

College of Marin



EMERITUS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

Lifelong Learning

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Marian Mermel, Co-Presidents

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December 2010—January 2011



PLAYBILL

**COME TO THE ESCOM WINTER PARTY
JOIN YOUR EMERITUS MEMBERS
BRING A FRIEND**

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

AND AS A SPECIAL ADDITION—
A RAFFLE!

**FELLOWSHIP, FUN, FOOD, SONGS
SCOTT MERRICK AT THE PIANO**

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

Cartoon by Paul Gruner

ESCOM COUNCIL MEETS IN OCTOBER



The well-attended October meeting of the ESCOM Council took place at the Emeritus Center of the Indian Valley Campus on October 21.

Treasurer **Art Ravicz** submitted the 2010-11 Budget, and the Board approved it following an animated discussion by the members. It was pointed out that the prior year's Budget was under-spent, but that a small deficit due to increased Newsletter printing costs may be seen this year. As always the income from ESCOM membership dues is critical in meeting the Emeritus Students' needs. Nearly one-half of the year's expenditures are for the Newsletter and office printing and mailing costs.

Director of Student Services **Arnulfo Cedillo** announced that the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon would be held at IVC on November 18, and that ASCOM was again sponsoring the Night of Giving on December 3, when disadvantaged children of the community are treated to Christmas gifts and refreshments.

Dr. Cedillo also spoke of the upcoming visit by an Accreditation Team, when the College's staff presents written and oral reports of various educational and administrative activities of the College of Marin. He characterizes this three-day proceeding as an important event that requires extensive preparation on the part of key staff members.

Chairman of Clubs **Bill Raffanti** anticipates that he will once again call for a meeting of all the club chairs to exchange ideas on club programs and improved participation. He appreciates the publicity given clubs in the Newsletter and will continue to provide articles as new clubs are formed.

Bev Munyon advised that all financial grant requests for the fall semesters have been met despite the increased volume of requests due to the discontinuation of most free classes.

Speaking as Chairman of the Curriculum Committee **Dick Park** expressed dismay about the large number of Emeritus College classes cancelled due to lack of enrollment. This information came to light at the previous day's meeting of the Curriculum Committee when a tabulation of class enroll-

ments and cancellations revealed that some 28% of classes scheduled for the Fall I semester had to be cancelled due to lack of enrollment. It was suggested that a marketing effort should be explored.

Newsletter Committee Chairman **Don Polhemus** announced that henceforth our Newsletter can be viewed online for those readers that do not wish to wait for delivery through the mails. They are encouraged to access the information through the C.O.M. website.

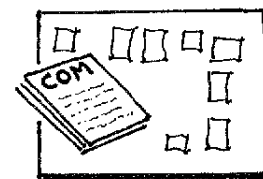
Donna Posard, chairing this year's Holiday Party, announced success in securing good prizes for the drawing to take place at the December 4th event. Ticket will be priced at \$2.00, or three for \$5.00.

Reported by Paul Tandler

COM IN THE NEWS

Former Board Member Honored

COM will honor former board member, **Harry Moore**, with a memorial bench at IVC. As a tribute to Mr. Moore's environmental interests, the bench will be made from sustainable materials and surrounded by drought-resistant landscaping. Approximately \$7,500 has been raised by College Trustees and Mr. Moore's family which is about half of the project's total cost. COM officials are hoping to dedicate the memorial bench sometime in December. For additional information or to make a donation, please call 258-0686.



Sponsorship of Child Care Food Program

-- The College of Marin Child Care Food Program addresses an important need in the community. Through the program, enrolled children receive nutritious meals and snacks each day as part of their preschool education. Many of the organic fruits and vegetables the children enjoy are grown at the IVC Organic Farm. The program is available, without charge, to all enrolled children in the College Children's Center at both the Kentfield and Indian Valley Campuses.

Prioritizing Success vs. Enrollment

-- Academic struggles in California's community colleges are taking a toll in producing graduates. The vast majority of students hoping to earn an associate degree or a vocational certificate tend to drop out before completion of courses. In a recent study of

more than 250,000 degree-seeking, community college students, fewer than 30% had transferred to a four-year school or had completed an associate degree. Community colleges that help under-prepared students complete English and Mathematics requirements should be given more funding. Currently, this system is based on how many students are enrolled in the third week of school regardless of their existing language and mathematical aptitudes.



Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski

YOUR BUSY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Chaired by **Dick Park**, the Curriculum Committee met on September 15, 2010, to interview several applicants presenting courses they would like to teach in the Community College.

Following the interviews and brief discussion over the merits of the offerings, the Committee recommended the following courses for the upcoming Winter and Spring semesters, or later if necessary:

Shirin Teyssier proposes a one-day seminar on “French for Leisure Travelers”, with emphasis on social etiquette and general cultural awareness. She describes her course as a setting “In typical French ambience accompanied by French music, cheese and seltzer, preparing the student to navigate abroad, whether visiting Paris, strolling through Provence, or just fancying to have a small conversation in French.” The students will also learn general cultural awareness and social etiquette of France. Get tips on do’s and don’ts, table setting, restaurant dining, the art of gift giving in social French gathering, the role of conversation, and more.

Renowned artist **Kay Carlson** offers a course in “Expressive Landscape Oil Painting.” She plans to provide clear and simple instruction about how to achieve clean, fresh color. “We block in a painting, create dynamic composition, and strengthen tonal values. You will learn to mix a warm and cool color palette. Starting with vibrant color and big shapes, students lead into beautiful atmospheric perspective. The Class will paint outdoors

near the campus and come indoors to learn how to use our own photographs for reference.”

Italian-born **Gilda Zucollela** presented a trio of offerings ranging from Jungian Psychology to Learning Italian through Opera. Also offered by her was “An Introduction to Ayurveda: The Wisdom of Life. She believes that “the study and discussion of Jung’s philosophy offers a narrative that gives us a greater context with which to experience and understand absolutely everything. Whether a lay person or a professional, this course will acquaint you with the concepts, vision and tools of one of the greatest men of the twentieth century.”

Although offered as a seven-week program the Committee felt that “An Introduction to Ayurveda”, an Indian healing system meaning “the knowledge of life” might best be presented initially as a one-day program, with the suggested seven-week course held for the future if sufficient interest develops from a one-day seminar. **Gilda’s** offer to teach “Italian through Opera” also was acclaimed as an attractive choice for opera lovers who would better understand the story behind the music in its original language.

Not interviewed, but recommended were two courses offered by **Erika Harkins**, “The History of the French Cinema” and “The History of the Richest Country in the World: Switzerland.” **Erika’s** prior classes on European cultural subjects have been well attended in the past and a good response to the new offerings is expected.

Veteran instructor **Dove Govrin’s** offering “Wisdom Healing Qigong,” was also recommended without the necessity of an interview.

Instructors for three additional course offerings were interviewed on October 20. The Committee will be interviewing candidates for additional courses in November. These will be described in a later article.



Reported by Paul Tandler, ESCOM Council Liaison to the Curriculum Committee

EDITOR'S NOTE

The next Newsletter staff meeting will be held Friday, January 7, 2011, 10:30 AM, at the Kentfield Emeritus center.



HOLIDAY MEMORIES



We asked members of the Newsletter staff to recall special holidays of past years. Here are some of their memories.

A FISHY CHRISTMAS TALE

As was customary, Christmas Eve, December 24, 1960, was celebrated at my parents' home in the traditional Polish way -- an "*all fish feast*" -- which started with a delicious wild mushroom soup and ended with a compote of dried fruits and "*makowiec*", a strudel-type cake with a poppy seed filling. According to Polish custom, sliced herring was one of the main fish entrees served, especially tasty smothered in olive oil and sautéed onion rings. Our older son, Michael, at age 4-1/2, that night became a short-lived connoisseur of this fish delicacy. He indulged voraciously on this newcomer to his diet. He obviously overindulged, and this became evident about 2:00 AM Christmas morning just about the time Santa would be making his appearance at the Warcholski residence. All of a sudden our daughter, Kristina, age 3 appeared in our room and excitedly announced -- "*something is wrong with Mike and his bed is a mess!!!*" Instead of "visions of sugar plums" dancing in his head, there were remnants of herring exiting his stomach.

Under the Christmas tree, it was evident that Santa Claus had already delivered the gifts and foremost among them was a beautiful wooden rocking horse waiting for its first rider -- Mike, of course. Needless to say -- plans changed because of Mike's previous night's herring experience and instead Kristina mounted the horse and had the first ride to the dismay of its designated owner who looked on in disbelief. Mike, to this day, has not touched a piece of herring due to his *retching* Christmas Eve experience some fifty years ago.

A true eventful holiday story.

Alicia Warcholski

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Christmas has always been for me a delightful time of mistletoe and holly, of caroling and parties, of the rush and bustle of shopping and wrapping of gifts in the seasonal glitter of reds and greens and golds, the gathering of friends and family and the anticipation of a few surprises. We omit the religious aspect and enjoy our Christmas dinner in a Chinese restaurant.

Alternately, for those who do not abandon themselves to the seasonal joys of Santa and his elves

and all that, Chanukah has been offered as a consolation. This is a commemoration of a miracle involving the mysterious appearance of 7 days of oil to light the lamp in the Temple in Jerusalem ... and most particularly, occasion for the giving of gifts. Seven Days of them. This is the "Festival of Lights".

I am reminded of a grandson, perhaps 3 or 4 at the time, coming home from his Lutheran Nursery School and announcing to his mom, that soon they would be celebrating this new holiday, "The Pasta Bowl of Lights" and everyone would get a gift. Sometime later, my 3 year old grand-daughter, overhearing conversations about 'who celebrates what', asked me with charming directness, "Are you Crispy or Jewish?" The answer was complicated. There are so many combinations and permutations in our changing society.

It all came together one holiday with a fine Ecumenical solution. My family and I arrived for a party hosted by a couple, both on their second marriage with previous children. She was Jewish and he had been a Catholic priest who had left to marry. We were overwhelmed by the sight of a huge table groaning under a bounty of gifts ... one side cheerily wrapped in Christmas colors, the other in the traditional blue and silver of Chanukah. Everyone was satisfied and we could in our own way bask in the good feeling of it all.

The holiday was a great success but, sadly, the Ecumenical marriage failed.

Sandra Rosenberg

A CHRISTMAS MEMORY CHANUKAH, O' CHANUKAH

My children knew that this holiday was not theirs. We were one of a few Jewish families in a small town in Missouri in the 1950s. There was a Christmas tree in every school room. Every mall glistened with the decorations of Christmas, shimmering lights, tinsel, Santa's reindeer and thousands of presents beyond a child's imagination.

Yes, we celebrated Chanukah but it was a minor holiday in the Jewish religion, and although we lit the Chanukah candles for eight days, the traditional presents of school supplies, a T-shirt or a sweater did not compete with a bicycle, wagon or talking doll.

We answered our children's questions as best we could. There was no Santa, no milk and cookies to be left out. There was no fireplace in our 1000 sq. ft. tract home nor a chimney for Santa to slide down. I understood that Grandma's brisket, latkes and stewed fruit could not compete with turkey, stuffing and whipped cream pies.

It was only after New Year's that doubt raised its ugly head and one by one discarded evergreen trees appeared on our front lawn. And I wondered what subliminal urges motivated our children. The trees were dirty, with broken ornaments, encrusted with old tinsel and muddy snow. As my neighbors discarded their trees our boys lugged them home. I never asked any questions.

I think I really did not want to know. Life was difficult enough in those days. I finally called County Refuse Service and had the trees picked up while the children were at school.

"Chanukah, O' Chanukah, come light the Menorah."

Iris Tandler

A MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS

Pat and I were in Cairns, Australia, on an Elderhostel rail tour in 1996. We attended the local Uniting Church (not "United", *Uniting*), a combination of what, in this country, would be "mainline" Protestant churches. The temperature was in the high 90s; the humidity, ditto; rain fell off and on; the building was open-air. Lots of families with young children--that church was *growing!* Presents had been brought by Santa in his wagon pulled by kangaroos. By design, there were enough gifts for only half the kids; they were instructed to open them and share them with the kids who had none. A great teaching moment! Afterward, didgeridoo music accompanied Christmas dinner. We missed our children and grandchildren back home.

Art Ravicz

I LOVE TREES

One of the many loves in my life are trees. Growing up in Ohio my home was surrounded by huge, old elm trees, their enormous roots exposed so we children could climb around and around on them. Our state had many varieties of tree including oak, black walnut, horse chestnut, sycamore, birch, poplar, chestnut and hickory. But we did not have any fir trees.

If you were born in the 1920s you were a child of the Great Depression. A real fir tree for Christmas

was very expensive for us. Consequently, we had a small artificial tree about 36 inches tall with very few limbs. We decorated it in green paper, trying to make it resemble a fir tree.

My mother would decide each year on a theme color, which would be used for decoration. She would make popcorn balls and wrap them in colored cellophane and ribbon to tie on the tree. And she would also place silver icicles tied with a paper chain that matched the theme color. Strings of lights, used year after year until they were frayed, were then wound around the tree. Everything was perfectly matched to the chosen color scheme for that season. Finished and decorated, the tree was placed in the window of our sunroom in the front of the house. This way it could be admired from all angles. It was set on top of piles of stacked books so that it appeared to be much taller. And around the base was wrapped a white sheet suggesting snow.

What joy we all had observing the colorful lights and decorations. Our tree brought a smile to the people who passed by, adding its little bit to the brightness of the season. These simple things in life often provide the memories we most cherish, especially at Christmas time.

Gigi Welch

MY "NEW" BICYCLE

Depression clouds still hung heavy, but it was to be my eighth Christmas and I had high hopes of getting a bicycle. Yes, I had tricycles before, but two-wheelers meant you were really growing up. And there it was! Right beside the tree. A red and white two-wheeled bicycle.

I learned how to ride it in a single day and was soon showing it off to my friends. And then my world collapsed. Billy looked over the cycle carefully and then announced, "Look how dull the red paint is. Your bicycle's *second-hand*." It wasn't the words. It was the condescending and disdainful way they were said. As though second-hand were a deadly poison.

Teary-eyed, I rode home to confront my mother. "Billy said my bicycle's second-hand." Ever quick with a comeback, my mother replied, "Oh, no. It's not second-hand. It's just *shopworn*." "What does shopworn mean?" I inquired. "Well, you see, when something doesn't sell right away in a store it gets a little dusty and dingy. But it's still just as good as new." "Oh, I see," I replied, much relieved, as I pedaled off to play with less critical friends.

Don Polhemus

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 Main Building Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Tours start at 3 PM

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 4 PM

Main Building at the Indian Valley Campus

Assembly Room 116/118

1800 Ignacio Boulevard, Novato, CA 94949

Refreshments will be served.

New parking surfaces will be in place.

Aqua Exercise ESCOM Members will hold their end-of-the-semester potluck lunch in ESCOM/IVC meeting room, Wednesday, December 8, 12 noon.

Global Issues

Friday, December 17 at 2 PM. Incident at Oglala: The Leonard Peltier Story. On June 26, 1975, during a period of high tensions on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, two FBI agents were killed in a shootout with a group of Indians. Although several men were charged with killing the agents, only one, Leonard Peltier, was found guilty. This film describes the events surrounding the shootout and suggests that Peltier was unjustly convicted.

Friday, January 21 at 2 PM. Maria's Story. In El Salvador 1989, three years before the end of a brutal civil war that took 75,000 lives, Maria Serrano, wife, mother, and guerrilla leader is on the front-lines of the battle for her people and her country. Suffering the tragic loss of her daughter to enemy fire, and spending precious moments with her husband and surviving daughters, Maria brings viewers to the heart of the fight for a more just society.

Great Books Discussion Group

11/9 Italo Calvo: *Theft In a Pastry Shop*,
Alison Lurie: *Fat People*

11/23 Aldous Huxley: *Nuns at Luncheon*

12/14 Pam Houston: *Cowboys Are My Weakness*

12/28 (No meeting)

1/10 Full-length novel: *The Great Gatsby*

1/24 TBA

IVC Film Noir Theater Club

11/27 *Le Samourai*, '67. Alain DeLeon, Francois Perier, Nathalie Deleon. Director - Jean-Pierre Melville.

12/18 *Man With the Golden Arm*, '55. Frank Sinatra, Eleanor Parker, Kim Novak. Director - Otto Preminger.

1/15 *The Red House*, '47. Edward G. Robinson, Lon McCallister, Judith Anderson. Director - Delmer Daves.

Humanities Club

In November, the series of lectures on Greek Tragedy began. The first four lectures consisted of introducing the plays in their cultural and historical background.

Dec. 18 and Jan. 15: Lectures 5, 6, 7 & 8 will cover the work of the first great tragedian, Aeschylus, and in addition, consider the reasons that only 7 out of 90 of his plays have survived. Considers three earliest surviving plays, *Persians*, *Suppliant Maidens* and *Seven against Thebes* and Aeschylus's greatest work, the trilogy *The Oresteia*. **It is never too late to join - "catch up" handouts are always available.**

IVC Book Forum

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

12/18 *Olive Kitteridge*, Elizabeth Strout

1/24/11 *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson

IVC Philosophy Club

The Thursday Philosophers are enjoying a 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.

Chronicle of America's Political Philosophies and how we became the nation we are, ends the year with Emerson, Thoreau and the uniquely American, *Transcendentalist Movement*.

Local Organic Farm Fresh Foods. Our Plant Sale and Open Farm Celebration on Oct. 23 was a tremendous success! Many thanks to all of you who came out in the pouring rain and to all of you who helped make this event happen. It was a fabulous day - complete with dancing in the greenhouse! If you missed it (or if you just want more plants), we'll be selling lots more plants at Wednesday's Farm Stand.

Weekly Produce Sales. We offer a wide variety of freshly picked vegetables, fruits, and flowers Wednesdays at our Farm Stand, 10 AM - 3 PM at the farm: 1800 Ignacio Blvd. We are at the College of Marin (COM) Novato campus. Park in the last COM parking lot and walk past the left side of the athletic field to the farm entrance. *** Please remember to bring your own bags, as we do not supply plastic bags! ***

BOOK BANTER

Our club seems to be thriving, and I would like to expand it further--adding another session on the 4th Friday of the month from 12 to 2 PM, featuring short stories and poems. As the 2nd Fridays develop, I can foresee more members and less time for each participant, and the 4th Friday could serve the longer pieces. Short stories in particular need to be experienced in one sitting, and the two hours will help here too.



Len Pullan

NEWSLETTER NOW ONLINE

Your ESCOM Newsletter is now available to anyone online. It is our intention to provide the most recent six issues in order that readers who wish to review past articles but haven't saved these issues may have access to them. In addition this may provide a degree of publicity to ESCOM among non-members. We expect the postings to be available only a few days after our monthly meetings, thus avoiding long delivery delays. To read and/or print these Newsletters, here is the linkage. You may wish to save it for future reference:

Website www.Marin.edu; Search; College website; Student Services (in lower left); Student Life; ESCOM; Emeritus Newsletters; desired month.

Editor



AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?
A PUZZLE BY PAUL GRUNER

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| XMAS TREE | CANDELABRA |
| MISTLETOE | MULLED WINE |
| COZY FIRE | FRUITCAKE |
| FAMILY FUN | SNOWFLAKES |
| SANTA | ST. NICK |
| SUGARHAM | SUGAR PLUMS |
| TINSEL | SINGING |
| LIGHTS | CHEER |
| SLEIGH BELLS | XMAS LIST |
| CARDS | PRESENTS |
| LOTTERY WIN | SPARE TIME |
| FLIGHT TICKET | MORE MONEY |
| RUM PUNCH | A GOOD HUG |
| PARTIES | A REST |

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(FORWARD, BACKWARD, UP/DOWN, DIAGONAL)
HOLD YOUR BREATH--THE HOLIDAY'S COMING!

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

TIME DATED MATERIAL

**Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
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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.

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 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.

