



The MICL Letter

November 2024

Fall Session C

A Message from MICL President - Bruce Clifton



Lean Into The SPLASH of MICL



The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy. It's such an iconic building! Back in 1985, I posed in front of it, comically doing what millions of tourists have done since the invention of the camera: extending my hand in the foreground creating the illusion that my hand was preventing the tower from toppling to the ground. Everyone around me was doing it! But later, that made me think. Besides being a fun thing to do, why else do so many people feel the impulse to engage in this little stunt? My sneaking suspicion? A leaning building makes most of us uncomfortable. For God's sake, even Benito Mussolini was so freaked out by the building's lean (calling it a "national disgrace") that he tried to fix it. However, his efforts only made it worse. In fact, there were many projects, before and after Mussolini, that failed to correct the famous landmark. So, over a history of failed attempts, what did we humans finally do about the Leaning Tower of Pisa? Instead of cowering away from it, we did what modern psychologist Brene Brown suggests we do when we see something that makes us anxious: To "lean into the discomfort." In other words, observe what makes us anxious with curiosity and explore what it might mean to us. Today, millions of tourists now "lean" into the Leaning Tower of Pisa and see it in a new light.

To me, this beloved tourist attraction is a metaphor for MICL. Our classes, based on the foundations of evidenced-based disciplines such as science, history, and psychology, often challenge our assumptions about the world. That sometimes brings discomfort. Even thinking about getting up in the morning to go to one of our purely non-academic activities such as the birthday luncheon or "Pizza Party, Salad, and Preview," can trigger a bit of social anxiety. However, every action we take to get together with others and allow ourselves to engage in new concepts helps us feel more alive. In fact, when we "lean into the discomfort," we actually take action on our MICL theme of 2024-2025 of SPLASH!

So, with the L in our SPLASH acronym explained, let's individually and collectively "lean into" the following pages of our Fall Session C material. As you will observe, a few will be continuing from Session B and some will be brand new. Embrace as few or as many as you like and we'll see you at MICL!

FIELD TRIPS:
We are forming a Trip Committee
If you would like to join
Contact: Bruce Clifton

SESSION C Classes:
November 4 thru
December 13, 2024

Fall 2024 Session C					
November 4 – December 13, 2024					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10 am to NOON	 Travels Around the World	 History of India	 Winston Churchill	 Current Events	 Friday at The Movies
1 pm to 3 pm	 TED Talks	 Birding on ZOOM	 Writing it Down!	 Mysteries of Human Behavior	

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Field Trips Open

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
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:
Lynn Hanson



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!

11/11, 11/25 No Class

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Arleen Allsup



TED TALKS: TED Conferences, (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is an American-Canadian non-profit media organization that posts international talks online for free distribution under the slogan "ideas worth spreading". There are thousands of TED Talks that are available for free online on all sorts of topics. They can be no longer than 18 minutes and most are less. They generally attract very capable people who are also very engaging to listen to. At MICL, we will form a committee to search the web in search of particularly good TED Talks. We'll review them in committee and decide which ones will be seen in the course. Of course, our class discussion will be an important part of the experience. ***11/11, 11/25 No Class***

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Jerry Jackman



HISTORY OF INDIA: The success of the MICL Russia and China classes has inspired us to tackle the awesome civilizations of South Asia. Each hour will begin with a half-hour presentation titled "History of India" by Professor Michael H. Fisher of Oberlin College followed by class discussion. As the class progresses we will hear from people of South Asia which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Select YouTube videos will be used to ground the discussion with the realities of these societies today. You will be amazed!

11/26 No Class

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
David Froba



BIRDING: This year we are going to be doing the birding class by zoom. One of the advantages of that is that the class will be recorded and available to those unable to attend the class to see at a later time. It will be a recurring zoom class and the following invitation and information will be the same for each week.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82467980141?pwd=EgXomebaaFv9NzTx0K1hI4VqlbK35O.1>

Meeting ID: 8246 7980 0141 ***11/26 No Class***

Passcode: 263484

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. It would also be good to watch the video "**Wings Over Our Two Counties**" on You Tube before the class.

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Duane Nelson



WINSTON CHURCHILL: This course is a narrative of the life and achievements of Winston Churchill. Through Professor J. Rufus Fears, of the University of Oklahoma, and moderator Duane Nelson, we explore Churchill’s political career, leadership, motivation during World War II, and guidance into the present. We will develop an understanding as to why Winston Churchill is regarded as one of the greatest figures of the 20th Century.

11/27 No Class

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.

11/27 No Class

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.

11/28 No Class

12:00 NOON TO 1:00 PM BREAK

1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

Coordinator:
Jim Pack



MYSTERIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR: Why do people behave the way they do? Understanding the Mysteries of Human Behavior, by psychologist and professor Mark Leary, is your guide to the latest theories and research from psychology and other behavioral sciences on this age- old question. Understand the answers will help you better know yourself and the people around you. With the powerful insights you'll find in these Wondrium lectures, and in our class discussions, you'll be looking at your own and other peoples behavior with a little more insight, curiosity, and wonderment.

11/28 No Class

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1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM

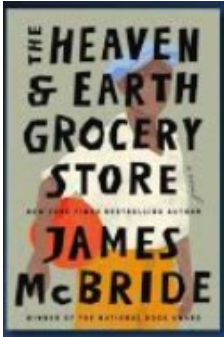
Coordinator:
Arlene Allsup



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 12, 2024

“The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store”, by James McBride



It opens with the discovery of a skeleton in a well in a small town. This introduction to the Chicken Hill area of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, sets up a sense of mystery as the narrative jumps back nearly 50 years to explore the town, its secrets and its people.

Chicken Hill is a vibrant community of immigrants, Jewish and black people, resulting in a mix of characters with intertwined lives and shared histories. This novel tells their stories with affection, humor, and occasionally some level of vexation with the world when a deaf boy in town is left without a mother and the state looks to take him into their custody.

It's a story about people who are struggling and their ambitions, successes and disappointments. In this compassionate, life-affirming and often funny novel, McBride explores what it means to be in a community and to live in the margins of "white" American.

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10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Noel Russell



FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES: Start your weekend with a film, related to our current classes, that will carry you away to other times and places. After the movie, those who wish gather at a local eatery for lunch and discussion. The movie details are posted in the Weekly Update on the prior Friday.

Nov. 8: “The Fascinating World of Birds”

“Planet of the Birds”

Nov. 15: “The Gathering Storm”

Nov. 22: “Science Fair”

Nov. 29: No Class

Dec. 6: “India”

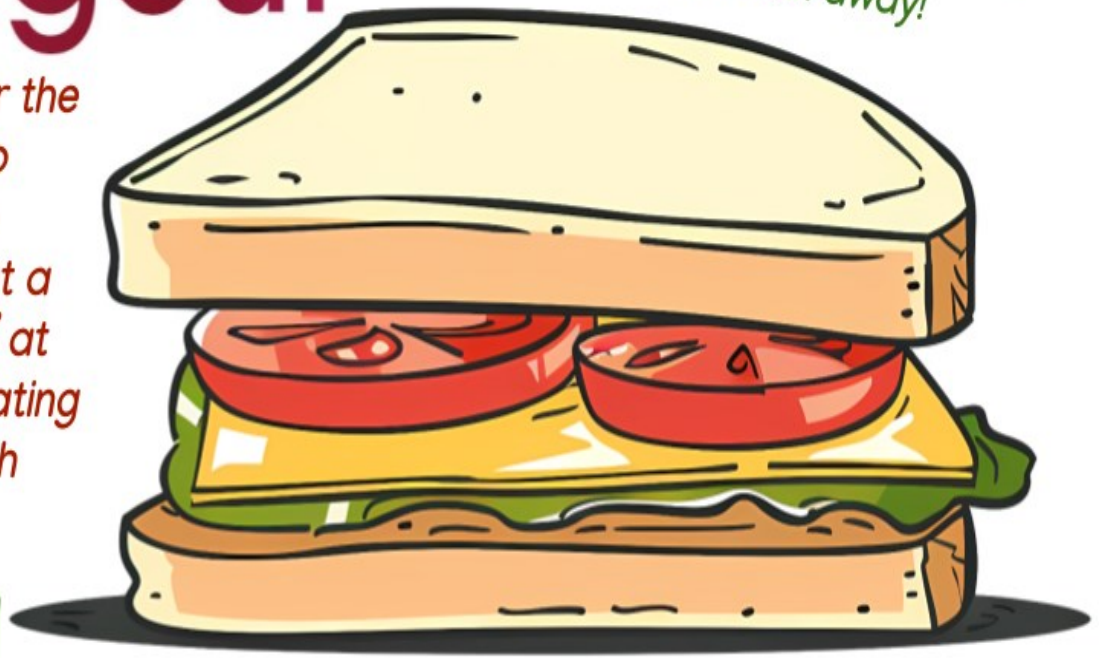
Dec. 13: “The Beatles and India”

We continue to conduct classes at our temporary location in the **John Muir Bldg., Rm. 265**, until further notice. We will let you know as soon as the repair work is done, and we are able to return to **El Capitan**.

The MICL **Lunch** Hangout

Tip: The MJC Food Court has deli sandwiches, salads, snacks, drinks, and more! It's just a short walk away!

Are you waiting for the afternoon class to start? Feel free to bring a lunch, sit at a "community table" at MICL, and enjoy eating and socializing with class members!



NOON TO 1:00 PM

EVENT SCHEDULE			
Session C Starts	November 4, 2024		
Curriculum Committee	1st Tuesday	November 5, 2024	3:45 pm
Board Meeting	2nd Tuesday	November 12, 2024	3:45 pm
Birthday Luncheons	3rd Friday	November 15, 2024	1:00 pm
Potluck	Last Thursday	December 12, 2024	11:30 am
Book Club	Last Thursday	December 12, 2024	1:00 pm
Session C Ends	December 13, 2024		

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