



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

Published by the
Gentrain Society
of MPC

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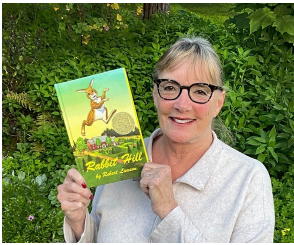
Volume 37 No.4

980 Fremont Street, Monterey, CA 93940

July/August 2023

President's Corner

Mary Pendlay, President



Learning Offers Us a Bigger World

Today I opened up my world. I attended the 253rd Birthday of Monterey's history called La Merienda. Being a 45 year resident of Monterey, of course I had heard of it, but I had no interest in attending because I wasn't a part of that "elite" group. Guess what. Was I wrong! The nicest people, the best volunteers, the wonderful Spanish traditions and new friendships all opened up to me. And the food! Did I tell you about the food!

I learned the value of not making preconceptions based on a lack of knowledge and experience. Yes, I paid for a ticket; yes, I was invited because I'm a member of the Monterey Art and History Association, but the event is open to the public. The girls dancing in native costume, the music and singing, the happy people I met and enjoyed all gave me a new perspective. I learned not to be narrow-minded. Volunteerism opens many doors, and look what we can do for the Gentrain Society! Join in for some fun (and learning)!!

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held on campus on **July 19 and August 16** 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.**

Membership Report

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

A hearty welcome to these new Gentrain Society members: **Tom & Christine Finnegan, Rina Kempton, Claudia McHenry, Howard & Linda Fosler, Tracey L'Hommedieu, Michele Nishimoto and Gary & Frances Spradlin.**

Renewal letters will be mailed out soon, probably the end of July. As usual, new parking stickers will be included with the renewal forms. Members who joined after April 1 are paid up for next year and will get their new parking stickers in August.

Time to Register for Fall of 2023 Gentrain Program

Fall 2023 Gentrain classes will be entirely in-person. A \$42 "student fee" will be charged for "services." This is not a tuition fee. But you do have to pay that to register. Students who wish to attend "for credit" should refer to the Fall 2023 MPC catalogue. **The first day of class will be Tuesday, August 22.**

Registration is done online through the MPC website. Go to www.mpc.edu. Select WEBREG from the menu at the top of the home page. Or go directly through <https://webreg.mpc.edu/>. Sign in using your MPC ID number and password. Select ADD/DROP/REG. The term will be Fall 2023. Enter section number 0525 for the non-credit sections of Gentrain. If you enter 0525 as the first section, the system may automatically offer to add the other three sections (0532, 0538, & 0546). More complete instructions: www.gentrain.org.

2023/2024 Elections

The Gentrain Society will elect new officers at our Wednesday Lecture on August 2. The Gentrain Nominating Committee will present the following slate to the Board at our June 21 meeting.

President: Mary Pendlay

Vice President: Linda Chetlin

Secretary: Carol Harpster

Treasurer: Mary Alice Rennick

Members at Large:

Linda Leum

Melissa Newlin

Star Reiersen

Members may nominate additional candidates for all positions except president by submitting nominating petitions. Each petition must be signed by at least five Society members and be submitted no later than August 1. **Voting will take place at the August 2 Wednesday Lecture.** If the election is uncontested, it can be by voice, otherwise there will be a secret ballot. The new term will begin on September 1.

Meet the Gentrainer - Ed Mellinger

Rene Kimzey

Like the hat? Go further and meet the multi-faceted person wearing it, Ed Mellinger, a first cycle Gentrain student. Regretting his lack of attention to History in his previous formal education, Ed says he is grateful for

the Gentrain experience which in his retirement years has added "the first glimmerings of appreciation for the sweep of history."



Ed grew up in Virginia where his dad worked on mathematics of classification testing for the Army and his mom chaired the Psychology Department at George Mason University. His brother is a marine mammal acoustics researcher with NOAA and Oregon State University and his sister is a pediatrician/researcher with the

CDC. While in high school, Ed played in band and orchestra, worked in theater tech, pursued his interest in the confluence of art and technology and robotic probes of distant worlds, but his fascination with electricity from age eight led him to "impatiently" pursue an Electrical Engineering degree at Swathmore College. After graduation, he fortuitously cold-called Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) the very day they had an EE opening. During his eight years at WHOI, he worked on shipboard computers, instrument systems, and underwater vehicles. Later taking a position with NASA Ames, he transitioned to payload integration aboard a DC-8 research plane, flying over the Americas, Pacific Rim and Europe. His final career move was to the then recently-founded Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) to develop the power system for the ROV Tiburon and the propulsion and control systems for the Tethys class of long-range autonomous vehicles.

In 1990, Ed met Pam Hopkins who had just finished a year-long solo trip around the world. They married in 1993 and have one son, Peter, who enrolled in the first class of the International School of Monterey. Peter is now a grad student in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at UC Berkley, hoping to work on biofuels, artificial photosynthesis or beer brewing(?!!).

Gentrain had interested Ed soon after moving to Monterey, but work prevented him from attending the weekday classes. After retiring in 2022, he noted an ad in the Herald for the Gentrain Program and his long dormant interest was reawakened. With a long commute from Carmel Valley, he misses the online option for the classes, but attends regularly and hopes to go on some of the travel events. As an "heretical" suggestion, he would like to see a parallel Gentrain track on the history of science.

Ed says he was fortunate to have had work that took him to distant places with involvement in the local

culture, from deploying a mooring under pack ice off Svalbard to flying through a typhoon near Guam. In retirement, however, "It's equally meaningful to fix up an old house, ride my mountain bike, and try to grow apricot trees in the Valley."

Gentrain Society Scholarship Fund at Monterey Peninsula College

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

In 1993 I accepted the Chair position following Kathy Kress. All the groundwork had been done with great efficiency. Keeping in mind our motto is "Lifelong Learning," it was decided that our scholarships would be for returning students. I had no idea how rewarding the experience would be, especially working with the Scholarship Committees and the recipients and following them on their path to success. All the students want the Gentrain Society to know what a thrill it is to be chosen and how much the recognition means to them!

The program would not have happened without the seed money from an anonymous donor. When asked why he came up with the idea of starting the program, this was part of his response: "Education has been so terribly important in my life because it opened a new world to me and provided avenues to an enjoyable professional life. With the GI Bill and a lot of hard work, I went from a third quarter freshman to a PhD. Even my post-doctoral work was with the help of a scholarship."

By providing a matching fund of \$2,000 annually for the first seven years, the scholarship program was off to a great start and it has continued to grow for 30 years now. We all know about the excellence of the MPC faculty, and on each of the applications the students confirm this to be true. As an example I quote one of them: "This spring will be my last semester, and I will be sorry to leave. Over the past two years I have been fortunate enough to be educated by the dedicated, compassionate, and deeply knowledgeable staff here. The instructors focus on not only providing a stellar education but on additional opportunities for all their students."

Over the years we have helped a variety of students from different backgrounds, some of them homeless. I remember one man in particular who was homeless and used the computers at his church to do his homework. His dedication to his studies enabled him to obtain a degree and lift him out of poverty. There are so many success stories and I try to shine a light on each individual by providing articles to our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Conductor*.

Over the last 30 years we have awarded \$452,000. Just think of the lives we have changed for the better! We have affected many generations by giving scholarships to parents who come to MPC for retraining. They are a

great example to their children by teaching them the value of an education.

Thanks to the many Gentrain Society members that have volunteered to be on the Scholarship Committee over the years, insuring the success of the program.

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

You probably have noticed that we gave numerous scholarships to nurses. **Rene Kimzey is on the Scholarship Committee, and she wrote a note about the nursing profession (she is a retired nurse) which we would like to share:**

"I know there was some concern about nurses who go on to expensive schools to obtain their BSN. If you remember when the applications were so impossible, the numbers dropped, nurses were the ones that persevered through the process. If you look at the courses they take, and I have taken them all, Chemistry, Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology, etc. are very difficult courses, and many have three credits but require hours of extra lab time. As I understand it, after completing the MPC program they may sit for their exam, and if they pass, can practice and continue to work toward their BSN. So please don't avoid rewarding hard-working people who want to provide a service to mankind. I am proud of my profession and want to support those who now must fill in for the many health care givers who burned out or died during Covid. Just some thoughts,

Rene Kimzey"

Meet Kecia Denk, our new scholarship recipient who has been working to support herself for years and also taking classes at MPC. Her career goal is to become an Occupational Therapist, specializing in patients with neurological disorders and Disabled Veterans with Prosthetics. To obtain this goal, Kecia will transfer to the Dominican University of California.

While at MPC, Kecia has worked as a peer tutor for students enrolled in Psychology and Math courses. This is what Linda Hucks has to say about Kecia: "Thanks to Kecia's dedication, students needing aid in these historically difficult courses, have received support. Kecia is a diligent and responsible worker. She has adjusted her schedule to meet students who couldn't otherwise receive support, visited classes to reach out to students in need, and connected well with instructors. Kecia has gone above and beyond, offering to work with dual-enrolled high school students in the afternoon. Kecia is a valuable member of our tutor community."

Linda Hucks, director, Tutoring and Academic Success Center.

Donations:

In memory of Nancy Green, given by Tom and Vikki Logan

In memory of Jahn Curtis, given by Grant and Norma Voth

In memory of Ruth Hartmann given by Tom and Vikki Logan

In memory of Sepp Gamper given by Tom and Vikki Logan

Gentrain Webmaster Report

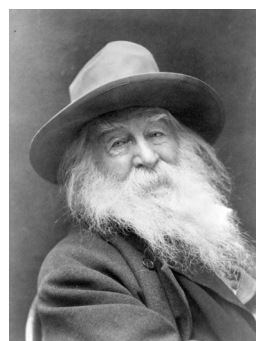
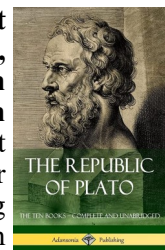
Mary Alice Rennick

Work on the new Gentrain website is proceeding nicely, although the launch date has slipped to late June or early July. We anticipate that it will continue to evolve for several months after that.

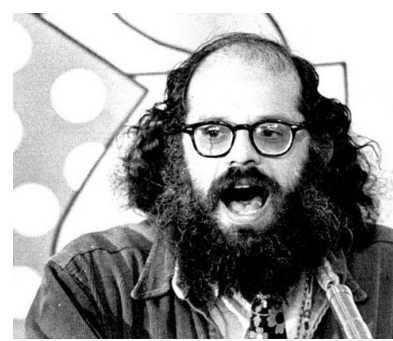
The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka

Beginning on June 21 we will be analyzing a few poems by Walt Whitman, Alan Ginsburg, T.S. Eliot, and Emily Dickinson. Afterwards, on August 9, we will begin our discussion of Plato's *Republic*. Please email me at gkapolka@gmail.com to be placed on our mailing list and to receive detailed reading assignments. Our discussions are on Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The discussions usually last about an hour. We welcome new participants!



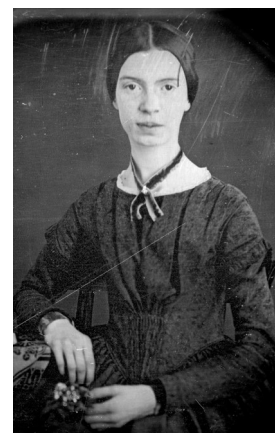
Walt Whitman



Alan Ginsburg



T.S. Eliot



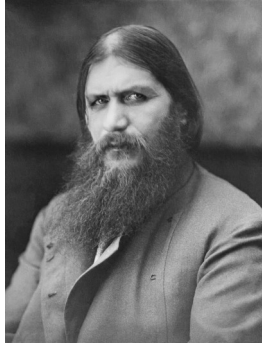
Emily Dickinson

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.

July 5, 2023 - 1:30 pm **The Murder of Rasputin, A Staged Reading by Carol Marquart**

This is a story of the murder of Grigori Efimevich Rasputin on December 17, 1916. A simple Siberian peasant, Rasputin was many things to many people. To his daughter, Maria, he was a holy but imperfect man. To his assassin Prince Felix Yusupov, he was an imposter and the Antichrist who crawled out of the dark ages. To The Tsarina Alexandra, he was Father Grigory, her savior and an envoy from God. What was the source of Rasputin's power, and why did his gruesome murder mark the beginning of the end of Tsarist Russia? This staged reading is not only about a murder but about the end of an empire!



Carol Marquart, playwright, is fascinated with the lives of famous people and revolutionary thinkers. Using local actors, she has written and presented her staged readings all over the Monterey Peninsula. Her character studies include Diana, Princess of Wales, Kurt Vonnegut Jr., Mark Twain, The Duchess of

Windsor, William Randolph Hearst, J. Paul Getty, Bette Davis, Louella Parsons, Hedda Hopper, Mabel Dodge Luhan and Rasputin!

July 19, 2023 - 1:30 pm **Ed Ricketts and Science**

Historian **Donald Kohrs** will be talking about Doc Ricketts. He is a historian and Branch Library Specialist at the Miller Library of Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, researching, among other things, marine biologist Ed Ricketts and the publication of *Between Pacific Tides*, a study of inter-tidal ecology in 1939. Kohrs offers answers to



questions such as why it took Stanford University Press nine years to publish Ricketts' study and whether Ricketts was isolated from the scientific community of Hopkins Marine Station, as has often been suggested.

August 2, 2023 - 1:30 pm **The Boeing 747, Jeff Ohlson's Memoirs, 1966-1971**

After producing over 1,500 747s, Boeing delivered the last one earlier this year - marking the end of the production life of one of the most iconic airplanes in aviation history. **Jeff Ohlson** will recount the 747's early days and what it was like to be a young engineer working on aviation's first wide-body commercial airplane. He will also talk about becoming a historian for Carmel Valley



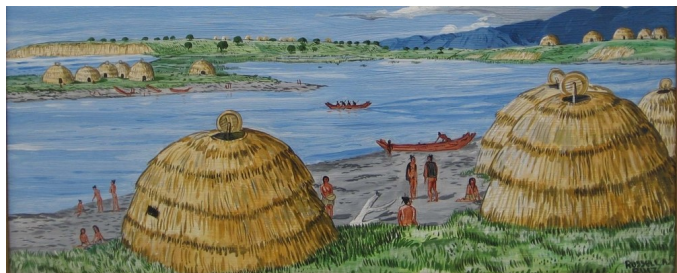
Jeff was born and schooled in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. In 1966, he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering and then hired by Boeing and assigned to the original 747 Flight Deck group. After a 38-year career in Flight Deck Design and Flight Crew Operations, he retired in 2004. He and his wife Cherie now live in Carmel Valley. In 2012 Jeff volunteered for the Carmel Valley Historical Society where he has now curated numerous museum exhibits and authored and published several histories about Carmel Valley.

August 16, 2023 - 1:30 pm **The Chumash Group and a New Marine Sanctuary**



Dr. Stephen Palumbi is the Jane and Marshall Steel Jr. Professor of Marine Sciences, Professor of Oceans and of Biology who works for Stanford University out of the Marine Hopkins Marine Station. Steve has long been fascinated by how quickly the world around us changes. Work

on the genomics of marine organisms tries to focus on basic evolutionary questions but also on practical solutions to questions about how to preserve and protect the diverse life in the sea. Dr. Palumbi will be speaking about the work they're doing with the Chumash group near Morro Bay in their drive to create a new national marine sanctuary and how we put western science and Chumash approaches together.



For more information about Dr. Palumbi, please see his research and books posted on the Hopkins Marine Station website.

MPC Fall Gentrain Program

August 22, 24, 29, 31 and September 5, 7, 12, 14

GENTRAIN 8/408: LATE RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION (1520-1600 AD)

The course examines the events and some of the consequences of the Protestant Reformation in Northern Europe, while Southern Europe is in the last flowering of the Renaissance, in literature, art, philosophy and music. The works of Michelangelo, Cervantes, and Shakespeare are featured.

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 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 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.

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

Aug 19 *Wine, Women and Wombats* - Dante Gabriel Rossetti memorialized by his brother - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Sept 9 or 23 TBD *A Treat for Darwin: Mary Treat of Vineland, naturalist extraordinaire* (A Duet) - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Oct 28 *Mother of Frankenstein: Mary Shelley recalled by her son* (For Halloween) - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Nov 11 *A Cigarette in the Anteroom: Kaiser Wilhelm II and the Great War* (For Veterans Day) - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Dec 2 *A Hat Worth Forty Thousand Men: Wellington on Napoleon* (For Coronation and Austerlitz anniversaries) - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Dec 23 Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* - Howard Burnham & MCTA Virtual Theatre, (831) 915-1968

Special Event Reports - Hello Summer 2023!

The Special Events Committee of the Gentrain Society hosted a "Hello Summer" brunch to thank our Western Civilization students for their participation, commitment, and interest. We also send a huge thank you to our four professors; Dr. Stephanie Spoto, Dr. Alan Haffa, Dr. Tom Logan and Dr. Gamble Madsen for their incredible overview of philosophy, literature, history, art, and architecture which prepares us for the Fall 2023 course. Special thanks need to go out to the Special Events Committee: Linda Chetlin, Terry Blum, Mary Pendlay, Ruth Alota and Carol Harpster. This committee is looking forward to our VERY Special Event on June 28, when we tour the exhibit - *The Tudors - Art and Majesty in Renaissance England*. Thank you Special Events Committee!

Mary Pendlay

The Hello Summer 2023! quiche and sweets party was a great success! Thank you to all that attended. We were especially happy to see our professors, Alan Haffa, Stephanie Spoto, and Tom Logan there. The camaraderie amongst us all was delightful!

Linda Chetlin

HELLO SUMMER 2023!



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

August 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 lect3 elect	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 lect4 meet	17	18	19
20	21	22 unit 8	23	24 unit 8	25	26
27	28	29 unit 8	30	31 unit 8		

Key to Calendar

elect = Elections

lect1= LECTURE - *THE MURDER OF RASPUTIN, A STAGED READING BY CAROL MARQUART*

lect2 = LECTURE - ED RICKETTS AND SCIENCE

lect3 = LECTURE - THE BOEING 747, JEFF OHLSON'S MEMOIRS, 1966-1971

lect4 = LECTURE - THE CHUMASH GROUP AND A NEW MARINE SANCTUARY

meet = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

unit8= GENT 8: THE EARLY RENAISSANCE : Part 2 (1520-1600)

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
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Member-at-Large: Linda Wessel (707) 483-1595
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Oregon Shakespeare Festival:
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GENTRAIN SOCIETY JULY/AUGUST

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