

Weekly Update Fall Session C November 13 - November 17, 2023

WEBSITE: micl-online.org

Most of our classes will be held in person, with the exception of Social Hour/Social Zoom, which will be held via Zoom. You will receive an email invitation before each Social Zoom session. You will wait in a waiting room until the host lets you into the group. If you do not receive an email invitation, please call Annette Olsen at (916) 215-6967.

FACEBOOK: Enter MICL in search field then at site click on +Join Group.

Monday, November 13, 10:00 AM - NOON: TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD

Coordinator: **Jerry Jackman**

Travel has been among the most popular MICL classes for decades. The wide variety of travel stories and visual presentations is the main reason. Our own members usually "show and tell" about where they have been and what they have seen but we welcome others to show what they've got. The travels may take us anywhere or just around this varied state. Come, start out your week with us at MICL Travels

Fresh from Europe we have the seldom seen MICLite Sandra Wilson and her longtime hiking and traveling buddy Monica Casey. What began as a Barcelona to Rome tour ended up as month long journey. Let's see what they were up to, starting in Paris.

Monday, November 13, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: BIRDING

Coordinator: **David Froba**

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 10 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. It would also be good to watch the video "Wings Over Our Two Counties" on YouTube before the class.

Tuesday, November 14, 10:00 AM - NOON: THE FALL AND RISE OF CHINA

Coordinator: **Betty Stewart**

Heading into more familiar times for all of us, Session C on China will cover the period from the 1960's up to 1977. Mao's tenure during this period was volatile and full of drama up to his death in 1976. In addition to the Great Course lectures, we'll explore the Chinese way of day-to-day life. We'll also compare their thought processes to ours, discovering the fascinating differences and the similarities.

1st Hour: China - Banker to the world; "Mao's Last Revolution Begins" 1965-1966

2nd Hour: “The Children’s Crusade” 1966-1967

Tuesday, November 14, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: SOCIAL ZOOM

Coordinator: **Diana Sicard**

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!

We will be sharing pet/animal stories with each other.

Wednesday, November 15, 10:00 AM - NOON: BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

Coordinator: **Roger Jackson**

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. We will explore the biographies of various artist and their life’s work.

1st Hour: Judy Moore – Vincent Van Gogh

2nd Hour: Randy Mathews – Leonardo DaVinci

Wednesday, November 15, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: WRITING IT DOWN

Coordinator: **Joyce Starkey**

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.

Thursday, November 16, 10:00 AM – NOON: CURRENT EVENTS

Coordinator: **David Froba**

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? This class allows and encourages you to do just that. We discuss all kinds of issues and happenings, local, regional, statewide, national, worldwide, and occasionally universe-wide. You bring in the topic, introduce it, and we all discuss it with the help of our considerable collective expertise. We are very careful to respect the rights of all to express their opinions.

Thursday, November 16, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - MICLITES DISCUSS BOOKS

Coordinator - **Carol Sullivan**

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?

Presenter Judy Moore

Woman Of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky.

Presenter Arlene Allsup

A Prisoner of Tehran, A Memoir written by Marina Nemat

In January 1982, Marina Nemat, then just sixteen years old, was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to death for political crimes. Until then, her life in Tehran had centered around school, summer parties at the lake, and her crush on Andre, the young man she had met at church. But when math and history were subordinated to the study of the Koran and political propaganda, Marina protested. Her teacher replied, "If you don't like it, leave." She did, and, to her surprise, other students followed.

Soon she was arrested with hundreds of other youths who had dared to speak out, and they were taken to the notorious Evin prison in Tehran. Two guards interrogated her. One beat her into unconsciousness; the other, Ali, fell in love with her.

Friday, November 17, 10:00 AM - NOON: FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES

Coordinator: **Noel Russell**

Start your weekend relaxation with a film that will carry you away to other times and other places. Discussion encouraged but not required.

From Mao to Mozart

"Follows Isaac Stern to China where he taught classical music to Chinese students. Contains a segment on the suffering of Chinese musicians during the Cultural Revolution." (114 minutes)

Friday, November 17th, 1 PM - MICL BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



We will gather at Mimi's on November 17th at 1 PM. Let Dorothy Winke know you are coming, by sending an email to dorothywinke@gmail.com, a text message to her at 209-499-2129, or easier still, tell her in person at MICL. Be sure to remind her if it is your birthday month so you can receive a free dessert provided by Mimi's.

FUTURE MICL EVENTS

Friday, December 1, ALL DAY - CROCKER ART MUSEUM AND CAFÉ NAPOLI –
Trip is FULL

Thursday, December 14, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM - SESSION C POTLUCK

Thursday, December 14, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - MICL BOOK CLUB

SESSION C December 14, 2023 1:00 P.M. in the Office after the Potluck

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 countercharges 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.

February 15, 2024, SPRING SESSION A MICL BOOK CLUB

1:00 pm in the Office after the potluck

DEMON COPPERHEAD by Barbara Kingsolver

The group has decided that they want to read this book during the Christmas Break and discuss it for Session A in the Spring. It has 560 pages. I am told this book is a page turner and very enjoyable.

From the acclaimed author of *The Poisonwood Bible* and *The Bean Trees*, a brilliant novel that enthralls, compels, and captures the heart as it evokes a young hero's unforgettable journey to maturity.

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for listeners/readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story. *Demon Copperhead* speaks for a new generation of lost boys, and all those born into beautiful, cursed places they can't imagine leaving behind.