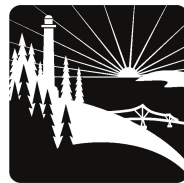


ENCORE'S

CLASS ACT

September, October, November 2019

Vol. 18 No. 3



**Clatsop
Community
College**

Letter From the President by Dave Zunkel

Greetings New and Renewing ENCORE Members!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 ENCORE academic year. The 2020 national elections are still 16 months away, but I am reminded of the value of voting and participation in the democratic process when I reflect on the June general membership meeting. The meeting was quite well attended, and those present heard about the year's events and listened to an interesting presentation from Rhonda Alderman about the CCC Library and Learning Center while enjoying coffee and dessert.

But not enough members attended the meeting to achieve the 40+% quorum required by our bylaws to conduct formal business like electing officers and voting on bylaws changes. Hence another attempt to achieve a quorum was made at the summer picnic, and thanks to your efforts a quorum was achieved and we were able to conduct formal business. THANK YOU!!! You may ask "Why the big deal? We've never had this issue before!" It's a good question, but the short answer is that your board works hard to follow the bylaws you as members have approved in the past. Now that ENCORE is a non-profit Oregon business, it's even more important. A new set of bylaws was approved at the picnic. I hope these updated bylaws will serve ENCORE even better than the old ones.

So, your involvement in ENCORE meetings, as well as trips, classes, and social functions, is essential. ENCORE doesn't follow the old adage "Vote early - vote often," but your vote and meeting attendance counts. That all being said, we look forward to your participation in the Conference on Extraordinary Living at CCC on September 7 and fall classes starting September 30. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

A Summary of Erhard Gross' Spring Class: German History: 1870 to Present

By Tish Tarver

First Erhard explained that he was born in Saxony, East Germany, and defected in 1953. He came to the States in 1957 where he received his university education. On the derivation of the word German, Julius Caesar called those he conquered Gauls, those he didn't conquer Germans.

For background he said that there are 82.5 million people in Germany, whereas there are 1.04 million people in the US State of Montana, which is of a similar size as Germany. Germany is north of our own area, resulting in a shorter growing season, which explains in part why Germany cannot feed itself. Germany historically had few natural resources, except coal. The country became a manufacturing giant, relying on exports.

Erhard pointed out that Otto von Bismarck (1815-98) was the architect and first Chancellor (1871-90) of the unified German 2nd Reich. He made Berlin the capital of Germany, and it was so until 1945. To protect and nurture the requisite skilled workforce, in the 1880s Bismarck introduced old-age pension and public health care.

Kaiser Wilhelm II wanted power and more territory. In June of 1914 the Austrian Crown Prince and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo. WW I (1914-18) was the result. Germany lost the war, and the resulting Treaty of Versailles curtailed Germany's existence to bare bones.

The inability of the Weimar Republic to establish a functioning post WWI democracy made Germany ripe for Hitler and the rapacious Nazi regime; murder and beatings were common. On January 30, 1933, Hitler was sworn in as Chancellor. Disregarding the demands placed on Germany by Versailles, Hitler systematically abolished all civil rights and prepared for the establishment of "Arian" superiority and World War II. Some six million "undesirables" were killed in Hitler's concentration camps.

Erhard pointed out that the unconditional surrender of Hitler's Third Reich laid the groundwork for the establishment of Communist East Germany. For 40 years East Germany's population was subjected to relentless communist indoctrination and surveillance. When these suppressed people brought about the fall of the Berlin Wall, it initiated the demise of the Iron Curtain and ultimately the reestablishment of an economically powerful reunited Germany.

This challenging class, well attended throughout, ended May 8, 2019. As a sequel, on May 17, 2020, ENCORE will present a public program, **The Fall of the Berlin Wall**.

Notice: When you attend an ENCORE class or event, you will be entering a place where photography, video and audio recordings may occur

Contra Dance Lessons by Dory Lukas

Our ENCORE contra dance lessons during the spring term gave us good physical exercise, and mind-stimulating FUN. Our instructor Dave introduced contra dancing, a type of folk dance, a social way to meet people on the dance floor and make new dance friends.

What is contra dancing?

The contra dancers form two lines facing each other. Dave, our dance caller, guides new and experienced dancers through a set of moves. A person and their partner walk a series of steps with each other and with another pair of dancers for a short time. Then the partners move down the line and repeat the same moves with a different set of partners. The moves are like square dance moves but easier—no experience is necessary. The caller teaches the dance moves before the music starts. This gives everyone an idea of what to expect. New dances are different combinations of the same dance moves.

People of all ages (7 to 97 years old) can contra dance. The goal is to have FUN! We wear shoes that slide on the floor and dress lightly because we get warm from the exercise and excitement.

A contra dance is fun like a child's amusement park ride!

Drawing On The Right Side of the Brain by Gheri Fouts

You can expect the unexpected when you take Nancy Carruthers' class on right brain left brain drawing.

We were a little skeptical at the thought of having two sides of the brain interpreting the same world around us in such different and sometimes conflicting ways. From the start of the course, Nancy showed us and instructed us on how to concentrate on pertinent information that was necessary to draw the world around us. Even the portrait class, which usually is a recipe for an embarrassing disaster, was a lesson that we all met with success. Nancy's step by step demonstration not only produced a recognizable portrait without cartoon-like features, but gave us the courage to try it immediately again on our own, to produce a satisfactory portrait that whispered "success".

I heard many praises from students who felt confident and accomplished by the end of the course. And many wanted her to teach it again next year. Thank you Nancy for a worthwhile course.

Pictures from the June 7th ENCORE Annual Meeting



The Fall of the Berlin Wall By Erhard Gross

On May 17, 2020 ENCORE will present a program about the convulsions in East Germany that led up to the greatest political event of the second half of the 20th Century: the disappearance of the Iron Curtain. ENCORE has invited a couple who, as adults, experienced the political upheaval from the East German vantage point. Manfred and Petra Riedel were there from beginning to end. Manfred grew up in the little village, Garnsdorf, where I came from. It is situated in the State of Saxony, about 45 miles west of Dresden and 35 miles north of the Czech border.

In 1982 Manfred Riedel and his wife were offered the opportunity to visit Cuba. For people behind the Iron Curtain, the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in this case, this was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Mr. Riedel, an engineer, worked for a large employer in the nearby metropolis of Karl-Marx-Stadt. As could be expected, the prospect of such a trip filled them with eager anticipation.

Since East Germans were basically denied travel outside of East Bloc countries, this opportunity presented something to live for. However, to secure the actual permission to go on this trip, which was sponsored and organized by the East German Government Labor Union, required final clearance from local police, the commissar at his employer's political office and East Germany's secret police. In order to finance the trip, Riedel had cashed in his life insurance policy. The final approval arrived 10 days before the scheduled departure of the flight to Havana. The trip back to East Germany was by

cruise ship. While Riedel was in Havana, he wrote post cards to his father and brother-in-law, who both lived in West Germany.

The Riedels were middle-aged when the fabric of East German society began to crumple. A restive citizenry, no longer shielded from Western television and radio, wanted choice and real freedom. Although very cautiously, East Germans demanded the right to go visit their relatives in the West. They remembered well the blood bath of June 17, 1953 when Soviet tanks reestablished the supremacy of the Communist government. The new leader in the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev, however, had made clear that each member country of the East Bloc was responsible for its own internal affairs.

Initially hesitant, gradually demonstrations for human rights gained strength. East Germans were hard-working people who expected the standard of living their government had promised them from the time of the founding of the GDR in 1949. Totally unknown to the people, East Germany was near insolvency by the early 1980s. And ironically, West Germany had bailed out their ideological opponents with two one-billion West Mark credits.

As East Germans tried desperately to escape from the oppressive atmosphere of their country -- some heading to Hungary, some to Czechoslovakia in order to reach West Germany via Austria, and the antigovernment demonstrations at home gained strength, their government prepared to imprison thousands of its citizens -- the communist party leadership replaced the head of the regime. But it was too late. A misstep by their top leadership unexpectedly opened the Berlin Wall on the evening of November 9, 1989. The whole world, including the American CIA, was as surprised as Manfred and Petra Riedel that the symbol of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall, came down that evening.

After the reunification of Germany in 1990, citizens of the former German Democratic Republic could apply to the government to get their secret police file. Riedel's file consisted of 26 handwritten pages plus photo copies of the post cards he had written to his father and brother-in-law from Cuba. Surprise? Not really. Spying by government authorities and common citizens upon each other was common and pervasive. (The twice Olympic gold medalist figure skater Katarina Witt had 1354 pages in her Stasi file.) Having traveled behind the Iron Curtain on several occasions and having been spied upon repeatedly, the present author submitted a formal request for his Stasi file on July 13, 2019.

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HUMANIST DISCUSSIONS by Theodore Lund

According to Google, Humanism is "an outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value and goodness of human beings, emphasize common human needs, and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems."

In a lecture Lloyd Komley, former board member American Humanists Assn., presented the idea that living as a Humanist is sharing ideas and understandings in order to better understand yourself. It is in this spirit that the ENCORE HUMANIST DISCUSSIONS will be offered at 10:00 AM every Friday of the fall term at the Astoria Senior Center.

The topics for each day's discussions will be selected from topics you suggest, as well as others which I will provide. Group participants may serve as discussion facilitators if they wish. The first meeting on September 27 will be to discuss the concept of Humanism and to select topics and facilitators for the 8 sessions scheduled. Examples of topics from which the group may choose are:

What is real? Can we decide on a definition of reality beyond the physical?

Theism, Atheism and None: How do these belief systems differ? Would holding one change the course of ones life?

Political Belief Systems: How do the fundamental belief systems of conservatives differ from those of liberals? How are they similar?

Human Morality: How do inherited traits influence our moral behavior? What are they? How do learned behaviors influence these inherited traits?

These are a few ideas. I am hoping that those of you who are interested in joining this class will offer more. Send your suggestions to todlundy@gmail.com. Title your email "Discussion Topics".

PUBLIC LEDGERS by Martha Ellen

I don't know her name, but I love her.

She had found a bit of woven, checkered cloth and fashioned it into a diaper for her newborn son; she embroidered a cap for him and she stitched a cotton gown with flowers; she dressed him tenderly before she swaddled him in a woolen blanket to keep away the chill of the cool morning air. Then Oma carefully laid him down on Brabant Street, in Ghent, early one morning in May, 1815.

Cecile and Rosalie were returning home after a long night's work, as they did every morning, holding hands as European women do when they are friends. Cecile lifted the swaddled baby from the street and held him close. She was no lowly Public Ledger just then. Oma, hiding in some nearby doorway to make sure no stray beast found him first, cried quietly as the women walked away with her baby. Oma loved him, too. She told herself someday she would find him and identify him by the clothing she had made for him only, though she never did. She couldn't. She lived a different life.

Cecile and Rosalie took the baby to the police station. I have a copy of entry into the police ledger on that day written in the stunted, fact-based style that persists to this day. The officer on duty made the determination: "a male child of the age about ten days". Cecile marked her "X" to swear to the truth before the court. They took him from Cecile and Rosalie and gave him to the Nuns at the orphanage who would love him, care for him, rear him and name him Jan-Baptiste Brabant, my great-great-grandfather.



Jane Borg

A year ago June, long-time ENCORE member Jane Borg passed away. Recently Terry Borg sent the following message:

I wanted to let you know that we now have a date for Mom's service at Arlington National Cemetery. Her service will be September 27, 11 a.m. EDT (8 a.m. here). If you are so inclined, please raise a glass at that time! We would all really appreciate it if you would share this information with her ENCORE friends.

The gravesite with Dad is located near the Pentagon and Pentagon 9-11 Memorial and that section always gets wreaths during Wreaths Across America Day. I have a friend who has volunteered for that group since its inception. She makes sure our headstone has a wreath!

We appreciate your friendship with Mom. She felt very welcomed here! Best to you all! Terry

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From the Editor: I feel the more contributions we get from our readers the more meaningful to each of us Class Act will become. So send in your articles, notices, jokes, pictures, class and event reviews or whatever you want to see here. A lot of you did make contributions and I thank you so much for that. Keep in mind the deadline date. Of course if I can I will accept articles after that, particularly the Lunch Bunch picture and write-up as that can occur just after the deadline. As soon as your group has an event please assign someone to write it up and send it in as soon as they can. If you enjoyed a class write something appreciative about the teacher and class and include a picture. Thank you all so much!

Fun, Frolicking, Fantastic Picnic



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ENCORE'S Class Act is published quarterly - December, January, & February; March, April, & May; June, July & August; September, October, & November by ENCORE, "Exploring New Concepts Of Retirement Education."

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Next "Class Act" deadline is Friday, November 8, 2019