

MILE FALL 2023 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

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

In addition, some programs (each Wednesday) will be presented on ZOOM this Fall. You will receive weekly emails regarding the programs and any changes in the schedule as well as the ZOOM address.

OCTOBER – Week 1

Tuesday, October 3 – Irish to the Last Drop

A live music presentation! Enjoy songs from a singing group that sings traditional Irish and patriotic songs as well as stories about Ireland.

Presenter: John O’Shaughnessy, BS in Music Education from UConn. John taught instrumental music grades 4-12; St Luke Church choir.

Presenter: Ellen O’Shaughnessy, Bachelor of Music and MFA, Music Theory from UConn. Ellen taught general music and choir grades 7-12; Choir Director St. Luke Church.

Presenter: Tom Curtiss, Bachelor degree in History from Assumption College. Tom has sung in numerous groups in the Ellington and Vernon area.

Presenter: Don Benefides, BA of Music, Hart School, Don is a piano teacher, Choir Director at St. Maurice Church, Bolton.

Wednesday, October 4 — Justice Denied: A Personal Perspective (ZOOM)

Incarcerated at the age of two months! *Justice Denied* tells the story of the Japanese incarceration during World War II as seen through the eyes of a Japanese American family. It follows their passage from immigration in the 1890s through their imprisonment during the war years and documents how they rebuilt their lives thereafter. The presentation is richly illustrated with more than 100 family and historic WWII photographs, many of the latter obtained from U.S. government archives. Beyond describing the internment experiences of a single family, the talk focuses on the plight of the 120,000 Japanese -- two thirds of them American citizens -- who were imprisoned, sometimes for years, by a Presidential order deemed by many then and now to be in violation of the United States Constitution. For audiences not familiar with the details of the WWII Japanese incarceration, this story will serve as a primer on one of America’s darker historic moments as well as its efforts in later years to compensate those who suffered through it.

Presenter: Margaret Yamamoto is a member of the family featured in the presentation and was incarcerated at the age of two months. She is retired after more than 40 years in the marketing and communications fields. Before retirement, she was Director of Community Program Initiatives at WGBH, Boston's public broadcasting station. She has also worked for Walt Disney Productions, General Electric and a number of education and healthcare organizations in New York, California and Massachusetts. She recently retired as co-president of the New England Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, a national human rights and educational organization. She has served on the boards of the Japan Society of Boston and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. She has also served on advisory committees for the PBS Adult Learning Service and the Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston.

Thursday, October 5 -- Wetmore Parlor Talk: Art, History and Discovery

For those who are fascinated by history, restoration, art and architecture in Middletown, this presentation will offer a synthesis of new research regarding the Wetmore Parlor, a 1740s paneled room from Middletown, Connecticut. Purchased by the Wadsworth Atheneum in 1986, the Wetmore Parlor ranks among the most significant colonial-era interiors to survive from the Connecticut Valley. Its elaborate painted paneling features faux wood graining and marbled finishes, as well as a decorative overmantel depicting a pastoral scene complete with ancient ruins and medieval churches. This summer, the Wadsworth will undertake intense scientific study of the room to better understand the nature of the pigments used as well as the possibility of other period embellishments including wallpaper. At the same time, additional museum objects will be introduced into the space that speak to 18th-century Middletown's robust commercial activities and Caribbean connections. With the help of recently acquired Wetmore family ledgers and other papers, the Wadsworth will soon tell a more complete story of the free and enslaved people who called the Wetmore house home on the eve of the American Revolution.

Presenter: Philippe Halbert is curator of American Decorative Arts at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford. A graduate of the College of William and Mary and the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, he received his PhD in history of art from Yale University in 2022. He has held curatorial positions at institutions including Colonial Williamsburg, the Louvre, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Yale University Art Gallery.

OCTOBER -- Week 2

Tuesday, October 10-- Korean Lantern Making

This presentation mixes enjoyable craft making and learning about the Korean culture. Members of The Korean Spirit and Culture Promotion Project will be on hand to help attendees make lovely traditional lotus flower lanterns using colored paper and wire frames and at the end of the class, they will show short documentaries on Korea.

In addition, they will hand out books on Korean history and culture for free.

Presenter: Members of KSCPP and Younhee Shin who is a graduate of "Accademia di Costume e Moda", Italy majored in Jewelry Design in 1993. Younhee Shin has been teaching the lotus lantern craft workshop since 2012.

Wednesday, October 11 – Bus Trip with Friendship Tours to Boston, MA, Harvard Museum

See Trip Flyer

Thursday, October 12— Great Decisions: Politics in Latin America

Great Decisions is a discussion forum that follows a curriculum developed by the Foreign Policy Association (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.

We will have 4 sessions using the Great Decisions materials and 1 open discussions 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 12: Politics in Latin America
- October 19: Global Famine
- October 26: Open Discussion
- November 2: Iran at a Crossroads
- November 9: Climate Migration
- November 16: Open Discussion

Sessions will run on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. The sessions will be conducted in person in Chapman Hall room 613. Participation is limited to 20, so register for the fall semester!

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. The books are available in print (\$35) and various e-book formats (est. \$25). Contact the moderator for details at budsielaff@sbcglobal.net and to reserve your space. If you participated in the spring, you already have the materials.

SESSION 1

Electoral results in Latin America over the past four years have led many observers of the regional/political scene to discern a left-wing surge in the hemisphere, reminiscent of the so-called “Pink Tide” that swept the area some 20 years ago. But how much do these politicians actually have in common? What implication does their ascendancy have for the region? By Jorge Castañeda.

Moderator: **Bud Sielaff**, a retired business executive with degrees in engineering, marketing, and finance. Bud is a member of MILE and has been a 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 12— The Bean Trees: Running Away, Running Towards

Join this book talk with Tom Piezzo about The Bean Trees! In Barbara Kingsolver's acclaimed 1988 novel, young protagonist Taylor Greer leaves her home with no destination to start a new life far from her small Kentucky hometown. Along the way, a chance encounter with a Native American woman leaves Taylor with a toddler to care for and leads her by chance to Arizona. There, she connects with Guatemalan refugees and other residents to create a life of her own. Marked with humor, empathy and colorful sketches of people and places, Kingsolver's first novel introduced a distinctive and important voice in contemporary American literature. With slides and conversation, we will examine the book's themes of belonging, renewal, community, and resilience, and learn about the setting and issues which color the work.

Presenter: Tom Piezzo has been the Director of the Brainerd Memorial Library in Haddam, CT since 2016. 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 Masters in Library and Information Science from Long Island University. He is a Past President of the Connecticut Library Association; a member of the LION Library consortium executive board, serving on two committees and chairing one; and Vice-Chair/Chairman-elect of the Connecticut Library Consortium. He is on the SCSU Masters in Library and Information Science Advisory Board and is a Non-Fiction judge for the Connecticut Book Awards. Tom has 30 years' experience as a public librarian.

OCTOBER — Week 3

Tuesday, October 17 – Quinnetukut: Stories of Survival

Darlene Kascak (Schaghticoke Tribal Nation), from The Institute for American Indian Studies, will give an interactive presentation on the 12,000-year history of Life in the Eastern Woodlands. Immerse yourself in the lifeways of Native Americans in the past and present day. Darlene, the Education Coordinator at IAIS and Traditional Native American Storyteller, will share various visual and tactile resources and stories to guide the discussion about how Eastern Woodlands Natives have adapted to their changing environment. With hands-on activities, you will learn the importance of working together for the sake of the community, innovation through knowledge of natural resources, and how that knowledge can benefit everyone today. IAIS will bring animal furs, replicated artifacts, organic instruments, and more contemporary items for an interactive and educational experience.

Presenter: Darlene Kascak is the Education Director at The Institute for American Indian Studies and is active in the Schaghticoke Women's Traditional Council. Along with her role as an educator, she is also a Traditional Native American Storyteller preserving oral traditions by word of mouth as a means of passing down cultural knowledge and values. Her mission is to connect the stories passed down from generation to generation to archaeological discoveries,

giving voice to the objects. These oral traditions can be used as a tool to validate or challenge academic knowledge and give shared authority to historically marginalized communities. Darlene's style of teaching from a Native American's point of view allows children and adults the opportunity to broaden their perspectives for a new understanding of Indigenous Peoples' lives, both in the past and in the present. Her work brings awareness to the impact that stereotypes and myths have on the perception of other cultures as well as the legacies of native contact with other groups.

Wednesday, October 18 – Car Trip to Weir National Park, Wilton, CT
See Trip Flyer

Thursday, October 19 –Great Decisions: Global Famine

SESSION 2

Fears of global food shortages have followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has disrupted grain shipments from the major grain producer. But what about countries and regions that were suffering before this impending shortage? How is famine defined, and how is it different from simple food shortages? What if any remedies are there? By Daniel Maxwell.

Moderator: **Bud Sielaff**, a retired business executive with degrees in engineering, marketing, and finance. Bud is a member of MILE and has been a 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 19 – Photography with a Smartphone Camera

If you just use your camera to “point and shoot”, this presentation will improve your skills! This class covers the use of the camera inside your cell phone. Topics include setting shutter speed and ISO to capture photographs like a pro. Photo composition, aspect ratio, exposure compensation and white balance, accessories and other camera adjustments are explained, using the editing software to tweak the quality. Please bring a charged phone to class.

Presenter: **Matt Kabel** teaches photography at Middletown Adult Education.

OCTOBER—Week 4

Tuesday, October 24— What is in an Astrology Chart?

You may think you know your zodiac “sign,” but did you know everyone has all twelve signs in their astrological make-up, affecting some part of their life? There is much more to your chart - and astrology - than just the signs. This introduction to what is in a birth chart and what it can tell

you will whet your appetite to learn more about the heavenly hand you've been dealt and how to play it, as well as how to understand and get along better with others.

Presenter: Janet Booth earned a BA in Behavioral Studies (Drew University) and launched a life-long exploration of human behavior. Janet learned to use the lens of astrology, which looks at every facet of life on earth. Years of study with professional astrologers as teachers, augmented by extensive book reading and attendance at numerous conferences prepared her to read charts which she has done professionally for more than four decades. Janet holds certifications from national astrological associations and has taught astrology at all levels.

Wednesday, October 25 – The Art of the Portrait (ZOOM), Series of 3

Session 1

This is a presentation about the portrait, which shows the likeness of a person but can tell us so much more! The portrait has remained one of the most compelling and revealing of artistic expressions. This three-part zoom art lecture series will cover some of the most transformative periods in art from the 18th century portraits of British masters Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough to the Impressionist paintings in the mid-19th century of Edouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Vincent van Gogh's self-portraits and the 20th century portraits of women by Pablo Picasso. Each program will present major works by these artists, their background and that of the subjects they painted, and provide an in-depth understanding of each artist's unique approach to the art of the portrait. Each art lecture will also include videos on the artists.

Presenter: Robert (Bob) Potter earned a BFA, Syracuse University School of Visual and Performing Arts.

Thursday, October 26 – Great Decisions: Open Discussion

SESSION 3

TOPIC: TBD, to be chosen by the participants.

Thursday, October 26 – Edgar Allan Poe

Who does not love a tale from Edgar Allan Poe? This presentation includes dramatic performances of *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Raven*. Actor Campbell Harmon speaks, in-character, about Poe's life, his death, and his profound influence on American literature. He seeks to dispel the myths that have surrounded Poe and show how his works continue to impact our culture today. At the end, Campbell will provide research-based, historical Q&A with the audience in-character. **Presenter: Campbell Brock Harmon** earned a Masters of Art and Religion, Yale Divinity School, 2004.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER — Week 5

Tuesday, October 31 – Easy Care Roses for the Home Garden

This presentation is about a classic garden plant! Learn the secrets to achieving success with roses in your garden. Find out which roses will thrive, learn about disease resistance and meet roses from Old Garden Roses to Hybrid Teas to Floribundas to Shrubs and Climbing roses. We will also take a side trip to Elizabeth Park Rose Garden in November. You, too, can grow beautiful roses!

Presenter: Marci Martin fell in love with roses when she was a little girl and the love affair goes on. She has been growing roses for 40 years in four different locations in the state of Connecticut. Marci has been on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Rose Society for about 20 years. She has served as Secretary, Vice President and finished her third term as President in July 2017. She has been an ARS Consulting Rosarian since 2000, and received appointment as Master Rosarian in 2010. She was honored to be awarded the ARS Outstanding Consulting Rosarian Award in 2008 and was awarded the ARS Silver Honor Medal for the Yankee District in 2012. In 2014, she was awarded the ARS Bronze Medal for outstanding service to the CT Rose Society. Nine years ago, Marci stepped down as Rosarian Curator for the Elizabeth Park Conservancy, a position she accepted in the fall of 2008. The Elizabeth Park Rose Garden opened to the public in the spring of 1904 and as such is America's oldest municipal rose garden. The health and well-being of the 15,000 roses within were her responsibility during her tenure.

Wednesday, November 1-- The Art of the Portrait (ZOOM)

Session 2

This is a presentation about the portrait, which shows the likeness of a person but can tell us so much more! The portrait has remained one of the most compelling and revealing of artistic expressions. This three-part zoom art lecture series will cover some of the most transformative periods in art from the 18th century portraits of British masters Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough to the Impressionist paintings in the mid-19th century of Edouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Vincent van Gogh's self-portraits and the 20th century portraits of women by Pablo Picasso. Each program will present major works by these artists, their background and that of the subjects they painted, and provide an in-depth understanding of each artist's unique approach to the art of the portrait. Each art lecture will also include videos on the artists.

Presenter: Robert (Bob) Potter earned a BFA, Syracuse University School of Visual and Performing Arts.

Thursday, November 2 – Great Decisions: Iran at a Crossroads

SESSION 4

By the fall of 2022, Iran was in a state of turmoil due to widespread protests against government-enforced wearing of the hijab, a failing economy, an ineffective new president, and the looming succession of the country's leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. Abroad, renewal of the Iran nuclear deal seemed doubtful and tensions remain high between Iran, Israel, and Arab states. Many Iranians have lost hope of a better future, and the country seems at a crossroads. How should the United States deal with it? By Lawrence Potter.

Moderator: **Bud Sielaff**, a retired business executive with degrees in engineering, marketing and finance. Bud is a member of MILE and has been a 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, November 2 – Music of the 50's, 60's & 70's

This presentation promises to be a rocking success and asks who is your favorite Beatle! During this session participants will analyze major trends in American popular music during this thirty-year period. We will discuss major performers and trends, focusing on developments in rock and roll. We will also discuss connections between popular music and American society and how popular music reflects the values and beliefs of a time period. We will focus on performers that most participants will know well (Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, the Beatles); we also listen to a "top five" of lesser-known performers and groups. No prior knowledge of popular music is necessary to participate in this session. It would be helpful, however, if everyone could come prepared to name their favorite Beatle!

Presenter: Stephan Armstrong is the social studies consultant for the Connecticut State Department of Education. Steve is a long-time educator at the high school and college level and is a past president of the National Council for the Social Studies, the major organization for social studies teachers in the United States. He has authored the Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks and has given numerous workshops at the local, state, regional and national levels. Steve has a BA from UConn, an MA from Central Connecticut State University and an advanced degree in education from Sacred Heart University.

NOVEMBER — Week 6

Tuesday, November 7 – New Concepts for Lunar Basing Using Current Construction And Building Examples

This presentation is about a next big step for space travel! You will hear of new Concepts for Lunar Basing using current construction examples of subways, tunnels, and inflatable structures. Traditional lunar surface base concepts will be contrasted with what is possible with new concept

structures inside lunar lava tubes. Pros and cons will be discussed, and supporting photos and artwork will be presented. Since the last ISDC 2022, Stevan Akerley has been studying various subway and tunnel examples and believe they offer an Earth side example of what is possible with the same technology inside lunar lava tubes. Also, the need to provide airtight environments that guarantee atmospheric containment is important. Current generation examples of such structures are impressive, large, and relatively easy to transport and erect.

Presenter: Stevan Akerley is a retired engineer, having worked 38.6 years at P&W and then 7 years as a Technical Consultant for P&W. Stevan earned an A.A. in Liberal Arts from Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA; a BS 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

Wednesday, November 8– The Art of the Portrait (ZOOM)

Session 3

This is a presentation about the portrait, which shows the likeness of a person but can tell us so much more! The portrait has remained one of the most compelling and revealing of artistic expressions. This three- part zoom art lecture series will cover some of the most transformative periods in art from the 18th century portraits of British masters Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough to the Impressionist paintings in the mid-19th century of Edouard Manet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Vincent van Gogh's self- portraits and the 20th century portraits of women by Pablo Picasso. Each program will present major works by these artists, their background and that of the subjects they painted, and provide an in-depth understanding of each artist's unique approach to the art of the portrait. Each art lecture will also include videos on the artists.

Presenter: Robert (Bob) Potter earned a BFA, Syracuse University School of Visual and Performing Arts.

Thursday, November 9 – Great Decisions: Climate Migration

Session 5

As climate change accelerates and drought and rising sea levels become more common, millions of people in affected regions must uproot themselves and seek safety elsewhere. Who are these affected individuals, and how might the United States aid them, and be affected by the migration? By Karen Jacobsen.

Moderator: **Bud Sielaff**, a retired business executive with degrees in engineering, marketing and finance. Bud is a member of MILE and has been a 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, November 9 – Local Sites of Geological Interest

This presentation is a wonderful opportunity to learn about geology from locations within an approximately five-mile radius of the Middlesex campus. The presenter will highlight some of the geology of these local sites of geological interest including the Middletown pegmatite district, the Holyoke basalt at Higby Mountain, the Great Hill syncline at Cobalt, the Portland brownstone quarry, sedimentary strata at Wadsworth State Park, Middlefield.

Presenter: Mark D. Busa received an BS in Geology from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, an MS, and PhD in Geology from UConn. Thesis: Rolled staurolite porphyroblasts in the Littleton schist, eastern Connecticut Dissertation: The external morphology and internal fabric of staurolite from the Bolton syncline, eastern Connecticut: implications for the interpretation of inclusion trails in porphyroblasts.

NOVEMBER — Week 7

Tuesday, November 14 – Wildlife Rehabilitation: Assisting Native Wildlife in Distress

Who cares for injured wildlife and what should you do if you find a wild animal that might be sick or injured? This program will provide an overview of the practice of native wildlife rehabilitation, which is the temporary care and treatment of wildlife in distress by permitted wildlife rehabilitators, with the goal of releasing back to the wild. Debbie will also share personal stories, pictures, and videos of her rehabilitation efforts over the years, primarily with small mammals.

Presenter: Debbie Datilio earned a BSN in Nursing and is a retired oncology RN. She began her volunteer wildlife rehabilitation efforts in 2007 in Northern California with Sierra Wildlife Rescue, serving as Opossum and Skunk Team Leader and President of SWR for a number of years. She moved back to Connecticut in 2020, and obtained her Connecticut wildlife rehabilitation permit in 2022.

Wednesday, November 15 – Jazz & Civil Rights Movement

This program is generally referred to as a Wrap Around. It is a combined lecture and music performance entitled Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement. It begins with a flute prelude performed by Galen followed by a 60-minute PowerPoint presentation chronicling the music from the turn of the century to present day and highlights various artists, their music, their influence on the evolution of jazz, and their struggles. In addition, it illustrates how jazz became an advocacy for the Civil Rights Movement, with proceeds from jazz concerts used to finance major events such as the Freedom Rides and the March on Washington in 1963. The lecture is infused with music demonstrations.

Presenter: Galen Abdur-Razzaq studied at the Berklee College of Music and holds a Master's Degree in Performing Arts and Education from Rutgers University.

Thursday, November 16 – – Great Decisions: Open Discussion

SESSION 6

TOPIC: TBD, with the topics chosen by the participants

Thursday, November 16 – A Brief History of Color

This presentation concerns a part of our life we seldom study. The lecture, *A Brief History of Color*, covers the spectrum of colors of the rainbow and their sources and uses over the centuries. Until the Industrial age, all color sources were found in nature (minerals, insects, seashells and found objects). Color has strong associations to mood and emotion (think national flags, targeted advertising, even music!) and the relationship between various colors and our associations to them will be highlighted.

Presenter: Richard Friswell MEd, MPhil, is a cultural historian and Visiting Scholar at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, where he co-directs the Wesleyan Wash Center Seminars, their adult education program. He has published three books dealing with topics of cultural history through the imagined eye of an historian and storyteller. He speaks and lectures widely on topics related to the ‘Modern Era,’ a time during the 18th and 19th century when Western civilization was experiencing rapid change in the face of the Industrial Revolution and widespread political upheaval.

Friday, November 17 – The Amistad and Its Reverberations

The mother of the presenter of this presentation told her the Amistad story in 1956 and she never forgot it! Many in CT know portions of the story of the Amistad. This program digs more deeply into the experience of the Amistad captives, the story of their capture and trials, and their return to Sierra Leone. It then goes on to explore the reverberations of the Amistad Incident through the following century and more.

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree earned a M. Div. Andover Newton; D.Min., Hartford Seminary. Ordained (1972) minister of United Church of Christ; served parish and non-parish ministries then 23 years as Conference Minister (14 in CT). On Board of Trustees of Amistad America Inc 1997-2009; lead organizer for Third Act in CT in 2023; led Environmental Action Community at Seabury retirement community in Bloomfield; Trustee, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale.