

President's Message



Deanna Hanson

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

deannahanson@gmail.com

Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Wednesday, April 1st

Cook's Tour Dinner

Dodici Pizzeria [reserve here](#)

Friday, April 3rd

First Friday Pizza: 4:15-6pm,
Round Table in Sac State
University Union, (all mem-
bers welcome)

Friday, April 17

Blues on the Green
4:00-6:00 - a Blues Concert
featuring CSUS students and
Blues Society Professionals
CSUS Campus (between
Library Quad & Capistrano
Hall). All are welcome

THE RENAISSANCE RECORDER

California State University, Sacramento

Lifelong Learning Since 1986

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April 2026

Welcome April!

Flowers, leaves on the trees, birds and animals everywhere, this beautiful campus and 80 degrees weather already. Enjoy walking through or sitting in our very own campus park!

Congratulations once again to our wonderfully generous Renaissance members. Your contributions to Give Sac State Day's Renaissance Society Scholarship fund totaled \$27,171. This was far above our \$16,000 goal. A special thanks to Deborah Seiler for her matching fund pledge and to Mike Pidd for developing wonderful graphics and messaging within a very condensed time frame!

You may recall that last month I talked about Renaissance Society being open to all adults with no age limitations. Here is some demographic information you might be interested in knowing: Of our 1842 members (a/o 3/12/26), 126 members are less than 60 years old; another 95 are between 61-65; 39 are between 90 and 99 with 4 members over 100. Congratulations! The rest of you are between 66 and 90. So, welcome all members!!

There is so much happening on campus this spring. We are involved in a task force of faculty and Renaissance members who are planning the best use of the special funds that were initially raised to celebrate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment which was cancelled during Covid. Our discussions with this group are very preliminary, but I wanted you to know this will be progressing throughout the summer with kick-off events prior to the November elections. This will involve students, faculty, administrators, and Renaissance members as well as community partners.

Also in planning stages is our Renaissance Society 40th Anniversary celebration, headed up by Allan Keown. We are working on specific places, dates and festivities. If any of you have ideas and/or would like to be involved in either of these specific celebrations, please let us know.

On another note, I have had questions from members about ways of getting to and from campus and other social events. Many of you know that I have been "car free" for several years. It is easy for me because I live on a direct bus line to campus and downtown (#30) and I also have very generous friends and family who often ask if they can give me a ride – so I am lucky!

That becomes more difficult for those of you who live in other areas surrounding Sacramento. The new Cooks Tour website (cookstoursac.com) promotes social events that are in addition to Renaissance events and involve many of our members.

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(Presidents Message - continued from page 1)

Cooks Tour has included a place on their site to request a ride to events. Since we will be making some changes to our RS website, I wonder how many members would be interested in including “ride sharing” as part of our website. Please let me know!

Enjoy spring/early summer, classes, social events and making new friends.

I hope to see you on campus!

Deanna Hanson

Give Sac State Day - Investing in the Future

Every endowed gift represents foresight.
Every scholarship awarded represents belief.

Because of you, students at Sacramento State are not simply attending college—they are advancing with confidence and dignity. They are pursuing their education, expanding their research, and preparing to become leaders who will serve their communities with knowledge, compassion, and purpose.

Scholarships do more than ease financial burdens. They open doors, expand possibilities, and affirm to students that a community believes in them.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Renaissance Society members and supporters during Give Sac State Day, the Renaissance Society Scholarship and Endowment Fund has achieved a remarkable milestone.

We are thrilled to announce that we surpassed our goal, receiving **172 donations totaling \$27,171**.

Your commitment has strengthened the future.

And your belief in students will have a lasting impact for years to come.

Fantastic work, everyone—and heartfelt thanks for making this campaign such a remarkable success.

172 Donations | \$27,171 Raised

Telling a Renaissance Society Story

In the fall of 2016 Noelle's husband Ron Anderson died of a heart attack while hiking on Mt. Tamalpais. Noelle dropped out of Renaissance for that academic year and spent a lot of her time visiting her family, plus her friends back east, and generally finding ways to not be home alone. Then in the summer of 2017 she got an email from Renaissance saying the Classical Music class was going on a music tour to Austria; any-one could sign on. A music tour to Austria? A music major's dream tour. So, she signed up.

Meanwhile, a guy who loved classical music and who had lost his wife a few years before that, namely Charles (or Chuck) Donaldson, also signed up for that tour. Noelle and Chuck think they first noticed each other at the orientation for the trip, still back here in Sacramento. They definitely noticed each other at the Hofbrau Haus in Munich on the first night of the tour, where they both drank huge steins of good beer along with the sausages and sauerkraut. After that came 12 days of getting to know each other in the company of others, without the stress of dating or wondering, "does he/she like me?" They traveled to Salzburg and then Vienna, visiting castles and monasteries along the way. Leo Eylar and his wife Carmina, and Bob Seyfried, were on the trip of course. Leo would give a lecture in the evenings about what they would see and hear the next day. In Salzburg they saw Mozart's birthplace and climbed the mountain to the fortress, but not together; Noelle didn't want to climb a mountain with another 75-year-old man. In Vienna they saw the original painting (which is huge) of Klimt's *The Kiss*. Chuck bought a small copy of *The Kiss* and gave it to Noelle much later. They saw a very funny production of *The Magic Flute* in the *Theater an der Wien*, the actual theater where it was performed in Mozart's time, and Noelle played a piece by Beethoven on a replica of Beethoven's piano. They ate apple strudel as many times as possible. They spent the last day in Eisenstadt, touring the Esterhazy palace where Haydn had performed his latest works in the small but exquisite concert hall.

Then it came time to go home. Noelle worried that Chuck wouldn't be able to find her, back in Sacramento, so in the confusion of getting on the plane, she gave him her phone number, saying, "I hope you don't think I'm a wanton hussy." They still laugh about that.

Back home in Sacramento they dated for a couple of years and had a small family wedding in June of 2019. They still enjoy music and walking together and of course, The Renaissance Classical Music class!



Family Wealth Through Property Ownership For All

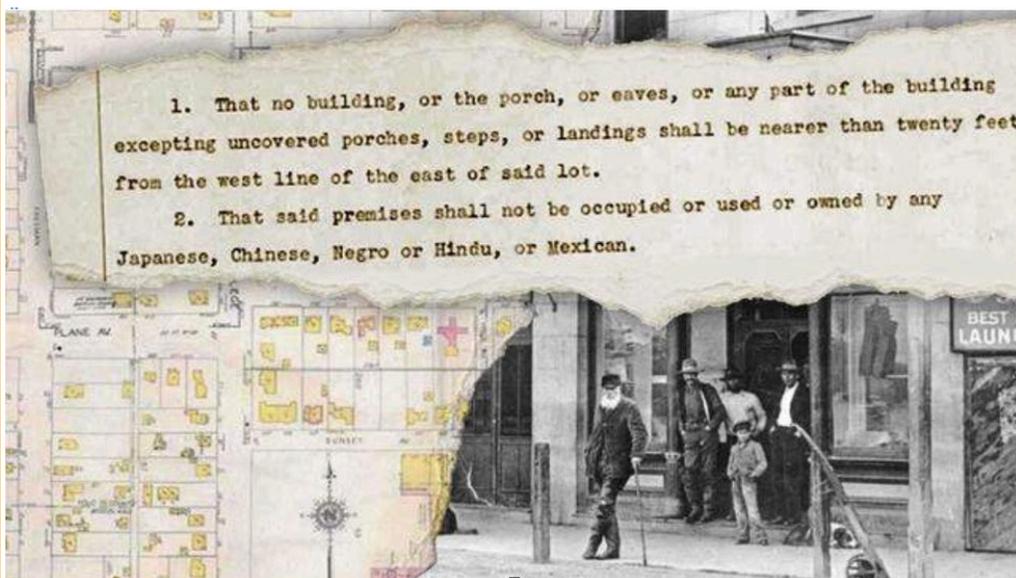
by Darryl Freeman

Home ownership is a well-documented avenue for the economically average American to initiate family financial security and wealth. Most folks work and pay mortgages for up to thirty years to obtain a home free of financial encumbrance. A mortgage free home allows retirees more activity options during their non-working years without a large loan debt limiting their budget options. Additionally, inheriting debt free property from their parents assist offspring in accumulating family wealth which can be handed down to subsequent family members.

Fulfilling the cycle of creating and sharing family property wealth has historically been hindered by more than just the challenges to complete home mortgage loans. Housing purchasing and financial discrimination has had a historical impact on the ability of many ethnic minority folks in this country to take advantage of opportunities to accumulate property wealth and begin the development of future family wealth.

In 1950 my parents and I (3 years old) moved to Buffalo New York purposefully participating in what is historically labeled the Second Wave of the Great Migration of African Americans from southern States (in this case Georgia) to Northern states in search of social, political and economic opportunities not available in the south. Since both of my parents had earned bachelor degrees, they were able to with some difficulty obtain elementary school teaching jobs. They saved up enough money to meet the down payments required to obtain a G.I home loan since my father had served in WWII. What should have been a routine purchase using the veterans guarantee home loan program, turned into almost a yearlong challenge. They had to overcome the realtors resistance to sell to an African American family in a “white” neighborhood and find a financial institution that would consummate a VA Home loan. With the assistance of a couple of civil rights organizations and civil rights attorneys, the sale was accomplished. (Navigating life growing up in that neighborhood is story for another day.)

Thirty years later my wife and I purchased a home in the middle-class neighborhood of Curtis Park. We noticed in the fine print of the property deed there was a covenant restricting sale of the home to certain minority folks of which I was one. By this time such covenants were ignored by real-estate agents and financial institutions. We wondered though, how many covenants still existed in residential property deeds and how many ethnic minority folks were stymied from availing themselves of the opportunities for property wealth accumulation in the past?



Historic property records sometimes included restrictive covenants that barred people from buying or occupying homes based on race or ethnicity. Illustration by Daniel Hunt of The Sacramento Bee; images from Yolo County archives

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It appears that the California Legislature recognized that discriminatory wording issues in legal documents of residential property sale and financing still had legal standing throughout California counties. Assembly Bill 1466, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2021 after clearing the Legislature without opposition, requires County Recorders to establish programs to identify and redact discriminatory covenants from property records. Although the restrictions have long been unenforceable under federal and state fair housing laws, many remained embedded in historic property documents. The law also required the County Recorders Association of California to submit progress reports at the beginning in 2023 and to hold annual meetings to discuss best practices.

On March 8, 2026, the Yolo County (where we own a home) Board of Supervisors reported their efforts in identifying properties that still contained discriminatory ethnic covenants. They identified 8,187 parcels in the county which contained these covenants. The county also created a mapping tool that allows the public to explore where these covenants existed and see how they were used over time. Yolo County's Restrictive Covenant Modification Program successfully redacted all the historic documents it identified. In addition to the mapping tool, the county released a slide deck and video explaining the program and how officials approached the effort.

If this was the numerical restrictive covenant count in a county which ranks 27th in terms of population size in California, one can only imagine the extent of what has been and probably still exists in counties throughout the state. How many ethnic minority families have been thwarted historically of being able to establish and maintain family wealth through property ownership?



Bob Benedetti served on the Renaissance Society Board for years. Click for [Obituary](#)

Susan Leber served as the RS Board Treasurer for several years. Click for [Obituary](#)

Paul Micheli taught extremely popular courses on ancient civilization.

Lifelong Learning and Adventure Magazine

Dear Renaissance Friends & Colleagues,

I'm excited to share a new opportunity for the members of your lifelong learning institute.

Road Scholar has launched a new publication, Lifelong Learning & Adventure Magazine, created especially for adults who share a passion for curiosity, discovery and continued learning. Because your organization is part of the Road Scholar Institute Network, your members are eligible to receive the magazine free of charge.

The magazine features engaging articles on history, culture, science, nature and ideas, along with stories about learning experiences around the world. Our goal is to create a publication that inspires curiosity and celebrates the spirit of lifelong learning that defines our communities.

If you'd like, learn more about the magazine and sign up here: <https://www.road scholar.org/digitalleads/li-magazine/>

Warm regards,

Dr. Lee Gayle

alesha.gayle@road scholar.org

Getting to know you . . .

By Judy Lewis

Seeing the world and staying healthy are top of the list for Milo Turaylich. He's been successful in both endeavors.

He was born in Strmen, Yugoslavia, in the middle of World War II. Milo considers himself an ethnic Serbian. By 1944, he and his parents ended up in Germany. Following the end of World War II, the family, including sister Millie, sailed as refugees on the ship General Blatchford to the U.S.

Milo remembers enrolling in school on Jan 2, 1952, in Gary, Indiana. Although he spoke fluent German and Serbian, he knew little English. At age nine, Milo was assigned to the first grade. By fifth grade he had caught up with his peers.

Following high school graduation, Milo earned a 2-year AA degree in chemistry from Purdue University's extension in Hammond, Indiana.

Milo reports growing up in a blue-collar home, with his dad employed by U.S. Steel and his mother by Mercy Hospital. During the summer, Milo found a job at Inland Steel east of Chicago, in order to earn money for college. From there he transitioned to a lab technician position with Gulf Oil Company. Next, DeSoto Paint Company hired him as a chemist.

At the invitation of friends, Milo was introduced to camping, bought a tent and "discovered a love of nature and adventure as well an economical way to travel."

In 1971, Milo and his mother made a memorable trip back to their former country. He met many wonderful family members and became good friends with one of his cousins, Nikola. The two traveled the Croatia Coast, experiencing the historic cities of Dubrovnik and Split. Milo was able to return the hospitality when Nikola visited the U.S. For six weeks, the two hit as many national parks as possible. They communicated only in Serbian throughout the trip. Nikola later returned to spend another year in the U.S. where they climbed to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back up in three days. Milo reports that he has also visited all 50 U.S. states and their capital buildings, as well as nine Canadian provinces.

Expanding his world travels, he joined a group exploring Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel in 1975, enjoying the holy places of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. France, Holland and China have also been favorite destinations.

He also completed a Master's Degree in Education in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Moving north, Milo spent two years as a junior high school math teacher in Reno, Nevada. Next, it was off to Sacramento, where he had a different distant cousin. His goal was to earn enough money as a substitute teacher to finance his love of travel.

After teaching math for three years for the Elk Grove School District, he joined the faculty at Delta High School in Clarksburg, where he focused on Algebra I and Algebra II for 12 years.

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PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING UPDATES

By Deanna Hanson

We have been so fortunate to have developed such generous partnerships. I wanted to update you on status and offerings.

Many of you have enjoyed the Broadway at Music Circus dress rehearsal tickets in past years. I've talked with Jackie Vanderbeck, Director of Education & Community Engagement at Broadway Sacramento. She explained to me "The goal of our Community Night program is to provide tickets to people who do not have organic pathways to live theatre experiences. Some examples of the barriers we seek to dismantle with this program are at-risk youth, socioeconomically disadvantaged families, and people with disabilities. We connect with these community members through non-profit organizations and educational programs that provide social services and/or resources to assist in improving the quality of life for those in need." Unfortunately, we do not fit with their description of the organizations they are seeking to bring to the theatre. Jackie Vanderbeck is researching how they may be able to provide discounts for our members. She will let me know. I understand if you are disappointed – me too!

We do continue strong relationships and discounts with Cap Stage, B Street Theatre, El Dorado Musical Theatre, Folsom Concert Association, Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, Clara and Sacramento Ballet. If any of you have contacts with other performing arts venues, museums, etc., let me know. We would love to expand!

You likely know that some of our members do presentations at local libraries, which are well received. An example is that Milo Turaylich will be lecturing on the Nine National Parks in California at the Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue on April 11 at 11:00. He has given this presentation in the Travel and Adventure class and at another library. If you missed it, here is another opportunity.

In addition, we are talking to multiple Sac State Departments about the possibility of offering more opportunities to mentor and/or tutor students, volunteer for events, work with the Arboretum, and take part in various studies and health assessments. Much more to come on these options. Thank you to all who are or have volunteered – ASI Food Pantry, Basic Needs Center, Theatre Productions, Gerontology Mentoring, and much more. Perhaps you would like to contribute an article about your experiences?

(Getting to Know You - Continued from page 7)

Following his retirement in 2007, Milo joined the Renaissance Society. He has given several presentations, and credits member Chuck Wisely with encouraging him and teaching him how to use Power Point. He's been a regular participant in the Renaissance Society's walking group and the Travel and Adventure class.

"When I came to America, everyone was so nice to me and our family," Milo says. "I want to keep on learning until I drop dead."



Photo taken by RS member, Carol Nyman.

Maryjane Rees Language, Speech and Hearing Center at CSU Sacramento

Quality communication and hearing support with no fees for services

By Heather Thompson, PhD CCC-SLP
Professor, Department Chair, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

We are well into Spring, with a buzz of activity as M.S. graduate students in speech-language pathology and Au.D. students in the doctorate of audiology programs at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) are busy providing care to the community.

The Maryjane Rees Language, Speech and Hearing Center at CSUS has been a cornerstone of community service since it opened in 1970, named in honor of Dr. Maryjane Rees, a pioneer in speech and hearing education and the first professor to hold a Ph.D in speech-language pathology. The Center is part of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and serves thousands of people across the lifespan, from children to adults and retirees alike.

What makes the Center especially valuable for retirees is its donation-based model: clinical services are provided without fees, meaning community members do not pay for core services or need to use insurance such as Medicare or Medi-Cal. Instead, clients are invited to contribute if they wish, helping sustain accessibility for all.

At the heart of the Center are its two main clinics — the Audiology Clinic and the Speech and Language Clinic — both staffed by skilled graduate students under the supervision of licensed clinicians. These student clinicians deliver evidence-based care while gaining hands-on experience as they earn clinical practical hours needed to become licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

The Audiology Clinic offers comprehensive hearing and balance evaluations for adults, tinnitus management, hearing aid assessments and fittings, screenings, and other hearing-related services that

are often costly elsewhere but are offered here on a donations-only basis.

The Speech and Language Clinic supports people with communication challenges — including speech sound production differences, language comprehension, language production and voice disorders, and more — through assessments and therapy tailored to individual needs.

For retirees seeking supportive care for hearing or speech-language concerns, the Maryjane Rees Language, Speech and Hearing Center is a valuable, community-focused resource that combines compassionate clinical care with innovative student training.

For more information about our clinical services or to make an appointment, please contact the contact information below.

Clinical Services

Maryjane Rees Speech-Language Clinic

Phone: (916) 278-6601 Fax: (916) 278-7730
Email: speechclinic@csus.edu

Physical Location

Folsom Hall 2202, 2nd Floor
7667 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95826

Maryjane Rees Audiology Clinic

Phone: (916) 278-4697
Fax: (916) 278-5705
Email: audiology-clinic@csus.edu
or visit our [website](#)

Physical Location

Folsom Hall, 1st Floor
7667 Folsom Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95826

Donations

To make a donation, [use the online link here](#), or please contact:

Thomas Whitcher, Senior Director of Development
whitcher@csus.edu (916) 278-4606

Together we are stronger

canine.org



Dear Renaissance Society Members,

I am reaching out to share a meaningful volunteer opportunity with Canine Companions.

Canine Companions leads the service dog industry, helping adults, children, and veterans with disabilities live with greater independence. The organization also places highly trained facility dogs with professionals in healthcare, criminal justice, and education settings. Since 1975, expertly trained dogs and comprehensive follow-up services have been provided at no cost to clients. Disability knows no boundaries, and neither does Canine Companions. Clients choose the organization for its strong reputation, exceptional dog training, and experienced staff.

One of the most impactful ways to support this mission is by becoming a volunteer puppy raiser. Puppy raisers provide a loving home and foundational training for a future service dog, helping prepare them for advanced professional training and ultimately for placement with a person in need.

Please reach Mary Maguire Maguirem@csus.edu or Jody Groves milcopmom@comcast.net for questions. For more information about Canine Companions, please visit www.canine.org.



Peg (Margaret) McKoane and the Spirit Behind the Renaissance Society

by Mary Ellen Burns

When writing about people who shaped a community, it helps to begin with a small confession: memory is imperfect. The stories we carry are filtered through time, emotion, and the vantage point from which we first encountered someone. What follows, then, are my memories of Peg (Margaret) McKoane, shaped by the years when I first knew her and by the lasting impression she left on Sacramento State and the Renaissance Society. Others will remember different details. But for many of us who crossed her path, the larger truth is unmistakable—Peg believed that learning belonged to everyone.

I first met Peg around 1970, when I was a student at what was then called Sacramento State College. The campus atmosphere was tense and electric. Across the country the Vietnam War, civil rights struggles, and the tragedy at Kent State had shaken universities to their core. In May 1970, National Guard troops fired on student demonstrators there, killing four. Campuses everywhere became places of grief, anger, and reflection. Sacramento State was not immune to that moment. In the aftermath, the campus closed for a time as students and faculty struggled to understand what had happened and what universities were meant to be. Out of that uncertainty came an experiment known as Alternative Education. In the absence of traditional classes, students and faculty created discussion groups, seminars, and collaborative explorations of ideas. It was a form of peer-to-peer learning that assumed knowledge did not flow only from professor to student. Everyone in the room had something to contribute.

Peg was one of the people who helped encourage that spirit. She was a university administrator deeply involved in student life. Over the course of her career, she served in several important roles at Sacramento State, including **Dean of Students**, and later as **Director of the Program for Adult Students: Admission and Reentry**. Much of that work focused on helping people return to college after interruptions in their education—many of them women who had stepped away from school to raise families and were now finding their way back into academic life. Long before lifelong learning became a widely used phrase, Peg believed that universities should open their doors to people at every stage of life.

Those convictions shaped much of what she did. Her influence extended well beyond the campus offices where she worked. Peg lived on Sierra Boulevard, and her home became something of an informal salon where conversations continued long after meetings or classes ended. Students, faculty, and friends gathered there to talk about books, politics, philosophy, and the changing world around us. Peg welcomed curiosity and treated students not as interruptions but as participants in a larger intellectual community.

Those who worked with her often remembered her as energetic, warm, and quietly persuasive. She had a gift for making people feel included in a project or an idea even before they quite realized they had volunteered. Peg believed strongly in collaboration and rarely framed initiatives as her own. Instead, she cultivated the sense that important things happened when people gathered around a table and began talking together. In 1985 Peg joined with colleagues including Bob Good and other retired faculty and staff to help establish the **Sacramento State Retirees Association**. Their goal was to maintain the intellectual and social connections that had defined their years on campus.

Before long, conversations turned to the possibility of creating a structured lifelong learning program for retirees and members of the surrounding community. Working with colleagues such as Robert Heilman and others who shared that vision, Peg helped bring the concept into focus. The university offered encouragement, space, and modest resources, and by 1986 the first seminars of what would become the **Renaissance Society** began to take shape.

Looking back, the path from Alternative Education in the early 1970s to the Renaissance Society in the 1980s feels almost inevitable. Both grew from the same belief—that learning (Continued on page 11)

Friday Forum Speakers



April 3 - Diego Bonilla, Professor of Communication Studies, California State University, Sacramento, Art Without Artists? Exploring AI's Role in Creative Expression



March 27 - Ryan Lillis, Associate General Manager for News at PBS KVIE, will discuss the new nonprofit local news service, which was launched in September 2025, to “empower, inform and connect” residents of the four county region.



April 10 - John Vallee, Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical History Museum, History of medical science beginning from the 1800s to the present times



April 17 - Julie Thomas, Archivist and Manuscript Librarian, Sacramento State Library Collections & University Archives Special Collections & Manuscripts



April 24 - Lt. Sabrina Briggs, Office of Operations - East Command, City of Sacramento Police Department. She will speak on the challenges and accomplishments of the Sacramento Police Department today.

(Continued from page 10 - Peg McKoane)

thrives when it is shared, voluntary, and driven by curiosity rather than requirement.

In many ways, the Renaissance Society carries forward the spirit Peg helped cultivate throughout her career: the idea that education is not something confined to youth or formal classrooms, but a lifelong conversation.

And every time members of the Renaissance Society gather to teach one another, debate an idea, or simply explore a subject for the pleasure of learning, a little of Peg's spirit is still present in the room.

Dining Together - April 2026

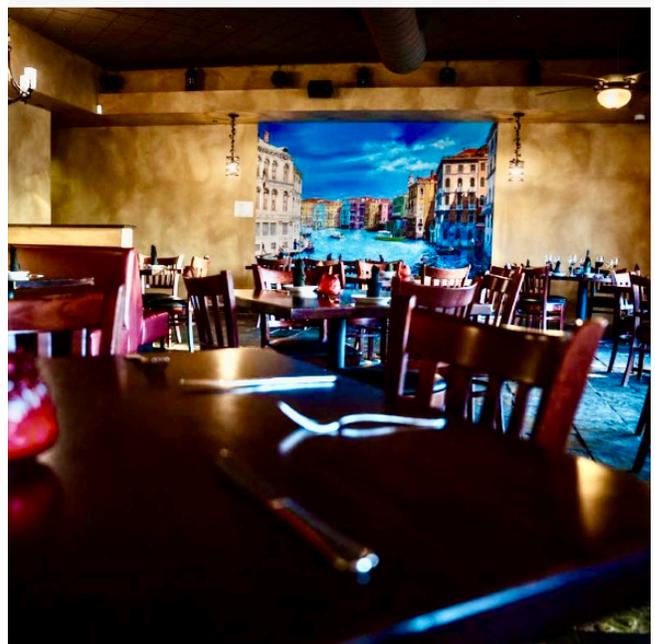
April 8- 5:30 p.m.

Ippolito's Trattoria

9500 Micron Ave, Sacramento

Cash only , 30 people max, ample parking

Please respond to Marge Tarbell
(mtarbell@sbcglobal.net) by April 5





Napa Trip. Jan: Small group traveled to Napa to see The Princess Bride featuring a live interview with Cary Elwes (Wesley) at the Uptown Theater. After the show, the group then enjoyed a fantastic dinner at Grace's Table.

Jamestown Train pic; May 2025 The group traveled to Big Trees in Calaveras for hiking, and then enjoyed a scenic steam engine train ride from Jamestown.



Larry And King Cong pic. March: Cook's Tour event to the Threepenny Opera presented by LOTS (Light Opera Theater of Sacramento). This picture was taken at the King Cong Brewery in North Sacramento for a gathering before the show.

Could you use some more balance in your life?

The Sacramento Ballet is offering a free Falls Prevention class to Renaissance Society members at their training facility, the Clara Auditorium in midtown Sacramento, on April 22 at 9 AM.

The auditorium, at 2420 N St., offers plenty of free parking. The class will be held in Suite 101. The class is limited to 18 people and registration is required.

Watch for registration information in the Weekly Update during April.

SACRAMENTO BALLET

Falls Prevention Through Movement



APRIL 22 - 9:00 AM

**Improve balance, Strength,
Mobility, cognition, and independence
through simple movement and basic dance
steps to feel-good music!**

Sacramento Ballet | 2420 N Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95816