



President's Message



Deanna Hanson

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

deannahanson@gmail.com

Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Friday, December 5,
Holiday Gala Dinner, 4:15,
Engrained Restaurant
across from Round Table
Pizza in the Student Union

**Monday & Tuesday,
November 24 & 25,**
9:00-1:30 volunteer oppor-
tunity for Friendsgiving for
students in Cottonwood
Suite, Student Union

**Wednesday - Sunday,
November 26-30,**
Campus Closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday

THE RENAISSANCE RECORDER

California State University, Sacramento

Lifelong Learning Since 1986

A Season of Gratitude, Growth, and Getting Involved

Hello friends,

As the leaves turn and the air takes on a crispness, it's a natural moment to pause and reflect. This fall, we're celebrating the many ways our Renaissance Society community has grown, evolved, and supported one another through learning, laughter, and leadership.

Whether you've been part of the Society for decades or just joined this year, your presence matters. Every seminar you attend, every question you ask, every warm greeting shared on campus or on Zoom contributes to the vibrant energy that makes this community so special. We're not just lifelong learners, we're lifelong connectors, collaborators, and contributors.

We honor all of you who are the heart of our organization - from program leaders and tech hosts to committee members and event planners. And especially those of you who serve on our Board of Directors and as Committee Chairs. You all keep the Renaissance Society running smoothly. You give your time, creativity, and care to ensure that our programs remain engaging, accessible, and meaningful.

If you've ever thought how and where you might get more involved, this is your invitation. We're currently seeking new leaders to join our Board and committees. These roles are a chance to shape the future of the Renaissance Society, bring fresh ideas to the table, and help us continue to thrive. You don't need prior experience - just a willingness to learn, collaborate, and contribute your unique perspective. Please reach out to me or other board members to learn how to apply for the 2026-2027 Board of Directors.

Learning is at the core of what we do, but connection is what keeps us coming back. Our social events are designed to bring people together in relaxed, joyful ways. Whether it's a campus walk, a coffee, lunch, dinner or the first Friday pizza party, these moments of togetherness remind us that community is built not just in classes, but in conversations.

This fall, we're planning several opportunities to connect—so keep an eye on the Weekly Update and bring a friend. These events are a great way to meet new members, share stories, and enjoy the richness of our community.

Our partnership with Sacramento State continues to be a source of pride and purpose. Renaissance members play a vital role in supporting students—through scholarships, mentorship, and volunteer activities. Your involvement makes a real difference.

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As we celebrate our milestones, we also look forward—with gratitude for what we’ve built and excitement for what’s to come. The Renaissance Society is more than an organization; it’s a living, breathing community of people who believe in the power of learning, connection, and contribution. So, let’s keep growing. Let’s keep showing up. Let’s keep building something even more beautiful—together.

Deanna Henson

The Truth of Information

By Darryl Freeman

My perspective on navigating life was cultivated in a sphere of a family of teachers. Both of my parents were secondary school teachers, and one of my aunts was a high school principal. We have so many former and present professors, teachers and extended family members working in the field of education that we jokingly call it our “family business.” Philosophically, our choice of profession is based on the guiding principle that,

“We all have an enormous responsibility to bring to the attention of others information they do not have, which has the potential of causing them to rethink long-held ideas.”

Howard Zinn, 2005*

Whether the information is in regard to the “hard” sciences (math, biology, chemistry, physics, etc.) or the “soft” sciences (sociology, political science, history, etc.) the sharing of evolving information is critical to the social-political growth of societies worldwide.

In current times, the challenge for educators and the public in general who subscribe to this motivating narrative of thinking and subsequent behavior is to neutralize the proliferation of misinformation and disinformation in our society’s public discourse. The information highway through the internet, social media, political-rhetoric, public journalism or educational institutions is so littered with iterations of so-called facts that it is difficult to decipher what is actually neutral unadulterated truth.

Even the latest championed information tool, Artificial Intelligence, cannot guarantee “the whole truth and nothing but the truth” of the information generated. What and how a question is asked influences the answer retrieved.

We all, to some extent, live in a bubble of social, political, religious or interest group thinking of what is right and what is wrong regarding social behavior and motivation as we navigate life in our America society. If we ask questions in a manner to support already formed opinions, we will never receive an answer void of preconceived bias. Challenge the tunnel vision of “facts” by searching for different versions of the facts, even from your most trusted source.

*Howard Zinn (August 24, 1922 - January 27, 2010) was an American historian, author, professor, playwright, and social activist best known for his influential book *A People’s History of the United States* (1980).



Renaissance Society Tailgate Success

A Huge Thank You!

We want to thank everyone who made the inaugural Renaissance Society Tailgate and Football Game such a great success!

We sold 36 tickets and welcomed over 25 attendees at the tailgate, including Sacramento State's Dean Marya Endriga and Rebekah Rabirotff. A special thank-you goes to our president, Deanna Hanson, for working with Sacramento State Athletics to make this possible.

We also appreciate the tremendous help from Michele Rickey-Pidd and Jim & Barbara Joyce, who assisted with the hot dog bar, set-up, and making the event even better. And of course, thank you to all our Renaissance members who brought appetizers, salads, and desserts that made the gathering so much more special.

A highlight of the day was seeing the football team, cheerleaders, and band parade right by our tent on their way into the stadium—what an exciting moment for all of us!

Stay tuned—more Renaissance Society events are coming this winter and spring.

Go Hornets!





By Mike Pidd

Each fall, The Renaissance Society of Sacramento gathers its community for our most important fundraising tradition of the year - *ThanksGIVEday*. From mid-November through the close of December, we invite members and friends to join us in building a stronger future for our Society and for the students we support.

This year, we have set a clear and inspiring goal: to grow our scholarship program and endowment by \$50,000. These funds are more than numbers on a ledger—they represent new opportunities for Sacramento State students, deeper connections between members and the next generation, and an enduring investment in lifelong learning.

Over the past year, the Renaissance community has made remarkable strides in shaping a powerful development narrative. By highlighting scholarships, mentoring, and endowment growth, and by embracing tools such as IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), our committee and leadership have created a strong foundation for sustainable giving. These efforts align seamlessly with the Society's enduring values of learning, legacy, and the member-student connection.

Your generosity makes this vision real. Gifts to our scholarship fund help students overcome financial barriers, while endowment contributions ensure that support continues long into the future. Just as important, our mentorship programs bring students and members together in meaningful ways, allowing wisdom and encouragement to flow across generations. Each donation is not just a dollar—it is a story of impact, growth, and shared purpose.

We also recognize that the Renaissance Society's strength comes from the diversity of ways members choose to give. For some, a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA provides both tax advantages and meaningful philanthropic impact. For others, an annual gift or pledge to the endowment underscores their dedication to keeping learning and connection at the heart of our mission. Every gift, in every form, matters.

So this *ThanksGIVEday* season, we invite you to reflect on what the Renaissance Society has meant to you, and to consider how your support can help us shape the future. With your partnership, we can expand scholarships, grow our endowment, and ensure that the Renaissance community thrives for generations to come.

Together, let us continue a legacy of learning. Together, let us invest in both people and purpose. Together, we can meet this \$50,000 challenge and celebrate a new chapter in the Society's story.

P.S. Expect our yearly *ThanksGIVEday* letter and donation slip in your mailbox in early November. Your timely gift will help us reach our \$50,000 goal and strengthen scholarships, mentoring, and our endowment. Thank you for being part of the Renaissance legacy.



In Memoriam

Janet Bollinger died from ALS on her 77th birthday. A graduate of Sacramento State University, she pursued a career in education, spending nearly 30 years as a beloved librarian in the Sacramento Unified School District before retiring from McClatchy High School.

Volunteer Opportunities

Far too many of our students are unhoused, and far more have low food security. In fact, 20% of ASI students have relied on the SNAP (Cal Fresh) which is being de-funded. They will need to rely even more on the **ASI Food Pantry** (asi-csus.edu/foodpantry) which serves over 700 students weekly. Students can walk in and shop once a week; the food pantry is open 20 hours per week.

The **Basic Needs Resource Center** has begun to serve students as well. If you didn't get a chance to attend their tour with us on October 24th, check out their website: (<https://www.csus.edu/student-life/health-counseling/basic-needs-resource-center/about.html>)

On November 24 and 25, **ASI will again host the Friendsgiving Feast** in the Cottonwood Suite on

the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Many of you were involved last year. They will be serving from 11:00 – 12:15 and need volunteers to help with set-up, mingle with students and help with clean up. Volunteers are needed from 9:00 AM - 1:30. Please email asi-foodpantry@csus.edu to become involved for the times you have available.

The Department of Theatre and Dance will offer Sacramento/Black Art of Dance and University Dance Company's "**Stronger Together**". This is a dance production combining the legacies of Sacramento/Black Art of Dance. It will be performed November 20-23. **Ushers** will be needed. If you are interested, please sign up at

Dining Together - November 2025

By Susan Wheeler

Dining Together will meet at **Mulvaney's B&L**, 1215 19th St, Sacramento, (<https://mulvaney-s-bl.com/>) at 5:30 PM on November 12, 2025. Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Susan Wheeler (swheeler_1@yahoo.com) no later than November 9th.

There is street parking so please allow extra time to park. Please remember to bring cash. This dinner is limited to 24 people.



Dining Together - December 2025

By Marge Tarbell

Dining Together will meet at **Thai Terrace**, 1596 Howe Ave at 5:30 p.m. on December 10. Those interested in attending must respond by Dec. 7 to Marge Tarbell (mtarbell@sbcglobal.net). Cash only, no separate checks. Ample parking.



Generosity

Our incredible members – all of you - are very generous. You give your Time, your Treasure and your Talent so that the Renaissance Society and very importantly, our Sac State students benefit. Beyond contributions to the ASI Food Pantry, our Renaissance Society scholarship fund, and Give Something Extra, many of you separately contribute to Sac State student scholarships. I regret that I am unable to disclose all your names here. However, one member remains steadfast, and I truly appreciate her unwavering support.

Dolores Eitel has provided 5 generous scholarships each year for many years to Gerontology students – a particular passion of hers. She has also mentored many Gerontology students during her time in Sacramento. And, she has been involved on several committees as well as provided seminars and classes. We all, and particularly the students, are most grateful.

If you're interested in making donations like these, Mike Pidd, who chairs our Resource Development committee, would be happy to share some suggestions and options. You can reach him at

mikepidd@sbcglobal.net



Turning Passion Into Purpose

Thank you to all who support the Renaissance Society—through gifts to our **Scholarship Fund**, **Endowment Fund**, the **ASI Food Pantry**, and through your many volunteer efforts. When you give to the Renaissance Society, you're not just donating—you're **empowering bright, dedicated students** to thrive in today's competitive academic world. Your generosity fuels their pursuit of education, research, and community service.

Together, we're turning **passion into purpose** and

helping shape the leaders of tomorrow.

A recent scholarship recipient shared:

"Thanks to the Renaissance Society scholarship, I have excelled with a 4.0 GPA and have been actively participating in community service. Your support has contributed to my academic success and personal growth. Because of your generosity, I am one step closer to realizing my dream of becoming a physical therapist!"

ANNOUNCING A FREE CONCERT, November 9th - 2:00pm

Come along and take a musical journey back to a time of the 60's, 70's, and 80's with a concert of Peter, Paul and Mary music. Yes you can also sing a long which is enjoyable during these times of stress and frustration. It is interesting how many of the lyrics apply to today.

Mike Hersher, Peter Baird and Lily Young provide interesting stories and history about many of the songs. Lily is Peter's daughter so it is intergenerational. You can bring friends and relatives as it is open to the public.

The Program Committee is trying to offer a wider variety of programs this year while also addressing the wide geography of our Membership. So, members who live in Rancho Cordova, Folsom and other locations, we heard your suggestions of offering activities in variety of locations. The concert is at the Hagan Community Center, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova.



Registration is required due to capacity. Register on [Eventbrite](#) which is up and open now. Hope to see you there.

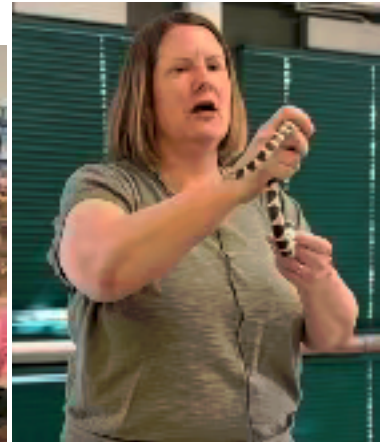
Jewish Food Festival

On October 12th, Mahnaz Khazari, Anne Ofsink, Cliff Eskes, Ralph Paladio, Barbara Garnier and Marge Tarbell represented the Renaissance Society at the Sacramento Jewish Food Festival hosted by Congregation Beth Shalom. Many attendees stopped by to learn more about how our organization can help them stay active, engaged, connected and learn something new. We'd love to have you join our Membership Committee. Please contact Susan Wheeler at swheeler_1@yahoo.com to learn more about opportunities to volunteer with the Membership Committee.



Field Trip to Effie Yaw Nature Center

The Program Committee responded to members' interest in learning combined with activity. The speech and tour of the Center was fun and successful. We were introduced to many plants, birds and animals that make up our natural environment in Sacramento. Emphasis was placed on sustaining what we now enjoy. Members brought their lunches and talked at the picnic tables about the day. The day was a success! As we continue to plan more options for learning please pass along ideas about other possibilities to Jackie Lamb 288jac@gmail.com



Dear Renaissance Society

Carmina and I are delighted to personally invite you to join us for an unforgettable afternoon of storytelling through music! Join the **California Youth Symphony's** Season Opener Concert on **Sunday, November 2, 2025, at the Reed L Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center on the Chabot College** campus in **Hayward**. The concert begins at **2:30 PM** and promises to be a captivating afternoon featuring remarkable music performed by our young talents ranging from 11 to 18 years old.

Leo Eylar, professor emeritus of music at CSUS, celebrates his 35th anniversary of his first concert with CYS. The concert begins with Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, the vivid musical tale of a spell gone awry. Cellist and Young Artist Competition winner **Aiden Kim** then performs Ernest Bloch's *Schelomo: Rhapsodie Hébraïque*, a deeply expressive portrayal of King Solomon and his wisdom.



The program continues with the **world premiere** of *Slipping* by CYS violinist **Saarthak Shankavaram** and concludes with Richard Strauss's dazzling tone poem *Don Juan*, a virtuosic depiction of the legendary lover that remains a benchmark of orchestral brilliance.

We would love for you and your guests to attend this special event and support the incredible work of our students. To make this experience possible, we would really appreciate your help of **\$45** to cover transportation for the day (the bus cost is

approximately \$2,000), including a comfortable bus ride to and from the venue. ***We need at least 45 riders to make this bus trip work.*** Please also pack your lunch! We highly encourage you to join us for this fun opportunity!

Three (3) Steps to take if you are interested in this delightful concert experience:

- **Complete** the [GOOGLE FORM HERE](#)
- [Click here for the Bus Waiver Form](#) - (opens a new window) *Review and sign. Then upload to the link below.*
 - For those less tech savvy, download the form, print it, and then sign it.
- Scan and upload the signed bus waiver of liability form to this [LINK](#)
 - For those less tech savvy, take a picture of your form and bring it to Renaissance class on Friday, or email it to Carmina at carm-ster77@gmail.com
- Here is the schedule for the day:
- Pick-up Date: Sunday, 11/2/2025 Daylight Savings Time
- Pick-up Time: **10:45 AM** @ Capistrano Hall, CSUS.
- Vehicle Type: 56 PAX MC
- Trip Duration: ~8.5 hrs
- Rest stop in Vallejo, Interstate 80, Vallejo CA
- Stop: Reed L Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center
- 25555 Hesperian Blvd, Hayward, CA 94545

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support the California Youth Symphony and experience an extraordinary day of music and artistry.

With warmest regards and gratitude,

Leo Eylar (& Carmina Eylar)

Music Director

California Youth Symphony

408-439-2228 (Carmina's mobile #)

www.cys.org
[DONATE](#)

Clinical Pearls

Guideline's for The Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

by Dolores J.Eitel , BSN, MA Education
& Counseling, c NY FNP

RSV causes respiratory illness in persons of all ages, frequently in older adults who have compromised healthcare and/or live in community settings. The RSV virus is spread by direct contact with someone who has RSV and coughs or sneezes in a closed environment or touching a surface that is contaminated.

Adults who are infected with the virus usually have mild to no symptoms. Symptoms are consistent with upper respiratory tract (URI) infections; sore throat, cough, runny nose, headache, fatigue and fever. Ordinary URI resolves within 1-2 weeks without complications. RSV, usually causes severe disease and in compromised immune system may result in hospitalization.

Adults, between the ages of 50-71 with co-existing conditions such as Asthma, COPD, Heart Failure, liver Disease, obesity, Diabetes with complications, and all adults over the age of 75 are at risk of severe RSV .

The CDC recommends a one time RSV vaccination for everyone 75 and over and for adults 60-74

who have an increased risk of severe RSV. Vaccines may cause inflammation at the site of the injection, pain, diarrhea, nausea, and/or muscle aches for a day or so.

No vaccination should be taken by anyone who has had a history of a severe allergic reaction of difficulty breathing ,weakness, dizziness, or rapid heart rate. If this occurs call 9-1-1 to take you to the nearest hospital Emergency Room. You may be having an anaphylactic reaction to the vaccine. References: internet: website [FDA 2025](#) . website [CDC 2025](#)

Join Renaissance Society members on December 5th at our annual holiday dinner, "**Sharing the Gift of Knowledge.**" This is an opportunity to mix, mingle and relax while enjoying some holiday festivities.

Where: Engrained Restaurant Student Union
(across from Round Table Pizza)

When: December 5th, 4:15pm - 6:15pm

Cost: \$35 plus fees

Menu: Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian

RSVP: [Eventbrite link](#) is now available and
watch for it in the Weekly Update

RENAISSANCE RECORDER EDITOR

For Submissions, contact

Deanna Hanson

deannahanson@gmail.com

or

Rick Atkinson

rpamd@yahoo.com

December Submissions Due: 11/1-15

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

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