

SENIOR **EMERITUS**

STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

LIFELONG LEARNING



Photo by Jason Lau

The ESCOM Winter Holiday Party: Harrison Lau, son of Dr. Jason Lau, Director of Community Education, draws the winning number for one of the door prizes. Article, page 2.

ESCOM NEWSLETTER

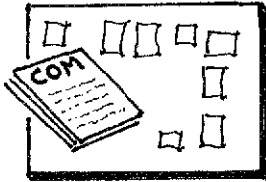
835 College Ave.

Kentfield, CA 94904-2590

Pres: Marian Mermel (mmermel1@yahoo.com)

Editor: Don Polhemus (dondorpol@aol.com)

COM IN THE NEWS



College Earns LEED Gold for IVC New Main Building.

-- The innovative design of the new main building complex on the IVC Campus has garnered the U. S. Green Building Council's high

Gold Certification, an award signifying an environmentally sustainable achievement in both project design and construction. The IVC Main Building is one of several buildings on COM's two campuses to earn "*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design -- LEED -- Gold* certification from the Green Building Council for its focus on a broad range of sustainable strategies including (1) *Site Selection*, (2) *Water Efficiency*, (3) *Energy and Atmosphere*, (4) *Materials and Resources* and (5) *Indoor Environmental Quality*. Other recent LEED-certified buildings at College of Marin include the Physical Education Center (Gold) and the Transportation Technology Complex (Gold).

IVC Organic Farm and Garden Awarded \$233,000 Grant.

--The California Community College Chancellor's Office has awarded a \$233,000 grant to COM's Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden which, combined with more than \$201,950 in matching grants, will expand the regional organic farming training laboratory and make it a sustainable enterprise in the next 20 months. The grant will help develop a regional teaching farm laboratory as well as exposing students to an expanded core curriculum and a certificate program linking to baccalaureate-granting university standards. In addition to offering a full complement of general education classes, the IVC campus continues to expand its economic development workforce programs. Congratulations to **Nanda Schorske**, Dean of Workforce Development at COM and **Marilee Eckert**, Chief Executive Officer at Conservation Corps North Bay and all of the partners for their work on behalf of the IVC Organic Farm and Garden Program.

COM Trustees Sworn in by Judge Haakenson.

In mid-December 2011 at College of Marin's regu-

larly scheduled monthly board meeting, Marin County Superior court Judge **Paul M. Haakenson** swore in four recently-elected trustees, including incumbents **Eva Long, PhD., Philip J. Kranenburg** and **James Namnath, PhD.** as well as **Stephanie O'Brien**, who is new to the Board. Outgoing Trustee **Carole Haya-shino** was honored by her colleagues at the Board Meeting for her services to COM and the community from 2003 to 2011.



Submitted by Alicia Warcholski

HOLIDAY PARTY

The skillful planning of **Donna Posard** led to another joyous Holiday Party. General frivolity was enhanced by the sounds of beautiful piano playing by **Scott Merrick**. A new feature was the addition of several booths where specialty items of hand-made scarves and food were available. No one needed to go hungry because an abundance of tasty treats brought by many tempted the guests. And a variety of wine was available, poured by **Jim Moore, Fred Sieden, and Art Ravicz**. We were all pleased to welcome guests **Eva Long, Barbara Dolan, Russell Robles with Maxine, and Jason Lau** with his lovely wife and young son. Prizes donated by local merchants were won by drawing lucky numbers. Full and happy, the attendees drifted away by around 3:30 PM.



Photos by Jason Lau

(Top) Vice President Dick Park emcees a portion of the program. (Bottom) Can you read the title of the music in front of Scott Merrick?

NOVEMBER 2011 ESCOM MEETING



This meeting of the ESCOM Council, chaired by Council member **Paul Tandler**, was scheduled as an informal discussion of ESCOM's mission

and future programming. Formal committee reports were dispensed with, except for several announcements by President **Marian Mermel**.

A draft copy of a proposed Community College Needs Assessment Survey was presented to the attending members with a request to provide feedback to Marian and the Community Education staff. The survey may receive greater distribution following this review.

College of Marin Student Trustee **Raemond Bergstrom-Wood** reported that the Board of Trustees is reviewing the disposition of remaining Measure C Bond funds in the light of increasing costs of remaining planned projects.

The Student Success Task Force has prepared a statement to redefine success at the state level, but the Academic Senate disagrees and has passed a resolution to that effect.

As planned, a discussion of ESCOM's Mission Statement ensued. The consensus was that the text of the existing Statement need not be revised, but that in view of funds made available through a bequest to ESCOM a number of additional activities should be considered. Among these are:

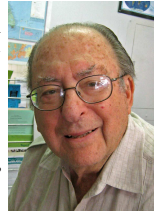
- Additional scholarship assistance to Emeritus Students.
- Membership recruitment through public media.
- Free classes.
- Discounted parking permits.
- Creation and maintenance of a web site.
- One-day work shops.
- Efforts to attract more Community College activities at Indian Valley Campus.
- Lecture series.
- Additional subsidies for under-enrolled classes.
- Lighting improvements for art exhibits in the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center.

Council members were asked that these and other ideas should be prioritized and discussed at future meetings.

Holiday Party Chair **Donna Posard** reminded everyone of the new starting time – 1:30 PM, on December 3rd at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ross.

The first meeting of the Council in 2012 will be at 10 AM on January 19th at the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center.

Reported by Paul Tandler



NEW ART EXHIBIT

Karen Le Gault will have an exhibit of her paintings at Emeritus Center Kentfield from January 6 to March 28, 2012. Her career began as an award winning photorealist painter while in high school over forty years ago. After experimenting with many styles, mediums and ideas, she began studying brush painting in the mid '80s and then combining Oriental brush technique with her eye for realism and nature by the early '90s. On a parallel track, she studied and taught Tai Chi for over thirty years, which she feels influenced her painting experience. Her work is in public art collections at Summit Hospital, the Alameda County records building, the critical care facility at Highland Hospital, as well as numerous private collections. She is also the director of Feather River Art Camp.

Conveying a lively sense of movement in dynamic color, Karen's still-life watercolors celebrate the bounty of life in flowing compositions of fruits, vegetables, garden flowers mixed with common kitchen items like graters, garlic presses, dishware, silver plates and pitchers. The embedded picture below is entitled *Still Life with Persimmons and Tomatillos*.

The artist's self portrait, along with the room she is painting in, can be found in reflections in the silver teapot in several of the paintings, thereby bringing in the dimension of the space behind the "viewer". (*See back cover.*) Reflecting her long-time interest in integrating Eastern concepts and techniques, the choices of what goes into each painting are based on balancing "yin" and "yang" and the five elements, fire, wood, earth, metal and water, both in color and in the materials represented.

A reception for the artist will be held Thursday, January 26, from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.



THANKS TO GIFT CONTRIBUTORS

The members of Emeritus College would like to thank the generous businesses who contributed prizes to our recent Winter Party. Here is the list.

Trader Joe's - San Rafael
Century Theater - San Rafael
Marin Joe's - Corte Madera
Safeway Market - Terra Linda
Cheesecake Factory
Insalata - San Anselmo
Lotus Inn - San Rafael
Red Robin Caterers - Larkspur
COM Student Store

Additionally, we extend our gratitude to **Arlene Henry** at the Episcopal Church who did so much to make the party a success. Any surplus funds are used for such purposes as tuition assistance for needy students and support for valuable classes which have temporary inadequate enrollment.

HEADS UP!

If a gun is fired exactly straight up, where is the safest place to stand to avoid being struck by the bullet when it falls back to the ground? Bullets leave a gun traveling about 2000 feet per second. They typically rise between one and two miles and fall much more slowly than they rose due to air resistance. It takes a minute or so to return to earth at which time they will be traveling at about 200 feet per second, quite sufficient to break skin and cause significant damage if they strike a person's head. It has been found that in their flight the bullets always encounter air currents, which carry them well away from their theoretical path. Thus standing exactly where the gun was fired would seem to be very little riskier than anywhere else.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The next newsletter staff meeting will be held Thursday, February 2, 2012, 10:30 AM, at the Emeritus Center, IVC.

IN VINO VERITAS

The holidays and parties of December/January are now behind us. Perhaps you're wondering about the sizes of all those bottles the contents of which you helped to consume. To assist you, we offer the official names for all the wine bottle sizes. Jeroboam and Rehoboam were kings of ancient Israel. Methuselah lived longer than anyone else. Salmanazar was an Assyrian king, while both Balthazar and Nebuchadnezzar were Babylonian kings. All are mentioned in the Bible, so enjoy the fruit of the vine!

<u>Bottle Name</u>	<u>Size</u>
Pony	189 ml wine
Half-bottle or Split Bottle	375 ml wine 750 ml wine
Magnum	2 wine bottles (1L)
Marie-Jean	3 wine bottles
Double Magnum	4 wine bottles (3L)
Jeroboam (sparkling wines)	4 wine bottles (3L)
Rehoboam (red wines)	6 wine bottles (4.5L)
Imperial	8 wine bottles (6L)
Methuselah (sparkling wines)	8 wine bottles (6L)
Salmanazar	12 wine bottles (9L)
Balthazar	16 wine bottles (12L)
Nebuchadnezzar	20 wine bottles (15L)
Sovereign	67 wine bottles (50L)



ESCOM/IVC News/Events/Clubs

Questions please call:

Larry Witter 883-6889 G. Kopshever 883-7805

Bill Raffanti 883-4079 Rudy Ramirez 491-0522

The following events will be held in Bldg 10, 140AS:

Monday Afternoon Opera: February 20, 1:00 PM. *Madama Butterfly*, Giacomo Puccini, with Victoria de los Angeles, Jussi Bjorling, Coro e Orchestra del Teatro dell' Opera di Roma. Digital remastering 1990, EMI Ltd. Lieutenant Pinkerton on short leave in Japan, spies Cho-Cho San and is counseled that he can 'marry' the beautiful Japanese girl and enjoy himself with cultural approval, then sail back to America unshackled since abandonment equates divorce in Japan. Cho-Cho will be free to marry whomever she chooses. After Pinkerton sails away, Butterfly waits patiently. Three years pass as Butterfly holds the secret as a surprise for her husband: their son. Pinkerton returns to Japan with his U.S. bride and goes to make his apologies to what Butterfly has cherished in her heart for three years. **Marilyn Seiberling** and **Dolores Gahan**, ESCOM opera fans, bring filmed operas from their collections with an enthusiastic willingness to share their knowledge and love of opera with everyone. Hopefully, with increase attendance this group could become a new ESCOM club. This is a chance to learn something new or rekindle an old love!

Global Issues: Friday, February 17, 2:00 PM. In honor of Black History Month, we will screen the award-winning film *Freedom Riders*. This documentary is the powerful, harrowing and ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. More than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws, the Freedom Riders met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism. A discussion will follow.

IVC Book Forum:

2/27 *The Time of Your Life*, Tom Brokaw. (Suggested by Shirley Genetin.)

3/26 *The Paris Wife*, Paula McLain. (Suggested by Ronnie Pelfini.)

Great Books Discussion Group: After four months of discussing the history of human rights, the Great Books group took a detour to consider *Sharia*, Islamic Ecclesiastical Law. In most Arab countries this law supersedes ordinary civil law but does not meet some of the criteria considered essential by Western democracies. In particular, rights of women seem to us curtailed. Recent protests by women in Middle Eastern countries make this subject particularly timely.

1/24 Novel: *The Leopard* by Lampedusa.

IVC Philosophy Club:

History of Freedom, Professor Rufus Fears, U. of Oklahoma. Two lectures each Thursday followed by discussion using the accompanying study guide.

IVC Film Noir Theater Club: Members enjoyed extra shows on 12/25 and 12/31/2011 featuring Deanna Durbin and Humphrey Bogart plus holiday treats and fascinating background material. Thank you, Rudy!

2/11 *Murder by Contract* '58. Vince Edwards, Phillip Pine, Herschel Bernardi. Director Irving Lerner.

2/25 *Fear in the Night* '47. Paul Kelly, DeForest Kelley, Ann Doran. Director Maxwell Shane.

Humanities Club: Famous Romans.

2/04 Lecture 17: Claudius; Lecture 18: Nero.

2/18 Lecture 19: Trajan; Lecture 20: Hadrian.

Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden: Message from the Farm Staff--Happy New Year! On behalf of all of us at the farm, we hope your holidays have been wonderful and your New Year is off to a beautiful start. Our Farm Stand is open Wednesdays 10-3 with winter vegetables, flowers and plants. The year 2011 ended with the bitter-sweet collapse of one of our honeybee hives. We are sad to have lost the bees, but we were able to salvage a small harvest of just under 15 lbs of delicious organic honey. This very special honey will be for sale at the farm stand until gone. We still have one hive going strong! Please do whatever you do to ask for rain--the ground is shockingly dry for this time of year. Though our wheat experiment is showing about 4 inches of growth since we first planted seeds, the grain is parched! Let the February rains come! (Customer note: A black-eyed Susan plant purchased in October bloomed continuously through January and February, a testament to the quality of IVC stock.)



THE BEST OF TIMES: MY SISTER



Pulling my sister to school on the first day of kindergarten, my mother said “Look after your baby sister,” and so I thought she was mine to boss around. If asked to describe her, I would tell you she is a combination of Scarlett O’Hara and Peter Pan and that is the way she lives her life.

She worries about everything tomorrow and she lives in Never-Never Land. And it has served her well. If the scales are ever balanced on this, I ain’t gonna be tried ‘cause I done tried.

My sister was the beauty of the family. She had a creamy complexion, huge chocolate brown eyes, jet-black hair and a near-Hollywood figure. Long before she reached puberty there were five or six gangly, pimply boys with duck-tail haircuts and ratty jeans hanging from the porch of our tiny Midwestern home, always waiting for her to complete her hairdo and makeup and declaring their undying love.

“Ah declar” she would whisper to me each night in a phony Southern drawl, “Ah dunnoh which won o dem ah laks dah mos.”

I wanted to wring her skinny neck.

She fed homemade mud pies to the first boyfriend who was swooning romantically over her. He was immediately rushed to the hospital to have his stomach pumped. “I ain’t never tryin’ that on a human again,” she stated.

Shortly after she climbed the crabapple tree next door and the boys handed me their B.B. gun I shot her in the butt. My mother cured this with a stash of chocolate she kept in her dresser drawer. My mother cured a lot of things with chocolate: measles, mumps, just about everything but snakebite. It was the Depression and we never saw a doctor.

My sister loved big cars, horses, and big dogs in that order, and of course she fell in love immediately with the first man who came along driving the biggest car we had ever seen. I tried to talk her out of it, but she talked my parents into a wedding they could ill afford because as my mother said, if

she didn’t give the wedding, my sister would just run away and get pregnant.

She got the big car and a collie dog and had three beautiful children, and I guess three out of three ain’t all that bad but, of course, this smooth talking, big-car-driving, skirt-chasing, son-of-a-bitch left her broke for another woman.

The sister relationship is a difficult one. Sibling rivalry, status, psychological issues, guilt, forgiveness, all come into it. But somehow, as angry as I get with my sister, the deep ties that I have overshadow everything she says or does that hurt me. Blood runs very, very deep.

My sister eventually remarried, to a wonderful steady, gentle, kind man who is completely devoted to her. My husband and I visited them last week in their assisted living facility (i.e., nursing home). They have been married 39 years and have decided to renew their marriage vows. They are both ill. They want me to find a Rabbi to perform this ceremony. I do not think I will be able to do this. My sister has suggested I write the service. It is too late for me to go to Rabbinical School. I am extremely conflicted over this. There is no sense of religion or spirituality in either of them. Finally, I sit at my desk with several texts, Harold Kushner’s books, Khalil Gibran and the Old Testament. I think of my mother. Have I done what she asked of me? Well, I did the best I could.

In conclusion, to paraphrase a bit, be brave enough to love, strong enough to forgive, and generous enough to rejoice in another’s happiness.



Iris Tandler

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Those of our readers with computers may now get their Newsletters by e-mail. The advantages are that it will reach you two weeks earlier than through the print shop and post office. In addition every issue will be in full color. You will continue to receive your printed copy unless you advise us to discontinue it. If you want this service, just let me know by e-mail.

Don Polhemus, Editor, dondorpol@aol.com.

NEFERTITI:SECOND OF THE PURLOINED TREASURES

In the last issue we mentioned the problem of whether national treasures in the form of ancient artifacts should be returned to their country of origin. One of the most familiar of these is surely the 3300-year-old bust of Nefertiti which resides in the Neues Museum of Berlin.

Nefertiti, whose name means, "The Beautiful One Has Come," was married to Akhenaten, the pharaoh known for his introduction of a sort of monotheism involving worship of the sun disc. He constructed a new capital, Amarna, halfway between existing capitals in upper and lower Egypt. Nefertiti apparently was given great power almost equal to that of the ruler. She had six daughters and perhaps one son who died in childhood. Later in the reign of Akhenaten her name disappears from the historical record, possibly due to her death. This is all we really know of her, though there has been much speculation.

The bust was discovered in Amarna in 1912 among the ruins of the workshop of a sculptor named Thutmose. It was a group of German archeologists who made the find and who probably

brought it to Germany without permission. The records are murky, as is so often the case in such matters. As soon as the Egyptians realized what happened, they tried to have it returned and have continued this effort multiple times since. One appeal was even made to the occupying American forces in Germany after WWII, who refused to take any action, saying that it was a German matter. And thus things remain. Possession is everything.

Don Polhemus



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 May, 12:00 - 1:30 PM, Emeritus Kentfield. Len Pullan, 381-6952, lenpullan@comcast.net.

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

CURRENT EVENTS CLUB: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 10:00 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Kentfield. Jerry Weisman, 383-1831, gweisman@sprintmail.com; and James Kennedy, 388-3939.

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

GLOBAL ISSUES CLUB: 3rd Friday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Emeritus IVC. Colleen Rose, 898-0131, colleenrose@juno.com.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10:00 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus IVC. Don Polhemus, 883-3567, dondorpol@aol.com.

GREAT IDEAS IN PHILOSOPHY CLUB: Thursdays, 1-3 PM, Emeritus IVC. Larry Witter, 883-6889, lswitter@sonic.net.

HUMANITIES CLUB: 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-3 PM, Emeritus IVC. Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522, rurmac@mac.com.

ITALIAN CLUB: 4th Tuesday, 2-4 PM, Emeritus Kentfield. Mila Weed, 453-6054, unsarda@mac.com.

IVC BOOK FORUM: 4th Monday, 3-5 PM, Emeritus IVC. Louise Kerr, 883-2823, lkerr210@comcast.net.

IVC FILM NOIR DVD CLUB: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 1-3 PM, Emeritus IVC. Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522, rurmac@mac.com.

MORAL-ETHICAL & LEGAL ISSUES ROUNDTABLE: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM - 12 noon, Emeritus Kentfield. Cole Posard, 491-4118, colemanposard@att.net; Len Pullan, 381-6952.

OPERA AND BEYOND: Last Wednesday of month, 1-3 PM, Emeritus Kentfield. Gil Deane, 456-2853, gildeane@aol.com.

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

SHAKESPEARE CLUB: Third Monday. Please call Valda Carter, 388-6335, valdated@sbcglobal.net, for time and place.

SINGALONG CLUB: 2nd Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM, location TBA. Marlene Knox, 459-1427, marlsteve@comcast.net.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP: 1st Tuesday of the month, 1-4 PM, Emeritus Kentfield. Shirley Pullan, 381-6952, shirlmv@comcast.net, or Marlene Knox, 459-1427, marlsteve@comcast.net.



**Emeritus Students
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835 College Avenue
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