

MILE FALL 2019
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.

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

Monday, September 30 – Traditional Americana and popular music from the 1940's to 1960's.

The program will include music from the 1940's swing era, 1950's pop and classic rock, songs from the 1960's folk music revival, traditional American folk songs and sing-alongs. The program will be performed on guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, Irish bouzouki, bodhran and harmonica.

Presenter: Roger Tincknell has a BA, UMass, Amherst, and a MA from Graduate program HART School of Music, Hartford, CT. He spent over 45 years as a classroom teacher, music specialist and performing musician, offering educational and participatory music programs for schools, libraries, senior centers and other community organizations.

Tuesday, October 1 - Bradley Field During World War II

Philip has first-hand knowledge of Bradley Field During World War II. He says, "Since my father, three uncles, an aunt, and three of my brothers were all stationed at Bradley for many years, I grew up with an intimate knowledge of the history of the airfield. My research has expanded that knowledge base considerably. Anecdotal in nature, this presentation focuses on the notable people and units associated with Bradley during the war. The airfield's history teems with interesting stories that few are aware of."

Presenter: Philip Devlin has a BA from UCONN and a MALS from Wesleyan University. He is a retired teacher who taught English, History, and Latin at Haddam-Killingworth High School

Wednesday, October 2 – A Journey to the Gallows: A novel about Aaron Dwight Stevens, an Abolitionist

Enjoy this power point presentation with selected book readings from *A Journey to the Gallows* and an open discussion of the short but heroic life of Aaron Dwight Stevens from Norwich, CT. Aaron Dwight Stevens was a Lieutenant to John Brown.

Presenters: Tommy Coletti graduated in 1972 from Eastern CT State University. He served in the U.S.A.F. (1968-1972) with an Honorable Discharge. Tommy is a member of the American Legion. He is the author of *Special Delivery, Dishonorably Interred, Liam's Story* and co-author of *A Journey to the Gallows*. His work experience includes 36 years at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton where he held various positions in planning and shop management including ship superintendent and ship administrator retiring in 2012.

Paul Victor Butsch graduated in 1969 from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves (1969-1975) with an Honorable Discharge. He is a member of the American Legion. Paul taught Civil War classes at Adult Education in Norwich, CT and served on the Board of Directors for the Norwich Historical Society. He was founder and Program Director for the New London County Civil War Round Table as well as Director for Abraham Lincoln visit to Norwich. He performed Civil War tours and co-authored *A Journey to the Gallows*. He is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Paul worked at Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton for 43 years retiring in 2015.

Thursdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Great Decisions

Location: The Village at South Farms

9:30 – 11:30 am

This curriculum follows the book *Great Decisions – Foreign Policy Association*. The four topics this fall include: (1) Trade with China, (2) Cyber Conflict, (3) US and Mexico, (4) State of Diplomacy.

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 class. He has a business strategy background, has traveled internationally, and studies world events as a hobby.

Thursday, October 3 – Sharing Memories, Making Friends

MILE members will arrive with an object/photo or simply a life story to share with other members. They will be seated in groups of 8 and every 20 to 30 minutes, the groups change. This will allow us to share our stories at least 3 or 4 times with different people. During this journey we will discover those who have traveled similar paths, those who ventured to places you might have desired, or you will simply meet new friends. **The objective of this activity is to learn about, and from, each other.** We have all lived different lives, filled with gems and with rocks. Let's share the splendor of some of these experiences.

Presenters: Augusta Gonzalez and Christi Moraga are both presently docents for the Wadsworth Atheneum and they are both on the Curriculum Committee for MILE. Augusta (UCLA and Wesleyan alum) and Christi (Middlebury alum) are both retired language teachers. Christi is also involved with Alliance Française in Hartford.

Friday, October 4 – In Defense of Guinevere: Alternative Reasons for the Fall of Camelot

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

10 am - NOON

Throughout legend and literature, Guinevere, wife of King Arthur, is blamed for the fall of the idyllic Camelot. What if, like other notable females throughout history, Guinevere is merely a scapegoat and there is really more to the story? Perhaps politics, opinion, idealism, betrayal, and societal influences are at play. Join me as we use history, legend, and literature to explore alternate causes that possibly led to the demise of Camelot. You be the judge-does the evidence stack up against Guinevere or fall flat?

Presenter: Wendy Vincent holds a BA in Communications from the University of Hartford where she wrote an honors thesis titled *In Defense of Guinevere: Alternate Reasons for the Fall of Camelot*.

She also has a MA in Liberal Studies from Albertus Magnus where her final thesis was titled *Poetry of the Trobairitz: Revealing 12th and 13th Century Occitan Aristocratic Women*. In addition to having worked in corporate communications and as a journalist, Wendy is an author, writer, editor, and owner of a publishing company, E.P.I.C. Publishing Services. Wendy is also the co-founder and Executive Editor of Epic Magazines, a Connecticut-based magazine that explores the people, places, history, art and culture of Connecticut. She has three published books and has written countless articles for newspapers, online sources, and magazines.

OCTOBER 7 – Week 2 – Locations noted - Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 10am – Noon.

Monday, October 7 – Life of a Pioneer Photographer, George E. Moulthrop (1870-1964)

The history of photography will be traced from its very beginning to the use of glass negatives in the late 1800's and early 20th century. The program will utilize video footage from the George Eastman Museum, as well as multi-media presentations on the efforts of George E. Moulthrop, pioneer photographer. Several early photographic artifacts will be on display to enhance the presentation.

Presenters: Thomas A. Dickau received a BA from UConn, BS and MS from CCSU, along with a Sixth Year Certificate in Educational Leadership. Thomas has 35 years in the education field – Teacher, Director of Guidance, Assistant Principal, Principal, Coordinator of Special Education and Guidance Services in several CT school districts. He is Adjunct Professor at CCSU and WCSU in Educational Leadership.

Cortland Hull has a BFA and a MS in art education with a minor in photography and film from the University of Hartford. He is an adjunct professor at CCSU in film and make-up as well as an adjunct professor at the University of Bridgeport in film history.

Both presenters have extensive experience in presentations locally, statewide and nationally. Dickau has served as a speaker locally and statewide, as well as presenting for the Connecticut Historical Society. Hull presents

nationally on a variety of topics related to movie history and the movie industry. He is the founder of the Witch's Dungeon Classic Movie Museum in Bristol, CT. This is the longest running museum of its type in the United States and was recognized by "Ripley's Believe It or Not" for its fiftieth anniversary.

Tuesday, October 8 – The Origins of Jazz and the Big Band Sound of the 1930's and 1940's

LOCATION: St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown

This lecture examines the origins of jazz and the era of Great American Swing Bands from the 1920's thru the 1940's with special attention given to Louis Armstrong, Paul Whiteman, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Glenn Miller, and Harry James, among others.

Presenter: Jared Day, PhD, taught American history and culture at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for sixteen years. His areas of specialization are U.S. political, urban, and cultural history as well as world history from 1492 to the present. He is the author of several books along with numerous other popular and peer-reviewed articles.

Wednesday, October 9 – Exploring the Paris of the Parisians

LOCATION: St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm Street, Middletown

Say "Paris" and everyone will see specific images, the first one being the Eiffel tower and the second, the Champs-Elysees or the Triumph Arch. Yes, this is Paris, but it is not the real Paris and most Parisians never go to those places. As a native Parisian, I want to take you through the history of Paris, its growth and changes, the differences between the east and the west, the left and the right bank. Paris is a multicultural city, far from the clichés seen in ads and films. There will be maps and photographs and I will be very happy to answer all of your questions.

Presenter: Catherine Poisson is an associate professor at Wesleyan University. She is a PhD graduate from NYU.

Thursday, October 10 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am Village at South Farms

See details – October 3rd

Thursday, October 10 – The Not So Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife

Binge-watch *Vikings*, *Turn*, or *Frontier*, and you'll see people being disemboweled, tortured, and decapitated – but you won't see anything about menstruation, chamber pots, birth control, breastfeeding, or poopy babies. It's 2019! Even though Google cars have been invented and women won the vote almost 100 years ago, these "unsanitary" subjects still make people uncomfortable. On any given day, more than 800 million women worldwide are having a period – so why did it take until 1969, the same year Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, to invent the adhesive strip on sanitary pads?

Perhaps women need to be reminded of how far we've come in order to see how far we still can go. This presentation isn't about spinning wheels or quilting bees – it explores the engrossing "taboo" subjects that are omitted from history. Velya Jancz-Urban's enthusiastic delivery is funny and frank. Laugh, grimace, and honor our foremothers' journeys while learning about the little-known issues faced by New England's colonial women.

Presenter: Velya Janez-Urban lives her life by the adage, "There is no growth without change." Zany and gregarious, she is a teacher, public speaker, former Brazilian dairy farm owner, and expert on New England's colonial women. In 2011, Velya and her family bought a foreclosed farmhouse in Woodbury, Connecticut, unaware of what the house would reveal. Behind the walls, surprises and secrets waited to be exposed. Moving into this 1770 farmhouse ignited Velya's interest in the colonial era. She became obsessed with colonial women and created an entertainingly-informative presentation, *The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife*. Velya teaches a variety of historical/herbal workshops with her daughter, Ehris. Velya owns *How Cool Is That?!* (*Hands-On Science & History*) and believes that hands-on learning is for everyone. She has been married for 35 years and is the mother of two grown children. She has a few too many rescue dogs and cats, is happiest with a fresh stack of library books, loves thrift shops, and is passionate about alternative medicine. Velya and Ehris'

mother/daughter memoir, *How to Survive a Brazilian Betrayal*, was released on Mother's Day 2019 by Green Writers Press.

Fridays, October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8 – Women in the Bible **10am – Noon**
Locations vary: MxCC or St. Francis Church Hall

Friday, October 11 - Women in the Bible ---- AT MxCC

This program will study the women of the Christian Bible and their unique stories. Utilizing the tools of modern critical scholarship, participants will explore the lives of the mothers, daughters, wives, sisters, peasants, prophets, and queens in Scripture as well as their roles in salvation history and the importance of the feminine principle as an aspect of the Divine.

Presenter: Christine Marchetti received Online Instructor Certification, University of Michigan, Flint, MI (2018), Master of Arts in Religious Studies/Biblical Studies, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT (2017), and a Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies, St. Joseph's College of ME, Standish, ME (2011). She is a Professor of Sacred Scripture, Holy Apostles College & Seminary, Cromwell, CT (2018-2019). Christine is a World Religions Instructor, MILE, Middletown, CT (2018) and a World Religions Instructor, Glastonbury, CT (2017-2018).

OCTOBER – Week 3 – at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm; Friday: 10 am - Noon

Monday, October 14 – Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

In June 1781 and November 1782, French forces marched and camped their way across Connecticut. Today, their journey through the Northeast is interpreted and commemorated by two partner organizations: the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, a unit within the National Park Service, and the National Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. These organizations tell the stories of the troops and civilians who contributed to the Franco-American victory at Yorktown in October 1781. Dr. Robert A. Selig, project historian to the National Park Service, will talk about the Connecticut portion of the National Historic Trail.

Presenter: Robert A. Selig, PhD is a historical consultant who received his PhD in history from the *Universität Würzburg* in Germany in 1988. He published a number of books on the American War of Independence such as *Hussars in Lebanon! A Connecticut Town and Lauzun's Legion during the American Revolution, 1780-1781* (Lebanon, 2004) and a translation of *A Treatise on Partisan Warfare* by *Johann von Ewald*. Introduction and Annotation by Robert A. Selig and David Curtis Skaggs (Westport, 1991). For more information see his cv at <http://w3r-us.org/robert-a-selig/>. Robert has 10 years of teaching experience at the college and university level and serves as project historian to the National Park Service for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail Project. He has 10 years of teaching experience at the college and university level and serves as project historian to the National Park Service for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail Project.

Tuesday, October 15 – Hudson River Chronicles – In Search of the Splendid & Sublime on America's 'First' River by Richard J. Friswell

Richard J. Friswell, author, writes about the life of Thomas Cole. The year is 1825, and a young, ambitious Englishman has arrived in burgeoning New York City, at the auspicious moment of the opening of the Erie Canal. Thomas Cole is an artist, with skills he spent years mastering. In a nation of immigrants and upstarts, his challenge is to navigate through a complex, tight-knit community of emerging artists, hide-bound critics and wealthy patrons, searching for ways to support his dream. There are other obstacles as well: a new nation still tied to Old World values; a dependent father's failing business ventures; and his own recurring periods of faltering self-confidence, loneliness and melancholy.

After a brief presentation, highlighting the Hudson River School of Painting and Cole's role in elevating the American landscape to its iconic stature, the author will read from this work of historical fiction. It is based on Cole's many journals, letters and essays, as it captures the essence of the man, his motivation, inspiration and travels, given the harsh realities of city and country life in the early 19th century. In a more contemporary context, the author explores the same Hudson River valleys, towns and surrounding mountains that Cole would have known. The region's timeless allure for both travelers—stories separated by nearly two centuries—offer new perspectives on the life and times of the “Father of the Hudson River School” of painting; and that of a fellow, modern sojourner, drawn as Cole was, to the splendor of America's ‘first’ river.

Presenter: Richard J. Friswell holds degrees in psychology from the University of New Hampshire (A.B.), and Boston University (M.Ed.). He received his MPhil from Wesleyan University in 2014, when he was awarded the Rulewater Prize for outstanding reflection and writing on an interdisciplinary topic in the Graduate Liberal Studies program. He is a Wesleyan University Visiting Scholar, cultural historian and director of WILL, the Institute for Lifelong Learning. Since 2009, he has been publisher and managing editor of ARTES, a fine arts e-magazine at www.artesmagazine.com. He is an elected member of the International Art Critics Association, a national *Folio Magazine*, two-year gold and silver medal winner for his editorial commentary on the arts, and author of a collection of autobiographical short stories, *Balancing Act: Postcards from the Edge of Risk and Reward*.

Wednesday, October 16 – Bus Trip to Lexington and Concord, MA (See trip flyer for details)

Thursday, October 17 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am The Village at South Farms
See details – October 3rd

Thursday, October 17 – WWII's Greatest Commando

Come and listen to a storytelling about the life of Robert de La Rochefoucauld, a French Aristocrat who escaped three times from the Nazis during the Occupation (once from his own execution). Robert sabotaged his way across southern France and worked for a secret group of British commandos. Interestingly, Ian Fleming based the James Bond series on this French Aristocrat's experiences.

Presenter: Paul Kix received a BA from Iowa State University, 2003. Paul is currently a deputy editor at ESPN.com where his time is split between editing features and writing them. Other than writing for sports, he writes for publications such as *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *New York*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. His first book, *The Saboteur*, was a No. 1 best-seller on Amazon and DreamWorks acquired the film option. Paul hosts his own podcast called *Now That's a Great Story*. He discusses authors, novelists, screenwriters, and songwriters. Paul has had four best-selling authors, two Pulitzer Prize winners and one former CIA agent on his podcast. Paul is interested in continuous learning and stretches the learning curve through his podcast along with his weekly newsletters found at paulkix.com/newsletters.

Friday, October 18 – Women in the Bible

Location: St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown
See details – October 11th

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

Monday, October 21 – Copyright Law

This presentation will cover the basics of the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17 of the United States Code). There will be time for questions from the attendees.

Presenter: Dr. Arlene Bielefield holds an Associate Degree at Hartford College for Women, a BS and a MS in Library Science, at SCSU. She received a Juris Doctor—University of Ct School of Law. Arlene is a professor at SCSU and the Coordinator of the new online MLIS (Master of Library and Information Science). The program is new and seeking accreditation from the American Library Association in 2020.

Copyright has been Arlene's legal specialty for 37 years. She has written three books on the topic and has given many presentations and workshops on copyright all over the country.

Tuesdays, October 22, 29 – Studying the Bible through a Jewish Lens: The Creation Story

The Creation Story in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are some of the most familiar, and yet perplexing and controversial, texts of our western faith traditions. The text's intrinsic puzzle becomes even more fascinating when viewed through the lens of centuries of Jewish Torah interpretation. Join Rabbi Marci Bellows for a deep dive into the first two chapters of the Book of Genesis. Get ready for intriguing new ways of viewing this text!

Presenter: Rabbi Marci Bellows holds a B.A. Psychology from Brandeis University (1999); Master of Hebrew Literature, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (2003); and Rabbinic Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (2004). Rabbi Bellows served as Adult Program Director, Temple Shaaray Tefila, NYC (2004-2006); as Assistant Rabbi, Temple Shaaray Tefila, NYC (2006-2009); as well as Rabbi, Temple B'nai Torah, Wantagh, NY (2009-2016). Rabbi Marci is currently Rabbi, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Chester, CT.

Wednesday, October 23 – Comic Opera and the Eighteenth-Century Society

This talk examines comedy, affect, and aesthetics in the *Querelle des Bouffons* (“War of the Buffoons”)—the debates concerning opera that took place during the eighteenth century. Early comic opera emerged as a metatheatrical commentary on the fixed conventions of serious opera. In mocking the neo-classical aesthetic of imitation, comic opera forced critics to articulate what was new about its musical style. It consequently precipitated a new wave in criticism that understood music's emotional power as something independent of imitation. Tracing the emergence of resonance-based theories of emotional sympathy, this talk investigates the comic operas of Pergolesi and Orlandini, the documents of the *Querelle des Bouffons* and Diderot's *Le Neveu de Rameau*.

Presenter: Roger Mathew Grant has a PhD, University of PA and BM, Ithaca College. Professor Grant is an Associate Professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the music department at Wesleyan. His first book titled, *Beating Time and Measuring Music in the Early Modern Era*, was published in the Oxford Studies in Music Theory series at Oxford University Press (2014). He was awarded the Emerging Scholar Award from the society for Music Theory. Last year he was a visiting assistant professor in the music department at Harvard.

Thursday, October 24 – Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am Village at South Farms **See Details – October 3rd**

Thursday, October 24 – Surviving Remnant: Memories of the Greenhorns in 1950's America

Filled with love, resilience, courage, and humor, *Surviving Remnant*, the second book in the *Sidonia's Thread* trilogy, is an intimate and richly rewarding portrayal of the struggle for life among a community of new refugees from the Holocaust in 1950s America. How does a young girl search for a father for herself and husband for her Hungarian single mother, a master clothing designer and dressmaker, and come of age among a group of newcomers to America? If you loved the award-winning *Sidonia's Thread*, you will treasure the sequel, *Surviving Remnant*.

The program will use slides and anecdotes of the author's life with her mother among this group of new immigrants to portray the profound impact of immigrants on the American culture and economy.

Presenter: Hanna Perlstein Marcus was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany and immigrated to Springfield, MA at two years old. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in Psychology and earned two master's degrees in Counseling and Social Work from UConn. She has two children and four adorable granddaughters. A social worker for most of her adult life, Hanna has a license in clinical social work from the State of Connecticut. Her social work helped to inform her stories about a mother and daughter and their surrounding community's remarkable adaptation to American life after suffering crushing loss and oppression.

Friday, October 25 – Women in the Bible ---- AT MxCC

See details – October 11th

OCTOBER – Week 5 - at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30 pm: Friday: 10 am – Noon

Monday, October 28 – Hollywood: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Hollywood – the entertainment business – is America’s top export. Our films and television reach virtually every corner of the world. Stalin once said that if he could control the film industry, Russia would rule the world. How did that happen? We examine the beginnings - right up to the present. The disruption that hit music, publishing and other industries has re-shaped the entertainment business. This is now the Golden Age of Distribution - with some 70% of today’s box-office coming from abroad.

Who? What? And Why? ...plus, lots of time for audience questions and participation.

Presenter: Susan Granger is a product of Hollywood. Her natural father, S. Sylvan Simon, was a director and producer at M.G.M. and Columbia Pictures; her adoptive father, Armand Deutsch, produced movies at M.G.M. As a child, Susan appeared in movies with Abbott & Costello, Red Skelton, Lucille Ball, Margaret O’Brien and Lassie. She attended Mills College in California, studying journalism with Pierre Salinger, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with highest honors in journalism. During her adult life, Susan has been on radio and television as an anchorwoman and movie/drama critic, syndicating her reviews/articles around the world. Her website is www.susangranger.com. She has appeared on American Movie Classics and Turner Classic Movies. Susan is also the feature film critic for *Video Librarian Magazine*, distributed to libraries nationwide. Her new 2017 book is *150 Timeless Movies*.

Tuesday, October 29 – Studying the Bible Through a Jewish Lens: The Creation Story

See details - October 22nd

Wednesday, October 30 – Day Trip – Witch’s Dungeon Classic Movie Museum Bristol, CT

See trip flyer for details.

Thursday, October 31 - Great Decisions 9:30 - 11:30 am Village at South Farms

See details – October 3rd

Thursday, October 31 – Historic Cemeteries of Middletown

You will enjoy a discussion and history of the Middletown Old Burying Ground Association, Inc. (MOBG). You will learn about the relationship of MOBG and the City of Middletown. Descriptions of the cemeteries, burial locations as well as an explanation of the chain of events that occur for a cemetery will be discussed. Share and hear about notables and their stories of those interred in Middletown Cemeteries.

Presenter: August DeFrance, IV graduated from the University of Hartford with a MS in Organizational Behavior; a BS in Business Administration and an Associate of Science in Business administration. August is President of MOBG and a Cemetery Volunteer. His duties include hiring, budgeting, record keeping, bill approval, burials and cemetery maintenance using local landscapers for the last eleven years. Eight cemeteries are now maintained. He lobbied for and is receiving additional monies from the city each year to restore monuments.

He also researches and records all individuals buried in these cemeteries in a self-created database, (which now encompasses over 30,000 names and corresponding information). Data begins in 1650 and is an ongoing project.

Friday, November 1 – Women in the Bible -----AT MxCC

See details – October 11th.

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

Monday, November 4 – Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar

Return to an era when Zanzibar was ruled by sultans, and enter a vanished world of harems, slave trading and court intrigues. Princess Salamah bint Said, the sultan of Zanzibar's youngest daughter, went against Muslim custom, by eloping with a German trader and converting to Christianity. While living in exile, she wrote a fascinating memoir for her children. Waterfall Productions had adapted her 1886 autobiography into a theatrical presentation, where you will meet the princess and learn about her life.

Presenter: Rita Parisi is an actress, singer, producer, and playwright with almost 25 years of performance experience. In 2002, she founded Waterfall Productions to showcase her one-woman dramatic and musical shows which have been seen in New England, New York, New Jersey and the west coast of Florida. In addition to her solo work, she has performed in musical, dramatic, improvisational and interactive theatre. Some of her regional theatrical credits include *Mother Superior* in Nonsense and *Mary Warren* in *The Crucible*. In the past, Rita also has been involved in Boston's film scene and her films have been premiered at the Boston International Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival. She is a proud member of the largest acting union in the country: SAG/AFTRA (formerly the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists).

Tuesday, November 5 – Opera Talk – *Tristan and Isolde* by Wagner

Through DVD and commentary Barbara will explain and describe one of the most popular operas of our present repertoire: *Tristan and Isolde* by Richard Wagner. This opera was first performed in 1865 and is one of Wagner's best loved operas. Based on a medieval legend, it's a romantic tragedy of love and death, told through sublime music. Tristan is bringing the Irish princess Isolde against her will to Cornwall to become the bride of his uncle, King Mark. Isolde is furiously angry; Tristan has not only killed her beloved, Morold, but has tricked her into healing Tristan's wounds afterward. Isolde asks her attendant, Brangäne, to prepare a death potion for her — but Brangäne prepares a love potion instead, and both Tristan and Isolde drink it and immediately fall in love. Later, as they secretly meet, they are betrayed to King Mark by Tristan's friend Melot, and Tristan is fatally wounded in a fight. Tristan now wants only to die with Isolde. Ultimately, he gets his wish as Isolde joins him in death (after singing the famous finale, the "Liebestod" or "Love-Death").

Presenter: Barbara Arafah received a bachelor's degree in music from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, majoring in voice. She received a MA from Columbia University, NYC. Barbara studied opera with the eminent Boris Goldovsky. She is President of the Greater Middletown Concert Association, which sponsors operas at the Middletown Performing Arts Center. She is a regular Metropolitan attendee.

Wednesday, November 6 – *The Stranger in the Woods: a true tale of the hermit as hero, outlaw, and victim*

Michael Finkel's "extraordinary story of the last true hermit" questions society's view of those who do not feel they fit in and explores the balance between mental health and personal freedom. Christopher Knight lived in the nature of the Maine woods completely isolated from human interaction for 27 years yet stole from empty cabins for sustenance and creature comforts. When he finally left the woods, he became a local legend and to some, a pariah. The author interviewed a reluctant Knight, setting his motives and actions against the long history of those who withdrew and what they learned living apart.

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 B.A. in English from S.U.N.Y. Stony Brook, and a Master's 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 of experience as a public librarian.

Thursday, November 7 – Snow Leopards – a search to Siberia and Mt. Everest

Dr. Richard W. Benfield's current research interests are in biogeography, particularly the role of national parks in the conservation of large feline predators and the use of tourism as a conservation tool in parks. He has also published extensively and spoken widely on bio-geography. In total he has travelled in over 115 countries and has seen most of the parks, botanic gardens and other private reserves. In 2010 he traveled to the parks and gardens of South Africa, the Middle East, China and the Valley of Flowers, India where he researched the intersection of tourism and conservation. In the summer of 2015 he returned to the Former Soviet Union by travelling to Siberia and Mongolia to undertake Snow Leopard research and in 2018 he travelled to Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal in the heart of the Himalayas and the location of Everest Base camp and recently the location of the sighting of snow Leopards for the first time in 20 years. He is a much sought after speaker for local garden and nature clubs and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, for whom he presented their plenary address at their education conference in Mexico City, and subsequently in 2013 he spoke at a number of New Zealand venues prior to addressing the World Botanic Garden conference in Dunedin, New Zealand. In the summer, 2014, he travelled to South Korea to research conservation of plants in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea and from there he travelled to Australia to speak in five major cities on garden tourism, partnerships and tourism development. In 2013 his book *Garden Tourism* was published by CABI Press, Abingdon, England.

Presenter: Dr. Richard W. Benfield is Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut where he teaches courses in Human Geography, Plants, Predators and Parks, Russia, The European Union and many of the courses in the department's tourism track. Prior to coming to Central, he was Senior Program Coordinator in the Division of Continuing Education at the University of Oklahoma where he instructed citizens of the new Russian Federation on privatization and the transition to a market economy. He obtained his doctorate in geography from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. Prior to commencing his teaching career at the University of Oklahoma, he was Vice-President of Marketing at Whistler Ski resort, Canada, home of the 2010 Winter Olympics, Executive Director of the Banff-Lake Louise Chamber of Commerce and a tourism marketing executive with the Government of Alberta.

Friday, November 8 - Women in the Bible

Location: St Francis Church Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown

See details -- October 11th.

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

Monday, November 11 – From Riverbeds to Outer Space, Journeys and Projects of a CT Scientist

This presentation highlights interesting scientific projects Peter Formica has participated in such as research involving the environmental issues including a lawsuit between Bethlehem Steel and Johnson, PA. How do major companies improve their technology and oversight so that the environment is protected? Hear about some of the projects done for the Space Station and the Hubble telescope. After 30 years of scientific research and experiments, Formica trained to teach Science, doing so in Middle School for 10 years. Teaching for him was a different world but also full of discovery.

Presenter: Peter Formica was born and raised in Hartford, CT. He received a BS in chemical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1967 and a MA Education, St. Joseph College 2000. Peter worked at Grumman and Hamilton Corp as a head engineer on science projects and was a science teacher for 10 years. Peter's teaching experience included certification in chemistry, physics, general science and elementary education. He was successful in motivating students to compete in the Science Bowl Nationals in 2006 and 2010.

Tuesday, November 12 – Viva Brazil

A colorful, crowd-pleasing repertoire of Afro-Brazilian dances fusing rhythmic music with high-energy gymnastics, Ginga Brasileira does not disappoint. Efraim Silva and Thelma Ladeira are from Brazil and have presented in schools and festivals in the U.S., Canada and Brazil. They perform Capoeira, a Brazilian martial-art created by slaves in 16th century Brazil, and their movements are punctuated by daring footwork, fast leaps, and

split-second timing. Maculele, is another performance slave dance with sticks and there will be a demonstration of Samba, the national dance of Brazil that is very popular during Carnival.

Presenter: Efraim Silva, President and Artistic Director of Ginga Brasileira, was born in Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil. He was awarded state and federal certification as a professional musician and rhythmist. He opened his own Capoeira academy in Bragança Paulista, São Paulo, in 1985. He became Brazilian national champion of Capoeira in 1988. Efraim now teaches Capoeira for children and adults in the New Haven area, and has his own performing group, Ginga Brasileira, Inc., with which he performs in schools, universities, and festivals all over the United States, Canada and Brazil.

Wednesday, November 13 – Computer Safety: Avoiding Malware, Scams and Too Much Email

In this introductory level class, participants will learn about low cost ways to use computers and other devices safely. Topics will include selecting anti-virus software, understanding protection provided by web browsers, recognizing secure websites, using wireless internet connections safely, and building strong passwords. The class will also cover email etiquette and safety. There will also be an overview of recognizing, avoiding, and recovering from identity theft.

Presenter: Kim Spachman is a librarian and information professional with an interdisciplinary background that includes technology instruction and the arts. For the last three years, she has worked at Russell Library in its Information Services and Adult Education Department. At the library, she introduces patrons to library databases, diagnoses computer problems, and assists them with their tablets and laptops. Before joining Russell Library, she developed her technical and research skill as a development analyst and paralegal. Kim has a Master of Library Science from SCSU and a BA, (Organizational Behavior and Management and English and American Literature) Brown University.

Thursday, November 14 – Remembering My Father – The Documentation of a Holocaust Survivor’s Story

Irene shares memories of her father. She says “This talk will be about my father’s story as a 16-year old Polish youth during WWII, his incarceration at three concentration camps, life after the war in a displaced persons camp, and eventual immigration to the US. I will also describe my journey in documenting his experiences. As his only child, I have made it my mission to document his story for myself and my children. I am excited to share his story with you! This is my first formal presentation of our family’s story.”

Presenter: Irene Martin completed a MA in “College Student Personnel”: Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio and a BA in “Interdepartmental Science”: American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts. She is the Director of Financial Aid Services at MxCC and has been at MxCC for 11 years and has been in the profession since 1981. She lives in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts sharing her home with her rescued Basset Hound and African Gray parrot. Irene has two grown daughters, Paige and Natalie.

Irene says: “I have preserved my father’s documents, pictures, and personal stories. I have visited all three Concentration Camps with my father. The camps were Auchwitz, Flossenbürg, and Dachau. I attended the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp with my father in April/May 2005. He died one month after that trip.”

Friday, November 15 – Naturopathic Medicine & the Natural Medicine Chest

You will learn the philosophies behind how a naturopathic doctor practices along with some basic natural at-home remedies.

Presenter: Sara B. Frawley, N.D. has a BS in Chemistry and Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine. Dr. Frawley’s personal journey has taken her from the clinical and analytical settings of organic chemistry laboratories to the personal and healing experiences found in herbal and medicinal shops of the Far East here in the states. After being trained and working in product development for major consumer goods and biotechnologies firms, Dr. Frawley turned her attention to learning more about the way individuals can help themselves (and their bodies) live better and healthier lives. No two individuals are alike. As a Naturopathic

Doctor, the goal is to help you better understand how your daily choices in diet and lifestyle can affect your short and long-term health.

NOVEMBER – Week 8 at MxCC – Monday thru Thursday: 1:30-3:30; Friday: 10 am – Noon

Monday, November 18 - Frog Hollow: Stories from Hartford, an American Neighborhood

Frog Hollow: Stories from an American Neighborhood is a collection of colorful historical vignettes of an ethnically diverse neighborhood just west of the CT State Capitol in Hartford. Its 1850's row houses have been home to a wide variety of immigrants. During the Revolutionary War, Frog Hollow was a progressive hub, and later, in the mid-late 19th century, it was a hotbed of industry. Reporter Susan Campbell tells the true stories of Frog Hollow with a primary focus on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the inventors, entrepreneurs and workers, as well as the impact of African American migration to Hartford; the impact of the Civil Rights movement and the continuing fight for housing. Frog Hollow was also one of the first neighborhoods in the country to experiment with successful urban planning models, including public parks and free education. From European colonists to Irish and Haitian immigrants to Puerto Ricans, these stories of Frog Hollow show the multiple realities that make up a dynamic urban neighborhood. At the same time, they reflect the changing faces of American cities.

Presenter: Susan Campbell is a distinguished lecturer at the University of New Haven's Department of Communication, Film and Media Studies. She is also a columnist for the Hartford Courant, and the website, Connecticut Health Investigative Team (www.c-hit.org), and a frequent contributor on issues of housing and homelessness to WNPR, and the political website, The Hill, as well as the newspaper, *The Guardian*. She is an award-winning author of *Dating Jesus: Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl*, and the biography, *Tempest-Tossed: The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker*. Her new book *Searching for the American Dream in Frog Hollow, America*, is published by Wesleyan University Press. Susan was born in Kentucky and raised in southwest Missouri. For more than a quarter-century, she was a staff columnist at the Hartford Courant, where her work has been recognized by the National Women's Political Caucus, New England Associated Press News Executives, the Society for Professional Journalists, the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, and the Sunday Magazine Editors Association. She returned as a freelance columnist in March 2013. Her column about the shootings at lottery headquarters in March 1998 was part of The Courant's Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage. The mother of two adult sons and the grandmother of seven, she has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from Hartford Seminary.

Tuesday, November 19

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