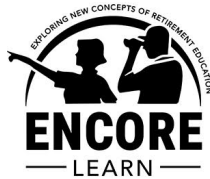


CLASS ACT



**Clatsop
Community
College**

Loss of Dear Friends By Erhard Gross

On October 2 of this year, ENCORE lost two very valuable members. Art and Kay Limbird elected to move back to Canada, where they had lived and taught for over 30 years at the University of Calgary, Alberta.

Their departure from here was no easy decision. They loved their time here, having three of their children's families in the US, along with many acquaintances and friends. Even though Art and Kay have dual citizenship, they did not qualify for Medicare and had to buy health insurance on the open market. Art's pension from his university lost 25% in value because of the decline of the exchange rate. I'm stating these personal matters to explain why they had no choice but to leave their beloved retirement home in Surf Pines. On the positive side, they are moving back to family and longtime friends in Calgary and area.

Right now, Art and Kay are serving a two-week quarantine in a relative's separate suite in Calgary. They will be closing the purchase of a very attractive condominium in the town of Cochrane, the next town west of Calgary. We love them and wish them the best.

Once the Covid threat is over, they look forward to hosting ENCORE friends at their condo and being 'tour guides' for the Calgary area, including Banff and Lake Louise.

In future years, Art and Kay hope to escape the harsh winters of Calgary by finding house sitting opportunities in our area. If you, our members and friends, know of such opportunities, please provide pertinent information to Erhard or Elfi Gross, or contact the Limbirds directly at artlimbird@yahoo.com or kaylimbird@yahoo.com.



All the members of ENCORE want to thank Dave Zunkel for his outstanding service to our organization. (See page 6)



Halloween Backfired by Kay Limbird

In late October of 2019, we began to ready ourselves for Halloween and another year of trick-or-treaters. Not many children make the rounds of homes in our community of Surf Pines. Because it is gated, there is limited access and the residents are mostly made up of adults and retirees. By the end of October, many residents have vanished to warmer climates. Each year, however, we've turned on our porch light and answered the door to at least a few neighborhood costumed youngsters. For the past two years there had been a gaggle of teens arriving as a group of about five, festooned in what appeared to be hurriedly put together costumes of football helmets, basketball shorts, and face paint. One among them drove the group and they had been both lively and courteous, harmlessly enjoying being silly together and acquiring some Halloween treats before aging out of the possibility altogether.

"Let's get dressed up ourselves, this year, and surprise our trick-or-treaters; let them know we're able to be whimsical and part of the Halloween fun," I suggested. My husband, Art, quite comfortable in his pattern of regular attire while cheerfully handing out treats, reluctantly agreed. We searched our drawers for the pair of creepy old woman and creepy old man soft sculpture masks, remarkably life-like and hand made from nylon stockings and fur scraps. We had purchased them years ago at a garage sale. Only one mask was found, the bearded, male version of the pair, and one long, frizzed wig. Art seemed the logical choice to wear the disguise, and agreed to be the one to answer the door and offer the bowl of treats. Halloween visitors to our home would be able to choose from a variety of candies, and or Halloween pencils, stickers and snack sized bags of chips.



Something for all kids, we thought. I would hangout back in the hallway to witness the smiles of delight and surprise from the few trick-or-treaters we were expecting.

And so it was on Halloween, about 7:30, we heard a car pull into our driveway and doors slam shut.

The doorbell rang and Art answered, masked, wigged, and bearing, with both hands, the large bowl of treats. Listening from behind, I heard what seemed to be a small siren starting low and quickly increasing in volume and pitch. Then it was Art saying, "Oh Honey, I don't always look like this!" Fortunately the little fairy princess on our doorstep, about four years of age, was accompanied by her mother. Things happened quickly after that. The mother made an effort to comfort her little princess while directing her gaze warily at me lurking silently in the background. She hurriedly chose a treat from the bowl on behalf of her little one before sweeping the little princess, still wailing, up in her arms, retreating into the dark, and back to their vehicle.

"Well, that went well!" Art said sarcastically as he set down the bowl of treats, removed the mask and wig and turned to face me.

We didn't get any more trick-or-treaters that night – not even the happy group of fun-loving teens from previous years. Probably they'd moved on to greater escapades elsewhere.

I wonder if that little princess and her mother will venture out trick or treating next year.

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

The Fall of the Berlin Wall Submitted by Erhard Gross

Due to the uncertainties forced by the coronavirus pandemic, ENCORE is now planning "The Fall of the Berlin Wall" for May of 2022. As it stands right now nobody, except for certain politicians, knows for certain when flights from Germany can be resumed. We must also coordinate the timing with the main speaker, Manfred Riedel. He hails from a small town in former East Germany where he has business and family commitments. Manfred and his wife want to use their visit to Astoria as an opportunity to learn about life in America.

To keep us oriented toward the historic event of the disappearance of the wall, our Curriculum Committee is offering this coming winter term a course on life of citizens in the former German Democratic Republic. We'll look at the politics, economy, individual freedom, government spying and life in general behind the Iron Curtain. The instructor of the course, Erhard Gross, lived there until he defected to the West in 1953.

Northern Illinois: Place of My Birth by Jean McGonigle

I am the shoreline of a great lake bordered by narrow, sandy beaches,
Hot, sultry summer evenings with crickets finding their way,
Into consciousness by vibrating my eardrums.

I am broad leafed trees, large and ancient, arcing my streets.
Move along these pathways through tunnels of shade.
I am a blast of cold, icy wind in winter,
Frostbitten landscape, frozen ravines.

I am busy avenues, crowded walkways, skyscrapers,
So tall, a taxi's horn becomes an echo, its bellow,
Reverberating against glass walls.

Some days I am cornfields and plains,
Not one mountain interrupts my vision.
Small towns sustained by beef and soy.
I am Indian names: Chicago, Wilmette, Winnetka.

I am this history: land of Lincoln,
 Germans crossing the Great Smokey Mountains,
 In wagons, while dreaming of farming the earth,
 Finding religious freedom in 1742,
 The year of killing angels.

Now merging the sounds of the Illinek tongue,
 With their own German syllables,
 Holding tightly to their faith and traditions,
 In the American west.

Becoming by Erhard Gross

It was in April of that year,
 A joyful butterfly came near,
 A ray of sunshine in my days,
 The laughter that forever stays.

Schoolmasterly stiff, soon she intoned,
 A stone whose edges might be honed.
 Not all is lost! So she appraised,
 If it's by mirth that he was raised.

It will not take more than a while,
 His sternness will be laced with smile.

Should he wax philosophical,
 I'll come with something practical.

With patience and encouragement,
 She showed the way which I then went.
 Now I do dishes, cook and wash.
 I'm so conditioned I don't blush.

Behind her gentle, pretty face
 She's tough as door nail in her grace.
 But I am not emasculated,
 As once I had anticipated.

Book Discussion Group by Lynn Ryann

Using "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream" by Doris Kearns Goodwin as a base, the class discussed the life of LBJ and how he became a master of domestic policy and legislation in the Senate and then as President (think of Medicare and Medicaid, civil rights legislation, early environmental laws, NPR, PBS and so much more), and how he came to fare so badly when it came to international issues, especially Vietnam.

Everything Equine Winter 2020 Class Review by Eric Anderson

Earlier this year, yet long ago, before the arrival of the Great Pandemic, I and a small band of fellow ENCORE members entered a new world, a world of horses. I decided to try this class because I knew our Seaside-native guide, Mary Kemhus, from ENCORE's Writing Exchange class. There, Mary ably demonstrated she could organize a string of ideas and deliver them effectively. As horses are one of Mary's

passions, I believed this might be an interesting class. My fellow students and I were not disappointed.

Though each class session was allegedly two hours long, it seemed as if the time flew by. Mary was exquisitely prepared, delivering interesting comments while seamlessly answering questions on the fly. Additionally, she connected her laptop computer to the Astoria Senior Center Classroom's widescreen TV to provide illuminating pictures and videos about horse history, breeds, etc. Her enthusiasm for the subject was contagious!

Our introduction to the world of horses extended beyond the walls of our classroom, however, and included a field trip to a horse show at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds. This was our last class session, on Saturday, February 29, a day that I will forever remember as the dividing line for the local arrival of the pandemic — and the last time that things felt "normal."

Nevertheless, ENCORE's Everything Equine class completely lived up to its billing and was truly a fun and memorable experience. My delay in writing this review has not dimmed my appreciation of this educational experience. Thank you, Mary!

Quarantine Photography by Rose Power

I live in an ideal place to ride out a quarantine. A house miles out in the country, surrounded by tall trees and wildlife, and just a few hundred yards from the sea. And I had plenty of time to watch and learn.

First, I watched a pair of chickadees build a nest in one of the hanging flower baskets on my deck, then lay their blue-green spotted eggs, one at a time. There were four. Then the female settled in to brood, and when she took a brief feeding break I'd sneak out and take a photo. It took ten days from egg to chick — much less time than I'd expected. I watched the chicks grow, taking photos along the way. Again, surprisingly, it took ten days from tiny bald creature to fully fledged bird. And as I stood on the deck one day, all in a rush, they took flight and disappeared.

My second experience was walking on the beach and seeing the patterns and textures of kelp and clumps of seaweed, barnacles and driftwood. I took photos of those too. It became a habit and now I walk the beach several times a week, looking for small magical vignettes.



Reflections of the Past-President by Dave Zunkel

It was my privilege to serve as ENCORE'S President from mid-2017 to mid-2020, but also my pleasure to relinquish that office to Tom Schaeffer in June. I'd like to reflect on those three years. There is an old saying: "May you live in interesting times!" These three years, especially 2020, have indeed been 'interesting!'

ENCORE was a well-functioning stable organization closely tied to Clatsop Community College[CCC] when my term began over three years ago. Today, with the Covid-19 pandemic and some major organizational initiatives in the interim, ENCORE remains a strong but rather different organization today. ENCORE is now an Oregon non-profit 501 [c-3] business, financially separate from CCC and still in excellent financial shape. We have a new set of by-laws, a policy and procedures document to guide our daily business, and an active membership committee led by Rollie Lindstrom now handling both membership and dues, previously handled by CCC. ENCORE has been the sponsor of three public educational events open to the community-at-large [thanks to the efforts of Erhard Gross] and is a member of the Seaside and Astoria-Warrenton Chambers of Commerce. Our website thrived under the care of Ellen Norris and now Craig Holt. Likewise our newsletter has continued through the efforts of Aletha Westerberg and now, Jean Hooge.

However, with Covid restrictions, ENCORE has lost its in-person meeting places with face-to-face classes replaced in part by on-line classes led by our more tech-savvy member-instructors. Many members do miss the in-person classes and/or do not feel comfortable in the new format. Likewise, some members miss the social events and annual general membership meeting, ENCORE-sponsored trips, in-person committee meetings, and other events like Lunch Bunch. All that said, ENCORE continues on. It is likely that in-person classes will return once the Astoria Senior Center reopens and when vaccines are available and used. But even then, some classes may be virtual. If you are really interested in exploring a new concept of retirement education and are an Oregon resident 65 years or older, consider auditing a CCC class on-line for a rather nominal fee. Several members, including yours truly, have taken advantage of this interesting option.

In closing, I would like to recognize a number of individuals and groups that helped make my tenure possible. I apologize for any omissions. First, many thanks to ALL the ENCORE instructors who are at the core of our mission. Likewise, thanks to the class coordinators and the Curriculum Committee headed by Reta Lindstrom who have helped make our curriculum vibrant. Second, many thanks to all the committee chairs and their committee members, as well as individuals holding other ENCORE positions [Elfie Gross - Sunshine Person, Gerrie Penny - Lunch Bunch coordinator, and Marlene Colendich - Historian]. Third, this organization could not function without Board members who work behind the scenes to keep ENCORE going. These have included past-president Frank Spence, vice-presidents Michael Kinney and Tom Schaeffer, treasurer Ellen Norris, and secretaries Lorri Bradley, Ellen Silverman, and Jean McGonigle. Our efforts have been aided by our CCC liaisons - Mary Kemhus, Leah Olson, and Kinga Sanders.

Special recognition goes to the 5 board members who served the entire three years of my tenure - Frank Spence, Ellen Norris, Art Limbird, and Reta and Rollie Lindstrom. Thank you all!

Finally, 2020 and beyond will no doubt be a challenge for ENCORE, but I am confident that the board elected in June and the current membership will continue to make ENCORE a vital part of the educational landscape for the north coast. Keep Living - Keep Learning!!!

Winter 2021 Class Schedule

Writing Exchange

ENCORE Winter 2021's Writing Exchange Online Course will begin Tuesday, January 5 (and run 8 weeks till Tuesday, February 23) from 9:45 to 11:45 A.M.

Is a story or poem inside of you trying to get out? Our friendly group, beginners and experienced, focuses on encouraging writers via constructive feedback. Take part in our enthusiasm for writing. Come listen or share!

Q: I'm a beginning and/or shy writer. More than ever, I want to write a fictionalized account of my life, but am somewhat wary. I also enjoy writing poems and short stories, too. What do you recommend? (signed) Juliet C from Vernonia.

A: Good question, Juliet! Our writing group's key function is to provide you with constructive, honest feedback to help you improve. As a writer, you need at least three things on a regular basis: encouragement, constructive feedback, and a series of self-imposed deadlines. On Tuesday mornings at 9:45, we aim to deliver on those three items. See you then!

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

Life in Communist East Germany.

In a class on recent history, Erhard Gross will offer: "Life in Communist East Germany." The class will meet virtually from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 on January 7, 14, 21 and 28. It will explore the political and personal development from the time of the Soviet occupation zone to the repressive system that was based on propaganda, citizen surveillance and a catalog of restrictions that outsiders would have found unbelievable. Erhard lived under the system from age 10 through 17, and traveled behind the Iron Curtain on eight different occasions between 1956 to 1988.

Email Erhard at unighorn@charter.net or phone him at (503)468-0752 if you are interested in taking this class and he will send you the Zoom access information a couple of days before class begins.

A Survey of Classical Indian Philosophy

Seth Tichenor will conduct a survey of classical Indian philosophy: logic, language, and spiritual liberation from 10 a.m to 12 on Fridays, January 8 through February 26. Call Sue Zerangue (503)338-0313 if you are interested in taking this class and give her your email address and she will send you the Zoom link a couple of days before class begins.

Seniors might also be interested in auditing (no tests, no papers to write) Seth Tichenor's class through CCC on World Religions Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30 - 1:45 Remote. For more information go to the CCC website.

ENCORE Learn
c/o Clatsop Community College Box
Astoria OR 97103

www.encorelearn.org

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Next "Class Act" deadline is Friday, February 5, 2021