

College of Marin



EMERITUS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Lifelong Learning

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Marian Mermel, Co-Presidents

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November 2010

Annual Holiday Party

**Come and join your ESCOM members
and bring a friend**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
1:30 to 3:30 PM**

~ SCOTT MERRICK at the piano ~

FUN, FRIENDS, FOOD & SONG

AND AS A SPECIAL ADDITION –

A RAFFLE!

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
14 LAGUNITAS in ROSS**

ESCOM SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

College of Marin Trustee **Dr. Eva Long** and **Cathy Summa-Wolf**, Public Relations Director, honored the September 16th meeting of the ESCOM Council by their attendance. Both of them expressed their enthusiastic support of ESCOM's role as part of the COM community.

Dr. Long is making the senior community aware of a program offered by Michael K. McCloud, M.D., UC Davis clinical professor of medicine, educating the community to prepare for aging. His program is titled "Aging and Medical Science: a Mini Medical School to Prepare for Life's Second Half." The program, which has been presented annually since 2002, consists of classes taught by UC Davis faculty members and clinicians with expertise in nutrition, cardiovascular health, hearing, vision, bone and joint problems, and other topics.

President Marian Mermel lauded Board Member **Marje Park** for her excellent preparation of Board Minutes, and noted that progress has been made on the use of the Emeritus Center's desktop computer for mass mailings and other business. Marje presented a proposed "Policy for the Use of Emeritus E-Mail Mass Mailing Service."

A low-cost tuition-sharing program for needy seniors has been presented to the COM Board of Trustees, who referred the matter to the college administration, but no response has been received to date. The nearly 100% elimination of free classes has created a hardship among those seniors, visibly seen in the increased requests for tuition assistance. More than three times the normal number of grant requests were received for the fall semesters, reports **Bev Munson**, who chairs the Financial Grants Committee, but the C.O.M. Foundation came to the rescue and all of the applicants were awarded significant tuition assistance for these semesters.

Director of Student Services **Dr. Arnulfo Cedillo** announced the upcoming Constitution Day festivities and a Latino Film Festival, sponsored by the College.

Art and Exhibitions Chairman **Len Pullan** announced the opening of an exhibit of oils by **Ann C. Turner**, with a reception scheduled for the artist on October 27, 5 to 7 PM. He also spoke about the success of the Book Banter Program, which is attracting increased participation.

Bill Raffanti, Chairman of Clubs, formalized recent additions to the club roster, already shown in the lineup of clubs on the Newsletter's back page. He is preparing a policy document for his committee.

Dick Park, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee, spoke of a busy schedule of interviews for new courses in the Winter and Spring semesters.

Paul Tandler, recently appointed to the Measure "C" Bond Issue Citizen's Oversight Committee, reported progress on and completion of various projects in the \$250 million program, and noted that contractor's bids were coming in below original cost estimates, providing possible add-ons to the scope of work. The sagging economy is credited with these low bids, but a return to firmer pricing is seen in the future as the economy gains strength.

This year's Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ross, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Cookie bakers, get ready.

Recently appointed Board Member **Margot Jasie** is arranging pot luck dinners for new and prospective ESCOM members. She hopes to stimulate interest in our programs and gain new members. Her next event is scheduled for November 5. For more information contact the Emeritus Center Desk - (415)485-9652.



Reported by Paul Tandler

Calling All Bakers!

**WE NEED: BROWNIES,
COOKIES, LEMON BARS or
whatever is your specialty for
the Annual Holiday Party**

~ ~

Thank You, Thank You, *THANK YOU,*

**Donna Posard
415-491-4118
ddposard@att.net**

BOOK BANTERING HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

The first meeting of the fall of Book Banter Club on Friday September 10, with 6 attendees, featured delightful readings by **Len Pullan**, **Bev Munyon**, **Ruth Shapiro** and **Karen Hemmeter**. Our readings were:

- *The Young Painters*: a short story in the New Yorker by Nicole Krauss (Len)
- *The Loser's Club*: a Michael Chabon essay in his *Manhood for Amateurs* ((Bev)
- A selection from Jacques Pepin's *The Apprentice* (Ruth)
- A snippet from *The Truffle Hunter* New Yorker article by Dana Goodyear (Karen)
- A description of Georgiana's declining marriage prospects from Anthony Trollope's *The Way We Live Now* (Karen)

Ruth also introduced us to Peter Hessler and his book *Country Driving*, about China. He too is a New Yorker contributor. We all relish learning about authors new to us and eagerly look forward to our November meeting. You can see our interests are diverse. We welcome your participation.

Karen Hemmeter



ESCOM member **Barbu Hanciulesco** passed away recently. He will be remembered for his cheerful willingness to assist when and wherever it was needed, his generosity and welcome creative ideas. Mr. Hanciulesco was an architect and noted for his beautiful, precise models of sustainable green homes. His architectural model of a solar house was exhibited at the P. Getty Museum. He also taught a COM class "Designing and Building Green Architectural Models."

COLLEGE OF MARIN WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT



"College of Marin's Board of Trustees is very excited in appointing our new visionary Superintendent/President **Dr. David Wain Coon** to join our college education community team, and continue our 84-year tradition of education excellence in Marin County. Dr. Coon is a creative, innovative leader and brings a wealth of expertise, knowledge and experience which will greatly benefit the college community," said Dr. Eva Long, COM Board of Trustees President.

"He has a proven track record of positive problem solving, community outreach, and sensitivity on focusing on student learning needs, faculty teaching and learning, and administration/staff supporting Students' First and learning as his priorities. Most of all, he is a superb communicator, sincere with the highest integrity, and patient listener with a keen sense of humor. We are so fortunate to have Dr. Coon lead the District during these challenging times. His record is exceptional and he shares the Board's vision for the future of College of Marin and our Marin community."

"I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected to be the next Superintendent/President for College of Marin. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Trustees and the college community as we serve the dynamic educational needs of Marin County and beyond," Coon stated.

Dr. Coon has been the President of Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, California since July 2005. Prior to Evergreen Valley College, Dr. Coon held the positions of Vice President for Student Success at Cascadia Community College, Executive Dean of Student Services at Green River Community College, Vice President of Student Services at The Art Institute of Seattle, and Director of Student Development at Pierce College, all in Washington. He has been uniformly successful in his various positions, and we look forward to a continued such pattern with College of Marin.

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

Thanksgiving Appreciation Luncheon at IVC, November 18 Arnulfo Cedillo, Director of Student Affairs, announced the date for the traditional November event on the IVCampus and welcomes ESCOM volunteers to help decorate, set up and assist as needed. It is a "fun job" and an opportunity to meet COM/IVC students and to thank the staff that is always ready to help Emeritus members. Contact: Student Affairs Office, 415- 485-9376.

Thank You, Katharine Cowan, for volunteering your personal time to give ESCOM/IVC an interesting and tasty program on the Indian Valley Organic Farm. Much effort went into harvesting and bringing produce to share, but we also learned of the experiences of a work-study COM re-entry student. Those attending went home with melon, squash, tomatoes and lettuce plants! Thank you also to all the people involved in the growing production that made this possible.

Global Issues -- Friday, November 19 at 2 PM

Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train. Featuring rare archival materials and interviews with Zinn and colleagues such as Noam Chomsky, this Documentary captures the essence of this extraordinary man who was a catalyst for progressive change for more than 60 years. As Chomsky said, Zinn was "a model and inspiration for those who seek justice and peace. His contributions are truly incomparable." 78 min.

IVC Film Noir Theater Club

11/13 *Fear in the Night*, 1947, 72min./b&w. Paul Kelly, DeForest Kelley, Ann Doran, Director: Maxwell Shane

11/ 27 *Le Samourai*, 1967, 101min./color. Alain Deleon, Francois Perier, Nathalie Deleon. Director: Jean-Pierre Melville

Humanities Club The new program begun in October, *Greek Tragedy*, continues with lectures by

Professor Elizabeth Vandiver, Whitman College, who explores 25 Tragic Plays from the Ancient Greek World. Now two and a half millennia old, ancient dramas such as *Eumenides*, *Oedipus the King*, and *Trojan Women* retain a compelling, almost incantatory power. These plays have attracted focus and reflection from Aristotle, Freud, Nietzsche, and others who look deeply into the human condition.

IVC Book Forum

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

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

12/18 *Olive Kitteridge*, Elizabeth Strout

How a book forum differs from a Book Club: After discussing *The Worst Hard Times* (Timothy Egan) and viewing the DVD documentary *Surviving the Dust Bowl* in which people mentioned in the book were interviewed on camera, discussion evolved about the similarity with a memorable book read in 2001 and one just published: *We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese* (Elizabeth Norman) and *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic story of America's Great Migrations* (Isabel Wilkerson. All three authors, Egan, Norman and Wilkerson, felt the urgency to base their books on interviews with people still alive who had experienced important historical events in the Twentieth Century.

Philosophy Club The Thursday Philosophers are enjoying the current series of lectures by Bernard (Columbia U) Professor Dennis Dalton, examining the enduring problems of how societies may best be governed and thrive. In *Power Over People, Modern Political Theory*, they study the varieties of political theory - capitalism, communism, dictatorship, anarchy – and the theorists, advocates and villains who postulated them – among them Rousseau, Marx, Freud, Gandhi, Hitler.

Great Books Discussion Group

Continuing in "Even Deadlier:"

10/26 Somerset Maugham *A Woman of Fifty*

11/9 Italo Calvino, *Theft In a Pastry Shop*, and Alison Lurie, *Fat People*

11/23 Aldous Huxley, *Nuns At Luncheon*

BEST OF TIMES: THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Using his most persuasive Humphrey Bogart impersonation my husband came to me several weeks ago, "Sweetheart, sweetheart, my birthday is coming up and I would like to have a party."

"No way!" My response was immediate, unequivocal and hostile. "I am not in a party mood these days. If you plan one I will not attend. I will be someplace else."

"I am going to be eighty-five years old," he said. "I would like to have a party. If you will plan one, I will promise you the trip to Italy you have been talking about."

"I don't care if you promise me a trip on the Starship Enterprise or the Good Ship Lollipop, we are not having a party."

The invitations (my design, of course) went out the following week.

We contacted Ursula, in charge of special parties at one of our favorite restaurants and she reserved the patio for us. The list was narrowed to thirty of our family and closest friends, three tables of ten. The evening of the great event arrived and California weather cooperated as only California weather can do. The heavens had laid out their finest panoply of stars overhead, Ursa Major, Polaris and Pegasus - giving us an extra level of light in the midnight sky.

The patio itself, as we entered, was breathtaking. Starched white linens, glistening wine glasses, gleaming silver, flowers in russet, deep purple and wine hues in tall, tall vases and a multitude of candles, all befitting an 85th Birthday.

The dress, as stated on the invitation, was "casual chic" and two of my daughters-in-law who are usually butting heads (we call it the "Clash of the Titans") were sitting nose-to-nose critiquing the other womens' couturie, who was well preserved and who had had medical intervention. My third daughter-in-law whom we refer to as Earth Mother, sitting at my elbow, saw that I was well fed and plied me with Diet Coke, a role I believe assigned to her by our sons, thereby attempting to render me relatively harmless.

No. 3 Daughter-in-Law has long blond hair and blue eyes and she was wearing a sleeveless black dress, very décolleté. The men at our table, all grandfathers, were enjoying her femininity. She was not unaware of this and flirted shamelessly.

My eldest son acted as Master of Ceremonies and after introducing everyone, asked who wanted to speak. To my surprise and delight one person of each couple stood and explained what role we had in their lives, how we had interacted and how pleasant and rich the relationship had been.

My husband and I were very touched. Finally my son said "Mom, do you want to speak?"

I stood and talked about what a good husband Mr. T had been, what a good father he had been, what a good role model, how he had always set a good example for the children and set them on the path of hard work and honesty, and introduced them to art and music. He encouraged them to join the Boy Scouts and promised to go with them on camping weekends, but somehow as each weekend drew closer and closer he became busier and busier at the office and he never did manage to attend one of those mosquito-infested weekends. We all knew his intentions were sincere. It was on those weekends that my boys learned to catch rattlers, get poison ivy and burn all the food that they cooked.

I concluded by saying that if I had known what the rabbi meant when he asked "Do you take this man to be your lawful wedded husband" it involved sixty-one years, I would have said "I'll get back to you on that." Then I sat down.

Mr. T spoke last. He spoke eloquently thanking us all for sharing this happy occasion with him. He had prepared three photo albums spanning all the years of his life to the present day. He presented these albums to our sons and their families. He explained what role everyone in attendance had in his life and spoke about his plans for the future and plans for his 90th Birthday. "Everyone here is included," he said.



The candles were lit, the cake was cut, champagne was served, we all sang Happy Birthday.

I am NOT giving a 90th Birthday party.

Iris Tandler

ON THE ROAD TO TASSAJARA

*I think this place demands poetry!
But are there more extravagant words for a
tree,
A way to speak of wilderness and bird song
That's more compelling
Than just the basic fact of telling -
Here - look, listen, wonder, feast your eyes,
See the beauty that before you lies.*

I. We are inland from the Big Sur coast in the remote Ventana Wilderness and the road up this mountain demands skill and valor and a 4-wheel drive. We negotiate the tortuous switchbacks, winding, twisting perilously close to the edge of infinity- deceived sometimes by a smooth stretch; the rest bone-jarring declivities of rock and rubble.

We are on our way to Tassajara, a hot-springs which for centuries the native Esselin people visited for healing and renewal. It is now a Zen Monastery where guests are welcomed in Spring and Summer. On our right a range of mountains rise, brash and formidable; they set our boundaries and define our mission. Possibly to reach closer to Heaven?

But, as we go we see evidence of last year's fire; the tragic black of the flames' scourge - ancient trees shorn of their life, their once heroic trunks refusing to fall. Further on, rows of blackened trees raise their twisted arms like ghostly beggars in supplication to an indifferent sky. And what in the distance gleams like silver now reveals its true heart of stone - hard volcanic rock that fools the eye where nothing grows. Yet, as we go, we see tender crops of new grasses - gentle, downy, like just-hatched goslings pecking for the worm - a camouflage of green covering the burnt hills. And now we hear the playful sounding of a waterfall, brought to life by fresh rain - and as we come closer to the summit, more evidence of new life bursting from the rock; impudent croppings of yellow sticky monkey, the magenta dazzle of Indian Paintbrush and the sweet offering of lavender Lupine. We stop and look out on a primal world. Perhaps this is how it was before we cluttered up the earth. There is a sense of exhilaration and discovery.

II. Now we descend into the Valley - a place of serenity and pleasant bustle where we are wel-

comed like tired children after a long journey. Resident Monks (male and female) in long robes and shaved heads stroll quietly reminding us of the spirit of this place of healing, restoration and awakening. We, as guests, are led into the Zendo and introduced to the practice of Zazen; of the many forms of Meditation which is the essence of Buddhist teaching - the Path of the Practice of Intimacy, the Path of Perfecting the Heart. We are invited to Meditate and take part in the chanting., (I try, but my unquiet spirit does not yet lend itself to the Zen mind) .

We may consider, if so inclined, for the Spirit, the 10 Perfections of the Bodhisatva Path and the 4 Levels on the Path of Being - generosity, morality, patience and energy. And we may indulge the Body by a plunge in the Hot Springs or wade into the cold creek and stretch our city-bound selves with sessions of Yoga or Swimming Dragon Tai Chi. Poets gather for a workshop in a Yurt - a circular canvas structure with a high tent-like roof (originally home for Mongolian nomads). We sit cross-legged in a priest-like circle on meditation cushions and feel an energy, a connectedness, hopefully giving rise to poetical outpourings in iambic pentameter. Meals are communal, of generally excellent vegetarian fare, and full of spirited chatter, mostly of matters temporal.

At night we live by the light of kerosene lamps, (there is no electricity); heat may come from a wood-burning stove. Our cabin looks over the creek that keeps up a wild racket pleasantly invading our dreams. The local blue-jays are fat, sassy and aggressive; if you leave food untended, you will have to fight them off. Among the peace and serenity there is a touch of Evil in the dusty shadows. A taste of gall and honey. Yesterday we saw a rattlesnake on the Path to Enlightenment and today I came upon a Mountain snake decorated with bright bands of coral (but not, I'm told, deadly).

I explore a rustic library where the books reach to the rafters. I find some thoughtful titles; "Moon on a Dewdrop" and the "Emptiness of Emptiness" and I come upon some Buddhist Humor; a Priest recounting a wrenching experience of body and soul, thusly:

*On a somber Spring evening around midnight,
Rain mixed with snow sprinkled on the Bamboo*

*in the Garden. I wanted to ease my loneliness,
but it was quite impossible. I offered incense, I
lit a lamp and quietly read,
I considered Meditation and the Path;
Body and Mind dropping away is simply the
upright truth,
But this exercise caused an excruciating thirst,
So I drank! And I heard laughter.
"What is so funny", the Priest asked.
"That wasn't water, Reverend sir", said the
young disciple. "That was a very large glass of
soy sauce."
I subsequently became ill, (said the Priest) I got
diarrhea.*

We agreed, an inspirational visit was had by all as we departed, fulfilled and depleted, now down the arduous road from Tassajara.

Sandra Rosenberg

ART RECEPTION POSTPONED



The Reception for artist **Ann Curran Turner**, originally scheduled for October 7, is cancelled, and instead will be held on Wednesday, October 27, from 5-7 PM at the Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Ms. Turner's pictures are large, sensuous

and beautiful. Bring your friends, enjoy great art, talk to Ann and poet **Melody Lacina**, who will read her poems, another delight for this evening. Ms. Lacina will be coming from Berkeley and will perform at about 6:15 PM.

Len Pullan, Art Chairman

EDITOR'S NOTES

The last Lark Theater Sunday Salon date of the Fall season is November 7 at 10:30 AM.

The next Newsletter staff meeting, to prepare for the December-January issue, will be on Wednesday, October 27, 10:30 AM, at IVC.

COM IN THE NEWS

Enrollment Increases - both Campuses -- For a third year, College of Marin has seen enrollment rise with a 4.4% increase in "credit students". Most likely, the continuing recession is responsible for a part of the enrollment surge as well as most colleges in California have cut the number of available courses they offer. Even though College of Marin is having problems with its own \$1.2million budget deficit, it has not eliminated courses or reduced its faculty size. The total number of students attending COM rose to 7,789 this year with enrollment at 6,891 at the Kentfield Campus and 1,674 at IVC which includes some students who are enrolled at both campuses. The enrollment surge is mostly because of students not being able to get into classes at UC and CSU campuses and as a result are returning to community colleges to continue their studies.

Artisan Cheesemaking at IVC -- Until now, Marinites hoping to learn artisan cheesemaking had few options available. In the middle of September at IVC, at least 40 *fromagers-to-be* have been enrolled in the first certificate program in artisan cheesemaking. The first phase will include working with milk, creating starter cultures and pairing cheese with wine and beer. The second phase will be more on advanced topics from aging to ripening various cheese styles including how to build a cheese plant. The idea of cheesemaking classes was generated by a consensus of opinions from local community figures in Marin regarding something innovative for IVC other than going in the direction of a culinary program which already includes a number of culinary schools in the San Francisco area and also one at Santa Rosa college. The cheesemaking program will be offered again during the winter quarter.

Submitted by Alicia Warcholski

OPERA HIGHLIGHTS AND DESERT ISLAND FANTASIES

Gil "The Opera Guy" Deane will present a two-part program highlighting selections from the Fall season of the San Francisco Opera and singers he wants to be stranded with. Wednesday, October 12, 1 PM and 3 PM, Location: San Rafael Public Library, 1100 E Street, San Rafael. Seating is limited.

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

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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: Telephone Clubs Chairman Bill Raffanti, 883-4079 (931-6399), for information.

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 - 1:30PM, 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 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 ISSUES CLUB: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Cole Posard, 491-4118.

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: Third 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.

