

**College of Marin**



# **EMERITUS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER**

**Lifelong Learning**

835 College Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904-2590. Tel: 415-485-9652

Karen Hemmeter (karen@hemmeter.com) &  
Marian Mermel, Co-Presidents

Don Polhemus (dondorpol@aol.com), Editor

**Vol. 38, No. 5**

**June 2011**



Photo by Barbara Tarasoff

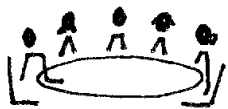
## **ESCOM NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Having finished another issue, the staff lines up to celebrate.**

**Left to right: Paul Tandler, Iris Tandler, Bill Raffanti, Gigi Welch, Len Pullan,  
Barbara Tarasoff, Don Polhemus, Alicia Warcholski, Paul Gruner, Art Ravicz, Rosalie Laird.  
Not shown: Gloria Kopshever, Sandra Rosenberg, B. J. Hauge, John Kouns.**

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## ESCOM APRIL COUNCIL MEETING



The Council met at the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center on April 21, Co-President **Marian Mermel** presiding. Brief announce-

ments included an invitation to a Community Reception for recently installed College of Marin President **Dr. David Coon**.

A draft College of Marin Mission Statement was circulated among the members and found to be acceptable in all respects. When finally adopted by the College Council, this Newsletter will publish it for all to read.

Treasurer **Art Ravicz** sent in his Treasurer's Report and a request for the approval of a Purchase Order, promptly given. The Council also discussed the nature of ESCOM's financial portfolio.

**Paul Tandler**, reporting for the Curriculum Committee, advised that three proposed courses were approved by the Committee on April 20, their subjects being Genealogy Research, Water Color Basics and Meditation, and two half-day classes on the Pickling and Canning of Fruits and Vegetables.

Art and Exhibitions Chairman **Len Pullan** repeated his announcement (May 2011 Newsletter) that a reception will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for Mary-Ann Nardo, currently exhibiting paintings of her favorite subject, Exotic Orchids in watercolor and acrylic on bamboo panels.

Financial Grants Chair **Beverly Munyon** reported that 37 requests for tuition assistance in the Spring semester had been received and approved by the COM Foundation, who provides the funding for this ESCOM Program. The processing of the grants has been streamlined, beginning with the upcoming Summer semester.

The revised Membership Renewal mailing form has been reaping rewards, as several renewing members have indicated their interest in serving one or more volunteer functions listed on the form, it was reported by Co-President **Karen Hemmeter**.

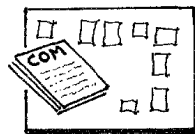
Nomination and Election Chairman **Paul Tandler** announced that there are candidates for every officer and Council member position in this year's election. The process is moving forward smoothly as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, and is also seen in the enclosed Ballot.

**Karen Hemmeter** is hosting this year's May General Membership meeting at her home on May 7

and will advise Council members on how they can assist her on that day. A separate mailing has been sent to the membership, preceding this Newsletter.

*Reported by Paul Tandler*

## C.O.M. IN THE NEWS



### U. S. Former Poet Laureate Wins Pulitzer Prize

-- College of Marin Instructor **Kay Ryan** has won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Her 2010 collection

*"The Best of It: New and Selected Poems"* was selected by the Pulitzer Board judges as -- *"witty, rebellious and yet tender, a treasure trove of an iconoclastic and joyful mind"*. Writing a short poem is not an easy task; yet, Kay Ryan makes it appear to be effortless. Ms. Ryan has won numerous awards for her poetry and has served as the 16th Poet Laureate of the United States from 2008 to 2010. She also received a monetary award of \$10,000 along with her poetry award. (I. J. 4/19/11).

**2011 Public Summer Swim Program** --The 2011 Summer Swim Program at COM's Kentfield Campus will begin June 20th and run through August 14th. The pool will be open Monday through Sunday from 1 to 6 PM. Admission is \$5 per day for adults; \$3 per day for seniors and disabled as well as for children under the age of 13. For further information, call: 457-8811, Ext. 7587. IVC in Novato will have open recreational and lap swimming from Noon to 4 PM on Monday through Thursday from June 20th through August 11th. Same admission fees as the Kentfield Campus. For further information, call 883-2211, Ext. 8260. (I. J. 5/3/11)

**Academics Program** -- In 2009 College of Marin's Athletic Department received a grant for \$13,750 to initiate the Student-Athletic Academic Service Program for that academic year under the leadership of **Matt Markovich**. These academic programs for student/athletes keep them on track and eligible toward graduation and keep student/athletes interested in taking the junior college route to transferring for degree completion to a 4-year college or university. After the 2010 school year, 56% of COM sophomore athletes transferred to a 4-year school and this year College of Marin will transfer 74% to other schools. (I. J. 4/21/11)



*Submitted by Alicia Warcholski*

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## ESCOM ELECTION TIME – LET'S VOTE

Now is the time to step up again and to cast your Ballots for Council officers and board members who will serve this coming year.

Current Co-President **Marian Mermel** is standing for election as President, and incumbent Vice President **Dick Park** is running for re-election to an additional one-year term. Council members **Len Pullan** and **Bill Raffanti** are seeking re-election, while **Margot Jasie**, appointed to the Council this past year, is seeking election to a full two-year term. Also seeking election to the Council is **Marlene Knox**, currently serving on the Curriculum Committee and active in several ESCOM-sponsored clubs.

For your convenience the Ballot included with this Newsletter can be folded into a mailing piece with the College's address printed in the center section of the blank page. The Emeritus Centers of the Kentfield Campus and the Indian Valley (IVC) Campus, respectively, will have a Ballot Box for those wishing to drop their Ballot off in person.



Deadline for voting is June 10, 2011.

*Nomination and Election Committee*  
*Paul Tandler, Chairman*

## CLASSIC CINEMA

From the mid-90's until 2009, *Classic Cinema* presented memorable classic films at the College on a big screen (the way they should be seen.) Most of these films were from Hollywood's Golden Age, 1930 to 1960. Many Emeritus members will remember enjoying these screenings. Classic Cinema also organized excursions to see classics at Bay Area theaters (the Rafael, the Lark, the Castro, the U.C. Theater, the Oakland Paramount, the Stanford Theater in Palo Alto.) Classic Cinema was started by **Richard Dawe** and continued by **Ralph Mead** until his "retirement" as cinematic guru. Out of the hundreds of films shown over the years, Ralph has selected his 25 personal all-time favorites. You might want to view some of these at home, easily available through Netflix or Turner Classic. Perhaps you would like to compare Ralph's choices with your own preferences. Call Ralph at 408-3808 and he'll be happy to send you a copy of his list and discuss them with you.

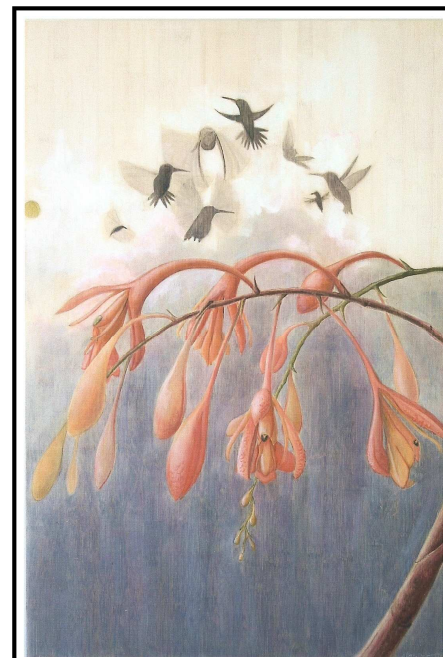
## MY VOCATION by MaryAnn Nardo

Nature has always been a hot-bed of inspiration for me as a painter, especially the plant world. In this current series, I have been making paintings on bamboo panels of wild orchids from around the world. To me, the large orchid family contains the most beautifully voluptuous, alarming, and foreign forms in the plant world. Making paintings involves taking a journey where the unfamiliar becomes familiar. This series has been no exception.

I spend much of my research time at orchid greenhouses, studying each flower's anatomy. Through the internet I travel the world in my imagination and glimpse the exotic places that these flowers grow. These wild places on earth are like the wild places in the unconscious. The direction of the paintings springs from that rich place.

My degree is in Photography and Fine Art with additional studies in Scientific Illustration. To embrace the expressive world of fine art and the exacting requirements of scientific illustration requires a duality: expressing an idea/story/feeling while also stating the facts. It is my desire to be an advocate for and to refine depiction of the plants and flowers in art, which has already had a long and glorious history.

[Editor's note: **Ms. Nardo's** work will be on exhibit at the Emeritus Center, Kentfield, through June.]



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## NEWS FROM IVC

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.

### Events at IVC and Nearby:

**Thursday, May 26** COM President Coon will be at IVC for an informal coffee meeting at 9 AM, Bldg. 17, Room 100. Everyone is welcome.

**June 20 – Aug. 11.** COM/IVC Pool recreational and lap swimming, Monday through Thursday. See details in COM in the News.

**Hamilton Field History Museum**, 555 Hanger Ave. Wed., Th., Sat., noon-4 PM. Films/artifacts.

**Marin Community Foundation**, Hanger #5, 5 Hamilton Landing. M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM. “*Black Power/Flower Power*”, Pirkle Jones/Ruth-Marion Baruch, photographs.

**Indian Valley Organic Farm Stand**, Wednesdays, 10 AM - 3 PM, at the farm. Also at the Novato Farmers Market, Tuesdays, downtown Novato, 4 PM - 8 PM. Bees have arrived! Master Gardeners plan beekeeping workshops during summer.

### Global Issues Club

Members note that PeaceNovato is seeking volunteers to join Novato’s Fourth of July parade and help carry folded origami red, white and blue “peace cranes”, one for every U.S. service member killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Last year the memorable sight of so many “birds” fluttering on Grant Ave. was both patriotic and moving. **Information: e-mail [PeaceNovato@hotmail.com](mailto:PeaceNovato@hotmail.com).**

**June 17** *Marx in Soho*, 60 minutes, filmed in Marin January 2010. Howard Zinn's one-man play gives the audience a rare glimpse of Marx "the man"-- pedantic, vindictive, the loving family man; Marx the humorist, and a Marx that can laugh at his enemies at the same time he expresses outrage at social injustice.

**July 15** *Tillie Olsen--A Heart in Action*: A film by Ann Hershey, 66 minutes. This beautiful portrait of the woman who wrote *Tell Me A Riddle* and *I stand Here Ironing* includes interviews with Alice Walker, Gloria Steinem, and Tillie’s activist daughters. Tillie continues to inspire as she tells

us: "I have hope and believe in what human beings can accomplish. Freedom for one is freedom for all."

### IVC Book Forum

**June 27** *Fall of Giants*, Ken Follet

**July 25** *Bobos in Paradise*, David Brooks

**Aug. 22** *The Warmth of Other Suns*, Isabel Wilkerson

### IVC Philosophy Club

The new series, *Philosophy and Religion in the West* began in April, continues with Professor Phillip Cary, Eastern University, PA. Note: COM Fall Credit Schedule, page 76: PHIL 117 *History of Philosophy: Late Modern to Contemporary. The history of philosophy from the end of the 18th century through contemporary period.* At IVC.

### IVC Film Noir Theater Club

**June 11** *Cornered*, '45. Dick Powell, Walter Slezak, Micheline Cheirel. Director: Edward Dmytryk.

**June 25** *Desperate*, '47. Steve Brodie, Audrey Long, Raymond Burr. Director Anthony Mann.

### Humanities Club

*Greek Tragedy --- Professor Elizabeth Vandiver*

**June 4** Lecture 23 falls into two parts. First, it discusses two tragedies of disputed origin, *Prometheus Bound* usually attributed to Aeschylus, and *Rhesus*, to Euripides. Lecture 24 sketches the later history and continued influence of Greek tragedy, concluding by looking at selected modern productions of Greek tragedy.

**June 18** This date begins a new series of humanities to be determined by vote by June 6. Options are:

1. Great Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt --- 12 lectures.
  2. Machiavelli in Context --- 24 lectures.
  3. The Genius of Michelangelo --- 36 lectures.
  4. I Claudius -- 12 hrs 20 min. Remastered Edition.
- Phone 491-0552 or email [ruramc@mac.com](mailto:ruramc@mac.com).

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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## Ballot for ASEC Council Election - 2011

President – One-year Term

Marian Mermel

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

Vice President – One-year Term

Richard (Dick) Park

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

Council Members (\*) – Two-year Terms – Vote for Four (4)

Marlene Knox

William J. Raffanti, Jr.

Leonard (Len) Pullan

Margot Jasie

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Write-in)

Return the completed Ballot NO LATER THAN FRIDAY NOON, JUNE 10, in person to Emeritus Center, Kentfield, or to Emeritus North, Bldg 10, Room 140AS, Indian Valley Campus, Novato, or by U.S. Mail to:

Council Election Committee  
c/o Emeritus Center  
College of Marin  
835 College Avenue  
Kentfield, CA 94904-2590

(\*) Order of names of candidates in list was determined randomly.

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**Council Election Committee  
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## 2011 ESCOM Council Election, Biographical Sketches – “In their own Words”

### **Marian Mermel – Incumbent Co-President**

I have been serving on the Council since 2008 and also as co-president (with Karen Hemmeter) since July 2009. It has been an eventful two years since there has been much to learn about Emeritus history, current programs and the day-to-day operations of the Emeritus Center at Kentfield. Our challenge as Council members is to foster a variety of ways for our members, new and long time, to connect with each other in stimulating ways. Our future depends on interesting, innovative and lively program choices within the Emeritus organization. I have worked hard trying to connect Emeritus with the Board of Trustees and the Administration. I have served on the President selection committee, the College Council and the Curriculum Committee in an effort to bring a voice for seniors on our campus. I look forward to engaging more members in leadership roles to participate in guiding our Emeritus group in the years to come. We are the fastest growing demographic group in Marin; mental and physical stimulation is vital to us. Go Emeritus!



### **Richard (Dick) Park – Incumbent Vice President**

A retired social worker. I do a considerable amount of volunteering for my church and the broader community. I am currently chair of the Curriculum Committee and serve on the Emeritus Council. I have participated in Chorus Emeritus for thirteen years.



### **Marlene Knox—First-Time Candidate for Council**

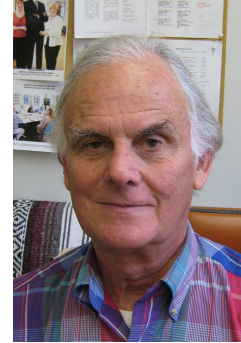
Marlene has lived in San Anselmo for over 36 years, is married, and has a combined family of 5 daughters and 6.5(!) grandchildren. After earning her B.A. from UCLA and an MBA from Golden Gate University, her careers included teaching English, working with senior citizens, banking, and mortgage brokerage. After being a local leader in the 2008 presidential campaign, she was elected to be a delegate to the national nominating convention. A member of ESCOM for over 10 years, she is currently chair of the Scrabble Club, the Writing Club, the new Sing-along Club, and a member of the Curriculum Committee. She is passionate about her family, literature, movies, flowers, and music and feels strongly about promoting academically stimulating courses for ESCOM and HAVING FUN!!!



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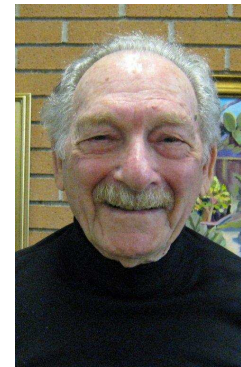
**William J. Raffanti, Jr. – Incumbent Council Member.**

Service in the U.S. Army after graduation from Santa Clara University, and followed by law degree from Georgetown University. Retired following long career as financial consultant with several national brokerage firms. Fluent in French and Italian, and an avid yachtsman with long service as curator of trophies, medals, works of art and the library at the Saint Francis Yacht Club. In addition to sailing also enjoys architecture, music and reading. Has been Chairman of ASEC-sponsored clubs for several years and has been successful at inspiring new club formations and assuring continuity of several existing clubs.



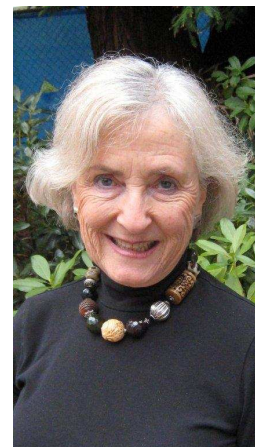
**Leonard (Len) Pullan – Incumbent Council Member**

As a retired architect I enjoy representing Emeritus on the College Modernization Program. The next design challenge is the New Academic Center and I would like to help in any way I can.. For the last five years I've chaired the Art Exhibit Committee, arranging art shows in our own Emeritus Center, and we have some wonderful artists scheduled into 2012. I hope to continue and would appreciate your vote.



**Margot Jasie – Incumbent Council Member**

Graduate of San Jose State with a BA in French Literature. Masters in Social Work from Sacramento State with an emphasis on community organization. Served as Director of the San Francisco Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Developed a volunteer program of advocates to resolve problems of residents of SF's long term care facilities, produced SF's first guide to long term care facilities, provided information to the public through radio and television appearances, testified on conditions in long term care before state and federal legislative bodies, promoted legislation for a state wide Ombudsman program signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown. Part time teacher of English as a second language. language. Volunteer classroom assistant in Marin public schools. Serve on the Emeritus council as membership committee chair, 2010. Promoter and planner for Emeritus Pot Luck dinners.



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## CLUB NEWS

### Moral-Ethical and Legal Issues Roundtable:

Thirteen thoughtful people under the skilled direction of **Cole Posard** considered the Libyan debacle. Did the U.S. have a moral obligation to intervene? Did President Obama err in not asking Congress for their approval? Did Obama's statement that "Gadhafi must go" close the door to a negotiated settlement? Did we abandon the conflict too soon? These and other questions made us all feel we had exercised our brains more than usually. You may want to join us. Use it or lose it.

**Shakespeare Club:** *Richard the Second* is one of Shakespeare's most easily understood plays, yet it is nearly all in verse and contains such literary gems as John of Gaunt's loving tribute to England. It's not too late to join us. We haven't even finished Act 2 yet. Call **Valda Carter**, 388-6335, for location.

**Current Events and Issues Club:** Bring your topic of interest or join in on the discussion of what others consider important news of the day. Sharing is learning! 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 10 AM - Noon, Emeritus Ctr. **James Kennedy** 388-3939 and **Jerry Weisman** 383-1831.

**Opera Club:** On the fourth Wednesday of every month a group of us sits raptured, perhaps with eyes closed, as the sounds of mesmerizing voices tickle our eardrums. If you haven't experienced this, or perhaps have forgotten how pleasurable it can be we welcome you to join us. Don't know anything about opera? The less you know the more you can learn.

**Book Banter Club:** Our April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting featured an eclectic selection of readings. In the poetry genre, **Iris Tandler** read Emily Dickenson's *In Shadow* and *The Chariot* and **Len Pullan** recited the charming and funny *As we watch Macneil-Lehrer* and *Electronic Epitaph* by David Alpaugh. **Alicia Warcholski** read two excerpts by Edward Kennedy from his autobiography *True Compass*, one about his brother Jack's death and the other about the death at Chappaquiddick. **Bev Munyon** offered the dynamic beginning of Colin McCann's *Let the Great World Spin*, a book inspired by imagining the lives of people watching the 1974 tightrope walk between the two towers in New York. **Karen Hemmeter** gave us the opening lines of the current #1 best seller non-fiction *Un-*

*broken*. There were 8 attending; not everyone read something so you can see it is fine to come and be entertained. We would welcome you at our meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, noon-1:30 PM.

Please call **Len Pullan**, 381-6952, just to be sure we will be meeting in July and August.

### A BOOK REVIEW:

#### *Apollo's Angels* by Jennifer Homans

Four hundred years of dance in five hundred fifty pages. A lot to digest, yet the author's professional skills both as a writer and a dancer keep this new book from being relegated to the reference section of your library.

It's hard to think of the nobles, even King Louis XIV himself, dancing around on a stage, yet that's how it all began. The art evolved differently in the various countries, presenting a challenge to instructors who liked to move around and learn new methods. About halfway through the book, we begin to meet people we've heard of before: Petipa, the choreographer and Tchaikovsky, the composer. Soon dancers appear whose names ring a bell and whom we may even have seen late in their careers. And all well illustrated.



The only criticism one might offer is that this book is too complete. It's not a light read, offering more information than will interest many of us. But let the readers decide.

*Don Polhemus*

### Dear Editor,

Thank you for including the poem by **V. DeMaio**, "Alas Poor Yorick" in the May issue. Copies were made for sharing with Dr. John Samples' Communication Group for Stroke Survivors that meets in Santa Rosa on Fridays. Twenty to thirty people of all ages gather weekly for group speech therapy and socialization. ALL come with bustling brains and extensive life experiences despite physical disabilities and ALL truly do, as the poet writes, "refuse to act like any other hunk of flesh, Not brain dead--not 'til the fat lady sings". All heads will nod in agreement over each line of the poem as it is read in the group.

*Gloria Kopshever*

**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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**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 May, 12:00 - 1:30 PM, Emeritus Center, Kentfield. Len Pullan, 381-6952.

**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:** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Monday. Please call Valda Carter, 388-6335, for time and place.

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

**WRITERS' WORKSHOP:** 1st Tuesday of the month, 1-4 PM, Emeritus Center. Marlene Knox, 459-1427.

