



'GORILLA' REPORTED AT ENCORE MEETING- DETAILS BELOW

At the August 26 ENCORE board meeting, our new treasurer Eric Anderson reported a '1000 pound gorilla' in the room. As you may recall ENCORE did not elect a new president for the 2024-25 academic year because the nominating committee [Nomcom] did not find a member willing to succeed Elizabeth Hayes. Since then the board has had rotating chairpersons drawn from the board.

The metaphorical 'gorilla in the room' is the fact that the state of Oregon requires the name of a real person as business president in order to renew our business license, to avoid losing our tax-exempt status, and to avoid paying a hefty fine. This must be achieved by Thanksgiving!

So ENCORE's challenge is to find a member willing to serve as president for the upcoming year through June 2025 or beyond. The job of ENCORE president is not as heavy a lift as the committee chair positions are. At a minimum the president creates the monthly board meeting agenda and chairs the meeting in addition to being signatory on documents. Of course the president can do much more than this including being the face of ENCORE in the community and at CCC, marketing ENCORE, problem-solving, and setting the tone and course for the future. ENCORE really does need a strong active president in these times.

As chair of the Nomcom, I ask every ENCORE member to consider serving as president or to recommend a person who might be inclined to do so. Please call me at 425 314-8544 or email at davezunkel@gmail.com with your questions and/or suggestions ASAP. In addition before classes start on September 30, invite your friends and neighbors to join ENCORE. Remember that a prospective member can audit two classes before deciding to join for the year. The membership committee has found that word-of-mouth advertising works best for recruiting new members.

ENCORE doesn't need a pet gorilla, SO it's time to GET BUSY!!!! Good luck!!!

IN REVIEW

By Dory Lucas

In April, Encore offered Blackberry Bog Farm Gardening classes, 2 sessions on planting your garden in Clatsop County. The first session was in the classroom, and the second was a tour of the Farm. Scott Thompson, owner of the Farm and instructor for the classes, was raised on a farm and studied horticulture throughout his lifetime. In 2014 Scott and his wife bought a 30 acre farm in Svensen that was overgrown and in shambles. The owners and farm assistants have converted the land into an attractive, organized, and flourishing farm business. Scott raised cut flowers at first, then moved into poultry farming, and now sells nursery plants, grows attractive gardens, fresh-picked berries and vegetables, and provides home-baked goods as well as canned sauces and jams. Scott shared his wealth of gardening knowledge with enthusiasm and experiences. He treated us to a custom tour of his farm and fresh baked scones and cookies. These sessions were truly enjoyable!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that I write to inform you of Marjorie Spence's passing on August 14, 2024. She was not only a beloved member of Encore, but a Past-President and so much more. We all knew her as an intelligent woman with a love of travel and a terrific singing voice which she used to the enjoyment of many an audience.

I will always remember her great sense of humor. We were in a class together when the subject of celebrities and their ages came up. She announced that she was the same age as Jane Fonda, but Jane had newer parts.

R.I.P., my witty friend.

The Editor

UNEXPECTED TRAVEL

A Close Call?

By Erhard W. Gross

The red mud was ankle deep. Making my way from our motor coach to the Chinle police department required some physical effort and the need to brave the torrential rain. The reason for the mud was no mystery. It had started snowing above a certain elevation on the north rim of Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona, shortly after noon and rained still here below.

We needed a place to park our RV, a place with shore power. But the RV Park of this National Monument was not equipped with electric hookups. I decided to drive into Chinle to try to get permission to plug into someone's building. That is how we found the Chapter House of the Navajo Nation. I decided to ask someone at this official building where we might locate a source of electricity.

The receptionist courteously referred me to one of the department heads, who in turn led me to the office of the Chapter manager (A Chapter on the Navajo Reservation is an administrative unit similar to a county). The manager, too, was friendly. So I asked her whether I could plug into the Chapter House. While she was weighing my request, I told her that I'd be glad to pay her for the privilege. When she said yes, I quickly gave her \$30 and wrote out a descriptive receipt for her signature. We needed to be covered for the event that Tribal Police might come during the night and order us to leave or even arrest us for trespassing or stealing tribal property.

The manager had told me that, since there were no exterior outlets at the Chapter House, we should move our RV to the back of their gymnasium where she would leave the door unlocked so I could plug into one of the inside electric outlets. It was very dark back there, but I jockeyed our house on wheels into the tight spot. The only concern we had was that some mysterious person or tribal police might come at night and cause us problems. We had read several Tony Hillerman mystery novels. Titles like *The Shapeshifter*, *Skinwalkers*, *A Thief of Time*, etc. had clearly identified the Chinle police department as very alert in protecting the population and solving crimes. Hillerman's fictional characters, Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn and Sergeant Jim Chee, could certainly have been based on some real officers in this reservation town.

To forestall any unpleasant nocturnal confrontation with some of the overeager young bucks on the local police force, I resolved to visit the station and show them our written permission to park where we were and hook into their power outlet. I asked my wife to deadbolt and not open the door to any stranger.

It was still raining when I set out for the police department. The building was only about three blocks from our location. The mud was getting worse. The police officer at the desk had a somewhat dubious look on his face when I entered his territory. He undoubtedly wondered why I was out on foot during the dark night and driving rain.

To make him feel at ease I asked him: "May I speak with Lt. Leaphorn or Capt. Largo?"

"Who?" he asked.

"Lt. Leaphorn or Capt. Largo." I repeated. "Is either one here?"

"They're certainly not here. I've never heard of them."

"Is Sgt. Chee still in Tuba City?" I asked.

He shook his head, saying: "I've only been here for six months and have never heard any of those names."

"Well, I just thought you might have heard of them; I found them in a book about the Dineh (Navajo name for themselves). Have you heard of Tony Hillerman?"

It was no use. He had not heard of Hillerman either. So I got to the real reason for my visit: I showed him the Chapter manager's signed statement with special emphasis on the fact that we had permission to park our RV right next to the Chapter House. With the request that he inform the department's patrol officers of the location of our RV, I left the station and walked back to our RV.

Back at the RV I knocked at the door for Elfi to unlock, there was no response. A second try brought still no response. With my third try I called her name with the request to let me come in. She unlocked and held our 9 mm Glock police gun aimed at me. She told me that she had the loaded gun in the overhead sleeping compartment at the ready at all times.

My wife and I like a little adventure. But I was sure glad that she recognized my voice and that none of the local police officers had tried to force the door open during my absence. Shooting me or a police officer could have been a messy surprise.

THE BOOK NOOK**The Covenant of Water** by Abraham Verghese

An epic tome by the author of **Cutting for Stone**, **The Covenant of Water** was my favorite read in 2023. First off, the writing is beautiful and the descriptions of the places are mesmerizing, but I don't know where Dr. Verghese gets the time to write such a novel (more than 700 pages) as he is also the Vice Chair of Education at Stanford University Medical School. The novel is set primarily in Kerala, India in 1900 to 1977 and the central characters are three generations of a family where in every generation at least one person dies by drowning... an unfortunate affliction in an area with so much water in the landscape. The book talks about the caste system, about the British influence in the early 20th century, about racism, about leprosy and about how families evolve over generations.

Lynne Ryan

FROM ERIC ANDERSON'S WRITING EXCHANGE CLASS

When You Were a Child Did You Have a Special

Hiding Place?

Response to this question posed to

Kay Limbird

I cannot remember having a special hiding place....I had no siblings of an age that would come looking for me...hence, no need. My much older brothers likely would have celebrated my absence as they considered me "a pest." As I may have need. My much older brothers likely would have celebrated my absence as they considered me "a pest." As I may have mentioned before, one of my brothers, Roger, paid me a nickel a day from his paper route money just to stay away from him and his room filled with fascinating items. I especially remember a large jar filled with gumball machine and Cracker Jack prizes and a gristly shrunken head dangling from his bedpost, to name just a couple. Indeed, it was my brother Roger's room, his special "hiding place," that I coveted. Even when playing with my neighborhood friends, I cannot remember playing hide and seek. Our city lots were pretty limited, so hiding outdoors soon lost appeal and playing hide and seek indoors would not have been permitted by our parents anyway. Rather, we played jump rope, jacks, hopscotch, dress up, and, when permitted, "car trip" in our parents' driveway parked cars. I suppose I used my bedroom as a "retreat" when I felt angry or frustrated...but I let everyone know where I was (and how

unjustly I had been scolded) by slamming my bedroom door
upon entry rather than the far less dramatic choice of hiding
secretly anywhere.

BLUE

By Jean McGonigle Writers Exchange, Summer 2024

Blue is not the color of forgiveness

But of entitlement, as in:

The New England Gentleman is a

“Blue Blood.”

Blue can be sadness without

Reconciliation, as in:

“The Lady Sings the Blues”

Or a longing for an undisciplined

Happiness, as in:

“Blue Skies Forever.”

Blue can also be an awe inspiring

Moment that invites tranquility,

As in: a wispy October sky on the

Pacific Coast set between

The bold of sunny September

And the ominous hues of slate

In a pale November.

Then, the color blue

Blends the solitary, as

Shakespeare said:

“Those icicles that hang on the wall

(Where) blood is nipped,”

With a cultural heat, a soulful,

Dixieland lyric as sung by

Louis Armstrong,

“Why Am I So Black, I’m Blue?”

AND MORE...

Paleontology

By Erhard Gross

In May of 2024, my wife and I drove to Custer in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where we were to rendezvous with our Canadian friends, Art and Kay Limbird. Together we visited Mount Rushmore and the giant sculpture of Chief Crazy Horse outside of Custer and then prepared to travel to visit the 50-foot stainless steel sculpture titled “Dignity: of Earth and Sky” of an Indian maiden outside of Chamberlain, overlooking the Missouri River. This monumental piece of art celebrates history and traditions of the Dakota and Lakota Indians

En route, our first destination is the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, SD. Sometime in the late 1970s, a developer was preparing a site at the edge of Hot Springs, South Dakota, for construction of a residential development. He began by preparing the surface with earth moving equipment when a bulldozer hit something hard. It turned out that the object was the ancient tusk of a mammoth. Scientific evaluation determined that the tusk was thousands of years old. A formal scientific excavation was soon underway, and by May 2024, 121 mammoth tusks had been found. The skeletons and teeth of many other species were also discovered. The concentration of remains was the result of animals falling into a so-called sinkhole the steep sides of which made escape impossible. The trapped animals died of drowning or starvation.

This is a must-see for persons interested in paleontology. Over 60 mammoths, both woolly mammoths and the larger Columbian mammoths have been excavated and are displayed in-situ, along with short-faced bear, camels, saber-toothed cats, and many other species. The tusks and animal bones date back at least 140,000 years when the animals became trapped in this 60 foot deep sinkhole. We spent about three hours viewing the site which was discovered in 1979, but has since become one of the scientifically most important international sites of Pleistocene animal research.

De-extinction of the Mammoth

It is generally agreed that the woolly mammoth became extinct in the late Pleistocene, about 10,000 years ago. Scientists have for some time attempted to restore the species. Several prestigious organizations are engaged in the effort to recreate the woolly mammoth; the Russian government has set aside a huge tract of land in northeast Siberia as proposed sanctuary when the restoration is producing results.

The choice of the sanctuary is based on the compatibility of the vegetation with that which scientists have found in the stomachs of mammoths that have been recovered in the frozen fastness of north central Siberia. To this day, frozen corpses of mammoths are being recovered. They include fully grown animals all the way down to calves of weeks or months of age. How is the preservation of the bodies of these animals possible?

Most of the great rivers of Siberia flow from south to north, which translates into masses of snow-melt produced by warming in spring that follow the lay of the land toward the Arctic Ocean. These masses of water flow over permafrost into which they carve channels and oxbow lakes of varying depths and dimensions. Like immense snowplows, the great Siberian river systems sweep north through the taiga into the coastal plains. They carry with them soil, trees and all life that is scoured by the onslaught of spring melt from the south. It is in the meanders of the rivers on coastal plains where the bodies of the Pleistocene megafauna are preserved – where well-preserved frozen bodies of mammoths are recovered to this day. So-called mammoth hunters, people who recover the sought-after ivory of the mammoth, find entire mummified bodies of mammoths from which scientists extract DNA that might be viable to this day.

This DNA (di-ribonucleic acid) closely resembles the DNA of a living species, the Indian elephant. Japanese and American scientists believe to be on the track of the de-extinction of the woolly mammoth. Implantation of mammoth DNA in live female elephants is thought to be the most promising route to success.

In the United States, interest in the discovery of prehistoric animals goes all the way back to Thomas Jefferson’s time. In his instructions to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Jefferson included his belief that the mammoth still existed on the Great Plains as suggested by the findings at Big Bone Lick along the Ohio River in Indiana.

The discovery of the Mammoth Site near Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1979, gave a major impetus to the scientific interest in the subject of the recovery of the mammoth. Harvard University’s entry into this research can be traced back to the Mammoth Site. Under the leadership of Dr. George Church, significant progress has been made toward the re-creation of the woolly mammoth. Unlike the Japanese approach via the Asiatic elephant, the Church approach is working on the creation of an artificial uterus that is constructed to grow embryos. If such embryos can be birthed, they will be incorporated in herds of elephants for the purpose of learning herd behavior prior to transferring them to the Taiga Park in Northeast Siberia.

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

FALL 24 CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Humanist Discussion Class. Instructor: Tod Lundy Humanist Discussions is an ongoing conversation which occurs every Monday from 10:00 AM to Noon. We try to focus on issues related to human existence. Naturally with such a broad topic category, our discussion topics range widely. Classes are all online from September 30 to November 22 You may join in by contacting TodLundy@gmail.com

TUESDAY - ENCORE Writing Exchange Short Course

This 8-session Zoom online short course aims to Awaken the Writer Within You!

Share your memoir, short story, poem, or novel chapter and receive kind, constructive feedback.

If you prefer, sharing of your writing and its constructive feedback can be recorded into audio and/or video format for later review by you.

This Zoom short course meets on Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:45 AM from October 1 to November 19.

For more information: please email the instructor, Eric Anderson, at EricCander@aol.com or call (503) 325-3131. *Please note: The Monday and Tuesday online classes run year-round, including the summer months.*

WEDNESDAY AM - Financing for Seniors. Instructor: Willow Oelke, et al, from the Community Engagement Department of WAUNA Federal Credit Union.

"The Psychology of Spending": Money decisions aren't just about numbers and logic - they're also driven by emotions. Those feelings can have a big impact on your finances! By digging into the emotions behind your choices, you can start making smarter, more productive financial decisions. (October 2)

"Fraud Free & Fabulous: Workshop for Wise Seniors": A lively workshop designed for wise seniors who want to outsmart scammers and keep their finances safe. We'll dive into the latest tricks fraudsters use and arm you with tools to spot them and stop them! Get ready to stay sharp, secure and fabulous while protecting what's yours! (October 9)

"Golden Years, Golden Budget: Stretching Your Retirement Dollars": Ready to make your retirement dollars stretch and still have fun? Join our upbeat budget workshop for seniors in their retirement years! We'll explore smart, savvy ways to keep your finances in check while enjoying your well-deserved golden years. Whether it's planning for surprises or making the most of a fixed income, we'll turn budgeting into a breeze! (October 16)

Three sessions in the classroom at the Senior Center. 11:00 am to 12:45 pm from October 2 to October 16.

WEDNESDAY PM - Good for You Nutrition 101, One session, October 30 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Natural Grocers in Warrenton's Young Plaza (backroom). Instructor: Korinne Erikson, Nutritional Health Coach. Learn to live a healthier life through eating right and enjoying it.

THURSDAY - Earthquakes and Tsunamis and How to Prepare to Survive

In this 8-week course, we will learn about earthquakes and tsunamis and how they can affect our region, the "Ring of Fire" and its association with earthquakes and volcanoes, and what is the difference between plate boundaries, faults and fissures.

- Before - preparation before is a form of insurance
- During - location, location, location
- After - What do I do now?

We will work on building individualized "TO GO" bags, escape routes, and family planning.

Join us each Thursday at 11:00 am to 12:45 beginning October 3 at the Astoria Senior Center in the Sorensen Room. Instructor: Karen Elder.

FRIDAY AM - Communication – the Words and the Elements Behind them We all think communication should be easy and it is the most important and difficult activity we humans face daily.

Exploring various communication methods, we will look at the pieces that create successful communication and what is happening in the background. Humans complicate most things they do, so our goal will be to simplify and weed out unnecessary elements to create more freedom and effective results.

Words. Application of Words. Sensitivity to Other Person/Persons. Knowing what is *behind* your own communication. Listening = Deep Listening. Not getting distracted by the other's tone or words. Keep the conversation on one track, no diversions. Resolution or Schedule. Instructor: Maureen Baalem

This class will follow an information and discussion format.

Fridays 10 – 12 am. Six weeks: October 4 through November 22 (October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8).

FRIDAY PM – Managing Change. What changes are occurring in your life? What changes are on the horizon? Recently retired? Long retired and in a rut? Have you lost a loved one and are facing the many changes in your daily life that the loss brings? Are you downsizing? Want to make change, but don't know how?

We will discuss why people seem to be naturally resistant to change and what to do about that. This four-session program will provide information and a process to deal positively with change. We will discuss how to develop and implement a plan to manage change.

The class consists of four two hour sessions beginning Friday, October 4th and each session is 2-4 pm at the Senior Center. Instructor: Elizabeth Hayes

TBD: Two-Day-Wonder Classes. These classes are structured to be in-class one day and in-the-field for day two.

The first class is planned for fall and will feature the Fire Department (from Clatsop County). The in-class day will be to enlighten us about everything the firefighters do for us that do not necessarily involve fighting fires. The field trip will be to a fire station to get a first-hand look at someplace most of have never been. Stay tuned for more information on this two-day-wonder, and for more fun and interesting two-day treats for the mind to be announced in the coming months.

All two-day-wonder classes will be announced via email and posted on encorelearn.net before the event occurs, so stay tuned for all upcoming events.

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*Encore’s Class Act is published quarterly except summers – December, January & February, March, April & May; September, October, & November by Encore Learn (Exploring New Concepts of Retirement Education). Tess Chedsey, Editor 503-861-4375, tesschedsey@gmail.com, Jason Edwards, CCC Liaison email: jedwards@clatsopcc.edu, 503-338-2550. Next “Class Act” deadline is **Friday, November 8, 2024***