



# THE MILE VIEW



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## **MILE – BEST BUY IN THE COUNTY!**

Where does your \$60 membership fee go? MxCC gets \$18 (30%), which leaves a balance of \$42 for two semesters. The fall semester consists of seven weeks this year, and the spring semester will have eight weeks.

There are five programs per week, sometimes more, for a total of 75 programs. This comes to 56¢ per program.

However, there are other expenses such as the costs for special programs. If we have to meet off campus, it costs \$150 to rent a hall.

**MILE** also provides refreshments at two orientation meetings, an annual lunch that costs \$15-\$20 per person, and a special volunteer lunch.

There are additional costs such as printing, postage, and supplies. We have given several \$500 scholarships to MxCC students over the past few years.

If we deduct these added expenses from our income based on 300 members, then the cost of programs is even less than 56¢. Where can you beat that?

### **2012– 2013 Officers**

**Chair Joseph Soja**  
**Vice Chair Elizabeth Tischio**  
**Secretary Judy Cook**  
**Treasurer Robb Evans**

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Sign-up sheets for committee volunteers will be available at Orientation. We hope you will consider becoming a Monitor. We also are also looking for help with AV - training is available with Ben Jordan and Klaus Gumz.

## **OPEN HOUSE / ORIENTATION**

**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Starting *MILE*'s 20<sup>th</sup> Year**

**10:00 AM, Chapman Hall**

**Middlesex Community College**

### **FALL SEMESTER PROGRAMS**

The varied offerings include programs on music, food, exercise, technology, travel, gardening, and more. The music and culture of Mexico will be featured at the first session to be held on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Opus Pocus Ukulele Band will return, and we will learn about the opera *Carmen*.

There will be lessons on photography. We will make chocolates and bracelets and listen to programs on the supernatural, global warming, nuclear power, geology, and commercial space exploration.

We will learn about the benefits of laughter, traditional healing modalities, and stress management, as well as take dance lessons. We are also going on a walk at Wadsworth Mansion. We will be introduced China gardens and garden fragrances. Our financial subject will be annuities.

The true meaning of 2012 will be discussed. There will be a travelogue on Argentina and Patagonia and programs on Pequot Indians, Lancelot and Guinevere, and St. Vincent de Paul of Middletown.

There will be a beginner's guide to mobile technologies and Facebook, Twitter, and Skype

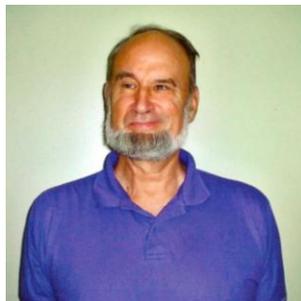
The popular Great Decisions will continue. Two special trips are planned: Slater Memorial Museum/NFA in Norwich and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

### Get a Head Start

Read *Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire because the author will be speaking to us in November as part of Dr. Victor Triay's program **Operation Pedro Pan and the Cuban Children's Program.**

## Meet **MILE** Treasurer – Robb Evans

Robb Evans found what he was looking for and more when he became a member of **MILE** in January of 2011. After losing his wife of 43 years in 2010, Robb joined the organization looking for activities, educational experiences, and opportunities to meet people. He got all of that and even volunteered to be **MILE** Advisory Board Treasurer.



“The thing I like about **MILE** is that it is relatively inexpensive. You get a wide variety of courses for your money.” Evans is particularly interested in history, music, and nature. He was willing to take on the position of treasurer as he explained it because “We are a volunteer organization and we rely on people to get things done even when they have to squeeze one more thing into their busy schedules.”

A graduate of the University of Bridgeport, Evans has a degree in Mechanical Engineering and worked initially at Pratt and Whitney and later at Raymond Engineering in Middletown. He has lived in Middletown for 39 years where he and his wife raised their two boys. Evans says that Connecticut was always a good state for him as an engineer. There were many small manufacturing companies where new skills could be learned and put to use. He regrets that there are fewer such companies and opportunities today.

It won't surprise anyone who knows Evans that after retiring six years ago he started a handyman business, Evans Handyman Service LLC. He felt thoroughly prepared for the business because of the many skills he'd learned over the years keeping his old home “stuck together.”

It would seem that everybody won the day this mechanical engineer found his way to Chapman Hall.

(Thanks to **MILE** member Kathleen Amoia for this interview.)

## Road Scholar Charter Trip to Pittsburgh, PA

And a good time was had by all.....

On an early Sunday morning in June, 21 MILE members boarded a charter bus for Pittsburgh, PA. It was a long ride, but time went quickly as we watched videos, played games, enjoyed food breaks, and naps. (Lots of Sudoku books around, I noticed)

When we arrived at our hotel in Pittsburgh, we were met by Road Scholar's Group Leader, Woody Campbell. Woody, the “Dean of Pittsburgh Guides” and Pittsburgh native, took charge, and we enjoyed the next few days listening to Woody's stories and jokes as he introduced us to the city.

Transportation around the city was by a private van, and walking was at a minimum. We soon discovered what a beautiful, diverse city Pittsburgh is with many colleges, museums, health centers, and breathtaking views of the three rivers that flow through the area. We had a fantastic view of the Steelers' and Pirates' stadiums as we cruised up and down the Allegheny River.

Other highlights included visits to the Phipps Conservatory, Carnegie Museum of Art, Frick Art and Historical Center and the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Center which was a tour of the Carrie Furnace, a pre World War 1 blast furnace.

At the Cathedral of Learning, we visited the Nationality Rooms, and Klaus helped with the translations in the German Room. Heinz, Frick and Carnegie (pronounced Car NAY gee), were a few of the names we became familiar with, learning of the important contributions they made to the city of Pittsburgh.

If anyone wants to know what the Duquesne Incline is, just ask one of us! And if you want to see all types of colorful bridges, there are over 500 crossing the three rivers that surround Pittsburgh. Can you name the 3 rivers??? We can!

Topping the trip off was an evening at the theater. We saw “Come Fly With Me”, a dance musical set to Sinatra music.

Thanks to Ellen Long for making the arrangements for this trip and to Bruce Ricker for bus accommodations. Great job!

I must mention the hotel and restaurants... Road Scholar supplies us with the best. Lydia's was outstanding!

Hopefully, we will have many more signing up for next year's trip. Any suggestions as to where you would like to visit?

Pittsburgh has obviously come a long way since the early days of steel mills. I think we all left wanting to come back soon. Woody....get ready for us!

Reported by Carol Ricker, approved by Bruce Ricker, Charter Travel Chair

## GOING GREEN

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we reused for numerous things, most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we

blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person...

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off.

\*\*\* This message printed on recyclable media\*\*\* (Think about it!)



**September 8<sup>th</sup> 5 – 8:00 PM**

**\$50 per person**

<http://www.mxcc.commnet.edu/Events/eventView.asp?EventID=569>