



College of Marin

EMERITUS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Lifelong Learning

835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904-2590 Tel: 415-485-9652 E-mail: emeritus.college@marin.edu
Karen Hemmeter (karen@hemmeter.com) & Don Polhemus (dondorpol@aol.com), Editor
Marian Mermel, Co-Presidents

Vol. 37, No. 7

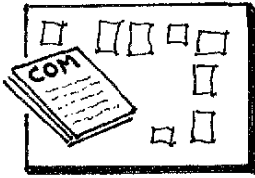
September 2010



Photo by Barbara Tarasoff

**“A bountiful harvest begins with hard work.”
Cultivation at the Indian Valley Campus
Organic Farm and Garden**

COM IN THE NEWS



Emeritus College Courses

- Process of Elimination --

As with all "cut-backs", there are "pro and con" explanations from all those affected by the recent College of Marin decision to

eliminate free Emeritus classes. College officials state that they had no choice since the California Community College Chancellor's Office has restricted approval of free, non-credit classes to those that teach basic skills such as ESL classes or skills required in the line of employment. The question is why should applicational and recreational courses which are taken by Emeritus Students be less important as a group than other courses at College of Marin? Unfortunately, because of ongoing state budget problems, older-adult programs are first on the "cutting block" due to the notion that education should be for the young who are pursuing specific educational and career goals, not taking into consideration that Marin County's senior voters were highly instrumental in the passage of the 2004 bond issue for College of Marin. Free classes for older adults have been an integral part of COM's curriculum for decades. Back in 2001-02 there were over 3,000 students enrolled in the Emeritus College programs. One solution would be to have the college subsidize the Emeritus College programs by charging higher fees for some special courses and nominal fees for others that appeal to those interested in recreational classes. Currently, cutbacks and rising class fees are a harsh reality for California's entire college system. College of Marin, unfortunately, is included in the current state college program's bleak economic outlook for the future. (I. J. - 6/26, 6/29/10)

Online Degree Programs, Older Students --

Online college programs are becoming more popular, and College of Marin will offer more than 20 courses this fall semester, either on-line or televised. "Older-than-average" students don't necessarily need the social interaction which classroom attendance gives. Those who are not overly confident or tend not to speak out do better in an on-line program situation since most discussions are in written form and occur over a period of a day vs. an hour or two in a classroom scenario. However, the downside to on-line study format is that it requires more preparation and discipline from students as opposed to an average course. (I. J. - 7/2/10)

Financial Assistance Programs - Increasing Student Demand --

College of Marin's enrollment numbers have jumped dramatically as affordable four-year college educational opportunities are on the decrease due to economic factors affecting many families in Marin County. Financial aid applications have increased from 832 in 2008/09 to 1,548 in the current year. Although Cal Grants have been affected by the State of California budget crisis, federal Pell Grants' funding has increased. Many low-income students are eligible for tuition fee waivers at community colleges throughout the state; however, the cost of books, transportation, etc. are not covered. The College of Marin Foundation has presented \$65,000 in book grants, \$10,000 in bus transportation and \$5,300 in lunch vouchers to eligible students. This assistance helps

to insure that needy, eligible students get a fair and equitable chance to complete their studies at COM and/or transfer to a UC or CSU university campus for their undergraduate degree. (I. J. - 7/6/10)



Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski



415-924-5111
www.larktheater.net

549 Magnolia Avenue
in historic Downtown Larkspur

Presents

SUNDAY SALON

In association with the Emeritus Program at College of Marin

Brunch, Movie and a Chat



Sunday, Sept. 12 at 10:30 am
Sunday, Oct. 17 at 10:30 am
Sunday, Nov. 7 at 10:30 am

Sunday Salon at the Lark is a place to meet friends and neighbors, take in a movie and chat about it afterwards.
Films are not announced in advance-it's a surprise!
Lively discussions are expected.

Includes
Yummy Muffins from Rustic Bakery
Organic teas and coffee, soft drinks

General Tickets \$15.00 per show, \$39.00 whole series.
Lark Theater and Emeritus Members \$13 per show, \$36.00 whole series

Advance Tickets: 924-5111
Seating is limited!

www.larktheater.net

HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE COUNCIL MEETING



Co-President Marian Mermel has formed a sub-committee to address the move by the College to discontinue non-fee Emeritus classes.

Bev Munyon reported that the Grants Committee has been meeting frequently to consider the increase in requests due to the elimination of free classes. This summer 34 people applied, up from 10 in the spring, with 15 requests for classes that were previously free.

Gigi Welch has begun to gather booklets of resources for seniors as requested by the Council.

Long Term Planning: **Jerry Weisman** will now focus on the image and role of ESCOM in the eyes of the College trustees. The membership function has passed to **Margot Jasie**.

Gloria Kopshever has compiled an archive of Indian Valley College history. She will meet with **Janice Austin**, COM Community Education Director, to review the documents.

Dick Park, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, announced that four additional classes were approved for the fall, two writing classes and two art history classes. New members of the Committee are: **John Felling, Marlene Knox, Coleman Posard and Donna Posard**.

Emeritus Students College of Marin Council	
OFFICERS	
Co-President	Karen Hemmeter
Co-President	Marian Mermel
Vice President	Dick Park
Secretary	
Treasurer	Art Ravicz
MEMBERS	
Gloria Jones	Bev Munyon
Marjorie Park	Donna Posard
Cole Posard	Len Pullan
William Raffanti	Paul Tandler
Jerry Weisman	Janet (Gigi) Welch
Margot Jasie <i>ex off</i>	
Arnulfo Cedillo	Dir. of Student Affairs

IT'S HAPPENING!

The first Emeritus Pot Luck Supper will take place at 6 PM, Saturday, August 28, at my home at 8 Scott Lane, Larkspur.

Our committee has decided on a simple summery selection of salads and finger foods, cheeses and desserts. There are 8 places left, so call or e-mail me for details. See you there!

Margot Jasie, 924-2363, margotjasie@comcast.net

ART EXHIBITS

Sharon Paster, a sculptor and painter, is exhibiting at the Emeritus Center, Kentfield, July 1-September 20, featuring landscapes and abstract images. A reception will be held Tuesday, September 7, 5-7 PM.

Ann C. Turner, an art instructor at COM, has a solo exhibit which will run Thursday, September 23, through Friday, December 17. A reception will be held Thursday, October 7, 5-7 PM. All are welcome.

Len Pullan, Art Chairman

SUNDAY SALON

Emeritus Students and The Lark Theater are continuing the successful SUNDAY SALON film series, with the Fall series opening September 12. Please see the flyer in this issue. As a member you are entitled to a discount of \$3 for a series purchase. Single tickets are the same price whether a member or not. Those of us who attended last Spring enjoyed the three films and ambiance of our small historic theater in Larkspur. We hope to see YOU there!

Karen Hemmeter

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next Newsletter staff meeting will be held Friday, September 3, 10:30 AM, at Kentfield.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Please call one of the following for access to the Emeritus Meeting Room, COM Indian Valley Campus, Bldg. 10: Larry Witter 883-6889, Gloria Kopshever 883-7805, Bill Raffanti 883-4079 (931-6399), Rudy Ramirez 491-0522

IVC Organic Farm and Garden Stand Open

Shoppers can see, try, and buy different varieties of extra fresh produce. In addition to many types of lettuces and tomatoes, Chieftain, Bintje, and Caribe are just a few of the potato varieties offered. Purple opal, Thai and Genovese basil are new herbs to explore. Bring your own bags. **Henry Wallace**, Farm manager, and **Jenna Brager** welcome visitors. Wednesdays 10 AM – 3 PM.

An informal program about the farm will be offered to Emeritus members and guests by **Katharine Cowan** on Sept. 24, 2 PM, in the IVC ESCOM office. Bring your questions about the Farm. Learn what restaurants are customers, sample fall produce and learn what winter crops to expect.

MPS "Run for Your Life"

This is a 5K 'fun' Walk/Run sponsored by the National MPS Society on Sunday, Sept 26, 7 – 11 AM, to benefit people with mucopolysaccharoidosis. This is an uncommon enzyme disorder that affects major organs, including the respiratory system, heart, bones and nervous system, primarily of children. If you would like to get some exercise while doing something good for seriously ill people, register early at 7:30 AM. Price \$20-25. Prizes and Goodie Bags available.

Great Books Discussion

We continue readings in the Great Books Foundation anthology of short stories by well-known authors, each illustrating one of the traditional deadly sins.

8/24 F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Babylon Revisited*; Dorothy Parker, *The Custard Heart* (Sloth)

9/14 Somerset Maugham - *A Woman of Fifty* (Greed)

9/28 Rose Tremain - *My Wife Is a White Russian* (Greed)

Global Issues Club

9/17/10 Who Killed the Electric Car? GM launched its EV1 electric vehicle in 1996. It was a revolutionary modern car, requiring no gas, no oil changes, no mufflers, and rare brake maintenance (a billion-dollar industry unto itself). However, the fanfare surrounding the EV1's launch disappeared and the cars followed. Was it lack of consumer demand as carmakers claimed, or were other persuasive forces at work? Fast-forward to 6 years later--the fleet is gone. EV charging stations remain like tombstones, collecting dust and spider webs. How could this happen? Did anyone bother to examine the evidence? Yes, in fact, someone did. And it was murder. (90 min, released 2006).

Documentaries provided by **Colleen Rose** continue to relate to current events. Recently, members and guests have learned more about how oil, immigration and transportation affect all aspects of life. Mark the third Friday of the month. At ESCOM/IVC, 2 PM.

IVC Book Forum

8/23 *The Letters*, Luanne Rise, Joseph Menninger (Shirley Genetin).

9/27 *The Worst Hard Times*, Timothy Egan.

10/25 *Beyond The Earth and Sky*, Jamie Zeppa.

11/22 *The Time Travelers Wife*, Audrey Niffenegger.

IVC Film Noir Theatre Club

8/28 *Suddenly*, '54. Frank Sinatra, Sterling Hayden, Nancy Guild. Dir. Lewis Allen.

9/11 *Rear Window*, '54. James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Wendall Corey. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock.

9/25 *High Noon*, '52. Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Thomas Mitchell. Dir. Fred Zimmerman.

10/09 *Fallen Angel*, '45. Alice Faye, Dana Andrews, Linda Darnell. Dir. Otto Preminger.

10/23 *Cape Fear*, '62. Gregory Peck, Robert Mitchum, Polly Bergen. Dir. J. Lee Thompson.

Humanities Club

9/18 In Lecture Seven, we look at Odysseus' long-delayed return to Ithaka and his reunion with his son Telemachos and its implications

10/2 Lecture 9 involves Odysseus' conversation

with his wife Penelope and considers the crucial question of whether Penelope recognizes this "beggar" as her husband. In Lecture 10, we consider the scene of vengeance in which Odysseus kills the suitors who have been plaguing his wife Penelope.

10/16 In Lecture 11 we discuss the final reunion of Odysseus and Penelope and the end of the *Odyssey*. Lecture 12 provides an epilogue to this course and its companion, *The Iliad*, by addressing the issue of the historicity of the Trojan War. This final lecture surveys the recent archaeological evidence for an actual conflict.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MARIN A Puzzle by Paul Gruner

Forward, Backward, and Diagonal.

EVENTS	OPENHOUSES
ARTISTS	THEATER
FAIRS	SYMPHONY
FESTIVALS	DANCING
DAYWALKS	DINNERS
CREEKS	WATERFRONT
HILLS	PARADES
BOATING	TRAFFIC
BOCCEBALL	CIVICCENTER
ANTIQUES	HIKES
PARKS	BRIDGE
BEACHES	MEETINGS
BINGOGAMES	PARTIES
BIKING	TOURNAMENTS

S	K	R	A	P	S	E	S	U	O	H	N	E	P	O
E	S	M	O	R	D	T	Y	N	O	H	P	M	Y	S
K	A	E	N	I	E	S	K	L	A	W	Y	A	D	E
I	G	E	U	W	A	T	E	R	F	R	O	N	T	D
H	N	T	S	Q	U	E	N	E	G	D	I	R	B	A
R	I	I	R	B	I	J	D	E	E	S	C	O	M	R
E	T	N	I	W	U	T	G	O	C	B	C	S	F	A
T	A	G	A	D	S	N	N	R	E	C	D	L	L	P
A	O	S	F	T	I	A	E	A	E	I	I	A	S	G
E	B	L	N	K	R	E	C	B	O	F	N	V	E	N
H	O	E	I	T	K	H	A	R	L	F	N	I	I	I
T	V	B	I	S	E	L	P	L	G	A	E	T	T	C
E	I	S	O	S	L	L	I	H	I	R	R	S	R	N
S	T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T	S	E	A	A
S	E	M	A	G	O	G	N	I	B	A	M	F	P	D

THE DOG NEXT DOOR

The dog next door is a real dog. He is not a virtual dog like Morbid who lives only in my imagination or his cousin, Anathesia, who also lives only in my imagination. His name is Logan. I don't know why he doesn't have a real dog's name like Spot or Rover. His parents, Bill and Debra, don't think he is spoiled, but they plan play-dates for him and when they want to go away overnight, they take him to a rather exclusive doggy overnight camp in prime Marin real estate where he has several other dogs who he will undoubtedly find very companionable to play with.

Logan is an elegant standard white poodle, who meets you with studied aloofness until you get to know him or have furnished him with enough gourmet treats so that he has come to believe you also live in the right neighborhood.

When Bill and Debra got Logan, they had to buy an SUV for him. This was not a status symbol; it was a necessity in order to take him places. Every self-respecting, well-brought-up dog in suburbia must have his own SUV.

When Bill decides to take his daily "run" to keep his cardiovascular condition in shape (and at a pace calibrated by himself), it is always planned around Logan. Which route would Logan most enjoy? Over the mountains and through the woods or through one of the local subdivisions where he can mingle with his friends and perhaps sniff a few rear ends, and just how long will his endurance hold out??? (Logan's - not Bill's.)

When Bill wants an exceptionally long run by himself, Debra takes Logan for a delightful stroll along the bay so he won't feel neglected. If Logan isn't feeling well, Debra's culinary skills reach new heights and she will try any and every cuisine in an attempt to tempt Logan's palette. Logan is, indeed, an extremely privileged dog. It is a bucolic, blissful lifestyle but it is his.



I have come to love Logan, but I am glad he belongs to Bill and Debra. I could not afford him. He is more expensive than my eight grandchildren. However, if he were mine, at least I would not have planned to put him through college.

Iris Tandler

EASY ENLIGHTENMENT

A distillation of the Wisdom of the Philosophers that has profoundly influenced Western Civilization:

I. The New Vision of Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

If visions of the new one seeks
Do not look to the Ancient Greeks!
Aristotle's good for
Disputations and Contentions
But I most strongly opt for
The "Scientific Method"
And all kinds of modernly inventions!
To worship the Idols of the Mind
Tends to put one in a bind,
Therefore dispense with ambiguity,
Abjure ancient authority,
And live your life experimentally!

II. Johannes Kepler (1561-1630) and Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) — On the New Astronomy and the New Cosmology

In the 2nd Century A.D.
Ptolemy professed to see
The Earth as Center of the Universe.
But both these gentlemen declared
It was more likely the reverse.
The new Pythagorean Theory taught
That Mathematics and Geometry
Were the keys to the new Astronomy;
The Sun is central; an emblem of Divinity
While the stars and moon and planets spin to Infinity.
They put forth the modern notion
Of planetary motion -
The orbit of the Earth's elliptical
But, all is best explained in Scriptural.

III. Rene Descartes (1596-1650)

The Dream of Perfect Knowledge
Who claimed with certainty to know
The nature of Ideas
And how knowledge tends to grow.
He drew an absolute distinction
Between the Body and the Mind,
Between a Perfect God and fallible Mankind,
He declared it was his mission
To reject witchcraft and superstition
And further gave two proofs of God's existence
Against the old philosophy's resistance
And left us famously with these wise words
Cogito Ergo Sum ...
The sense of which I've still to plumb.

IV. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

The Perfect Pessimist
Better than the old
Mr. Hobbes proposed Ethical Relativism
There was no freedom of the Will
Human existence was a bitter pill
Governed by conditions, so he taught,
"Nasty, poor, solitary, brutish and short".
Good and Evil he did explain
Were in large measure
Based on the pursuit of pleasure
Or the flight from pain
For notions of the "soul "were metaphors
Or gibberish that good sense abhors.
His atheistic views were scorned
As he preached the truth of Man's condition
And he was most severely warned
That he would thereby surely face Perdition!



Sandra Rosenberg

LAS VEGAS CHURCHES

This may come as a surprise to those of you not living in Las Vegas, but there are more churches than casinos. Not surprisingly, some worshippers at Sunday services will give casino chips rather than cash when the basket is passed.

Since the churches get chips from many different casinos, the churches have devised a method to convert the casino chips to cash.

The churches send all their collected chips to a nearby Franciscan Monastery for sorting and then the chips are taken to the casinos of origin and cashed in. This is done by chipmonks.

**To Emeritus Students, College of Marin,
835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904-2590**

Enclosed please find my check for \$15 for membership in the Emeritus Students.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail Address _____

**THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT—
YIP, YIP, HOWL-L-L
by Jean Razenne**

There are things you cannot get rid of: the itch on your back where you cannot reach to scratch despite your contortions against the door frame; the flock of crows that infests your cherry tree feasting on fruit you will never taste. Consider yourself lucky -- you do not have COYOTES!! They will never bother you because they are all at my house.

The pack arrived in late fall. I heard yelps and growls. "They are attacking my deer; go, kill them," I ordered the contractor, handing him the shotgun. He returned, no coyote carcass, the noise was beyond the hills where they were chasing someone else's deer. Total casualties for the day? None. Deer can outrun anything. Just to be safe, the dominant eight-point buck herded his harem of three does and three fawns out of harm's way. Coyotes never sleep, at least not at night. They gathered around my house and serenaded me-- yodel, yip, growl, bark--night after night, just out of range.

Last year I bought a handsome book "Living With Wolves," by Jim and Jamie Dutcher. It included a compact disc (CD) of wolf calls. There is a difference between the long drawn-out full-throated howl of the wolf (to me it is magic) and the high-pitched scream of the coyote.

Inspiration!! I played the wolf record, loud, on my portable player outside after dark. Howls of the wolves echoed across the hills and the coyotes disappeared--briefly.

I have had personal contact with a coyote--the beggar at Yosemite Park. The poor wretch hobbled on three legs, having lost one to a trap. I had parked on a pull-out to eat a chicken sandwich. Can anyone finish a sandwich with those eyes looking sadly at you, you well-fed glutton? The coyote received two chicken sandwiches, a package of Hostess cupcakes, two bran muffins, and a handful of M & M's.

Back to my house. One last chance: "Ride Of The Valkyries" from Die Walküre by Richard Wagner, loud enough to bring down trees. Neighbors formed a vigilante committee. "Turn it off!!!" The coyotes returned, but their howls are different. They now do yo-to-ho-yip, perfect Valkyrie pitch. The coyote chorus can be heard evenings at 7:30. Come early,

The Violin Maker

I travel along a narrow cobbled street between
high medieval walls
And arrive at a marbled tile entrance -- fronting a
dark passageway
I stoop down through a heavy iron-studded door to
enter his domain
A lofty square room -- with a shaft of sunlight,
from a high window
I feel a palpable sense of antiquity -- breathing in
the rarified air

The walls are crusted with dusty remnants, like
barnacles on a ship
Assorted cast-off pieces of a thousand violins,
waiting to be reborn
A huge workbench is covered with arcane tools of
every description
Knives, planes, saws, drills, chisels; and intricate
measuring devices
Validating the knowledge, skills and discipline of
superb craftsmen

Classical violins are born here -- instruments of
profound sensitivity
Capable of flinging high notes into the far corners
of a concert hall
From less than one pound of seasoned wood --
with no amplification
Clear -- multi-dimensional notes -- of breathtaking
power and clarity
A creation, made by an intricate process, requiring
many art forms

The violin maker stands proud and erect in the
center of his domain
Standing tall with his illustrious ancestors --
breathing the same air
With Amati, Stradivari, Guarneri; the medieval
masters of Cremona
The violin maker hears the high piercing notes,
clinging to the walls
He hears a medley of countless violins, hovering
over the centuries

Vincent DeMaio

**Emeritus Students
College of Marin
835 College Avenue
Kentfield, CA 94904-2590**

TIME DATED MATERIAL

**Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 8
San Rafael, CA**

Return Service Requested

CLUBS: Participation in all clubs requires an Emeritus Students Activities Card. For further information, call 485-9652.

ADVENTURER'S CLUB: Call Ruth King, 898-5845, for information on next meeting.

ARCHITECTURAL MODELS CLUB: 4th Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Barbu Hanciulesco, 924-8949.

BOCCE BALL CLUB: Bocce ball on Tues. at San Rafael courts, 9:30 AM. Call John Kouns, 332-5929 for other activities.

BOOK BANTER CLUB: 2nd Friday, September to June, 12:00 - 1:30 PM, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Len Pullan, 381-6952 & Karen Hemmeter, 883-9120.

BRIDGE CLUB: Mon. 1:00 - 4:30 PM, Cafeteria, Kentfield. Tom Metzger, 479-8290; Lynn Mason, 456-2508.

CURRENT EVENTS and ISSUES CLUB: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Ctr. Jerry Weisman, 383-1831, and James Kennedy, 388-3939.

FRENCH CLUB: Call Doyleen McMurtry, 472-4738, for information on next meeting.

GLOBAL ISSUES CLUB: 3rd Friday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, IVC, Room 140, Bldg 10. Coleen Rose, 898-0131.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 12 noon, IVC, Room 140, Bldg. 10, near Admissions. Don Polhemus, 883-3567.

GREAT IDEAS IN PHILOSOPHY CLUB: Thursdays, 1-3 PM, Room 140, Bldg. 10, IVC. Larry Witter, 883-6889.

HUMANITIES CLUB: 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 PM, Room 140, Bldg 10, IVC. Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522.

ITALIAN CLUB: 4th Tuesday, 2-4 PM, Emeritus Center. Mila Weed, 453-6054.

IVC BOOK FORUM: 4th Monday, 3-5 PM, IVC, Room 140, Bldg. 10, near Admissions. Louise Kerr, 883-2823.

IVC FILM NOIR DVD CLUB: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 1-3 PM, Bldg. 10, next to Admissions, Room 140, IVC. Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522.

MORAL-ETHICAL AND LEGAL DILEMMAS CLUB: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Cole Posard, 491-4118 and Jerry Weisman, 383-1831.

OPERA AND BEYOND: 4th Wednesday, 1-3 PM, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Gil Deane, 456-2853.

POKER CLUB: Mondays or Wednesdays, 2 - 4 PM, Cafeteria, Kentfield. Please call for time and place. Marcia Blackman, 479-7823 (no answering machine).

SCRABBLE CLUB: Every Thursday, 2:00-4:00 PM, Cafeteria, Kentfield. Marlene Knox, 459-1427.

SHAKESPEARE CLUB: 3rd Thursday. Please call Valda Carter, 388-6335, for time and place.

SPANISH CLUB: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:30 PM, Room 172, Harlan Center, Kentfield. Vicki Frate, 472-0320.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 1-4 PM, Emeritus Center. Pauline O'Briant, 453-3168.

