



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

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Gentrain Society
of MPC

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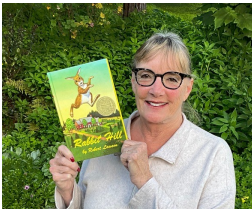
Volume 38 No.1

980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

January/February 2024

President's Corner

Mary Pendlay, President



Our membership newsletter, *The Conductor*, is a wonderful way to connect with the Gentrain Society. It keeps us aware of the benefits that we can reap from communication and education. I mention this because our "Scholarship Report" by our chair,

Vikki Logan, in the current newsletter, reminds me of my "returning student" odyssey. Perhaps my story is more dramatic, but perhaps you can relate to it.

I graduated from a public high school in Sarasota, Florida. I don't think my GPA was over 2.0. It was 1969 and the world was a strange and alien place for me. I was lost. My parents were disconnected from me (or I from them) and they insisted I find a college. I was admitted to Florida State University at Tampa and I packed up my beloved stereo and said goodbye to my three friends. Two months later I was in New York City asking the doorman to inform my older sister I had arrived. I stayed with her for one week and then she kicked me out. My parents insisted I stay at the Barbizon Hotel for Women. (far less glamorous than the Bren book). I found a job at Bloomingdale's for the Christmas season and moved out of the Barbizon. My salary was \$50.00 and my rent was \$55.00. Needless to say, I was in trouble. A sales girl in the Women's Department offered to take me in as her roommate. I cannot tell you the nightmares that followed. My address was Mott Street in 1970. I also lived on Avenue C (before Tribeca was a desirable neighborhood). The heroine use was rampant.

I tell you this because I gradually pulled myself up and grew up and came to the realization that I needed a college education, desperately. I, for one, would have greatly appreciated a scholarship to support my "continuing education". As it is, I graduated from Cabrillo College with an AA (straight A grades), UC Santa Cruz (BA) and a Masters' Degree and Community College Credential from Stanford University.

Please support our scholarship program at MPC through the Gentrain Society so that many, many terrific people can find a new road in life and a fulfilling career. Not all of us know exactly what we want when we graduate from high school. Returning to school saved my life. Our scholarships support those adults over 25 who wish

to return to school, attend MPC, and pursue a degree. Checks sent to MPC/Gentrain Society ATT: Vikki Logan, 980 Fremont Street, Monterey 93940, will reach our Scholarship Chair. Most of all, they will reach the hearts of those who did not give up. All of us deserve a second chance.

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meeting will be held on campus on **January 17 and February 21** at 2:45 pm in MPC Social Sciences 104. These **Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.**

Membership Report

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

Welcome to these new Gentrain members: **Guity Betbadal, Olga Chandler, Jane Downing & Howard Crow, Delphia & Mike Edwards, Kenneth Lewis and Juliet Twomey.**

Last month, I sent a "reminder" second notice to Gentrain Society members who had not yet renewed the Society membership. If you got my second letter and do not renew, this is the last *Conductor* you will receive!

To continue your membership, please send in your check now.

If you did not get a letter, you are in good standing, so please don't send in a duplicate check.

Special Events Possibilities

Rene Kimzey, Special Events Co-chair

NuMuseum, Los Gatos- Art Gallery Visit. Trip to Steinbeck Center and lunch at Steinbeck house - by MST????? Let me know if you would be interested in going. The Special Events Committee is looking into these. Need your feedback, so send to kimzey4@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

We are engaged in putting together a resumption of our popular trip to Ashland and hoping you can join the Gentrain Society and Dr. Alan Haffa, Director of Gentrain, as we visit Ashland, Oregon, for the annual Shakespeare Festival, July 1 through 6, 2024.

The festival is working to come back up to full roster, and they are going to be doing five plays during this time. They are presenting *Macbeth*, described as "an



ensemble-based showcase for OSF's acting company," *Born With Teeth*, a "razor-sharp encounter between Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe," *Jane Eyre*, a "gothic

masterpiece," *Lizard Boy*, a San Francisco smash hit and "fresh from its 2023 Off-Broadway run," and finally—*Much Ado About Nothing*, a "dazzling music-filled production directed by Miriam Laube, a 17-year veteran of the festival."

A two-session overview and analysis of the plays will be led by Dr. Haffa in the two weeks before the trip. We will also have daily discussions of the plays after viewing them in Ashland.

We are housed at the local university dormitories. Dorm rooms contain two twin beds and can be reserved for one or two people. Bathrooms are communal. In addition, there are a limited number of suites: larger rooms with two double beds, private bathrooms, mini fridge, and microwave. Suites can also be reserved for one or two people.

This year we will only be seeing one matinee, leaving most of your days free to shop or tour the area.

Costs include: Transportation from and back to MPC and within Ashland, five nights lodging, tickets to five plays, and gratuities. Meals are not included.

Costs for this year's trip have not been calculated; please watch for *The Conductor* and your email for details as soon as they become available.

Meet the Gentrainer Michael Sovereign

Rene Kimzey

Although a long-time member of the Gentrain Society, Michael Sovereign has transitioned from Professor Emeritus to an enthusiastic full-time student of the Gentrain course. Starting the course in '22, he is looking forward to the era in world history when California, and particularly Monterey, played a notable role. One of Mike's avocations has long been our city's significance and contribution to the culture, economics, and development of the US and beyond. In 2018, the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Monterey, he served as producer of the reenactment of the only land sea battle on the Pacific coast. Currently, he is working on the 250th US anniversary.

Born in the Chicago suburbs, Mike attended elementary schools and Lyons Township High School, where he

admitted to "not playing on their championship basketball or track team, not lettering in any sport, but teaching himself tennis which he continued to enjoy till age 80 when his "flattest of flat feet gave out." Significantly, however, he met Barbara Wolf and took her to his senior prom. In 1959, just after they both graduated from college, (Mike in Chemical Engineering at the University of Illinois (UI) and Barbara in Education at DePauw), they married. Moving to Indiana, Mike attended Purdue University where he received his Masters in Management and Doctorate in Economics, while Barbara taught school. During this time Mike worked on a Ford Foundation program on Airborne Television Instruction (a Zoom forerunner???) and helped produce two new Hoosiers, daughter Susie and son John.

Returning to UI as faculty in the Graduate School of Business, he joined with colleague Hans-Jurgen Zimmerman to write a text entitled "Qualitative Models for Production Management." His expertise in logistics was noted in Washington resulting in him being tapped to join the "whiz kids" in the Pentagon. In 1970, he was recruited from DC to the Naval Postgraduate School



(NPS) where he became Chairman of the Operations Research Department. In 1980, Mike was "loaned" to the Pentagon at the request of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). For his work in revising the defense planning and budgeting system and acquisition system, he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense.

Barbara longed to return to Monterey. so Mike transferred back as the Chair of the NPS Command, Control and Communications (C3) faculty group. Barbara returned to teaching, becoming a reading specialist in the Reading is Fundamental program. Their Monterey life was twice more interrupted when Mike was assigned to a two-year NATO planning research project in the Hague and a year in Hawaii with the US Pacific Command. In Hawaii, Mike planned, lead and prepared a 75 page guide entitled "Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief in the Next Century." (?? Is it being utilized in Lahaina?)

Retiring in 1999, Mike and Barbara became active in the Friends of the Monterey Public Library and spent time enjoying their grandchildren Alia and Zachary. Mike continues to serve as a Commissioner for Museums and Culture for the City of Monterey. Barbara passed away in 2021 after several years of ill health.

She was nationally recognized for her Reading is Fundamental work, and Mike and family commemorated her achievement by commissioning a mural entitled "Young Readers Reverie" at the Monterey Public Library. If you have not seen it, please go to the library terrace and enjoy it.

Mike continues to be active in civic affairs, lecturing on a number of historical topics and traveling the world; Greenland was the latest adventure. So, whiz kid, author, advisor to numerous grad students, Professor Emeritus, etc. the best of all, at least for Gentrainers, he has become the Special Events Co-chair for the Gentrain Society.

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

Meet Karla Garcia, winner of the Mary Ann Kane Memorial Scholarship: The high point of Karla's life was when she became a U.S. citizen. She is thankful that she landed and stayed at MPC because of the emotional and academic support that was provided to her. She is enrolled in the Maureen Church Coburn School of Nursing.

Karla was discouraged by previous educators and counselors in other institutions, "Here at MPC the educators made asking 'silly'" questions comfortable. They pushed me through my weaknesses by using facilitating tools to help me fully understand the materials. It made learning much more fun and exciting."

Karla has worked for Erica Diamant as a nanny for two years prior to her acceptance in nursing school. Erica has this to say about her, "My children adore her, and I have loved getting to know her. She provided excellent care for my children and shows immense promise in nursing. She is caring, thoughtful and responsible, punctual and organized."

Meet Emily Howard who states, " I am excited to be making this career change into nursing. In the short term I will graduate with my AA in Nursing from the MCCSN. I also plan to complete a Bachelor's degree while I gain experience in a nursing position.

"After 20 plus years in environmental education I was ready to pursue my next career path. I made the leap five years ago to go back to school. Throughout those years I worked full time as the director of education programs for a non-profit environmental organization while balancing my other volunteer jobs as a classroom parent for my children, mental health advocate, and ambassador of FUN for my family! This has been the most arduous time of my adult life, and I feel lucky to have found my place in this community. Your support is very appreciated as I make this final stretch to becoming a registered nurse!"

Recent Memorial Donation from Richard Stanley: \$200 toward The Gentrain Scholarship Fund in Honor of Robert Maloney.

Continuing and Professional Education Program Update

Alexis Bollin, Continuing and Professional Education Interim Director

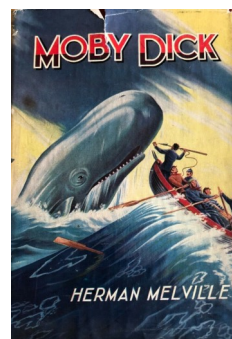
During the fall 2023 semester, the Continuing and Professional Education program made significant strides to develop and implement processes that would allow for a sustainable community education program. As we enter the spring 2024 semester, the program will begin scheduling community-based classes both in-person and online. In partnership with Ed2go, an online class provider, the Continuing and Professional Education program will begin offering online classes in a variety of subjects. We also have plans for in-person classes in the areas of fitness, nutrition, film, and financial planning. In addition to this, a partnership with Play-Well TEKnologies will provide summer programming for our younger community members engaging them in STEM projects using Legos.

In the spring semester, the program plans to attend community events to share information about classes and help enroll students. The program also plans to attend a couple of Gentrain classes to share information and gather feedback, and we will make announcements ahead of time. There are also plans for us to put together a schedule of class offerings starting in fall 2024; mailings will go out to all community members with details about classes and how to enroll.

If you have questions, class suggestions, or feedback on how we can improve please email the program at continuing@mpc.edu or call 831-646-4058.

The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka



After a break through December, the Great Books discussion group will resume on January 3 to begin discussing *Moby Dick*. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm on Zoom, and the discussion lasts for about an hour. We welcome new members to the group. Please contact Gerry Kapolka at gtkapolka@gmail.com to be placed on the mailing list to receive reading lists and Zoom invitations.

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.

January 3, 2024 - 1:30 pm

Eye Contact

Eye Contact began as Monterey Peninsula resident, Helga Wallnau Burch's first hand account of her teenage years surviving the Nazi time as told to author Jeff Westfield.



Thirteen-year-old Helga and her mother Elka Oling Wallnau

Jeff Westfield will detail the fates of the teenage Helga and her family members in the context of a democratic society turning fascist and anti-Semitic, Germany's

descent into authoritarian fascism. This is delineated in horrific detail in Helga's memories, which serve as both a warning and a template for our current American politics.

Jeff JT Westfield of Carmel Valley, is author of six self-published books, one of which is *Eye Contact* (2009), the true account of a teenager's survival during the Nazi time. Republished in 2022, *Eye Contact* now contains updated material on some of the major personages and is available at Amazon/Kindle bookstore in hard copy or e-book.

Jeff Westfield explains, "It was my privilege to receive Helga's account of her teenage survival years, her family's fate, and the fates of those who helped her survive, in the hopes that such events might be avoided by civilized societies in the future."

January 17, 2024 - 1:30 pm

(in Social Sciences 205)

Will Ye No Come Back Again

To honor his family heritage, singer and historian **David Gordon** offers a colorful presentation of 18th and 19th century Scottish songs and historical tales. Many of the lyrics are from the great Scottish poets Robert Burns and Robert Louis Stevenson. David accompanies himself on guitar, and interweaves the songs with poetry and fascinating historical background, including the 14th-century battle of



Bannockburn, the 18th-century saga of Bonnie Prince Charlie, and some spooky and evocative folk songs. As always, his presentation is filled with David's keen sense of drama, serious scholarship, lighthearted whimsy, and his endearing ability to tell stories and connect with the audience.

As a singer, guitarist, author, and historian, David Gordon has charmed audiences worldwide for more than 50 years. His performing career reaches from classical to folk, from Bach to Bluegrass. For thirty seasons he was a central figure at the Carmel Bach Festival, where he served as tenor soloist, lecturer, vocal coach, and historian. He is the author of *Carmel Impresarios*, the biography of Dene Denny and Hazel Watrous, founders of the Carmel Bach Festival. He also wrote *The Little Bach Book*, a best-selling book about daily life in Bach's time. David lives in Pacific Grove with his wife, author and artist Ginna Gordon. His website is www.spiritsound.com.

February 7, 2024 - 1:30 pm

California's Oldest Theatre is Back

California's First Theatre, prominently located on Pacific Street, is a Monterey legend. Soldiers staged the first productions in the 1840s, after which it also had a variety of uses. It became a permanent theatre in 1937, hosting the Troupers of the Gold Coast. They presented melodramas there for more than six decades. Unfortunately, the building was closed for safety reasons in 1999. At long last, State Parks and the Monterey State Historic Park Association have raised funds and have begun its restoration. While much remains to be done, the building is once again available for use. This talk will recount its colorful past and consider its future as a theatre once again.



Nicolette Eason Trottier is the President of the Board of the Monterey State Historic Park Association. She is a local realtor, with a passion and focus on architectural preservation and restoration of properties with distinctive and significant histories.

Mimi Sheridan is an architectural historian who has immersed herself in many facets of local history and preservation. She sits on the Board of the Monterey State Historic Park Association.

February 21, 2024 - 1:30 pm

New Book Recounts California's Pirate Raids

Author and former professor **William Briggs** will introduce you to the pirate Bouchard. He is the author of *That Pirate Bouchard, Revolutions, Redemption and the Plunder of Old California*. Few Californians are aware that California was once the target of a series of pirate raids. This is an overlooked period of early 19th century.

The book recounts the adventures of the French-born privateer Hipolito Bouchard, who sailed for Argentina during the South American wars of independence from Spain. Privateers practiced a form of government-sanctioned piracy and Bouchard sailed around the world searching for Spanish ships and coastal seaports to plunder. In 1818 he attacked and burned Monterey before raiding Santa Barbara and sacking the mission at San Juan Capistrano.



According to Briggs, a former California State University communications professor and dean, Bouchard's California raids didn't yield much plunder, but they did demonstrate the weak hold Spain held on Alta California in the last days of empire. Bouchard is revered as a national hero and Father of the Navy in three South American countries. But to Californios, he was "Ese Pirata, Buchar" ("That Pirate, Bouchard"), said with fear

and scorn. "He's well known in Argentina, Chile and Peru, as well as France. This may be the most comprehensive English language version of the story," Briggs says.

The book follows Hipolito Bouchard from his early days as a seaman in the Napoleonic Navy, to his disillusionment at the French attempts to put down the slave revolt on St. Domingue (Haiti) and his decision to join the independence movement in Rio de la Plata (Argentina) as both a soldier with Jose de San Martin and as a privateer. Following his around-the-world voyage and raids on California, Bouchard returned to South America expecting a hero's welcome, only to face charges of piracy. He found redemption serving the cause of liberty in Peru with Simon Bolivar, eventually becoming Admiral of the new Peruvian Navy.

William Briggs is former professor and director in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at San Jose State University, and Emeritus Dean of the College of Communications at California State University Fullerton.

Dr. Briggs earned a degree in history from Stanford University. He holds a master's degree in communication from San Jose State University and received his doctorate in education from University of San Francisco. He received the Bronze Star medal for military service in Vietnam. A native Californian, he is past president of the Morgan Hill Historical Society and a 50-year resident of Santa Clara County.

MPC Spring Gentrain Program

January 23, 25, 30 - February 1, 6, 8, 13, 15

Gentrain 12/412: AGE OF PROGRESS (1815 - 1870 AD)

The course is an examination of the Industrial Revolution and some of its most important consequences, positive and negative. It also looks at the second generation of Romanticism in music, art and literature, in part as a response to industrialization, and the way the disillusionments of Romanticism led into the age of realism in the arts.

February 20, 22, 27, 29 - March 5, 7, 12, 14

Gentrain 13/413 THE END OF INNOCENCE (1870-1918 AD)

The course gives a portrait of Europe leading up to and including World War I. It is also the age of "isms": impressionism, realism, naturalism, cubism, futurism, Marxism, and Freudianism. It culminates with World War I and the Russian Revolution.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

In person Special Events have been 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 2024.** 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 Carol Marquart. **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.

Jan 13 '*Alas, poor Yorick!*' - Laurence Sterne the original oddball author - Howard Burnham & 2024 MCTA Hybrid Theatre Theatre.

Feb date TBD '*Bandito!*' - Tiburcio Vasquez as recalled by Alphonso Mason Burnham - Howard Burnham & 2024 MCTA Hybrid Theatre.

The Gentrain Society Celebrates in the Sam Karas Room of the MPC Library

United Nations Day - October 24, 2023



A Merry Little Party - December 5, 2023



January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 lect1	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 lect2 meet	18	19	20
21	22	23 unit12	24	25 unit12	26	27
28	29	30 unit12	31			

February 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				6 unit12	2	3
4	5	6 unit12	7 lect3	8 unit12	9	10
11	12	13 unit12	14	15 unit12	16	17
18	19	20 unit13	21 lect4 meet	22 unit13	23	24
25	26	27 unit13	28	29 unit13		

Key to Calendar

lect1= LECTURE - EYE CONTACT

**lect2 = LECTURE - WILL YE NO
COME BACK AGAIN**

**lect3 = LECTURE - CALIFORNIA'S
OLDEST THEATRE IS BACK**

**lect4 = LECTURE - NEW BOOK
RECOUNTS CALIFORNIA'S
PIRATE RAIDS**

**meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING**

**UNIT12 = GENT 12: AGE OF
PROGRESS (1815 - 1870 AD)**

**UNIT13 = GENT 13: THE END OF
INNOCENCE (1870-1918 AD)**

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
2023 - 2024
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GENTRAIN SOCIETY JANUARY/FEBRUARY

January 3, 2024 - 1:30 pm - EYE CONTACT- *Eye Contact* began as Monterey Peninsula resident, Helga Wallnau Burch's first hand account of her teenage years surviving the Nazi time as told to author Jeff Westfield. Jeff Westfield will detail the fates of the teenage Helga and her family members in the context of a democratic society turning fascist and anti-Semitic, Germany's descent into authoritarian fascism.

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