

## PRESIDENT'S



## CORNER

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The Renaissance Society of  
Sacramento  
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## SAVE THE DATES

**April 1:** Program Leaders  
Application deadline for  
Fall 2022 --**Sign-up [here](#)**

**April 22:** Photographs/Art  
deadline for Fall Catalog  
(see page 6)

**April 23-24:** Give Sac  
State Day

**April 30:** Student  
Scholarships selected

**May 9:** Student  
Scholarships announced

**April/May:** Voting for  
Board Elections



Spring has come to the Sac State campus! Last Friday, I participated in the Renaissance Society (RS) Sac State Arboretum Tour with Professor Mike Baad and Donna Eash. Everything is in bloom and well worth a stroll. Afterwards, I attended a Sac State new student and parent orientation across the street in the new Sac State Welcome Center near the 6000 J Street front gate. First-year and transfer students and their parents were learning about all the campus programs and services. I received “hands-on” instruction in properly performing the Sac State “Stingers Up” hand signal.

I checked out the new UTAPS offices located in the Welcome Center. You can get your annual parking permit in person rather than online. Spoiler alert—no decals are issued; the UTAPS staff assists in putting your information into the computer using your license plate number.

The Renaissance Society’s **Annual Board of Directors election** will commence later this month. Shortly, you will receive Board Officers and Member-at-Large (MAL) candidate profiles. Voting will be online via a Constant Contact survey and a mailed ballot to those not registered with Constant Contact. Your vote is important. RS By-Laws require participation by at least one-third of our current members. Please vote and encourage your fellow RS friends and associates to cast their ballots.

The **RS Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 9 on Zoom. The program will include opening remarks by Sac State President Robert S. Nelsen, two-minute video presentations from each of our seven Sac State scholarship recipients, an annual RS Diversity & Inclusion Award presentation, and a RS Board President’s society update. These seven \$3,000 scholarships are made possible by RS member donations. **Give Sac State Day** will be April 23-24, so there is still time to make your scholarship donation. The Annual General Meeting Zoom link will follow.

Board Vice President Deborah Seiler and a **2022 Summer Program** working group are planning an eight-week speaker series for June and July 2022. The current plan is to conduct the sessions weekly from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on campus in Del Norte Hall 1004 in a HyFlex mode. HyFlex is a simultaneous streaming on Zoom and in-person. At 11:30 a.m. following the program each week, a series of social activities are planned to include “brown bag” lunches and tours of various campus facilities. More information to follow.

Our **RS membership portal reopens June 1 for 2022–2023 member registration**. Now is the time to reach out to your friends and associates to invite them to attend the Fall 2022 semester Renaissance Society lifelong learning programs. Surveys consistently show that most new members hear about RS from a friend. This is one of the best gifts that you can give a friend – lifelong learning, socializing, service, and fun! If they want to know more about our offerings, have them checkout the Spring 2022 Catalog.

I look forward to seeing you in the Sac State and Zoom classrooms this Spring semester!

—Ken



## FRIDAY FORUMS 3-4 PM

### April 1

JAMIE LAU | **Exonerating the Wrongfully Convicted**

A clinical professor of law at Duke Law School, he will address the difficulties exonerees face as their new freedom begins, as well as the systemic flaws leading to wrongful convictions.

### April 8

CASSIE SAKAHARA, LYNN HUMPHRIES | **Determining Senior-Living and Home-Care Options**

They will explore the variety of senior living and in-home care options, covering the differences in cost and levels of care.

### April 15

DAVID SANDINO | **Drought, Delta, and Groundwater Depletion: Making Sense of California Water**

A previous Chief Counsel for the California Dept. of Water Resources, his presentation will provide an overview of California's hydrology, water infrastructure, and regulatory framework, and discuss how California manages its water supply during dry years.

### April 22

**Mystery Forum Speaker**

We can't tell you who this is QUITE yet...  
You'll just have to wait and see.... DON'T MISS IT!

### April 29

DR. MARK MANNIS | **The New UC Davis Tschannen Eye Institute: 2022**

Dr. Mannis is an internationally renowned physician and medical director of the Sierra Donor Services in Sacramento. He will introduce us to the new 67,000 square foot Ernest E. Tschannen Eye Institute which broke ground in June 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2022 on the UCD Sacramento campus.

**"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD"**  
—Nelson Mandela

## TUESDAY SPEAKER SERIES 2-3:30 PM

April 5—**China Flexes their Power**  
JERRY GLASSER

April 12 —**Part 2: Preparing for Life's Last Chapter: Medical Aid in Dying**  
DOLORES EITEL

April 19 —**America's Founding Drug Dealers**  
CULLEN WILDER

April 26 —**Kris Kristofferson – Songwriter and Renaissance Man**  
JACK JENNINGS



## READINGS ON DIVERSITY PROJECT

*By Robert Benedetti and Roberta Gleason*

The Renaissance Society is committed to joining in President Nelsen's campus-wide plan to end institutionalized discrimination and prejudice. As an ongoing feature in our RS newsletter, here are our newest reading selections.

You are invited to submit suggested readings for distribution to the wider membership to [rbenedetti@pacific.edu](mailto:rbenedetti@pacific.edu).

1. David Masumoto, *Harvest Son* (Norton)
2. Maya Angelou, *Mom and Me and Mom* (Random House)
3. Leonard Gardner, *Fat City* (NY Review of Books)
4. Joan Didion, *Run River* (Vintage Books)
5. For children: Amanda Gorman, *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem* (Viking)
6. For middle school/high school: Alex Gino, *George* (Scholastic)

There are two area bookstores which carry books of special relevance to diversity in our area and beyond. They are well worth your browsing:

1. **A Seat at the Table** -- 9257 Laguna Springs Dr. Suite 130  
Elk Grove, CA. 95758, (916) 538-3482  
[www.aseatatthetablebooks.org](http://www.aseatatthetablebooks.org)
2. **Underground Books** -- 2814 35th Street, Sacramento, CA. 95817, (916) 737-3333  
[staff@underground-books.com](mailto:staff@underground-books.com)



## Member Profile

### Ask David Lewis Anything about Computer Chips

By Judy A. Lewis

David Lewis was born in Douglas, Arizona, where his father served as an aircraft mechanic for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Subsequently, the family moved to Modesto where he grew up.

Straight out of high school, David joined the U.S. Army. His combat tank outfit was stationed in Germany, and he remembers “always being on alert” during the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. At one point, his group ended up on the Czechoslovakian border with tanks facing Russian troops. David believes it could have been the start of World War III if an “itchy finger” pulled the trigger. Because he was always asking, “Why?” he reached the conclusion that the Army was not the best fit for him. He also realized that an education was important to get ahead.

After leaving the Army, David returned to Modesto and found a job making Swanson TV dinners while taking a full load of classes at Modesto Junior College. He then moved to the Bay Area where he was hired as a supervisor at a small signal transistor company (no experience needed, he remembers.) More education was required, so he earned a degree in Chemistry from San Jose State. This led into the engineering side of making computer chips. During his 35-year career, David reports that computer chips went from one transistor to 200 million. His work required a great deal of travel, and he logged 1.6 million miles on American Airlines.

Following his retirement in 2003, he and his wife Sharon, sold their Sunnyvale home which was located two miles from the Apple headquarters. They wonder what that house is worth today. In a total change of pace, the couple built a home on two acres above a canyon near Murphys, California, and traveled the world for the next 12 years. When David began experiencing weakness in his legs resulting in a few episodes of tripping and falling, they began researching possible new locations, eventually settling in Sun City, Lincoln Hills.

A *Big History Club* at Sun City, formed by Ranny Eckstrom, a long-time Renaissance Society member and seminar leader, intrigued him. After five years of offering courses in Sun City, *Big History* formed a partnership with the Renaissance Society in 2020. David is currently the co-leader and Tech Host for the Monday *Big History* series; the leader and Tech Host for the *Ancient Egypt* seminar; and the Tech Host for *How to Invest in This Market and Economy* led by Sanjay Varshney (former Dean of the CSUS business school).

David and Sharon have a “pod” with six friends who play bocce ball and card games. In addition, he has developed a handyman business where he helps with various repairs. His family consists of two sons in Los Gatos and Castro Valley, as well as a daughter in St. Louis, and six grandchildren.

## Renaissance Society Elections

### How They Work and Plans for

the Future —By Deborah Seiler

Every year is an election year for Renaissance. In April you get your ballot, then you’re asked, usually multiple times, to cast it, and the new Board members are announced in June. The newly elected or re-elected take office on July 1 of each year. You likely know that much. But do you know how the process works?

First, the President of the Board of Directors selects a Nominating Committee, usually of three Renaissance members. This year, President Ken Cross asked Barbara Davis-Lyman to chair the committee and selected Warren Bonta and Susan Brackenhoff to serve.

Then, members were asked via announcements in the Weekly Update to apply for Officer and Member at Large (MAL) positions by Feb. 22. Next, the committee reviews the applications and interviews the applicants. They then select a slate to present to the Board of Directors in early April.

After the Board approves the slate, ballots are prepared and mailed or emailed. Candidates will be featured in the May edition of this newsletter, and voting begins in April and ends in May. According to our By-Laws, at least one-third of the membership must vote for the slate to be approved. Our Office Manager and our tech guru, Jeff Hendy, tally and report the results to the full membership.

Officer and MAL positions are described in the By-Laws, but there are some gaps and gray areas. What are the qualifications for office? Are there term limits? Can write-ins be included? These are examples of some of the specifics we feel need more detail.

Emeritus Professor of Political Science and our current Board Secretary Bob Benedetti and I, as an erstwhile elections administrator, are trying to expand on current rules to make the process more transparent.

**Please be sure to vote this year** but know there is more information about this entire process in the works!

**IF YOU THINK YOU ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TRY SLEEPING WITH A MOSQUITO** —Dalai Lama

# Sac State's Antiracism Convocation

By Sue McGinty



**A Call to Action: Eradicate, Resolve, Liberate** - Sac State's Antiracism Convocation highlighted the University's commitment to becoming what it wants to be: an inclusive campus where all are welcome and feel safe.

The Convocation included welcoming words and campus commitment from President Robert Nelsen, a welcome from Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell, VP for Inclusive Excellence, breakout sessions, and a keynote address by Dr. Bettina Love from the U of Georgia. Overall, the message was the University has made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist campus, it has developed a plan over the past year with over 80 representatives from across campus to guide it, and now it's time for action.

The expectation was laid out that activating the plan will be over a 5-year period emphasizing "mattering and affirming," curriculum development, faculty and staff recruitment and retention, and transforming entrenched practices of racism and exclusion. Everyone involved with the university has been challenged to take a hard look within their areas at Policies and Procedures that may be inadvertently contributing to entrenched racist practices that result in exclusion for some.

The keynote from Dr. Love emphasized that from her perspective this is a fight for the soul of democracy. That the work of social justice is necessary to survive (clearly a reference to her book: *We Want to do More Than Survive*). She encourages everyone to approach the work with joy! She reminds herself regularly that someone has tried to kill her every day and has failed! She encourages everyone to recognize that no one can or should have to do all the work—stay in one's area of expertise and trust that others are doing the work in their areas of expertise.

Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell challenged the campus community to read the plan (~350 pages). It's posted in its entirety on the campus website along with an abbreviated (~50 pages) version. The first stage of implementing the plan has begun and it needs to spread across the campus encompassing the conceptual framework of believing the campus has areas of entrenched racism that need to be addressed, believing that the campus community has the collective power to make changes, and that the campus community has the will to sustain change. That over the next 5 years the campus will be becoming the inclusive place it envisions it can be and can self-reflect regularly to make certain it is being who it wants to be.

A guiding quote that was referenced by several presenters especially directed at those who are tired and weary of "the fight:"

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." --Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I think that the challenge to examine itself extends to us in the Renaissance Society. Do we have Policies and Procedures that contribute to feelings of exclusion? How do we make certain everyone who comes to the Renaissance Society feels safe and welcome?



## In Memoriam

**Dave Anthony**, a member since 2010, and a RS instructor passed away late last year. In 2018, he co-taught "Shakespeare: More Shakespeare Plays," and in 2019 co-taught "Fundamental Documents of American Democracy."

**Ruth Kletzing** passed away in late Nov. 2021 at the age of 97. Ruth enjoyed her friendships, her volunteer work, travel and political activism. She was a long-time RS member for close to 30 years.

## Do you Facebook?



Are you a current Renaissance Society member? Join us and share your RS experiences by connecting with and getting to know other RS members! Try our "members only" group Facebook page! You can also post photos and links to this page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/renais-sancesocietysacramento>

And our **NEWEST** Facebook page for everyone to find us has **launched!** Check us out and spread the word to the world at <https://www.facebook.com/rensocietysac>. Be sure to click on the "Like" button at the top of the page. Only our administrators, Kathy Hart, Kathy Sullivan, and Lorraine Murphy will be able to post to it, but everyone can "Like, Share, or Comment." We look forward to **CONNECTING** with you!

## How Are Renaissance Society's Scholarship Recipients Selected?

By Judy A. Lewis

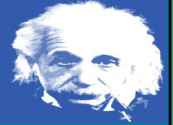
Some may wonder how each year's recipients of the seven \$3,000 scholarships are chosen. The application process opened on Oct. 2, 2021 and closed on March 2, 2022. Each applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student at Sac State during the current academic year, have a 3.0 grade point average, be a sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student and plan to be enrolled full-time at Sac State the following fall semester.

Sac State staff screen each application to assure that the above criteria are met. Beginning on March 3, 2022, six members of the Scholarship Committee begin the process of reviewing the applications. The student is asked to describe in detail the following:

- Academic achievements and goals
- Career goals
- Any campus groups or organizations that they belong to
- Any positions of leadership that they have had
- Any community service that they participate in

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

-Albert Einstein



In addition, students are required to submit an essay, with a maximum of 1,000 words, which describes their personal achievements, challenges, financial needs, and how their field of study will influence and/or benefit retirement age individuals. This essay factors significantly in the selection of the students.

Each student will be asked to provide a video before the end of April, and those videos will be shared at the **Annual Meeting** on May 9, 2022. The committee will also make personal visits to the students to present certificates and cookies in early May.

## Where Are Renaissance Society's Past Scholarship Winners?

By Judy A. Lewis

We've been tracking down some of our former scholarship recipients and received this update from 2013 winner Maritza Madrigal:

*"Thank you very much for reaching out. I have often thought about how wonderful the Renaissance Society has been in my life. I received two awards for two different master's degrees, one in Social Work and the other in Gerontology. I have been able to use that knowledge to go on to work with three neuromodulation medical device companies. I have helped seniors struggling with pain, depression, and migraines with technology and not with pharmaceuticals. If there is ever a time for me to speak and thank the Renaissance Society virtually or in person, please let me know."*

If you have been thinking about making a donation to the Scholarship fund, this would be a great time to do it! In addition to impacting a young person's life, there is also the possibility of obtaining a tax deduction. The Scholarship Committee is currently in the process of selecting the recipients for 2022. Please join us at the Annual meeting in May where the Scholarship Committee will present seven scholarships to worthy Sac State students.

### HOW TO DONATE

**By Check:** Make checks payable to:

**The University Foundation at Sacramento State**

and write "Renaissance Scholarship" in the memo line.

Mail to: The Renaissance Society,

Sacramento State, 6000 J Street, Mail Stop 6074, Sacramento, CA 95819-6074 or

**On-Line:** Donate online by credit card at: <https://tinyurl.com/RensocFunds>

Thank you!



**We invite you  
to be one of  
our  
Presenters!**

The Renaissance Program Committee invites you to join your peers by sharing interests, knowledge, and expertise and **Leading a Seminar, Shared Interest Group (SIG) or One-time Presentation** this coming fall!

We encourage you to think about the possibility of offering a Seminar (3, 6, or 12 weeks), facilitating a Shared Interest Group, or giving a one-time presentation in the coming fall semester.

Information on how to apply to Teach has been sent out and applications are due back by **Friday, April 1** (no foolin'!) [Click here for your application!](#)

**And for all of our talented photographers and artists, the theme for the Fall catalog is:**

### **“Joys of Learning Together”**

We will be sending out a general invitation for everyone shortly to submit work. Just watch your Weekly Update and be thinking about what you might want to submit that fits the theme for the Fall Catalog.

If you have any questions, contact:  
Lorene ([lorene.sarne@csus.edu](mailto:lorene.sarne@csus.edu))  
Cindy ([csuchanek3@gmail.com](mailto:csuchanek3@gmail.com)) or  
Pam ([obriendesign@comcast.net](mailto:obriendesign@comcast.net))



### **Do you Tweet?**

*By Lorraine Murphy*

You can find our Twitter Bird on the Renaissance Society website, at the bottom of the first page. Simply click on it. Tweets will be posted each Thursday.

On your computer, go to:

<https://twitter.com/RenaissanceSoc1>

On your phone or tablet, go to:

<https://mobile.twitter.com/RenaissanceSoc1>

## **Origins of “Asian Towns” in the USA**

*By Darryl O. Freeman*

From about 1975, two distinctive waves of Asian immigrant movements appeared in the U.S. Unlike ethnic Asian immigrants in the past, Hmong and Vietnamese immigrants did not come to America on their own accord as Japanese, Chinese and Filipino immigrants did. As a result of 11 years of civil war supported by the U.S., the South Vietnamese were defeated by the Communist forces of the North. Almost 200,000 Vietnamese refugees found a safe haven by immigrating to the United States.

More than 200,000 Hmong have immigrated to the United States due to their involvement with the U.S. in its efforts to stymie the takeover of Communism in Indochina, especially Vietnam and Laos. Many of the Hmong had lived as refugees for over 10 years in Thailand hoping to return to their homeland. In the mid-1990s, the Thai government closed the refugee camps, forcing the Hmong to immigrate to the United States. Many of the Vietnamese and Hmong immigrants have been unable to repatriate to their home countries because they are not welcome in Vietnam and Laos due to their involvement in the U.S. led wars in those countries.

These newly landed immigrants also found themselves the subjects of general U.S. public disdain as competitors for jobs and other economic resources. In their home countries, many of these people had been managers and professionals. In the United States, many were relegated to craft and service industry workers. As a result of the social class stratification in this country, these groups formed ethnic enclaves imitating their homeland with concentrated business and residential communities. Chinatowns, Japan towns, and Korean towns are the emblematic response of Asian ethnic immigrants to the historic and contemporary systemic anti-Asian immigration disposition that permeated the developing U.S. society.

Many of these “Asian Towns” found in many of the large urban cities across the U.S. have become tourist meccas and a significant source of income for immigrants and their offspring. However, in almost all cases, these Asian ethnic enclaves serve as comfortable and safe spaces to raise families and maintain a living in an often not so hospitable society.



California-USA-08/04/2010: Chinatown in San Francisco, Calif., the largest Chinese community outside of Asia and also the oldest in the United States. **Martina Badini / Shutterstock.com**



## **DINING TOGETHER** *By Cheryl Nelson*

The **Dining Together** group will meet on Wed. May 11 OR Thurs. May 19 at Roxy Restaurant & Bar, 2381 Fair Oaks Blvd. ([www.roxyrestaurantandbar.com](http://www.roxyrestaurantandbar.com)). Individual checks will be provided. Parking is available. RSVP Cheryl Nelson at [slynnsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:slynnsearch@yahoo.com) no later than **May 7, 2022**. Seating is limited. You will receive a confirmation email if space is available. Dinners will conform to County and Renaissance in-person COVID health requirements. At this time, Renaissance requires proof of vaccination and boosters, as well as signing a roster attesting to your status.

**Do you ever get up in the morning and look at yourself in the mirror and think... that just can't be accurate... -Uncertain**

## **JOIN THE SUMMER WORKING GROUP!** *By Deborah Seiler*

It's starting to feel like summer and in fact it is just around the corner. Our **Summer Working Group** is busy lining up speakers for Friday mornings in June and July.

We have reserved the Del Norte room on campus which is equipped for both in-person and zoom presentations. We plan to have presentations from 10:30 a.m. until about 11:30 a.m. followed by a social function. We are thinking of group lunches in campus restaurants, tours of the new Planetarium, and possibly "brown bag" lunches under the beautiful Sac State tree canopy.

The presentations will be free, and we encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to come enjoy our programming and fellowship.

We also encourage you to volunteer. It's not too late to join us to recruit two more speakers or arrange a fun social function. And if you would like to be a tech host or moderator, we would welcome your participation. Contact Deborah Seiler at [deborah.seiler2@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.seiler2@gmail.com) or call **916 704 5735** to join the summer fun!



## **RS Member essay**

### **"The Great American Songbook"**

*By Susan Osborn, Citrus Heights*

As Nat King Cole might have said, **The Great American Songbook** webinar led by Mike Agron was *"unforgettable."* Every session was jam-packed with sumptuous sounds, fabulous footage, and fascinating stories. In addition to selecting marvelous music, Mike demonstrated his technical wizardry by insuring a seamless experience with no glitches. He encouraged viewer participation by including brief surveys, Q and A interludes, and contests with prizes. To personal email messages, he responded in real time with more good stuff. I couldn't help dancing to a lot of the music. It doesn't get any better than this!



## **RS Member essay**

### **"How I Found my Niche"**

*By Celia McCauley, Rancho Cordova*

After discovering the Renaissance Society in 2010, my friend Maria and I attended our first class, *The Art and Craft of Writing a Novel or Memoir*. The class had a group of about 10 "mature" students, all appeared to be very knowledgeable and experienced in writing. "I think we are a bit over our heads," I told Maria.

During the break, I mentioned my concerns to some of the participants. English being our second language, I was probably looking for an excuse to quit. A lady I had never met declared, "Nonsense, you can contribute to this class as much as any of us, we can learn from you. Give it a try."

I don't remember her name, and she might never know, but her kind words made all the difference. I was hooked! And I have continued my quest to **Learn, Connect, Share** ever since.

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**HAPPY**  
**EASTER**