American Revolution* (television – for the American Heroes Channel, 2014), and *America* (in theaters, 2014). John lives in CT with his wife, Elizabeth, and his horse, Skills, whom he often rides at reenactments. He works as a technician for an alternative energy company. Author of the book, *George Washington at War – 1776*, available on Amazon. Website: [www.johnkoopmaniii.com](http://www.johnkoopmaniii.com)

**Wednesday, March 11 – Book Talk: *The Mariel Boatlift* by Victor Triay**

From his book, *The Mariel Boatlift: A Cuban-American Journey*, Victor Triay is pleased to return to MILE to discuss one of the most dramatic refugee crises of the twentieth century - the exodus of over 125,000 Cuban refugees across the Straits of Florida during the spring and summer of 1980. He will share the stories of Cuban immigrants to the United States who overcame frightening circumstances in order to build new lives for themselves and flourish in their adopted country.

**Presenter: Prof Victor Triay**, an award-winning historian, is a professor of history at Middlesex Community College. He began his long and distinguished career at Miami-Dade Community College in Florida, where he earned an associate degree in psychology, an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and a MA and PhD in History from Florida State University. While his teaching focuses on United States History, Western Civilization, and World History, he has earned a broader reputation as an expert in Cuban history. His parents left Cuba after the rise of Fidel Castro, so the subject

is personal to him—and has inspired him to devote his time and talents towards researching, writing and lecturing on the topic.

**Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 Great Decisions**

**Location: The Village at South Farms (Club Room)**

**9:30 – 11:30**

Great Decisions is a discussion forum that follows a curriculum developed by the Foreign Policy Association ([www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)). The program is supported by the Great Decisions program book (\$25) which presents basic information on each topic. Participants read the topical section for that week, then come to the sessions to discuss their various points of view with one another. Active participation is encouraged, but not required.

In an age where our political discourse has become more polarized, Great Decisions provides an excellent opportunity for open, fair, objective discussions - and helps the participants understand multiple perspectives on these topics.

The four topics this spring include:

- Climate Change and the Global Order
- India and Pakistan
- Red Sea Security
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

The fifth session is conducted on topics chosen by the participants

***Moderator: Bud Sielaff***, a retired Business Strategy Executive, received a BS in Engineering and an MBA in Business. Bud is a member of MILE and has been a participant in the Great Decisions program for several years. He has a business strategy background, has had extensive international travels, and closely follows world events as an interested citizen.

**Thursday, March 12 – Picasso and Matisse, Friendship, Rivalry and Art**

Matisse and Picasso were friends, rivals, and above all, extremely talented artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their works were incredibly innovative setting the direction of what we call ‘modern art’ today: Matisse with Fauvism and Picasso with Cubism. Rhea will briefly examine the most important works of both artists and attempt to determine how their friendship as well as their rivalry helped inspire their respective bodies of art.

***Presenter: Rhea Higgins*** graduated from Wesleyan University in the Graduate Liberal Arts Program. Rhea has taught Art History since 1986 and is currently at Wesleyan’s Wasch Center (Long Life Learning Program). Since 1988, Rhea has been teaching at the University of Hartford, The Art School, Art History Department.

**Friday, March 13 – Iron Age Bog Bodies of Northern Europe**

**Location: St Francis, St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown**

**10 am - Noon**

During the Celtic Iron Age from Ireland to Scandinavia (approx. 500 B.C. to 500 A.D.) select individuals were sacrificed, and perhaps, some criminals executed, and their bodies consigned to the mysterious and myth laden peat bogs. The chemistry of the peat bogs has preserved many of these bodies for over 2000 years. Modern techniques have allowed us to learn about the individuals and about life during that period. This program will describe detailed information about their life and times for some of these famous ‘Bog Bodies.’ (With slides.)

***Presenter: Prof Michael Park*** received a PhD (1979) in Biological Anthropology from Indiana University. He served as faculty member at Central Connecticut State University 1973-2014 and is currently Professor Emeritus at CCSU. Michael is a professor of anthropology; author of six college textbooks and one general audience book on evolution. He is a participant in several forensic anthropology studies with the Connecticut State Archaeologist. Michael is currently conducting research on the bog bodies for an upcoming book.

**MARCH 16 – Week 2 – MxCC – Mon., Tues., Wed., Thu. St Francis: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 10am – Noon.**

**Monday, March 16 – Dental Missions of Mercy in CT and Guatemala**

You will learn about perspectives on the importance of dental health as well as access to care and overall health statistics for CT (representing the USA) and Guatemala (representing a third world country) in the last 2 decades. Dr. Heim participates annually in a one-week dental clinic in either Guatemala City or Esquipulas, Guatemala, every October and in a long weekend Connecticut dental clinic every spring. These clinics are totally free and available to clients who cannot afford dental work. Dr. Heim will tell vignettes about his experiences. **Presenter: Dr. Brad Heim**, a general dentist in private practice for 33 years, received a BS from UConn, and DDM from UConn School of Dental Medicine. He completed hospital residency at the University of Rochester NY. He participates in the Masters of the Academy of General Dentistry, Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Society, and Fellow of the Academy of Laser Dentistry. Dr. Heim has been a twelve-year participant, serving a three-year department chair, and serving three years as clinical director for the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach, Connecticut Mission of Mercy.

**Tuesday, March 17 – Turlough O'Carolan and Robert Burns (Irish & Scottish music)**

**Turlough O'Carolan** (1670-1738) and **Robert Burns** (1759-1796), distinct and famous characters of Ireland and Scotland's cultural history, provide the poetry and music for our performance and discussion. Burns' beautiful and creative poetry and O'Carolan's gentle soothing music provide an opportunity for the audience to understand the culture and history of their worlds. The blind harpist **Turlough O'Carolan** is generally recognized to be Ireland's first great national composer. Blinded from smallpox at the age of 18 he was befriended by Mrs. MacDermott-Roe. After apprenticing as a harper, he set off with his guide and travelled throughout the country creating his legacy of music. O'Carolan's music is traditional Irish repertoire; he named most of his tunes for people or families who were usually his patrons. **Robert Burns**, Scotland's National Bard, born 13 years after the Battle of Culloden, lived his life during "The Clearances" (the systematic forced eviction of the inhabitants of the Scottish Highlands by the English). His gift of creating prose and depicting everyday life gave him the ability to become an outstanding lyricist in his later years.

From **O'Carolan's** collection of music, we will perform tunes including: *O'Carolan's Concerto, Carolan's Draught, Carolan's Receipt, Eleanor Plunkett, Fanny Power, George Brabazon, Hewlett, Lord Inchiquin, Planxty Irwin and Sí Bheag, Sí Mhór*. From **Burns's** collection of prose, we will introduce you to his life through the legacy of his songs including: *Coming through the Rye, Auld Lang Syne, A Man's A Man for A That, Green Grow the Rashes O, Ae Fond Kiss and Ye Banks and Braes*.

**Presenters: Ginny Worrell and Craig Stalk**

Craig Stalk and Ginny Worrell entertain and educate communities as "Stringing You Along". This vibrant musical duo connected over 4 years ago, bringing out the best of their individual musical abilities and inclinations, focusing on traditional music from the United States and the Celtic Lands.

**Craig**, a graduate of University of Hartford, Hartt College of Music, is classically trained in voice and piano and received a degree in Music Education. After graduation Craig turned his attention to understanding traditional folk music. For the past 20 years he has been concentrating his efforts on the World of Celtic Music. Besides voice and keyboard, he plays guitar, hammered dulcimer, concertina and button accordion.

**Ginny** is also classically trained for violin performance through the University of Hartford, Hartt College of Music. Leaving the classical violin behind, Ginny has turned her string proficiency to Irish fiddle music. She also continues to enhance her life-long piano accompaniment skills and plays for contra and community barn dances throughout Connecticut.

**Wednesday, March 18 – Ireland's Great Hunger Museum**

**Location: St Francis, St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown**

**1:30-3:30 pm**

Enjoy a combination of a historical presentation on the Great Hunger (the cause and effect of it) and a tour of the permanent collection at Ireland's Great Hunger Museum. The lecture (90 minutes) will include the topics of, natural disaster, government corruption and mismanagement, evictions, land grabbing, and emigration.

**Presenter: Ryan D Mahoney, Executive Director or Margaret Vaughan, Assistant Manager.** Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, located at 3011 Whitney Ave., is home to the world's largest collection of visual art, artifacts and printed materials relating to the Irish Famine. The museum preserves, builds and presents its mini collection in order to stimulate reflection, inspire imagination and advance awareness of Ireland's Great Hunger and its long aftermath on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Thursday, March 19 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am The Village at South Farms**  
**See details – March 12th**

**Thursday, March 19 – Film: *The Good Nazi***

**Location: St Francis, St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown** **1:30-3:30 pm**

Based on the book *The Search for Major Plagge*, this film explores the story of one man of moral courage and the Jews of Vilna he helped save during the Holocaust.

**Presenter: Dr. Michael Good**, a family physician, grew up in West Covina, California and attended Occidental College in Los Angeles majoring in Political Science and graduating in 1979. He received his medical degree from the University of Rochester's School of Medicine. He has practiced family medicine in Middletown CT for the last 35 years. He lives with his wife Susan in Durham, CT.

**Fridays, March 20 – Book Talk: Frank Norris's *McTeague – A Story of San Francisco* 10 am – Noon**

In his influential 1899 novel *McTeague: A Story of San Francisco*, author Frank Norris depicts the rise and fall of three key characters, sketching a drama of ambition and possession. *McTeague*, a slow-witted and unqualified dentist, his money-obsessed wife Trina, and his friend and rival Marcus form a triangle that plays out in tragedy.

**Presenter: Tom Piezzo** is Director of the Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam, CT. Prior to that, he was a reference librarian and the adult programming coordinator at the E.C. Scranton Memorial Library in Madison, CT, and a branch library manager in New York City. Tom holds a BA in English from S.U.N.Y Stony Brook, and a MA in Library and Information Science from Long Island University. He is the Membership Chair of the Connecticut Library Association, a member of the LION Library consortium executive board, serving on two committees, and is the chair of the Valley-Shore Public Library Directors Roundtable. He has 26 years' experience as a public librarian. Tom presented classes for the Schiller Shoreline Institute of Lifetime Learning, and MILE. He also was the moderator of several book clubs for both fiction and non-fiction at public libraries. He has presented at local, state-wide and New England library conferences and community organizations.

**MARCH – Week 3 – at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 10 am – 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Monday, March 23 – *The Connecticut River from the Air* by Jerry Roberts and Tom Walsh**

*The Connecticut River from the Air* takes readers on an extraordinary adventure along the 410-mile course of New England's greatest river as pilot/photographer Tom Walsh and author/historian Jerry Roberts explore this amazing river from its mouth on Long Island Sound to its source just a few hundred yards from the Canadian border. Rediscover this great river as it flows through four states and hundreds of years of history, punctuated by villages and towns, bridges and dams and breathtaking natural beauty. Stunning aerial photographs, wayfinding maps, and a dynamic narrative bring this incredible waterway to life like never before. So, buckle your seat belts and hold on to your hats, we will be flying low and slow with the windows open. It is an adventure you will not want to miss, and we promise, you won't even get your feet wet!

**Presenter:** Author, historian **Jerry Roberts** brings history's untold stories to life through books, documentaries exhibits, events and public programs. He has spent over 35 years in the museum field, serving as vice president

of the Intrepid Sea Air & Space Museum, and executive director of the National Lighthouse Museum, the Connecticut River Museum and the New England Air Museum. He is a popular public speaker and continues to write of adventures, large and small, from his home overlooking the Connecticut River.

**Tuesday, March 24 – Microscopic Universe of Life in Our Soil**

Rarely discussed by gardeners, soil is, nonetheless, the foundation of a garden and most land-based food chains. Each tablespoon of healthy soil is alive with millions of creatures, many working to keep plants healthy. Learn why you should be paying more attention to this intriguing ecosystem and increasingly limited natural resource.

**Presenter: Margery Winters** earned a MS in Physical Geography, Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. She received a BA in Physical Geography/ Geology, Miami University, Ohio. Margery is a nature instructor at Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton, CT.

**Wednesday, March 25 – Day Trip to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum (See trip flyer for details)**

3011 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT

**Thursday, March 26 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am The Village at South Farms**

See details – March 12<sup>th</sup>

**Thursday, March 26 – Proposed Lunar Science Station – to Prototype Human Settlement of Space Using Lunar Resources**

You will have a review of Lunar Base Concepts over the years along with the latest ideas for lunar bases. There is now so much more about the Moon and what it has to offer. You will also learn about Polar Basing concepts, findings of NASA GRAIL Mission, and the use and description of Lunar Lava Tubes.

**Presenter: Stevan Akerley**, a retired Engineer, worked 38.6 years at P&W and then 7 years as a Technical Consultant for P&W. He received an AA in Liberal Arts from Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA. a B.S. in Industrial Technology from Calif. State College at Long Beach. (Now UCLB), and an MBA in International Business and Information Tech. from University of Hartford, CT. As a lifelong space enthusiast and student of the aerospace technologies, space science, planetary systems, and life sciences, Stevan is a member of The Planetary Society, The National Space Society, and is currently Director of NSS Space Ambassador Program.

**Friday, March 27 – Wesleyan Science Center Tour 1:00 to 3:00 PM**

MILE members will have the opportunity to tour two labs at the Wesleyan Science Center. Members will learn about research being done on epilepsy in the neuroscience lab and will also see demonstrations in Wesleyan's electron microscope lab.

**Presenters: Dr. Ann Burke** received an AB from NYU and a MS and PhD from Harvard University. Her main scientific interest and focus has been comparative studies of different embryos (chicken, mouse, salamander) to study the role of evolution in their development. Most of her recent work focused on lamprey, zebra fish and salamander. She recently changed her focus from experimental lab work to the challenge of resurrecting and restoring the scattered remnants of the Wesleyan Natural History Museum.

**MARCH/APRIL– Week 4 – at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 10:00am – Noon**

**Monday, March 30 – Biography *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely* by Andrew Curran**

The author Andrew Curran will be delivering insight from *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, his new biography on Denis Diderot (1713-1784), the prophetic and sympathetic philosopher who helped build the foundations of the modern world. (This book was one of Amazon's top ten history books of the first half of 2019). Curran will talk to us about the ways which this 18<sup>th</sup>-century French thinker was centuries ahead of his time and challenged virtually all of his century's accepted truths, from the sanctity of monarchy, to the racial justification

of the slave trade, to the norms of human sexuality. Join Curran for a vivid account of a thinker whose works still edify us today.

**Presenter: Andrew Curran** has contributed to the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Newsweek*. He is the author of *The Anatomy of Blackness: Science and Slavery in an Age of Enlightenment*; *Sublime Disorder, Physical Monstrosity in Diderot's Universe*, and *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*. Curran is a fellow in the history of medicine at the New York Academy of Medicine and a *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes académiques*. His current project book, which he is undertaking with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is a study of what he calls the “dead sea scrolls of race,” sixteen unpublished manuscripts on the subject of *blackness* that were submitted to the Bordeaux Royal Academy of Sciences in 1741. Curran received his BA from Hamilton College and his PhD from NYU. He is the William Armstrong Professor of the Humanities and chair of Romance Languages at Wesleyan University. [www.andrewscurran.com](http://www.andrewscurran.com)

### **Tuesdays, March 31 – Changing Nutritional Needs as We Age**

You will see a power point presentation on the topic of Changing Nutritional Needs as We Age. You will see an overview of a general healthy diet and learn the importance of each food group. Discussion will be on how different nutrients and dietary components become more important as we age. Information will be shared on how to stay healthy throughout life. How does our nutrition affect our body, our minds, and our moods?

**Presenter: Mary Perrino, RDN**, received a B.S in Nutritional Science from UConn, completed 1200+ supervised practice hours at Western Connecticut Health Network Dietetic Internship. She is a registered dietitian (2018). Mary teaches culinary classes as the dietitian for the ShopRite of Cromwell. She also does community presentations, cooking classes/demos, etc.

### **Wednesday, April 1 – Herbs for Ailments**

You will learn about the root cause for most ailments as we age. With this basic foundation, we will then build upon what has been done traditionally to remedy individual ailments safely without harsh side-effects through herbal application.

**Presenter: Master Herbalist, Jenavieve Hawks** is certified in herbology and nutrition from The School of Natural Healing. Third Eye Herbals is Jenavieve's wellness coaching business where she educates on the traditional uses of herbs.

### **Thursday, April 2 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am The Village at South Farms**

See Details – March 12th

### **Thursday, April 2 – Charles Darwin's Voyages to New Worlds, Intellectual and Otherwise**

As a young man Charles Darwin became a passenger on the voyage of the HMS Beagle that showed him a natural world full of change. This opened for him an intellectual world previously travelled by others, but not with his new insights. This world had excitements and dangers very much like the exotic world he observed while traveling on the Beagle.

**Presenter: Kenneth Noll** Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from The OSU. He has an MS degrees from the University of Houston (Biology) and the University of Illinois (Microbiology). He earned a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Illinois under Dr. Ralph Wolfe and earned a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois under Dr. Carl Woese. Dr. Noll is a professor of Microbiology at the UConn in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. Dr. Noll's research is in the area of the roles that play in the evolution of microorganisms. He has been portraying Darwin for the past three years.

### **Friday, April 3 – History of Political Leadership in Middletown**

10 am – Noon

**Location: ST Francis, St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown**

The transformation of the leadership of Middletown in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the wealthy Anglo-Protestants who built the mansions on High Street and governed the city for many decades to the children of the Sicilian, Polish,

and Jewish immigrants. The transformation occurred between the 1930s and the early 1950s. The lecture will include dramatic stories of events that happened in the city.

**Presenter:** **Prof Ronald Schatz** received a BA the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1971, M.A.T., Harvard University, 1972, and PhD, University of Pittsburgh, 1977. Prof Schatz taught a seminar on the history of Middletown for many years. He served for a decade on the board of Middlesex County Historical Society. He authored, "*The Barons of Middletown and the Decline of the Northeastern Anglo-Protestant Elite*" in 2012.

#### **APRIL – Week 5 - at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm**

##### **Monday, April 6 – Readers Theater presents...**

Readers Theater presents a dramatic reading performance of *The Wild Women of Winedale* by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten. Enjoy this joyful, exuberant comedy focusing on women at crossroads in their lives.

**Presenters:** **Anne Cassady and Richard Kamins** are co-directors. Richard received an AA from MxCC, a BA from UConn, a MA from Wesleyan. He is currently Adjunct instructor, Quinnipiac University. Anne received a BA from Stephens, a MA from Wesleyan and is Professor Emerita, MxCC English Faculty.

##### **Tuesday, April 7 – CT Guitar Society**

I represent the CT Guitar Society as their artistic director and would like to inform you about our mission as well as the types of music we present and opportunities. I will include a brief history of the society and play (on guitar) some of the music styles mentioned.

**Presenter:** **David Giardina** received a BA from St. Anselm College and studied music at the Longy School in Boston. He studied classical guitar with Sharon Isbin and Phil DeFremery. He also studied master classes with John Williams, Manuel Barrueco, Ben Verdery, Oscar Ghiglia, Abel Carlevaro and Pepe Romero. He studied jazz with Sal Salvador, Tommy Tedesco and Joe Beck and flamenco with Mario Escudero and Paco Peña. David has taught for many years on the faculties of Trinity, St. Joseph and Manchester Community Colleges, the Hartford Conservatory and Loomis Chaffee.

##### **Wednesday, April 8 – Archeological Dig in Egypt**

The speaker will discuss recent excavations at the Temple of Tausret on the West Bank near the Valley of the Kings in Egypt and at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Nuri, Sudan, by the **University of Arizona Egyptian Expedition**. You will see the first step in an archaeological excavation, how a grid is used to plot data obtained by using various trowels, shovels, and other tools to remove artifacts, and then analyzed in a lab.

**Presenter:** **Stephanie Denkowicz** graduated from the University of Manchester - Manchester, England. She received a Masters' in Egyptology (Commenced September 2019). At the University her accomplishments include the following: Diploma in Egyptology (July 2018). Outstanding Achievement Award, Best Project. *Miserable Kush: The Relationship Between Egyptians and Nubians in Middle Kingdom Egypt*. She also Certified in Egyptology (July 2015) and received the Outstanding Achievement Award, Best Paper, *The Tomb of Tjery: A Reflection of an Elite Saite's Religious Beliefs*. Stephanie is a graduate of Rutgers University School of Law - Newark, NJ (J.D., 1977) and the University of Arizona (B.A., high distinction, 1974). She is serving on several boards including the American Research Center in Egypt and the Egyptological Seminar of New York. She is a Team Member, University of Arizona Egyptian Expedition, working at the Temple of Tausret Project, West Bank, Luxor, Egypt (2012 - 2016 seasons) as Field Assistant. She supervised excavation and assisted ceramist, Rexine Hummel (Royal Ontario Museum), in the processing of pottery. She was also field assistant at **Nuri, Sudan** (2018 and 2019 seasons).

##### **Thursday, April 9 – Great Decisions 9:30 – 11:30 am The Village at South Farms**

**See details – March 12th**

### **Thursday, April 9 – From My Side of the Footlights**

Having performed in Broadway productions over twenty years in New York, Actress Carolyn Kirsch presents an anecdotal approach to her theatrical training, subsequent professional career, and transition into a fulfilling present life as an arts educator, director, and writer.

**Presenter: Carolyn Kirsch** trained at Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She worked primarily for the renowned Director/Choreographers Bob Fosse and Michael Bennett (the Originator of “*A Chorus Line*” among many other Broadway shows.) Some experiences in her theatrical career have been on stage with Angela Lansbury, Katherine Hepburn, Jerry Ohrbach, Gwen Verdon, Mary Tyler Moore, Richard Chamberlain, Zero Mostel, Tommy Lee Jones, William H Macy, Julie Harris, Elaine Stritch, George Chakiris, Sandy Duncan and Donald O’Conner. She appeared in The Original Company of a Chorus Line, Dear World, Coco, Peter Pan, Chicago and Sweet Charity.

### **Friday, April 10 – No Classes, Day of Reflection**

### **APRIL – Week 6 – at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30; Friday: 10 am – Noon**

### **Monday, April 13 – Riverbeds to Outer Space, Journeys and Projects of a CT Scientist**

This presentation will highlight some of the interesting scientific projects beginning with research involving the environment issues and a lawsuit between Bethlehem Steel and Johnson, PA. How do major companies improve their technology and oversight so that the environment is protected? You will learn about projects for the Space Station and the Hubble telescope.

**Presenter: Peter Formica**, Born and raised in Hartford, CT received a BS in Chemical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute 1967. After 30 years of scientific research and experiments, he received a MA, St. Joseph College, 2000, to teach science in middle school. Peter retired (2012) as a science teacher with success in motivating students to their highest academic level. Science bowl team has gone on to compete at Nationals in 2006 and 2010. He also worked at Grumman and Hamilton Corp as a head engineer on Science projects.

### **Tuesday, April 14 – Trash Talk in Sports**

As long as there has been competition, there has been trash talk. Defined as bragging or insulting comments made toward an opponent to psyche them out, athletes have used trash talk for ages to gain a competitive advantage. But does trash talk actually work? This program will explore the colorful history of trash talk in sports as well as its use in other contexts. Finally, it will delve deeper into the science of trash talk to look at its psychological and emotional effects on an opponent and how those affect motivation and performance.

**Presenter: Karen C. P. McDermott, PhD** has a MA, English and a PhD, Communications from UConn (2019). Her research specializations are in sport communication, persuasion, crisis communication and image repair, and emotion. Her doctoral dissertation on trash talk appears to be the first study to empirically test and statistically model the effects of trash talk on an opponent’s competitive performance.

### **Wednesday, April 15 – Madam CJ Walker portrayed by Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti**

Actress Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti is a living history artist who brings you the story of Madam CJ Walker. Madam Walker was an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and activist. She followed her dream, turning her life into a true “rags to riches” story, ‘the wealthiest Negro woman in the United States if not the entire world.’ She founded Madam C.J. Manufacturing Company (cosmetics), mobilized a network of 20,000 African American women as sales agents, factory, and office workers. Her sales agents earned between \$5.00 and \$15.00 dollars a day when unskilled white laborers were earning \$11.00 a week. More than a history lesson, she offers inspiration to women – regardless of race—on how to succeed against all odds. There will be an Interactive Q&A opportunity to discuss contacts and conflicts Madam Walker encountered adding relevance and realism to her story.

**Presenter: Gwendolyn Quezaire-Presutti** is an Actor, dramatist, historian, and storyteller. Gwendolyn began Historical Performing in 1997, at The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures as an Educational

Interpreter. She received Theatre in Museums Interpretation Techniques Certification at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Indiana. Moving to Connecticut in the fall of 2001, The Connecticut Historical Society Museum, hired her as an Educational Interpreter. Shortly after arrival, she developed a character (researched and scripted) for the Amistad exhibit, telling the perspective of the African captives. She taught and performed at the Museum as an Artist-in-Residence for more than ten years. Gwendolyn performs in New England and nationally. She performed as an actor in many commercial and historical films, more recently at the Hartford Stage Company.

#### **Thursday, April 16 – Cinco de Mao – Mariachi Music**

The student ensemble from the Mariachi Academy of New England will perform Mariachi music which is a style of regional Mexican music that goes back to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The instruments include strings and horns. The costumes are very distinctive. During the performance the music, instruments and costumes will be explained.

**Presenter: Adam R. Romo**, who is Executive Director of the Mariachi Academy of New England has personally played with many renowned artists including Placido Domingo and Linda Ronstadt. He received his Associates Degree in Music from Prima Community College. After co-organizing a group of his former students into a mariachi group, Adam brought the group to Connecticut in August 2016. He then formed the Mariachi Academy of New England, a nonprofit music school that teaches young people from ages 6-18. His students play at events such as parades and sports events, in restaurants and at various religious celebrations.

#### **Friday, April 17 – The German Epic Poem, *Parzival* by Wolfram von Eschenbach: 10 am - Noon**

##### **Part 1 of 2**

One of the great epics of the High Middle Ages, it not only features the inevitable damsels in distress and chivalrous knights charging to their rescue, but also presents one of the great heroes of the Arthurian and Grail literary cycle in a unique way. The growth and transformation of *Parzival* from ignorant fool to model Christian knight, worthy of becoming the King of the Grail is used by Wolfram as a critique of the warrior knight so dominant in chivalric epics. And in a curious twist, the author treats the issue of religious and racial tolerance in a unique and surprising fashion. And all that is firmly set in a framework of Christian sin and redemption.

**Presenter: Herbert Arnold**. Doctorate in Philosophy from Wurzburg, Germany taught at Wesleyan University from 1963-2006.

#### **APRIL - Week 7 - at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30; Friday: 10 am – Noon**

#### **Monday, April 20 – Opera talk *Die Fledermaus***

Through DVD and commentary, Barbara will explain and describe a popular operetta of our present repertoire: *Die Fledermaus* (the Bat) music by Johann Strauss II and libretto in German by Carl Haffner. Its first performance took place on April 5, 1874 at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna, Austria. The opera has been presented on New Year's Eve in Vienna since the early 1930s. Here is how it starts: Midnight is approaching, and Falke entertains the guests with the story of how he earned the nickname of Dr. **Fledermaus**: one drunken evening, when he was dressed as a bat for a costume ball, his best friend Eisenstein played a practical joke on him that made him the laughing stock of Vienna. What happens next is for you to find out at this presentation.

**Presenter: Barbara Arafah** received a BA in Music, New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, majoring in voice and a MA, Columbia University, NYC. She studied opera with the eminent Boris Goldovsky; served as President of the Greater Middletown Concert Association, which sponsors operas at the Middletown Performing Arts Center and is a regular Metropolitan Opera attendee. Barbara has spoken to many of the opera singers and can compare their styles. She is a popular presenter at MILE.

#### **Tuesday, April 21 – Bus Trip – Providence RI (See Trip Flyer for details)**

### **Wednesday, April 22 – Earth Day, *The Burning Years*, Book Discussion**

Read the review of *The Burning Years* by Felicity Hartley, from an independent reader on Amazon.

Felicity Harley is a political and environmental activist who “holds an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences which includes the study of economics, political science, human geography, demography, sociology, psychology, anthropology and history.” She is also a published journalist. In *The Burning Years*, Harley sets out to depict, within the framework of a multi-generational story that reads like a hybrid of science journal and science fiction, a plausible—and ultimately alarming—scenario that corresponds with what many of today’s scientists see as an impending environmental disaster brought about by political and industrial indifference to, and defiance of, global climate change—accelerated, as it were, by a host of last-minute counterproductive measures that not only damage the planet in the long term but also threaten the very survival of mankind. It is highly recommended that you read the book before the book discussion: [https://www.amazon.com/Burning-Years-Until-This-Quartet/dp/1543166512/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Burning-Years-Until-This-Quartet/dp/1543166512/ref=sr_1_1?)

**Presenter: Felicity Hartley**, received a BA Social Science, University of California, Berkeley. Felicity is a polished public speaker, published journalist, writer and a poet. Born to an English father and a Caribbean mother, educated in Europe and a former member of the British Foreign Service posted to Iran, she possesses excellent communication and networking skills. Active in political and social affairs, she served as the Executive Director of the World Affairs Council of Connecticut (WACCT) until June 2013 when she left to resume her writing career. Most recently, in 2013 her work was published in an anthology called *Gathered Light – On the Poetry of Joni Mitchell*, alongside writers such as Wally Lamb, Kim Addonizio, Fred Wah (Poet Laureate of Canada), Larry Klein, Susan Deer Cloud, Cornelius Eady, and others. In celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and on behalf of Poets for Human Rights, Felicity was the winner of the 2013 Anita McAndrews Award. In 2014 she was commissioned by Hartbeat Ensemble to write the play “Transplant”. This was directed in June 2014 by one of the nation’s 25 premier young directors, Steven Raider Ginsberg. In 2015 Felicity’s book of short stories *Portraits and Landscapes* was published, and available on Amazon. Currently Felicity is working on a five-part science fiction series. The first in the series *theburningyears.squarespace.com* was published by Double Dragon Publishing in February 2017.

### **Thursday, April 23 – Eastern Coyotes in CT**

This presentation focuses on the history of coyotes in Connecticut, an overview of coyote habitat, diet, behavior, and reproduction. It also provides practical recommendations for optimum coexistence with our coyote population. Coyote artifacts are shared with the audience.

**Presenter: Paul Colburn** is a 2015 graduate of the Master Wildlife Conservationist Program (MWCP) and a certified Master Wildlife Conservationist (MWC). The MWCP is a Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) adult education program that trains volunteers in the fields of wildlife management, natural history and interpretation. Mr. Colburn has provided over 200 wildlife presentations across the state and participated in several wildlife research projects. Mr. Colburn is an avid outdoorsman, a graduate of Wesleyan University and served honorably in the United States Army.

### **Friday, April 24 – The German Epic Poem Parzival, Part 2**

**10 am - Noon**

See April 17<sup>th</sup>

### **APRIL – Week 8 at MxCC**

### **Tuesday, April 28 – Volunteer Lunch/Annual Meeting**

Revised 12/19/19

