



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

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November/December 2022

President's Corner

Peter Purdue, President



Fellow Gentrainers,
Greetings!

As I assumed the position of President, the words of an old (well, 1966) song came to mind: "What's it all about, Alfie?" I don't know much about Alfie, but I will try to answer this for Gentrain!

The Society was formed to support the GENTRAIN Program of MPC. As many of you know, GENTRAIN is an acronym for General Education Train of Courses. Okay, so what is that? It is a program to "provide an interdisciplinary education experience so that realms as diverse as literature, the sciences, music and art and their interrelationships could be appreciated and comprehended." MPC faculty provide the courses that carry out this mission. What do we do? We are given the mission to support the Gentrain Program, the intellectual, cultural, and social interests of our members, the community, and the college.

What do we actually do? We provide operational support to faculty who teach in the Program; help instructors with daily administrative details of lectures; help recruit students; and raise funds to support faculty in advancing their knowledge base and teaching skills. Recently we established a check-out library of books and other materials that relate directly to course content. We run a bi-monthly lecture series (Wednesday Lecture series) to enhance and expand the intellectual horizons of our members. Other activities that support intellectual and cultural interests include group excursions to local and Bay Area theaters and museums. For many years we have organized and run charter buses to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival at Ashland. In 1991 the Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund was established in order to provide funding to encourage older returning students to continue their education. We keep the social life of our members in mind by organizing events such as picnics, end of term on-campus tea and coffee get-togethers and related events. I think we have done an outstanding job in fulfilling the

above mission. But, there are some dark clouds on the horizon. During the 2+ years reign of COVID we lost a number of our members, and student registrations also dropped. We were unable to provide the full spectrum of the above activities. On the positive side contributions to our Scholarship Fund increased due to the generosity of our existing members. My major concern over the next year is to work with the Gentrain Board to recruit new members to the Gentrain Society and to find ways to encourage those members who we lost during COVID to rejoin. We will need to expand the activities that we offer to attract new members and retain existing ones. We need to "sell" the value of Gentrain to our community by showcasing the ways we add to the intellectual and cultural life of the community.

I would ask our members to get in touch with me or any Board Member with ideas for new activities or enhancements to our existing programs. I will keep members informed about how we are doing.

Finally, we all owe Mary Alice Rennick a huge vote of thanks for the great job she did during her two year term as President. Her efforts kept the Society focused on how to support our members during a very harrowing couple of years.

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meeting will be held on campus on **November 16** 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 the following new Gentrain members: **Melody Burgess, Claire Gorman, Vicki Hart, Patricia & Mitch Johnson, Stephanie Lawrence, Helen Meek, Marie Mosely, Sarah Pease, Liz Rondelle, Susanne Roth, June Saunders, Angela Wren Skerritt, Dustin Smith, Dolores Antonieta Suro, and Linn & Jane Williams.**

Our renewal period is winding down. If you haven't renewed, you will receive a final reminder this month. Please renew by the end of the year to avoid a lapse in membership.

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

Meet Trevor Ryan, winner of the Jack and Isalene Sedan Memorial scholarship:

"My most meaningful achievement is enlisting in the U.S. navy at age 19 and getting a great ASVAB score which earned me a job as a Cryptologic Technician and a Top-secret clearance with honors in the top three of my class. I was honorably discharged from the Navy. Another meaningful achievement was fighting two fire seasons with Cal Fire and then working with them in a clerical position where I oversaw billing and reimbursement from the state. I used what I learned from that position to become a Microsoft Office Specialist in July of last year.



"I am passionate about a lot of things such as working hard to earn myself a degree and to become a Certified Financial Planner. I plan to obtain a BA in Business Administration and then to receive an MBA so I can open a nonprofit that teaches financial literacy to underserved communities."

One of Trevor's teachers has this to say about him, "Trevor has been a true pleasure to work with. It is very inspiring to see and I feel grateful to be able to be a part of his academic path at MPC."

A gift from the Estate of Geri Allison is sincerely appreciated.

The Gentrain Society had added a new scholarship, one that does not have to be for "AGE 25 or older." This scholarship is in the amount of \$2,500 for a student completing three units of the Gentrain Program with a grade of "B" or above.

The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka



The Gentrain Book Club will continue reading Tolstoy's *War and Peace* for the next few months. If you wish to join our discussions, please email Gerry Kapolka at gtkapolka@gmail.com We meet through Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Gentrain Society Program Wednesday Lectures (virtual or in person)

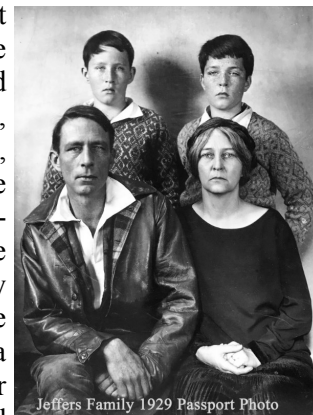
Gentrain Wednesday Lectures are held in LF 103 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Visitors are welcome; no charge or registration is required.

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.

November 2, 2022 - 1:30 pm Family Travel Diaries

In June of 1929, the poet Robinson Jeffers, his wife Una, and their 12-year-old twin sons left Tor House, their home on Carmel Point, and set sail for Ireland, the first stop on their seven-month journey through the British Isles. As they traveled, each member of the family contributed to a journal, chronicling their vivid descriptions and reactions to the things they saw. *The Robinson Jeffers Family Travel Diaries, Vol. One* is a transcription of the original diary, with its vitality and immediacy. Deborah Sharp will explain why the diaries are valuable in understanding the Jeffers family and the poet himself.



Deborah Whittlesey Sharp, retired MPC instructor, has been affiliated with the Robinson Jeffers Tor House Foundation for 20 years as a tour docent and former trustee. Her transcription of the first volume of *The Travel Diaries* was published last January.



November 16, 2022 - 1:30 pm Travel the Culinary World with Chef Mary Chamberlin

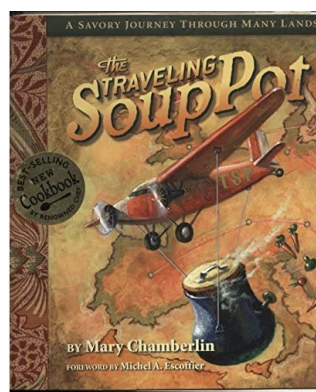


Mary Chamberlin is a professional chef, caterer, and cook book author based in Carmel whose work embodies a lifetime passion for the world's finest foods. She began her career in the gourmet food industry in 1972 as owner and operator of Mission Gourmet Cooking School in Fremont, California, bringing chefs from all over the world to teach their style of cooking. She also owned Mission Delicatessen &

Restaurant for over 20 years. She is the hostess of *Kitchen Moments*, offering private cooking classes and private catering.

Mary is the founder and President of Les Dames d'Escoffier International - Monterey Bay Chapter, as well as the National Vice President of The American Institute of Wine and Food (AWF) and a former President and Board Member of the Monterey Bay Chapter. She is also a Board Member of the Auguste Escoffier Schools of Culinary Arts and is a Western Representative of the Disciples of Escoffier International. Mary is also an agent and fundraiser for the Auguste Escoffier Foundation and Museum in Villeneuve-Loubet, France.

Mary is also the author of three cookbooks: *The Traveling Soup Pot*, *The Traveling Cook Book*, and *Low Fat Foods*.



December 7, 2022 - 1:30 pm History in Miniature: County's History on Display at the Railroad Museum

Railroads were instrumental in transforming Monterey

County into what it is today, influencing where people settled, how the agriculture industry evolved and how the Salinas Valley became the salad bowl of the world. Since the early 1990s, a group of model railroad enthusiasts has researched this history and worked to tell the story by building an elaborate model railroad that recreates the system. The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is located in the historic Railway Express Agency building adjacent to the Salinas Amtrak station. A sign at the entrance reads "Take a journey into the past when everything traveled by rail."



Dana Peterson is a retired Monterey County Sheriff's Office detective sergeant and longtime model railroad enthusiast. He has volunteered with the MSVRR museum for 22 years.



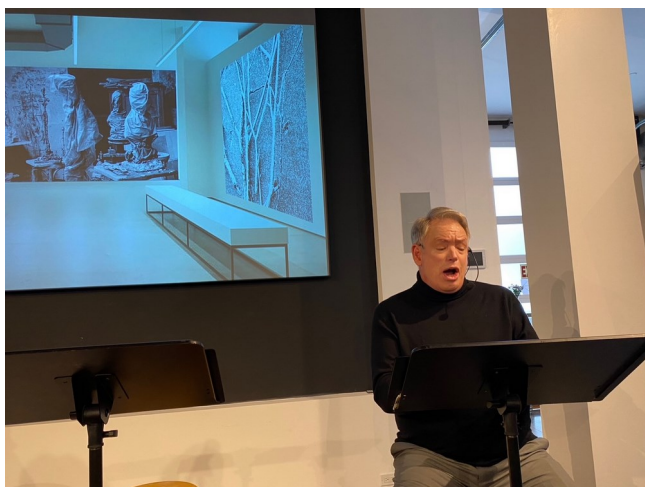
Photographing a Wednesday Lecture Staged Reading

The September 7 Wednesday Lecture featured a dramatic staged reading about the artist Giacometti. Accompanying the theatrical production was a PowerPoint display of visuals by Mark Baer. Mark D. Baer is or has been a Hollywood screenwriter, video producer, graphic artist, entrepreneur and author. He was Creative Director/Artist in Residence at the Museum of Monterey where he produced and directed *The 100 Story Project*. Other recent projects include *The Joe Cupcake Chronicles*, a Proust-inspired six hour, five-part spoken word/video art project, and *Muse*, a live interview show shot on location at the Museum of Monterey.

Mark Baer was in the audience at the September 7 production and provided us with some wonderful photos:



model/muse, Isaku Yanaihara (Dr. Chris Hasegawa), his wife Annette (Teresa Del Piero) and Alberto Giacometti (portrayed by Keith Decker)



Diego (Fred Bologna)

MPC Fall Gentrain Program

October 18, 20, 25, 27 and November 1, 3, 8, 10

GENTRAIN 3/403: THE GOLDEN AGE OF GREECE - 500-300 BCE

One of the most amazing periods in Western history: the Persian Wars, Plato and Aristotle, the Parthenon and



Greek sculpture, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; and as the context for all of this, the world's first experiments in democracy.

November 15, 17, 22, 29 and December 1, 6, 8 GENTRAIN 404A: THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND RISE OF EMPIRE - 500 BCE-14 CE

Law, engineering, military tactics, political institutions, literature, religion and philosophy, art and architecture from the origins of the Roman Republic through the transition to Empire under Augustus.



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 through 2022. Some are direct links and some are links to websites with information of interest.

Monterey County Theatre Alliance

Monterey County Theatre Alliance (MCTA) website: 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 through the remainder of 2022. For more information about these shows, go to TheatreMonterey.org or email Andrea McDonald at admin@TheatreMonterey.org

You may register to attend any or all of these presentations at 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.

TBD *Jules Verne* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Dec 3 *Salvador Dali* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968



Jules Verne



Salvador Dali

Dec 17 *A Christmas Carol* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968



Monterey Public Library - Online Resources -
https://monterey.org/services/library/education_research/articles_databases.php



E Books and Audio Books
Especially for Children
Books and Literature
Career Pathways
General Reference

History and Genealogy
Language Learning
Monterey Newspapers
Science
Tutoring
Veteran Resources

Gentrain at MPC Lobo Day

Terry Blum

MPC presented its annual four-hour event for its students called Lobo Day on September 14. Primarily clubs at MPC have information tables, but there were assorted displays on the tables and lots of free food - assorted sweets, spring rolls, bananas, beverages. So we (**Gentrain Society Board Members Ruth Alota, Melissa Newlin and myself, Terry Blum**) decided to set up a table with literature about our **Gentrain Program (Tuesday/Thursday morning classes and instructors)**. We encouraged the students to check out the classes, possibly to take a single unit or a semester or four semesters of units. We also walked around to the different information tables (eg. MPC Counselors) passing out literature about the Gentrain Program. We noticed a number of new students on September 20, the first day of the new unit which directly followed the event. Maybe the table was a bit effective.



GENTRAIN INSTRUCTORS

Alan Haffa (Literature)

Alan grew up in Minnesota and is a first generation college student. He went to St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, which has a "great books" program. At St. John's he decided that his career path was to become a professor. Alan got married before his junior year at St. John's to his wife, Arlene, They moved to Wisconsin where Arlene had a research assistantship, and Alan got a job teaching seventh grade English and Science at a Catholic boarding school for Mexican boys. The next year he went to graduate school and joined the Comparative Literature Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned an MA in Comparative Literature and then an MA in Classics. The Haffas moved to Arizona where Alan taught History, Literature, and Philosophy in the Liberal Arts Department at Phoenix College, and after one year he ran the Honors Program and a Classical Studies Program.

Tom Logan (History)

Tom Logan's childhood, with a mother at home, a sister six years younger than himself and a geologist father, was relatively normal until the family moved to the Belgian Congo when he was eleven. At the age of 13 they visited Egypt before going on to live in Turkey. "That just blew me away," he said excitedly..."all those great ruins and then the Hittites! I knew I wanted to be an ancient historian." "I read a book that said the University of Colorado was the most beautiful school in the world. I went there as a freshman. It was too big. I opted into Foothill Junior College for a couple of years, and then Berkeley where I graduated in History with a minor in Anthropology. Then I went to the University of Chicago." While at UC Tom worked as a curator at the Oriental Institute. After teaching Ancient History in New York City for three years, he moved to the venerable Metropolitan Museum of Art. "There, as an Egyptologist, I did the installation of five galleries, from Dynasty 19 to Dynasty 30." In 1981 Tom came to Carmel as Director of the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art. And he is still pursuing his dream - discovering ancient Egyptian ruins.

Stephanie Spoto (Philosophy)

Stephanie Spoto teaches Humanities at California State University, Monterey Bay and Philosophy at Monterey Peninsula College. She holds a PhD in English Literature from The University of Edinburgh, with her doctoral work exploring the influence of esoteric and occult philosophy on early modern literature and politics. In 2013 she was an International Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Advance Study - Sofia (Bulgaria), with support for her project "William Lithgow (1582-1645) and Early Modern Scottish Journeys to Eastern Europe". Stephanie has talked literature and philosophy on The SRB Podcast and Not Radio, and has been the coordinator of a community philosophy reading group at Old Capitol Books in downtown Monterey for four years.

Gamble Madsen (Art/Architecture)

Gamble Madsen is originally from Claremont, California and specializes in the visualization of Christian theology in Medieval and Renaissance contexts. She attended the University of Southern California as an undergraduate and graduate student, ultimately earning a PhD in Medieval Art History. She also holds a degree in Museum Studies from George Washington University, and has worked in collections management for institutions in New York (Lowy Fine Art) and Los Angeles (LACMA). She came to MPC in 2012 and currently teaches surveys in Western and Asian Art along with a course focused on the Renaissance period.

| November 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | 1 unit3 | 2 lect1 | 3 unit3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 unit3 | 9 | 10 unit3 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 unit4 | 16 lect2 meet | 17 unit4 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 unit4 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 unit4 | 30 | | | |

Key to Calendar

lect1= LECTURE - FAMILY TRAVEL DIARIES

LECT2 = LECTURE - TRAVEL THE CULINARY WORLD WITH CHEF MARY CHAMBERLIN

lect3 = LECTURE -HISTORY IN MINIATURE: COUNTY'S HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT THE RAILROAD MUSEUM

meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

unit3 = GENTRAIN 3/403: THE GOLDEN AGE OF GREECE (500-300 BCE)

unit4 = GENTRAIN 4/404A: THE ROMAN REPUBLIC AND RISE OF EMPIRE (500 BCE-14 CE)

| December 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 unit4 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 unit4 | 7 lect3 | 8 unit4 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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

2022 - 2023

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President: Peter Purdue (831) 646-9216
Vice President: Mary Pendlay (831) 224-0478
Secretary: Carol Harpster (510) 410-0822
Acting Treasurer: Peter Purdue (831) 646-9216
Member-at-Large: Melissa Newlin (831) 869-0646
Member-at-Large: Linda Wessel (707) 483-1595
Member-at-Large: Linda Leum (360) 961-2269
Imm. Past President: Mary Alice Rennick
(831)375-0702

Chair of Specified Committees
Communications: Terry Blum (831) 372-0895
Lectures: Paul & Terry Blum (831) 372-0895
Volunteers: Open position
Membership: Merry Nolte (831) 659-4387
Nominating: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702
Scholarship: Vikki Logan (831) 625-8653
Special Events:
Co-chair Ruth Alota (831) 392-5034
Co-chair Linda Chetlin (831) 373-2440
Oregon Shakespeare Festival:
Allison Porter (831) 394-8051
Webmaster: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702

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GENTRAIN SOCIETY NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY LECTURES - 1:30 to 2:30 pm - LF 103

NOVEMBER 2, 2022 - FAMILY TRAVEL DIARIES - In June of 1929, the poet Robinson Jeffers, his wife Una, and their 12-year-old twin sons left Tor House, their home on Carmel Point, and set sail for Ireland, the first stop on their seven-month journey through the British Isles. As they traveled, each member of the family contributed to a journal, chronicling their vivid descriptions and reactions to the things they saw. *The Robinson Jeffers Family Travel Diaries, Vol. One* is a transcription of the original diary, with its vitality and immediacy. Deborah Sharp will explain why the diaries are valuable in understanding the Jeffers family and the poet himself.

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 - TRAVEL THE CULINARY WORLD WITH CHEF MARY CHAMBERLIN - **Mary Chamberlin** is a professional chef, caterer, and cook book author based in Carmel whose work embodies a lifetime passion for the the world's finest foods. She began her career in the gourmet food industry in 1972 as owner and operator of Mission Gourmet Cooking School in Fremont, California, bringing chefs from all over the world to teach their style of cooking. Mary is also the author of three cookbooks: *The Traveling Soup Pot*, *The Traveling Cook Book*, and *Low Fat Foods*.

DECEMBER 7, 2022 - HISTORY IN MINIATURE: COUNTY'S HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT THE RAILROAD MUSEUM - Railroads were instrumental in transforming Monterey County into what it is today, influencing where people settled, how the agriculture industry evolved and how the Salinas Valley became the salad bowl of the world. Since the early 1990s, a group of model railroad enthusiasts has researched this history and worked to tell the story by building an elaborate model railroad that recreates the system. The Monterey and Salinas Valley Railroad Museum is located in the historic Railway Express Agency building adjacent to the Salinas Amtrak station. **Dana Peterson** is a retired Monterey County Sheriff's Office detective sergeant and longtime model railroad enthusiast. He has volunteered with the MSVRR museum for 22 years.