



Newsletter # 10 , April 2024

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CONTRIBUTORS

- CAROLE BAYARD
- JOY JUDE
- PAT KIRK
- COLETTE ZIRPDJI
- MARIE-CLAIRE ZIRPDJI

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members,

It has been a year since I became president of ENCORE. And like a one-year-old, I am just getting up on my feet and learning to walk.

Luckily, I am surrounded by a very devoted team who has supported me every step of the way.

Some board members, like Jane Archer, Marilyn Csik, Pat Kirk, Joy Jude and Suzanne Lafleur have a great deal of experience. The others are newbies like me; Zsolt Alapi, Carole Bayard, Elida Lopez and Colette Zirpdji.

But we are all equally dedicated to the success of ENCORE.

We have had to make some tough decisions along the way always keeping in mind the best interests of the organization; to stabilize its financial position, to improve its offerings and finally to grow its membership.

Together and with your continued support, I am confident we will achieve our goals.

I wish you all a safe and healthy spring and summer 2024.

Best regards,
Marie-Claire



SURVEY RESULTS



A BIG Thank you to those who took the time to complete our recent survey.

With your responses, we will be able to formulate a plan to seek out new qualified instructors in areas where you have shown the greatest interest.

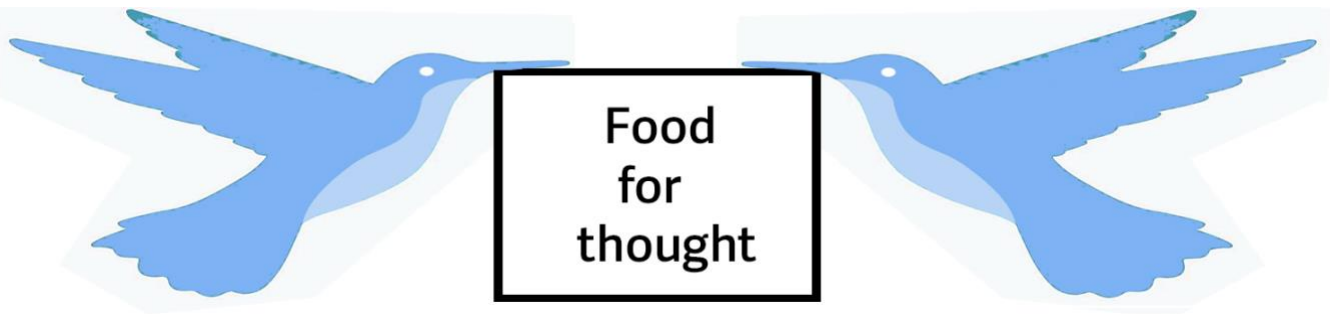
Of course, our existing team of instructors will continue to offer courses in their areas of expertise.

Our plan is to be able to add some new courses in the fall.

Here are the subjects in order of preference from high to low:

History and Art History (56% and 45% respectively),
Pop Culture, Literature, Geography and Religion (all very close – ~40%)
and finally, Psychology, Women’s Studies and Philosophy were below 30%.

In addition, the results also indicated that about 2/3 of our members prefer afternoon classes and it was a close call between in-person and on Zoom so we will continue to offer both options.



This article was written by Andy Stanley and was posted at St. Mary's Hospital in the volunteer's room. It spoke to me and I wanted to share it.

Marie-Claire

“Sometimes, I just want it to stop. Talk of COVID, looting, brutality.
I lose my way. I become convinced that this ‘new normal’ is real life.

Then I meet an 87-year-old man who talks of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam protests and yet is still enchanted with life.

He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him.

“No,” he said slowly, looking me straight in the eyes. “I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big, Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines:

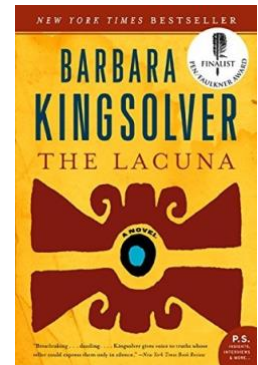
“Husband loves wife today.” “Family drops everything to come to Grandma’s bedside.” He patted my hand. “Old man makes new friend.”

His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit and a new way to write my own headlines.



“The Lacuna” by Barbara Kingsolver. Submitted by Pat Kirk

Extremely engaging, about a young man who has a Mexican mother & American father and lives in both countries. It has a historical perspective: the protagonist does live and work with Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and gets interrogated as a "communist". It is an excellent read.



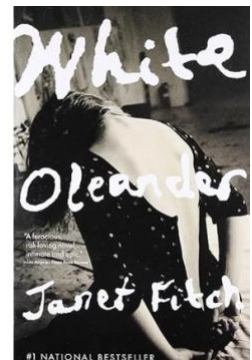
“White Oleander” by Janet Fitch. Submitted by Marie-Claire Zirpdji

This is not a new book – it was published in 1999 and made into a movie in 2002.

This novel is about the difficult and unusual relationship of a mother and a daughter; recounted by the 12-year-old girl over the span of 5 years. It is both funny and sad, tragic and hopeful.

I won't say any more than that because I don't like to give the plot away.

I read it a few months ago and I do remember thinking this was one of the best written books I've read in a very long time.





Submitted by Joy Jude

My Netflix suggestions are "feel good" and inspiring movies. Something I feel we all need right now.

The first, **Tyson's Run**, is a 2022 film about a 15-year-old unathletic boy with autism who strives to become a marathon runner. It also delves into the complexities of parenting a child with autism. The actor who plays Tyson, Major Dodson, is an autistic actor himself. You may also recognize, Barkhad Abdi, a Somali American actor, who plays Akililu who helps to train Tyson. Abdi made his debut, playing a pirate in the 2013 movie 'Captain Phillips'. I enjoyed this film about faith, love and forgiveness.



My second choice is called **The Beautiful Game**. A 2024 British sports drama film starring Bill Nighy and Michael Ward. The production of this movie worked closely with the Homeless World Cup Foundation. I had never heard of this World Cup which was created in 2001, and apparently has become a world phenomenon, involving over 70 countries, transforming the lives of over one million homeless, many of whom made this film possible playing soccer.

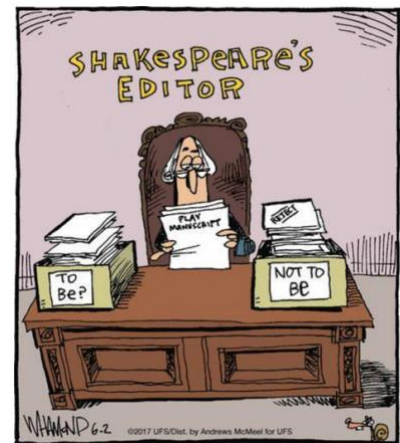
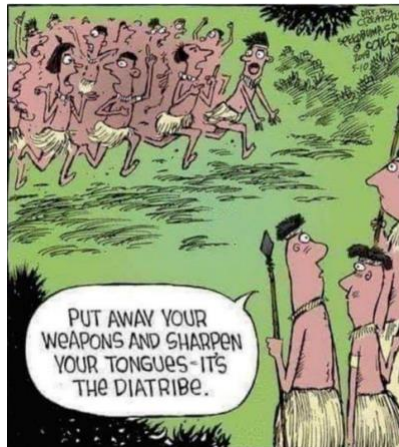
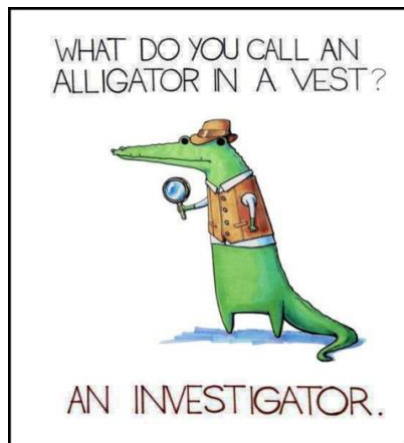




JOKES RIDDLES & GAMES



Submitted by Carole Bayard



- A pair of cows were talking in the field. One says, "Have you heard about the mad cow disease that's going around?"

"Yeah," the other cow says. "Makes me glad I'm a penguin."

- Why can't you trust an atom? Because they make up literally everything.
- Every time a little boy went to a playmate's house, he found the friend's grandmother deeply engrossed in her Bible. Finally, his curiosity got the better of him.

"Why do you suppose your grandmother reads the Bible so much?" he asked.

"I'm not sure," said his friend, "but I think she's cramming for her finals."

RIDDLES

1. What gets broken without being held?
2. What can you catch, but not throw?

3. I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?

4. What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has T in it?

5: It has keys, but no locks. It has space, but no room. You can enter, but can't go inside. What is it?

FIND THE TREES



ANSWERS TO THE RIDDLES

- 1. A promise
- 2. A cold
- 3. A bank
- 4. A teapot
- 5. A keyboard

Ash	Chestnut	Hickory	Maple	Sequoia
Aspen	Cottonwood	Joshua	Oak	Spruce
Baobab	Cypress	Juniper	Palm	Sycamore
Beech	Elm	Linden	Pine	Teak
Birch	Fir	Locust	Poplar	Walnut
Cedar	Gingko	Magnolia	Redwood	Willow

