



# The MICL Letter

November 2023

Fall Session C

## Message from our President - Annette Olsen



### Bloom and Grow with Lifelong Learning

Dear MICLites,

I can't believe that Session B has come to an end, and we are gearing up for Session C and the end of the Semester. Time flies with such engaging classes!



Travels Around the World continues to bring us to a wide variety of sights and scenery. The Propaganda class blew us away! The Fall and Rise of China continues to expand our knowledge of a complicated history. Social Zoom enjoyed great stories through their "scavenger hunt" items. All Things Considered (formerly Potpourri) brought us a wide variety of interesting topics. Our ongoing class Writing it Down continues to generate great creativity, while Current Events continues to foster lively conversations. We had the return of Everyday Engineering and learned more about how complicated many ordinary things actually are. Friday at the Movies continues to bring additional nuance to the classes they are related to, and produce vibrant conversation over lunch afterward.

In Session C we continue our Travels Around The World, The Fall and Rise of China, Social Zoom, Writing it Down, Current Events and Friday at The Movies. We will also enjoy the return of Birding, with David Froba. Each week we meet in the classroom to learn about a list of birds, then (on a separate day) we go out on a field trip to look for them. We will also get the scoop on some famous artists when Roger Jackson presents Biographies of Artists. There promises to be spirited conversations in MICLites Discuss Books, presented by Carol Sullivan. The books will range from fiction to non-fiction, banned or not.

I have been so glad to see Sessions A & B of our 2023 Fall Semester getting such robust attendance. I have also been very happy to see so many new members! I want to thank all of our members who have been bringing folks to check out MICL!!! I would like to challenge all MICLites to tell someone new about MICL. MICL is a hidden gem in the community and we want to spread the word. We are our best advertisement! I appreciate all your help and support!

Sincerely,

Annette Olsen, President



**FIELD TRIPS:**  
**The Art of Cooking/Crocker Art**  
**December 1, 2023**  
**8:30 am - 7:30 pm**

**SESSION C Classes:**  
**November 6 thru**  
**December 15, 2023**

**Fall 2023 Session C**

**November 6 – December 15, 2023**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>10 am to NOON</b>	 Travels Around the World	 The Fall and Rise of China	 Biographies of Artists	 Current Events	 Friday at The Movies
<b>1 pm to 3 pm</b>	 Birding	 Social Zoom	 Writing it Down!	 MICLites Discuss Books	

**2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President Annette Olsen
- President-Elect Bruce Clifton
- Secretary Debi Jackson
- Treasurer Dorothy Ford
- Curriculum, VP David Froba
- Communications Johnnie Williams
- Facilities Dan Gorman
- Membership Ron Rutschman
- Publicity Betty Stewart
- Hospitality Maureen Fuertes
- Field Trips Roger Jackson

**CLASSES ARE HELD**

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

Diana Sicard Immediate Past President  
 Vicki Vander Veen 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**

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:  
Jerry Jackman



**TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD:** In this class we bring in MICL members and friends of members to tell us about their trips, near as well as far and wide. You can expect lots of great pictures, perhaps videos, and most of all, stories about the trips. In addition to the experience of virtually going along on these trips, you will learn how the trip was planned and other background information. For good reason, this course has consistently been the MICL class with the largest attendance. Come and see the world!

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:  
David Froba



**BIRDING:** Why bird in the middle of the winter? Because there are many more birds that migrate into our area in the winter than in any other season. We will focus on bird identification, and more specifically, on identification of birds in our local area. In each class we will study about 10 different species of birds. Then, on the weekend following each class, we will go out to a nearby natural area and try to find these ten species. We will also find bonus birds that we haven't studied and identify them in the field. David Sibley's "Field Guide to Birds of Western North. America" is recommended but not required.

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:  
Betty Stewart



**THE FALL AND RISE OF CHINA:** China is a world in transition, a civilization represented by a nation state. In area, China is half the size of Russia, but its population is 1.45 billion compared to that of Russia at 145 million. With the Chinese Communist Party's aggressive counterintelligence and espionage actions against the US, are they the biggest threat to our democracy? On the heels of our Russia course, join us in this comprehensive look at China to decide for yourself. Reactive discussion will follow each lecture.

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:  
Diana Sicard



**SOCIAL ZOOM:** If you're missing your friends during these days of social distancing, consider joining our MICL Social Zoom. It's fun, and it will lift your spirits more than you might imagine. Time spent talking to, and hanging out with people will lift your mood! Please join us!

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:  
**Roger Jackson**



**BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS:** As long as we humans have been able to use our hands, we have been creating art. From early cave paintings to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, human artistic expression can tell us a lot about the lives of the people who create it.

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

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:  
**Joyce Starkey**



**WRITING IT DOWN:** Do you like to write? Do you have family stories you want to share with your grandkids? Do you like to write poetry? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come join our writing group. Write anything you like at home and bring it to class when you are ready to share. We will enjoy what you wrote and offer friendly feedback. Don't worry, sharing is always voluntary! If you are not sure, come and listen to check it out. Come and join our writing community of writers and listeners.

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:  
**Duane Nelson**



**CURRENT EVENTS:** Have you ever watched TV or read a news paper 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.

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

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:  
**Carol Sullivan**



**MICLites DISCUSS BOOKS:** I know we have lots of readers in this group. We will be discussing books of all genres from many different authors. Some books will be fiction, some non-fiction. How many banned books have you read? Have you started reading them in your own personal protest to the ban? Join us.

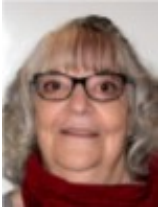
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Coordinator:  
**Carol Sullivan**



**BOOK CLUB:** We meet the last Thursday of each Session. 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!

**December 14, 2023**

**“The Wager”, by David Grann**

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They were survivors of His Majesty’s Ship the *Wager*, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 on a secret mission during an imperial war with Spain. While the *Wager* had been chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon known as “the prize of all the oceans,” it had wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing nearly 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas. They were greeted as heroes.

But then...six months later, another, even more decrepit craft landed on the coast of Chile. This boat contained just three castaways, and they told a very different story. The thirty sailors who landed in Brazil were not heroes—they were mutineers. The first group responded with counter-charges of their own, of a tyrannical and murderous senior officer and his henchmen. It became clear that while stranded on the island the crew had fallen into anarchy, with warring factions fighting for dominion over the barren wilderness. As accusations of treachery and murder flew, the Admiralty convened a court martial to determine who was telling the truth. The stakes were life-and-death—for whomever the court found guilty could hang.

*The Wager* is a grand tale of human behavior at the extremes told by one of our greatest nonfiction writers. Grann’s recreation of the hidden world on a British warship rivals the work of Patrick O’Brian, his portrayal of the castaways’ desperate straits stands up to the classics of survival writing such as *The Endurance*, and his account of the court-martial has the savvy of a Scott Turow thriller. As always with Grann’s work, the incredible twists of the narrative hold the listener spellbound.

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:  
**Noel Russell**



**FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES:** Start your weekend 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. Details of the movies are posted just before the semester starts.

**Nov. 10 - NO MOVIE - HOLIDAY**

Nov. 17 - “From Mao to Mozart” (114 min)

Dec. 1 - “Fascinating World of Birds and...” (44 min)

“...Disney Nature Wings of Life” (80 min)

Dec. 8 - “Lust for Life” (122 min)

Dec. 15 - “Frida” (123 min)

**NO SCHOOL**

**Nov. 20 - Nov. 24, 2023 AND Dec. 18, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024**

## MICL – Field Trip to Sacramento

Immersed in the Arts

December 1, 2023

**TRIP SOLD OUT**



### Enjoy the Art of Cooking.

**Café Napoli** was founded on October 13, 1992, by Hassi Sadri. It has been the place to go-to for mouth-watering gourmet dishes and for the best event caterings.

You will be sure to enjoy this cooking experience! This is the Disneyland ride of cooking classes. You will experience the wonderful talents of the funny Chef Hassi and his fellow culinary experts.

You'll learn priceless cooking tips and great traditional recipes, sample many foods, get hands-on experience making your own food that you get to eat and bring home. Full bar is available as well. Desserts for purchase! You don't want to miss this **FUN** experience!



**The Crocker Art Museum** features the world's foremost display of California art and is renowned for its holdings of European master drawings and international ceramics. The Crocker serves as the primary regional resource for the study and appreciation of fine art and offers a diverse spectrum of exhibitions, events, and programs to augment its collections, including films, concerts, studio classes, lectures, children's activities, and more.

### Itinerary:

Depart the El Capitan - Modesto 8:30 a.m.  
Arrive at Napoli Culinary Academy – 10:15 a.m.  
Culinary Experience – 10:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Crocker Museum 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Arrive Modesto – 7:30 p.m.

## EVENT SCHEDULE

Session C Starts	November 6, 2023		
Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	Nov. 7, 2023	3:15 pm
Board Meeting	2nd Wednesday	Nov. 8, 2023	3:15 pm
Birthday Luncheons	3rd Friday	Nov. 17 &	1:00 pm
Potluck	Last Thursday	Dec. 14, 2023	11:30 am
Book Club	Last Thursday	Dec. 14, 2023	1:00 pm
Session C Ends	December 15, 2023		

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