



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

# Conductor

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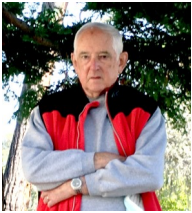
Volume 38 No.5

980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

November/December 2024

## President's Corner

*Peter Purdue*  
President



Fellow Gentrainers, Greetings!

As we began a new year (September 1) we put the COVID impact further into the past. Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic we have not been able to organize a trip to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Finally, as last year drew to an end we were able to resume our participation in this highly desired activity. This is evidence of a return to more normal times. And we have started planning for the 2025 trip.

The new Board of Directors was installed on September 18. **However, our newly elected Vice President had to resign, so we are now seeking a new Vice President. I ask our Gentrain Society Members to help us in this search by nominating a Member who would be able to step into the position.** Please send any nomination to me or any Member of the Board. Phone numbers of Board Members on the back page of this newsletter.

MPC offers a multi-course program in Western Civilization called the GENTRAIN Program. We support that program directly with funds to support faculty in advancing their knowledge base and teaching skills. We also run a number of programs to enhance and expand the intellectual and cultural interests of our members. A very important program is our scholarship program that provides funding for needy students. We have provided our students with \$500,00 in scholarships since the program was started.

The Board is now working on establishing this year's programs. The first event was a visit to the Crocker Museum and Art gallery on October 27! More to follow.

The Board faces a number of serious issues this year. We must grow our membership numbers (still below pre-COVID numbers), increase our general funding levels, and develop new sources of income. We would be delighted to get ideas and suggestions from you, the Members of our Society. I will report on progress as the year develops.

## Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meeting will be held on campus on **November 20, 2024** at 2:45 pm in MPC Social Sciences 104. **No Board meeting is scheduled for December.** These Meetings are open to all Gentrain Society Members.

## Membership Report

*Merry Nolte, Membership Chair*

**Welcome to these new Gentrain members: Suzette Cavanaugh & Michael Carbaugh, Roger Grace, George Norton, and Nancy Sherburne.**

Thank you to the members who have renewed. **There are still at this date forty-six who have not renewed! I will send out a final reminder to them this month.** If you're not sure of your status, you can email me at [membership@gentrain.org](mailto:membership@gentrain.org).

## Special Events

*Rene Kimzey and Mike Sovereign, Co-chairs*

The trip to the **Crocker Museum and Mansion** was a L-O-N-G ride. but well worth the trip. Several participants were pleased to find the Monterey scenes in the extensive California collection. There was something for every taste from oils to composite materials, from old masters to sculptures, elegant china and pottery to current day collages. The spectacular mansion displayed intricate wood inlay floors, sparkling chandeliers, priceless antique furniture and wallpaper and textiles appropriate to the period.

**Upcoming Special Events in the planning stages are a private Tor House tour and concert.** We will meet at Tor House for this event which will be limited to 12 guests. **Secondly, we will have an end of the semester gathering in the lobby of the Lecture Forum immediately after the last class.** Stay tuned.

**SAVE THE DATE! The Oregon Shakespeare trip will be June 9 through June 14, 2025.**

## Gentrain Financial Report

*Mary Alice Rennick, Gentrain Society Treasurer*

The Gentrain Board has noticed a disturbing downward trend in our unrestricted assets over the past couple of years. We remain solvent, but we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our financial health. Initial analysis indicates that the decline is due primarily to decreasing membership coupled with increasing

printing and mailing costs. We are hopeful we can rebuild our membership now that COVID restrictions no longer prevent us from offering exciting trips and other experiences to our members. But increased costs are probably here to stay.

The Board will continue to analyze our budget data in order to identify a strategy to strengthen our overall financial position.

## Scholarship Report

*Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair*

**Meet Micah Mozal**, winner of the Chuck Kimzey Memorial Scholarship: Micah graduated from Pacific Grove High School and then attended MPC. After years of working as a bicycle mechanic, he made the decision to return to MPC and be retrained as an arborist. This is what Layla Manor, counselor at MPC has to say about Micah "Micah is a returning student with the goal of starting a new career as an Arborist.

"When Micah first attended counseling, he was clear in his direction, excited about the curriculum, and was eager to map out the timeline to complete his studies. Micah scheduled and attended regular counseling appointments to insure that each semester was productive, efficient and timely. Additionally, Micah prepared for each meeting by writing questions ahead of time, asking pertinent follow up questions, and often seeking more than one pathway forward. Micah continues to demonstrate a notable maturity and commitment towards his studies; having many years of professional experience in the workforce, and making time in his full time schedule to also attend school and complete a degree in an impressive two years. Not many students can successfully manage full time school and full time work; Micah is one of those exceptional students who also manages a high GPA while doing so."

**Meet William Mendez**, one of the winners of the Sedan Memorial Scholarship: "Being awarded a scholarship will help me out in a BIG way! I work part time as a registered Behavioral Technician while attending school full time. Right now, my wife and I are living with her parents because housing in Monterey Bay is expensive. Growing up in foster care, I do not have a parental support system to back me up financially. Although being in school is the best decision for me and my future, in doing so I still must cover basic expenses.

"After being out of school for 10 years, I finally made the great decision to come back because I want to make something of myself. Aside from basic needs, this scholarship will help me achieve my goal of finishing up my AA degree in Sociology at MPC and transferring to a U.C. school. My hope is Berkeley to attend their outstanding Sociology program. Your understanding and support means everything to me for my growth and

education as a student."

## Recent memorial donations:

Janet Bruman in memory of Anne Flynn.

Tom and Vikki Logan in memory of Dave Zaches.

## The Gentrain Book Club

*Gerard Kapolka*

The Great Books discussion group is currently discussing *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. We welcome any new members, and you don't have to join the group at the beginning of the readings 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 [gtkapolks@gmail.com](mailto:gtkapolks@gmail.com) to receive a reading list and Zoom invitations. We welcome all newcomers.

## Continuing and Professional Education Program Update

*Alexis Bollin, Continuing and Professional Education Interim Director*

## CONNECTING SENIORS WITH TECHNOLOGY

MPC is offering a free tech workshop for seniors age 60+. Learn more about: Android and iPhone applications and much more! These sessions will be offered on **November 13, 14 and 15** at the MPC campus at 980 Fremont St., Monterey. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. To register, call (831) 646-4058 or visit [www.mpc.edu/ContinuingEd](http://www.mpc.edu/ContinuingEd). This program is free. Donations are appreciated but not required.

Classes are offered by Loaves, Fishes & Computers (LFC), Salinas.

## 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.*

## November 6, 2024 - 1:30 pm From Child Prodigy to Opera's World Stage



**Daniel Henriks'** storied career has taken him to the leading opera houses and concert halls of Europe. A child prodigy, he conducted his first concert at age 13 and has

been performing symphonic orchestral repertoire as well as major dramatic baritone roles ever since. He

earned a master's degree at Juilliard and has been music director of I Cantori di Carmel since 2020. Here is a chance to hear him tell his story.

Daniel Henriks has been praised as a versatile, unconventional and passionate conductor and opera singer. He has led performances of major works from the orchestral repertoire, including symphonies by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Schubert and Tchaikovsky as well as 20th century masters. His work encompasses choral masterworks of Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Puccini, Beethoven, Kodaly, and Mendelssohn. Henriks' international career as a dramatic baritone led him to opera houses and concert stages such as the Staatsoper Stuttgart, Oper Ko"ln, Oper Zu"rich, Theater an der Wien and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Festival highlights include the Wiener Festwochen, the Mozart Festival La Coruna and several seasons at the Edinburgh Festival. Equally at home on the concert stage, orchestral engagements consist of performances at the Cologne Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Konzerthaus Dortmund as well as the Norddeutsche Rundfunk. When he is not on stage, he can be found flying small airplanes, hiking the California coast with his dog Bonsai and enjoying a good glass of Cabernet Sauvignon.

### November 20, 2024 - 1:30 pm "Satire, Swing and Short Skirts" - Cool Britannia in the Swinging Sixties



The sixties was Britain's brief period of cultural cool in the 20th century. In 1964, the Beatles led 'the British Invasion' of the USA. Howard Burnham offers a roller-coaster ride through the London of the sixties and celebrates the arrival of the 'fab four' in NYC.

**Burnham  
1968**

**Howard Burnham** was born and raised in England but claims to be a quarter American through his namesake paternal grandfather, a Californian mining engineer and WWI spy! Howard took honors in Modern History at the University of Durham. He has worked extensively for the National Park Service on the east coast and more

recently for PacRep in Carmel.

### December 4, 2024 - 1:30 pm Curious Curatives: A Peek at Medicine's Past



The Salinas Valley Health Museum of Medical History offers a glimpse into the evolution of medicine and medical equipment, including items used in local hospitals during the past 100 years. It also houses examples of unproven medicine and rare artifacts dating back to the 1700s. The museum

was created in 1998 to provide a window into our scientific past and spark an interest in medical careers through volunteer-led tours. Join us to learn more about the museum, educational programs and how you can get involved.

**Shannon Graham**, MM/PA, CAVS, director of Volunteer and Health Career Services, has worked at Salinas Valley Health since 1994. She is passionate about working alongside dedicated volunteers and informing and inspiring our next generation of healthcare providers.



### MPC Fall Gentrain Program

October 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 and November 5, 7  
**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 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and December 3, 5, 10, 12

**GENTRAIN 4/404A: 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.



## SOME CLASSIC HOLIDAY POEMS

### **Thanksgiving** by *Edgar Albert Guest*

Gettin' together to smile an' rejoice,  
An' eatin' an' laughin' with folks of your choice;  
An' kissin' the girls an' declarin' that they  
Are growin' more beautiful day after day;  
Chattin' an' braggin' a bit with the men,  
Buildin' the old family circle again;  
Livin' the wholesome an' old-fashioned cheer,  
Just for awhile at the end of the year.

Greetings fly fast as we crowd through the door  
And under the old roof we gather once more  
Just as we did when the youngsters were small;  
Mother's a little bit grayer, that's all.  
Father's a little bit older, but still  
Ready to romp an' to laugh with a will.  
Here we are back at the table again  
Tellin' our stories as women an' men.

Bowed are our heads for a moment in prayer;  
Oh, but we're grateful an' glad to be there.  
Home from the east land an' home from the west,  
Home with the folks that are dearest an' best.  
Out of the sham of the cities afar  
We've come for a time to be just what we are.  
Here we can talk of ourselves an' be frank,  
Forgettin' position an' station an' rank.

Give me the end of the year an' its fun  
When most of the plannin' an' toilin' is done;  
Bring all the wanderers home to the nest,  
Let me sit down with the ones I love best,  
Hear the old voices still ringin' with song,  
See the old faces unblemished by wrong,  
See the old table with all of its chairs  
An' I'll put soul in my Thanksgivin' prayers.

### **A Visit from St. Nicholas** by *Clement Clarke Moore*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the  
house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:  
"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too—  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight—  
*Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*

### **Chanukah Lights Tonight** by *Steven Schneider*

Our annual prairie Chanukah party—  
latkes, kugel, cherry blintzes.  
Friends arrive from nearby towns  
and dance the twist to Chanukah Lights Tonight,  
spin like a dreidel to a klezmer hit.

The candles flicker in the window.  
Outside, ponderosa pines are tied in red bows.  
If you squint,  
the neighbors' Christmas lights  
look like the Omaha skyline.

The smell of oil is in the air.  
We drift off to childhood  
where we spent our gelt  
on baseball cards and matinees,  
cream sodas and potato knishes.

No delis in our neighborhood,  
only the wind howling over the crushed corn stalks.  
Inside, we try to sweep the darkness out,  
waiting for the Messiah to knock,  
wanting to know if he can join the party

**Key to Calendar**

**lect1 = LECTURE - FROM CHILD PRODIGY TO OPERA'S WORLD STAGE**

**lect2 = LECTURE - "SATIRE, SWING AND SHORT SKIRTS" - COOL BRITANNIA IN THE SWINGING SIXTIES**

**lect3 = LECTURE - CURIOUS CURATIVES: A PEEK AT MEDICINE'S PAST**

**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)**

<b>November 2024</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 unit3	6 lect1	7 unit3	8	9
10	11	12 unit4	13	14 unit4	15	16
17	18	19 unit4	20 lect2 meet	21 unit4	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

<b>December 2024</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 unit4	4 lect3	5 unit4	6	7
8	9	10 unit4	11	12 unit4	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  
2024 - 2025  
Board of Directors**

President: Peter Purdue (831) 646-9216  
Vice President: Position open  
Secretary: Carol Harpster (510) 410-0822  
Treasurer: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702  
Member-at-Large: Melissa Newlin (831) 869-0646  
Member-at-Large: Stephanie Booth (831) 393-1679  
Member-at-Large: Ruth Alota (831) 392-5034  
Imm. Past President: Mary Pendlay (831) 224-0478  
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Scholarship: Vikki Logan (831) 625-8653  
Special Events:  
Rene Kimzey (808) 222-5348  
Michael Sovereign (831) 646-1912  
Oregon Shakespeare Festival:  
Allison Porter (831) 394-8051  
Webmaster: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702

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## GENTRAIN SOCIETY NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

November 6, 2024 - 1:30 pm - **FROM CHILD PRODIGY TO OPERA'S WORLD STAGE** - Daniel Henriks has been praised as a versatile, unconventional and passionate conductor and opera singer. He has led performances of major works from the orchestral repertoire. When he is not on stage, he can be found flying small airplanes, hiking the California coast with his dog Bonsai and enjoying a good glass of Cabernet Sauvignon.

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