



VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
STANLEY C. MANTOOTH, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

2011-2012

**Seniors
Speakers
Bureau**

SEASONS

Senior Experts And Speakers On Numerous Subjects

SEASONS Greetings! Thank you for participating in this unique inter-generational partnership. Our speakers really enjoy the variety of classrooms they get to visit when you ask them to be your guest. They are some of the best local advocates for education issues that we have in Ventura County.

You will find that seniors are most interesting as classroom speakers, covering an enormous range of topics ranging from career experiences and guidance to personal histories, hobbies and travel. They will even tailor their presentations to fit in with your class lessons. SEASONS presentations also can help fulfill the Content Standards required by each grade level. Those of you SEASONS veterans, who know the wonderful ways the following pages can enrich your curriculum, will want to take note of the new speakers and presentations we have. And if you are new at adding some "seasons"ing to your classroom, the steps are easy.

To request a speaker, we ask only for two weeks notice. Call the SEASONS office, Curriculum, Instruction and Continuous Improvement, (805) 437-1347, or email <asweetland@vcoe.org> with your request for a speaker or topic. You will be put in contact with the speaker so presentation dates can be planned. When making contact with a speaker, please inform them with as much information as possible about your class. Remember, they are guest speakers on their listed topics, not classroom teachers, and are counting on you to help them communicate effectively with your students. You will find this extra input will "spice" up this partnership in learning in your classroom.

Please give our office a return call with your scheduled dates, and we will follow up with an evaluation form that you can return through audio-visual mail. Thanks again for adding SEASONS to your class curriculum.

Alice Sweetland

ART AND MUSIC

"PETER AND THE WOLF"

ROSE ANN JONES, GRADES K-6 (30 min.)

"Peter and the Wolf", by Sergei Prokofiev is performed by Mrs. Jones on her electric piano, complete with narration, costuming and props. Each character in the tale, the bird, the duck, the cat, the grandfather, the wolf, the hunter, and Peter is represented by a different instrument of the orchestra. Delights all ages. Limited to West County schools.

"RUMPELSTILKSKIN"

ROSE ANN JONES, GRADES K-5 (30 min)

The classic story of **RUMPELSTILKSKIN** is Mrs. Jones' latest program, set to merry music of Martin David Jones, son of Mrs. Jones. Martin is a composer/conductor, who teaches at the Augusta State University in Georgia. This ambitious, original score is accompanied by lots of puppets, props and pictures to enhance the theme as Mrs. Jones plays her electric piano. Limited to West County Schools.

"SENIORS OF NOTE" ALL GRADES FOR ASSEMBLIES

Bring the enthusiasm and pizzazz of the big band era into the 2000's at your school with this informative group of 20+ senior musicians. Repertoire includes music from the 1920's-1950's. Great for special events! Available by appointment.

"STORYTELLING FOR FALL HOLIDAYS"

SHIRLEY HEDRICK, Grades K-1

Ms. Hedrick assumes the role of storyteller. She can be a witch, or if you prefer "Mother Earth" or "Mrs. Claus". The rich tradition of storytelling is guaranteed to please the young ones as they listen to holiday stories told by a truly entertaining lady.

CAREERS

“AGING PRESENTATION”

SHIRLEY HEDRICK, Grades 11-12

Ms. Hedrick presents a humorous, yet realistic view of the aging process. What was it like when Senior Citizens were young? What does a senior citizen feel he or she has to offer in this ever changing world? What is the generation gap all about? All this and more.

“FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION”

ROBERT KOSTER, Grades 7-12

From his background of 40 years in film production, Mr. Koster will discuss the excitement and challenge of film and television production. Mr. Koster currently teaches film at USC School of Film.

“THE STOCK MARKET”

EDWIN D. POLLAINÉ, Grades 7-College (40 min.)

Introduce the stock market to your students with an expert guest speaker. With 40 years experience as an investment adviser and vice-president for Prudential-Bache, Mr. Pollaine can make the stock market come alive from the newspaper financial pages to the Wall Street pits!

HISTORY-SOCIAL SCIENCE

“THE AMAZING STORY OF A HUNTED GERMAN/JEWISH TEEN”

BERND SIMON, Grades 6-college (35 to 45 min.)

Mr. Simon tells his story as an escapee from the Hitler terror in pre-war Nazi Germany, his flight to Cuba, and a year later to the U.S. Mr. Simon then volunteered for the U.S. Army and after two weeks of basic training he was discharged as a suspected Nazi spy. Eventually reinstated he served as a proud soldier in the World War II Intelligence Service for the U.S. Armed Forces. He was finally assigned as radio interceptor/monitor to a B-24 Bomb Group in Southern Italy, spying on the decoding Nazi “Luftwaffe” secret radio signals.

“THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS”

DONALD J. KATZ, Grades 8-12 (50-55 min.)

Learn the history of the American Political parties from the Whigs and Tories to the present Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, Green and Reform parties.

“CALIFORNIA PIONEER STORIES”

NORMA J. MICHELSEN, Grades 2-5

A former classroom teacher, Mrs. Michelsen makes California history come alive as she tells the stories of the California pioneers, their struggles and triumphs in the settling of the 40th state.

“THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 50s and 60s”

TRAVIS KELLY, Grades 6-12

Mr. Kelly will share his personal journey as a boy and young man, living in a segregated community, and going to all black public schools, until he went to college. This was a world before the civil rights act of 1964. It was during an era when the prevailing view y most in society was the blacks were not capable of intellectual curiosity. It was a time when Travis was taught to expect prejudice by most while people and expect that no matter how much one accomplishes, it will not be seen in the way a white person’s accomplishments are views. He will further explain how his early years helped shape his world views.

“EARLY FILMS, HOW MOVIES BEGAN”

ROBERT KOSTER, Grades 7-12

Dating back to the 1890’s and 1900’s, Mr. Koster will tell how movies began. Early film making will be explained with interesting anecdotes helping illustrate the various aspects of this fascinating subject.

“GENEALOGY - BUILDING YOUR FAMILY TREE”

GAIL IRELAND, Grades 2-12

Representing the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society, Mrs. Ireland will introduce the process of creating a family tree. Supplied with the necessary forms, Mrs. Ireland, a retired teacher, will walk the students through initial steps of collecting information on their ancestors. This can be an exciting way for students to learn history and genealogy.

“I AM STILL HERE, MY MOTHER’S VOICE” OUR HOLOCAUST

CLARA KNOPFLER, grades 6-12

On her eighteenth birthday, Clara Knopfler’s mother made her a magnificent cake - three slices of hoarded bread coated with marmalade. The month was January, 1945, and the place was East Prussia. They had survived Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi concentration camp. Clara Knopfler was born in Romania, Transylvania. In 1944, she was taken to a ghetto and subsequently transported to Auschwitz, then Riga concentration camp and later to two labor camps in East Prussia. After a long “Death March” Clara and her mother were liberated in January 1945. Her father and brother had perished during the Holocaust. After Liberation, Clara had to endure a 3-month long walk back to Romania because there was no transportation. In 1962 she immigrated to France and finally the United States. Her mission in life is “to teach, never forget, and never let it happen again.” Transportation needed.

“JUNGLE SURGEON IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIET NAM”

ROBERT HOCHMAN, M.D., Grades 7-12

Dr. Hochman, a retired trauma surgeon, will tell his experiences as a military doctor during the Viet Nam conflict. He will describe his M.A.S.H. like facilities where he treated casualties of war, both military and civilian.

“THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE DURING WORLD WAR II”

GEORGE M. WAKIJI, Grades 7-College (45-60 min.)

Mr. Wakiji was incarcerated during World War II at the Santa Anita Assembly Center (Arcadia, CA) and the Gila River Relocation Center (Rivers, Arizona) from May 1942 to July 1945. He shares his experience of being a prisoner of his own country because he “looked like the enemy”. He is a U.S. Army combat veteran of the Korean War (1950-51). Later Mr. Wakiji served as country director with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Kingdom of Tonga (South Pacific), 1986-89.

“MURPHY AUTO MUSEUM” FIELD TRIP

DANIEL MURPHY, M.D., Grades 6-12

The Murphy Auto Museum, a nonprofit corporation on PCH in Oxnard, the museum displays unique and classic cars, including Dr. Murphy’s collection of Packard automobiles. A restoration mechanic is available to discuss technical questions as Dr. Murphy conducts tours of the museum. Private tours for students may be scheduled at no cost.

“OPERATION DEEP FREEZE”

LES HALSEMA, Grades 5-12 (45 min.)

As a young Naval Lieutenant, Mr. Halsema participated in the United States exploration and fact finding mission to Antarctica called “Operation Deep Freeze”. The International Geophysical Year (IGY) from July 1957-December 1958, brought together international teams of scientists who investigated phenomena in this vast wilderness. Lt. Jg Halsema was the Public Information officer working with news media from around the world and publications such as National Geographic reporting information and progress of this historic project. Mr. Halsema became acquainted with notable explorers of the era including Admiral Richard Byrd, and Sir Edmund Hillary.

“SOUTH AFRICA”

ALLEN HANS - Grades 2-12

Flying to Cape Town, South Africa via Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Mr. Hans and his wife visited the Kruger National Forest, one of the largest game reserves in the Republic of South Africa. Finishing off their trip, they traveled to The Republic of Zambia, home of Victoria Falls. Mr. Hans will share his trip through photos and stories of the spectacular scenery and interesting adventures he encountered on this trip of a lifetime.

“TANZANIA”

NORMA MICHELSON AND SHIRLEY HEDRICK

- Grades 2-12

Travel to the continent of Africa with Ms. Michaelsen and Ms. Hedrick as they embark on a photo safari with 13 other adventurers. Traveling in the Republic of Tanzania in East Africa, home of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest peak, as well as the fabled Serengeti National Park, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika, these ladies will bring Africa to classrooms and into the hearts of students as they show their photos and share the treasures from this most excellent adventure.

“SPIES AND LIES”

JOHN BRAVOS, Grades 7-12

During World War II John was a Counter Intelligence special agent working behind enemy lines. Mr. Bravos has a collection of documents and artifacts to illustrate his talk. He will discuss the present threat of terrorism from an intelligence perspective.

“THE WAR YEARS 1941-45”

LEONARD ZERLIN, Grades 6-college (45 min.)

Author of World War II - Memories, Leonard will bring to the classroom his experiences, the great songs, barrack humor, jokes, personal stories and letters of servicemen.

“WORLD WAR I - LEST WE FORGET”

HAL RANZENHOFER, Grades 8-12, College and Adults (45 min.)

The audience is reminded of Santayana’s dictum: “Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.” The speaker describes certain aspects of the First World War, emphasizing the necessity of remembering it and appreciating its effects upon the history of the 20th century.

“THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND THE SPACE SHUTTLE MAIN ENGINES”

DONALD J. KATZ, Grades 4-college (40-50 min.)

A retired aeronautical engineer, Mr. Katz shares with students his vast experience with the space shuttle programs, sharing his “incredible facts” sheet about the main engines, describing a typical launch, the separating of the SRB’s and the main engine cutoff, the separating of the external tank and its subsequent burning up and destruction after its release. Mr. Katz also explains orbiting maneuvering engines and how the orbiter is returned to earth. He will encourage questions from students as he expands their knowledge of the space shuttle program.

LANGUAGE ARTS

“BRAILLE”

NORMAN VAN ARSDALL, Grades 5-12

Mr. Van Arsdall is a volunteer with the Braille Institute of Ventura County. He teaches Braille and helps those with visual impairment to find services and learn skills to live independently as possible. Mr. Van Arsdall became blind in his right eye in 1976 due to a detached retina, then a year later lost sight in his left eye, also due to a detached retina. Although he has seen no light in over 37 years, Norman is living a busy life, having retired as a civil engineer in 1985.

“FRENCH AND LATIN – TUTORING HELP”

CLARA KNOPFLER, Grades 6-college (flexible)

Mrs. Knopfler speaks seven languages, and for 32 years taught languages in high school. She offers tutoring skills to students who would like to become more proficient in French and Latin, and will speak in classrooms on the subject of languages and the gifts they bring to any students willing to learn.

“PLAYING WITH POETRY”

THE ALMOST FAMOUS POETS, Grades K-12

Poetry, a literary form of art, can tell a story, express an emotion or simply entertain. PLAYING WITH POETRY IS an inspiring, interactive program for grades K through 12 illustrating how reading and writing poetry can be fun, exciting and illuminating. The presentation can be adapted for any grade level.

SELF ESTEEM

“ATTITUDE”

SHIRLEY HEDRICK, Grades 11-12

What is attitude? Is your glass “half empty” or “half full”? Can your attitude affect the way others treat you? Explore your attitude with Ms. Hedrick and learn more about yourself.

“HOW TO TALK WITH YOUR PARENTS”

R. CAROL SWEENEY-ZIMMET, Ph.D., Grades 5-12

Dr. Sweeney has an extensive background in the fields of education and counseling, and will center her talk on relationships between children and their parents, interpersonal skills, and self-esteem. A former college professor, Dr. Sweeney is a frequent keynote speaker at seminars focusing on relationships. Her perspective is professional as well as practical, as students learn strategies that will help communication with their partners. She will center her talk on relationships between children and their parents, interpersonal skills, and self-esteem.

NATURE, DOCUMENTARY

“RAINFOREST”

NORMA J. MICHELSEN, Grades 2-5

The tropical rainforest will come alive as Ms. Michelsen presents facts and information about the fascinating flora and fauna in the unique ecosystem. Ms. Michelsen will tell classes about her experiences in French Guiana such as observing leather back turtles as they beached themselves to lay their eggs. She brings to the classrooms artifacts such as a stuffed tarantula, as well as mounted bugs and butterflies to delight students.

“THE MOTOR VEHICLE AND ITS COMPUTER ” DRIVER SAFETY

JAMES EMANUEL, Grade 9-12

This forum discusses operations and hazards associated with a class C motor vehicle and its on-board computer. Moderated by Mr. James Emanuel, a former license examiner and professional driver, students will be introduced to information and ‘lessons learned’ that could save their lives. A question and answer period is included. Can be presented as a Power Point presentation when projector available.

HEALTH

“PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF SMOKING”

JOHN BRAVOS , Grades 7-12

A color slide presentation follows the path of smoke through a human and demonstrates the effects it has on the body. This radio and television personality has over 25 years of lecturing experience in the field of health. This program is designed to be educational and non-frightening. Questions are encouraged. *(lower grades per discussion with teacher)

LIFE-PHYSICAL

“ASTRONOMY”

CHET BART, Grades 3-12

Mr. Bart is a System Ambassador for JPL/NASA Solar Programs. He spent 38 years working for the government in the rocket science field, participating in planetary missions. An amateur astronomer since the 1950's, and currently a member of the Ventura County Astronomical Society, Mr. Bart will share his knowledge of the planets and constellations, lighting up the students' interest with his enthusiasm for the celestial subject.

“GEMS AND MINERALS”

GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, Grades 2-12

A representative from the Gem and Mineral Society will give information and knowledge in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary and similar sciences. Sharing a rock box with the three classifications of rocks including samples in each classification, this classroom visit will excite and intrigue the students as they learn more about the earth we live on.

“PRINCIPLES OF FLIGHT”

DONALD J. KATZ, Grades 4-12 (40-50 min.)

How do planes soar through the sky? Mr. Katz will answer this question and more. He has an extensive career background as an aeronautical engineer and will discuss how an airplane works and how to fly an airplane.

“THE SPACE SHUTTLE AND THE SPACE SHUTTLE MAIN ENGINES”

DONALD J. KATZ, Grades 4-college (40-50 min.)

A retired aeronautical engineer, Mr. Katz shares with students his vast experience with the space shuttle programs, sharing his “incredible facts” sheet about the main engines, describing a typical launch, the separating of the SRB's and the main engine cutoff, the separating of the external tank and its subsequent burning up and destruction after its release. Mr. Katz also explains orbiting maneuvering engines and how the orbiter is returned to earth. He will encourage questions from students as he expands their knowledge of the space shuttle program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

<http://www.vcoe.org>

e-mail Alice Sweetland asweetland@vcoe.org

or phone 805 437-1347

Alice Sweetland, SEASONS

Education Services Center

5100 Adolfo Road

Camarillo, CA 93012