

DAILY ESCOM CLUB CALENDAR

Sunday

IVC CAMERA CLUB

First Meeting - Feb. 10th, 2:00-3:00 pm; additional dates/times to be announced

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Laura Milholland, 578-2972, milholland_l@hotmail.com

Do you have a passion for photography? Or maybe you feel it's time to get better acquainted with that camera that's been sitting mostly unused except for holidays and family gatherings. Maybe you're a beginner who needs help learning some of the basics of taking nice images, and finding out what to do with them after you've taken them? Or maybe you're a veteran with a camera and would enjoy helping others learn to take better photos, while honing your skills?

Our new Camera Club is open to anyone with a digital camera and a desire to share together with others. Beginners through highly experienced photographers alike are all welcome. Topics for discussion can include things such as good composition, exposure, lighting, menus & dials of digital, editing techniques, storage & file organization, gear and accessories, among many other possibilities.

The purpose of our Club is to provide a time to share the joy of picture taking, develop our "eye" for what makes a good shot, and encourage the growth of our skills as we learn from each other in a non-critical setting.

Monday

GREAT MINDS of WESTERN PHILOSOPHY CLUB

First and third Monday – 10:15 am to 12:15 pm

Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building

Contact: Arlene Stark, 925-1214, arlenestark@att.net

At each two-hour session members watch two half-hour DVDs from the Teaching Company's, "Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition." The screenings are followed by group discussions. The Club began with *Plato* and *Aristotle* and

followed with *The Christian Age*, *The Renaissance*, *The Enlightenment*, *The Age of Analysis* through to modernity and *The Crises of Modernity*.

Discussions range from the political to the mystical. What is the perfect political system? Is there one? What is the difference between faith and spirituality? *Galileo*, *Descartes*, *Locke*, *Hume*, *Kant*, *Nietzsche*, *Heidegger*, *Rorty* and *Derrida* are there to stimulate and confound us along the way. What will these huge figures in Western philosophy teach us?

We energize each other discussing the philosopher's ideas and our own. These great thinkers invite us to join them, turn us on and keep fine-tuning our minds.

IVC BOOK FORUM

Fourth Monday – 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Louise Kerr, 883-2823, LRKerr210@gmail.com

For ten years Book Forum members have selected books that inform them about such subjects as history, various cultures, social issues as well as the sheer pleasure that comes from reading good writing. Members select one book a month. They suggest titles for the coming year via email and, at December meetings, a list is agreed upon and finalized. The books may be historical novels, nonfiction and whatever the group agrees upon.

A couple of examples of books recently read and discussed are: *Oracle of Stamboul*, Michael David Lukas and *Wings of the Dove*, Henry James. Some favorites have been *Desert Queen*, *The Lemon Tree* and *Still Alice*.

The Book Forum is open to lifelong learners who find excitement in the written word, a turn of phrase and that marvelous thing we call literature. It's a venue open to everyone, where all ideas are not just welcomed, but savored.

BRIDGE CLUB

Every Monday – 1:00 to 4:30 pm

Kentfield Emeritus Center, Cafeteria

Contact: Lynn Mason, 456-2508, lynn.mason@gmail.com

Bridge offers that “something more”—the challenge of making fast decisions, the possibility of thousands of potential card arrays, and even playing the game of life better—all experiences that attract a lively following at ESCOM.

In addition to its being a “brain game,” ESCOM bridge offers everyone a comfortable level of social interaction and friendship—leaving no time to get into religious or political issues, and just enough to catch up on what’s happening in each other’s lives.

While some Bridge Club members have been attending for many years, new players are always welcome. On average, six tables of intermediate-level players meet weekly. Scoring is Chicago style, and prizes and trophies are awarded twice a year at enjoyable potluck lunches.

Tuesday

WRITERS WORKSHOP

First Tuesday – 1:00 pm – until all writers have read and critiqued – 4:00 pm latest

Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building

Contact: Shirley Pullan, 381-6952, shirlm.v@comcast.net

Do you want the characters you write to fly off the page – your sentences to sing? Other Club writers respond to your writing with verbal feedback and written comments.

Writers want intelligent, thoughtful response, hoping the critique will discover a new angle or whatever isn’t working. Because sincere writing can’t help revealing one’s heart, members eventually understand each other at a deeper level. It is inevitable, therefore, as in many groups that participants become friends.

MORAL-ETHICAL & LEGAL ISSUES ROUNDTABLE

First and third Tuesday – 10:00 to 12 Noon

Kentfield Emeritus Center -

Student Services Building, Conference rooms A & B – 2nd Floor

Contact: Cole Posard, 491-4118, colemaposard@att.net

Len Pullan, 381-6952, lenpullan@comcast.net

The title of this Club is a mouthful, yet to delete any part of its name is to short-circuit what this Club goes after. It seeks to ask the big questions and tries to answer them looking through a moral-ethical lens, a forensic search for the truth of things important. What differentiates right from wrong? What is ethical, does it matter and why? How much money should be spent to save a life? What is the ethical role of government in a democracy? Is doing the right thing ever wrong? Is doing the wrong thing ever right?

Through the members give and take you'll discover interesting people and challenging ideas. Find out what you really think – *and why you think it*. Weigh in on paradoxical, cutting-edge dilemmas while you explore your mind to find your own truths. Experience for yourself why this Club has aroused so much interest and why each meeting finishes with applause.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP

Second Tuesday – 10:00 to 12 Noon

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Don Polhemus, 883-3567, dondorpol@aol.com

The Club carries forward the vision of two University of Chicago professors, Mortimer Adler and Robert Maynard Hutchins who founded the Great Books Foundation in 1947. It aimed to promote lifelong education through “Great Conversation” with authors of the most significant works in Western tradition.

Once a month members read important works that are voted upon by our Group's members. One recent discussion dealt with the history of human rights. Occasionally books or stories are interspersed by members. Some recent books up for discussion were: Discussion of: *Sharia, Islamic Religious Law*. Arendt's *Perplexities of the Rights of Man*; Gentry: *Cancer of Human Rights*; Transcript: *The Real Trial of Oscar Wilde*; A.E. Houseman: *The Carpenter's Son* and Jack London: *Pinched*.

As Professor Hutchins said at the time Great Books education was proposed, “If democracy is going to function as it should, the man-in-the-street is going to have to think better.” The Group's members eagerly pursue this goal.

Wednesday

SING ALONG CLUB

Second Wednesday – 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Kentfield Campus – Call for location

Contact: Marlene Knox, 459-1427, marlsteve@comcast.net

This is a once-a-month party (without food) with a piano player who accompanies members who sing their hearts out. Everyone chooses three favorite songs, so there is plenty of variety. Some know the songs by heart, but

lyrics are always provided. People should not worry that their voices are not good enough; everyone who loves music is welcome.

The Club has found the perfect piano player who can play almost everything from Broadway to Hollywood, Beatles, folk songs, Cole Porter, Gershwin, Berlin and Jerome Kern. Come join the fun!

OPERA CLUB

Last Wednesday – 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Gil Deane, 456-2853, gildeane@aol.com

The members' devotion to opera distinguishes this Club. One member said that he looks forward to the last Wednesday of the month where he will meet with friendly, like-minded people who share their CDs and videos. The conversation is rich with operatic likes and dislikes and knowledge about their favorite operas and performers. Occasionally in an enthusiastic moment, and to prove a point, some members have been known to burst into their favorite arias.

There is a lot of anecdotal talk about members' favorite singers, and in some cases, those they dislike, i.e. you either love Maria Callas or hate her.

Thursday

CURRENT EVENTS and ISSUES CLUB

Second and fourth Thursday – 10:00 to 12 Noon
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Jerry Weisman, 383-1831, James Kennedy, 388-3939

The meeting begins with a quotation, then an editorial or article from the *New York Times*. The format is loose and the table in the Emeritus Room is full. Members bring whatever current information they wish to share. Any media is considered worthwhile: TV, newspapers, magazines, digital – even the voter's guide. Everything becomes grist for discussion. Conversation enlarges everyone's understanding of what's going on in our cities, county, nation and world. The facilitators are sometimes called upon to act as policemen if discussion gets too rowdy, but members are usually polite and agree that everyone needs a chance to speak and respond.

Only time limits the scope of discourse. Some recent current events discussed include: elections, fracking, terrorism and the economy. Do you have something

to say? Members are lifelong learners, lifelong doers- and in this Club they inevitably make lifelong friends.

GREAT IDEAS in WESTERN PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Every Thursday – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Larry Witter, 883-6889, LSWitter@sonic.net

This Club has given members vivid narratives since 2001. It uses “The Great Courses by The Teaching Company.” This company is noted for the rigorous process by which it chooses the professors who will be presented on their videos. A study guide is also provided.

A few of the many subjects members have viewed and discussed over the years include: *Science and Religion*, *Philosophy as a Guide to Living*, *Science in the Twentieth Century* and *Buddhism*, Sensation, Perception and the Ageing Process.

One couple returning to Marin eagerly attend this Club and have enjoyed these TV lectures with can’t-wait-for- Thursday enthusiasm. Great Books has become part of this lively weekly series. Attentive listeners answer questions instigated by the lectures, then debate meaning and relevance to their lives. Each member becomes intellectually challenged, to think in new ways and to contribute thoughtful responses that add to the experience of being there.

SCRABBLE CLUB

Every Thursday – 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Kentfield Emeritus Center, Cafeteria,

Contact: Marlene Knox, 459-1427, marlsteve@comcast.net

The Scrabble Club fills the niche left by the leader’s superb Scrabble-playing mother who passed away a year before the Club was formed. In 1948 James Brunot bought the rights to the Cross-Crosswords game and called it Scrabble. Scrabble means to “scratch frantically.” It was not financially successful until Jack Straus, President of Macy’s, played it on vacation and began stocking it in his large department stores.

The group plays two games, two players to a table. Each player is asked to bring a game board. Members draw for partners. In the second game people with like scores are matched so that people with similar abilities are paired. Eventually

everyone gets a chance to play against everyone else. Although some play to keep their minds active, others play just for the joy of it.

The Club attempts to follow tournament Scrabble guidelines, but is very flexible about them. Members LOVE to play this game. More and more people are playing Scrabble online, but nothing, *nothing*, beats a face-to-face game.

Friday

BOOK BANTER

Second and fourth Friday – Sept to May, 1:00 to 2:30 pm
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Len Pullan, 381-6952, lenpullan@comcast.net

The dictionary defines BANTER as, “good humored, playful conversation.” Yes, that, but much more: members may bring a short, short story to read aloud, or a poem, or a ten-minute passage from a novel, or a film review from the New Yorker. They share what they love. Some prefer to just listen and that’s okay. Good writing is the focus.

Participants also bring books to trade. The goal is two-fold; 1) to share personal affection for an author and 2) to enrich everyone’s exposure to good writing, fiction and non-fiction.

GLOBAL ISSUES CLUB

Third Friday – 2:00 pm
Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10
Contact: Colleen Rose, 898-0131, colleenrose@juno.com

Topics and film documentaries presented during these meetings are rarely discussed in depth by everyday media. New perspectives are explored among the group and films include: “*Crude*,” about Chevron’s devastation of Ecuador’s rainforest; “*Crossing Arizona*,” immigration and U.S. border policies; “*The Last Zapatistas*,” intimate interviews with men and women who fought with Emiliano Zapata in the Mexican Revolution of 1910; “*War Made Easy*,” featuring Marin’s Norman Solomon and narrated by Sean Penn; “*One Man’s Story: Philip Agee, Cuba and the CIA*,” and “*Howard Zinn: You Can’t be Neutral on a Moving Train*.”

The Club leader has traveled extensively in the countries of the Western Hemisphere and is able to bring depth to these films and subjects. She looks forward to answering member's questions and encourages frank discussion of the issue at hand.

Saturday

HUMANITIES CLUB

First and third Saturday – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522, ruramc@mac.com

During the first hour the Club screens show two televised lectures by the best professors chosen by the Teaching Company for *The Great Courses*. Some popular subjects which have stimulated members include classical mythology, Homer's *Illiad*, Greek tragedy and Herodotus, the father of Western History. Recently Club members have enjoyed learning more about Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527). The Machiavelli lecturer is William Cook, Professor of History at State University of New York at Genesco.

In the second hour televised lectures are discussed. Sometimes these discussions can become quite spirited. The Teaching Company provides outlines, biographies and bibliographies to expand understanding of the material presented.

FILM NOIR CLUB

Second, fourth and fifth Saturday – 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Emeritus College, IVC Campus, 1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato, Room 10

Contact: Rudy Ramirez, 491-0522, ruramc@mac.com

Film Noir is a genre (style, form or content) of distinctive classics which continues a strong revival in the United States. The French word for "black film" was coined by critic Nino Frank in 1946. The classic era of *film noir* usually dates from between the early 1940s and the late 1950s. Noir films from Japan and France are also part of many Saturday showings. In "noir," characters are often conflicted antiheroes making choices out of acute desperation. Visual elements include low-key lighting, striking use of light and shadow and unusual camera

placement. “Noir” has had significant impact on other genres. Some typical American noir films are *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Double Indemnity*.

In addition to the popcorn for which the Club leader is famous, he shares his extensive library of DVDs from the period along with critics’ comments. Some recent films shown: *Please Murder Me*, *Against the House*, *The Lineup* and *Human Desire* stir nostalgia. Club members recall some of these films from their youth. Others may have missed seeing them so now is your chance to finally catch up. (A two-month’s listing of films up for viewing and discussion now available).

ADVENTURES CLUB

Once a month – day decided by members
Meets off campus
Contact: Ruth King, 898-5845

This Club, whose “adventures” are purely social, meets each month for lunch at a different restaurant within the county of Marin. Members plan their explorations in advance to many of Marin’s cultural offerings. For instance, attending local live theater and art exhibits. Occasionally they will carpool to Sonoma or San Francisco for their cultural adventure.

Clubs now under formation:

Please phone or email the “Contact” person if you are interested in any of the following clubs.

BOCCE BALL ♣ CLUB

The Bocce Ball Club is currently re-forming
To be played in Albert Park, San Rafael
If interested please contact Bill Raffanti, 883-4079

CHESS ♣ CLUB

The Chess Club is currently forming for Thursday, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Ron Evans, 924-0998

THE ART ♣ CLUB

*The Art Club is currently forming for Friday, 12 noon - 2:00 pm
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Laura Saunders, 456-1521, dubtoe@sbcglobal.net*

COOKING ♣ CLUB

*The Cooking Club is currently forming for Saturday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Kentfield Emeritus Center, Student Services Building
Contact: Marilena Redfern, 457-1177*
