

CLASS ACT



GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two terms down and one to go. The Curriculum Committee, chaired by Reta Lindstrom, is putting the finishing touches on the classes that will be offered for Spring Term. You can find the full details of the offerings elsewhere in this Newsletter.



This term's popular classes were once again led by Seth Tichenor's *The Philosophy of Religions*, followed by Ellen Norris' *The Aging Brain*, and the field tours of *Fishery Labs and Processing Plants*, led by Art Limbird. Thanks to all for putting together these great informative and

educational classes. That's what ENCORE is all about. You missed a lot if you didn't get to attend one of these classes. Get that Brain Stimulated!

Next term will lead off with the return of Seth's protégé, Kjirsten Severson, from Portland, who will give another mind-stimulating, entertaining class on philosophy. Also returning is the popular "*Where in the World Have You Been?*" Our well-traveled world-traveling members never cease to amaze with their stories and exploits. Again, I invite you to come forward to share with us your stories and experiences. This is an on-going open invitation. Speaking of great programs to come, (spoiler alert), we are working on the possibility of having a presenter for the fall who is currently at the South Pole and Antarctica.

Alas, it is nearing time for our Annual Membership Meeting that will be held on Thursday, June 1, at the Clatsop Community College's Room 219 in Columbia Hall from 2 pm to 4:30pm. This will include the election of officers, the approval of the 2017-2018 budget, approval of proposed By-Law changes, and the honoring of our members services.

I want to thank all of the members for their support in making my second term of office a success. It takes a team effort and I've certainly had a great team to work with.

Frank Spence

Help guide ENCORE's future: Join one of the committees and/or attend the board meetings. Nearly all board meetings and committee meetings are held on Mondays at the Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange St, Astoria, at 1 PM.

First Monday:	Trip Committee	Art Limbird, Chair
Second Monday:	Curriculum Committee	Reta Lindstrom, Chair
Third Monday:	Membership Committee	Rollie Lindstrom, Chair
Fourth Monday:	Board Meeting	Frank Spence, President

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW??!!

ENCORE has purchased two headset loudspeaker systems for use by instructors/speakers who may need to "up the volume" for better communication. These should be especially useful for soft-voiced speakers, for outdoor use or for use in more noisy environments. The speakers will be available for "check out" from the Community Education Office 109D Towler Hall, Clatsop Community College. (Mary Kemhus or Evy Berger). Art Limbird modeling the new equipment. (Kay Limbird photo)



LOOKING AHEAD

A Critical Examination of the New Testament as a Historical Text

By Erhard Gross

Whether viewed from a religious or a secular vantage point, The *Bible* is the most influential book ever published in the Western World. In addition to being identified as an ethical and practical guide to life, it also invites interpretation. The best evidence for the latter is the proliferation of religious sects, most of which lay claim to being the only true religion. Why is this? Are there any discrepancies such as contradictions or inconsistencies in the *Bible* that could contribute to uncertainties or divergent reading?

For spring term of 2017, ENCORE is offering a course on the New Testament (NT). This course looks at some of the specific questions that arise from a critical look at some of the 27 books of the *New Testament*. Our approach will be historical-critical, not from a devotional vantage point. Nor will we consider Christian apologetics (attempts at defense of textual inconsistencies); we will look at the written word as it appears on the printed pages of the *NT*.

Here are two examples: Jesus is born in Bethlehem. When word reaches Herod that the "King of the Jews" is born, the top Roman official in the land decrees that all males under two years of age be killed. According to the Gospel of Matthew (2:13 -16), Joseph and Mary departed for Egypt immediately to save the life of their newborn son. However, Luke (2:22-40)

contradicts this by writing that the family stayed in the area. Luke mentions no slaughter. Another example is the Apostle Paul's attitude toward women in church life (Romans 16). He holds that women should be active in all aspects of church life including organizers, deacons and even apostles. The opposing view, a forged insertion into Paul's 1 Timothy 2:11-15, directs that women in the congregation remain silent, submissive and pregnant.

My objective is not to undermine or promote one religious belief over any other but to stimulate the acquisition of actual knowledge as well as critical thinking. Do we not study Homer, Shakespeare, Goethe, Alexandre Dumas, Leo Tolstoy and many other authors? Why then should we not study the most influential book in Western history?

In order to understand some of the textual complexities of the NT, one must look at the history of when and how the various books of the NT came into being and how they became part of the NT. For over 200 years, biblical scholars have known that none of the four Gospels and Paul's letters were written during the lifetime of Jesus. Neither the apostle Paul nor the Gospel authors Matthew, Mark Luke and John, and Acts knew Jesus personally or could have observed him directly since their books were written between 15 and 60 years after Jesus' death. (Cont'd on P 3)

(Cont'd from P 2)

The followers of Jesus spoke Aramaic and most likely could not read and certainly not write the coherent texts presented in the Gospels. Unlike the unlettered men from Galilee, the authors of the Gospels were learned men with demonstrated literary skills. Furthermore, Paul's letters, all four Gospels, as well as the Acts of the Apostles were written in Greek. Greek Koine used no punctuation, paragraph indentations, hyphens for line justification, or lower case letters. That alone caused differences when the NT was translated into the vernacular languages and reproduced in the scriptoria of those times.

The early church fathers took on the task of deciding which religious books were to be included in the canon (officially accepted Holy Scripture). This process was not without strong differences of opinion. Church leaders

like Eusebius, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, etc., were not above duking it out and sometimes would even condemn some of their own for heresy. In addition to the 27 books that made it into the New Testament (the first time all 27 are listed is late in the 4th Century CE), there are others that did not. Many of those manuscripts are lost, but we know of them, including excerpts from their writings, because the church fathers defended or assailed them in their writings.

For a look at contradictions and inconsistencies, this class we'll proceed directly from the Biblical texts. Irrespective of the religious beliefs that have flowed and will flow from the *Bible* for many centuries, we are going to familiarize ourselves with the actual texts. We might find the inspired books of the NT revealing a rather human touch.

The class will be held in the Council Chambers of Astoria's City Hall (elevator equipped) from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, on April 6, 13, 20, 27; and May 4, 2017.

Dr. Scott G. Borg on U.S. Scientific Programs at the Antarctic

By Erhard Gross

This is a program alert!

Dr. Scott Borg, the COO and chief of polar sciences, Antarctic, will present a program on the U.S. Scientific endeavors at the South Pole. Under his leadership, scientists have discovered two new species of dinosaurs, found 15-million-year-old water under one-half mile of polar ice and made significant contributions toward man's understanding of the origins and the nature of the universe.

You might have heard of the emergency evacuation of former moon-landing Astronaut Buzz Aldrin last December, after he developed fluid in his lungs during his visit to the South Pole. Dr. Borg was in charge. Also, South Polar scientists have amassed great amounts of data on global warming. Here too, Dr. Borg was in charge.

Elfi and I were invited to a private showing of a program on his professional activities. We found it fascinating and asked him immediately to give a similar program to ENCORE. He agreed. Our Curriculum Committee endorsed my proposal during its January 2017 meeting for presentation at the Astoria Senior Center, as soon as we can arrange a date.

Dr. Borg's presentation is likely to be the premiere event of our academic year. For additional details and the date of the program, please go to our website: encorelearn.org. Bear in mind that if the entire south polar ice cap were to melt, it would raise sea levels by 60 feet. We are going to have the above special event while we can still reach the Senior Center on foot. See you there!

LOOKING BACK.

Our Local Seafood Industry Class

By Kay Limbird, Class Coordinator

Much advance preparation and coordination for the “Our Local Seafood Industry” class offered by Art Limbird has paid off in participants’ enthusiastic comments. “I never knew this was here” was a comment often heard among the attendees, and “This has been a fascinating class!”

Each location visited so far has provided eloquent and knowledgeable speaker representatives / owners. Questions have been answered in depth and the inter-relationships of this important local industry have been emphasized. The initial class and tour held at the Seafood Research Lab, with speaker and Director Christina Dewitt, emphasized the techniques being investigated to create new products and enhance existing ones while attempting to reduce fish “waste.” We are all on the lookout for new products to appear on our food store shelves...such as pizza crust made from...you guessed it...fish!

Week two the class took buses to visit Skipanon Seafoods where Mark Kujala provided us with a tour of the facility followed (to Col 2)

by a canning demonstration and tasty sampling of Skipanon products. (Kay Limbird photo)

From there we traveled to Airport Crabpots where owner Lisa Lamping gave a fascinating talk about the complexity of making crab pots suitable for Oregon and Washington fisheries and incorporating all the individual requirements for design by the individual fishermen. We witnessed the steps of the individual requirements for design by the individual fishermen. We witnessed the steps of preparation from metal rods through to the final weaving of the traps. Lisa explained the rise and fall of her business, based upon a variety of regulatory and supply demands. She is awaiting the confirmation of a recent patent soon to be a part of her design.



(to below line)



Week three of the class was a talk and tour of the Bornstein fish processing plant by Andrew Bornstein and Christa Svensson. Crab and sole processing was in full swing and from the catwalk above we were privileged to view all the cleaning and packing activity.



While touring the facility, Andrew and Christa continued to answer our individual questions as they arose. From the Bornstein building we walked to England Marine. We were met by Kurt England, third generation owner, and our guide for the tour. We were amazed to learn of the scope of the services England Marine provides to the fishing industry as well as to other locally supportive fishing businesses who require specialized tools and/or equipment....some made on site. Some Encore members paused to investigate the cookbooks and the weather-proof clothing. We learned that England Marine operates seven locations from Westport, Washington to Eureka, California - the Astoria location being the largest...and the “hub.” (Kay Limbird photos above) (Cont’d on P 5)

(Cont'd from P 4) Week four of the class was another excursion via buses; this time to the "J & H Boatworks." Snow and slush did not deter the trip to the vast, unheated hangar. Owner Tim Hill guided the class and discussed the scope of boat restoration and re-design. He explained that the west coast fishing fleet is old; it costs less than half as much to refurbish a boat than to buy a new one. And, if the engines are still good, the restoration is the most economical approach. (Chris Bryant photo above)



At the time of this writing, two more class sessions are scheduled. Week five will find us again at the Seafood Lab where we will have a talk by Steve Meshke of Clatsop County Fisheries, discussing the net pens used for raising fingerlings locally. Also, speaker Tod Jones of Redd Zone will inform us of the latest innovations in hatchery equipment and techniques.

Week six we will meet at Fishhawk Fisheries where owner/manager Steve Fick will discuss their seafood processing procedures. Also week six will find us at Josephson's Smokehouse to learn about the fish smoking process used there.

As we "navigate" through these local industries, enthusiastic ENCORE class members have asked for additional local industries to be explored in future ENCORE classes. Learning about our local seafood industry has been a fascinating journey!

December 2016 Holiday Bash

Friday, December 16, 2016, ENCORE celebrated the holidays with its annual "Holiday Bash" for members and guests. About sixty persons joined their ENCORE friends for a delicious buffet dinner, music, prize drawings and socializing at the Elks Club. Several new members, some new to the area, attended the event.

Music for the occasion was provided by a trio of musicians: Judy Woodward on cello, Shelley Loring on flute, and Bona Choi also on flute. The hall had been beautifully decorated for the holidays and provided a comfortable, elegant and spacious environment for the "ENCORE Holiday Bash." The food had been prepared on site with the assistance of Karen Martin. (Kay Limbird photos)



Of course Santa visited and even stayed awhile to pose for photos with any who wished; 22 ENCORE members and guests took advantage of the opportunity! Donations offered for the "Photo with Santa" opportunity were designated to the "Wishing Tree Foundation". ENCORE members donated \$300. Many Thanks!

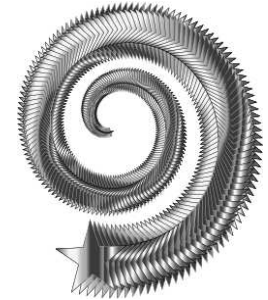


January Lunch Bunch

On Friday January 6, nine Encore members met at the Ft. George Brewery for Lunch. Since the downstairs part that is normally open for lunch was closed for annual maintenance, we had a large table upstairs with a wonderful view of the river. (Cont'd on pg 6)

(Cont'd from page 5) Present were: Reta Sabey, Carey Birkenfeld, Gerrie Penny, Frances Kaspar, Lynne Ryan, Kit Ketcham, Karen Elder, Frank Spence, and yours truly, Ellen Norris.

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Our wonderful Lunch Bunch Coordinator for many years, **Reta Sabey**, announced that she is retiring from the position. We expressed our thanks to her for keeping this group going, and wished her a happy birthday a day early! A cascade of gold stars to Reta!



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February Lunch Bunch

On Friday February 3 we met at Fultano's Pizzeria on Olney Ave in Astoria. Eight ENCORE members enjoyed the all-you-can-eat salad and pizza bar and a lot of good conversation. We send our good wishes to Reta Sabey that she will soon be home. Two people have volunteered to assist someone else with taking over planning our first Friday lunches. If you are interested in being point person, you will have ample assistance!

MEMORIES SHARED

DIGGING UP THE CAT

Submitted by Nellie Hutchison

When she died my daughter and I gently placed her in a wooden box with a slice of American cheese, a piece of yellow and orange variegated yarn and one blue silk flower and buried her in good faith in the Pet Lawn Cemetery with a granite headstone engraved with a single rose and inscribed:

Streaky
Dearly Loved
Dearly Missed
A Very Good Cat

She rested in peace for four short years then the cemetery went to hell. Grass and weeds obscure the loving words. Pet owners complain to no avail. The owner is bankrupt. Developers have taken over. Plots are being plotted.

To leave her to the bulldozer, to have a house erected on her grave, it will not do. She will haunt any family who dares to move in on her space. I can picture her treading lightly on their furniture at night, leaving ghostly cat tracks. So it seems best to bring her home to rest amongst the roses and that is why I am digging up the cat.

On a breezy spring morning, equipped with a cardboard box and shovel, alone in that deserted cemetery, I am barely able to carry it to the car as I step respectfully over remains of "Captain", "Missy", "Champ I and II" and a host of other treasured pets.

Returning to the grave, I start to dig up the cat. But shovel by shovel, it is fourteen years of memories I unearth: A brown-haired girl of eight; pleading words; a bit of drama, convincing us a scrawny gray and yellow kitten is essential to her emotional well being; child and cat grow up together; the girl leaves for college; the cat grows old and we say good-bye to "A very good cat."

The ground is hard baked clay. The breeze is gone. The sun beats down but I continue deeper, deeper, stopping often to rest. I can not give up. I am digging for treasure. Then finally my shovel bites into wood. The box has fallen apart leaving the remnants exposed; (Cont'd on P 7)

(Cont'd from P 6) a piece of yarn, a faded blue silk flower, a bit of fur and encased deep in clay, the bones. I shovel it, clay and all, into a cardboard cat carrier and bring it home. Too exhausted to contemplate the next step, I dump my load in the shadow of the camphor tree in the backyard where it sits until sundown waiting for me to face the remains of the cat. As the sun descends, I take the garden hose, turn on the water and wash the clay away. No longer a body or even skeleton, all that remains are disconnected bones that seem too delicate to have supported the cat who could bound with ease from ground to top of fence or to the lower branches of the camphor tree.

Each tiny disc of spine, a jaw so small I hold it in my finger tips and marvel that it once crushed chicken bones, hip sockets, leg bones, I wash them all bare-bone-clean. Then I place her piece by piece in a metal quart container along with that variegated yarn and the faded blue silk flower. I plant her deep beside the American Beauty Rose and over her grave place the granite headstone. May she rest in peace.

Streaky
Dearly Loved
Dearly Missed
A Very Good Cat

Postscript: In 1998 I left Sacramento for Seaside and, of course, I had to again dig up the cat. She now rests in a corner of my back yard near the ivy covered chain link fence. The ivy continuously tries to obscure her presence but of course I do not allow that to happen.

AROUND THE WORLD

Submitted by Bob Cook

While I was stationed in Spokane WA in the 1950s, I was assigned to maintenance on the B-52s. This was one of the biggest aircraft in the US inventory of bombers. Being a crew chief authorized me to fly a minimum of ten hours a month, thereby collecting extra monies in the form of flight pay or, as some militarists called it "Hazardous Duty Pay" but we didn't like to call it that.

During one of these flights the pilot informed us that we had been changed from a training flight to a flight around the world. I knew the record for a B-52 to accomplish this mission was approximately 45 hours, and I was surprised we were going to do it since we didn't have extra food or sleeping bags.

Then you think about the problems involved and even though the dangers are primarily during take-off and landing, the thoughts are still there.

Over a period of three and a half years, we at Fairchild Air Force Base lost five B-52s and about thirty lives – and this was during peacetime. The reasons varied from poor maintenance and control tower errors to poor management and acts of God.

Our pilot informed us that we would begin our trip at the north pole and very likely end our trip in the same vicinity. The sharpest turn a B-52 can make is four minutes. The pilot initiated a 360 degree configuration and through the process the compass did not move during the entire flight. This meant that basically "we had just flown around the world in four minutes."

TRAVELS SHARED

San Carlos, Mexico

By Erhard Gross

When we told friends that we were going to Mexico in November of 2016, some looked at us askance, suggesting that might be too dangerous. When they heard that we were

going to drive there, they pointed to the many murders of the drug cartel wars, and intimated that we might be reckless. Even our travel companions, Art and Kay Limbird, were uneasy.

(Cont'd on P 7)

(Cont'd from P 6)

We in our car, the Limbirds in theirs, had agreed to meet in a motel south of Tucson the night before crossing into Mexico at Nogales and from there in convoy to our destination. The crossing went smoothly and fast. Total estimated time from Nogales to San Carlos is about five hours. The only large city one encounters is Hermosillo, the capital of the State of Sonora. The highway is good all the way and will be even better when its construction is completed. San Carlos is part of Guaymas and is situated at the east shore of the Sea of Cortez.

We had booked Unit 104 of the *Condominios Pilar*, which features two bedrooms and two baths and is located just feet from the beach. Looking west, one sees San Carlos and the mountains that frame it there, dominated by the commanding silhouette of Tetakawi Mountain.

No sooner had we checked in and unpacked, than the four of us were walking the beach. Perfect sunshine, 78 degrees and a gentle breeze made the walk very attractive, especially after driving the 1800 miles to get there. Among my first impressions were the great number of coconuts on the palms, the abundant bougainvilleas and countless seashells of all shapes and colors on the beach.

Judging by the number of American and Canadian cars, most of the 70 condos of Pilar seemed occupied. No visitor to Mexico this time of year would be surprised by the cars of the "snowbirds," but there also were cars with California, Florida and Arizona license plates. I asked a couple from Tucson why they were in San Carlos, when Arizona has such a good climate? The answer, I was told, is the beach and the terrific seafood.

Guaymas prides itself as being the *numero uno* shrimp port in Mexico. One kilo (2.2 lbs.) prawns cost 280 pesos; the same amount of shelled crab was only 220 pesos. Keeping in mind the exchange rate of 20 pesos for one U.S. dollar, a kilo of prawns was \$14.

Nobody walks away from Elfi's Cajon prawns; and the same holds true for Kay's delectable crab cakes. Art and I were the beneficiaries of our ladies' culinary skills, for which we washed dishes every day, after every meal. Eating out was no less attractive. The Pilar's restaurant, Hacienda del Mar de Cortez served barbecues with all you could eat – and all the margaritas you could drink – for 280 pesos. A restaurant downtown served Sunday brunches for just 100 pesos. Filets of locally caught fish were available in several locations. But we certainly did not only eat and drink.

In addition to almost daily beachcombing, we went sightseeing. At the entrance to the *Cañón de Nacapule* I assisted some Mexicans in the construction of "Trump's wall." We repeatedly went to the Soldiers' Estuary, visited shops and outdoor markets. Everywhere we found only friendly people. A distinct highlight was our visit to the Pearl Farm in Miramar, where we observed the implanting of plastic chips, held in place with Superglue, and the entire process of producing the high-value, internationally marketed, black pearls one can see and purchase there.

I'd be remiss if I did not report that daytime temperatures were mostly in the upper 70s and the sun was there for us every day. Kay and Art photographed the sunset almost every evening and might share their images with our membership. Art's high school Spanish also secured for us access to incredibly huge heaps of elegant murex seashells.

For thousands of Americans and Canadians who cross the border by car every day, vacationing in Mexico continues to represent great values and escapes from rain and cold in the North. No less important is the fact that we exited Mexico at a different border crossing -- Sonoyta/Lukeville. And neither of our two vehicles or four persons was searched during the five minutes it took to cross back into the United States.



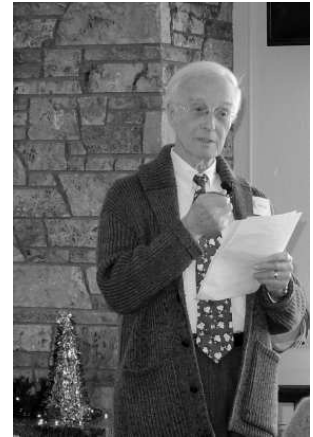
MORE PHOTOS:



MUSICIANS WITH SANTA



JOHN & MELANIE RYAN



ROLLIE LINDSTROM



A BEAUTIFUL FEAST LAID OUT



BERNIE & GARY THOMAS

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ENCORE’S Class Act is published quarterly by ENCORE, “Exploring New Concepts Of Retirement Education.”
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Next “Class Act” deadline is Monday, MAY 15, 2017 (APPROX.)