



THE MILE VIEW



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MILE – A New School Year, A New Format

As we anticipate the start of a new MILE semester, it's become clear that we will not be able to hold classes on-site at MxCC this fall. The challenge that all school programs face is compounded by the fact that our members are in a higher-risk age group, many with compromising medical conditions. Faced with the difficult choice of cancelling this semester or trying something new, we've decided to try something new. MILE is offering presentations to our members via the videoconferencing app, Zoom. We chose Zoom because many of you have already used it to attend religious services or meet up with family members and for those who have not, it's pretty easy to learn. We already know MILE members are lifelong learners... now we hope you will join us on this new learning adventure.

This is what we have planned for the fall. **We will hold two MILE Zoom presentation sessions each week: on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. from October 1st to November 19th. Our Great Decisions program will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 and begin earlier, on September 24th, to catch up on the missed spring sessions.**

For the safety of our volunteers, **registration materials will be emailed to you on August 17th** along with the link to attend **introduction to Zoom sessions that will take place on Tuesday, August 18th at 10:00 am and Thursday, August 27th at 1:30 pm.** We may add additional Zoom training sessions in September, if there is a need. Once you know how to get onto Zoom, the rest is as easy as clicking on the link that will be emailed to you each week. Written instructions will also be posted on our website.

When you get the MILE registration form, you need only fill out the top part, as we will be registering you for all sessions. Since we are not reserving space at the college, we can offer you the flexibility to attend whatever you choose, even if you decide at the last minute. The course descriptions and a virtual introduction by the presenters will be posted on **our website www.mileonline.org.** **Directions for mail-in registration are listed below and will be sent again in the August 17th email.**

The fee for the year is reduced to \$60 as MxCC has graciously reduced the share of membership from 30% to 15%. This fee structure will enable us to continue to pay our remaining expenses this year, i.e. honoraria for some presenters, contributions to the MILE Scholarship Fund and support for the Middlesex Foundation. We are hoping that we will be able to return to an in-person format for a full spring semester, if the situation allows us to do so safely.

We know that Zoom does not take the place of meeting and greeting each other in person, but we believe that MILE still has an important educational mission to offer us, as we try to remain safe. We hope that you will join us this fall as we try this new approach.

Sad news since we last met: Bruce Ricker, recent past Treasurer of MILE, died on May 21st after a long courageous battle with cancer. Our condolences go out to his wife, Carol, and their lovely family.

Three MILE members have had their photographs of the Arrigoni Bridge selected as the masthead for the MILE website, www.mileonline.org. Their photos will be rotated monthly for the remainder of this year. The members are:

George Landis (July, October, January and April)

Lynn Brown (August, November, February and May)

Robb Evans (September, December, March and June)

George Landis included the following description of his photo with his submission:

“...the story behind that image goes back to the morning when I was coming up route 9, en route to our home here in Cromwell. As I passed the Harbor Park area, I could not help but notice the extraordinary stillness that held the river in its grasp. The reflection of the bridge was fabulously clear, and much more striking than I had ever seen before. Regretting that I did not have a camera with me, I vowed to return to the site the following day, in hopes that there would be a repeat visual performance. Good fortune was with me on that day, and, walking out on dry land to a point where this perspective appeared, I thrilled as I took this picture.

It is one of my favorites of the greater Middletown area.”

Thank you to these members for contributing their talents to enhance the MILE website.

Registration Procedure for Zoom MILE Presentations:

- Registration form and link for Zoom introductory sessions to be sent out on August 17th.
- Print out the registration form.
- Complete the top of the registration form (name, address, membership number, which is located on your badge). ***You will be enrolled in all presentations.***
- Mail the completed registration form and with a \$60 check (*made out to MxCC*) for your annual membership dues to:

Susan Kulesza, MILE Membership Chair

517 Little City Road

Higganum, CT 06441

- Please send your registration materials so they are received by September 14th.

MILE Dates to Remember

August 17th	Registration materials to be emailed
August 18th	First introductory Zoom session for members (10:30 a.m.)
August 27th	Second introductory Zoom session for members (1:30 p.m.)
September 1st	Virtual MILE Orientation posted on www.mileonline.org
September 14th	Registration form and check due to Susan Kulesza