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*Volume 12 No 4*

*Dec, 2013, Jan,  
Feb 2014*

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRESIDENT .....**

(Editor's Note: Thanks very much to Rodger Gobel for accepting the ENCORE Board's appointment to finish out the term of Melissa Yowell who resigned due to health issues. Here is Rodger's brief autobiographical sketch.)

I retired from Agricultural Financing in the San Joaquin Valley of Central California in 1998. I hold a Degree in Business Management from Porterville College. I graduated high school in Strathmore, CA with a senior class size of 42 students. Over the years I have been a member or officer of the following organizations: The American Legion, The Amvets, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, The Elks, The Babe Ruth League, Little League, various classic car clubs, and teacher and treasurer of church Sunday school.

My hobbies and personal interests include classic cars, history, Biblical studies, geography, and military history, I joined ENCORE in 2006 and have attended classes and other activities and have enjoyed all that ENCORE has to offer.

As your president for the Winter and Spring Semesters, I want to increase our membership and also increase the desire of members to serve as teachers, officers and committee members. I hope to do this by making ENCORE activities more numerous, transparent and enjoyable for all. I will try to transact ENCORE business in a timely and fair manner through communication to and from its members. At this time I want to stress to the membership that they all have an equal voice in ENCORE through their elected Committee Chairpersons and their committees. All are welcome to attend monthly Board Meetings.

I look forward to seeing you all in class and at our various social gatherings.

**Rodger Gobel**



**AND INTRODUCING OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT .....**

(Editor's note: John Ryan was appointed by the ENCORE Board to finish out the term of John Agnew who resigned for personal reasons and moved from the area. Thank you, John. Here is John's brief biographical sketch.)

ENCORE has been an important part of my retirement life since moving to Astoria six years ago. After remodeling my home for three years, I joined ENCORE to take advantage of the educational and social events. After retiring from 25 years in the Seattle construction industry and deciding to move to Astoria, I have been participating in the community through several organizations. These include classes offered at Clatsop Community College, the ENCORE classes, the Astoria Senior Center where I am a member of the renovation design team, recreation through the Astoria Parks Department, and activities with the Angora Hiking Club. I am looking forward to my time on the Board and being involved in ENCORE.

*John Ryan*

**Editor's Note:** We also have a new historian in the person of Marlene Colendich. Our thanks to her for volunteering to take over that position. Geri Fick did an excellent job as historian for several years and we say a huge THANK YOU to her. She and her husband plan to do some traveling. We'll welcome them back to ENCORE when their wanderlust is satisfied!



You're invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Holiday Bash

**Thursday, December 12, 2013**

**Watch your "snail" mail for the invitation with all the details!**



## Check out the class listings for Winter Term!

Complete listings, descriptions and the calendar are inserted in this newsletter.



## **CLASS REVIEWS**

(See what you missed if you were not able to participate!)

### THE CHINESE IN ASTORIA

Submitted by Carol Sigurdson

A standing room only crowd at an evening panel discussion open to the public evidenced interest in the history of the Chinese in Astoria on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Drew Herzig, representing the Lower Columbia Diversity Project, credited Erhard Gross and David Lum for organizing the panel of local Chinese who shared their experiences, past and present, with the crowd. Erhard Gross, our ENCORE instructor, gave an overview of the history of the Chinese in Astoria and he followed up with more detailed information on the subject during the four weekly ENCORE classes during October.

Initially the Chinese began coming to the United States for the same reasons so many immigrants from all countries came – to earn a livelihood. In the mid 1800s, the draw was news of employment due to the California Gold Rush and the building of the transcontinental railroad in the United States.

Most Chinese men immigrated without families, checking out employment opportunities. However, even as early as 1859, when Oregon became a state, restrictions were included prohibiting Chinese immigrants from owning land or staking gold claims. Then, in 1882, problems became worse for them with the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which made it illegal for Chinese to enter the country. This act, of course, caused Chinese populations to begin dwindling in Astoria as well as elsewhere.

The Chinese, who had come to Astoria mostly to work in the fish canneries, found their numbers dwindling. The 1880 census listed over 1500 Chinese working in the county's canneries, but by 1890, only 925 Chinese lived in Astoria, and that number would drop to 601 by 1900.

At the height of the fish canneries boom, the Chinese made up 30% or more of the total population of Astoria. During this period there was unrest, conflicts, many anti-Chinese insults reported in the local newspapers. Conflict between the Chinese and Finnish population occurred. The Finns were the fishermen who made most of the catch, which the Chinese processed inside the canneries. Even though some of the prejudicial activities that happened are shocking to us today, Astoria was actually known as a comparatively "safe haven" largely because the employer classes helped moderate tensions, realizing the importance of the Chinese workers to the economy of the community.

Gradually, over the decades, the situation improved for the Chinese who were conscientious about learning new skills to fully integrate into American society. They formed schools and churches in Astoria, learned English, and provided work skills needed in addition to the cannery work, including growing vegetables, tailoring. Indeed, both David Lum and Vic Kee, respected local businessmen who spoke to our class, said they had not felt any undue harassment owing to their heritage while growing up in Astoria in the 1930s and 1940s.

Our last class was held at the Riverview Buffet Restaurant on Pier 11. After enjoying a delicious Chinese buffet, we were visited by the co-owner of the restaurant, Carrie Wei, who had been invited by Erhard Gross to talk to us and answer questions. She was born in China and came to the United States in 2002, traveled several states, and ended up owning the restaurant with her husband, D J Jiang. A fitting ending for an enjoyable and informative class.

**SOIL COMPOSITION CLASS**

Submitted by Sue Zerangue

Art Limbird, once again, bestowed his vast geological knowledge upon us, his fortunate students. Our classroom meetings included detailed Powerpoint discussions of soil-forming factors, moisture "fate", cyclical patterns & weathering rates; how tropical soils differ from forest, prairie, and tundra...what a local "water budget" involves. We learned about micro-climates, the physical & chemical effects of plants on soil composition...why worms & fungi are a good thing.

Art also brought in many boxes & cups of local soil samples so we could compare their diverse characteristics by seeing and feeling

everything from mudstone to silt. The word "horizon" took on a whole new meaning.

Then Art led us on a field trip none will forget. The fragrant air was both crisp & balmy with golden afternoon sun. We started out at Stanley Marsh in Seaside, spawning ground for Coho. managed by beavers. We then visited several lovely locations in Gearhart where Land Conservancy efforts are underway to reintroduce Oregon's silverspot butterfly. The soil of one area was being altered to create just the right conditions for blue violets, the silverspot's favorite food. A nearby piece of protected land already had ideal "Waldport" soil with numerous patches of violets & tansy; Art is hoping the absent butterflies will soon return.

**POETRY APPRECIATION**

Submitted by Nellie Hutchison

In Poetry Appreciation we experience language in many poetic styles. The question: "But is it poetry?" can never be adequately answered. The rules are not that exact but a few examples from "*The Discovery of Poetry*" by Frances Mayes may help - the difference between show and tell-

"She wears her clothes as if they were thrown on with a pitch fork"

Jonathon Swift

"A sea harsher than granite."

Ezra Pound

"A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch and blue spurt of a lighted match."

Robert Browning

**ANOTHER LOOK AT Poetry Appreciation**

Submitted by Sue Zerangue

This is usually a small class, fall term being no exception, but the dedication of the students and the enjoyment derived by being there is second to none. Nellie Hutchison led us through a season of poetic exploration, down paths both familiar and new. We take turns reading the poems we've brought, with biographical info when we have it. Nellie usually begins each class with a taped recording of famous poets reading their own works. Who knew Margaret Atwood wrote poetry? I do now. Sometimes, as a special treat, Nell reads her own excellent poems; elegant glimpses of her life.

Attending this class is always a mind-expanding experience. We never know what sort of material will be presented, and we're not at all limited in what we may offer. From Rudyard Kipling to Rumi, works of both William AND Kim Stafford, T.S. Eliot, Poe, & kid books...all these & many more have found an appreciative home in our poetry class. Thank you, Nellie.

## EXPLORATIONS IN HEBREW

Submitted by Jana Libby

This is my first Encore class and it has been absolutely delightful. Sunny Bell's enthusiasm for the Hebrew language and culture makes the class very lively and engaging. She adds interest by providing pictures of the areas she refers to on the map of Israel as well as wearing typical clothes one would see on the street there.

The meanings of the Hebrew Alphabet show the deep thought within the language and framework of the Hebrew people and culture.

The people attending the class have also added to the enjoyment, by the questions asked, as well as personal knowledge shared.

A very positive experience in both education and social engagement.

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**“AQUANASTICS”** – Gentle Water Exercise that's Lots of Fun

Submitted by Cecilia Balcomb

Are you interested in a water fitness class that is energizing, strengthening yet gentle on the joints? If so, you would have been an ideal candidate for Encore's Tuesday & Thursday morning “Aquanastics” classes held at the KOA heated pool located at 1100 Ridge Road in Hammond. Kathleen Hudson, an experienced class leader, totes certifications from the American Red Cross and the Arthritis Aquatic Training program. Kathleen's teaching skills were evident as she created a welcoming and safe environment for participants.

The sixty-minute workout formats were well presented with clear and concise instructions. After entering the pool, students were guided through a warm-up activity followed by oodles of unique exercises that used the natural resistance of the water to increase cardiovascular and muscular endurance while improving body tone and shape.

Each session concluded with a flexibility cool down period. What an invigorating program, and with minimum body stress, no less!

As an added bonus, students were given basic water health and safety tips e.g. look out for the person next to you; inhale during the hard part of an exercise and exhale during the easy part; stand tall; start slowly to stretch muscles and increase resistance; drink water – bring a plastic bottle of water to the pool; the pool is not deep – 3 to 5 feet maximum and the most important tip – “Aquanastics” is NOT painful. It is gentle exercise and lots of fun!

P.S. by Kathleen: The Manager of KOA, Dale Brechlin, provided us with 'noodles' and beach balls delivered to each class for our use FREE. Also, we are grateful to KOA for allowing us to use their pool, hot tub and showers at no charge. The facility, itself, has been creatively upgraded and has an emergency phone. Basic water safety skills were practiced with the 'ring buoys', shepherd's hook and pole reach.

**EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY**

Submitted by Sue Zerangue

This was something of an experimental effort, but judging by the many requests for a class teaching use of electronic devices, and the high-volume turn out...it was a big success. Meg Weaver really had her digital hands full trying to field the overwhelming number of questions during that first class. Numerous students brought their own laptops & we quickly over-burdened the building's Wifi capacity (at least I *think* that's

what happened...), but most folks were eventually able to get online, and run through their computer "issues."

The following weeks have been a bit easier, and Meg has concentrated on the topics she feels are most fundamental, while trying diligently to answer the endless questions we neophytes keep asking. I don't see any end to the need for this type of instruction, so I'm hoping Meg, or another tech-savvy person, will allow us to test their patience in terms to come.

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**GREAT SHORT STORIES BY AMERICAN WOMEN**

Submitted by Peggy Bondurant

The class taught by Donna Wright studied the book entitled "Great Short Stories by American Women". The book was edited by Candace Ward. The class met in Seaside at the CCC South County Campus. We had a lively group of a dozen or so opinionated and delightful people. Everyone participated with insightful comments.

settings were dated but interesting. Most of the problems though were universal to women in every generation: isolationism, sexism and economics to name a few. Thus our discussions were not lacking in content or comparisons.

As for the book, the authors were born between 1831 and 1893 so the

Donna did a great job of leading and facilitating our meetings. I am looking forward to Donna's next class in January which will be on the book, "Birdy," by William Wharton.

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**Science Exchange**

As one of ENCORE's perennial classes, Meg Weaver and Kit Ketcham did a most praiseworthy job of guiding us through another term with our lust for science news intact. Regulars returned & new folks joined. We covered such diverse fields as astronomy, biology, physics, geology, technology, and lots of my favorite, anthropology...often in one class!

worked all the computer/projector business that offered us, fast as can be, big screen articles and videos to illustrate whatever subjects we were exploring. (Note to Board: That projector really earned its keep!)

Next term this class will be in the ESD Building (Educational Services District), next door to Safeway's (Cont'd P. 7)

Kit did most of the moderating, and Meg

(Cont'd from P.6) warehouse on 32nd & Marine; still in its traditional time slot...Wednesday mornings, 10 to noon.

This is a weekly science adventure you won't want to miss.

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**ENCORE TRAVELS**

**Wurst and Kraut: ENCORE at Mount Angel**

By Erhard Gross

Seventeen enterprising travelers reported for the Oktoberfest trip on September 12, 2013. Problem was, when Art and Kay Limbird arrived at the local Enterprise car rental agency at 8:00 AM, the manager had failed to secure a van from their Portland office. Good thing the Limbirds had brought their van. It accommodated the overflow passengers from the Senior Center bus.

Our mini-convoy got underway at 9:00 AM and arrived at the Oktoberfest site in Mt. Angel at noon. There was plenty of parking but it was difficult to find. There were numerous shuttles but no one knew where they'd stop. So we walked to the center of town, while Art tried to find where the admission tickets could be picked up. I was kind of reminded of "herding cats" because our people went in different directions, not knowing that the staff who would affix our wrist bands wanted all of us to be there at the same time.

Mt. Angel's Oktoberfest was in its 45<sup>th</sup> year and, with over 300,000 annual visitors, bills itself as the biggest folk festival in Oregon. Many Lederhosen and Dirndl-clad folks attest to the popularity and long tradition of the annual event.

Several of us wound up at the Alpinegarten—one of the venues with lots of lively music. A band of four musicians cranked out the kind of sound that seems irresistible to even the most "mature" folks. I could not repress a desire to sing along with many of the German tunes. The music was infectious. It might have been louder than necessary but it moved the crowd. It was heartwarming to see folks clearly enjoying themselves. One fellow, smiling after he amorously waltzed his partner, told me that he was 84.

My next venue was the *Biergarten Festhalle*. This is a fairly new building with excellent acoustics. The entertainers were the "Happy Hans Group." It consisted of accordion, French horn, electric guitar and percussion. Hans sang well and yodeled on top of it. As did all other groups, Hans exhorted the audience to drink, promising that "the more beer you drink, the better we sound." He certainly kept the dance floor populated, and I assert that some of the seemingly frail octogenarians did not act their age.

The *Weinstube* featured the "Salzburger Echo." Their strong suit is yodeling and the sonorous Alphorn. Salzburg calls to mind Mozart; this group calls Sandy, Utah, their home. On my way back to our vehicles, I happened past the Village Bandstand. There, the Marion County Citizens Band (all wind instruments) was playing Beethoven's *Zapfenstreich* and a (Cont'd on P. 8)

(Cont'd from P. 7) potpourri of German folksongs named *Auf lustiger Fahrt* (According to the band's conductor, it doesn't mean what it looks like!).

Our trip took place on a Thursday because of the availability of the Senior Center bus. The admission was \$4 which was included in the \$20 paid by each person. Tickets Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays cost \$7, or \$25 for all four days. There was no extra charge for the perfect weather. I don't know how much it cost him, but some wise guy had slipped an election button with the words: "A grouchy German is a sour Kraut" into my pocket.

We returned to Astoria near 9:00 PM. Art and Kay had organized the trip for ENCORE's Membership Committee. They requested that each participant send them an evaluation of the enterprise.

### **ENCORE MEMBERS TRAVEL TO THE OPERA**

Submitted by Aletha Westerberg

A group of six ENCORE members and a guest ventured to the theater in Clackamas Town Center, just east of Portland, to attend the "Live in HD" presentation of the New York Metropolitan Opera simulcast of "Tosca" on Saturday, November 9. Erhard and Elfi Gross, Franziska Valentine, Hazel Sealy, Aletha Westerberg and Judith Schlecter and her guest, thoroughly enjoyed the trip. The presentation was excellent – although the opera was a very sad story, of course, as most operas are. After the show we all met at the Edelweiss Sausage & Delicatessen for a delightful lunch before the trip home.

Note on your calendar the date of **Saturday, April 5, 2014**. That is when the broadcast of Puccini's **La Bohème** will be presented live for only one day on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:55 AM Pacific Time at the Clackamas Town Center theater. Puccini's moving story of young love is the most performed opera in Met history—and with good reason. Anita Hartig stars as the frail Mimì in Franco Zeffirelli's classic production, with Vittorio Grigolo as her passionate lover, Rodolfo. We hope more ENCORE members will make plans to attend.

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### **LOOKING BACK AT LUNCH BUNCH FUN**

#### AN IMPERIAL FEAST AT BJ'S PIZZA PALACE

Submitted by Lorri Bradley

As we all gathered on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Lynne Ryan, Bob Cook, Tisha Tarver, Hazel Sealy, Joan Ryan, Reta Leithner, Nellie Hutchison, Carol Sigurdson, Marlene Colendich and her guest, Gail Sunderland, Frances Kaspar, Roger and Phyllis Williams, Janet Volchok, Rex & Nancy Anderson, Doug & Cecilia Balcomb, Lorri Bradley, Bob & Aletha Westerberg and Linda Brooks, a Lunch Bunch first timer), and tied on our kingly and queenly bibs, we ate royally off the magnificent menu offered to us at BJ's Pizza Palace in Seaside. Not only did we enjoy an extravagant menu to choose from, we were also rewarded with a view of Neawanna Creek. (Cont'd on P. 9)

(Cont'd from P. 8)

To further delight us after our repast, we were encouraged to regale the group with our favorite pet story, enhanced with the goal of a prize for the best tale. Many did just that, and the regal winner was Reta Leithner! If you weren't able to be there, just ask her about K.C. ("Kitty Cat") and her (Reta's) whereabouts when K.C. brought her a special present.....

The setting was perfect for our afternoon soiree, and lent itself to a very relaxed affair as well as inspiring many to just "hang back and hang out" as they stayed longer than usual and continued to enjoy good conversation. It appears a good time was had by all!

### OCTOBER LUNCH BUNCH CELEBRATED TWO SPECIAL DAYS

Submitted by Nellie Hutchison

The ENCORE Lunch Bunch met on **October 1<sup>st</sup>** at the El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant in Astoria. The food was plentiful and tasty.

We were each given a packet of nuts to commemorate "National Nut Day" which falls on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We learned that all so-called nuts are not necessarily nuts but may be seeds or legumes. However, a nut by any other name still tastes delicious so we ate them with pleasure. Thank you, Aletha.

October 24<sup>th</sup> is designated as United Nations Day. Aletha had intended to give us a quiz on the United Nations but fortunately for us she forgot her papers so we were saved the humiliation of exposing our ignorance of the facts about the United Nations.

Seventeen members and one guest enjoyed the good food and conversation: Lorri Bradley, Lynne Ryan, Jennie Ulbricht, Hazel Sealy, Bob Cook, Reta Leithner, Linda Brooks, Bob and Aletha Westerberg, Tisha Tarver, Nellie Hutchison, Phyllis Amsberry, Doug and Cecilia Balcomb, Mickey and Eric Anderson, Marlene Colendich and her guest, Gail Sunderland.

### NOVEMBER LUNCH BUNCH LOCATION: UPTOWN CAFÉ, Warrenton.

Submitted by Aletha Westerberg

Ten ENCORE members attended the **November 5th** Lunch Bunch at the relatively new Uptown Café on Ensign Drive in Warrenton. Reta Leithner provided the program in the form of "Thorns and Roses" – a participation activity. Members were asked to tell about a bad or not-so-good thing that happened to them and then a good thing that happened to them. There were good stories all around and the winner, Bernie Thomas, was chosen by secret ballot. She told the story of her and Gary's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding celebration – particularly about one gift they received: a beautifully framed picture of the ultrasound of their first great grandchild! (I don't remember the "thorn" part of her story.) The merry gathering was made up of our new president, Rodger Gobel and his wife, Madeline, Tisha Tarver, Kit Ketcham, Lynne Ryan, Frances Kaspar, Bernie Thomas, Linda Brooks, Aletha Westerberg and Reta Leithner.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Lunch Bunch will be at Fultano's Pizza, 620 Olney Ave, Astoria, 12:30 PM. Beginning with January Lunch Bunch, Reta Leithner and Lynne Ryan will share the co-chair position of Lunch Bunch. It has been a "fun run" and I know it will continue to be very enjoyable under the new co-chairs. THANKS!

*CLATSOP COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE/ENCORE*

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS

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YOUR contribution to YOUR newsletter  
would be welcomed!

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