



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

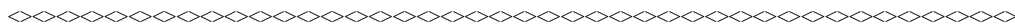
As we head into the spring quarter, my thoughts turn toward the end of ENCORE's current academic year. As I mentioned in the last Class Act, ENCORE is recovering from the pandemic, but it is not yet back to pre-pandemic status. The winter quarter has had a very strong in-person academic schedule including a new Monday class on northwest architecture with Eric Wheeler and survey of western art with Mary Kemhus, Sandra Melvin's genealogy class and Seth Tichenor's existential philosophy class on Wednesday, science exchange on Thursday with Karen Elder and Mike Kinney, and Ed Joyce's geology class on Friday. Attendance is rebounding in the in-person classes and remains strong in Tod Lundy's humanist discussions and Eric Anderson's writing class- both on Zoom. ENCORE is grateful to have this great group of instructors. The spring class schedule will be less busy.

ENCORE is fortunate as well to have a strong involved board, enhanced by Craig Holt volunteering as vice-president in the fall. And- Craig continues to maintain the website, which is an excellent source of information for members. Use it to learn about current classes, Lunch-Bunch, and interesting educational talks/meetings in the area.

The trip committee remains in hibernation without a chairperson. Last summer's member survey indicated significant interest in trips, especially shorter local trips, but there doesn't appear to be the necessary personal interest to make trips happen at the present time. ENCORE members can take advantage of trips through the Senior Center if they are members of the Astoria Senior Center.

Finally, the position of ENCORE president will be open for 2023-24. This would be an excellent opportunity for one of our members to lead ENCORE, inject energy and new ideas, and help ENCORE grow and thrive.

So- stay healthy and keep learning! I hope to see you at spring classes and June's general membership meeting.  
President Dave Zunkel



## ABOUT TOWN...

### Astoria Riverwalk Trolley

Have you ever ridden the Astoria Riverwalk Trolley? And wanted to be the 'driver' or 'talker'?"

Now is your chance! ART (Astoria Riverwalk Trolley) is looking to bolster our volunteer ranks of Motorman/Conductor.

After two years of Covid restrictions, a year of 'short runs' due to the Buoy Beer building collapse, and the normal cycle of retirements, we are actively searching for folks who have a strong sense of Volunteerism, want to be part of a friendly group of folks who provide a boost to Astoria, and enjoy the smiles of little kids and parents who are riding the trolley and are experiencing a bit of the past.

For information about the minimal requirements to become a Motorman/Conductor, contact Lee Jette (an Encore member) at 540-550-7806.

## UNEXPECTED TRAVEL

### Magnificent Stinking Yellowstone National Park

By Erhard Gross

I've never heard anyone express a negative opinion on Yellowstone National Park. My half dozen visits to Yellowstone concur with those findings and evoke memories, specifically of a most malodorous affair of years ago.

A few short years ago, my wife and I visited this great park. We enjoyed spectacular landscapes and observed lots of wildlife. Many bison and pronghorn, and a large black bear that created a traffic jam that stimulated my imagination and recollections of previous visits, and especially of one in 1961.

I was traveling with the U.S. Army Exhibit Unit in Denver when a former army buddy offered me the use of his VW beetle while he was attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins. I gladly accepted. Since I had a few days without commitments from the army, I opted for a trip to Yellowstone, entering from the southeast. Keeping luggage to a minimum, I had only taken toilet articles but no change of clothing. Also, I had removed the rear seat in order to be able to sleep on the floor.

Although the park's roads were free of snow, lots of the white stuff still came all the way down to 5000 feet of elevation. I stopped at a small campsite in Yellowstone no more than 60 miles from the southeast entrance. After driving the beetle for over 400 miles, I needed exercise. So I hiked up a fairly steep mountainside, always looking for signs of wildlife. I could hardly believe my eyes when I came upon a dead bull elk. Its rack of antlers showed 12 points; its beams were similar in diameter to my wrists. Since there were no obvious flesh wounds and no broken legs, I concluded that the elk might have fallen through the deep snow of the ravine where I had found it. I immediately decided that I had to have this capital elk trophy.

Keeping in mind that Rocky Mountain bull elk weigh on average 700 pounds, I certainly could not drag the beast a mile to my car. I decided to use my little pocket knife to cut off the animal's head. A bull elk's neck is made up of tough muscles, the spinal column and incredibly solid ligaments, as it must support the head with heavy antlers. After an hour of cutting and twisting, I had finally severed the head. With its four and one half-foot long antlers I estimated it to weigh 75 to 80 pounds.

How to carry this trophy was my next challenge? I stood the trophy on the ends of the antlers, walked under the head and tilted it to where I had the head resting its back against my neck. Although the carcass showed no external decay, its brain had turned to liquid, a stinking heavy sauce. I found that out when the liquid ran down the back of my neck. The stench was numbing. I took off my T-shirt and threw it to the side.

I could not possibly fit the antlers with the head into the car and then return the car to my buddy: it would stink for weeks. I did have a hatchet in the car that I could use to chop off excess bone from the base of the antlers. That done, I built a fire of stinking sagebrush to singe the cranial side of the skull. My T-shirt also went into the fire. I was now ready to put the entire rack into the beetle. But, no matter how I tried, it would not fit inside. There was only one thing left: I had to split the very solid skull bone between the rosettes of the two antlers to separate the rack. By now, it was almost midnight. Either I was getting accustomed to the malodorous situation or I was more tired, for I slept well in my sleeping bag.

At first light, I'd be out of Yellowstone with my treasure and on the way to Colorado. It didn't take long and I stopped at the exit booth. The ranger craned his neck toward the back of my vehicle and asked:

"What are you carrying in the back of your car?"

"Elk antlers," I confessed.

"You can't take anything out of the park!" he said very emphatically.

Rolling down the window all the way, I pleaded with him: "Can't you make an exception? I worked very hard on securing these antlers."

He: "We are bound by Park regulations; but how did you get these antlers?"

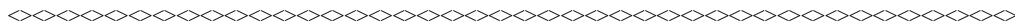
I told him my story and how I was a soldier, a recent graduate of U.S. Army Ranger training and wanting to experience rugged nature. I got out of the car and told him of my efforts. Most of all, I invited him to come out of his booth and see and smell for himself.

"I could take you to the place where the carcass is located." I told him.

I think by this time, he had smelled me and what was emanating from the car. Finally, he said: "Alright, I'll let you keep your trophy."

Shaking his hand, I thanked him, got into my VW and hightailed out of there. Good thing I had a second uniform in my luggage at Fort Collins.

I would never forget magnificent Yellowstone National Park and my stinking experience there.

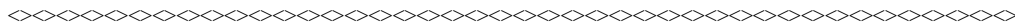


### THE BOOK NOOK

"The Education of an Idealist" by Samantha Power

Here, as is in the book for which she won the Pulitzer Prize, Samantha Power demonstrates a real knowledge about what is happening in the world as well as the ability to express that knowledge in an understandable way. I am confident that she is just beginning to use her gifts to educate us about our many real world problems and how we can fix them.

Jean Hooge



### FROM ERIC C. ANDERSON'S WRITING EXCHANGE CLASS

#### Surf's Up at Zuma

"Pray for Surf"

Says the tacky graffiti on the wall At Zuma Beach

Nearby bleary-eyed beach bums

Loll around lazily loitering in the sand

Drinking their beer and smoking their doobies

A beautiful beach, Zuma

A broad expanse of sand to the water's edge Zuma has the big waves

Brothers and I come to body surf the waves

Swim out to the surf line

Swim in the big pounders and ride 'em in

Frolic in the surf and feel its power

Bright sun blue sky

Hot sand and thundering surf

Bikinis and cutoffs  
On lean tanned bodies  
Bare skin and bare feet  
Zinc oxide on white noses  
Eager to catch waves we were  
No board ... no fins ... no wet suit  
"Body Whompin," we called it

Standing on shore looking at the water  
Zuma's swell and surf are building  
"Outside" shout the surfers  
Swell build bigger and bigger  
Their velocity increasing  
A nice set of four or five waves roll toward shore

And we run fast thru hot sand  
Diving into the water  
Swimming to the surf line  
Bouncing up and down  
Waiting to catch a good wave  
"Outside" the surfers call again  
We swim in water over our heads now  
Comes a set of three or four waves I'm gonna catch one

First wave in the set breaks quickly and tries to hurl me back onto the beach

I plunge underneath its crashing white water  
As it rolls over my back  
My body an undulating piece of spaghetti under its power

I come to the surface again  
Looking for the next wave  
Doesn't break cleanly  
Too fat in the middle  
I'll never catch this one

I tread water now bobbing and  
Floating over the swell  
Comes another wave  
Got a shot at this one  
I'm in good position now  
I swim into this perfect wave  
Faster and faster  
Feet kicking furiously  
Clawing my way thru the water  
Swimming for all I'm worth now  
I'm in the wave as it picks me up rising driving me faster and faster toward shore

I'm high on the wave's crest as it  
Breaks and curls and hurls me over the falls  
Free falling front flipping thrilling thru the air  
Waves thundering fury drives me to the bottom  
Thru a swirling foaming chaos of silverwater bubbles  
Pockets of air ... rainbow prisms of light  
Swirling gurgling surging to the surface  
Sun and sky a whirling collage of blue and yellow ... blue and yellow the wave has its way with me  
Bouncing me along the sandy bottom  
Over and over again  
Round and round  
Blue and yellow ... blue and yellow...

The waves power spent  
Sun and sky shimmer thru  
Blue-green water above  
I find the sandy bottom with my feet  
And spring up to the surface for a gulp of air  
Winded breathing heavy  
Treading water catching my breath  
Swells build quickly again  
Comes another wave  
Rolling toward shore  
"Outside" the surfers call I'm in good position now To catch one more

I spend the afternoon at Zuma  
Tossed around in its big surf  
Pummeled to the sandy bottom Hungry for breath  
Legs springing me to the surface

I swim to the surf line  
I swim to catch the waves  
I swim into the waves

Late afternoon a wave carries me to shore  
I walk back to my beach chair  
Shivering shaking off salt water Sun sinking to the horizon  
Kicking back in my sand chair  
I'm spent and exhausted Sunburned and happy

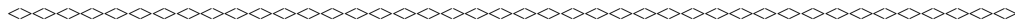
I care less about a long ride in the wave  
More for the joy I feel tossed around  
In the chaos of the surf's wild whitewater fury

I was meant for this  
I am a tiny grain of sand on this beach

A tiny star in this cosmos  
Of sun and sky  
Sand and surf  
It's all alive and I'm part of it  
I'm home here  
A tranquil wave of peace and calm Washes over me

Cares vanish chasing waves ...

Charles Becker



AND MORE...

### **The Spanish Civil War in Barcelona**

I went to Barcelona because of the architecture of Antoni Gaudi, but Rick Steves recommended a 5-hour Spanish Civil War walking tour for history buffs, so I booked the tour for Saturday morning. The tours are led by Nick Lloyd or his partner, Catherine Howley. Catherine, a Galway native who has lived in Barcelona for more than 10 years, was the tour leader for our group of 16 that morning. She is passionate about the history and injustices of the civil war period.

Catalunya has been in the news recently for wanting to separate from Spain and it has a long history of being outside of the norms set by the government in Madrid, generally choosing the wrong side in wars and rebellions. I visited a former market in the El Born which is now an archaeological site showing where, after losing a war in the 1700's, the locals had to tear down their homes so the stones could be used to construct a citadel for the winners.

But back to the Spanish Civil War. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Barcelona was growing beyond the Old City boundaries into the Eixample, New Town, where the wealthy business owners were building their homes designed by architects like Gaudi, while the Old Town was where the workers lived in poverty despite working long hours. Most could not afford shoes. On July 18, 1936 there was a military coup by the Spanish forces in North Africa orchestrated by Francisco Franco. There were a lot of photo journalists and other visitors in Barcelona at the time because of the "Olympic Populaire" scheduled to start on July 19 to counter the Olympics in Germany. Unfortunately, the organizers forgot about accommodations for the visitors, so many were sleeping in the local parks including Placa de Catalunya, the square separating Eixample from the Old Town.

The military attempted a coup in Barcelona on the 19<sup>th</sup>, so the Olympic Populaire never took place. Instead, the visitors joined with the local worker militias, primarily the CNT (anarchists supporting a stateless, classless society). The Catalan police also joined with the workers to stop the military at the Placa de Catalunya. Other anti-fascist organizations in Barcelona at the time included the POUM (anti-Stalinist communists), the ERC (Catalan social democrats) and the PSUC (pro-Soviet, pro-Stalin communists). The impromptu coalition of workers and police defeated the military after a 2-day barricade fight and the CNT stormed the barracks and seized 30-50,000 weapons.

On July 21 CNT leaders agreed to cooperate with the Catalan government to co-govern the city with the other groups as a "Central Anti-Fascist Militia Committee". During July and August most of the city's businesses were collectivized by the CNT and UGT (Socialist Trade Union) and much of the city was controlled by the CNT. The



## 5 Reasons in 8 Short Weeks for You to Become the Writer You Were Born to Be.

Perhaps you've pondered writing a memoir, a poem, or some other story, but the right circumstances never presented themselves. Perhaps now is finally that time.

Amy Tan, best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club*, began writing relatively late in her life. Something which inspired her was joining a weekly writing group focused on two things: kindness and honesty.

**ENCORE** offers such a group, and it fits within your budget and time constraints.

Our *Writing Exchange* online class provides **5 Key Benefits** to You as a New Writer:

1. **Encouragement**
2. **How to Constructively Give Feedback to Others**
  - This is Not Entirely an Altruistic Act. By Analyzing What Other People Write, it Improves Your Own Work.
3. **How to Effectively Receive & Use Feedback**
  - Each Week, you'll Receive emailed **Audio** and **Downloadable Video** Copies of Your Writing with Constructive Feedback from our class. Listen and Watch People React to Your Work with Signs of Honest Appreciation!
4. **A Series of Soft Self-Imposed Deadlines**, i.e., Eight Chances to Share Your Writing during the Spring Term
5. **Brief Lectures on the Techniques & Craft of Writing**: Based on Master Classes from a Diverse Group of Writers! Borrow Techniques from One Master or More. You *Can* Be a Better Writer

**ENCORE** Spring 2023's *Writing Exchange* online class begins **Tuesday**, April 4, (and runs just 8 weeks till Tuesday, May 26) from 9:45 to 11:45 A.M.

For more information about **ENCORE's** *Writing Exchange* online class and how to access it, please email the instructor, Eric Anderson, at [EricCander@aol.com](mailto:EricCander@aol.com) or call (503) 325-3131.

## Earthquakes 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.
- We will learn about what to do:
  - a) Before - preparation before is a form of insurance
  - b) During - location, location, location
  - c) After - What do I do now?
- We will work on building individualized "TO GO" bags, escape routes, and family planning.

Join us each **Tuesday** at 10:30 am to noon at the Astoria Senior Center in the Sorensen Room. Instructor: Karen Elder.



### Internet 101

**Wednesdays:** 10 to 12 am in the Sorenson Room at the Senior Center. The material I have already assembled for a first session is a 6-slide PowerPoint talk about the internet, mostly a guided talk with slides and all at a non-technical level.

For this session, I was aiming to set a base level of understanding how this new internet world came about as the successor to the phone world. I expect there will be device specific questions (smartphone, laptop, iPad, etc) that I can answer but probably should not answer in depth. We can save device specific sessions for later dates? Maybe ask folks there what they would like for future sessions. Instructor: Lee Jette, email: [phoneman22644@gmail.com](mailto:phoneman22644@gmail.com).

### Exploring Science

Michael Kinney with Karen Elder 503-994-2080

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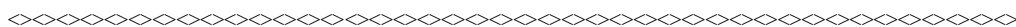
We've selected a new name for the resurrected class known as Science Exchange. Those ENCORE members who attended last (Fall) term, have recommended that we alter the structure of the weekly sessions to be science topics chosen by members or the facilitators and they will be video-centric. We believe that **Exploring Science** better suits this revised structure.

Beginning next term on **Thursday**, April 6, 2023, at 10:30 am in the Sorensen Room, we will meet weekly. However, due to a scheduling conflict with the monthly ASC Membership meeting, there will be no class sessions on the third **Thursday** of each month. So there will be only six classes for this coming Spring term rather than the usual eight.

The first class topics will be chosen from among the hundreds of PBS Nova series but we'll be looking for other sources that, hopefully, meet the expectations of class members. The goal is to make discovering a wide variety of science topics a more enjoyable and rewarding experience which should attract more members.

### Exploring Classical Ballet

**Fridays** 10 – 12 am in the Sorenson Room, Senior Center. Instructor: Craig Holt. The classes will be held from April 7 through May 26. For more information, contact the instructor at email: [craig.holt@me.com](mailto:craig.holt@me.com).



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