

College of Marin



EMERITUS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Lifelong Learning

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Marian Mermel, Co-Presidents

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SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MAY PARTY



When: Saturday, May 7

Time: 2:00 4:00 PM

Where: Home of **Karen Hemmeter**
391 Fairway Drive, NOVATO
Phone 883-9120



Directions: Hwy 101N to Ignacio exit, left over freeway, then 1 mile
and left onto Fairway Drive. Ample parking.

*There will be a special raffle of a Kay Carlson painting. Tickets will not be mailed in
advance this time but will be sold at the event. \$5 for 1 ticket, \$20 for 5 tickets.*

Come join us all for wine, snacks, fun, camaraderie

Bring a friend. Bring a folding chair if you've got one.

See you then!



COM IN THE NEWS



College Wins Reaccreditation -- During the first week of February, after a two-year wait, College of Marin again received a confirmation of reaccreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (WASC). The announcement came with a list of new requirements by WASC which College of Marin officials need to resolve by October 15, 2011, to preserve its standing. Recommendations include: (1) *College of Marin improve library services at IVC and online*, (2) *Identify measureable outcomes for academic and support programs*, (3) *Improve its distance learning program*. WASC has praised College of Marin's recent initiatives which have included development of a geothermal heating system for the new buildings, increased transparency by the Board of Trustees in revising its policies and creation of a support program for student athletes. College of Marin officials feel confident that the college will be able to achieve the agency's (WASC) required goals. (I. J. - 2/5/11)

Targeting Graduation Goals -- During the 2009-2010 school year, College of Marin awarded 219 Associate Degrees and 43 career certificates; whereas, as many as 55 percent of the degree-seeking students did not complete a degree program or transfer to a four-year university within six years of enrolling at COM. A statistical study done in 2003-2004 indicates that 70 per cent of students who enrolled in a degree program had not completed their degree requirements within the next six years. Two new programs at College of Marin are intended to help students with college-level English and college-level Math requirements as well as providing additional afternoon and evening meetings of classes that students need for transfer to a four-year university. Community colleges are going to have to prioritize classes they offer, with more focus on associate degrees and transfer courses and at the same time minimize courses that are primarily recreational, improving on job skills or exploring career options. Assembly Bill 1143, signed into law in 2010 by the governor and to be implemented in 2012, will change the funding mechanism for community colleges in California. Instead of receiving state money based on enrollment numbers, community colleges will

be financially rewarded based on the number of enrolled students who actually complete credit courses. (I. J. - 2/26/11)

Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski

ESCOM COUNCIL MEETING FEB 17

Presidents **Karen Hemmeter** and **Marian Mermel** were delighted to announce that the May General Membership meeting will be held at Karen's Novato home on Saturday, May 7, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The official invitation/announcement is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The January 24 art show reception for **Cole Posard** was dynamic and very well attended. It was held on a Monday so the active Bridge club members who meet in the Cafeteria could easily attend as well.

Clubs are booming according to **Bill Raffanti** who announced two more new ones: Singalong led by **Marlene Knox** and Tell Your Story by **Barbara Durant**. Details are in the newsletter.

Dr. Cedillo informed the council that students are organizing a bus trip to Sacramento to protest tuition increases for CA residents, which could go from \$26 per unit to more than \$60. The annual Thanksgiving lunch to honor the COM staff, which was held at IVC in November, served 250 people and took in \$300 in cash donations and 5 barrels of food for Marin Food Bank. ESCOM members assisted as servers and kitchen aides.

Grants Chairperson **Bev Munyon** reported that 30 people applied for grants for classes in Winter term and, through the generosity of the COM Foundation, each one was awarded a \$50 voucher.

Unfortunately, no volunteer has stepped forward to assist **Art Ravicz** in computer assembling of the Newsletter. Microsoft Publisher is the software used. With Art out of town in April, this may result in delay of the May Newsletter and elections may be postponed one month to June

Margot Jasie said the February 26 potluck for newer members will be held in Novato at the home of two new members. Discussion is underway to convert these events to a regular Dinner Club.



Karen Hemmeter

A FAREWELL TO CAROLYN TALMADGE

Carolyn Talmadge retired from the College's Emeritus / Community Education program this year after teaching at the College for the past 26 years. A Larkspur resident, she taught such varied classes as tai chi, haiku poetry, art history, meditation, a course on the near-death experience, and a Bay Area architecture tours class. Her primary focus, however, was teaching older adults the ancient art of tai chi, which has sometimes been called "meditation in motion." She began her study of tai chi in San Francisco in 1969 and started teaching it at the College in 1985.

Carolyn wants to express her gratitude to the College staff, teachers and students and to say how deeply meaningful her career at the College has been to her. "I love teaching!" she says, and, of course, that sentiment extends to her friends and students at the College, as well.

Recently, she had an exhibit of photographs she took at the Marin Civic Center Farmer's Market, which she entitled "Earth's Bounty: A Harvest of Fruits and Vegetables." She was thrilled that a number of students came to see her work.

If you asked Carolyn about her favorite activities outside of teaching and taking photographs, she would say spending time with her four-year-old granddaughter and swimming with dolphins in the ocean.

Students who wish can send mail to her c/o The College of Marin, Community Ed. Dept., 835 College Avenue, Kentfield, California 94904.



Carolyn, daughter Leslie, and grand-daughter Lauren

OUR ANNUAL MAY MEETING this year will be held at a Novato home rather than the Kentfield school cafeteria as in years past. This is one of our few opportunities for us all to socialize, so we look forward to a large gathering and hope to see many of you, especially Novato members. How can you help, you ask? If you like to sit down most of the time and have a folding chair, please bring it. It is always appreciated when cookies, brownies, or bars are brought along. So if you like to bake, please do so. See you May 7, 2-4 PM, 391 Fairway Drive, Novato, at Karen Hemmeter's house. Phone 883-9120.

ESCOM COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The annual elections for Council officers and members will be held in May/June this year, a little later than customary due to scheduling conflicts, and the deadline for filing has been extended to May 1, 2011. The offices of President, Vice President and four (4) Council seats are scheduled to be on the ballot which will be included in the June Newsletter. Officers are elected for one-year terms, while Council members serve two-year stints. All are eligible for re-election.

Co-Presidents **Karen Hemmeter** and **Marian Mermel**, having served two full terms, will not be seeking re-election to a third term, and Council member **Gloria Jones** has also announced her retirement from the Council, having served a number of two-year terms.

You can show your interest by writing to the ESCOM Nominations and Elections Committee, c/o Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center, College of Marin, 835 College Avenue, Kentfield, CA 94904-2590. A member of the Nominations Committee will contact you to schedule an interview.

The Emeritus Students of the College of Marin remain strong and viable through the leadership and participation of all of its members. Being a member of the Council presents an opportunity to inject new ideas and initiatives into the process – a vital need.

More election news will appear in the May Newsletter.

Your Nominations and Elections Committee

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

Events listed below are held in the Emeritus Meeting Room, COM Indian Valley Campus, Bldg. 10: Call Larry Witter 883-6889, Gloria Kopshever 883-7805, Bill Raffanti 883-4079 (931-6399), Rudy Ramirez 491-0522.

COM Indian Valley Organic Farm

Annual Plant Sale, Saturday, April 30. The popular old-timey trio, 'Wagon', has been booked again to add a musical dimension to this annual spring event. Organic vegetable and herb plants on your patio or in your garden will help your budget and improve your health.

Wednesdays Farm Stand, 10 AM - 3 PM at the farm: 1800 Ignacio Blvd. Park in the last COM parking lot and walk to the farm entrance.

California Trail Days, Indian Valley Preserve

Saturday, April 9, 9 AM - 1 PM. COM's Indian Valley Campus has 330+ acres surrounded by Marin County Open Space, one of our most popular preserves, and it is gorgeous this time of year. We are collaborating with the Rotary Club of Ignacio to restore a busy hiking trail above the College. Hikers, join us in the restoration. Rain may cancel – call (415) 499-3778 after 7 AM on the morning of the event.

Dental Assisting, New COM/IVC Program, Offers Community Service

Soon after moving into Building 27, students and faculty held a coffee and pastry sale and a Mexican lunch buffet as a fundraiser and a means to meet others on the campus. The warm sunny day allowed everyone to use the expansive new creek side patio. **Grace Hom**, Department Head, and students shared their enthusiasm for the IVCampus and the community services they will offer. Free x-rays are given early in the year, while another service students provide is Pit and Fissure Sealants on non-restored teeth.

June 23, the Dental Assisting graduation ceremony will be held. (It is separate from the COM graduation.)

From the Office of Work Force Development

Registration for both Summer 2011 and Fall 2011 semesters for continuing students begins on April 18th. For new students, registration begins on May 24th.

Global Issues Club

Por Que Venimos (Why We Come), Friday, April 15 at 2 PM. Local filmmakers offer a glimpse into the lives of Latin American migrants living in San Rafael's Canal District. The equipment and facilities of the Community Media Center of Marin were used to produce this film, in which migrants tell why they left their homes to endure the arduous journey to El Norte, the United States. This presentation is part of an educational documentary project of the Marin Immigrant Rights Coalition. For information on the entire project, please go to www.whywecome.org.

IVC Book Forum

3/28 *People of the Book*, Geraldine Brooks.

4/25 *Room*, Emma Donahue.

5/23 *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese (2010 Selection, One Book One Marin.)

Great Books Discussion Group

Beginning March 21 we will be reading a compendium from the Foundation Dealing with Human Rights. Readings are both documents and important articles on the evolution of individual rights since the Magna Carta.

IVC Philosophy Club

U.S. and the Middle East - 1914 to 9/11 The final lectures of this relevant series will end this month with focus on the events in the Middle East in this century. **Professor Salim Yaquib**, UC Santa Barbara, offers a unique perspective on the powerful actors in this volatile arena and on the changing policies and complexities between the Western powers and Arab ambitions and the terrible consequences we live with today.

IVC Film Noir Theater Club

3/26 *Whistle Stop '46*. Ava Gardner, George Raft,

Victor McLaglen. Director: Leonide Moguy.

4/09 *Angel Face* '52. Robert Mitchum, Jean Simmons, Mona Freeman. Director: Otto Preminger.

4/ 23 *Blood on the Sun* '45. James Cagney, Sylvia Sidney, Porter Hall. Director: Frank Lloyd.

Humanities Club

4/2 Lecture 17 looks at *Hippolytus*, in which once again issues of gender, sexuality and reproduction are in the foreground. The lecture also considers the implications of *Hippolytus* for our understanding of Athenian attitudes toward sexuality.

Lecture 18 discusses *Hecuba* and *Trojan Women*, plays that paint vivid portraits of the damage caused to civilians and particularly to women by war, considering with sympathy the plight of the conquered Trojan women.

4/16 Lecture 19 focuses on two of Euripides's least "tragic" tragedies, *Iphigenia in Tauris* and *Orestes*, and discusses how they both reverse many standard aspects of tragedy and what implications of that reversal may be.

NEW CLUB: SING-ALONG, SHOWTUNES AND POP MUSIC

Is it not great fun to gather around the piano and sing out loud, sing out strong, with a group of people who love popular music? Joyous and happy—that is what this club aims to be. We don't care whether you even have a halfway decent voice! By popular demand, this club is born on Wednesday, March 9, 2:30-3:30 PM, and will continue to meet the 2nd Wednesdays of each month. Our first location will be Performing Arts, Room 177, but we will have to find an alternate location for April during Spring break as well as Summer. We are requiring a minimum fee of \$5 for the popular pianist we have recruited to accompany us. Our plan is to each bring approximately three songs per session and print out enough lyrics for the group. That way we all sing everyone's favorite songs. Our pianist can change the key, play by ear, and knows thousands of songs. It will be like a party the 2nd Wednesday of every month. For further information, call **Marlene Knox**, 459-1427.

HAIKU CONTEST

Seventeen-syllable poems in a particular style have been popular in Japan since at least the 16th Century. In more recent years writers in many countries have tried their hand at these seemingly simple poems. The Japanese language is constructed of syllables, rather than being alphabetic, as English. Hence the poems take on an entirely different style, and in translation don't even contain the same number of syllables.

Traditionally, the Japanese poems have three lines of five, seven, and five syllables. They also incorporate references to nature, commonly seasons. There are many other minor rules of construction which are generally ignored by writers in English.

Here are some examples:

**They've gone...
where the beach umbrella was
the sand not quite so hot**

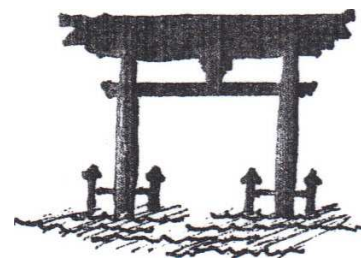
**Freeway overpass--
Blossoms in graffiti on
fog-wrapped June mornings**

**Rain falls, seeds sprout
Continues life from something
Small but strong, it grows.**

**White light shining through
patterns along the blank wall
brightening my day.**

**She watches
satisfied after love
He lies looking up at nothing**

As you can see there is much room for personal variation. Try your hand at this. You won't have any professional competition. We'll publish our favorites. **Vince deMaio**, our ranking Emeritus poet, has agreed to be a judge. No prizes. Just the satisfaction of seeing one's own poem in print. Send them to the Editor at dondorpol@aol.com. Or by regular mail to 41 Club View Dr., Novato 94949.



THE BEST OF TIMES: CHERRIES AND A FEW OTHER LESSONS

I looked in the mirror this morning and didn't see my mother; I saw my mother telling me to do something with my hair. I always say – if I won the Nobel Prize, when I walked off the podium, she would ask me, “Why didn't you do something with your hair?”

That was only one of the multi-gazillion things she told me and is still telling me to do. She sits over my right shoulder next to you-know-who and keeps me on the straight and narrow. My sister and I have a good time trading “remember Mom” stories, but the latest one involves the time we were about 5 and 7 years old. Mother had an amazing way of teaching us a lesson. She had taken us to the grocery store with her. We were not poor. But we were certainly living in modest circumstances and it was the end of the Depression, about 1935. Mother bought each of us a very small bag of cherries. She asked me for some. I looked at the few remaining cherries in my bag and said, “Ask my sister.”

My mother turned to my sister and requested a few cherries. My sister's answer was the same. “Ask my sister.” Mother took both bags of cherries away from us. That taught me all I ever needed to know about sharing.

When I was ill, and it wasn't often, she would come over to help me with the boys. She wasn't grandmotherly in the sense that she would sit down and read them a story or play games with them. She left that to my father, who taught them to play killer poker at an early age. Mother would get out the vacuum cleaner and while I cowered, head under the covers in bed and the boys raced wildly around the house playing cowboys and Indians, mother was determined to “do all the things I didn't have time to do”. She moved furniture and vacuumed in corners and moved more furniture and cleaned more corners. It was just easier not to get sick. Mother liked her grandchildren better than her children. She knew that they were perfect.

When I had been married for several years my neighbors' mother passed away and mother came to sit with my children. When I returned from the funeral, I told mother that the Rabbi had said Mrs.

Rosenberg's pots were as sparkling clean the day she died as the day she had bought them. “Don't worry” mother told me, “they'll never say that about you.” Mother would never understand that I was not interested in scrubbing pots. She did not let me live with any illusions about my beauty or my housekeeping skills.

Mother developed cancer of the breast when she was 74 years old. It was removed but it spread to her spine and she went from the hospital to my sister's home, to the hospital, and back to my sister's home. She stayed with me only once at which time she fired the nurse I had hired, told the doctor I gave her a room over the garage (misleading), I didn't know how to cook (questionable) and called my sister to come and get her. I believe I spent part of every day of the next seven years with her and we discussed exactly how she wanted to die.

When the time came, she was so ill, the decision was not difficult. It was a rich, wonderful life we shared, my nonsense mother, my sister and I.



Iris Tandler

DOUBLE SYMPHONY CONCERT

Musicians from College of Marin and Santa Rosa Junior College community orchestras are joining creative forces this spring to present works by Vivaldi, Haydn, Prokofiev and Beethoven in what may be the first collaborative venture of its kind for both campuses.

DATES/TIMES: Saturday, March 19 at 8 PM at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa; and Sunday, March 20 at 4 PM, Unity In Marin, 600 Palm Drive, Novato. TICKETS: \$10 suggested donation at the door. Proceeds are to benefit Meacham String Scholarships, which are in memory of famed violinist and Marin faculty member **Charles Meacham**.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next Newsletter staff meeting will be held Friday, April 15, 10:30 AM, at the Kentfield Emeritus Center.

WHY DID KAMIKAZE PILOTS WEAR HELMETS?

Kamikaze is the Japanese word meaning divine wind, named after a typhoon that is said to have saved Japan from Mongol invasion in 1281. After the attacks of the Japanese air force on the Allies' ships in World War II, "kamikaze" has universally come to mean a suicide attack.

Late in the war the Allies began advancing toward Japan, and Japanese aircraft were often outnumbered and outclassed, resulting in a scarcity of adept pilots. At the same time, the Japanese air force was assigned the task of assisting the Japanese ships in the Leyte Gulf. The task was larger than could be accommodated, so Vice Admiral Takijio Onishi formed a Kamikaze Special Attack Force. There were many volunteers to be pilots, but those who were experienced and valuable were turned away, with most of the kamikazes being young university students. Ceremonies were often held before missions, in which the pilots were given medals of honor. Approximately 6,000 Japanese soldiers died in the kamikaze missions, and all are thought to have been volunteers.

Given that kamikaze pilots knew they were going to die, people sometimes wonder why they wore helmets. In fact, the helmets weren't worn to protect the pilots from dying, but to protect them from injuries during the flight so that they reached the target, to keep their heads warm and because the helmets housed radio earphones. The helmets were thus helpful in flying the aircraft. Many missions were unsuccessful, and in those cases the pilots were encouraged to return home and try another time.

**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 _____

Joker

**I talked to that horse
I asked for special consideration
'It's my first time' I said
'You got to cut me some slack'**

**If I had known his name
It may have made a difference
But when I climbed into that saddle
My whole world changed**

**As we moved out my thoughts raced
Over history, legend and myth
Cowboys, Indians, Pony Express
Bengal Lancers — Mongol warriors**

**Then the group moved into a fast trot
And my rear-end lost all its padding
Suddenly the saddle was broken glass
Damn! How do I stop the agony?**

**Desperate, I kicked the horse's flanks
His head reared and I sensed a change
The saddle moved — then moved again
Slipping, sliding, it rotated clockwise
And I went flying**

**Flat on my back — the wrangler said
'That ain't never happened before'
(Hey Man! That sure ain't the truth)
As that great beast stared down at me
I saw the truth in his huge black eyes**

V. DeMaio

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

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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.

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, and 4th Friday, 12 to 2 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 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 & LEGAL ISSUES ROUNDTABLE: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Cole Posard, 491-4118, Len Pullan, 381-6952.

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

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.

SING-ALONG CLUB: 2nd Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM, location TBA. Marlene Knox, 459-1427.

SPANISH CLUB: Thursdays, 2:00 - 3:45 PM, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Vicki Frate, 472-0320.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1-4 PM, Emeritus Center. Marlene Knox, 459-1427.

