



Leading the Way to Lifelong Learning

Conductor

Website: gentrain.org

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September/October 2023

President's Corner

Mary Pendlay, President



It's been a pleasure to serve all of you for the past year. Thank you for your support and voting me as President for another year. I hope to do everything in my power to benefit the Gentrain Society.

This year I started a program called The Outreach Program. I initiated it because our membership has dropped, and I want people - life long learners like you - to learn about our class, our free lectures, travels, socials, special events, etc.

I know I've mentioned this idea of reaching out before, but I repeat it because I am personally visiting various organizations, assisted living facilities and groups, to share what Gentrain can offer. I've spoken to the residents of Canterbury Woods, and I have appointments to visit Cottages of Carmel and Merrill House. This is just the start of my effort to bring people together to learn and enjoy each other. We have printed a new brochure which outlines our mission and offerings; we've completely revamped our website (gentrain.org), and we're helping new students to sign up for our Western Civilization class. I think our membership fee of \$35 a year is a bargain to decide on options for which to enrich one's life and make new friends. I appreciate all of our members and look forward to meeting new ones.

Gentrain Society Board Meetings

The next Gentrain Society Board meetings will be held on campus on **September 20 and October 18** 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.**

Fall Special Events

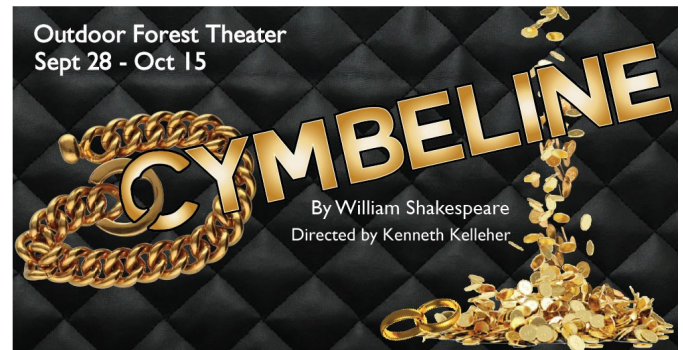
Linda Chetlin

Hello Fellow Gentrainers,
This is a heads-up about events being planned for our students and Gentrain Society Members. Please watch our website and class flyers for announcements.

We are planning to attend the Outdoor Forest Theatre in Carmel to see Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*.

We picked the date to attend as **Sunday, October 15 at 7:30 pm.** Please call the Box Office at Pacific Repertory Theatre to arrange for your tickets! They are open Tuesdays - Saturdays 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. **On Friday afternoon, October 13, Alan Haffa will give us a special lecture on the play.**

More new Special Events will follow soon. Keep looking on the website - gentrain.org. Thank you.



Membership Report

Merry Nolte, Membership Chair

Welcome to these new members of the Gentrain Society: Rosalind Burgundy, Vaughn McIlrath & Pat Creese, Edwina J. Delong, Cliff & Elaine Dutra, Marlene Kellogg, and Cathy Stokes.

We're in the middle of our annual renewal period. Thank you to the many loyal Gentrain Society members who have renewed already! If you didn't get my letter, or if your parking sticker was omitted or lost, just email me at membership@gentrain.org.

Gentrain Webmaster Report

Mary Alice Rennick

Our new gentrain.org website was launched on July 17. It was a little shaky at first, but it is working smoothly now. The Gentrain web team of Terry Blum, Alan Haffa, Mary Pendlay, and Mary Alice Rennick worked long and hard in collaboration with our partners at Starke Marketing to bring you a modern website with a clean new design. The continuously looping video on the home page is a mesmerizing reminder of the beauty of the Central Coast. But do not get stuck there.

Scroll down the page to read the most recent news from our President and an introduction to the goals and activities of the Society. Or explore the links in the

menu at the top of the page. They provide direct access to some of the most frequently viewed information. Wondering what topics will be offered at the next few Wednesday Lectures? Try the "Wednesday Lectures" link. Need to contact a board member? Click "Board Members." The "Library" link will take you to an inventory of the growing Gentrain Library, organized by time period. These links provide a good overview of the resources available through the site. Explore them all. By the time you read this, the listings of upcoming classes, lectures, outings, and other events should all be current.

Excited as we are to bring you this new look, we are not finished yet. The site is undergoing frequent updates to refine the contents and correct the inevitable bugs. And we hope to implement new capabilities during the coming year. These are still in the feasibility and planning stage. They may include better search capabilities and an option to pay dues, special event fees, etc. via online credit card transactions.

Like most useful websites, gentrain.org is a work in progress. Please check back frequently to see what's new.

Meet the Gentrainer

Rene Kimzey



Gentrain's motto is "A Door to Lifelong Learning" and this issue's featured Gentrainer, **Pat Westcott**, has embraced this focus for herself and the many lives she has touched as an educator. Born on an Iowa farm with no electricity or running water, her early education began in a one room schoolhouse in Toledo, Iowa. She earned a BA in elementary education and an MA

in Special Education from the University of Northern Iowa. Pat first taught second graders and then students with disabilities. As a single mom, she moved in 1980 to California and opened Westcott Child Care and Pre-Kindergarden, which she ran for 20 years. In 2000, the Monterey County Office of Education hired her to work with moderately to severely handicapped children and their parents. She continued her education earning a special credential in 2004 to teach this population of students. Pat says she has always encouraged people to continue their education and be lifelong learners, believing it will enhance all areas of their lives. After 50 years of teaching, Pat retired in 2009.

Pat has three children, Teresa, Christine and David; and three grandchildren, Maddison, Adrian and Marina. She married David Davis in 1986, and he was always supportive of her child care centers and special education classrooms. He passed away in 2005.

Aside from her professional achievements, she loves travel, writing, setting goals, exercising and having positive experiences. Her early travel experience started when her father mapped out their first family vacation to Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountains. Since then she has met two Presidents and visited 17 countries including Popovec, Czech Republic where her great grandmother, Marie, was born. Marie emigrated in 1885 to Iowa where she lived to age 109. Pat has written two books, *Home Program*, a resource for making family sharing more meaningful, and a book about the 99-year life of her mother Agnes titled *Here's Looking at Agnes F. Yanda*. At 60, Pat earned her black belt in kempo karate and traveled to China with the dojo to work out with Buddhist monks. She now stays active



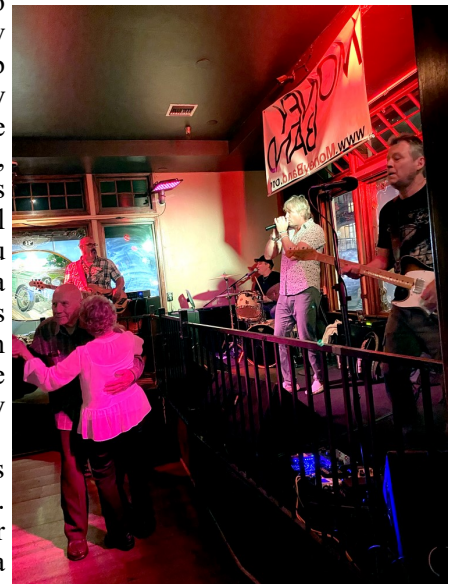
walking, gardening, and dancing.

Upon retiring, Pat asked herself, "Is there life after retirement?" Friends told her about Gentrain so she started attending classes

and traveled with the Gentrain Society to Egypt and

Turkey. Pat also met fellow Gentrainer Bob Larson, and they have become the best of friends, lifelong learners and travel companions. You many recall a photo in a previous *Conductor* of them at their favorite dance spot, Sly McFly's, celebrating Bob's 90th birthday.

Pat's answer to her question is now a definite YES! She



believes Gentrain has influenced her life and provided her a better understanding of the world.

Scholarship Report

Vikki Logan, Scholarship Chair

Meet Esmeralda Schwerin, who is majoring in Industrial Organizational Psychology and comes highly recommended by Dr. Kendra Cabrera who writes this about her: "I became acquainted with her last semester when she enrolled in my ETNC 16, (African Americans in American government) course. Based on her

performance, I can confidently state that she was the best student in my class. The quality of her essays, discussion forums, quizzes were exceptional. She is very committed and passionate about her academic work, and her assignments are always well-written and well-researched. Furthermore, her critical thinking gave depth and perspective to course discussions. As a result of getting to know her, I see her as a role model for other students."

The **second student** we are featuring has worked as a LVN for many years in areas such as hospice and rural community care. Her name is **Amber Stroud**, and she is currently enrolled in the Maureen Church Coburn School of Nursing at MPC. Amber's teacher writes this about her: "Amber has attained good academic standing and has passed all of her clinical skills. She has managed to do this while working part time for financial need and caring for her family, including a special needs child. She has aspirations of working at an oncology unit and eventually getting her Masters degree. I fully support Amber's application for scholarships."

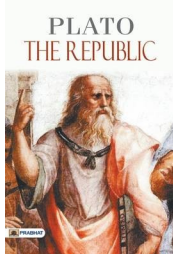
Recent memorial donations:

Grant and Norma Voth, Rich and Renee Kezirian in memory of Sepp Gamper.

The Gentrain Book Club

Gerard Kapolka

We are currently reading *Plato's Republic*. We welcome new participants, and you can join us at any point in our readings. We meet on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The discussions last for about an hour. Please email me, Gerry Kapolka, at gtkapolka@gmail.com to receive a Zoom invitation and a list of readings.



Monterey and Lahaina: Parallels in Their Histories

Richard Forester

Gentrain Society Member, photographer

Monterey and Lahaina have many parallels in their history: whaling, missionaries, fishing, capital cities - Monterey of Alta California under Spain, then Mexico, then the US State of California; Lahaina, the Royal capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii where the Hawaiian constitution was proclaimed in 1840 - and tourism today. I've juxtaposed sadly what if a similar fire roared down Pacific and Alvarado Streets, obliterating the adobes on the Path of History, the Cooper-Molera or Larkin House like Lahaina's Baldwin House, Colton Hall like the Court House on the Banyan Tree Square, Fishermans Wharf, Custom House Plaza. Wrenching. The loss of life is horrendous. The loss of these repositories of history and culture is devastating.

My career in travel and tourism included sales, marketing and promotions for fine resorts, tour operators, the visitor and convention bureaus for Hawaii, and Aloha Airlines when it (and Hawaiian Airlines) flew only between the islands. Having been to Maui innumerable times over many decades - most recently this past May for a nostalgic return - the Valley Island has always had a special place in my heart. Especially the "ohana" of Napili Kai Beach Resort, to which I've always felt a kinship. The unfathomable tragedies the people of Maui are faced with is incalculable. Like the legendary, mythical bird called the Phoenix born out of fire, Lahaina will come back. Not today. Not tomorrow. But in the years to come. The lump-in-our-throat sadness will remain.

For those wanting to help those affected by the tragic fire destroying most of Lahaina, go to HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org.



It supports the Maui Strong Fund with 100% of donations going to it. Mahalo for your compassion. Please let others know of this resource for giving. Keep Maui in your heart.

**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.

**September 6, 2023 - 1:30 pm
Exercise and Healthy Aging**

Exercise can be a means to maintain and improve physical function as it relates to fall prevention, independent living and quality of life. **Dr. Maria Bellumori** will explain how exercise impacts the brain and its ability to prevent or slow disease progression and ultimately improve both brain and body health.

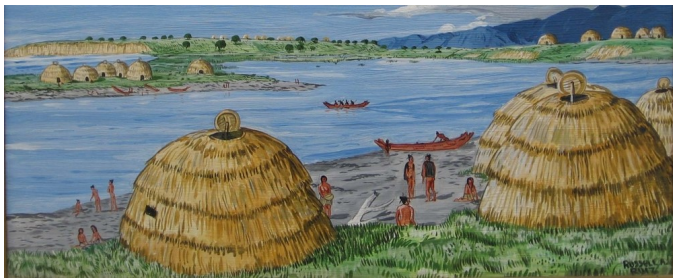


Maria Bellumori, Ph.D., is a kinesiology professor at CSUMB. She has a doctorate in Biomechanics and

Movement Sciences and has been working with older adults and people with Parkinson's disease for 12 years.

September 20, 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.

October 4, 2023 - 1:30 pm A Disney Life: 43 Years Working with Walt

The Walt Disney Company is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, commemorating its founding on Oct. 16, 1923. To mark the anniversary, **Laurie Algar**, daughter of Disney creative visionary and legend **James Algar**, will recount his journey from animator to director of many beloved Disney favorites and winner of multiple Academy Awards. She'll share vintage photos from her Disney childhood, original



Laurie and James Algar

animation model sheets, Disney memorabilia and letters written by her father during the creation of *Snow White*, *Fantasia*, *Bambi* and *The True Life Adventures*. Her presentation is sure to appeal to fans of classic Disney, early animation, or the Golden Age of Hollywood.



Laurie Algar is an artist who works primarily in mosaic. She often travels to give talks about her father's career and her unique childhood, sharing photos, letters and behind-the-scenes tales with civic groups and film industry members.



October 18, 2023 - 1:30 pm Demystifying Artificial Intelligence

In this engaging and accessible talk, you will embark on a journey to explore the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We will begin by unraveling the basics of AI, explaining what it is, how it works, and why it has become a buzzword in today's digital age. We will then delve into the practical applications of AI, highlighting how it is transforming various sectors such as healthcare, transportation, education, and scientific research, ultimately impacting our daily lives. The presentation will also address common misconceptions and fears about AI. Finally, we will discuss the ethical considerations and societal implications of AI, emphasizing the importance of responsible AI use. This talk aims to provide lifelong learners with a better understanding of AI, enabling them to navigate the digital world with greater confidence and curiosity.



Dr. Arun Sharma is an Assistant Professor of Computational Chemistry at California State University, Monterey Bay. Before joining CSUMB, he served as an Associate Professor of Computational Chemistry at

Wagner College in New York City. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and an elected member of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He completed his undergraduate education in India and earned his Ph.D.

in Physical-Theoretical Chemistry from the University of Southern California. His research interests include molecular dynamics simulations, scientific applications of machine learning, computational chemistry, and integration of computing and authentic research experiences in undergraduate education.



Dr. Arun Sharma

His research group has received funding from the National Science Foundation, American Chemical Society, and the Department of Energy to investigate a variety of scientific topics ranging from atmospheric aerosols to battery electrolytes.

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.

September 19, 21, 26, 28 and October 3, 5, 10, 12
Gentrain 9/409: FOUNDATIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD (1600-1690 AD)

This period was one in which the foundation for the modern world was established. Although there were devastating religious wars and the creation of the absolute state by Louis XIV in France, the lasting impact of this period is evident in the emergence of democracy in England, the revolutionary philosophies of Descartes and Hobbes, the art of Rubens, Rembrandt, and Vermeer, and the poetry of the ultimate Protestant and democrat, John Milton.

October 17, 19, 24, 26, 31 November 2, 7, 9
Gentrain 10/410: AGE OF REASON (1690-1775 AD)

The course deals with the age of rationalism in Western history, based on the philosophies of Leibniz, Locke, Hume, and Berkeley. It also examines the triumph of the bourgeoisie in English politics in the modifications of the social contract theory (which likewise becomes the basis for the American Declaration of Independence), the beginnings of the novel, the reaction to all of this in the great Evangelical Movements across Europe and America, and the foundations - in war and

economics - for the French 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 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.

Sept 23 *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

Welcome back continuing and new Gentrain students.

September 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 unit8	6 lect1	7 unit8	8	9
10	11	12 unit8	13	14 unit8	15	16
17	18	19 unit9	20 lect2 meet	21 unit9	22	23
24	25	26 unit9	27	28 unit9	29	30

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 unit9	4 lect3	5 unit9	6	7
8	9	10 unit9	11	12 unit9	13	14
15 event	16	17 unit10	18 lect4 meet	19 unit10	20	21
22	23	24 unit10	25	26 unit10	27	29
29	30	31 unit10				

Key to Calendar
event = CYMBELINE - OUTDOOR FOREST THEATRE

lect1= LECTURE - EXERCISE AND HEALTHY AGING

lect2 = LECTURE - THE CHUMASH GROUP AND A NEW MARINE SANCTUARY

lect3 = LECTURE - A DISNEY LIFE: 43 YEARS WORKING WITH WALT

lect4 = LECTURE - DEMYSTIFYING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

MEET = GENTRAIN SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

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

unit9 = GENT 9: FOUNDATIONS OF THE MODERN WORLD (1600-1690 AD)

unit10 = GENT 10: AGE OF REASON (1690-1775 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: \$ _____

Travels with our own staff Egyptologist



September of 2018 when we spent the night in Los Angeles and saw a Tut exhibit

Thanks to Vikki Logan for providing this Gentrain memory

**The Gentrain Society of MPC
2023 - 2024
Board of Directors**

President: Mary Pendlay (831) 224-0478
Vice President: Linda Chetlin (831) 373-2440
Secretary: Carol Harpster (510) 410-0822
Treasurer: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702
Member-at-Large: Melissa Newlin (831) 869-0646
Member-at-Large: Star Reiersen (831) 372-5034
Member-at-Large: Linda Leum (360) 961-2269
Imm. Past President: Mary Alice Rennick (831)375-0702

Chair of Specified Committees

Communications:
Paul & Terry Blum (831) 372-0895
Volunteers: Ruth Alota (831) 392-5034
Membership: Merry Nolte (831) 659-4387
Nominating: Mary Alice Rennick (831) 375-0702
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

The Gentrain Society of Monterey
Peninsula College
980 Fremont St Monterey, CA 93940
Phone: 646-4224
gentrain.org

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Paul Blum, Co-Editor
Terry Blum, Co-Editor
Phone: 372-0895
Email: tblumgm@gmail.com

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GENTRAIN SOCIETY SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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