The entire Newsletter staff wishes you a happy St. Valentine’s Day.
NEW AND RENEWED CLUBS: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Bocce/Petanque Club: Year-around clubs provide a splendid opportunity for all people seeking to stay healthy in their later years. Simple and fun and the outdoor nature of ancient sports lend a feeling of camaraderie often lacking in other forms of exercise such as a gym class or even one's own home. Anyone interested in a session with our Emeritus teams should call Bill Raffanti at 883-4079. [More information about this club will appear in a special article next month. -Ed.]

Painting Club: I am planning a club where we could get together and paint once a week at COM. We do not require an instructor as we mostly are experienced painters but would welcome anyone interested in painting. Our club could meet once a week (any day but Tuesday) for three hours. Laura Saunders, former credit class art student at COM, telephone 456-1521.

Digital Photo Club: I have had a passion for photography for over 30 years and am happy to offer help in learning one's camera and also tips about exposure, composition, tools/accessories, and a bit about editing if that's where people's interest lies. This would not be a "class" in the sense of teacher/students, but would be meant as a way to share the joy of taking pictures, encouraging people to learn to "see" a good photo, and learn from each other in a non-critical setting. Laura Milholland, 578-2972.

Chess Club: Chess is one of the oldest of games as well as most demanding of the intellect. Keep your brain active. This will be solely for amateurs and for enjoyment--no Russian masters or their European equivalents. I invite anyone with a basic or better understanding of the game of chess to meet at the Kentfield campus from 2:00 to 5:00 PM or later, every Thursday. Ron Evans, 924-0998.

Shakespeare Club: The group reads the Bard's plays aloud with discussion, and watches either video productions or a live performance, if possible. Meetings will be held in the Emeritus Center, Kentfield, during the daytime as agreed on by the group. Please call Valda Carter at 388-6335 for info. The first play will be The Merchant of Venice.

Chez Marilena: A Club About the Art of Cooking, Traveling, and Life. Chez Marilena is not a typical cooking club. It is rather an exploration or adventure into the art of cooking involving discussions on interesting cuisines, guidance to quality ingredients, art as food for the soul, and learning about a new place through its food. If this sounds like your cup of tea, please phone Marilena Redfern, 457-1177. More information about this club will appear in a special article next month.

Bill Raffanti

ESCOM’S NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The final business meeting of the year was held at the Kentfield Campus Emeritus Center on November 15, and chaired by Co-President Dick Park. Approvals of the day’s Agenda and October Minutes were promptly accomplished to “clear the deck” for a power point presentation by Dr. Jason Lau, Director of Community Education.

Dr. Lau began the presentation with a retrospective view of the current year, citing key enrollment numbers, financial statistics, and an overview of his activities since the beginning of his tenure. A proposed new plan for a dual-priced enrollment system, with innovative benefits to our students, was introduced for the Board’s consideration. An ESCOM “Gold Card” membership is the key feature of this plan, and more information will be available when all approvals of the new plan are in place. The attending members had many questions and finally voiced their support of the “Gold Card Plan.” Stay tuned.

Co-President Marian Mermel reminded the members of an upcoming Hooked on Marin program, featuring Marin County Rock'n'Roll Music History; she handed out a number of flyers currently used in membership promotions. A full-page article on Dove Govrin’s exhibit of dragon-themed ceramics currently on display in the Kentfield Emeritus Center was featured in the October issue.
of the Echo Times. The exhibit will continue until December 19.

Treasurer Art Ravicz’s report and request for the approval of several purchase orders were presented in his absence and were promptly passed by voice vote.

Karen Hemmeter’s office report showed a modest increase in ESCOM memberships in the current year, and some 80 members now receiving the Newsletter electronically, thus providing a welcome savings in mailing expense. (Readers still receiving the Newsletter via snail mail, please note. You too can get your Newsletter more promptly and in full color.) Karen’s recruiting efforts for office volunteers are bearing fruit. Her welcoming phone calls to new members are sparking fresh interest in clubs, classes, and other ESCOM-sponsored activities.

Paul Tandler reported progress on the class visits by Board members as membership recruiters. Full results will not be known until all planned visits are concluded and the office can confirm the source of the membership enrollment forms.

Cole Posard’s Marketing Committee is continuing its efforts toward increased membership interest and enrollment. A separate domain for ESCOM on the College of Marin’s website is under consideration.

Donna Posard gave feedback on ESCOM’s participation in the Annual Senior Information Fair in October, noting that all shifts were properly manned and results of recruiting efforts through handouts will ultimately be known. She indicated that plans for the Winter Holiday Party on December 1 are essentially complete and a good turnout is expected. A flyer for the party was handed out at the Senior Fair to passersby who noted an interest in ESCOM.

The next business meeting of ESCOM’s Board is scheduled in Kentfield on January 17, 2013.

Reported by Paul Tandler

**LIMERICK POETRY**

Probably the origin of the name *Limerick* for this type of poem was from the City or County of Limerick in Ireland. The poems may have derived from an earlier form of nonsense verse, *Maigue poetry*, which originated from nonsense verse parlor games. Its usage was first documented in England in 1898. In North America, the earliest type poem was in a 1902 reference in The Saint John, New Brunswick newspaper, to an apparently well-known tune.

*There was a young rustic named Mallory,\nWho drew but a very small salary.\nWhen he went to the show,\nHis purse made him go\nTo a seat in the uppermost gallery.*

Limericks are supposed to be funny. They are witty, humorous, or nonsense poems having five lines with a very distinctive rhythm and rhyme pattern. They are written with lines that form one triplet and one couplet. The first two lines and the last rhyme. The second and third lines rhyme. The *last* line of a good Limerick contains the Punch Line or the "heart of the joke". The *rhythm* of a limerick is just as important as the rhyme.

*A flea and a fly in a flue\nWere caught, so what could they do?\nSaid the fly, "Let us flee."
"Let us fly," said the flea.\nSo they flew through a flaw in the flue.*

More examples follow:

*An exceedingly fat friend of mine,\nWhen asked at what hour he'd dine,\nReplied, "At eleven,\nAt three, five and seven,\nand eight and a quarter past nine.*

*God's plan made a hopeful beginning,\nBut Man spoilt his chances by sinning;\nWe trust that the story\nWill end in great glory,\nBut at present the other side's winning.*

For fun, try completing this limerick!

*There was an old man from Peru,\nWho dreamed he was eating his _____.*

*He awoke in the night\nWith a terrible _____\nAnd found that it all was quite true.*

Now send us your own limerick. We'll publish the chosen ones! And a nice box of candy for the best. Contest closes with the April issue.

Barbara Tarasoff
COM IN THE NEWS

Refinancing -- COM has refinanced $43.38 million in previously-issued general obligation bonds resulting in $6.3 million in savings. The COM Board of Trustees approved the refinancing at its July 2012 meeting. Eleven bids were received and the winning bidder was Guggenheim Securities. The bonds were originally financed at 4.9%; the refinanced rate is 2.11% (16-year debt). College of Marin also retains its high credit rating -- Standard & Poor's reaffirmed COM's AA rating and Moody's reaffirmed COM's Aa1 rating.

Citizens Oversight Committee for the Measure C Bond -- The deadline for applying for the Committee was December 20, 2012. The original resolution establishing an independent citizens' oversight committee was passed on December 14, 2004 by the COM Board of Trustees. The committee is responsible for ensuring that College of Marin's Measure C Bond revenues are expended appropriately. A number of major facility projects have been completed or are nearing completion including: The Diamond P. E. Center, IVC Campus Transportation Technology Center, IVC Campus Main Building and the Kentfield Campus Fine Arts Building. Construction for the Academic Center in Kentfield will soon be started.

Board of Trustees Elect New President -- In December 2012 Jim Namnath was elected President of the COM Board of Trustees in a 4-3 decision defeating Stephanie O'Brien, the Board's newest member. Trustees were conciliatory in their public reactions to the latest vote for board president. President Namnath reiterated that he wants to move forward and avoid any kind of decision making that would appear to divide the Board members.

Trustee Eva Long PhD -- Participant in the International Brief Therapy Lasting Solutions Conference -- Dr. Long was invited to present her program, Sustaining Passion and Longevity in Life Using Medical and Longevity Research and Theories in Brief Therapy at the San Francisco conference which took place on December 9, 2012. The Milton H. Erickson Foundation hosts the only comprehensive multi-disciplinary conference on Brief Therapy in the world, and it was a tremendous honor to be selected to do a presentation at this conference.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT AMERICA AND AMERICANS?

This question was propounded at a meeting of the Philosophy Club last year. One of the members, Lillian Hanahan, has submitted her compilation of the answers. Readers are encouraged to offer their ideas as well. Please limit them to 150 words.

There are many qualities that make Americans unique. We are optimistic; we respect the law. We are all descended from immigrants who came with hope and visions to a country that respects all cultures and all people, that offers opportunities for education, advancement, and freedom. We are people who embrace adventure and new frontiers. We are a generous people who want to do the right thing and to help people of other nations achieve democracy, freedom, health and education.

Our uniqueness is based on our foundation as a constitutional democracy, which insists on freedom of religion and due process of law.

Labor unions contributed to the growth of a stable middle class with appropriate standards of compensation, reasonable work hours, and vacations. They also stood for good quality of workmanship.

Americans are patriots, proud of our accomplishments as a free society and moving with hope to a better future. We are proud to be Americans.

CURRENT ART EXHIBIT

Don't forget to visit the exhibit of artist Kathleen Lack, whose biography and painting example appeared in our December/January issue. A reception will be held Thursday, January 24, 5:30 - 7:30 PM.
ESCOM/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
A Look Back Before Going Forward: A bow is
in order to Janus, the Roman mythological god of
beginnings and transitions before noting February
news and events pertinent to COM/IVC. Janus is
the two-faced god who looks both to the past and
the future and in whose honor the Romans named
the month January.

January 19, Second Community Education Pre-
view Day at IVC: Attendance indicates growing
interest in Community Education classes offered at
COM Campus in Novato. ESCOM/IVC Building
10, Rm. 140, COM/IVC. Saturday, January 19,
10:30 AM.
Registration began Jan 2; Community Ed winter
classes began the week of January 28.
The Village at COM/IVC: The ESCOM meeting
room in Bldg. 10 was flooded several times re-
cently. Appropriate action was taken to prevent
mold from forming, but it is apparent that two gut-
ter downspouts gush next to the outer ESCOM/
IVC wall. Looking forward in 2013, it is hoped
that the water will be diverted before the next se-
ries of rain storms. At the same time ants invaded
the room. Grounds Maintenance staff did perime-
ter spraying that somewhat eliminated the inva-
sion, but future treatment should be taken before
the traditional candy jar on the conference table
may be safely returned.
Fall 2012 Wrap-up: Aqua Exercise and Zumba
Gold students ended the fall session with social
gatherings. Thanks to Cheryl Carlson, alternate
IVC space was found during the flooding for one
of the events. Members of the IVC Philosophy
Club and the Book Forum gathered off campus to
celebrate the Season and to affirm the sense of
community generated by life-long learning.
IVC Organic Farm: Wednesday Produce Mar-
kets resume this month with fresh winter vege-
tables and herbs available. The chard, arugula and
kale are outstanding.
Digital Camera Club: Laura Milholland reports
that when the new ESCOM club was proposed in
December, six people requested membership and a
few others expressed interest. The response indi-
cates that a formation meeting will be set in order
to explore schedule preferences with a planned
start in mid-February. Laura may be reached by e-
mail at lauramilholland_1@hotmail.com.
Film Noir DVD Theater Club:
2/09  Shockproof ’46. Cornel Wilde, Patricia
Knight, John Baragrey. Director: Douglas Sirk.
2/23  The Crimson Kimono, ’59. Victoria Shaw,
Glenn Corbett, James Shigata. Director: Samuel
Fuller
Rudy Ramirez continues to offer rentals from his
library of Film Noir DVDs as club members con-
tribute to a fund to update equipment.
Global Issues Club: Colleen Rose told of her ex-
periences as an official observer of the Honduras
November primary election. She was part of an
eleven member delegation who were watching for
human rights issues in this election leading up to
the Presidential election in 2014. Ms. Rose also
provided a Honduras map and explained the issues
in various areas.
Friday, 1/18,  2 PM  Harvest of Empire looks at
the role that U.S. military actions and corporate
interests played in triggering unprecedented waves
of migration from Mexico, the Caribbean, and
Central America. It features interviews with Nobel
Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, the Rever-
end Jesse Jackson, ACLU Executive Director An-
thony Romero, and Pulitzer Prize winning writer
Junot Diaz.
Friday, 2/15, 2 PM, Which Way Home. Unaccomp-
panied child migrants journey through Mexico en
route to the U.S. on a freight train. Nine-year-old
Hondurans are trying to reach their families in
Minnesota; a ten-year-old Salvadoran is alone in a
Mexican detention center; and a 14-year-old hopes
to reach New York and send money to his family.
Humanities Club:
1/26  Lecture 23: The Fate of Machiavelli's
Works; Lecture 24: Was Machiavelli a Machiavel-
lian?
Book Forum:
1/28  The 19th Wife, David Ebershoff.
The 2013 Reading List will be
finalized at the February
meeting. New members are
invited to come and add a fa-
vorite title.
THE FINNISH WAY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Articles have appeared lately both in the Newsletter and the popular press lamenting the state of our schools and praising those in certain other countries. Adding to the discussion is this thoughtful letter from Emeritus member Abe Greene. These represent just Mr. Greene's ideas. Others are also welcome. -- Editor]

Here are a few suggestions on ideas that might improve our educational system. Needless to say it's a complex issue and my suggestions only scratch the surface. In most countries, including the impoverished third world, the high school students wear uniforms. The students, who look like students, can express themselves by getting good grades. Disruptive students are removed from the class and directed into a special facility or a trade school. Few countries would put up with some of the bad behavior found in all too many American schools. Longer school days and more days in school should be considered. Japanese students attend school 243 days a year, the Israelis 216, Nigerians 190, and the USA 180. They often have longer school days. The lack of respect for teachers is unacceptable. In most countries the pedagogues are held in high esteem. All too often the attitude here is "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." Teachers are way underpaid and deserving of more respect and more money. Dummying down the subject matter so everyone can get a passing grade and have false inflated self esteem is generally not the best way to go. Finland and most advanced countries demand high standards similar to Lowell High. The U.S.A. is near the last in high school test scores in math, languages, science and related subjects. Finland and most of the countries which have the highest academic scores have a common mono-culture. In Finland 95% are Lutheran and Finnish with the exception of some Lapps in the north and a few Swedes. Other countries that have made great strides in recent years are China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Scandinavia, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. All have or mostly have common cultures. That's why it's difficult to compare the melting pot of America with Finland which has minimal immigration. You will not, in most cases, find anyone or groups in Japan, China, or Finland with hyphenated names. Diversity is fine in the first generation, and then it should be assimilation for the good of the individual and the country.

Trade school is the way to go for many of our youth. Everyone shouldn't go to college. We need more skilled workers and the best way to do that is in German type industrial educational programs. There is dignity and self-respect in manual labor! I know since I've been working with my hands (and aching back) for over 55 years. Money isn't the root of all evil. In many countries the money goes with the student and not to the school. The student therefore goes to the school (religious or secular) of their choice. I'm not so sure that "There are private schools or universities in Finland".

These are complex issues and a few ideas noted above only scratch the surface. Throwing money at the problem will help, but in the end, money alone will not solve the problem of a growing underclass, unemployment, underemployment, illiteracy in the area of 45 million, violence, family breakdown, and a drug and alcohol fueled society. I'm pessimistic about the future of our country for a myriad of reasons. Let's be candid: there are forces who like it the way it is and don't want any changes. The future of the country will be in part influenced by our educational system. Therefore, we better get serious about the immediate and near future of our educational system and do something about it or we will keep sliding downward in relation to other advanced countries.

N.B. My immediate family has matriculated in France, Spain, United States, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and China. Collectively we speak English, French, Spanish, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and survival Tswana and Serbo-Croatian. We have, for the record, five foreign passports.

Abe Greene

LIKE TO BE SMARTER THAN YOU ARE?

How many of us wanted to take a particular class in college but were unable to do so? Here's your chance to remedy that deficiency. Larry Witter, facilitator of the Philosophy Club, has accumulated 188 tapes and DVDs featuring prominent professors speaking on various subjects. They are heavy on philosophy but also include such various topics as religion, ancient and modern science, English language, and Einstein. Larry is charging just a modest rental which he is using to upgrade the collection. For a complete listing of his recordings, please phone Larry at 883-6889.
UNDERWATER AND UP IN THE AIR

We fortunate folk who bask in the land of (almost) perpetual sunshine may feel a bit uneasy about our escape from the climactic disasters ... the tornados, the droughts, the hurricanes ... (that most recent catastrophe that ravaged our East Coast). We have seen icebergs now melting faster than an ice cube in a coke, raging seas rising to erase miles of coastline, possibly polar bears scavenging in our back yards; droughts are creating modern Dust Bowls and furious "hundred year storms" now hit us every year or so. We thought we were immune to something as old fashioned as "Nature" and wonder if something as sweetly insipid as a storm called "Sandy" could interfere with the course of human events. Do we not live in an advanced civilization, in an age of technological marvels; are we not mightier, smarter, better equipped to deal with something as elemental as the Elements?

The Gods were laughing! Just as the Storm of Storms struck, I and four daughters were about to embark on a journey; we were holding airline tickets, hotel reservations, we had cancelled all obligations and made complicated changes in plans ... we were packed and ready to go! A near and dear relative had died a sudden and unexpected death and we were about to fly to New York for her Memorial. Others were set to come from other parts of the country. We watched in horror (but from a safe distance, on TV) as this freak storm tore up the East Coast and hit New Jersey and New York with a vengeance, devastating whole towns, drowning neighborhoods, reducing homes to splinters, destroying power lines, plunging everything into darkness and ruin.

As flight time approached, we watched, we waited! Should we go, should we stay? Reports came in that lights were still on in upper Manhattan and parts of lower Westchester. By weekend, we thought, certainly the lights would go on again, traffic would move, everything would dry out ... you can't keep a whole town down! Can you? It was the coward's way to be alarmist. There was a certain bravado among those who felt we were caving. But, should we go or should we stay? This was no summer shower. The matter was decided for us when planes stopped flying and airports shut down. Then a power plant exploded and lower Manhattan was plunged into total darkness. Everything below 39th Street to the Battery was blacked out and stayed that way for the week. Our hotel in Washington Square was flooded, without power; flashlight and candles lit stranded guests to their icy rooms, the restaurant managed skeletal menus using Boy Scout strategies. The hotel in the Battery was completely underwater and might never emerge for business.

I managed to speak to Cousin Vicki. They live in a spacious loft just north of the World Trade Center, a block from the Hudson and their phone was magically working. But, the Cells were fading fast; there was no electricity, no light, no heat, no cooking, no TV etc., and the car was immobile. At first it was tolerable, they could cuddle under the quilts - but soon there was a feeling of helplessness and desperation and they looked for rescue.

Stories came to me. People marooned in 50-story hi-rises where the elevators quit. A friend fell in a flooded basement and broke his leg, and the two closest hospitals had already been evacuated. The subways were flooded, no trains were running, no busses, and if a car happened to survive, there was no gas. Those friends and family who lived on the Long Island shore lost their homes, their cars, the possessions of a lifetime. Most were lucky - they were offered shelter by children, undoubtedly grateful for past services.

And through it all, the country experienced a consequential election and, amazingly! we did that, too! Those I spoke with behaved well. They felt it could have been worse. . . they were thankful they'd survived. Now they were prepared to deal with the salvage and the loss, the cleaning up and the beginning again.

New York is my City, my history. Familiar streets, familiar neighborhoods, the shape of the skyline, the great museums, the shops and restaurants, the lights of Broadway...where I'd walked on a bridge in moonlight, imagined life in brownstones a century ago, a city of adventure and promise, where I'd been chosen first and learned French, and gone to school and got my first paychecks. It is in the nature of Memory to recall things with some fanciful editing ... but this is how I remember the City (true or not) ... as the best of all places in the best of all times.

It was painful to see my City beset and bedraggled -- but I know it will come back. For us here it is easy to slip into the comfort (or discomfort) of daily concerns -- after all -- we are separated by a continent. But, it could have been us. It is us! Even as we pick up the pieces, will we forget all this ever really happened? Do we now consider how we shall live on this precarious planet?

Saundra Rosenberg
THREE VIGNETTES

Yesterday my husband and I went shopping, he to Costco, his favorite shopping place, and I to Marshall’s which is mine. On the way home, I said, “Husband, have we had lunch? I don’t remember.”

We shrugged our shoulders in complete compatibility. Couldn’t care less. Aging is difficult, inconvenient, and memory loss is the least of it. It is the New Year and I have been doing a great deal of thinking about aging and death, having lost two dear friends in the last month.

I am rereading one of my favorite aging books, Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Dr. Urbino meets his death climbing a tree attempting to capture a pet parrot that is attempting to escape. Dr. Urbino’s dying words to his wife are, “Only God knows how much I love you.” I wonder if my husband would say these words. Probably. Dr. Urbino's wife leaves her wedding ring in his casket. Would I do that? Never! I am much too practical.

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My youngest son in his inestimable wisdom has reported my husband and me to the DMV. He maintains that the last time he visited he looked at our cars and noticed that the fenders were too banged up and decided we needed a refresher course in driving. I maintain he was afraid we were going to be involved in an accident. Nevertheless, we were contacted by the DMV and I was ordered to appear in Petaluma where I was interrogated by an Officer of the Court. I am positive her previous occupation was head guard in a Nazi concentration camp. She had access to every one of my physician’s records covering the last twenty years. She had a copy of every record of every medication I had taken over the last twenty years. She had a copy of every record of every medication I had taken over the last twenty years. She had a copy of every record of every medication I had taken over the last twenty years. She had a clean record, no tickets, no arrests. And I was completely unintimidated.

“What have you done to my car?” I screamed. “It’s your fault,” he screamed. How could it be my fault? I wasn’t even in the car. I went upstairs, took two Libriums, got in bed and went to sleep.

The next day we take my car to my husband’s favorite repair shop. He asks for the head man. An elderly gentleman appears. There is much patting of shoulders and shaking of hands. This is a relationship I do not understand. I am escorted to the office and given a cup of excellent coffee and two biscotti. My car is taken to some undisclosed location and the fender is returned to its original pristine condition. I am escorted into the car like I am the Queen of England. My husband asks the elderly gentleman how much he owes him and the answer is, “Nothing”. If the car door were not securely locked, I would fall out in shock. Nothing! Nothing! NOTHING!! My husband opens his wallet, pulls out a few bills and says to his friend, much of what I cannot hear, “Give your staff a treat.” He looks at me with a smug expression on his face and says, “I told you it was not that bad.”

***************

It is the midst of the winter doldrums and I have been making fairy scarves for my great-granddaughters. We will be going to St. Louis in March or April to celebrate their birthdays and I will take them with me. If you want to learn how to make fairy scarves, I will help you. Go to your best fabric store and buy one yard of the loveliest, silkiest, most shimmery fabric that they have. Wave it around in the air a few times. See how it floats. Watch how it waves. Does it look like a fairy might like it? If it meets all these criteria, then it is the correct fabric. Absolutely, buy it!

Dear Marisa Ann,

I am sending you this fairy scarf with love. You may fly, run, skip and jump, but be careful. Do not fly outside without Mom or Dad. Do not fly higher than the house.

I love you, Grandma Iris

P.S. Truth be known, I have just finished making two fairy scarves. The only fairy scarves I will be making from now on will be in heaven or “elsewhere.” If you need help making one you will have to go “elsewhere.”

Iris Tandler
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO--?
You know who I mean--oh my--I know that as well as my name--she was with--what's his name, in that movie about--where is it, I had it yesterday.
I was tested for short-term memory, as well as other things I don't remember, as an entry process for college The tests revealed that my short-term memory was definitely short termed. So this poor memory thing is not new.
I'm easily distracted and have been criticized for talking in incomplete sentences, a lot of them, but for some reason, my mind is on the next subject while my mouth is still on the last. This may account for my horrible habit of interrupting others' speech. My children finish my sentences and fill in the blanks as I jump from one subject to another.
I don't know why I am in such a hurry, or why I feel I must talk and talk.
My niece has an explanation of why she needs to talk; she says she has 10,000 words she needs to get rid of every day. If she only gets to use 3500, the words build up and gush out in a torrent.
I've spent a lot of time by myself since childhood. The quiet part of me loves the solitude. The talker in me seems to be racking up word upon word waiting for some unsuspecting person. Perhaps I should be more like my computer. Although it too seems to misplace things--papers I have written, letters I've saved and programs I downloaded are somewhere in the recesses of its brain. Lately the computer seems slow to get started. Perhaps I should give it the equivalent of three cups of coffee. Actually I think it needs more memory.
This brings to mind the possibility that in the future we will be able to visit a brain doctor, have a new chip or a really tiny CD implanted back of our left ear. Then we could think one or two words, like June Allison, and into the mind screen would appear her entire biography including her latest commercials.
The future is near. I read somewhere this technology is actually available.
If I could only remember where I read it.

Alice Arbuckle Webb, Writers' Workshop

EDITOR’S NOTE
The next Newsletter staff meeting will be held on Friday, February 1, 10:30 AM, at the Kentfield Emeritus Center.
Advertisement for Prang's greeting cards, 1883

Postcard by Nister, circa 1906

Valentine postcard, circa 1900–1910