

President's Message



Deborah Seiler

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

deborah.seiler2@gmail.com

Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Wednesday, May 21

Open House at ACC with
food and music

Monday, June 2

Membership portal opens for
registration

Friday, June 6

First summer program with
Broadway Sacramento

Sunday, June 15

Spring potluck at Arden Park

Thursday, June 19

Free tickets to Hello Dolly!
for new and renewing
members

A Fond Farewell

On June 30, 2025, I will step down as your Renaissance Society President.

It has been an honor to serve as your president, and I thank all of you for your support and kind encouragement over these past three years. It has been a pleasure to get to know so many of you and enjoy learning, connecting, and sharing.

Looking over these three years, I'm proud to point to numerous accomplishments:

- Creation of a database to track our demographic information
- Creation of a path to endow our scholarships, with three now endowed
- Creation of a clear, online method of contributing to our scholarship fund and the ASI Food Pantry. (You hear me frequently talk about the Yellow button at the top of our website home page)
- Intense focus on improving the diversity of our organization
- Negotiating a return to library programming
- Focus on forming partnerships with other organizations
- Three summer programs that focused on a return to campus and diversity of programming
- Successful relationships with the new administration under President Luke Wood
- Recognition of Major Donors in a private setting
- Three of four consecutive Golden Plate Awards from the ASI Food Pantry
- Revised election/ratification process

It has been a time of harmonious relations on the Board of Directors and warm relations with Sac State administrators, faculty, and staff, especially with our wonderful Deans, Dr. Dianne Hyson and Dr. Marya Endriga.

But this could not have happened without the support of a fantastic Board of Directors, an army of wonderful program leaders and tech hosts, creative and hard working committees, and individual members who contribute ideas, time, and energy for the collective benefit. A very special thank you to my husband, Jim Hodges, for his forbearance, support, and service as your *Recorder* newsletter editor for these past two years. This is his final issue.

There are also many challenges and unfinished business. Our membership is stable but still below pre Covid levels and we need younger and more diverse members. It is important for us to look like the community around us and be more welcoming to our new members.

We also have many opportunities to interact with students on campus in ways that remain untapped. We can always do more to strengthen and document our processes and procedures, important work that often gets lost in the rush to accomplish the many tasks before us.

As I thank each and everyone of you, I also ask that you support our new Board officers, Deanna Hanson as President, Ralph Paladino as Vice President, Dave Ferguson as Controller, and Susan Brackenhoff as Secretary. I will remain on the Board and the Executive Committee as Past President in which capacity I hope to continue to serve and contribute to the well-being of our Society.

Most of all, thank you for your trust and friendship.

Deborah



Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 Academic Year
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

This special **Membership Edition of the *Recorder*** explains the process for signing up for the upcoming Fall 2025—Spring 2026 Academic Year.

Renaissance Society will send a Constant Contact email message on **Monday, June 2**, with a link to our Registration site inviting you to either renew your membership or to join us for the first time for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. ALL Renaissance members will receive a printed June *Recorder* newsletter in the mail.

**Membership for the 2025-2026 Academic Year is
\$120.00 per person.**

There are two ways to **Renew or Sign-up** for a Membership:

- 1) **Online** with a credit card payment (preferred method) or
- 2) **By Check** using the form on the next page of this Membership Edition of the *Recorder* and mailing it in with a check.

Registering online is the fastest, most efficient method and saves administrative costs. The paper version is available if your online access is limited. The paper form can also be found on the Renaissance Society website, under “Membership” which can be printed, filled in, and mailed in with your check starting on June 2, 2025.

Note: If you will be 90 years old before July 1, 2025, you are eligible to become an Honorary Member and you will no longer be required to pay membership dues. If you register online, just select the “Complimentary Membership” option. If you are already an Honorary Members, please continue to renew each year either online, by mail, or by contacting the office: (916) 758-5133 or email renaissa@csus.edu

ONLINE CREDIT CARD PROCESS:

To **renew your membership online** you will need to know your **Renaissance Society membership number** which you can look up online with your Last Name and Zip Code at

apps.cce.csus.edu/sites/renaissanceSociety/index.cfm?lookup

The online internet process is simple and safe.

- Go to the Renaissance Society website at csus.edu/rensoc
- Click on the “Online Registration” box, then
- **Returning Members** click on “Sign Me In” or “Help me Login”
- **New Members** click on “Sign Me Up”
- The system will ask for credit card information to make your payment but it does not retain credit card information once the transaction is completed

It’s simple and in a flash you are up-to-date with your Renaissance Society membership. **Do not submit the online registration information more than one time because your credit card will be charged each time.** If you think that your payment did not go through, phone the Renaissance Office at (916) 758-5133 or email renaissa@csus.edu.

Note: Instructions for purchasing parking permits are available at <https://tinyurl.com/RSparking>.

Parking Permits cost \$41 and will be good from July 1, 2025 — June 30, 2026.

You can purchase your parking permit for the new fiscal year starting on June 1, 2025. Go to the UTAPS online parking portal at https://sacstate.t2hosted.com/cmn/auth_ext.aspx





**RENAISSANCE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION FALL 2025/SPRING 2026**
PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH MEMBER

Please Print

Have you been a member prior to this year? YES ☐ NO ☐

First Name	Last	Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Address: Street	City	Zip
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Phone	Email
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Emergency Contact: Name	Emergency Contact: Phone
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Membership Fee	\$120.00
Library Card Fee (\$10)	\$ <input type="text"/>
Donation for Renaissance Society General Programs**	\$ <input type="text"/>
TOTAL:	\$ <input type="text"/>
** Do you want your donation to be anonymous? ____ Yes ____ No	
Note: There will be no refunds	

Make check payable to:

**The Renaissance Society
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J Street – Mail Stop 6074
Sacramento, CA 95819-6074**

QUESTIONS

1. What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ African American
- ☐ Asian American
- ☐ Hispanic/Chicanx/Latinx
- ☐ Native American
- ☐ Other/Multi-racial
- ☐ Pacific Islander
- ☐ Caucasian
- ☐ Decline to state

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Decline to state

3. Year of birth:

4. Do you want your name, email, and phone number listed in the Membership Directory?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Do you need a new name badge for on-campus activities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Preferred name for badge:

Signature and Date:

Your Financial Support of Renaissance Society is Critical

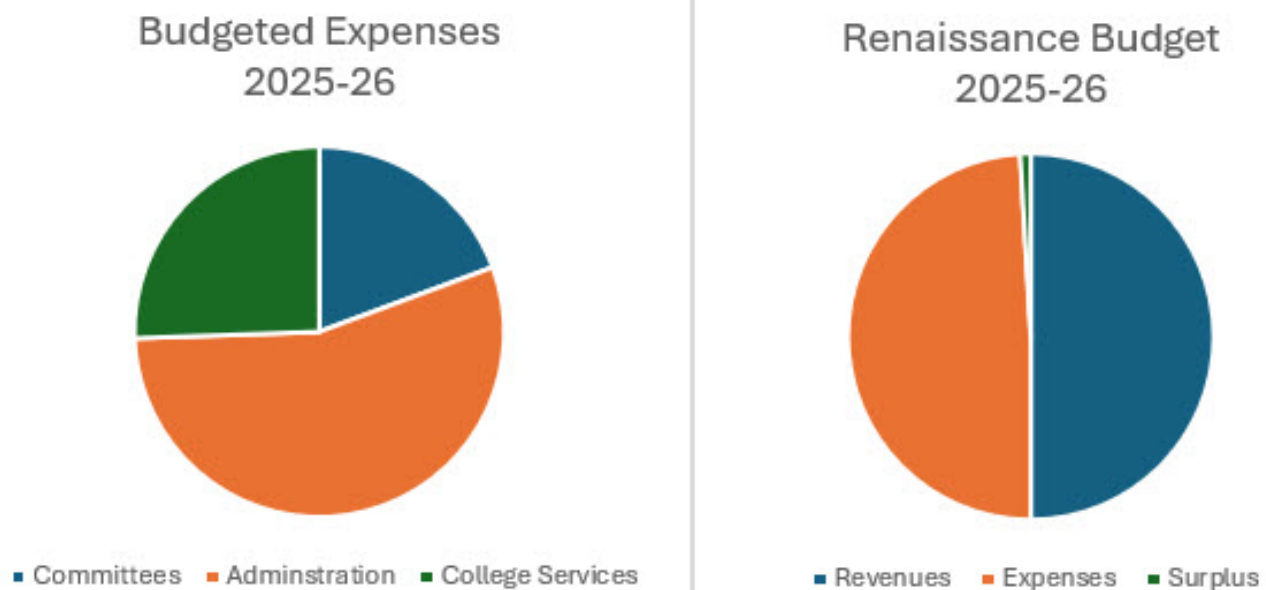
By Dave Ferguson, Renaissance Society Controller

The Renaissance Society is dependent on the members for the financial resources needed to operate. The number of members has stabilized over the last several years, but the cost of operations has increased. To continue to provide the high-quality programs we have come to expect requires us to increase our membership dues. We are increasing the membership dues to \$120 for Fall/Spring membership and \$70 for Spring only membership. This is the first increase since 2018.

Many members have been generous and contributed to our “Give Something Extra” campaign. These additional funds have been vital to cover expenses. We hope members will continue to be generous and continue to fund the “Give Something Extra.” This is a significant factor in improving the stability of the Society’s finances.

Increasing the number of members is the best way to achieve financial stability. We are projecting a Fall membership of 1,450 and a Spring membership 250. If we do not meet our membership goals, we will be faced with a large deficit. Therefore, it is important for members to continue to support the Society and help bring in new members.

The two charts below show our budget for 2025-26 and the expenses that support our programs.



Carolyn Monson takes over Recorder Editor duties

By Carolyn Monson



I grew up in Riverside, California, where my adventurous spirit took off at the age of four when my father strapped roller skates to my shoes. From that day on, I was unstoppable—ready to explore anything the world had to offer. Even in my earliest

years, I challenged norms. I still remember protesting nap time at daycare because I believed it was unfair that girls had to rest while boys continued to play.

After high school, I attended Riverside Community College for a time before marrying a U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant stationed at March Air Force Base (AFB). For the next 23 years, our growing family followed military assignments across the country: B-52 school in Merced, four harsh winters at Kincheloe AFB in Upper Michigan, then to Travis AFB and Mather AFB. We raised four sons and a daughter with developmental disabilities during these transitions.

Once our youngest son started kindergarten, I enrolled at American River College (ARC). A serendipitous opportunity arose when my calculus instructor announced that math tutors were needed—at \$1.60 an hour. I took the job, and just two weeks later, I was unexpectedly offered the chance to run the program. I accepted and became ARC's only full-time Instructional Assistant in the Math Department. What began as a part-time job grew into a full-time role, and the Math Learning Center eventually served thousands of students. ARC became a special place for me. I often took classes during lunch breaks just for fun, from Photoshop to word processing to FORTRAN programming, eventually earning an AS degree.

Although I had applied to transfer to CSUS, life shifted again when my marriage ended in divorce. I focused on my career and eventually remarried. I retired from ARC in 1998 with plans for a shared future, but just three months later, after 22 years of marriage, I found myself divorced again.

Seeking connection, I turned to quilting and joined the Folsom Quilt Guild. I soon became the newsletter editor, then took an HTML class to build the guild's first website. I later joined the Golden Valley Quilt Guild, serving again as both newsletter editor and webmaster.

Eventually, when my daughter's health began to decline, I made the life-changing decision to bring her home and care for her myself. This meant stepping away from volunteer roles, including tech hosting at the RS. It took time and effort, but my daughter is now thriving.

Last summer, I reconnected with the RS as part of the Weekly Update team, which I have thoroughly enjoyed. Eager to refresh my newsletter skills, I recently accepted the role of *Recorder* editor—and I'm excited for what lies ahead.



Dining Together June

By Cheryl Nelson

Dining Together will meet at
Fixins Soul Kitchen,
3428 3rd Ave,

<https://fixinssoulkitchen.com/sacramento-menus/>,
at 5:30 PM on June 11, 2025.



turnt up on
soul food



born in
oak park

Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Cheryl Nelson (slynnsearch@yahoo.com) no later than June 5th. Free parking is available in a lot at 4th Avenue and 35th St. **Please bring cash** (including small bills) – payment will be made by table.



In Celebration of Womanhood

By Darryl O. Freeman

By the time this article is published, the official celebration in March of Woman's History Month will be over, at least as it celebrated in the United States. Regardless of that fact, I suggest there is never a time too late to recognize and honor the contributions of women in American history, highlighting their achievements in various fields such as politics, science, arts, and social justice.

The celebration of Women's History Month in the United States was officially established in 1987. However, its origins trace back to Women's History Week, which was first celebrated in 1978 in Sonoma, California.

The event was organized by the local school district to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, recognized by the United Nations in 1977, encouraging countries worldwide to observe it as a day for women's rights and world peace.

The movement gained momentum, and in 1980, when former President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. Over the next several years, more states adopted similar observances.

Finally, in 1987, Congress passed a resolution officially designating March as Women's History Month.

Here are some notable historical facts not often appreciated by the general public;

As of 2024, over 400 women have historically served in the United States Congress (both the House of Representatives and the Senate) since Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress in 1916. Historically, 50 women have served as the head (Secretary) of a United States executive department. The first woman to hold such a position was Frances Perkins, who became Secretary of Labor in 1933 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In the world of international sports which arguably contribute to the stature and economic well-being of countries of the world, women have contributed

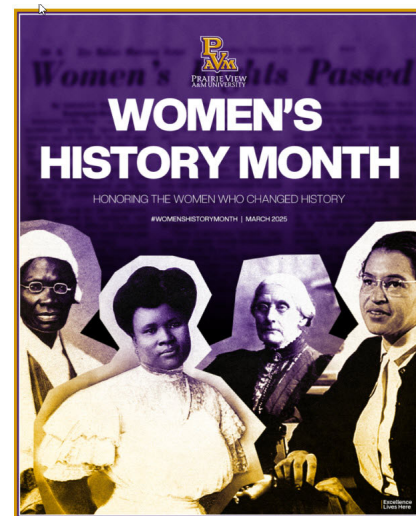
significantly in both categories for the United States of America. The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) has won four FIFA Women's World Cup titles. In contrast, the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team (USMNT) has never won a FIFA Men's World Cup.

At the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, the United States achieved a total of 126 medals. (40 Gold, 44 Silver and 42 Bronze). U.S. women secured 68 medals (26 gold, 24 silver, 18 bronze), while U.S. men earned 52 medals (13 gold, 16 silver, 23 bronze).

Notably, the 2024 Games marked the first time in Olympic history with full gender parity among athletes, in terms of categories of sports and media attention.

In the Modern Era, more than 3 million women have served in the U.S. military, and women now make up about 17% of active-duty forces. Since the Gulf War, over 40,000 women were deployed in combat zones. As of the latest 2023 published statistics, female officers make up about 20% of the U.S. military branches Army, Navy and Air Force. The U.S. Marine Corp is the exception with around 8%. These figures reflect a continued upward trend in female representation within the U.S. military's leadership ranks.

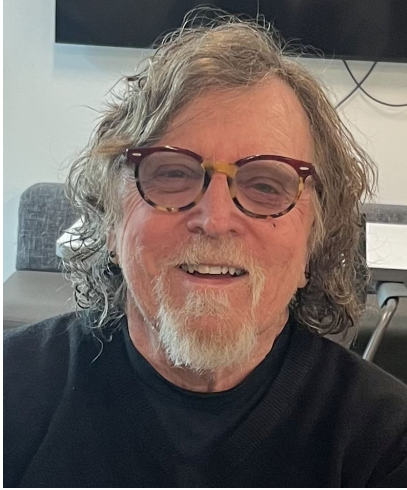
Civilization itself owes its very existence to the birthing, child development and family leadership activities of women. A once a year history month celebration should serve as just the beginning of the recognition of the contributions of women in the development of societies, not only in the United States, but around the world.



The Arts Have Dominated Larry Fox's Life

By Judy Lewis

Growing up in Porterville, California, Larry Fox felt restless for exposure to the wider world. He describes his father, one of eight children from



Iowa, and his mother, one of 13 siblings from Missouri, as “wonderful parents” to Larry and his sister. His father, while serving in the Navy, was accidentally shot by someone who was cleaning his gun. When Larry was 13, his father succumbed from

his wounds and his mother relocated the family to Folsom.

While earning bachelors and masters degrees from Sacramento State, Larry supported himself with jewelry making and graphic arts. He added a teaching credential in special education and eventually spent 20 years with the Lodi School District. During summer breaks, he traveled throughout Europe, often hitchhiking or on foot.

After joining the Peace Corps, he found himself in Iran. Larry was delighted by his time there, never feeling unsafe “even though I had red hair.” He was able to take side trips to Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and India, as well as teaching for three months in Saudi Arabia. One of his more memorable experiences was sitting on Buddha’s head in Afghanistan—not once, but twice.

While he was in Iran, Larry’s mother was killed in a plane crash at Lake Tahoe in 1974.

Following his Peace Corps commitment, Larry had the opportunity to work for Bell Helicopter in Iran. His language skills were put to work teaching sub-technical English to the company’s pilots and mechanics. His other languages include French and Farsi. And he also was able to work with one of the many royal princesses who had opened a social welfare center.

In 1979, when the Ayatollah came into power, Larry returned to the United States.

Here in Sacramento, he has served as the first male president of the Matrix Arts group, as well as the president of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club and has assisted 40 authors in self-publishing their books through the Sacramento Public Library.

When a friend’s traveling companion was unable to participate in a planned Oceanic Cruise from San Francisco south along the west coast to Patagonia, with three days’ notice, Larry jumped as the chance to fill in. He shared a colorful slide presentation of the tour with Renaissance Society’s Travel and Adventure class.

He also participates in Mary Ellen Burns’ A Cook’s Tour of Sacramento Program.



Spring Celebration and Potluck

By Allan Keown

Come celebrate the end of the Spring Semester and the end of Deborah Seiler's third term as President, with all the folks who make Renaissance hum.

WHEN: Sunday, June 15, 11 am.

WHERE: Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive.

WHAT: Renaissance will supply the venue, water, ice, dessert, and music.

BRING: Your favorite side dish if able (vegetarian or vegan preferred) with ingredients labeled, your own adult beverages or sodas, a lawn chair if you want to sit on the grassy area.

Please send rsvp's stating that you will be attending and how many will attend to ahkeown@gmail.com.

This is critical for purchasing and planning purposes!! Thanks!!

Come for the food...stay for the celebration!



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Sacramento
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July-August Submissions Due: June 2

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

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Phone: (916) 758-5133

Office: 350 University Ave., Suite 108
Sacramento CA 95819

Our Summer Program is Filled with Adventure!

If you have visited our website, you know what an exciting Summer Program we have planned. We hope you've signed up on Eventbrite for the presentations you wish to attend.

June 6 “Bringing Broadway to Sacramento for 8 Decades” Location: On Campus, To Be Announced (TBA)

June 13 Lecture/Tour of Crocker Art Museum Location: 216 O Street, Meet in the lobby of the Crocker Art Museum

June 20 “Beyond the Barre: The Art & Training of Ballet at Sacramento Ballet,” Location: 2420 N Street

June 27 “Walls That Speak,” Stan Padilla, Muralist, Location: On campus, TBA

July 11 “Arts and Artificial Intelligence,” Diego Bonilla Location: On Campus, TBA

July 18 Behind the Curtain, B Street Theatre Location: 2700 Capitol Ave.

July 25 “Midtown/Downtown Murals Trot and Spirits Hunt” – Phil Ho leader, Meet at 12th and I Street outside Bangkok@12 Thai Restaurant, 9 am followed by optional lunch.

August 1 “Behind the Scenes: What Really Happens Backstage,” Tour and Presentation: Capital Stage, Location: 2215 J Street

<https://www.csus.edu/college/social-sciences-interdisciplinary-studies/renaissance-society/spotlights/summer-program.html>