



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

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July 16 - September 15, 2026

President's Corner

Nancy Johnson, President



It's time to get excited! The new Gentrain academic year will begin on August 18, and it will bring with it two new team members. First, a new Coordinator has been chosen to succeed the retiring Alan Haffa. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Heather Crowley, a historian trained at Cardiff University in

Wales.

Vice President Becky Taylor and I enjoyed meeting Heather over coffee recently. We found her engaging, knowledgeable in her field, and savvy about the administrative challenges of community college teaching. We think she will be an excellent fit for the Gentrain Program.

In other faculty news, a new Literature/Drama instructor is being chosen to join the team. Gamble and Stephanie will be returning to do what they do so well, and, for those of you who love Tom Logan (and who doesn't), Tom will be back to work his magic on Egypt. He will continue giving insights into other cultures of the ancient world before Heather steps in as Gentrain's new historian.

Your Gentrain Board is working hard to make the coming year a success. We know that the new registration system has been challenging, and we want to make the process easier. Elsewhere in this issue you will find an article designed to make registering for Gentrain less daunting.

If you need any further persuading to attend in the fall, consider a few of the many benefits of lifelong learning. In addition to expanding our knowledge, continuous learning has been shown to slow cognitive decline. Staying intellectually active keeps us adaptable and increases self-confidence. It broadens our worldview, and by connecting us with like-minded people, deepens our enjoyment of life. I hope many of you will come to welcome our new instructors this fall as we continue to build our stimulating Gentrain community.

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held on campus on **August 19** at 2:45 pm in MPC Social

Sciences 104. Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.

Membership Report

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

Welcome to these new members of the Gentrain Society: **June Henry, Carolyn Keeley, Sarah LeWarne, Bobbi Long, Kyle Stewart, and Sarah Wilgress.**

It's membership renewal time! You should receive a renewal letter from me sometime in late July or early August. **As usual, parking passes will be included, so be sure to save them.** Members who have already renewed will get their parking passes mailed separately in August. Also enclosed will be a flyer about a special event planned for October, a visit to de Young Museum to see "The Treasures of the Pharaohs!"

Gentrain Society Welcomes Dr. Heather Crowley, New Faculty Coordinator

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

Dr. Heather Crowley has been appointed Faculty Coordinator of the Gentrain Program, succeeding Dr. Alan Haffa who retired last month. Dr. Crowley brings wide experience as a History and Art History professor at both MPC and other California colleges.



She completed her education in Victoria, British Columbia, and Cardiff, Wales, where her academic research focused on the Middle Ages.

Since moving to California, she taught at Cabrillo College in Aptos, Cal State East Bay (Hayward) and Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. In addition to history and art history, she taught Western Civ/ European History and World History at these schools.

At MPC, she has primarily taught American History and American Women's History courses. In the fall she will also be leading one of the Understanding Art sections at MPC and dual-enrollment classes teaching college-level history to high school students at Marina High.

Dr. Crowley says, "I am delighted to be joining Gentrain in the Fall semester. It is wonderful to be coordinating for a storied program at MPC and working with you to ensure the program is successful for many years to come. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to meeting each of you at the start of the academic year."

Gentrain Society Election

Peter Purdue, Chair Nominating Committee

Each year we elect new Board members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three "at large" members. The election is held at the first Wednesday Lecture in August.

A Nominating Committee, selects a slate of candidates for the election. The slate of candidates for the August election is:

President:	Nancy Johnson
Vice President:	Becky Taylor
Secretary:	Carol Harpster
Treasurer:	Mary Alice Rennick
At large:	Star Reiersen
	Ruth Alota
	To be determined.

Gentrain Registration Procedures

Mary Alice Rennick, Treasurer

Use the MPC online system to register for the Gentrain course. If this is your first time using the system, you will need your MPC Student ID number to create a Lobo Apps account.

Log in to your Lobo Apps account to access MyMPC.

- Go to <https://mpc-edu.clearlogin.com/login>, enter your credentials and click the Log In button. (If you have trouble, follow the help link in the lower right hand corner of the screen.)
- An assortment of application options will appear. Select MyMPC.
- Open the Registration Dashboard.
- Several choices will be offered. Explore them at will. To follow the most direct path to Gentrain registration, select "Register for Classes".
 - ♦ Select term—Fall 2026; Click Continue
 - ♦ A search box appears at the top of the screen. You can use this to search by Subject for Gentrain (non credit) and/or World Civilization (credit). All courses that match your criteria will be listed. View the details (time, dates, credits) by clicking on an item.
 - ♦ For non credit registration, select all four GENT sections (401, 402, 403, 404A).
 - ♦ For credit registration, select WRLD sections of your choice.
 - ♦ A summary table will appear in the lower right part of your screen. (You may need to

scroll your display to see it.)

- ♦ Each section you selected will be listed. Click the "ADD" action next to each of them.
- ♦ Finally, click the "Submit" button in the lower right hand corner of the screen.
- ♦ Click the arrow in each Action Dropbox in the righthand column. (You may need to scroll your window to see it.) Select "Add".
- ♦ Click the Submit button in the lower right corner of the screen. Look for a "Save Successful" message.

For HELP.

- Try the assistants in the Office of Registration and Records, Bldg. 22.
- Gentrain hopes to offer an in-person registration help session in July or August. Society members will be notified.

Special Events

Mike Sovereign and Rene Kimzey, Co-chairs

To quote Shakespeare, "Parting is such sweet sorrow." We all experienced that deeply as we honored Dr. Alan Haffa, our long time Shakespeare expert, professor,



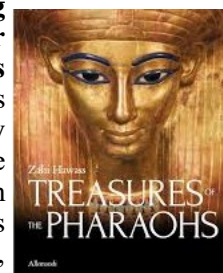
Gentrain Co-ordinator and Gentrain Society Faculty Advisor as he retired from MPC. Some sixty folks from the City of Monterey staff, members of Kiwanis, former Gentrain professors, the MPUSD Board,

the MPC Board, students and friends gathered to celebrate the culmination of his illustrious career. Hopefully, he will continue with the Ashland Shakespeare Festival and possibly be a guest lecturer in the future. We will all miss his excellent lectures, skillful management, warm, supportive persona and, of course, that hearty laugh.

Mark your calendars for October 16, 2026 !!!!

The Gentrain Society is sponsoring a trip to the de Young Museum for the special exhibit "The Treasures of the Pharaohs."

The exhibit is described as exotic and scholarly with many treasures never before shown. Our own Egyptologist, Tom Logan, enthusiastically recommends it as not to be missed. As you know, we have not been able to offer bus trips for some time because of the high cost. We are pleased that the Gentrain Society has prepared this trip--bus transportation to and from MPC and exhibit ticket--for \$75 per person. The financial success or failure of this trip will determine whether we are able to offer such events in the future. Please join us.



In order to join us for the De Young trip to view the special exhibit, please make a check payable to MPC/Gentrain for \$75 to cover the cost of the transportation and event ticket. INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER so we can contact you if necessary. Please indicate on the check Treasures of the Pharaohs.

Mail the check to the following address to secure your spot--seats are limited.

MPC/Gentrain Society
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

Meet Keegan Naval, Gentrain Society Scholarship Winner:



"Ever since I was a little girl I felt drawn to a career in medicine. It took me plenty of years and many different roles to know without a doubt that nursing is where I will thrive. I earned my BA in Kinesiology in 2014. While earning that degree I participated in internships and shadowed local physicians to get experience and exposure to see if that is where I could see my future. In 2015 I became an emergency Medical Technician and a Medical Scribe, and that is when I realized I wanted to work in the hospital setting. Then the Covid pandemic hit and I felt called to do more to care for my community. I became a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and for the past five years I have been a CNA in a local emergency room while working towards becoming a nurse.

"Working in an ER during a pandemic and working so closely with the nursing staff solidified my desire to become a nurse. I am grateful every day to work with the most incredible and resilient people that I have ever known. I was accepted to Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing at MPC for fall of 2024. One month before we were to start classes, I found out I was pregnant with my first child after struggling for years to conceive! I had to make a very hard decision, and I decided to postpone for a year thus starting in the fall of 2025. Nursing school is tough, especially while working and being a first time mom, but it is the most I have ever enjoyed learning and I look forward to the day I earn the title of RN."

This is what Keegan's teacher has to say about her:

"I have been consistently impressed with Keegan's attitude and her drive in both the classroom and clinical environments. I am extremely confident that she will be a credit to her school and her community as a practicing registered nurse upon graduation. I cannot recommend

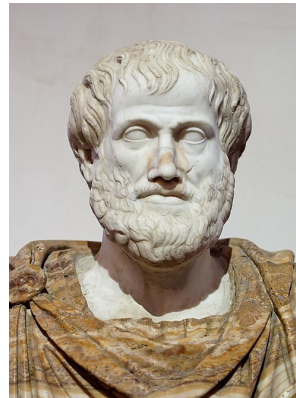
her highly enough for a scholarship to aid in her success in the program.

Signed Layla Willingham"

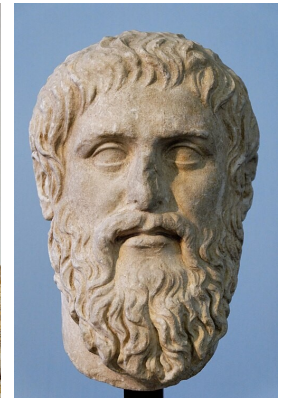
The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka

The Great Books discussion group will be taking a break until the beginning of September. At that time we will be reading Plato's *Symposium* and *Artistotle Nichomachean Ethics*. We welcome any new members, and you don't have to join the group at the beginning of the reading to participate. We meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. The discussions last about an hour. If you wish to join our group, email me, Gerry Kapolka, at gtkapolka@gmail.com to receive a reading list and Zoom invitations. We welcome all newcomers.



Aristotle



Plato

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.

August 5, 2026, 1:30 pm

Inflation, an Assault on Social Justice

Professor Donald Morgan's lecture will provide a lecture focusing on the subject matter of the social science of economics, the causes of inflation (too much demand, too little supply and pricing power) and the policies that might be used to correct inflation.



Professor Morgan has been studying the social science of Economics since the mid 1960s, graduating magna cum laude from Xavier University in 1966. He attended graduate school at The University of New Hampshire where he received a Master of Arts degree in Economics in 1968, and in the fall of 1968 he began a full-time position at St. Bernard College in Cullman Alabama. After teaching for two years in Alabama, he accepted a position at the College of Steubenville in Ohio. During his tenure at Steubenville, he was promoted to Assistant Professor, and in the fall of 1972 he returned to The University of New Hampshire graduate school for the PhD program. Over the following eight years he taught at The University of New Hampshire, New England College, and New Hampshire Business College. In 1980 he moved to Monterey, California where he became associated with Monterey Peninsula College. He taught at MPC for two years in the 1980s and then devoted his time to the business of selling firewood and the building of a house on 40 acres of undeveloped property that he purchased in Jamesburg in Monterey County, where he has been living since 1982. In 1996 he returned to his academic career as an Adjunct Instructor of Economics at MPC.

August 19, 2026 1:30 pm
To be determined.

Watch for further notice about who will speak on this date through email or an informational flyer, or direct any questions to the Gentrain Board Vice President Becky Taylor at (831) 869-1562 or check gentrain.org for updates.

September 2, 2026 1:30 pm
The Muckraker: How The Radical Lincoln Steffens Won The Hearts (If Not The Minds) Of Carmel



Lincoln Steffens

Lincoln Steffens was one of America's most influential muckraking journalists - a fierce critic of political corruption and a relentless advocate for reform. Through works like *The Shame of the Cities*, he exposed graft in city governments and helped define the Progressive Era's demand for accountability. In his later years, Steffens settled in Carmel, bringing his radical ideals to the quiet coastal town. Carmel offered him a place to reflect, write his memoirs and engage in spirited debate with the town's artists and intellectuals. Despite his uncompromising views - he remained a vocal socialist and internationalist - Steffens was warmly received. His neighbors may not have shared his politics, but they respected his integrity and wit. In

Carmel, the muckraker found a home, and the town, in turn, embraced the rebel in its midst.

Speaker **Joe Livernois** is an award-winning journalist with more than 35 years of experience covering the Central Coast of California. He served as executive editor of *The Monterey Herald*, where he led coverage on local politics, agriculture and social issues. He is also the founding editor of *Voices of Monterey Bay*, a nonprofit news organization dedicated to in-depth, community-centered journalism. He is widely respected for his commitment to storytelling that reflects the diversity and complexity of the Monterey Peninsula.



What Is The Gentrain Program? *Taken From gentrain.org*

The Gentrain (General Education Train of Courses) Program has been offered by Monterey Peninsula College since 1974. It is an interdisciplinary course in Western Civilization, and is presented in four four-week courses each fall and spring semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 to 11:00 A.M.

The entire program can be completed in four semesters. It can be taken for credit (one unit per four-week class) or non-credit. A team of four instructors discusses literature/drama, philosophy/religion, history, and art. Guest lecturers are sometimes added for special presentations.

The Gentrain Society sponsors additional lectures, trips, and other activities that complement the material covered in the MPC course.

MPC Fall Gentrain Program

August 18, 20, 25, 27 and September 1, 3, 8, 10
**GENTRAIN 1/401: PREHISTORY AND
EARLIEST CIVILIZATIONS TO 1200 B.C.**

Human origins: where, when, and how. Cave paintings and prehistoric world views. The agricultural and urban revolutions, and two of the planet's first great civilizations: Sumeria and Egypt.

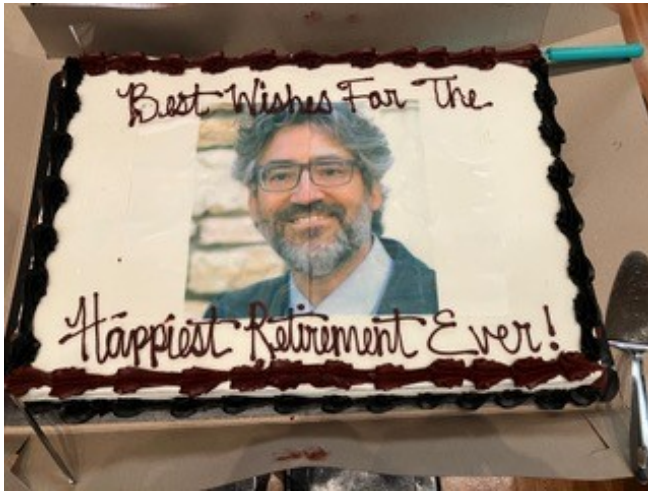


September 15, 17, 22, 24, 29 and October 1, 6, 8
**GENTRAIN 2/402: FOUNDATIONS OF THE
CLASSICAL WORLD - 1200-500 B.C.**

Minoan, Mycenaean, and Hebrew civilizations. Agamemnon, Helen and the Trojan War, and Homer: the Heroic Age. The heroes of the Old Testament, Greek art and Greek and Hebrew history, religion, literature, and world views.



Alan Haffa Retirement Celebration Photos by Richard Forster



Alan Haffa Retirement Celebration Photos by Richard Forster



**The Gentrain Society of MPC
2025 - 2026
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Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund**

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(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: _____

___ **I would like to learn about volunteer
opportunities.**

Please clip out and send to:
Membership, *Gentrain Society* - MPC
980 Fremont St., Monterey CA 93940

