The Japanese Tea Garden in the heart of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park provides visitors from around the world with an opportunity to experience the natural beauty, tranquility and harmony of a Japanese-style garden. Originally created as a Japanese Village exhibit for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition, the site originally spanned about one acre and showcased a Japanese style garden. When the fair closed, arrangements were made to keep the garden open permanently. It has been enlarged and now includes classic elements such as an arched drum bridge, pagodas, stone lanterns, stepping stone paths, native Japanese plants, koi ponds and a Zen garden. Cherry trees bloom throughout the garden in March and April.

The Second Annual Japanese Haiku Contest of Emeritus College has concluded and the winning entries may be seen on page 4.
COM IN THE NEWS

Award Recipient - Recently Betty Goerke, author and instructor of anthropology and archeology at College of Marin for more than 30 years, has received the California Missions Society Association President's Award for her very detailed work on the San Rafael Mission records, which will serve as a valuable research tool for future California historians. Ms. Goerke has dedicated much of her career to researching native history. She has studied the records of mission priests who recorded milestones in the lives of the Coast Miwok Indians. A dedicated group of students have also helped through the years to transcribe and translate the faded handwriting of various priests and made presentations at the recent award conference. Ms. Goerke has received numerous teaching awards over the years, including the College of Marin Outstanding Teacher Award. She retired from COM in 2004 but has continued teaching at the college most recently with the College of Marin Community Education Program.

Student Wins Statewide Scholarship - Recently at the annual convention of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society (AGS), College of Marin student Stacey Patten received the Ed Walsh Award. The award includes a $600 scholarship in recognition of her outstanding service to the college, her AGS chapter and to her local community. One of Patten's former instructors credits her for helping to revitalize College of Marin's AGS Chapter. Patten, a graduate of Redwood High School, enrolled at COM in January 2009 and currently serves as President of AGS Chapter at College of Marin. She plans on transferring to Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts in Fall 2012. AGS is the California Community College Scholastic Honor Society and holds an annual convention each Spring, awarding scholarships to students who excel in academics and/or community service. This year's AGS convention was held in San Jose; and of the 539 attendees, 54 student members were awarded scholarships totaling $38,400.

COM Goals Being Met -- The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reported that COM has made substantial progress in the implementation of an integrated institutional planning and resource allocation process, a 10-year Educational Master Plan and a 3-year Strategic Plan. COM has successfully stabilized its construction and modernization program (Measure C). In addition, major building projects are being completed at both the Kentfield and the Indian Valley campuses. A majority of COM employees have expressed confidence in the leadership and direction of the college. COM now serves more than 11,000 students in credit, noncredit and community education programs each semester. COM graduates continue to transfer to respected universities such as UC Berkeley and Dominican while others go directly into important careers such as nursing and other allied health fields. A smoke-free environment has successfully been implemented at both campuses.

Submitted by: Alicia Warcholski

OPERA LOVERS HAVE SWEET TOOTH

In the last Newsletter I wrote that "the members don't know what music will surface". Not only that, but in April, we also didn't know that Emeritus President Marian Mermel would pass through our meeting area in Kentfield and get waylaid into a discussion of Charlotte Russe. This is an old New York confection mentioned in her biography and known to several of the other New Yorkers present. If you think of opera as a stuffy art form, then you should come to one or more of our meetings....you never know what subject will hit the table, in addition to great music and singers!

Gil Deane, Chairman

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Nearly ten percent of our members now subscribe by e-mail. If you would like to try this quick delivery in color service, please notify Karen Hemmeter (Karen@hemmeter.com). And if you like a hard copy now and then, you can print it using your computer. Just print the odd-numbered pages, turn the stack around, and print the even numbered on the other side. Then staple the left margins together.
ESCOM COUNCIL
APRIL & MAY MEETINGS

In contrast to its usual agenda, and chaired by Vice President Dick Park, on April 19, 2012, the Council engaged in a full-blown discussion of its operations in the ensuing year.

The many activities and functions of the office of President were discussed with a view towards sharing them with and distributing them among the members of the Council. The chairmanship of the meetings in the current year has been shared successfully by the members of the Council, and it is expected that the President’s functions will be ably performed as well.

Part of the morning’s discussion centered on the positive role that ESCOM is playing in the life of the College of Marin and its lifelong learning adult students. Members were encouraged to enumerate the valuable attributes that ESCOM contributes to the College, and the list was lengthy and impressive.

The Council also met at a special meeting on May 3, 2012, for the purpose of making final preparations for the Annual Election. (See the official Ballot on Page 5 of this Newsletter.)

The slate of officers and Council members to be presented to the membership includes current President Marian Mermel and current Vice President Dick Park as Co-President, and Beverly Munyon as Vice President in this coming year. A two-year term is proposed for incumbent Treasurer Art Ravicz and Council members Marje Park, Cole and Donna Posard (serving jointly), and Paul Tandler with first-time candidate Iris Tandler, also to serve jointly. Former Council members Jim and Gini Moore will also be a joint ballot item.

Incumbent Council members John Felling, Marlene Knox, Len Pullan and Bill Raffanti will continue to serve in their unexpired terms.

The Council took note of the excellent minutes prepared monthly by Marje Park and thanked her for her efforts.

Reported by Paul Tandler

Errata: Last month’s account of the Council’s March meeting indicated that a major portion of a bequest by the late Fred Humiston was voted to fund the C.O.M.’s enrollment in the Marin Net Library System. The motion to that effect was tabled. We regret the error.

NAPOLEON'S WALL

When Napoleon took his army to Egypt he stopped to admire the pyramids. It is reported that on viewing the Great Pyramid of Cheops he thought a few moments and then remarked, “The stones in this edifice could build a wall around France.” If the pyramid was 460 feet high and the sides were 756 feet wide, and we estimate the circumference of France as 2200 miles, and if the wall were one foot thick would Napoleon have been able to see over it? Answer on Page 9.

Free Verse

My verses do not tingle
No soft vowels, no charming echoes
No sunny couplets dressed in metaphor
With heady bubbles of pure harmony
A voluptuous swell — a great freshness
Clean and naked on the page

My voice surges with self-insemination
Casting words in a grand pabulum
A tumble of words, with fallacious intent
Picking nits in a confessional barrage
Knowing, that I will never be a poet
But I can’t stop — God is watching me

Vincent DeMaio

Emeritus College Newsletter
Published by: Emeritus Students, College of Marin, 10 times per year
Editor: Don Polhemus
Factotum: Barbara Tarasoff
Writers: Gloria Kopshever, Saundra Rosenberg, Iris and Paul Tandler, Alicia Warcholski, Gigi Welch, other valued contributors
Council Liaison: Paul Tandler
Illustrator: Paul Gruner
Layout & Computerization: Art Ravicz
Circulation: Barbara Tarasoff, B. J. Hauge, John Kouns, Len Pullan
Clubs Chairman: William Raffanti
ATTENTION: WRITERS
AND WANNABES!

For the first time we're going to publish an August Newsletter, and it will be entirely devoted to your writing -- mostly prose, but some poetry. We'll be able to accept longer stories -- up to 2500 words. So start thinking and get writing. Keep those literary gems coming. Editor

HAIKU CONTEST WINNERS

The second annual haiku contest has concluded and the Judge's selections are named. Although Vincent DeMaio had planned to judge, as he did last year, a last minute issue prevented this. Jacqueline Kudler, Writing Instructor at COM, graciously agreed to substitute. Thank you, Jackie. Submissions not selected at this time will appear in later issues of the Newsletter.

First Place Selections:

Blue sky, white fleeces
Through light filigree of leaves
Playroom of the sun.

Paul Gruner

From gray rock outcrop
California poppies
Spreading their orange.

Richard Schneider

Strong winds from the north
A sky monotonous gray
Rain hits the window.

Barbara Hubbard

Runners-Up:

Fruitless pear blossoms
Fly through the air like snow flakes
The first day of spring.

Betty Jackson

Sweet smell of lilac.
Aroma of herb garden.
Scent of spring fills air.

Betty Jackson

Red breasted Nut Hatch
Hiding in a live Oak Tree
Trumpets into the wind

Richard Schneider

New Baby
Standing in the sun
Nibbling at the leaves, the giraffe
Cuddles her baby.

Iris Tandler

Yin and Yang
Life is yin and yang
Catch the wild wind in your sails
Explore it, hold and dream.

Iris Tandler

SPELLING QUIZ

Which is correct?

1. embarrassed or embarassed
2. rarefy or rarely
3. Pumpernickel or Pumpernickle
4. licence or license
5. supercede or supersede
6. worshiping or worshipping
7. hors d'oeuvres or hors d'oeuvres
8. Mediterranean or Mediterranean
9. chrysanthemum or chrysanthamem
10. irascible or irascable
11. subpoena or subpena
12. relevent or relevant
13. compatabale or compatible
14. potpourri or potpourri
15. lavender or lavendar
16. Caribbean or Carribbean
17. chartreuse or chartruse
18. picknicking or picnicking
19. buoyant or bouyant
20. inflammation or inflammmation

Answers on Page 9. Be accurate. Or is it accurate?
Ballot for ESCOM Council Election - 2012

Co-Presidents – One-year Term

( ) Marian Mermel and Richard (Dick) Park

( ) _____________________________

(Write-in)

Vice President – One-year Term

( ) Beverly Munyon

( ) _____________________________

(Write-in)

Council Members (*) – Two-year Terms – Vote for five (5)

( ) Donna and Cole Posard (a joint seat)

( ) Paul and Iris Tandler (a joint seat)

( ) Jim and Gini Moore (a joint seat)

( ) Art Ravicz

( ) Marjorie (Marje) Park

( ) _____________________________

(Write-in)

( ) _____________________________

(Write-in)

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

Return the completed Ballot NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY NOON, June 13, 2012, 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. For your convenience, the ballot can be folded into a mailing piece with the College’s mailing address printed in the center section of the blank page.
Council Election Committee
c/o Emeritus Center
College of Marin
835 College Avenue
Kentfield, CA 94904-2590
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:

Dental Assisting Graduation, June 21st at 6:30.
The Second Annual ceremony planned by the graduates will be held as last year, on the patio of IVC Building 27. Kathleen Rooney, Dental Assisting Program Coordinator, hopes “this will develop as a tradition because the trees, openness and warmth of this campus are a perfect setting in which to recognize the accomplishments of people who will devote their lives to helping others have better heath.” The public is welcome. Come, witness another COM/IVC program success story.

Organic Farm News

Corps North Bay Class of 2012 graduates June 27. Come join us! The following businesses order ingredients from us on a regular basis. They support local organic agriculture wherever possible, so we encourage you to support them!
Rustic Bakery: Fine Organic Foods, Baked Goods
Boca Steak and Seafood
Boca Pizzeria Piatti Ristorante
Paradise Foods
Tavola Italian Kitchen

New Hours for Drawing in Color and Mixed Media Drawing Class: “Summer evenings on the beautiful Indian Valley Campus are made for artistic experience,” says Alison Hathaway, who has taught for over 20 years in a variety of media from pastels, collage, to silver and stained glass. Students are encouraged to bring in any materials on hand and join the class at 5:15.

Summer Stay-cation: The possibilities are boundless for “escapes” on the 335 acres at COM/IVC. With expanded options for water activities at the IVC pool this summer, it is possible to combine a class (Aqua Exercise for Older Adults, or Zumba Gold) with an open recreational swim, or a picnic at one of the hundreds of shaded spots, or with a visit to one of the six ESCOM clubs that meet in Building 10, or a visit to the Organic Farm Stand (Wednesdays) or a walk up to a secluded pond. Call Gloria (883-7805) or Bill (883-4079) to use AS 140 Building 10).

Global Issues: Precious Knowledge, Arizona's battle over Ethnic Studies, Friday, June 15, 2:00 PM. Precious Knowledge illustrates what motivates Tucson High School students and teachers to form the front line of an epic civil rights battle. While 48 percent of Mexican-American students currently drop out of high school, Tucson High's Mexican American Studies Program has become a national model of educational success, with 93 percent of enrolled students graduating from high school. However, Arizona lawmakers are trying to shut the program down because they believe the students are being indoctrinated with dangerous ideology and embracing destructive ethnic chauvinism. (70 min.)

Philosophy Club: "Life Lessons from Great Books," a 12-week session of lectures by Rufus Fears is the current focus. Professor Fears is considered by ESCOM club members as the ultimate lecturer and is very popular with the club members. Club coordinator Larry Witter continues his long-running club with a minimum attendance of fourteen every Thursday afternoon.

Film Noir: For over six years, Rudy Ramirez has not only shared his enthusiasm for Film Noir, Hollywood’s only organic movement, but has taught a growing number of ESCOM members to understand and appreciate this film genre. When a month has a fifth Saturday he will show noir films deemed outstanding by critics, or one of his personal favorites. Plan on June 30 to be surprised by our dedicated coordinator/popcorn maker.

6/30 A Film Noir Classic!

Humanities Club: Members have undertaken a six-week series of the acclaimed miniseries in a new digitally restored and re-mastered edition of I CLAUDIUS.

6/02 Episode 7: Reign Of Terror; Episode 8: Zeus, By Jove!
7/07 Episode 11: A God In Colchester; Episode 12: Old King Log.

IVC Book Forum:
6/25 The Water is Wide, Pat Conroy.
7/23 Still Alice, Lisa Genova.

Great Books Discussion Group:
5/22 Remainder of Freedom readings.
6/12 Fall planning session, followed by Summer Break.
“Winter can be a time of malaise.” I borrow a quote from A. O. Scott of the New York Times. My husband and I take a few days off and drive to Monterey Bay for a change of pace and a visit to the Aquarium. We check into our hotel Wednesday afternoon and appear at the Aquarium early the next morning, two elderly people, my husband with his walker and me with my cane. We are greeted warmly by the attendant at the door who looks us over and says, “May I get you a wheelchair?”

“For which one of us?” I question.

They bring my husband a wheelchair leaving me to fend for myself. I have never pushed a wheelchair before but I start off with good intentions. The lobby is mobbed with people. It is about the size of an airplane hangar. Along with the usual gift shops and information booths, there are at least 1000 small children, 2000 coordinating parents, ever-present teachers (every school within one hundred miles must have decided to take a field trip on that day) and an unbelievable number of dedicated volunteers.

The amazing thing is that everybody is happy. Not one child is crying. And everyone seems to know where they are going. We are quickly directed to the second floor – the Open Sea, and what a world it is! We walk into another universe, wall to wall water and water over our heads. A glass wall, about 15 inches thick separates us from the fish. Huge turtles swim overhead, hammerhead sharks swim toward me, silvery sunfish swim in huge swarms into and through the kelp forests that are throughout this unbelievable body of water. Two divers are feeding the fish and the food is gobbled up as fast as it is distributed.

There is a gargantuan manta ray that looks like he will eat everybody, but obviously the other fish can handle their own survival. We see sunfish, bat rays, and swarms of silvery sardines.

Every child in this enormous underwater Open Sea Exhibit has hit the wheelchair at least twice. These kids are not interested in the fish. They are playing “hide and seek” or Star Wars or Superman or whatever it is that kids play these days. The teenagers certainly are not interested in the fish. They are having a wonderful time just being off of school and being together, and me, well, I am doing my best to stay upright.

As we turn to leave we pass an exhibit of seahorses. The male seahorse is delivering babies. What a great idea. Isn’t Mother Nature fascinating? My husband is not as impressed as I am. “Move on,” he says, “Faster, faster.” I head for the lobby.

I push the wheelchair. “Go a little faster,” my husband says, “Do you hear me? How are you?”

I am not moving. I am still watching the seahorses. “How are you?” he asks again.

“Dead,” I reply. I realize I ache in every bone in my body. I leave him sitting in the middle of the floor and aim for a bench at the side of the room. One of the hammerhead sharks has it in for me and gives me the evil eye as I leave, and the largest turtle swimming overhead doesn’t like me very much either.

The next morning I wake early and go to the lobby for a cup of coffee; I watch the sun rise over Monterey Bay. The seagulls are flying in a completely blue sky, no clouds, no boats on the water; the pink dawn slowly bleeds into the sky. It is one of the most exquisite sights I have ever seen. Nothing is as beautiful as the infinite universe.

My back still hurts.

Iris Tandler

STRANGER IN MY BED
by Miriam Silver

After sharing the matrimonial bed for almost sixty years, I have been sleeping alone for the last four, and by now I am quite comfortable with that arrangement. And so it was something of a jolt the other morning when I woke up and found a stranger in the bed. The hand was the first thing that alarmed me. The skin appeared to be of the consistency of crepe and the pattern mottled. How very strange. Once the early morning vertigo had subsided and I gently lowered the covers I noticed the legs. Discolored, with a pattern and colors similar to the iconic map of the London Underground. On closer inspection, I noted that the right one had considerable bumps somewhat reminiscent of my mother’s aching varicose veins.

Startled at this transformation, I steadied myself as I left the bed, put on my bathrobe and gingerly hobbled to the mirror. Instead of brushing my teeth in the dark, I switched on the unflattering fluorescent light and examined the face. It had become a close match for the hands. While I needed to
know, at the same time fearing the truth, I opened the drawer and extracted the magnifying mirror. I did not immediately recognize the reflection. Cross-hatched marks seemed to have appeared from nowhere, the deeper lines, once thought of as laugh lines, had permanently embedded themselves tracing a pathway from my nose to my mouth, brown discoloration swatches were liberally distributed. The throat line held an uncanny resemblance to a toad. A side view in the full length mirror showed me an elongated "S" or a reversed question mark...the upper curve now home to a growing dowager's hump and the lower one where my abdomen used to be.

Through the years I have marveled at the growth of the grandchildren. Tiny babies soon became toddlers, then preschoolers, teenagers and young adults. And all the while I felt that I had stayed the same. Apparently this was not the case. While my thought processes have changed, and my mind slips into gear just a little slower than it once did, I still feel the same person as I did twenty years ago. However, I am beginning to realize that I possibly am not exempt from the ravages of time and while 80 may be yesterday's 60, my body is negating that myth.

I can accept it. Tonight I will go to bed with no surprises, albeit twenty years older than I was last night.

[Ms. Silver is a seven-year member of Emeritus. Ed.]

A VISIT FROM MY BURGLAR

We were living in L.A. at the time. Our home was a rather stately Georgian which we had inherited from my in-laws. It had an interesting history in that it was originally owned by one of Charlie Chaplin's wives and ultimately sold by me to one of Nat "King" Cole's daughters. The neighborhood, Hancock Park, was nice but growing old and experiencing incursions from apartments and such. This was doubtless the reason that my in-laws installed bars over the downstairs windows, though their fragility made me feel they were more for show than protection. In any case we had an electronic security system installed which provided an armed patrol in the neighborhood.

Confident that we were "burglar-proof" we took off on a modest vacation to Lake Tahoe. Things were going well, the weather was nice, and we were enjoying our time away in the hotel at Zephyr Cove. Yet one night I was uneasy and the next morning felt impelled to phone our neighbor. Surprised, she said, "How odd that you should call at this time. The police have just caught a burglar in your house. In fact there are four police cars, a fire truck, and an ambulance all here right now."

Here is what had happened. The intruder had wrenched the bars off a kitchen window and entered.

All was quiet, so he walked through to the entry and proceeded upstairs. But in the entry he had interrupted a sensor beam which summoned the patrol car. In just a couple of minutes the patrolman arrived and saw the point of entry. He notified the police, then entered and cornered the burglar at gunpoint upstairs. But the burglar, not wanting to be captured, spotted on the other side of a bedroom two floor-to-ceiling French doors. Assuming that they led to an upstairs balcony, he bolted and crashed out through one of them. Unfortunately, we had removed the roof there, intending to replace it, and the perpetrator fell to the patio below onto a glass table which he broke, badly cutting his leg. Still he was able to hobble to the back gate, but was there met by the arriving policemen. Blood was everywhere, which was the reason for the ambulance.

Next came another problem for us. A horde of detectives arrived bearing black fingerprint powder with which they covered large portions of the upstairs walls. It must have been a class of beginners. The powder wouldn't wash off and the walls had to be repainted.

Later I was told that our burglar was out of prison on probation, having been convicted of a previous similar offense. This was why he had been so anxious to avoid capture.

Don Polhemus

ANSWERS TO SPELLING QUIZ

embarrassed, rarely, Pumpernickel, license, supersede, worshiping, hors d'oeuvres, Mediterranean, chrysanthemum, irascible, subpoena, relevant, compatible, potpourri, lavender, Caribbean, char-.

treuse, picnicking, buoyant, inflammation, accurate.

ANSWER TO NAPOLEON'S WALL

The calculation comes out to be seven feet six inches high. Thus Napoleon would need a good boost to see over it.
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 and 4th Fridays (note this change) September to May, 1:00 - 3:00 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.

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, donderspo@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, ruramc@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, ruramc@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.

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.