



The MICL Letter

June 2025

Summer Session

A Message from our MICL President - Bruce Clifton

The Climbing Tools of SPLASH



Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light." - George Washington

K2, the second-highest mountain on earth on the border of China and Pakistan, is considered the most difficult mountain to climb. To date, an estimated 96 climbers have died attempting to reach its summit. Scaling it is a grueling task that requires, amongst other things, the right physical tools.

When it comes to learning, I equate the difficulty of determining truth similar to climbing K2. Most of the time, at best on any given issue, we are only partially there, reaching “an approximation of the truth.” And still, even with the right tools, we might die trying or find out that we were climbing the wrong mountain. In fact, when it comes to all the questions of life, answering all of them is impossible.

Fortunately, determining the truth is about the journey. In doing so, we can utilize a set of “mind tools” that humankind has developed throughout history. This toolkit has been represented in our 2024-2025 MICL Theme **SPLASH**. The choice of tools can help us **Splash** into learning, engage in **Play**, **Lean** into our discomfort, experience newness to **Awaken**, open ourselves to a perspective **Shift**, or accept the complexity of **Humor**. It’s been fun to explore these concepts together this academic year.

In closing, I thank you for allowing me to be our MICL President. It has given me an opportunity to get to know more about this organization and each of you who make it special. As I shift positions, I feel privileged to hand over the gavel at our May 7th Annual Luncheon to our wonderful Johnnie Williams as she serves as our new President into the Summer Semester and the 2025-2026 academic year.





Bruce Clifton



Dan Gorman

FIELD TRIPS:
June 14, 2025
"A Tribute To The Beach Boys"
See Flyer for Details

SUMMER Classes:
June 3 thru
August 7, 2025

2025 Summer Session					
June 3 – August 7, 2025					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 am to NOON		 The Meaning of Life	 Language Families	 Current Events	
1 pm to 3 pm		6/3 – 7/1  Improv 7/8 – 8/5  Comedy	 Wednesday at The Movies	 Book Club	

2024 - 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bruce Clifton
President-Elect	Johnnie Williams
Secretary	Linda Lagace
Treasurer	Dorothy Ford
Curriculum	Bob Droual
Communications	Debi Jackson
Facilities	Noel Russell
Membership	Roger Jackson
Publicity	Betty Stewart
Hospitality	Maureen Fuertes
Field Trips	Dan Gorman

CLASSES ARE HELD

IN THE EL CAPITAN CENTER BUILDING
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
DURING FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS
Summer Session No Mondays or Fridays

Annette Olsen	Immediate Past President
Suad Alsamiri	MJC Comm. Ed. Specialist
MJC Lifelong Learning	(209) 575-6063
MJC West Campus, El Capitan Bldg.	2201 Blue Gum Ave. Modesto, CA
George Pettygrove, 1920-2014	Founders
Odessa Johnson	

T U E S D A Y

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Jim Pack



MEANING OF LIFE: PERSPECTIVE FROM THE WORLDS GREAT INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS: Guided by a passionate and thorough professor, this intellectually gripping course offers a rigorous and wide-ranging exploration of what various spiritual, religious, and philosophical traditions from both the East and the West have contributed to our history.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Karen Conway



IMPROV: 6/3 - 7/1 For five weeks, we'll learn how the benefits of Improv can help improve quality of life for seniors and others. We'll hear from experts and performance artists and find out why Improv is becoming a universal cognitive tool as well as being a great way to create a lot of fun! The goal is to enhance a Yes/And attitude and train our thoughts and conversations toward more Win/Win scenarios. In every two hour session, we'll practice some of these techniques through spontaneous and inter-active experiences. With time, we may even develop short "scenes" and "skits" based on word suggestions and concepts...all in very non-threatening and non-judgmental ways. Active participation is hoped for, but not mandatory, although you may not be able to resist once we start the warm-ups.

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
John Stott



COMEDY/ENTERTAINMENT: 7/8 - 8/5 We will explore Situation Comedies from the past, along with stand up comedy from "comedy records". We will also watch '50's newsreel bits, and clips from movie comedies. Come enjoy the fun.

W E D

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
David Froba



LANGUAGE FAMILIES OF THE WORLD: First, below is a link that will get you to the trailer for the Language Families of the World class this summer. Just click on "trailer". This course is presented by Professor Mc Wortner, who has done three courses for us over the last couple of years on various aspects of linguistics: general linguistics, the alphabet, and now the language families of the world. He's the kind of teacher who can make a ham sandwich interesting (as well as delicious). He also has an excellent sense of humor.

<https://www.thegreatcoursesplus.com/language-families-of-the-world>

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

W E D N E S D A Y

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Noel Russell



WEDNESDAY AT THE MOVIES: Start your mid-week relaxation with a film classic or foreign film (subtitled in English, of course) that will carry you away to other times and other places. Discussion encouraged but not required.

6/4 - "Casanova"

6/11 - "Find Me Guilty"

6/18 - "Going in Style"

6/25 - "Hidalgo"

7/2 - "Idiocracy"

7/9 - "Intermission"

7/16 - "Island in the Sky"

7/23 - "Lady for a Day"

7/30 - "Mad Money"

8/6 - To be announced

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Dorothy Winke



CURRENT EVENTS: Have you ever watched TV or read a newspaper article, opinion, or letter to the editor and really wanted to discuss or react to what you read? "*Current Events*" is just the class for you. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings from your neighborhood, local, regional, state, national, and world news. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of our collective expertise.

Coordinator:
David Froba



12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM **BREAK**

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Arleen Allsup



BOOK CLUB: We read a nonfiction book one month and a fiction book the next month. The book is suggested and selected by the group and will be moderated by the person that suggested the book title. Our group is open to everyone, even if you have not read or have previously read the book. Please feel free to join the group for any of the meetings. Keep Reading!

7/3: "**So Long, See You Tomorrow**", by William Maxwell (1980; 135 pages)

This spectacular, short novel looks at a long-ago crime and a grown man's often faulty memory of it. It also explores the guilt the man feels about the way he treated a close friend when both were teenagers. This is a wonderfully written book. William Maxwell was the fiction editor of "The New Yorker" for forty years. He has written many short stories and other novels.

"This is one of the best books I have ever read. It has been called 'A small, perfect novel'," John Updike

T H U R S D A Y

2025 SUMMER REGISTRATION

Online: micl-online.org or mjc4life.org

MICL Summer 2025 - MJC Community Lifelong Learning

Register by Phone: (209) 575-6063

Cost: \$30.00

EVENT SCHEDULE			
Summer Session Starts	June 3, 2025		
Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	No Summer Meetings	
Board Meeting	2nd Wednesday	No Summer Meetings	
Birthday Luncheons	3rd Friday	June 20 & July 18	1:00 pm
Potluck	Thursday	No Potlucks	
Book Club	Thursday	July 3 & August 7	1:00 pm
Summer Session Ends	August 7 , 2024		

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MICL FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

2:00 P.M.

SEATS ARE \$30 EACH

Playing at the East Sonora Theatre, 13891 Mono Way, Sonora, CA
1/4 mile east of The Junction Shopping Center.



Surf's up! Get ready for an unforgettable experience as we celebrate the timeless sounds of The Beach Boys. Join us for a thrilling "live show" featuring all their classic hits alongside hidden gems from their incredible catalog. Jam out to the soundtrack of an Endless Summer brought to life on the East Sonora stage. You don't want to miss this chance to relive the magic of The Beach Boys!

Deadline: May 24th
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MICL
MAIL CHECK TO: DAN GORMAN
2215 EL CAPITAN
TURLOCK, CA. 95380

NOTE: Dinner afterwards at Standard Pour Restaurant at 4:30 p.m.
Let Dan know if you want to be included in the reservations.