



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

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May/June 2024

President's Corner

Linda Chetlin



Hello Fellow Gentrainers!
I have the honor of addressing you as President of the Gentrain Society once again. Mary Pendlay has decided to step away as our President. I for one will miss her totally awesome governing of us for so long and hope to do the job in as high a standard as she left to us!! I can only hope to step into the shoes of such a wonderful lady!!

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meeting will be held on campus on **May 15, 2024 and June 19** 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 Gentrainers: **Muriel Anderson, Ruth Carter, Martha A. Craig, Jerilynn Smith Crivello, Tamara Harris, and Jacki Horton.**

Did you know that persons joining the Gentrain Society after April 1 are paid up members until August 31 of the next year, e.g. August 31, 2025? If you know anyone who has delayed joining because it's near the end of the school year, please inform them !

Special Events

Rene Kimzey and Mike Sovereign, Co-chairs

Did you "Whistle a Happy Tune," or could you have "Danced All Night" after *The King and I* Special Event?

Thanks to Stephanie Spoto for the great pre-lecture. She challenged us all to compare and contrast the diary of the actual Anna to the novel, *Anna and the King of Siam*, and the Hollywood version of the story. Personally, it was devastating to learn that Anna wasn't actually there when the King died. That scene was a multi-Kleenex favorite. Thanks to all of the 60+ who participated, and a special thanks to Ruth Alota for helping at check-in.

Stay tuned for the information on the end of semester gathering, probably on May 16th after the Dialogue.



At Lighthouse Cinema

Meet the Gentrainer Star Reiersen

Terry Blum



We are happy to introduce Gentrain Society Member-at-Large Star Reiersen. She has recently accepted the position of Gentrain Society Liaison with the MPC Board of Trustees.

Star was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1944. She moved to Palo Alto, California in 1948. As an adult, she has lived in Portland, Oregon, Tacoma, Washington, and Monterey, California.

It was the '50s, so her mom told her she could be: 1. a teacher 2. a librarian 3. a nurse. Star chose #1. Later in life, her mom confessed to her that her Dad thought she would make a good engineer!

After getting a Master's degree in Teaching, Star taught high school English and then Composition and the History of the English Language at community colleges in Oregon. And in Oregon, she met and married her future husband, Larry. But she was ambitious and unhappy teaching writing to adults who would rather have been watching the Trail Blazers (Portland's winning basketball team). So she started applying for entry level jobs at Xerox and Burroughs and other tech companies in Portland. It took two years of applying and being rejected, but thanks to the pressure of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, she FINALLY got a job



selling adding machines at Burroughs. In a couple of years this led to selling and installing and training people in MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) encoding and proof machines - still at Burroughs.

Star had proved she could sell. Next she decided she wanted to build a house - not to live in but to experience the building of a house. Her husband did not want to build a house, but he wanted to leave Tektronix, a company he had worked at for 19+ years. They made a deal; She would stay in Portland -- build a house -- and then join him in Tacoma where he had taken a job with Weyerhaeuser.

A guy Star worked with at Burroughs had built a house. She figured he wasn't any smarter than she, so she asked him how he did it. He told her he bought a book by Wagner and followed the instructions. So she bought the book. She also bought a book of standard plans, got a permit from the city and hired a friend's recommended "landscaper" who cleared the land. With the Wagner book as her guide, she proceeded step by step.

When Star finished, she had done much of the work herself - very satisfying - and hired help with the plumbing and wiring. (The guy she hired for help with the wiring was a hobo who lent her his tools and then sang in a lovely tenor voice as he lounged in the corner!) She/they passed all inspections!

1979. It was time to sell the property and join her husband in Tacoma. But bank interest rates were almost 13%. Eventually Star found a CASH buyer, paid back her uncle who had loaned her \$60,000, and rejoined her husband. Her husband's job paid well and involved a lot of traveling, so she was free to do what she wanted. She bought an Osborne computer which eventually led to Computer Power, a company that started out teaching people to use computers but eventually became a company that set up people's networks and taught them to use them efficiently.

They sold a property on Mercer Lake, and bought some land in Boulder Creek. When Larry decided he wanted to build an "off the grid"



house on the Boulder Creek property, Star jumped at the chance to help him. Unfortunately, a tick bite gave him Lyme disease. It took a LONG time to get him diagnosed and treated and well, but by then he could see that an "off the grid" house was going to be more than

he and Star could maintain, so they sold it. Larry died in 2021.

Star's involvement with Gentrain started with her father who was an engineer with a degree from the University of Cincinnati. At the age of 50, he realized that he never had time to learn about art and literature, so he went back to school - De Anza Community College in Cupertino, California. With a group from De Anza he started going to the Shakespeare Festival at Ashland. Star had many clients who spoke highly of the MPC's lifelong learning program - Ken Roberts, Jean Appel, Lilyan Elred, and Anne Flynn, come to mind. Once they sold the property in Boulder Creek, she had time - at last - to go back to school herself. She started coming to Gentrain lectures about ten years ago and joined the Society within the last four years.

Star says that she is constantly amazed that she who has two Master's degrees (no PhD, as her mother would say) but is still learning. She is particularly impressed with Gamble Madsen and would LOVE to go to Europe with her and just hear her talk about the art and architecture.

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

The Scholarship Committee is in the process of reviewing applications for Gentrain scholarships for the 2024 to 2025 school year. Thanks to your generosity, we are able to award \$20,000.

Meet Maria Duenas, winner of the Anne Flynn Memorial Scholarship. Maria wrote to the Gentrain Society after receiving her scholarship award in the fall of 2023, "My name is Maria Duenas, and I would like to thank the Gentrain Society for choosing me as a recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship. I am a 27-year-old mother of two, majoring in Kinesiology. I have always been the type of person to take care of others, and although I have had a bumpy road in the past, I knew I couldn't give up on my education, so I decided to enroll again at MPC in the fall of 2021. This was by far the best decision I have ever made other than being a mother because I did not give up on myself. I will graduate from MPC in the spring of 2024 and transfer to CSUMB where I will receive my Bachelor's degree and a Masters. Once I receive my degree I hope to find a career opportunity on the Monterey Peninsula so that I can help others.

I have two children who look up to me, and it is important that I move forward to become the best version of myself and be a positive example to them.

Thank you again,
Maria Duenas"

Recent donation:

Stephanie Lawrence in memory of Carolyn Palmer.

The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka

The Gentrain Great Books Discussion Group will be reading *Spinoza's Theologico-Political Treatise* through May 8 and then begin discussions on Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*. We meet on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, and the discussions last about an hour. To be placed on the mailing list for reading lists and Zoom invitations, please contact Gerry Kapolka at gtkapolka@gmail.com.

Library Update

Allison Porter

We are nearing the end of the semester. The good news is that our library has been a great success; we have 25 - 30 books checked out at any one time.



The other news is that we are nearing the end of the two-year Gentrain rotation. We would like to see all the books either returned before the end of the current semester, OR Re-checked out on a SUMMERTIME program.

You can also use our SUMMERTIME program to get ahead on the reading if that appeals to you. Go to LIBRARY from our web site to see a list of our Unit One books, and drop me a request or see me in class to get you what you want.

Many of you will not be returning, so it is especially important that you bring the books back to the classroom before leaving us for good.

FEATURED BOOK

Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin

Timothy Snyder

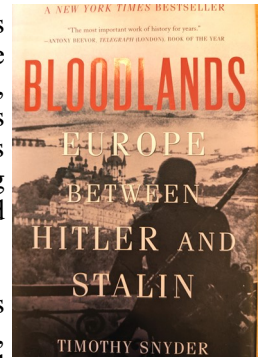
Basic Books 2010, 524 pp

This is the story of central Europe, caught mid-Twentieth Century between the genocidal policies of Stalin and Hitler. These populations, mostly comprising present day Poland, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltics, were coveted for their farmland and other riches, as well as their "room." The struggle to rid these nations of their populations and to make way for German and Russian settlers, cost the lives of more than 14 million civilian Poles, Ukrainians, and others, as well as Europe's Jews. Because of the Iron Curtain that dropped over Russia after the war, we have had greater access to evidence of the Nazi depredations. Recent scholarship enables us to understand more about Stalin's deliberate policies of starvation and murder.

The Russian war in Ukraine has revived interest in this history. One cannot read *Bloodlands* without seeing the historical roots of the Ukrainian reaction to Russian

aggression; the last generation was subject to a deliberate extermination of their educated, their elite, and their Kulaks (agrarian middle-class), as well as forced collectivization (amounting to slavery) in order to feed "Russians."

The book is a handful, but reads like a novel. Hitler and Stalin, two sides of the vice that closed around Central Europe in mid-Twentieth Century, were animated by very different world views, politics, and megalomaniacal fantasies, and they worked together only briefly, but they both had designs of the same territory and peoples, who were caught in the middle. The book rounds out the story of those times and sheds a bright light on today.



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.

May 1, 2024 - 1:30 pm Chinatown Before and After the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake

In this staged reading, Arnold Genthe, an immigrant to California from Germany, takes up a new hobby in 1900 . . . photography. He wanders through the neighborhoods in San Francisco with his folding Kodak camera and stumbles upon a place called Tangrenbu, known by outsiders as the Chinese quarter. With the help of Chinese interpreter and guide Hong Yen, the story of the early Chinese in America begins to unfold. With Arnold Genthe as our narrator, we view these very rare and authentic photographs taken before and after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

Carol Marquart's works have appeared in many venues around the Monterey Peninsula. She specializes in staged readings about famous and infamous persons of the 20th century. The subjects of her plays have included Carol Steinbeck, Mark Twain, Frank Lloyd Wright, Sarah Bernhardt, Bette Davis, William Randolph Hearst and even Rasputin.



May 15, 2024 - 1:30 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.

June 5, 2024 - 1:30 pm

Samuel F. B. Morse (1885-1969) - Visionary Developer of the Monterey Peninsula



Award-winning writer and local historian **Neal Hotelling** will discuss the role played by S. F. B. Morse in developing the Monterey Peninsula in the prior century. At just 29, Morse was hired in 1915 to liquidate the vast land holdings of the Big Four Railroad barons. Including the "Del Monte Unit" with nearly 20,000 acres in Monterey County. Morse became

S. F. B. Morse a key player in the development of the Monterey Peninsula, buying the Del Monte Unit himself in 1919.

Neal Hotelling has been seeking and sharing a deeper understanding of Monterey area history for nearly four decades. He is a consulting historian with Pebble Beach Company and Monterey Peninsula Country Club and was a past president of the Cannery Row Foundation, the Monterey Heritage Society and Monterey County Mensa. The popular speaker has authored numerous articles on local history and four books on Pebble Beach, two of which were awarded Book of the Year by

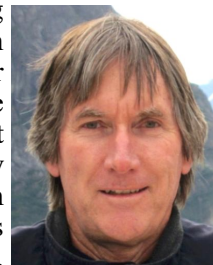


the International Network of Golf. For more than four years he also wrote the weekly "History Beat" column in the Carmel Pine Cone.

June 19, 2024 - 1:30 pm

Project Azorian The CIA's Attempt to Recover the Soviet Submarine and the Connections to Monterey

Mike Clancy shares an amazing intelligence mission. Project Azorian was a CIA project to covertly recover the sunken Soviet ballistic missile submarine, K-129. The K-129 went down with all hands approximately 1,600 miles northwest of Hawaii on March 8, 1968 at a location that was unknown to the Soviets. However, using underwater surveillance technology, the U.S. Navy was able to determine where the submarine sank within about six miles. Subsequently, the U.S. Navy submarine Halibut was able to find and photograph the K-129, more than three miles down on the ocean floor. This enabled a covert recovery operation, which was launched in June of 1974, using a remarkable ship built specifically for this task, the Glomar Explorer.



Project Azorian was one of the most exciting, complex, secretive, expensive and potentially rewarding intelligence gathering operations of the 20th Century. The marine technology it employed in the attempt to recover the submarine was like nothing seen before or since.

There are three significant connections between Project Azorian and Monterey. This presentation will highlight these connections while reviewing the history of this incredible and extraordinarily dangerous episode of the Cold War. In addition, the speaker will present a novel theory on the root cause of the K-129 disaster.

Mr. Clancy is a former Technical and Scientific Director of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center in Monterey and a previous Gentrain speaker.

MPC Spring Gentrain Program

April 23, 25, 30 - May 2, 7, 9, 14, 16

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.

May 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 lect1	2 unit15	3	4
5	6	7 unit15	8	9 unit15	10	11
12	13	14 unit15	15 lect2 meet	16 unit15	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Key to Calendar

lect1 = LECTURE - CHINATOWN BEFORE AND AFTER THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE

lect2 = LECTURE - WILL YE NO COME BACK AGAIN

lect3 = LECTURE - SAMUEL F. B. MORSE (1885-1969) - VISIONARY DEVELOPER OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

lect4 = LECTURE - PROJECT AZORIAN - THE CIA'S ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THE SOVIET SUBMARINE AND THE CONNECTIONS TO MONTEREY

meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

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

June 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 lect3	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Lect4 meet	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Yes, I would like to contribute to the Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund
980 Fremont Street, Monterey CA 93940
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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

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2023 - 2024
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Member-at-Large: Star Reiersen (831) 372-5725
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GENTRAIN SOCIETY MAY/JUNE

May 1, 2024 - 1:30 pm - CHINATOWN BEFORE AND AFTER THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE - In this staged reading, Arnold Genthe, an immigrant to California from Germany, takes up a new hobby in 1900 . . . photography. He wanders through the neighborhoods in San Francisco with his folding Kodak camera and stumbles upon a place called Tangrenbu, known by outsiders as the Chinese quarter. With Arnold Genthe as our narrator, we view these very rare and authentic photographs taken before and after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake.

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