



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

# Conductor

Website: [gentrain.org](http://gentrain.org)

Published by the  
Gentrain Society  
of MPC

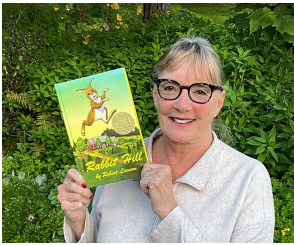
Volume 37 No.2

980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

March/April 2023

## President's Corner

*Mary Pendlay, President*



In my favorite children's book, *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson, the book's main character, Little Georgie, yells excitedly to everyone, "New Folkscoming!" Well, Gentrain is not exactly welcoming new folks yet, but we are making a

huge effort to bring new people into our classroom, lectures and all kinds of events. Yes, we are in the process of putting a new face on our website and reaching out to more of you and your interests. It's not only a facelift, but also a widespread personal outreach to older adults through their community foundations, assisted living homes, and social organizations. So many of us are retiring earlier and earlier, and we need opportunities to enrich our lives, especially through education, which is our mission. Many of you may have friends who will be retiring soon and need intellectual and social outlets for enjoyment.

**Starting March 1, after our Wednesday Lecture, we're implementing a "coffee klatsch"** which will be a time after the lecture to discuss new ideas while drinking coffee and eating treats. Discussing ideas, books, events, happenings and just every-day family, is a wonderful way to feel good and pass the time.

We have so many devoted and professional members who can fill so many positions that we need. **Currently, we have an opening for a Treasurer**, and it is not a "head office" position, but we do have numbers and categories which is true for all budgets. We follow the lead of our sponsor, Monterey Peninsula College, so we appeal to you for a volunteer opportunity that might be fun. Please email: [rsvp@gentrain.org](mailto:rsvp@gentrain.org) if you can see yourself as a volunteer, and most importantly, a volunteer for such a worthwhile organization.

Our new website will be a wonderful connection to you, and our future changes will be focused on you.

## Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held

on campus on **March 15 and April 19** at 2:45 pm in MPC Social Sciences 104. **Please notice we are now holding our Board meetings the third Wednesday of each month, directly after the Wednesday Lecture. Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.**

## Scholarship Report

*Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair*

**Meet Carlos Benitez Bonne**, winner of the Gentrain Scholarship in memory of Chuck Kimzey: "My short term goal is to do my best each semester until I complete my three years at MPC and receive my Associates degree in Electrical Engineering. After that, I plan to transfer to a university with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps; this program allows students to join the Air Force while completing their education. Later, I plan to earn a BA degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science and then serve in the Air Force for the next four years."

This is what one of Carlos's teachers has to say about him, "In the fall of 2021, Carlos was one of my Intermediate Algebra students. His performance was excellent and always received an A on his tests, and his final grade was an A+. In addition to being an excellent student. Carlos worked very closely with many students in class by answering their questions during online discussions, and in addition he gave his contact information to ask other students to feel free to email him if they had any homework or quiz questions. Not only did his work show an excellent understanding of the theoretical concepts, but he also showed excellent computational techniques and problem solving aspects of the courses."

**We received a lovely letter from Angelica Olvera**, one of our recipients: "First of all I want to tell you thank you for the scholarship! It really helped me pay some expenses, and I was able to attend school and continue on my path. I found a part time job in a preschool as a teacher, such a great start to get to practice and apply my knowledge in what I LOVE to do."

**Recent donations: Richard Stanley in honor of Robert Maloney.**

**Recent memorial donations: in memory of Frank Bresk** given by Tom and Vikki Logan and Grant and Norma Voth. Many of you will remember the Bresks; for many years they were the greeters at the front desk. A very lovely and popular couple.

We received a letter from their daughter Helene:  
"Dear Friends, I am so happy to hear from you. I met you all many times as I was with my parents at MPC. Mom and Dad spoke of you often and OH! Was their trip to Egypt a high point! I still have their Egyptian costumes they wore there. I am so glad my dear parents had such a glorious outlet for their fertile minds. They always remained seekers of information and interested in most everything. We will miss them terribly, but they had such a wonderful, adventurous, long life with many friends.  
Blessings,  
Helena"

Condolences may be sent to  
Email: fbresk601@gmail.com

### About Us - Stephen

*Rene Kimzey*

#### Got A Pen?? Need A Catchy Tee Shirt???

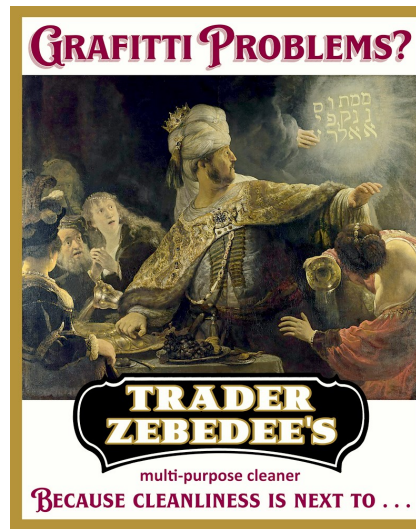


If you're interested in acquiring either, you should meet this month's featured Gentraîner, **Stephen Hooper**. His bespoke pens can add eloquence to your missives. The tees are sure to make you smile. Stephen is also a photographer, makes signs, and recently started flint knapping ie. breaking open a piece of parent material (called a core); striking flakes off of that core; and then shaping those flakes into the intended tool.

Stephen was raised in the Pasadena area with his two brothers and one sister. The first day of class at California Lutheran College, he met Claudia whom he married at the end of their junior year. He graduated with a BA, later getting a JD (Juris Doctor degree) from San Diego State University and an MBA from Golden State University. The Hoopers had three children. Son Stephen is retired Army now teaching at Army Flight School. He, wife Sheila and daughter raise goats in Alabama. Philip, wife Joy and their three sons live in Duluth, Minnesota where he is pastor of an AFLC church. Philip is pursuing a PhD in History of Interpretation of Scripture. Sadly, David was lost to colon cancer, but his widow Sheila, who teaches at the University of the Pacific, stays close to the family. Claudia also passed away last June.

Throughout life, Stephen liked history and reading. He listed his most impressive characters as Teddy Roosevelt and Abe Lincoln and on a personal level, a couple of scoutmasters. In 1980, he traveled to Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land. Camping in Death Valley and several trips around the US rounded out his past vacations. In retirement, he plans to make more local trips and spend more time visiting "the kids."

Like many Gentrainers, he heard about the program in a Monterey Herald advertisement. After retiring, he started attending the Gentraîner Program. He finds the variety, repetition and the "new stuff" in the two year cycle really help with learning and understanding. But, best of all, he finds Gentrainers interesting.



My final interview question to him was "What would you like us to know about you on a personal level?" His response, "It is well known that I am obnoxious and disliked and have no sense of humor." I suggest you validate/invalidate this statement for yourself. You can find him in the front row of class, posing

thought-provoking questions. He might show you some of his beautiful pens or allow you to peruse his album of tees and signs. I'm sure you'll find him most interesting too.

### Gentraîner Shakespeare Trip

*Allison Porter*

We are hoping to restart our Shakespeare trips this summer! There will be some changes, so we want to get an idea of how many of you would like to join us. Since Ashland is not presenting seven plays this year, **we are thinking of heading over to Cedar City, Utah, for a look at the theater program at Southern Utah University.** We would be able to see seven plays in four days, as at Ashland. **This year they are doing *Romeo and Juliet*, *Emma* (a musical adaptation of the Austin novel), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Raisin in the***

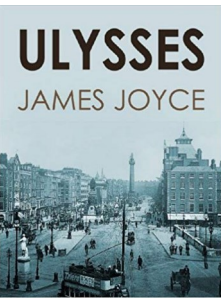
***Sun, The Play That Got Away (a comic who-done-it play within a play), Timon of Athens, and Coriolanus.***

The cost would be comparable to what we have been charging for Ashland. The accommodations at the university are large suites with five bedrooms and five bathrooms. The most significant difference for us would be that the trip is longer. Monarch tells me that they estimate a ten-and-a-half-hour trip, instead of the approximately eight hours it has taken us to get to Ashland.

**We are not asking for a commitment at this time—just whether you would be interested.** Please let me arpesq@hotmail.com or Alan ahaffa@mpc.edu know if you would be interested. Or you can call me (Allison Porter) at 831-394-8051.

## The Gentrain Book Club

*Gerard Kapolka*



The Gentrain Book Club is about to undertake an exploration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. If you would like to join us, please contact Gerry Kapolka at gtkapolka@gmail.com to be put on the mailing list and receive a reading list and information. We meet on Zoom Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, and the discussions last about one hour.

## Gentrain Society Program Wednesday Lectures

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

**March 1, 2023 - 1:30 pm**

### ***Mrs. Pacific Grove - A Staged Reading***



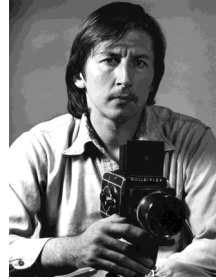
Join us for a live performance that imagines a television interview with Elmarie Dyke in 1975, six years before her death. She will tell stories of people she knew, including Ed Ricketts and former Pacific Grove Mayor Julia Platt, and will share her recollections of, and opinions on, life in "The Last Home Town" starting in 1913. Don't miss the

chance to learn why Elmarie Dyke earned the name "Mrs. Pacific Grove," and why she knows we will miss her when she is gone. The performance will be followed by a Q&A session with the actors and writer/ director Carol Marquart.

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



## **March 15, 2023 - 1:30 pm A Titan Of Monterey History - Mr. Pat Hathaway**



The Monterey County Historical Society, Inc. is the beneficiary and custodian of one of the most important image collections of its kind on the West Coast. **Mr. Pat Hathaway** passed away suddenly in January of 2021; the Society had enjoyed a relationship with him since the 1970s. Its principal concern was to maintain his collection, protected and preserved in Monterey County. To this end, they petitioned the Superior Court-appointed Trustees, Kent Seavey and estate lawyer Joseph Ferry, to become custodians of Mr. Hathaway's collection.

Between January 6 through 12, 2022 the Society's Executive/Director/Curator James Perry and volunteers committed a total of 80 hours at Mr. Hathaway's residence in Pacific Grove preparing for the collection relocation to the MCHS campus. And the MCHS is committed to making the collection accessible by having it entirely digitized.

**We welcome James Perry as a guest speaker.** He has an M.A. in Museum Studies with an emphasis on Collections Management and Public History. He has served as Curator of Collections and Exhibits for the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive in Valdez,



Alaska as well as the Museum of the Aleutians in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Locally, he has served as consultant to various organizations for special project initiatives, including the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea, the Royal Presidio Chapel and Missions Carmel, San Juan Bautista, Soledad, and San Antonio de Padua. He has served the Monterey County Historical Society in various capacities since 1990, and is currently the Society's Executive Director and Curator.

The Monterey County Historical Society was founded in 1933 and its collections are vast and varied. They are essentially the custodians of the majority of local/regional records from the 1770s through the 1940s.



**April 5, 2023 - 1:30 pm**  
**Charles Ponzi: The True Story Behind the Legend**



**Charles Ponzi**

He was a short man, barely five feet tall, but his sparkling smile, twinkling eyes and natty dress made him a giant in the eyes of his followers. His promises seemed too good to be true: a 50 percent return on their investments in 45 days, a 100 percent return in 90 days. But some investors actually received it! For eight months in 1920, the people of Boston considered him a genius, a financial wizard who understood the

workings of investment and international finance better than anyone. For the 90-plus years since, he has been considered a crook, the godfather of some of the worst financial schemes in history that have destroyed countless lives.

**In this talk, revered educator and lecturer Larry Tartaglino** presents a new, revealing look into the life and background of the namesake of the infamous Ponzi scheme. He promises that, at its conclusion, you'll never look at Charles Ponzi in quite the same way.



After a successful business career, guest speaker Larry Tartaglino turned to education and spent many years as an award-winning college lecturer. He currently gives highly sought-after talks for the cruise line industry.

**April 19, 2023 - 1:30 pm**  
**Monterey County Civil Grand Jury - How Can You Become Involved?**

Many residents have heard of the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, but few are familiar with the duties and inner workings of this important entity. Join members of the 2020-2021 Grand Jury as they explain the grand jury process and how you can participate. From actually serving on the jury to learning about filing complaints, this is one of the most fascinating citizen groups available to the public in Monterey County.

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury (MCCGJ) investigates and provides reports on the operations of local government in Monterey County, including the county, cities and numerous special districts that exist to

serve its residents. The Civil Grand Jury undertakes investigations on its own initiative, but also encourages residents to submit written complaints that it may investigate.



**Tom Mastre and Maria Garcia** will be providing a lot of information about the functioning of the Grand Jury system and how local citizens might participate in the process. Tom, from Salinas, was a member of the 2020/2021 Civil Grand Jury. After a long and winding career, Tom retired from the Naval Post Graduate School as a Senior Lecturer and principal investigator for distance learning research projects. Maria, from Marina, was a member of the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Civil Grand Jury. She served as the Foreperson for both terms. Maria worked for the University Corporation, an auxiliary organization of CSUMB, for nearly 15 years before taking a career pause to spend more time with her parents.



**Tom Mastre**



**Maria Garcia**

**MPC Spring Gentrain Program**

**February 21, 23, 28 - March 2, 7, 9, 14, 16**  
**GENT 405: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD: PART I (400-1100 CE)**

The course begins with a look at the Western world after the collapse of Rome. It then traces the incursion of the Germanic tribes into the West and the culture which was produced by the combination of Roman, Christian, and Germanic elements: its theology, art and architecture, and literature. A brief excursion into the Byzantine world relieves the gloom of the darkest ages in Western history.

**March 28, 30, April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20**

**GENT 406: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD: PART II (1100-1350)**

The course studies the period sometimes called 'the first Renaissance' in Europe: the great Christian Age in Europe - the age of Thomas Aquinas, cathedrals, the Crusades, courtly love and Dante. It is also an age of economic recovery, the growth of towns and cities and the establishment of the great universities of Europe.

**April 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18**

**GENT 407: THE EARLY RENAISSANCE (1350-1520)**

The course examines the changes in Western life and thought that resulted from the rediscovery of the classical ages of Greece and Rome. It features many of the places, figures and events that define the Renaissance, including Florence, the Medici, the growth of trade and cities, new music, literature, art and philosophy, Machiavelli, the Hundred Years War, Chaucer and the beginnings of the great art of the Renaissance: Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael.

### **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 2023.** 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](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 Carol Marquart. **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.

Jan 7 *Jules Verne, the Father of Sci-Fi* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Mar 4 *General W.T. Sherman* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Mar 18 *"I will be good"- Aspects of Queen Victoria* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Apr 1 *God's Megaphone* - C.S. Lewis - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Apr 15 *Springtime in Paris - aspects of the City of Light* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

May 6 *H.C. Andersen, the (un)ugly storyteller* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

May 20 *General Jimmy Doolittle (for Armed Forces Day)* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

June 3 *An excellent seat on a crocodile - the eccentric Squire Waterton* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

June 17 *Karl Marx in his London exile* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

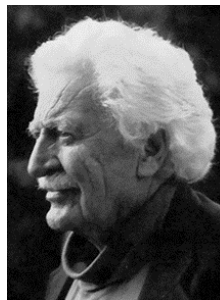
July 1 *Thomas Paine, stormy petrel of two revolutions (for July 4)* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

July 15 *Thomas Babbage, the father of the computer* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

#### **Monterey Public Library - Online Resources -**

[https://monterey.org/services/library/education\\_\\_research/articles\\_\\_databases.php](https://monterey.org/services/library/education__research/articles__databases.php)

#### **Bruce Ariss Was Here: A Monterey, California Artist Remembered**



**Check out the Bruce Ariss display at the Monterey Public Library.**

Ariss was an artist in Monterey, California, and friends with John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts. He is known for illustrating the fishing industry along Cannery Row.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sko4t-7fMaM>

**Bruce Wallace Ariss, Jr.**  
**American**  
**1911-1994**  
**Biography**

Painter, printmaker, muralist, and theater set designer Bruce Wallace Ariss, Jr., was born in White Salmon, Washington, on October 10, 1911. His family relocated to Oakland, California, when Ariss was a child. After graduation from Oakland Technical High School he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, working as art editor for *The Pelican* and *The Occident*, and earning extra cash as a heavyweight boxer.

After graduating with his B.A. in 1934, Ariss took a job as a heavy machinery operator for a gold mine, pursuing art on his own time. He managed to save \$200 (approximately \$3,000 today), affording him and his spouse Jean the ability to take an extended trip to Monterey in 1935, where they quickly settled. To make ends meet, the Arises briefly took over publication of local literary magazine *The Monterey Beacon*, through which they would publish works by John Steinbeck, William Saroyan, and Ed Ricketts, among others.

Not long after their arrival in Monterey Ariss found employment with the WPA's Federal Arts Project, in both the graphics and mural divisions, creating several works that can still be found in the Monterey Peninsula in California. His lithographs from this time often centered on the working class life of Cannery Row, depicting fishermen and dock workers as well as shipwrecks and other happenings along the coast. Among his many contributions to the city was the execution of a mural in the Pacific Grove High School library, a three-wall project created in collaboration with August Gay, depicting the Monterey coastline from Point Pinos to the Custom House. It took three years to complete; sadly, it burned down in 1946.

In the late 1940s he collaborated with artist Angelo Di Girolamo to design, build, and paint the Wharf Theater, which was completed in 1950 and led to commissions for theater set design on the Bing Crosby Show, *I Love Lucy*, and other Hollywood productions. In the 1980s he designed a massive mural project for Cannery Row from old mural sketches he made for the WPA. Ariss enlisted fifty young artists to execute fifty-two eight-foot wide mural sections, taking a total of five years to complete. The mural remains today and was subsequently the catalyst to rename the street it runs along as "Bruce Ariss Way."

In addition to public and private works, Ariss taught art at the Defense Language Institute located in the Monterey Presidio. He also wrote his own science fiction novel and illustrated Reginald Bretnor's sci-fi novel *Through Time and Space* with Ferdinand Feghoot (1962). In 1989, a major retrospective of Ariss' work was held at the Pacific Grove Art Center, which included his oil paintings, watercolors, and mural sketches and lithographs from his WPA days.

Bruce W. Ariss died in Monterey, California on September 1, 1994.

<https://www.annexgalleries.com/artists/biography/3936/Ariss,%20Jr./Bruce>



March 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 lect1	2 unit5	3	4
5	6	7 unit5	8	9 unit5	10	11
12	13	14 unit5	15 lect2 meet	16 unit5	17	18
19	20	21 Spring Break	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 unit6	29	30 unit6	31	

April 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 unit6	5 lect3	6 unit6	7	8
9	10	11 unit6	12	13 unit6	14	15
16	17	18 unit6	19 lect4 meet	20 uni6	21	22
23	24	25 unit7	26	27 unit7	28	29
30						

### Key to Calendar

**lect1= LECTURE - MRS. PACIFIC GROVE - A STAGED READING**

**lect2 = LECTURE - A TITAN OF MONTEREY HISTORY - MR. PAT HATHAWAY**

**lect3 = LECTURE - CHARLES PONZI: THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THE LEGEND**

**lect4 = LECTURE - MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY - HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?**

**meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**

**unit5 = GENTRAIN 405: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD: PART I (400-1100 CE)**

**unit6= GENT 6: THE MEDIEVAL WORLD: PART II (1100-1350)**

**unit7= GENT 7: THE EARLY RENAISSANCE : Part I (1350-1520)**

### 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

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**The Gentrain Society of MPC**

**2022 - 2023**

**Board of Directors**

President: Mary Pendlay (831) 224-0478  
Vice President: Linda Chetlin (831) 373-2440  
Secretary: Carol Harpster (510) 410-0822  
Treasurer: Open position  
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  
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Lectures: Paul & Terry Blum (831) 372-0895  
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Nominating: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702  
Scholarship: Vikki Logan (831) 625-8653  
Special Events: 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 MARCH/APRIL

**March 1, 2023 - 1:30 pm - MRS. PACIFIC GROVE - A STAGED READING -** Join us for a live performance that imagines a television interview with Elmarie Dyke in 1975, six years before her death. She will tell stories of people she knew, including Ed Ricketts and former Pacific Grove Mayor Julia Platt, and will share her recollections of, and opinions on, life in "The Last Home Town" starting in 1913.

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