



## **Gentrain Society Board Meetings**

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held on campus on **May 18 and June 15, 2022** at 2:45 pm in MPC Social Sciences 104. **Please notice we will now be holding our Board meetings the third Wednesday of each month, directly after the Wednesday Lecture.** Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.

## **Membership Report**

*Merry Nolte, Membership Chair*

**Welcome to these new Gentrain Society Members: Dennis Dryud, and Pam Hopkins & Ed Mellinger.**

**As I mentioned last time, there are replacement parking stickers for the Wednesday Lectures available at the Lecture Forum if you've lost yours.**

## **Scholarship Report**

*Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair*

### **In Praise of Our Teachers at MPC**

The Scholarship Committee is busy reading new applications and making selections for awards to be given out for the fall semester. Over and over again we read about how our wonderful teachers have a profound effect on re-entry students. Many of these students were not mature enough to do well in their respective high schools.

**One student in particular, Lily Clem, expressed her MPC experience so well, and we would like to share this with you:**

"This spring will be my last semester at MPC, and I will be sad to leave the campus and its classrooms. Over the past two years I have been fortunate enough to be educated by the dedicated, compassionate, and deeply knowledgeable staff here. The instructors here focus not only on providing stellar education, but on opportunities for all of their students. With the help of my professors, I was fortunate enough to gain acceptance to UCSC's ACCESS program, which provides intern opportunities for community college students from non-traditional backgrounds. In the summer of 2021, I had the privilege of joining a team of graduate students in the Biomedical Research Center at UCSC studying the inner workings of a specific bacteria. This experience was formative. It introduced me to the UC system, got me in contact with a network of peers and professors, and allowed me hands-on training with cutting edge scientific instruments. It also taught me that my specific interests lie outside of the myopic world of lab-based molecular biology, and that I am interested in studying the bigger picture. Moving onward to a larger institution is a necessary and exciting prospect. I want to pursue a

degree path that focuses on pathogens, their impact on humanity and the ecological systems that enable their spread."

### **Recent memorial donations:**

In memory of **Bob Prince**, given by Tom and Vikki Logan and Marilyn and Jeff Riehl

Lyndy Bullock, in memory of **Lynn Swerrie**

## **Gentrain Program and Covid**

*Alan Haffa*

In 2003 I had the good fortune to come to MPC and became the Gentrain Coordinator. Over the past two decades we have faced numerous challenges but the program continues strong. The latest challenge we have had to face was Covid. Moving to online instruction in the middle of a semester was difficult for both students and instructors. Now two years after Covid, where are we?

Prior to Covid we had about 140 Non-Credit students and about a dozen Credit students. But Covid impacted our students more than most because of the vulnerability of seniors to the virus and their lack of familiarity with online technology. Today our enrollment is about 80 Non-Credit students and five Credit students. Long-term sustainability of the program depends on maintaining healthy enrollment.

In fall of 2021 we began offering a hybrid approach with masked, in-class learning for those who want that and with online delivery for those who are more comfortable at home. I had hoped that the online option would attract students from outside the Monterey area, because very few communities and colleges have anything like Gentrain. But so far that hasn't really materialized in meaningful numbers. We also returned to offering Gentrain Wednesday Lectures for the public and the Gentrain Society in Fall 2021. Numbers there are also not as strong as they were pre-Covid. The Gentrain Board is recording those lectures and hosting them on our website for greater access. We are looking at Summer 2022 to bring back our social and cultural events like museum and theatre trips.

In short, we are gradually moving back to pre-Covid programming, but it isn't clear yet if all our students are ready. I do want to give credit to the MPC administration and Board for trying to create a safe environment for students and teachers to return to on campus activities with their Spring 2022 vaccine and mask mandates. As of this date and assuming Monterey County Covid numbers do not worsen, the MPC administration has authorized the lifting of the face-

covering requirement beginning on June 1, 2022. But we continue to work in an uncertain and constantly changing environment.

As we look to Fall 2022, I would like to return to a more normal program. Trying to ensure that instruction works for online learners and in-person learners has been challenging for the Gentrain team. There have been times where in the middle of a lecture we learned that the technology was not working for the online learners. And there are a number of things that instructors have to be monitoring just to make sure the lectures are recorded properly and then uploaded to the Canvas website. Currently the schedule for Fall 2022 classes says, "Portions of instruction may be offered online; may also be offered fully online." If health conditions deteriorate and make in-person learning unsafe, we will have to pivot again to fully online; if conditions improve we will hopefully be exclusively in-person. Right now, the presumption is we are going to be fully in-person and the online option will cease. The number of people who look at the online lectures is pretty small (less than ten), and at a certain point the additional work to make it available is not justified. So the current plan is to return to in-person only but with the caveat that we may have to adapt yet again.

Thank you all for your support of Gentrain and to the Gentrain Board in particular. Please watch out for the opening of Fall registration soon. We couldn't have made it through this difficult time without all of you.

## **The Esselstyn Awards Program**

*Allison Porter*

The Esselstyn Awards Program is the result of a generous bequest from Norma and Thomas Conway Esselstyn, who were a long-time supporters of the Gentrain Program and members of the Gentrain Society. Conway had served as the Society's President.

The income from the Esselstyn donation has accrued for two years and now stands at approximately \$30,000.

**The Esselstyn Management and Oversight Committee recommended to the Gentrain Board that it establish three new programs to be financed by the donation.**

The Board voted to accept the recommendation at its March meeting, and **the following programs are being established:**

### **A: Faculty Enrichment Program**

The donation will support grants to the faculty of the Monterey Peninsula College Gentrain course. Grants

would be designed to enhance the learning experience of the students and make it more meaningful and rewarding. The use of the funds will promote professional and personal growth, advancement in their field, and the development of new skills, knowledge, and resources.

It is anticipated that the available funds will be able to support approximately \$5,000 in grants to each of the four Gentrain faculty in each two-year rotation. We have already had one application for a grant!

### **B: Student Scholarship Program.**

Shakespeare is taught every other year at this time. The Board voted to support scholarships for two undergraduate students recommended by the Shakespeare faculty for the Society's annual trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (or whichever theater venue is substituted). These would be full scholarships, to include the costs normally charged to participants; it is anticipated that the total cost for these scholarships would be in the range of \$3,000 per two years.

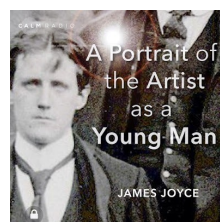
### **C: Gentrain Library**

The Gentrain Society will establish its own library, housed in the Gentrain Society office within the Lecture Forum. Acquisitions would be designed to complement the course material and will depend heavily on the faculty for recommendations. We hope to have these recommendations made sufficiently in advance, that students might take advantage of the material before hearing a lecture. Others may be intrigued by a lecture to pick up something they had not thought about reading. The library will be managed by a Gentrain Librarian. It is anticipated that the start-up cost for the library will be \$1,000 - \$2,000 per year for the first two years and then perhaps \$300 - \$500 a year thereafter.

Other activities that may be of value in improving or enhancing the Gentrain Course or other activities of the Society may be considered as funding allows. We welcome suggestions by other Members of the Board and Gentrain Society Members

## **The Gentrain Book Club**

*Gerard Kapolka*



The Gentrain Great Books club will be reading James's Joyce's *A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* from April 20 through May 18. After that we will read several shorter works, possibly plays. If you wish to join our group and be put on the mailing list for future readings, please **contact Gerry Kapolka at [gtkapolka@gmail.com](mailto:gtkapolka@gmail.com)**

### Gentrain Society Program Wednesday Lectures (virtual or in person)

*Gentrain Wednesday Lectures are held in LF 103 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Visitors are welcome; no charge or registration is required.*

**To view a virtual lecture:**

*A number of the Gentrain Society Wednesday Lectures are available on the Gentrain Society website - gentrain.org. You may usually access the lecture the evening after it has been presented. Instructions are on the website.*

**May 4, 2022**

#### **Mark Twain and the Wild, Wild West A Staged Reading by Carol Marquart**

In this entertaining staged reading (with historical slides), Mark Twain tells us about his rollicking adventures out West. The story begins when Samuel Clemens and his older brother, Orion, leave Missouri in 1861 to escape conscription. He tries his hand at prospecting and later, in financial desperation, takes a job as a newspaper reporter in San Francisco. At this point, the literary figure of Mark Twain is born.



Featured characters include Twain (played by Fred Bologna), Emperor Norton (Howard Burnham), a hilariously annoying audience member (Suzanne Alvin), and

an assortment of hard rock miners and dance hall girls.

**Carol Marquart** has written and directed staged readings throughout the Monterey Peninsula. She enjoys writing about famous and infamous persons of the 20th century.



**May 18, 2022**

#### **Edward John Trelawny Remembers 'Murdering' Shelley and Byron.**



Shelley



Byron



Trelawny

1874 - In the age of Victorian respectability, the reprobate Trelawny recalls his friendship with Shelley and Byron. Towards the end of his life, Edward John Trelawny, sailor, adventurer, literary 'groupie' and romancer, is furious with the artist Millais' depiction of him. Join actor-writer **Howard Burnham** as he portrays Trelawny as he vents his spleen on Victorian respectability and as he recalls his colorful life and his fatal friendship with two major poets...



**Lord Byron  
on his Death-bed  
c. 1826  
by Joseph  
Dionysius Odevaere**

**The Funeral  
of Shelley  
by Louis  
Edouard**



**June 1, 2022**

#### **Rats, Riots and Romantics 'Le Bon Theo' on Nineteenth Century Paris**

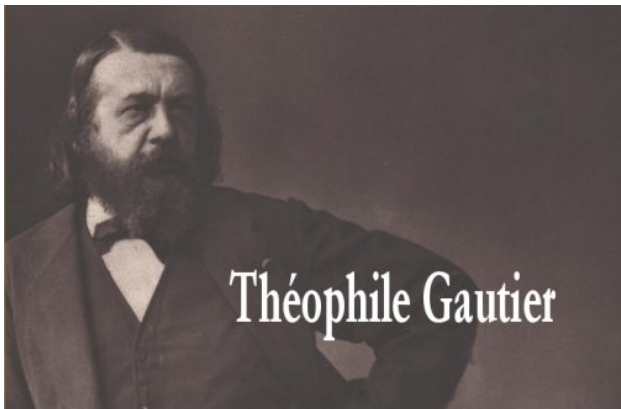
Gentrain invites you to visit the City of Light in one of its darkest hours, the 1870-71 Siege. Your guide will be the poet, novelist, balletomane and bon viveur, Theophile Gautier (recreated by actor-writer **Howard Burnham**, last year's Alfred Hitchcock).



Encounter the two French revolutions that followed the great one of 1789-95, the vie de Boheme, the grandeshorizontales courtesans,



the 'Battle of Hernani', the heyday of the romantic ballet, the court of Napoleon III, the privations of the Prussian Siege, and 'take' dinner at Magny's...



**June 15, 2022**

### **Exploring Contemporary Visual Culture**

**Gamble Madsen**, Art History Instructor at MPC, will investigate a selection of projects that reflect the unique perspectives of artists working in our contemporary global society. The foundations of “Modernism” and “Postmodernism” will be the bases from which we will examine novel ideals of beauty, spirituality, and identity into the 21st century, when the concept of “Art” is no longer bound by material or definition.



Gamble is a specialist in medieval Europe and has been teaching Art History at various California institutions since graduating with a Ph.D. in 2004. She offers presentations on medieval topics annually and has been happily employed at MPC in the Art Department since 2012, where she lectures on the visual cultures of Western civilization and Asian communities.



**The Fog Warning (Jasmine Gracout)' (2017)  
by Kehinde Wiley**



**In the Realm of the Mothers III (2014)  
by Jenny Saville**

### **MPC Spring Gentrain Program (virtual or in person)**

**April 26, 28 - May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19**

#### **Gentrain 15/415 WORLD WAR II TO THE PRESENT (1945-PRESENT)**

The course examines selected aspects of the Western World in the past half century, including such topics as the Cold War and the succession of wars that followed World War II, and the rapid development of movements in art, literature, and philosophy in response to a changing world.

**LIVE AND OPTIONAL VIDEO COURSE: This course will allow students to choose either to come to class in person or view the recording of the lecture posted on Canvas for student use. Click on the Lobo Apps link on the MPC website to access Canvas, your MPC e-mail, and other online tools. Visit the Canvas Help Desk for help accessing your online course. PROOF OF VACCINATION IS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION.**

### **GENTRAIN EVENTS - VIRTUAL**

In person Special Events are limited because of Covid-19, and many organizations are filling in the gap locally and at a distance with an amazing array of creative online presentations, both live and recorded. We will be using the Special Events space to share some "events" we have found that will be available in May, June & July, 2022, and after. Some are direct links and some are links to websites with information of interest. **If you know of any virtual sites or articles that could be of interest to Gentrain Society Members, please send information on that site to Terry Blum at [tblumgm@gmail.com](mailto:tblumgm@gmail.com).**

**Monterey County Theatre Alliance  
Monterey County Theatre Alliance (MCTA)**

website: [theatremonterey.org](http://theatremonterey.org) has regular updates on local live theatre events, primarily virtually. Here



are the MCTA Virtual Live Theatre presentations created and presented by Howard Burnham and scheduled for March to July, 2022, and Carol Marquart in May, 2022. For more

information about these shows, go to [TheatreMonterey.org](http://TheatreMonterey.org) or email Andrea McDonald at [admin@TheatreMonterey.org](mailto:admin@TheatreMonterey.org)

You may register to attend any or all of these presentations at [theatremonterey.org](http://theatremonterey.org). Once registered you will be sent a Zoom link to a live webinar of the presentation. No fee for each performance, but a link to an optional shared donation to the presenter and the MCTA (to help pay for tech and presentation costs) will be available at the conclusion of each presentation.

May 4 *Mark Twain* - Carol Marquart's Living History Company, & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968, *Gentrain/OLLI* live in person

May 14 *Patton, Rommel and Me – Monty* (for Armed Forces Day) - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

June 11 *Edward VIII* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

July 2 *Lafayette* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

<https://www.pgmuseum.org/monarch-viewing>

Explore the Monarch Sanctuary located in Pacific Grove, California. Monarchs can normally be found in clusters in the trees between November and February each year. Learn with Stephanie, a museum volunteer, as she shares more about what you will see as you walk through the sanctuary and explains why it's important for the monarch butterfly.



**Are Crows the Smartest Birds in the World?** <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=830554547446408>



**Pacific Grove's Chinese Fishing Village** - <https://www.pgmuseum.org/pacific-groves-chinese-fishing-village>



**The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History  
A Glimpse in the Pacific Grove Monarch Sanctuary  
with a PGMNH Docent**

May 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 unit15	4 lect1	5 unit15	6	7
8	9	10 unit15	11	12 unit15	13	14
15	16	17 unit15 soc	18 lect2 meet	19 unit15	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Key to Calendar**

**lect1= LECTURE - MARK TWAIN AND THE WILD, WILD WEST - A STAGED READING BY CAROL MARQUART**

**lect2 = LECTURE - ALL ABOUT THE GREAT BOOKS**

**lect3 = LECTURE - RATS, RIOTS AND ROMANTICS - 'LE BON THEO' ON NINETEENTH CENTURY PARIS**

**lect4 = LECTURE - EXPLORING CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE**

**meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

**SOC = SUMMER SOCIAL**

**unit15 = GENTRAIN 15 WORLD WAR II TO THE PRESENT (1945-PRESENT)**

June 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 lect3	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 lect4 meet	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	29	30

**Yes, I would like to contribute to the  
Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund**  
**980 Fremont Street, Monterey CA 93940**  
*(Please make your checks payable to MPC/Gentrain Society )*  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Amount enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Invitation to Join**  
 Dues: \$35 per year, \$50 Couples  
 Send your check payable to the *MPC/Gentrain Society*  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please clip out and send to:  
 Membership, *Gentrain Society* - MPC  
 980 Fremont St., Monterey CA 93940

**The Gentrain Society of MPC  
2021 - 2022  
Board of Directors**

President: Mary Alice Rennick	375-0702
Vice President: Terry Blum	372-0895
Secretary: Carol Harpster	(510) 410-0822
Treasurer: Peter Purdue	646-9216
Member-at-Large: Open position	
Member-at-Large: Mary Pendlay	224-0478
Member-at-Large: Ruth Alota	392-5034
Imm. Past President: Linda Chetlin	373-2440
Chair of Specified Committees	
Communications: Terry Blum	372-0895
Lectures: Paul & Terry Blum	372-0895
Volunteers: Open position	
Membership: Merry Nolte	659-4387
Nominating: Linda Chetlin	373-2440
Scholarship: Vikki Logan	625-8653
Special Events:	
Co-chair Ruth Alota	392-5034
Co-chair Linda Chetlin	373-2440
Oregon Shakespeare Festival:	
Allison Porter	394-8051
Webmaster: David Breedlove	

*The Gentrain Society* of Monterey  
Peninsula College  
980 Fremont St Monterey, CA 93940  
Phone: 646-4224  
gentrain.org

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Paul Blum, Co-Editor  
Terry Blum, Co-Editor  
Phone: 372-0895  
Email: tblumgm@gmail.com

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### **Gentrain Election Procedures, 2022**

It is time to plan our elections for the year beginning September 1, 2022. Election procedures are generally determined by our Bylaws. The first step is to appoint a Nominating Committee to draw up a slate of candidates. Additional candidates for all positions except President may be nominated by petitions signed by at least five Gentrain members. Watch for more information in the July/August issue of *The Conductor*. The latest updates will be available on our website, ([gentrain.org](http://gentrain.org)) and at the Wednesday Lectures.

#### **Here is the tentative election schedule for 2022.**

April 20 - Appointed Nominating Committee members at the Board meeting.

May, June, July - Announce election procedures and status at the beginning of each Wednesday Lecture.

May 10 - The Board adopts a slate of candidates for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Members at Large. The slate will be published in the July/August *Conductor*.

July 27 - Petition deadline.

#### **August 30 - Vote at Wednesday Lecture.**

September 1 - New terms begin.

Please direct any questions to Mary Alice Rennick, [president@gentrain.org](mailto:president@gentrain.org) or (831) 375-0702.