

GENTRAIN SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENTS



"Mark Twain's River of Song"

By Randal Myler and Dan Wheetman

Sunday, October 27, 2019

*Mountain View Center for the
Performing Arts*

Mountain View, California

Next Gentrain Society Regional Theater Trip Announced

Our first theater trip of the new academic year will take place on Sunday, October 27, when we travel to the TheaterWorks production of *Mark Twain's River of Song* in Mountain View. This is the West Coast premiere of a piece by Randal Myler and Dan Wheetman that combines twenty-some songs interspersed with readings and dramatic scenes from the writings of Mark Twain. It is set on the Mississippi of Twain's time, and it features all kinds of songs by and about the people who lived on the river and on its banks: farmers, lumberjack, boat captains, gamblers, slaves, and runaways. Twain was a river boat pilot on the Mississippi and knew all about its beauties, its power, and its dangers, as the passages from his work make clear. The piece premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre last winter, and it played to sensational reviews. Like that production, this one will be directed by Randal Myler and the music arranged and directed by Dan Wheetman. It's a chance to step back to a time when the Mississippi was America's first superhighway, negotiated by steamboats and into a world that we can scarcely anymore imagine. It culminates with a dramatic scene from *Huck Finn*, about Huck and Jim, the runaway slave, on their raft floating down the river.

Dr. Grant Voth, former coordinator of the Gentrain program and long-time guide for these theater trips, will give a class in Lecture Forum 101, on Friday, October 25, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., designed to enhance understanding and enjoyment of a visit to Mark Twain's Mississippi River.

The cost is \$80.00 per person which includes play ticket, bus transportation, Dr. Voth's lecture, and snacks on the bus ride. **Please make your check payable to "MPC Gentrain Society"** and mail to Wayne Cruzan, 75 Via Chualar, Monterey, CA 93940. **Please include your telephone number or your email address.** Questions? Call Wayne at 831-375-2371 or 8341-917-0511.

The bus will leave the MPC Parking Lot B on Fishnet Road at 10:00 a.m. for arrival in Mountain View around 11:30 a.m. The play begins at 2:00 p.m. You will be dropped off near the theater where there are numerous restaurants for lunch prior to the play. The bus will then pick you up in front of the theater for our return trip to Monterey. We should be back in Monterey around 6:30 p.m.