

ESCOM JOURNAL

September/October 2019



Photo: Laura Milholland

***Emeritus Students
College of Marin***

Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Doing

Lifelong Friendships

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello ESCOM Members:

Welcome to a new academic year. I always get this wonderful feeling of new beginnings every Fall—a new school year, new classes, new teachers, and new opportunities to learn and grow. No matter how many academic years I have greeted (quite a few by now) that same excitement comes over me and fills me with anticipation. One look at the Community

Education classes Fall catalog lets me know I am in the right place to pursue my lifelong learning.

Did you notice there are 40 ESCOM classes offered this fall? That could be an all time high. Of course, ESCOM members have access to all Community Education classes in addition to COM general courses. But knowing there are 40 class offerings where all ESCOM members get a discount is a gift to all of us. If you add those 40 classes to ESCOM's 30 Clubs (free to all members), you have 70 opportunities to learn something new, expand your knowledge, and engage with like-minded students - maybe you'll even discover a new passion. No wonder this idea of new beginnings takes root in the Fall when classes begin

ESCOM plans to have a busy, productive year. As I take on this new role, as ESCOM president, I am strengthened and supported by an excellent Council which has just gained seven new exceptional ESCOM members who wanted to get on board, adding their talents to our thriving and growing organization. We plan to offer more member events, such as a speaker's series, additional clubs and cultural activities. We'd very much appreciate your ideas and involvement. Much will be accomplished if we work on it together. Many thanks to all of you for being part of ESCOM and sharing your enthusiasm, skills, and expertise. Let's have a great year together.

-- Luanne Mullin



Photos (above and right): Rosie Echelmeier

A GRAND TIME WAS HAD BY ALL ...

... at the Summer Solstice meeting in June. Mark your calendar for the next General Membership meeting scheduled for 11:30 am on Saturday, December 7 at St. Johns in Ross.



COMMUNITY ED CLASS REGISTRATION CHANGES

Community Education is registering now for the Fall 1 and Fall 2 Quarters, and selling parking permits for registered Community Education students and ESCOM Club members.

Please note the following changes in Community Education office hours, effective Monday, August 26, 2019

Kentfield Campus hours will remain as Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a daily closure from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Our Kentfield Office hours on Friday are 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Indian Valley Campus hours are Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a daily closure from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Our IVC office hours on Friday are 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The IVC Community Education Office is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays until further notice.

Phone, mail-in and online registration services will remain uninterrupted during this time.

JOIN US!

***For Good Coffee and
Conversation***

At our next

MEMBERS COFFEE

***10 AM, WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER !!***

***INDIAN VALLEY
COLLEGE CAMPUS
ESCOM OFFICE***

***[http://campuses.marin
.edu/campus-maps](http://campuses.marin.edu/campus-maps)***



Photo (above): Harvey Abernathey

Photo (below): Larry Babow



NAKED LADIES

They emerge out of nowhere
 From river stones or broken cement
 A chorus of folly in vast fields of everywhere
 And highways to nowhere
 Every year in August
 A pink rally with naked legs
 Stems the color of nylons
 Ladies wore after the war
 They can wake the dead
 And cheer the most melancholic
 In the drab & lethargic
 Dog days of summer--
 Filled with anticipation & sometimes dread
 Of autumn's rapid approach
 From a summer of our discontent
 Not the lazy days we once enjoyed
 Under straw hat--
 Sand beneath our naked feet
 But the haze of modern vertigo
 And devilish designs
 Driverless cars and that eerie light of screens
 The last cherry tomato is yellow
 And early girls droop and sag
 On dried out vines
 Leaves shriveled & curled in on themselves
 As if hiding from life itself
 Or the heat driven mad
 By daily oppression of fog
 Pulled in by inland's heat
 A snake eating its tail
 Hills shrouded in mist
 As if time itself does not exist
 The spring picnic that never became summer
 The beach that lost track of itself
 As if there was not enough light to go around
 Instead fires on all sides of the state
 And around a big lake
 Fish jumped silver
 All night looking for the moon
 A man on a freeway was changing a tire
 As a row of pink ladies swayed in the breeze
 Every year they rally
 Like Cancan dancers' ruffles and all
 A final bow before the big fall

-- Marcia Taylor Smith

ESSAY

Way to Go

I was sick, very sick. I had not been able to keep food in my stomach for a week. My stomach, legs and back were in terrible pain. I took three Tramadols, one Vicodin, and got no relief, so I smoked a little cannabis, and then I was really sick. I had overdosed myself, and I was terrified, so I called 911 to take me to the Emergency Room.

Lying in the back of the ambulance I talked to Danny, the paramedic and told him that my granddaughter had been to Morocco, and came back with the same symptoms I had. She had come home sick as a dog and been sick for over two weeks. She had come to visit me the previous Sunday, and I had not felt well since. "Was it possible", I asked him "Had I picked up a germ from her?" "Absolutely" he said, "Absolutely, it is possible, the doctors at Marin General will figure it out."

We got to the hospital. I told the Emergency Room doctor the same story I had told Danny about my granddaughter in Morocco. "It is absolutely possible" he said, "I am going to email Jane Brody at the New York Times, who will put this into her new book "Modern Medical Miracles." "We are going to get you well." They moved me up to the fifth floor, where they have all their priority patients.

The hospital was much better than I expected. The main problem was from the construction noise outside the windows. The women who came into clean my room did a better job than anybody I had ever seen. They would have passed even my mother's rigid cleaning inspections.

A lovely young girl came to take my food order every day. The food, when it came, was beautifully presented and was really quite delicious. The problem was that I could not eat it. I took one bite and pushed it away, but I looked forward to the trays. Everyone at the hospital was cheerful, polite, and pleasant to be around. If anyone felt grumpy they kept it to themselves.

My doctor, a charming middle-age woman, well groomed and exquisitely dressed, came in daily and sat with me. We discussed my medical problems and my life style, what I had done with my life and how I had lived, how I wanted to live, and what I wanted to do with the years I had left. She said to me "I am going to get you well." "Are you a detective," I asked. "Yes" she said, "we are detectives."

The next morning she came in and explained to me exactly what was wrong with me, and how to handle it. "I have fallen in love with you," I said, "I want to marry you.?" "But you are married, and so am I."

"I won't tell if you won't. WE WILL LIVE A LONG LIFE OF HEAVENLY BLISS." The three nurses in attendance to her danced a delightful dance. And I was discharged.

-- Iris Tandler

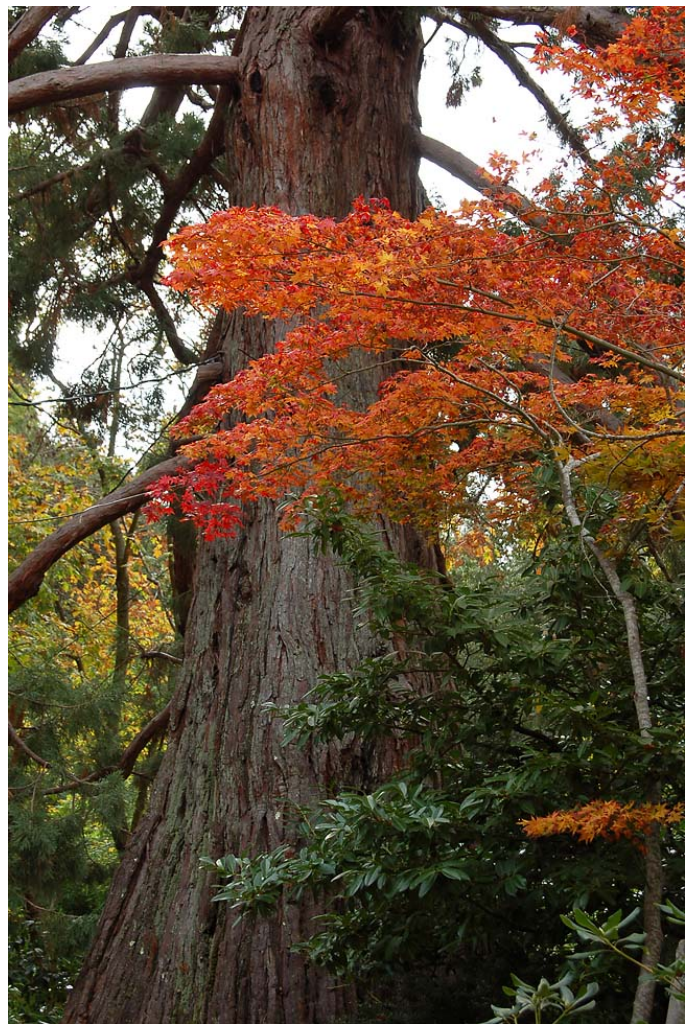


Photo: Laura Milholland

In Memoriam

Two loyal members of the ESCOM Bridge Club passed away earlier this year.

Sally Doyle

found her second calling in textile art at the College of Marin, and built a strong community of support in her art classes and in local volunteer work.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, she devoted over three decades to teaching in Connecticut and California. She taught special education and ESL, and continued her service to her community throughout her retirement, teaching English coursework to new immigrant families recently relocated to the US. She also sat on the board of a local affordable housing Association and was an active volunteer at her church.

Sally passed away at home on Mother's Day, after spending the week in the loving presence of family and friends in Lake Tahoe.

A Celebration of Life was held in June. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Sally's memory to Hospice by the Bay, 17 E. Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Larkspur, CA 94939.

Marilyn Nelson

A six-year member of the Monday bridge group, Marilyn was said to have possessed a "larger than life personality--exuberant with the joy of living." A world traveller, life-long friends enjoyed the stories she had to tell about being abroad as well as on the home front.

Last year she insisted on climbing up to her rooftop to find out where the mice were coming in, (to the dismay of her gardener/handyman, who was



Photo: Laura Milholland

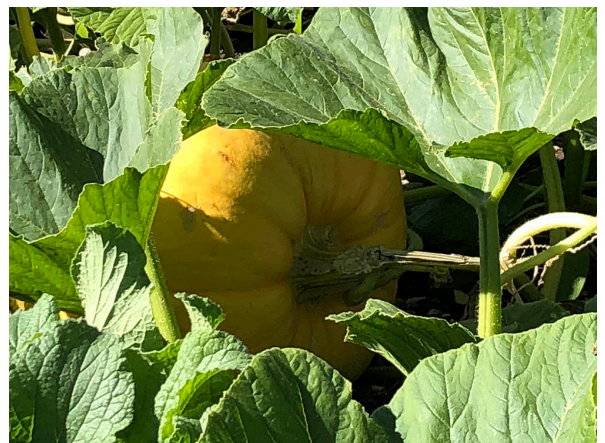
unable to dissuade her). After guiding her up and down from the roof, her only comment was, "I think that's the last time I'm going up on my roof."

At her memorial, Marilyn's sister called her "my refuge," never too busy to listen, and always welcoming. Marilyn was also a strong force in the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church, helping in many ways and always willing to do more. She called them family.

She will be remembered by her Bridge Club as smart, stylish and generous, but at the same time holding stubbornly to her own opinions, blowing off those who differed with the friendliness of her smile.

-- Lynn Mason

Photo: Laura Harrison



CAMPUS LIFE

On Kindness and Strangers

At the beginning of the summer term, I was trying to find the classroom for a class on “Finance for Women” for which I had registered. I take Whistlestop Wheels to the Kentfield Campus, as my eyesight is too poor for me to drive anymore. Whistlestop dropped me off at Parking Lot 5, but the driver didn’t know where classroom VS-4 was and neither did I. So, I went to look at the campus map that is on a pole near the stairs by the Academic Center. This map had no specifics about the VS location.

A young woman came bounding down the steps. Assuming that she was a student, I called to her for help. Obliging, she also looked at the map. She also came up with no clear idea of where “VS” was.

“My father is picking me up,” she said. Come with me and we will find the building.”

Perhaps it wasn’t the wisest decision that I have ever made, but I followed her to the car that pulled up in the pick-up area and got in – backpack, cane and all. The father was very amenable to helping me find the building and proceeded to investigate every possibility along College Ave. He got out of the car often to ask questions. The young woman also leapt out of the car several times for information. And eventually I reached my destination.

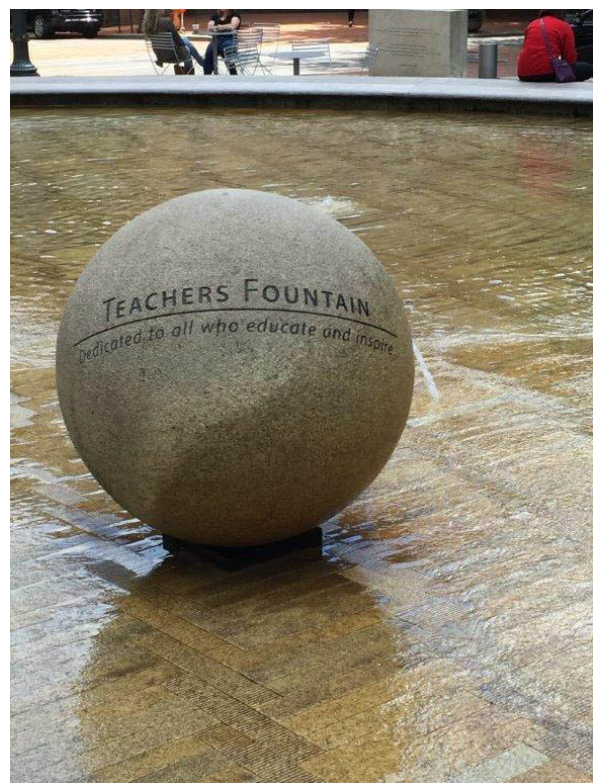
There wasn’t much time for chitchat, but I did find out that the young woman is taking classes at COM for English as a second language. She has been in the US for 6 months, from Brazil. Her father had just arrived from Brazil 3 days before helping me find my classroom! These two people showed extraordinary courtesy to “a little old lady” that they knew nothing about and will probably never see again.

So – how is that for ESCOM and the College of Marin student body? Not to mention the kindness of this father and daughter who are both new to our community and our country?

Incidentally, better campus maps would be very helpful to all who visit our campus – young and old, new and veteran alike. Larger, more detailed maps in the Continuing Education catalog would be a great start.

-- Tania Yates

Photo: Marcia Summers



Changes on the Kentfield Campus

The College of Marin Kentfield Campus Learning Resources Center (LRC-Library) will soon be emptied, demolished, and replaced with a new facility expected to open by 2023.

During construction some of the current occupants of the LRC will be moved over to the Student Services Building, which will cause some relocations in that building including ESCOM.

Brainisms

One might think I'm clever
 another may have their doubts
 as days slide to decades
 and one begins to test the waters
 of lifetimes memory chips,

a tiny anthill in the garden
 sets this cranial path alight
 as a caravan of stories collide,
 an irresistible jump on the
 hallucinogenic highway,

as feathers and shells rain down
 from the aurora borealis,
 I bend to gather armfuls
 and spot victorian characters
 in great halls beneath dusty
 chandeliers that catch jewelled
 rays of solar dancers,

we're all here together
 laughing at the shores
 of our favorite beach
 a bright yellow and black
 bird is chittering atop some
 evergreen, definitely a migrant

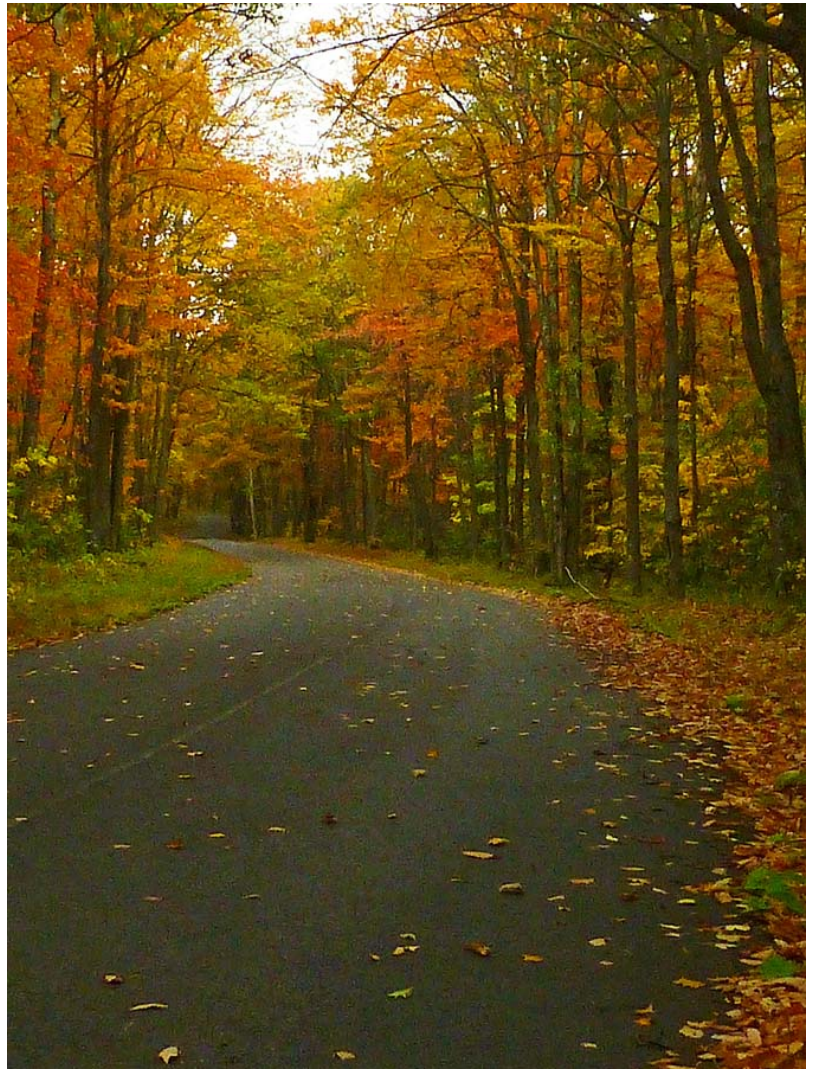


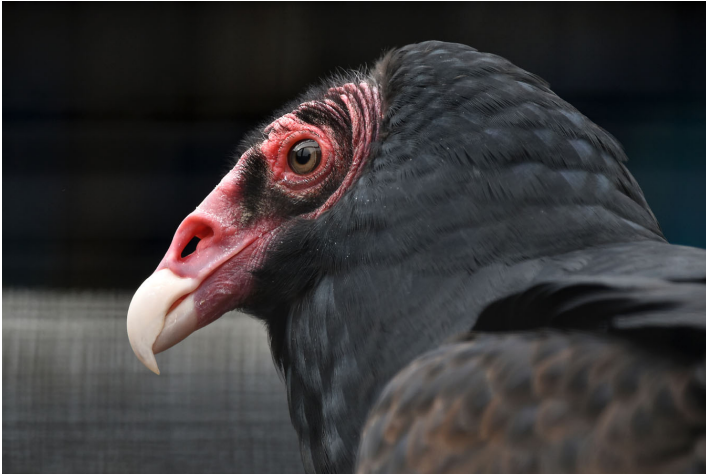
Photo: Marcia Summers

grateful for wings, free to cross
 borders free to sing every language,

everyone seems to love what I love,
 this enchanted world is real! No one
 is hidden in a closet, a biplane flies
 above with a giant gecko flag
 and the dog that barks at the sky
 calls me back to this summer day.

-- Margie Heckelman, Poetic Pilgrimage

WILDLIFE GALLERY



Photos above: Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Laura Milholland

Photos right (top down): Ash Crested Flycatcher, Harvey Abernathy; Fox, Laura Milholland; Squirrel, Larry Babow

BRIDGE ANYONE?

The Monday Bridge Group met on July 15 for their semiannual Awards Luncheon. Those in attendance warmly congratulated the winners, Toni Middleton for Highest Score and Highest Score for One Day, and Ann Snook for Second Highest Score. The potluck was delightful mix of salads, fruits, desserts, and other dishes perfect for the hot summer day.

For almost forty years, the club has kept a record of each player's score, but recently decided it was time to make a change. Members agreed that the focus will now be on the pleasure of the company and the playing the game—without our former emphasis on competition. Thus, this was the final session for keeping records. Players can choose to keep their score for the day, but tallies will no longer be collected.

A special shout-out went to Ann Marie Melanephy who has volunteered to record the game tallies onto detailed spreadsheets every week and to take the large Esther Mamet Memorial Trophy to the engravers at the end of each session. She spent hours doing this complicated statistical job, as well as many other tasks for the Bridge Club.

The group's enthusiasm for bridge, and the friendships that have formed over the years is as strong as ever, and all members look forward to continuing their uplifting Monday get-togethers.

— Lynn Mason

Toni Middleton, who plays bridge in the Monday and Thursday clubs, hopes to organize a group for ESCOM members who want to return to bridge and need a refresher. Anyone interested in this group to contact her at middletontoni@yahoo.com or 651/280-0016



Photo: Laura Milholland

Autumn

Warm is all but gone now
frown in the color
of new cold mornings
absent the light of day
in which the trees sway
dropping cones and branches old
and leaves of bright colors
new with this season
only to be wooed by winter
when rain ensues
and drown in brown
in the absence of sounds
of birds and the noisy words
of children once without coats
now with muffled hands
that make the somber songs
of this season's change.

-- Denize Springer

MEMOIR

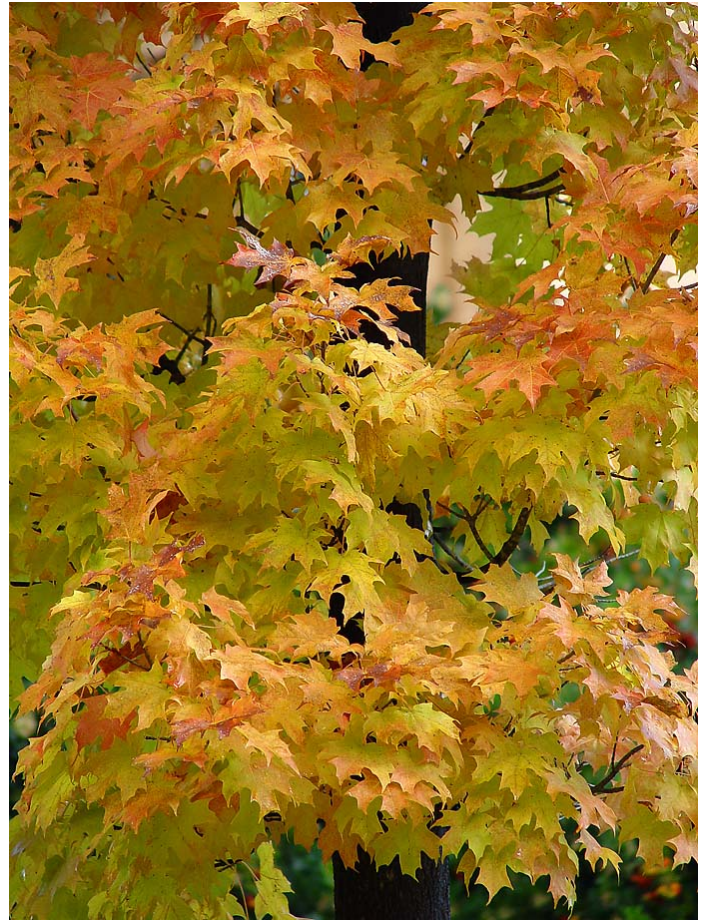
Absolutely Fabulous

Paris 1987. The evening's activities flowed like magical waters. The train arrived just as I stepped onto the Metro platform. The second I walked through the door, someone got up to leave, giving me a seat in a train overflowing with people. My limited French somehow kicked into high gear, and I understood what people were saying. The air was electric.

As we neared the Place de la Concorde station at one end of the long avenue Champs-Élysées, voices became more excited and conversations more animated. When the train doors opened, we exited en masse, as if we were all friends going to the same party. The trees along the Champs-Élysées were shimmering with golden-white holiday lights. In the fountain at the Place de la Concorde, the looping cords of red, green and blue lights swayed slightly in the evening breeze, creating a colorful reflection dancing in the water below.

As I walked around the plaza, I noticed an empty table inside a café's huge window that opened right onto the street. I went inside quickly, sat down, ordered a bottle of Perrier for the equivalent of \$6.50, and soaked in the spirit of New Year's Eve in Paris. Fabulous. Absolutely fabulous.

— Linda Minor



Photos (this page): Laura Milholland

Once Upon A Shakespeare Play

then let it be thusly so
That you and I shall meet
Upon the arc of Apollo's path
With light and play replete

And as we sup sweet logo's wit
With joust and and point well spoken
May Thalia's comic repartee
Dance lightly on ears awoken

-- Louise Potter Yost



Photo: Laura Milholland

A Random Shower

Light and shade slowly segue into mist.
A soft rain filters on Fifth Avenue.
People moving quickly,
weaving within glass and granite canyons.

We met here almost twenty years ago
in May
I wonder if he still lives here?

Heads down, collars up
Running, crossblending -
Almost touching, but not quite
(these are strangers after all).

The mist becomes a gentle rain.
Light turns grey,
yet in the wellspring of faces
I see him -
walking toward me.
Unmistakable!
Shoulders bowed, hair somewhat grey,
Not as tall as I'd remembered.

I reach out to stop him.
He looks at me,
then straight ahead
and hurries down Fifth Avenue
In the rain.

-- Diedre Silverman

MUSICAL NOTES

Upcoming Kentfield Campus Performances

FACULTY RECITAL: The College of Marin's music faculty take the stage for their annual recitals! Repertoire to be announced; donations benefit the College of Marin music student scholarship fund.

Friday, September 27, 2019 – 7:30 pm **and** Saturday,
September 28, 2019 – 3 pm, Lefort Recital Hall / PA72
Performing Arts Building

Free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis;
search brownpapertickets.com for COM Music.

GOLDEN GATE BRASS BAND, Trevor Björklund, Director

The Golden Gate Brass Band at COM is Marin's premier all-brass ensemble made up of students, talented amateurs, and local professionals. Search brownpapertickets.com for COM Music to purchase tickets.

Saturday, Oct 5, 2019 — 3 pm

Lefort Recital Hall / PA72 Performing Arts Building

Saturday, Nov 23, 2019 — 7:30 pm James Dunn Theatre

Performing Arts Building

CONTEMPORARY OPERA MARIN, Paul Smith, Director

Gone to the Dogs...and the Cats: Chamber Operas with an Animal Twist. Saturday, November 2, 2019 — 7 pm, Sunday, November 10, 2019 — 2 pm, Lefort Recital Hall / PA72, Performing Arts Building

Saturday, November 9, 2019 — 7 pm, Muir Beach
Community Center 19 Seacape Dr., Muir Beach

COM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHAMBER CONCERT

Boyd Jarrell, Director

Members of the College of Marin Symphony Orchestra team up for an afternoon of music for small ensembles. Program length approximately one hour; donations received benefit the COM Symphony Orchestra. Sunday, Nov 3, 2019 — 3 pm, Lefort Recital Hall / PA 72, Performing Arts Building

THE ESCOM JOURNAL WELCOMES YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Send your best work to denizespringer@gmail.com

GUIDELINES

Submit your final, proofed work. Changes, unless absolutely necessary, will not be accepted after submission.

Include your name in file name and on the page of any documents. You must be an ESCOM member.

WRITTEN WORK must be single spaced, left margin oriented, and ATTACHED as a Word doc. Do not submit PDFs of written work (as these cannot be properly transferred or edited).

ART and PHOTOGRAPHY images must be no larger than 300 kb and attached to the email in the .pdf or .jpeg format (not imbedded in email message). Images larger than 300 kb or saved as a .tif file will not be considered.

POETS: If your poem must be centered, please note. Misspellings, grammatical errors and erroneous line breaks could be mistaken as the author's intent and not corrected. Proof your copy before sending it in.

Information for "In Memoriam" must be verified with an obituary that appears in an official resource such as a newspaper to avoid embarrassing errors.

NEXT DEADLINE: October 15, 2019

Photo: Laura Milholland



ESCOM Journal

The ESCOM Journal (published on www.escomnews.com), a publication of the Emeritus Students, College of Marin, is published on alternate months online. A limited number of printed copies are available in the ESCOM Campus offices on the College of Marin Kentfield and Indian Valley campuses. ESCOM members are invited to submit news items, or creative works, such as original art, photography, poetry, memoir and fiction (please consult the guidelines in each issue before submitting). The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the prior month. Submissions or questions and comments should be addressed to the editor: denizespringer@gmail.com

ESCOM Council

President, Luanne Mullin

Vice President (Interim), Dick Park

Treasurer: Toni Middleton

Ellen Braezeale, Joan Cassin, Jay Conner, Abe Farkas, Nancy P. Major, Bonnie Jean Martz, Jim Moore, Gini Moore, Bev Munyon, Michael Semler, Denize Springer

Emeritus Council Member, Paul Tandler

ESCOM Centers

Indian Valley campus: 1800 Ignacio Blvd., Bldg. 10 Rm. 40, Novato, CA 94949

Kentfield Campus: 835 College Ave., Student Service Bldg. Rm. 146, Kentfield, CA 94904

415/ 485-9652 escom@marin.edu

www.marin.edu/escom

Production of the ESCOM Journal is supported by the Joan Hopper Trust.