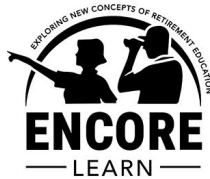


ENCORE'S

CLASS ACT

December 2019, January, February 2020

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**Clatsop
Community
College**

Letter From the President by Dave Zunkel

Fall greetings to all ENCORE members and families! The holiday break from ENCORE classes will no doubt give you the rest you need before the start of winter classes in January. While our fiscal and academic year runs from July 1 to June 30, I would like to review the achievements of the current calendar year 2019, which has been a busy challenging, but rewarding one for ENCORE.

* In April ENCORE became an Oregon business with 501 (c)(3) nonprofit status with a new formal name - ENCORE Learn (shortened to ENCORE as before). While ENCORE remains in partnership with Clatsop Community College for educational purposes, ENCORE is now completely separate from the college financially and is now in charge of membership services under the aegis of Rollie Lindstrom and his hard-working membership committee. A new relationship agreement was negotiated with the college reflecting these changes.

* In May ENCORE sponsored its third open-to-the-public educational program "The Chinese in Astoria," attended by over 160 people. We can look forward to the fourth of these special events in May 2020. Kudos to Erhard Gross for coordinating these events.

* In August the general membership passed a new set of bylaws which should serve our business well in the future. In September the Board adopted a new logo.

* ENCORE remained financially solid in 2019 with dues remaining at the \$50 level for the year as it has been since ENCORE's inception.

* Membership remained stable over the past year with ENCORE reaching out to the public and local businesses through membership in the Seaside and Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerces as well as helping sponsor the Conference on Extraordinary Living in September. ENCORE was highlighted in the Astorian Coast Weekender on May 16.

* Our quarterly newsletter flourished under the fine editorship of Jean Hooge, and the website continued to connect those on the internet under webmaster Ellen Norris.

* ENCORE wasn't all about learning and business in 2019. Social events included the monthly Lunch Bunch, the June general membership meeting continued on to the August picnic, a

road trip for 9 members to the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest in September, and the upcoming Holiday party on December 7.

* Finally and most important to our mission, in 2019 ENCORE presented 18 different classes taught by 21 different instructors and supported by an enthusiastic cadre of class coordinators.

So 2019 was a busy and important year for ENCORE. Raise a toast to ENCORE for a great 2019 and to the prospect of a successful 2020!!!

The Storms by Joan Masat

New Mexico in August has a lot of summer storms. Here I am sitting on my friend's front porch of her 150 year old adobe house.

Black clouds form in the distance with thunder and scary long lightening flashing and slowly they move closer. We wait with patience for it to get here. The washing comes off the line just in time.

And here it is, loud thunder that likes to make itself known and lightening coming to earth. It seems to enjoy itself, it is in charge. The rain splashes on the metal roof and in the garden where it is needed. The cats sleep through it all, they have heard it before. Chickens hide in the bushes.

Soon enough the sun comes out and it is hot and muggy. I sit on the porch, drinking wine and reading a good book. The birds sing again. Life goes on without my help.

I love it. It is a resounding statement of nature that's nurturing the earth. It will be back tomorrow and I'll be here.

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

Spring 2019

Writing Exchange and Moral Questions Through the Lens of Literature.

Martha Ellen

I came to the ENCORE program a little late. I attended classes in the Writing Exchange and Moral Questions Through the Lens of Literature. Instructors in both classes are excellent.

The Writing Exchange classes are well organized. I heard some memorable works of art from those in attendance — personal essays, serious and humorous and delicate Haiku poetry with universal meaning in the idiosyncratic, lean verse. I appreciate the stories that can only come from having lived decades, as many there have. The dynamic duo in Moral Questions encouraged lively discussions on controversial subjects — no holding back, no fear of difficult, challenging subjects. I

found myself re-thinking long-held notions of social structure and human psychology and looking at my assumptions from a different perspective.

I will definitely enroll in ENCORE for next year's offerings. I wonder if, within the limited scope, there could be a survey of Women's History, Eastern or Western Art History, the evolution of the structure of Classical Western music, or NW Native Art. We do have a significant collection on Tlingit Art not too far away, probably too far for me anymore. Some Political Science classes would be good.

Seating was fairly uncomfortable for my old bones and sound was occasionally a problem for me because of my hearing loss – but that's all really.





November 9, 1989 By Erhard Gross

In order to imbue my lectures on recent German History with life, I had contacted two persons in former East Germany with the request for their recollections of experiences, feelings, anxieties and expectations during the run-up to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Both lived through those times as middle-aged adults, and both provided us with detailed personal observations and thoughts during those heady days.

The prevailing attitudes of average East German citizens were derived from their near total ignorance about what was going on at the highest levels of their government in East Berlin. Only very sharp minds could separate the wheat from chaff, or truth from propaganda.

Both my East German contacts corroborated my take on the deliberate secrecy and obfuscation, which resulted in local authorities not knowing for sure how to handle non-standard situations. But even functionaries at the top were not always sure. The best example for the latter is the inadvertent opening of the Berlin Wall when it was not scheduled to open. Here is how. While the government press secretary and party boss of East Berlin, Günter Schabowski, was hurrying to a press conference that was attended by foreign correspondents, he was handed several documents. During the question session, an Italian correspondent asked whether it was true that the GDR government was considering dropping some of the more draconian preconditions for persons who wanted to visit persons in the West. Schabowski confirmed that. The next questioner asked when that would take effect. Schabowski shuffled through the papers he was given hastily but couldn't find what he was looking for. He finally allowed that to his knowledge it was to happen "immediately, without delay." This news went out into the world like wildfire. Within an hour, throngs of people appeared at the Wall, both from the East and the West. Local border troop commanders contacted their superiors all the way up to their commanding general. He had no information. He raced to the Wall at the Brandenburg Gate, where several thousand East Germans had congregated. Knowing

that his troops would not stand a chance if they tried to keep the people from pressing through the hastily opened crossing point, the general ordered his troops to stand down. Not a single shot was fired. By midnight of November 9, thousands of citizens had crossed in both directions.

The new directive Schabowski was unable to find at the press conference was actually scheduled to take effect the next day. Although with reduced preconditions for applicants, the crossings were to be strictly controlled. But it was too late. People were flooding across the border. It was the coup de grace to the arch-communist government of the GDR. The people were victorious.

ENCORE's May 17, 2020, public program, **The Fall of the Berlin Wall**, will feature Manfred and Petra Riedel, who grew up behind the Iron Curtain and were eye witnesses to the arguably greatest political event of the second half of the 20th C.





HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

By Erhard Gross

Is language important? I answer that question in the affirmative, printed in bold and underlined! The spoken and written words, including body language, constitute one of the highest expressions of human civilization. This is true for all languages, and especially for a world language like English. The more we know about our language, the better we can use it. Most of us have had some formal instruction in English but very few know anything about its history and development.

Whenever our Curriculum Committee conducts a survey on what courses we should teach, the history of English ranks high on the list of desired topics. It's for that reason that we offer the History of the English Language for a fourth time.

In a conversation with me last year, a college graduate asserted that English is a Romance language. My question was immediately: What are the criteria for that classification? The answer was that English contains a lot of French vocabulary. That observation is certainly true. German, too, features thousands of Latin/French words, but it still is a Germanic language and so is English.

Another misconception is the relative difficulty of English when compared with other tongues. Yet, English is far simpler than German. English has far more vocabulary than German. Spelling English is far more difficult than spelling German, but the former is still a lot easier to learn than the latter.

I confess I love the English language. It lends itself well for creating consternation and hilarity. And whether you go to Italy, Norway or the Czech Republic, you find surprisingly many people who can communicate in English. Worldwide, English has about 400,000 native speakers, but because of its international significance, even more people internationally, whose mother tongue is not English, are learning English. This phenomenon is not all positive because foreign language education in the US - K through 12 - is woefully neglected. Since the 1960s, higher education enrollment in foreign language education has declined nationally. It may not be obvious to most of us, but Americans, perhaps tacitly, hold the attitude that if you want to talk to me, learn English.

How did the English language acquire such international prominence when it did not even exist in the British Isles until about the 5th Century of the Common Era? It certainly did not start with the Romans or the French. Once it did get started, it was very slow to take hold in some areas of present-day England. It was brought in mainly by Anglo-Saxon invaders. Their territorial conquest also conquered the Celtic that was spoken in England at the time.

We're going to look closely at what shaped the instrument that is so basic and crucial to our communication as a civilized society. We'll learn why we speak English rather than Celtic, or Vulgar Latin, or Norwegian, or German; why English underwent continued inflectional simplification, why its orthography is such a challenge. Join us in exploring how it all started and developed to where it now stands.

The class meets for six two-hour sessions Wednesdays at 1:30 PM, from January 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12 and 19; at the Astoria City Hall.

Tribute by Dory Lukas

All Around the Universe, October 2019, taught by Dave Ambrose

I've been sailing all my life now, never harbor or port have I known.

The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.

The Big Bang Theory explains that our universe started small then inflated over the next 14 billion years, creating the cosmos today with stars and planets, galaxies and galaxy clusters. Our solar system with eight planets orbiting the sun is a speck in the Milky Way galaxy, a galaxy with billions of stars and solar systems. And the Milky Way galaxy is a speck in the universe with billions and billions of galaxies. Dave shared the magnitude and mystery of our universe. He introduced early astronomers, gravitational pull within a galaxy, neighboring Andromeda Galaxy, dark matter and energy, super nova, viewing the stars from ever changing instruments, and the increasing expansion of the sun and universe. We have vast and extensive knowledge about our universe but it is a minute part of what we have yet to learn.

Dave taught the 2-hour universe classes on three Mondays. The students enjoyed Blue Boat Home music, lectures, videos, demonstrations, a guest speaker, and graphics to help us understand concepts. The first class talked about the Earth, Moon, and Sun in our solar system. The second class explored our galaxy, the local galaxy group, gravity, and dark energy. Dave wrapped up the course with dialogue about the beginning and the end, the Big Bang, and what is our place in the universe; are we the center, and is there a center?

The wide universe is the ocean I travel, and the earth is my blue boat home.
Thanks, Dave.

The Lost Galleon of Labrador by Rose Power

My first visit to Red Bay, Labrador was in 2017. I was fascinated by this small settlement that had been a Basque whaling port, supported by Spain, since the early 1500s (and to hear the Basques tell it, long before). It was a sheltered hilly bay, its

mouth guarded by Saddle Island, where the try pots rendered blubber into whale oil to be sent back to Europe.

In 1546, one such shipment was aboard the galleon San Juan when a storm drove her onto the rocks of Saddle Island and she sank in the freezing waters and passed out of memory.

In the 1970s, a British archaeologist was reading through Spanish archives when she came across papers that seemed to be written in code. Later she realized the 'code' was old Basque, and related the story and inventory of the sunken San Juan.

Some years later, marine archaeologists, assisted by Parks Canada, located the site of the San Juan, on the inland side of the island, and began a series of dives on her.

Due to the cold water, the wood was remarkably well preserved, though the ship had flattened over time, like an open book. Without the resources or equipment to salvage the entire site, the team settled for bringing up each piece at a time to be measured and photographed on the surface and then returned to the site. They did retrieve a 20' whaling boat, which has been reassembled and is on display in a nearby museum, along with numerous artifacts, from the binnacle to barrels as well as utensils and fragments of clothing.

Last year I returned to Red Bay, to find that, using the measurements and photographs supplied by the marine archaeologists, a shipyard in Spain is in the process of building a life-sized replica of the San Juan. It will be completed in 2020 and will sail across to visit Red Bay.

I plan to visit Red Bay again next year and hope to see her.





LUNCH BUNCH by Gerrie Penny

September 6th

Nine hungry ENCORE members met at The Great Wall for lunch on September 6th. Thanks to Bernie Sanders, ooops, wrong Bernie, Bernie Thomas for reserving the room for us. Attendees were Frank and Margie Spence, Bernie Thomas, Kit Ketchum, Lynne Ryan, Tom Schaefer, Ellen Norris, Carol Ann Sigurdson & Gerrie Penny.

Our server was Amanda the Amazing. She took care of all our needs and wishes very efficiently. Food was excellent and generous in their serving sizes. Many "take home" boxes were utilized. About three different conversations were going on at the same time for a while, then we all fell silent when the food arrived and we dove into it. As we stuffed ourselves silly, talk of past days and members in ENCORE were recalled by some and enjoyed by all.

Please try to join us next month to partake in good food somewhere yet to be decided. Maybe we can solve some of the world's problems together over lunch!

October 4th

If you weren't able to join us for October Lunch Bunch, you missed a great time. We met at Astoria Brewing Company, what used to be named the Wet Dog cafe. Seating has been changed to long bench-style tables so it was easy to find a table large enough for the 13 members who were in attendance. Food and drinks were the same as those offered when the restaurant went under the name of Wet Dog. One member ordered the signature bread soup bowl overflowing with clam chowder. If you've never had that, it is a real treat. The halibut fish cakes were reported to be great by a couple of members who chose those. See what you missed!!!

Those who enjoyed it all were: Doug and Cecilia Balcomb, Judith McGowan, Lynn Ryan, Wendy Gartrell, Frank Spence, Ellen Norris, Tom Schaeffer, Norm and Jean Hooge, Bob and Aletha Westerberg, & Gerrie Penny. Judith McGowan is a new member so this was her first Lunch Bunch and we look forward to seeing her at more of them. Welcome Judith!!!!

November 1st

November's Lunch Bunch was a great gathering on a beautiful day. We were at Plaza Jalisco where the servings were generous, very good and at reasonable prices. Present were: Dan & Rebecca Early, Bernie Thomas, Norm & Jean Hooge, Elaine Horsak, Frank Spence, Tom Schaeffer, Bob & Aletha Westerberg, Judith McGowan, Charlotte Thiringer and Gerrie Penny. Whenever Frank is there, it's always interesting to learn about what is happening around the city, especially all the new buildings. After all, he is a port commissioner so has the latest information. Of course the Westerbergs are practically city historians and can be relied upon about knowledge of Astoria in the "old days." Of course everyone contributes something of substance in the conversations.

There will be no Lunch Bunch in December. The Holiday Bash will be our gathering instead. So hope to see you there and again in January when Lunch Bunch resumes in 2020.

The "Others" - Discussions of Migration and the United States through 20th and 21st Century Literature - Instructor, Lynne Ryan

"The Others" was a class about migration and migrants. Each class started with excerpts from a novel (My Antonia by Willa Cather, The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck, A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain Stories by Robert Olen Butler, The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri, The Book of Unknown Americans by Cristina Henríquez and Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue) followed by non political discussions of what it means to be a migrant including sharing the stories of how are families came to the western US. (Submitted by Lynne Ryan)

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Next "Class Act" deadline is Friday, February 7, 2020