"Hello, there, all you friends in Emeritus College. I was just reading your great Newsletter. Never miss it. Speaking of missing, don't miss your Winter Holiday Party. You'll have a barrel of fun."
COM IN THE NEWS

Accreditation Follow-up Report 2012 -- COM's Follow-up Report was hand-delivered to the ACCJC/WASC (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges/Western Association for Schools and Colleges) on October 12, 2012. The report is available online for review. All planning documents are also available online prior to the Follow-up Accreditation Team visit in November. The visiting team led by Chancellor Dr. Jose Ortiz of the Peralta Community College District will be at College of Marin on November 7th and 8th. Dr. Ortiz will be joined by Ms. Nancy Meddings, Interim Dean of Library resources and Community education for Allan Hancock College and Mr. Mike Bowman, Dean of Research and Planning for Ohlone College. Many thanks go out to all those who worked so hard in the past to address the many issues relative to the WASC Standards and recommendations.

Transfer Day - Colleges and Universities Admission Requirements -- On November 5, 2012, from 10 AM to 1 PM, College of Marin held its annual Transfer Day in the Student Services Building (Cafeteria), COM students, their families and members of the community in attendance. More than 35 colleges and university representatives from the UC, CSU, independent, online and out-of-state schools planned to be on campus to meet with students and provide information about transferring from a community college to a university. School representatives discussed relevant topics such as admission requirements, academic programs, fees, housing, scholarships and financial aid. Also highlighted were majors being offered and an overview into campus environment. Students have been encouraged to research scholarships and financial aid which is available as well as other relevant topics with expert help from College of Marin's counseling staff.

NEW CHANCELLOR - Dr. Bruce W. Harris -- named as 15th chancellor to lead the 112-College System, the largest system of higher education in the United States. The California Community College Board of Governors has announced the unanimous selection of Dr. Bruce W. Harris, the former Chancellor of the Los Rios Community College District, as the new College System Chancellor. The Los Rios District includes Sacramento City Colleges, Folsom and American River Districts with an enrollment of more than 85,000 students each semester. Dr. Harris will begin his new duties on November 6, 2012.

In Memoriam, Anthony Monteith -- an esteemed member of the Mathematics Department from 1971 to 2008. He will be remembered as an excellent teacher, a participant in promoting good mathematics education through curriculum modifications and also development in local area schools as well as at College of Marin. Mr. Monteith enriched the college community by serving on the Academic Senate, the Scholastic Standards Committee and as Department Chair. A memorial service was held in San Francisco on Sunday, October 28, 2012.

Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

As has been the tradition for many years, the October meeting of the ESCOM Council took place at the Indian Valley Campus Emeritus Center, Dick Park presiding. It was a well-attended and lengthy meeting, as several matters of importance were on the morning’s agenda.

Co-President Marian Mermel, who represents ESCOM on the College Council, reminded the members of the importance of participating in this C.O.M. organization and encouraged others to attend these meetings.

Club Chairman Bill Raffanti reported that two new clubs were in formation, a Poker Club and a Chess Club. These will be listed on the Clubs page of the Newsletter, and interested ESCOM members are encouraged to join by contacting the leaders.
A thorough discussion of the 2012/13 Budget was held, as Treasurer Art Ravicz explained the various line items on both the receipts and expenditures side of the ledger. The late Joan Hopper’s bequest for Newsletter-related expenses will continue to bolster ESCOM’s resources, as will the (hopefully) continuing financial-grants-to-students support from the C.O.M. Foundation. The Budget was approved following some minor adjustments.

Dick Park, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee, reported that two potential instructors were interviewed on October 17, and that their course offerings titled “Introduction to Western Classical Music” and “Latin – an Introduction” were recommended for further consideration by the Community Education Staff. Four additional proposals will be heard on October 31.

Marketing Committee Chairman Cole Posard presented a comprehensive report of his group’s activities in promoting ESCOM membership and participation in its clubs. Membership Application brochures have been distributed throughout local retirement communities. The upcoming Winter Semester Schedule will have new wording and artwork approved by Dr. Jason Lau, Director of Community Education, who has been helpful to the Committee in many ways.

Karen Hemmeter, Chair of the Office Volunteers, has submitted a “Plan for New Member Follow-up, and Creation of a Membership/Hospitality Committee”. Her recommendations will receive serious consideration by the Council at future meetings.

Donna Posard, who is chairing ESCOM’s exhibit at the Senior Information Fair, October 24th, and the Winter Holiday Party on December 1st, reported that preparations for both events are underway and need sufficient publicity to assure their success. A flyer for the December party was placed in the outgoing November Newsletter and was e-mailed to the recipients of electronically transmitted copies.

Paul Tandler has developed a schedule of class visits for membership promotion in time for the Fall II Semester. Lists of classes to be visited were distributed, and Council members indicated their willingness to cover some 40-odd classes, whose instructors have received a letter notifying them of the impending visits. It is hoped that these plans will bring additional lifelong learners into the ESCOM fold, as has been the case in previous membership drives based on class visits.

Len Pullan, Chair of Art and Exhibitions, has been successful in obtaining a set of twelve new office chairs for the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center through the good efforts of Dr. Arnulfo Cedillo, Director of Student Services, and the generosity of ASCOM, the Associated Students of the College of Marin. This gift is greatly appreciated, as it will provide comfortable seating for lengthy meetings like this one and other club and committee functions conducted at the Center.

Reported by Paul Tandler

WHY DO I CRY WHEN I SLICE ONIONS?

Contained within onions are sulfur-containing amino acids, which in air decompose into propanethial S-oxide, which in turn breaks down into several other substances, one being sulfuric acid. This irritates the eyes which try to dilute it with tears. For this reason it is helpful to hold the onion as far from the body as possible and breathe through the mouth. If you can cut it under water, or at least keep the onion wet it will minimize the irritation.

REMEMBER:
EMERITUS STUDENTS WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 1, 2012, 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Location: St. John’s Episcopal Church
14 Lagunitas Avenue, Ross

Fun, friends, food and song
Come one, come all!
Scott Merrick at the Piano

Bakers wanted: Call Donna Posard, 415-491-4118
ESC/IVC NEWS/EVENTS/CLUBS  
Questions please call:
Larry Witter 883-6889  G. Kopshever 883-7805  
Bill Raffanti 883-4079  Rudy Ramirez 491-0522

Following events will be held in Bldg 10, 140AS

**Organic Farm and Garden** never sleeps, especially in Marin. The Organic Farm Stand will be open Sat., Dec. 1, 10 AM – 3 PM, in addition to Wednesdays in December. It’s not too late to get your winter garden in and we still have lots of vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees available at our Farm Stand. We’re going to be selling these plants as well as our produce at our upcoming workshops. Please come by and pick up flowers, plants and produce for your holiday home, garden and kitchen.

**Wreath Making Workshop:** Sat., Dec. 1, 10 AM - 1 PM, at Indian Valley Organic Farm and Garden. Instructors are Wendy Johnson, Environmental Landscape instructor in the College of Marin IVC Organic Farm and Garden project, and Jennie Pardi, Environmental Service and Farm Program Manager for Conservation Corps North Bay. The fee is $50, and all fees directly benefit the Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden. Registration is limited to 25 participants, and last day to register is Nov. 29th.

Wreaths have a long and culturally varied history. In Ancient times they were symbols of strength or status and often used as personal adornment. Today we celebrate the holiday season with colorful wreaths to decorate our homes. The craft is easy to master, so come see Wendy and Jennie demonstrate how to create your unique wreath. Foliage and materials will be provided for you to take home your own creation.

**Aquatic Exercise IVC Class (Russell Robles)** plans their end of the year brunch on Thursday (after class), Dec. 13, in the ESCOM/IVC meeting room. Vannae Nelson will coordinate.

**Walk or Hike Indian Valley Campus and Surrounding Marin Open Space** Dec. 22, 9 AM - 12 noon. Meet at ESCOM/IVC Bldg. 10. Join us for a walk, stroll or hike – whatever “style” suits those that show up. Hot cider may be “on tap”! RSVP: Gloria Kopshever 883-7805.

**IVC Global Issues Club:** Honduras Elections, a Personal Eyewitness Report by Global Issues Club Coordinator Colleen Rose, Fri., Dec. 21, 2 PM. At the request of the LIBRE party in Honduras, a U.S. delegation, including Colleen, monitored the primary elections held on Nov. 18. Four LIBRE primary candidates have been killed, and violence against FNRP members is committed daily, with total impunity, by private armies of rich Hondu-rans and the police and army of de facto president Porfirio Lobo. Colleen will report on the delegation’s investigations and observations, including meetings with human rights defenders and groups that compose the Resistance.

**Great Books Discussion:** “The House Gun” on Nov. 13. December and January dates and books to be announced.

**Philosophy Club:** Thursdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 1 PM. Life’s Lessons From the Great Myths is the focus of the series of 36 lectures and discussions tracing myths from Troy to Hollywood. This month as the end of the 36-lecture series nears, members ponder, share and discuss two questions: (1) How do you define “mythology”?, (2) Has the age of mythology come to an end? The next course of study will be selected by consensus January 2013.

**Film Noir Club:** Rudy Ramirez, Coordinator, offers to rent Film Noir DVDs from his extensive collection. Funds raised will be used for club expenses and possible new equipment. The list is posted in ESCOM/IVC Please phone Rudy 491-0522 for details.


12/29 A FILM NOIR CLASSIC --- SPE-CIAL!!!!

**Humanities Club:** The current Humanities Series - Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527), 24 lectures by William R. Cook, Professor of History at State U. of New York, Genesco. Handouts and study guides are provided for 2 lectures each 1st and 3rd Saturday at 1 PM.
The Qualities of a Good Republic, A Republic at War.
Can Republics Last? Conspiracies and Other Dangers.

IVC Book Forum: Members are sending book suggestions for the 2013 reading list to Louise Kerr, Lkerr210@gmail.com. Written suggestions may be brought to Nov. and Dec. meetings. New members are always welcome and encouraged to share books they enjoyed with others. Lifelong learners and readers learn from others. Whether a book was enjoyed or not, hearing the discussion has often led to a good read.

Oracle of Stamboul, Michael David Lukas.
Wings of the Dove, Henry James.

One Last Thing Before You Go! Attention Digital Camera Owners: Do you enjoy using a digital camera or would you like to improve your skills or share your work and learn from others? Laura Milholland is interested in a Camera Club at ESCOM/IVC. So that we can determine if there is enough interest to schedule an exploratory meeting, please call Gloria Kopshever, 883-7805, or e-mail Lauramilholland_l@hotmail.com

IN MEMORIAM, DORI ORGAN
Dori Organ was very active in Marin County civic affairs. She volunteered with several groups, among them Marin Center, the Lark theatre, Mt. Tam Interpretive Association, a Current Events Group and Book Club. Dori was also affiliated with the MWPAC in Marin and took an active role in Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's election campaigns. The MWPAC Don and Dori Organ Award is given to recipients for mentoring younger women in political work. Dori was also Treasurer of the National Women's Political Caucus, Marin Group. "Dori also was a long-time member of ESCOM and actively participated in several Emeritus club venues through the years." She is survived by her two sons, Kris Organ and Larry Organ, a Civil Rights attorney of San Anselmo, as well as several grandchildren.

Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski

"MAKING FACES" ART EXHIBIT
The work of artist Kathleen Lack will be exhibited at Emeritus Center, Kentfield, from January 1 through March 28, 2013. A reception will be held at that venue on Thursday, January 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, with music by harpist Alia Sovereign (Kathleen's granddaughter) at 6:45 PM.

See Making Faces", back cover.
Ms. Lack, an award-winning artist and teacher, works in oils and pastels, specializing in the portrait and the figure. She has garnered many family portrait commissions with up to eight people in a single portrait. As with her portraits and figurative work, the body language and environment is informal, relaxed and fluid: kids playing at the beach, climbing trees, observing nature - people being themselves. Her work includes paintings of “The Ballet”, a Western theme entitled “Boots, Hats, & Horses”, “Musicians”, and “Figuratives”. Kathleen is represented by and/or associated with Lyon’s Head Gallery in Carmel Valley; Portrait Society of America; Oil Painters of America; Marin Society of Artists, Ross; and Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato.

The Artist's Statement:
Figures are my inspiration. Painting life is an energizing and spontaneous event for me.

Color is my passion. I love the never-ending search for exciting and compelling colors.

Emotion is my glue. I’m drawn to capturing the emotional spontaneity before me, and the beauty of the human form.

Photo by Patty Spinks
THE GATES OF JERUSALEM
by Don Polhemus

You do not need to be Jewish, Christian, or Muslim, or even be overly concerned with religion, to be overwhelmed by Jerusalem. Anyone with a sense of history, spirituality or the human species should be absorbed by the tremendous weight of human civilization that cloaks nearly every part of the city. It is an inhabited, living city - not a deserted museum or monument. Humanity's passion play has been constant revival at this location for most of the length of recorded history.

The Old City of Jerusalem, only about a square kilometer, has always had a wall, which has been moved somewhat over the centuries. The present wall, now 500 years old, looks "like a wall should," having its own antiquarian beauty, but the earliest city of Jerusalem lay entirely outside the present wall to the south. Within, the streets are quite a jumble, few being straight for very long. Though there are four distinct quarters, Jewish, Armenian, Moslem, and Christian, one is not aware of the transition when walking from one into another.

Dominating the skyline to the east in the center of the Temple Mount is the Moslem Dome of the Rock, which has, indeed, a large rock in the center of the interior. Legend has it that Mohammed ascended to heaven from this point; another account has it that Abraham, much earlier, almost sacrificed his son from the same point. The famous Jewish Temple was also located on the Temple Mount, but no one knows where, it having been completely destroyed by the Romans in the Jewish Revolt of 70 A.D.

There are eight gates into the Old City, two approximately from each direction. Zion Gate is entered from the south, from Mt. Zion, directly into the Armenian Quarter, by pilgrims wishing to visit King David's tomb. It is also the closest entry to the Upper Room of the Last Supper.

The Dung Gate, lowest in the city, also in the south wall, is where the city's trash was formerly discarded and generally held a smoldering fire. It gives easy access inside to the Western Wall in the Jewish Quarter. Referred to in a parable of Jesus.

The Jaffa Gate in the west wall, leads to the port city of Jaffa, the main port in biblical times, but now provides primary access from modern Jerusalem. It has stairways for those wishing to walk the top of the wall.

The New Gate was constructed in 1889 in the northwest corner of the wall by the Turks to give easy access to the Christian Quarter.

Herod's Gate is a small portal on the northern side, facing Arab East Jerusalem. Its name originates from the 1500s when Christian pilgrims wrongly thought that the house inside the gate was the palace of Herod the Great's son.

The Damascus Gate, large and ornate, is in the north wall. It opens to the Oriental Market and leads to Shechem and on to Damascus. An inscription in Arabic tells how Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent had the wall and gate built. Earlier, Paul would have left from this location on his memorable journey to Damascus. Access stairs to the top of the wall are here.

St. Stephen's Gate is the only open gate in the east wall, facing the Mount of Olives. It is probably outside this gate that Stephen was stoned, becoming the first Christian martyr. Also called Lions Gate because of three lions carved in the stone on either side of the gate. Suleiman dreamed that he would be killed by lions if he didn't build this gate, according to an inscription above and inside. Moslems call the gate after St. Mary, the mother of Jesus, who they believe was born near here and where St. Anne's Church now stands.

The Golden Gate overlooks the Kidron Valley to the east. It has been walled up since the 7th century. Through this gate Jesus and his disciples entered on Palm Sunday, but Jews know this gate as the Gate Of Mercy because it is here that Jews walking along the wall would stop and pray for Mercy. It is widely believed that this gate will be opened on the Last Day for the entry of the Messiah.

I have been in and out all the gates many times, along the top of the wall, and through the water tunnel under the old city. I have walked on every significant street. I have bought and sold ancient artifacts there. I love it. There's nothing else like it in all the world.
WHAT WAS THE HURRY?

Lately I've been thinking about the day I stood at the front of the Fifth Avenue Methodist church, but my mind keeps drifting to movies, where in the last ten minutes of two hours of plot development there is a scene: Bride at the altar, a veil concealing her face. Next to her an inappropriate groom. Dustin Hoffman screaming, manic style, from the balcony in *The Graduate*, "Elaine-Elaine-Elaine."

Or maybe I could have fainted, like the bride did in *Mystic Pizza*. Maybe I might have said, "I can't marry you", like handsome lantern-jawed Hugh Grant did in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Where was the person who could have run down the aisle saying, "Stop it." Where was my brother telling me, "You can do better; don't marry a lowly enlisted man."

I forced my mind back again to that fateful day. The minister, head bowed, is praying. Naive or no, I knew it was not a good idea to marry a man who was drunk and whose best man was sobbing; marry a man about whom my best friend said that very afternoon, "Are you sure you're not making a mistake? Do you really want to marry him?"

There we were: giggling groom, crying best man, irritated bridesmaid, ready to participate in this serious ceremony. I thought, "What would I tell Mom if I didn't marry him?" She had sewn the beautiful pewter gray satin dress and matching veiled Juliet cap, saying, "Nothing is too good for my only girl."

Why wasn't my mother home when I called that afternoon full of doubts? What if like Katharine Hepburn in *Philadelphia Story*, I'd said, "Stop the music. I'm terribly sorry to have kept you waiting. There has been a slight hitch in the proceedings. I've made a terrible mistake."?

What if I had said, "No, I won't love, honor or obey you. I'm saying no to you. I am just beginning a life adventure—without you. I'm outta here!"?

Then I remembered the minister saying "Do you take this man?"

*Alice Arbuckle Webb, Writers' Workshop*

ESCOM MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It has been a few years since ESCOM mounted a concentrated membership recruitment effort, but there is one on the way now. A tried and true strategy that was used in membership drives in the past, the visiting of Emeritus College classes and making a strong pitch for belonging to ESCOM (clubs, parties, a newsletter and more), will be made by members of the Council, beginning with the first day of Fall II classes on October 29th.

Some 45 classes are scheduled to be visited in accordance with a plan developed by Council member **Paul Tandler**, who has conducted successful campaigns in the past. A letter has been sent to each instructor of Emeritus College classes, requesting their cooperation in welcoming the recruiter and supporting the purpose of the visit.

Readers please note: You too can be a recruiter by telling your friends about ESCOM, the benefits it provides to its members, and above all – THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN.

Membership application forms are available at both campuses’ Emeritus Centers and are printed in each semester’s schedule mailed to every household in Marin County four times a year.

A TALE OF TWO OBAMAS

It's not a well-known fact that the President of the USA and a sleepy fishing port in Western Japan have a name in common -- OBAMA. In a 2006 interview with a Japanese TV Network, *then* U.S. Senator Barack Obama recounted how he had learned of his namesake town at Narita Airport in Tokyo when a customs official was stamping his passport and said to him, "I'm from Obama". Of course, it's sheer coincidence that an obscure Japanese town shares its name with President Barack Obama, but the reality is that the majority of all Japanese names and words in many African languages end in vowels so they sound somewhat alike. In Africa, Japanese speakers come upon names of people and places that look and sound almost exactly like those in Japan. The word Obama in Japanese translates to "little beach" and "big waves" did hit in November 2008 when U.S. Senator Barack Obama was elected President of the United States of America.

*Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski*
Tablemates

At great expense I moved in with an elite group of retirees
I was looking forward to interacting with a lot of wise old birds
Men and women who had lived full lives, with many adventures
Bright seniors, who were long past any small-minded peccadilloes
I was ready to enjoy my old age in a challenging atmosphere

All our needs were taken care of, food, laundry, housekeeping
All the managers were busy organizing various daily activities
Card games, old movies - and mind-bending games like Bingo
We looked forward to meal times, the high-light of each day
The noon meal was called dinner, in the continental style

The first day I sat with an old guy and 3 silver-haired ladies
It was a little strained at first, initial greetings were subdued
I cranked up my bull-horn voice and prompted a conversation
My soliloquy was going well when it was suddenly interrupted
The woman sitting across from me asked, 'Do you play bridge?'

Her question (a rude awakening), prompted a negative reply
Her tablemates then began a critique of yesterday's dinner
Minutes later, I managed to get back into the conversation
To be cut short again by her question, 'Do you play bridge?'
The same question came three times, before I got away

V. DeMaio
Methane

Crispy landscape in holding pattern
Awaiting the next season
Eager to yield to its cumulus tears
Parched oaks
Dehydrated eucalyptus
Methane emitting livestock pepper the landscape
Your body laden with copious amounts of sunscreen and head engulfed in a hat the size of Texas
You drive on...rubber to asphalt - Hades radiating underneath
You see a sign for a restaurant and stop.
In a stroke of acute conscientiousness, you order an organic, fair trade, free-range (yeah) non-gaseous emitting veggie burger.
Small bandage...large wound
Swilling your micro-brewed organic, unfiltered beer, you manage to escape reality,
Levitating to the furthest recesses of your mind by
Ruminating dubious reasoning's
Reconciling recklessness
Comparing condescension's
Pondering someone's pulchritude
Digesting diversity

Anything.... Just to escape thinking about the apparent environmental climate change due to farting cows.

Tanya Mendoza, September 2012
“Making Faces” by artist Kathleen Lack, whose work will be on exhibit January 1 through March 28, 2013, at Emeritus Center, Kentfield. See article inside, Page 5.