

## **MILE FALL 2022 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

**Programs to be held at Middlesex Community College, Chapman Hall  
100 Training Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457**

**In addition, Wednesday presentations will be via ZOOM this Fall. You will receive weekly emails regarding the programs, and any changes in the schedule as well as the ZOOM link.**

### **October – Week 1**

#### **Tuesday, October 4 – Crossing Musical Boundaries with Guitar & Mandolin (In Person)**

Enjoy the many musical possibilities of the guitar and Mandolin. This program is a performance by Judy Handler and Mark Levesque. The guitar is at home with many musical styles and so are Judy and Mark! You'll hear their own unique arrangements of swing, 60s-70s pop, Celtic and music from Spain, Latin America, Europe & Eastern Europe. Audiences have responded with great enthusiasm to their extraordinary sound, amusing anecdotes and the joyful spirit of their music.

**Presenter: Judy Handler** earned a Master of Music in guitar performance from the Hartt School of Music, a Bachelor of Music from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, a Diploma of Merit from Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, a Certificate from Curs Internacional de Música at the Vila-Seca i Salou Conservatory in Spain and a Diploma from the Aspen Music School. She has performed as a soloist and in ensembles throughout the Northeast. Judy is co-founder of the Connecticut Guitar Society.

**Presenter: Mark Levesque** has taken courses at Central Connecticut State University and the Hartt School of Music as well as private instruction with guitarists in a variety of genres. He has performed on guitar, mandolin, and cuatro in numerous ensembles throughout New England most recently with the CitySingers of Hartford. Additionally, he has played and arranged world, jazz, Latin and blues music and has worked with synthesizer orchestration.

#### **Wednesday October 5 — Pudd'nheads: Childhood in Colonial America) (ZOOM)**

Today as in the past, childrearing is a common concern for all parents and grandparents. This presentation "Pudd'nheads: Childhood in Colonial America" examines the unique aspects of childhood between the late sixteenth and late eighteenth centuries. The presentation explores birthing and childrearing practices, parenting, children's health and education, naming, gender, play, and rites of passage. Pilgrim and Puritan colonists had children, and though it would be hard to tell from historical records, so did indigenous families and enslaved Africans. Providing fresh historical perspectives on key features of children's lives, this program offers compelling information on colonial children - as well as Native American and slave children, who are too often left out of conventional coverage.

**Presenters: Velya Jancz-Urban**, author and teacher joined with her herbalist daughter, **Ehris Urban** to form Grounded Goodwife, LLC. Velya's gregarious personality and Ehris' serene energy enable this mother/daughter duo to connect with audiences through their seminars, herstory unsanitized presentations, holistic workshops, and books.

**Thursday, October 6 – Entangled and Ingested (Plastic pollution into art) (In Person)**

Plastic waste and pollution are a worldwide problem! Dr. Katharine Owens will share how she uses the arts to communicate about the pervasive problem of plastic pollution. Her research, training communities to collect debris using scientific methods and then report the results to policymakers, has allowed her to work around the world. A researcher and artist, Dr. Owens has spent the last year creating a series of forty-six life-sized portraits of animals harmed by marine debris. She creates most of the pieces herself by hand sewing film plastic onto canvas, but the largest pieces (including three life-sized whales) are being co-created with the public.

**Presenter: Dr. Katharine Owens** has bachelor degrees in Studio Art, Biology, and Anthropology, a Master in Environmental Studies and a PhD in Governance and Sustainability. She is a Professor in the Department of Politics, Economics, and International Studies and Director of the University Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Hartford. Her work has been supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Stevens Initiative, the National Geographic Society, the Fulbright Nehru program, and the Connecticut Office of the Arts. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who seeks to merge science, policy, and the arts.

**October -- Week 2**

**Wednesday October 12 – Bus Trip: Olana and Staatsburgh Historic site, Home of Frederick Church, Where American Art Was Born**

In the early nineteenth century, many in this country were searching for a style of art that they could call their own - something uniquely American. Frederic Church, the famous landscape architect, so loved the Hudson River Valley he bought a 126-acre farm in Hudson, NY. Here he created the magnificent Olana with its Moorish architecture and fantastic views of the river. Our Guided Tour will take us on a trip through time, seeing a remarkably preserved home, complete with much of the original furniture. We learn the story of Church's life and how he came to build this wonderful mansion overlooking the Hudson. Lunch will be at Creekside Restaurant in Catskill, NY. Menu: Salad, Choice of: Fish & Chips, Half Rack of Baby Back Ribs, or French Dip Sandwich au Jus, Dessert, Coffee. (Entrée choice in advance).

**See Trip Flyer for sign up details.**

**Since the bus trip must be paid in full by September 12th, the registration cutoff date must be September 9th. We need at least 35 people so non-MILE members are welcome.**

**Thursday, October 13—Seated not Defeated, Tai Chi & Qi Gong (In Person)**

This program highlights the health and wellness benefits of Tai Chi! Including, Mobility, Mindfulness, Posture, Gesture, Awareness, Alertness. Tai Chi and Qi Gong are treasured

the world over for their remarkable contributions to mental, emotional, psychological, and physical wellness. Sadly, too many people feel they won't look good in fancy silk flowy outfits. Others, are not all that comfortable practicing out in a public park with the critical eyes of strangers upon them. Still others, simply don't have the stamina, flexibility, or confidence in staying up while staying present with all the movements of Tai Chi and Qi gong. I say, pull up a chair, wear whatever you like to wear, and don't go anywhere. This is Chair Tai Chi and Qi Gong!

**Presenter: Stephen Watson** has immersed himself in Eastern philosophy for over 35 years. Taoism, the philosophical root of Taiji, is made clearer in a moment with Stephen than in poring over dozens of translations from the Classics. Stephen's martial training (the how) began in concert with his interest in philosophy (the why). His motto is: When you have enough Why's you have Wise. He specializes in transmitting a profound understanding of why. Ask a question and he will show you that you already know why. There are no hidden treasures, only closed eyes. Stephen is a regular poetry contributor to I AM ONline magazine, the world's premiere source for online martial study. Stephen has been inducted into numerous Halls of Fame including the Oriental Martial Arts College's Hall of Honor as a "Bruce Lee Legend."

### **Thursday, October 13—Seeking Solutions to Fix our Country (In Person)**

This program is an important look at solutions to serious problems that our country faces! The United States political system increasingly tends to be characterized by many serious problems not being seriously addressed, hyper-partisanship, polarization, and gridlock. I will first propose a set of "solutions" that we could implement as a nation to try to "fix" our political system. Then we'll discuss those and other ideas you may have, with an earnest focus on how the United States system can be improved to maximize the chances of a bright future for our grandchildren. We are interested in solutions that would work, without regard to whether they come from the current political left, right, or center. Come ready to explain/debate/support options to make the country we love better! This is about the solutions, not the problems; we are discussing problems only to the extent that they help us understand/improve the solutions.

**Presenter: Tad Lincoln** earned an M.A. in Economics from the University of Connecticut in 1993 and B.S from the University of Connecticut in 1985 with a double major: Mechanical Engineering/Materials Engineering. Before 2006, he worked in engineering and management, and spent 7 years overseas. That experience is not directly related, but it helps provide "perspective" in that you live within other countries' political-economic systems, and you see your own system from afar. Tad Lincoln has been teaching economics and political science classes, 2006 to present, and the many debates in those courses about solutions.

### **October — Week 3**

**Tuesday, October 18 – Book Reading/Signing: *Merchants of Deceit: Opium, American Fortune & the China Trade* (In Person)**

This presentation is a book talk, and the book protagonist a Middletown CT resident of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The presentation will include readings by Richard Friswell from his book “Merchants of Deceit”, as well as, PowerPoint images pertaining to the life and times of 19<sup>th</sup> century Middletown resident, Samuel Russell, and his involvement with the China Trade. How he came to build the largest opium trading business in Canton, China in the 1820-40s will be the topic, represented by selected excerpts from the book and general discussion. The presenter may also sell signed copies of the book which will be available at the time of the talk.

**Presenter: Richard Friswell**, MPhil, is a Visiting Scholar at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, where he co-directs the Wesleyan Wasch Center Seminars, their adult education program. “Merchants of Deceit” is his third book dealing with topics of cultural history through the imagined eye of a cultural historian and storyteller. He speaks and lectures widely on topics related to the ‘Modern Era,’ a time during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century when Western civilization was experiencing rapid change in the face of the Industrial Revolution and widespread political upheaval.

**Wednesday October 19 –Travelogue: Off the Beaten Path in Spain: Malaga, Cordoba, Canary Islands and Huelva Coast (Zoom)**

Traveling is the best form of education and stories about travel are always a treat! In this presentation, Augusta Gonzalez will be sharing photos of her travels during these past six months in Spain. Two of the cities are well-known: Cordoba and Malaga. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, Cordoba was the third most important Islamic pilgrimage site as well as a bustling center of intellectual activity among Muslim, Jewish and Christian scholars. Malaga, the birthplace of Picasso, has recently been transformed into an art destination with 5 major museums. The other travel sites are the islands of Hierro and Gomera, both part of the Canary Archipelago, and the Southwestern coast of Huelva/ Cadiz, also known as la Costa de la Luz, the Coast of Light. Come join Augusta as she guides you through a mosque, a (Sephardic) Jewish neighborhood, the South westernmost coast of Spain and her hikes in the national parks of two of the Canary Islands. Of course, she will include culinary information and maybe even a tasting!

**Presenter: Augusta Gonzalez**, UCLA, 1971 BA, USC 1972 Teaching certificate, Wesleyan Univ. 1988 MA in Lit. and Arts, Retired Spanish teacher, presently a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum and chair of the MILE Curriculum Committee. Augusta has lived in Spain for more than ten years and has taught Spanish language and culture for more than 40 years.

**Thursday, October 20 - Great Decisions: Quad Alliance (In Person)**

**Great Decisions SESSION 1**

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 materials 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. more info below

We will have 4 sessions using the Great Decisions materials and 1 open discussion on current events – with the topics chosen by the participants.

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.

Topics and schedule for the Fall are as follows:

- October 20 – Quad Alliance
- October 27 – Drug Policy in Latin America
- November 3 – Industrial Policy
- November 10 – Biden’s Agenda
- November 17 – Open Discussion

Sessions will run on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 at Middlesex Community College.

Participants are expected to obtain the Great Decisions program materials from FPA.ORG and to read the topic sections prior to each session. The materials are purchased separately. Our topics for Fall 2022 are chapters 5-8. Those who attended in the Spring and purchased then already have the materials needed.

The books are available in print from FPA.ORG (\$35) and various e-book formats (Kindle, Apple books, etc. - ~\$25).

Note: Contact the moderator at budsielaff@sbcglobal.net if you need any further information.

**Moderator: Bud Sielaff**, a retired business executive with degrees in engineering, marketing and finance. Bud is a member of MILE and has been moderator of the Great Decisions program since Fall 2018. He has a business strategy background, has had extensive international travels, and closely follows world events as an interested citizen.

### **Thursday, October 20 - Graven Images: Colonial New England Gravestones as Art & History (In Person)**

Are you a graver—someone who visits cemeteries as a hobby or uses the computer to research resting places? Or perhaps you are interested in the history and stories the gravestone can tell? This presentation is about the profusion of colonial New England gravestones throughout our region, and the variety of designs and messaging found there, represents a slice of American history that is literally at our fingertips. Having weathered the elements for centuries, each stone stands ready to tell a unique story about lives lived long ago. This lecture will offer a sampling of graven images, their rich symbolism, as well as insights into 18<sup>th</sup> c. views of life, death and the hereafter. Itinerant carvers worked in identifiable styles, as design elements changed over time. Rich narratives can be found scattered across the landscape, including stories of prosperity, hardship and profound loss—stories preserved for all time on the graves of the long-deceased.

**Presenter: Richard Friswell**, MPhil, is a Visiting Scholar at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, where he co-directs the Wesleyan Wasch Center Seminars, their adult education program.

“Merchants of Deceit “is his third book dealing with topics of cultural history through the imagined eye of a cultural historian and storyteller. He speaks and lectures widely on topics related to the ‘Modern Era,’ a time during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century when Western civilization was experiencing rapid change in the face of the Industrial Revolution and widespread political upheaval.

### **Friday, October 21 – Zentangle...Finding Your Creative Spirit! (In Person)**

Bring out the creativity and artist in you with the Zentangle® Method! This program explores Zentangle® which is a Meditative and Mindful Practice: A form of “artistic meditation” as one becomes completely engrossed in making each structured pattern, deliberately using “one stroke at a time”®. The creativity options and pattern combinations are boundless. ***And anyone can do it!*** We will create one to three Zentangle® pieces in the time allotted.

**Presenter Beth Malley** is co-curator of the Monastery Gallery of Art in West Hartford and a certified Zentangle teacher, who enjoys helping others explore their artistic and creative gifts. She is a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum and hosts the prayer shawl ministry at Holy Family Retreat Center. She graduated from Western New England College in 1992.

**Note: there is a \$3.50 fee for materials.**

## **October—Week 4**

### **Tuesday, October 25— Beyond Plymouth Rocks: A History of New England in Objects (In Person)**

This presentation is a fascinating way to look at the History of New England, from masterpieces to everyday items! New England is more than a region. The culture and history of these six states have long been symbolic, standing for different aspects of American identity. Given the antiquity of European settlement here, New England’s iconic status within American history is unquestioned. What that history means, however, has changed over time.

This presentation will examine the establishment of New England’s identity in the Colonial Revival of the late nineteenth century, and then unpack that identity through unusual objects found in numerous museum collections, ranging from clothing to furniture, ceramics to ephemera, from masterpieces to everyday items. It will examine how material culture speaks to the history of identity and ideas, beyond New England

**Presenter: James Golden** is the Director of Interpretation at Historic Deerfield. He holds a M.A. at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. First in class, summa cum laude, M.Sc. School of History at the University of Edinburgh with Distinction, and a Ph.D. Faculty of History at the University of Oxford. Dr. Golden has written for many publications including the *Historic Deerfield Magazine* and the *English Historical Review*. He has been either adjunct faculty or visiting professor for Wesleyan, Trinity College and University of Hartford. Not only is he presently the Director of Historic Deerfield with many responsibilities, but he also was Director of Education at the Mark Twain House.

### **Wednesday October 26 – Antarctic Adventure: A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience (ZOOM)**

This presentation is a travelogue to a region of the world that most of us will never visit, but would love to hear about! Dr. Stephanie Bird is a laboratory-trained neuroscientist who has spent the last four decades working in the area of research and engineering ethics. That said, last fall she had the opportunity to travel to Antarctica, the island of South Georgia, and the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. It was extraordinary! – Unlike any other trip she had taken, rich with pristine beauty and full of close-up observation of wildlife in its native habitat. The time on the

cruise, during the worldwide COVID pandemic, was also full of fascinating experiences with shipmates from all over the world. Stephanie looks forward to sharing with MILE members a professional video, some spectacular photos, and some thought-provoking experiences.

**Presenter: Stephanie J. Bird, PhD** is a laboratory-trained neuroscientist whose professional interests are two-fold: the ethical, legal and social policy implications of scientific research, especially neuroscience; and education in the responsible conduct of research and engineering, and the professional responsibilities of scientists and engineers more generally. As an independent consultant, she works with institutions of higher learning, professional societies, government agencies, and law firms in the US and other countries. In addition, Dr. Bird is a founding editor and former Editor-in-Chief of *Science and Engineering Ethics*, an international publication that explores ethical issues of concern to scientists and engineers, and to the larger society regarding the implications and applications of science and technology.

### **Thursday, October 27 – Great Decisions: Drug Policy in Latin America (In Person)**

**Great Decisions SESSION 2. See program details from Thursday October 20.**

**Moderator: Bud Sielaff**

### **Thursday, October 27 – Colonial American Poet (Part 1) : Anne Bradstreet (In Person)**

Anne Bradstreet was the first woman to be recognized as an accomplished New World Poet. This presentation will focus on the poetry of the 17<sup>th</sup>-Century American Puritan poet Anne Bradstreet, and her impact, as both a writer and a woman, on her own society and on American literature.

**Presenter: Dr. Gil Gigliotti** is a professor of English and Latin at Central Connecticut State University, where he teaches courses in early American literature, ancient Greek and Latin literature, popular culture, and the Latin language. He is the host of the weekly Sinatra radio program “Frank, Gil, and Friends” on WFCS 107.7 FM. He earned his PhD in Comparative Literature from the Catholic University of America in 1992. He’s currently the President of the Classical Association of Connecticut.

## **November — Week 5**

### **Tuesday, November 1 – Space Solar Power (In Person)**

A fascinating presentation about a clean energy source that you may not even know about! By pursuing Space Solar Power, Humanity will both achieve energy independence, free of fossil fuels, and “open the door” to affordable space exploration and development leading to space settlements. Stevan Ackerley will use as a reference the book by John C. Mankins, *“The Case for Space Solar Power”*. Too few people know about the potential of this technology, and most have never heard of it.

“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new.”

Niccolo Machiavelli (c. 1513) in *The Prince*.

**Presenter: Stevan Ackerley** earned an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA, 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 He is a retired Engineer. Worked 38.6 years at P&W. Then 7 years as a Technical Consultant for P&W.

**Wednesday, November 2 – Connecticut State Library MILE Fall 2022 Trip including presentation “The Life and Times of William Webb: An African-American Civil War Soldier from Connecticut.”**

**Tour of Library:** The Connecticut State Library provides high quality library and information services to state government and the citizens of Connecticut. It also preserves and makes accessible the records of Connecticut’s history and heritage. The focus of the Museum and its collections is Connecticut’s government, military and industrial history. Permanent and changing exhibits trace the growth of the State and its role in the development of the nation from the colonial era to the present.

**Presenter: Kevin Johnson** will portray William Webb, an African-American Civil War Soldier from Connecticut. Private Webb was an actual soldier, a native of Hartford. He was recruited in 1863 and served in the Twenty-Ninth (Colored) Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in several battles in Virginia. Johnson’s presentation of Webb is told from an emotional and exciting first-person perspective that vividly illustrates the struggle of the African-Americans in the Colored Infantry during the Civil War. He tells of his early life in Hartford, his recruitment and training, and the traumatic final battles of the Civil War. The presentation is based on extensive research in the collections of the Connecticut State Library and the Museum of Connecticut History.

Kevin Johnson is an employee of the State Library’s History and Genealogy Unit. He has been presenting William Webb for more than 20 years and has given more than 600 presentations.

**TO REGISTER** – Email: ejtischio705@gmail.com. **DEADLINE:** Wednesday, October 26  
Include the name(s) of who is attending. Family and friends are welcome to join us.  
Include your cell phone number.  
Questions or must cancel: Please call Elizabeth Tischio at 860.490.4573 asap.

**Thursday, November 3 – Great Decisions: Industrial Policy (In Person)**

**Great Decisions SESSION 3. See program details from Thursday October 20.**  
**Moderator: Bud Sielaff**

**Thursday, November 3 – Colonial American Poet (Part 2): Phillis Wheatley Peters (In Person)**

Although she was an enslaved person, Phillis Wheatley Peters was one of the best-known poets in pre-19th century America. This presentation will focus on the work of Phillis Wheatley Peters and her significance as the beginning of the African American literary tradition. We’ll pay special attention to how she used her verse to speak out against slavery and for the American Revolution, despite her marginalized place as an enslaved woman in late-18<sup>th</sup>-Century Boston.  
**Presenter: Dr. Gil Gigliotti** is a professor of English and Latin at Central Connecticut State University, where he teaches courses in early American literature, ancient Greek and Latin

literature, popular culture, and the Latin language. He is the host of the weekly Sinatra radio program “Frank, Gil, and Friends” on WFCS 107.7 FM. He earned his PhD in Comparative Literature from the Catholic University of America in 1992. He’s currently the President of the Classical Association of Connecticut.

## **November — Week 6**

### **Tuesday, November 8 – Winston Churchill – DVD (Part 1) (In Person)**

Winston Churchill was a Statesman for England and also the free world. This presentation discusses Winston Churchill and Statesmanship. This course will consist of 6 lectures: 1. Why study Churchill? 2. The problem of modern war. 3. A strategy for modern war. 4. The problem of modern politics. 5. Churchill’s plan for freedom. 6. What Churchill teaches us about our time. Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College and also professor of history will conduct the lectures. Joe Soja will be the moderator.

**Presenter: Joe Soja** Grew up in Durham, CT and attended local schools. Attended the University of New Haven and earned a B.S degree in Industrial Administration as well as a Master of Public Administration. Graduated from the United States Army Command and General Staff College Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Retired from The Durham Manufacturing Company as Vice President. Became a substitute teacher teaching all grades.

### **Wednesday November 9 – Getting to know Weir Farm National Historical Park and American Impressionists (ZOOM)**

Join Park Ranger Kristin Lessard for an introduction to Weir Farm National Historical Park, your local national park! The discussion will include a brief history of the site and how it became a unit of the National Park Service, as well as current programs and opportunities to get involved. Discover this National Park for Art, and be inspired by of generations of world-class artists, including America’s most beloved Impressionist J. Alden Weir. Kristin will highlight the artistic legacy of Weir Farm and how contemporary artists use the park as a source of inspiration and creativity. Learn about the exciting Art in the Park programming, including the Park’s Artist-in-Residence program, Take Part in Art, Impressionist Painting Workshops, and more! Weir Farm is a national legacy to American Impressionism, the creative spirit, and historic preservation. For more information about Weir Farm National Historical Park, please visit [www.nps.gov/wefa](http://www.nps.gov/wefa)

**Presenter: Kristin Lessard** graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management and has extensive training in public programming and 21st century visitor engagement techniques. Kristin has worked for the National Park Service since 2008, serving in varied professional roles across multiple disciplines including Resource Interpretation, Education, Public Affairs, Project Management, and Youth and Volunteer Engagement. In her current position as Program Manager of Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers at Weir Farm National Historical Park, Kristin oversees the park’s visitor service operations and engagement initiatives, which include history and fine art education programming for approximately 35,000 visitors a year, as well as dynamic youth and volunteer programs.

### **Thursday, November 10 -- Great Decisions: Biden’s Agenda (In Person)**

**Great Decisions SESSION 4. See program details from Thursday October 20.  
Moderator: Bud Sielaff**

**Thursday, November 10 -- Winston Churchill – DVD (Part 2) (In Person)**

Winston Churchill was a Statesman for England and also the free world. This presentation discusses Winston Churchill and Statesmanship. This course will consist of 6 lectures: 1. Why study Churchill? 2. The problem of modern war. 3. A strategy for modern war. 4. The problem of modern politics. 5. Churchill's plan for freedom. 6. What Churchill teaches us about our time. Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College and also professor of history will conduct the lectures. Joe Soja will be the moderator.

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**November — Week 7**

**Tuesday, November 15 – Winston Churchill – DVD (Part 3) (In Person)**

Winston Churchill was a Statesman for England and also the free world. This presentation discusses Winston Churchill and Statesmanship. This course will consist of 6 lectures: 1. Why study Churchill? 2. The problem of modern war. 3. A strategy for modern war. 4. The problem of modern politics. 5. Churchill's plan for freedom. 6. What Churchill teaches us about our time. Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College and also professor of history will conduct the lectures. Joe Soja will be the moderator.

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**Wednesday November 16 – Connecticut's Indigenous Communities: An Introduction to their Histories and Cultures (ZOOM)**

What was Eastern North America really like when the early English settlers came to shore? It was not a "howling wilderness" as described by the early English settlers. It was a built landscape, managed by the first settlers of the land, its Indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities have long, rich histories that extend back to when they shared Mother Earth with mastodons and other extinct animals. Through those thousands of years, Native Americans became experts in their natural environments, a necessity for their physical survival as well as their spiritual obligation. Our first environmental stewards, Native American communities had

long been managing their physical environments to enhance plant and animal populations as well as their human communities. Indigenous folklore and sacred stories promoted this ecological balance. This PowerPoint presentation provides a window into Connecticut tribal histories and cultures before and after European settlement.

**Presenter: Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D.** earned a BA in Anthropology from Indiana University, MA in Anthropology from New York University and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from New York University. She is Director of Research and Collections *Emeritus* at the Institute for American Indian Studies, a museum and research and educational center in Washington, CT. She is an anthropologist & archaeologist who has over 50 years of research and field experience in Northeastern archaeology and Native American studies. Dr. Lavin is a founding member of the state's Native American Heritage Advisory Council and retired editor of the journal of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, a position she held for 30 years.

#### **Thursday November 17—Great Decisions: Open Discussion (In Person)**

**Great Decisions SESSION 5. See program details from Thursday October 20.**

**Moderator: Bud Sielaff**

#### **Thursday November 17-- Can Nuclear Power Help Fight Climate Change? (In Person)**

Nuclear power is not a clean energy source, right? Today, nuclear generates 20% of USA total electricity and 52% of its clean power. While support for this solution is growing, there is still skepticism - some based on fact but most based on common misperceptions. This presentation will explore the science of nuclear radiation, how nuclear power plants work, and how nuclear waste is managed. We will also discuss some of the new up-and-coming technologies that will make nuclear an even better and more economical solution. Presentation does not require a science or technology background!

**Presenter: Bud Sielaff** earned a BSEE from Virginia Tech and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He has over 30 years in the radiation detection and measurement industry with the world's leading company – mostly in roles of product planning, marketing and strategy. Ten years as Vice President in various strategy, marketing and sales roles. Currently some industry consulting and advocacy.