



The Renaissance Recorder

Learn, Connect, Share
California State University, Sacramento



June 2021

Lifelong Learning for over 30 years

Issue 206

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EDITION

See Pages 2 and 3



President's Corner

by Ken Cross

This Renaissance Society (RS) 2020-2021 academic year was an amazing success! RS departed the Sac State physical classrooms and “pivoted” to the Zoom virtual classroom. More than 1800 registered RS members enrolled in nearly 28,000

offerings in 247 programs. Program enrollment quadrupled and programs increased by 60 offerings or 32% from the previous year. Over 300 talented RS volunteers stepped-up to make this reinvention a seamless transition.

When RS started the “pivot,” we had no clear vision of the RS programs and services in the virtual world. Mirroring Sac State, Renaissance volunteers were literally building the plane as we took off the ground. As the annual 2020-2021 RS budget was developed, the RS Board of Directors thoughtfully created a \$20,000 “innovation fund” to support this evolving transformation process. Our Finance and Admin Committee projects an end of year deficit of approximately \$27,000. Fortunately, over the years, the RS Board built up a financial reserve allowing RS to deal with the unexpected pandemic curveball.

The RS Board is currently engaged in the annual 2021-2022 budget development process. With membership down 21% from a 35-year record high of 2,325 members in 2019-2020, we anticipate a potential projected smaller deficit again this year. We do not want to increase annual membership dues. Likewise, we do not want to continue tapping into the financial reserves. Again, this year we are offering members the option to make a voluntary donation of “something extra” when you register for RS membership. If you have the wherewithal to donate, please consider joining me in supporting our General Fund.

This allows RS to assist our peers who are living on a fixed income who might be faced with nonrenewal of their memberships if we need to implement dues increases to balance the budget.

One of the unexpected pandemic bonuses was the removal of barriers to RS participation. Our doors swung open widely rather than closed. RS now has almost 100 members or 5% of our membership that live outside the greater Sacramento commuting area who connect virtually with Zoom. RS has members in 17 states and 76 California cities. One member lives in Paris, France (not Paris, Texas).

Please invite your friends, wherever they live, to join RS for the 2021-2022 academic year. Consider giving the Gift of Membership to your friends and family. The RS CCE membership portal is scheduled to open June 1, 2021. Historically, new members hear about RS through word-of-mouth from existing RS members. Please spread the word and share the Renaissance lifelong learning opportunity with others!

Fall 2021 catalog development is well underway with a myriad of interesting programs. RS is closely coordinating with Sac State leadership on the campus reentry plan. Due to social distancing protocols, classrooms will be at 20% to 35% of capacity. Classroom seating top priority is Sac State students paying over \$20,000 per year for their education. Currently we anticipate being on Zoom in the Fall. Rest assured, President Nelsen and his staff want RS to return to campus as much as we want to return.

Thank you again to all of you who volunteer and participate to help support one another as we learn, connect and share. Please be safe and stay masked, social distanced, and well, in mind, body, and spirit!

Ken
Ken Cross, President
The Renaissance Society of Sacramento
kencross@kencrossconsulting.com

Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 Academic Year

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION

This special Membership Renewal edition of *The Recorder* will explain and help you process your membership renewal for the Fall 2021-Spring 2022 Academic Year.

Two Membership Options: Online or Paper

1. Online, with credit card payments.
2. The traditional paper way, mailing an application and check to the Renaissance Office.

You will find directions for using the internet to renew your membership with a credit card below. Or you can renew your membership using the enclosed paper form on Page 3 and mail it in with a check made payable to The Renaissance Society. The paper form also will be available on the Renaissance Society website where it can be printed, filled in, and mailed in with a check.

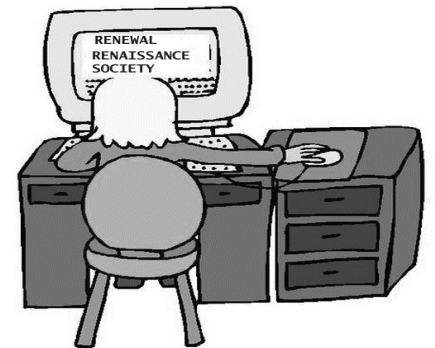
Membership for the 2021-22 Academic Year is \$100.00 per person.

Note: Parking permits are not currently for sale. Before we return to classes on campus, instructions on purchasing a permit will be sent to all members.

ONLINE CREDIT CARD PROCESS

Important: You need to know your Renaissance Society membership number, which you can look up online with your name and zip code. Also, if you will be 90 years old before July 1, 2021 you are eligible to become an Honorary Member. See below for details.

The online internet process is simple and safe. To access it, you will go to the Renaissance Society website at www.csus.edu/org/rensoc. A link will take you to the online system and walk you through the process. The system will be asking for credit card information to make your payment but does not retain credit card information once the transaction completes.



It's simple and in a flash you are up to date with your Renaissance Society membership for the Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 Academic Year. ***Do not complete 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.



NOTE: If you will be 90 years old before July 1, 2021, you are eligible to become an *Honorary Member* and you will no longer be required to pay membership dues. ****Do not register on line.** You must contact the office at (916) 758-5133 in order to be processed and registered for the new year. ****Members who are already *Honorary Members* must also register with the office, phone or email renaissa@csus.edu.**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

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	PHONE
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Membership Fee	\$100.00
Donation for Renaissance Society General Programs**	\$ _____
TOTAL:	\$ _____
** 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

IMPORTANT – Please answer the following questions since this will determine how you receive Renaissance Society publications:

1. Renaissance Society publications are available online. It is an unwarranted expense to reproduce and mail them. Please indicate if you will accept an online copy of each publication.

- a) I will read the Seminar Catalog online Yes _____ No _____
- b) I will read the *Renaissance Recorder* online Yes _____ No _____
- c) I will read the Membership Directory online Yes _____ No _____

2. Do you want your name, email and phone number listed in the Membership Directory?
 Yes _____ No _____

CLIMATE CHANGE and the RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

by Shari Lowen, Office Manager

Over the past year, the Communication and Marketing Committee has expanded its efforts to keep members informed. The Weekly Update emails provide humor as well as a chance to focus on the activities for the week ahead. Additionally, *The Recorder* is now published monthly instead of nine times per year.

These efforts to provide members with frequent updates come at a cost. For example, reproduction and mailing for *The Recorder* amounts to \$7,500.00 a year. Last year we requested that members consider reading *The Recorder* and all publications online. Many of you heeded the call. However, over 20% of members continue to request and receive print copy.

The Board of Directors urges you to read our publications online. Not only will it have a significant financial impact, but it will allow us to help the environment by saving paper and the related products needed to print and mail publications.*

Whether you are registering online or with a check, we hope you will check yes for these questions:

- a) I will read the Seminar Catalog online Yes No
- b) I will read the Renaissance Recorder online Yes No
- c) I will read the Membership Directory online Yes No

*We understand that members with vision impairment might need a print copy.



OUR CHALLENGE and HOW YOU CAN HELP

by Nancy Findeisen

Since Renaissance cannot rely solely on member dues to provide the quality programs you have come to expect from Renaissance, we need your help. Your gift of “something extra” with your annual membership registration will go a long way to ensuring the sustainability of our excellent programs and guarantee our ability to expand, enhance and thrive during this time of uncertainty and change.

Your donation will help us

1. Keep our dues low
2. Invest in new technologies
3. Develop new programs
4. Outreach to diverse communities
5. Build our reserve fund

Please consider adding a donation to the Renaissance general operations fund when you renew your membership this year. Look for the check-off box on the registration form and select the amount you wish to give to sustain the Renaissance Society as it continues to provide innovative and enriching programs through lifelong learning.



Friends Tell Friends About Renaissance

by Deborah Seiler

It’s a small world, and Texas is just an internet link away.

When Aaron Joy (of Texas) and his sister Antoinette (a Sacramento area local) wanted to give their dad, Rich, a birthday present, Antoinette spoke with her friend Ellen. Ellen’s dad, Bill Sullivan, is an active Renaissance member, and she knows how much he and his wife enjoy Renaissance classes and the Forums he sometimes helps to organize.

When Ellen shared her dad’s experience with Aaron and Antoinette, they were excited. They contacted Renaissance Society President Ken Cross who put them in touch with Renaissance Office Manager Shari Lowen who sent them a gift certificate form.

Bingo! When fall semester registration opens June 1, they are ready to sign up their dad.

Thoughtful kids. Better than a wallet or a new pair of socks! And we welcome Rich, all the way from Texas, to our organization.

It’s a small world, after all.

How I Learned to Love Reading *The Recorder* Online

True Confessions of Deborah Seiler

It all started when my husband urged me to convert to the online version of *The Sacramento Bee*.

I had resisted, feeling compelled to see my daily news up close and personal. And I was apprehensive about navigating a lengthy document. True, the kitchen counter was always ink-stained as were my hands. And true, too, the papers stacked up in the recycle bin so little else fit in. And, yes, if we were out of town, we had to stop the paper or make arrangements with neighbors. And, oh gosh, all that paper and ink and gas to deliver it each day!

Finally I went “green.” My apprehension diminished quickly. It looked just like the real newspaper, it actually wasn’t hard to navigate, and I could click on a lengthy article to read the whole thing without having to thumb through big, unwieldy pages. My kitchen counters were cleaner and the recycle bin had lots more space. Best of all, I could read the paper on my phone or computer when we were away from Sacramento.

It occurred to me I could happily do the same with my monthly issue of *The Recorder*. Less clutter in the kitchen and if I want to refer to a prior issue, viola! It’s right there on the Renaissance website.

Little did I know then or appreciate that about \$20 of my \$100 membership went just to that print version. Since 70% of the Renaissance budget goes to fixed costs (rent, salaries, university technical and administrative fees, etc.), the \$20 is tough to justify.

And, reading it online is simple. *The Recorder* appears online before it is mailed, so I see it sooner. And it’s easy to access because the Weekly Update announces its arrival and provides a link. My husband appreciates the reduced clutter.

Want to “go green” and help Renaissance better use its scarce resources? When you register for the fall semester (yes, registration opens June 1), click “yes” to read it online. And best of all? You can print it out if you want to, even in larger type if that helps with your 50-something eyesight. If you have a computer or smart phone and internet service, take the plunge. The water is fine.

Renaissance Society Member Scholarship

By Ken Cross

Program Finances should not be a barrier to lifelong learning. In 2019 the Renaissance Society (RS) Board of Directors approved a Member Scholarship Program. The program provides current and prospective members of our community, who demonstrate a financial need and a commitment to lifelong learning, the opportunity to participate. The member scholarship program waives annual and mid-year membership dues as well as UTAPS parking permits, if needed, for a limited number of applicants for the current academic year.

Qualified members can apply each year that they have an identified need. Payments will be internal accounting transfers. No cash will be disbursed directly to individuals. There will not be any retroactive reimbursements for previous semesters. The Board is committed to removing membership barriers that keep new and existing members from joining due to their socioeconomic status.

Interested parties will complete a **Member Scholarship Application** including a 500-word or less narrative explaining in detail the applicant’s need for a scholarship. Email renaissa@csus.edu or phone (916) 758-5133 to request an application.

Submit applications: Electronically at shari.lowen@csus.edu or by mail to **The Renaissance Society, CSUS 6000 J Street, MS 6074, Sacramento, CA 95819-6074.**

Applications will be reviewed for completeness and meeting the need criteria.

Questions, please contact Ken Cross, RS MDCE Chair at (916) 995-8288 or email kencross@kencrossconsulting.com.

In Memoriam

A note from Yoko O’Brien regarding **RS Member Don Sagner**: “I regret to inform you that Don recently passed on Feb 6, 2021. Don fondly supported the Renaissance Society and its mission. I wish you and other members the best on future endeavors.”



Your Dues Are a Huge Part of Our Success

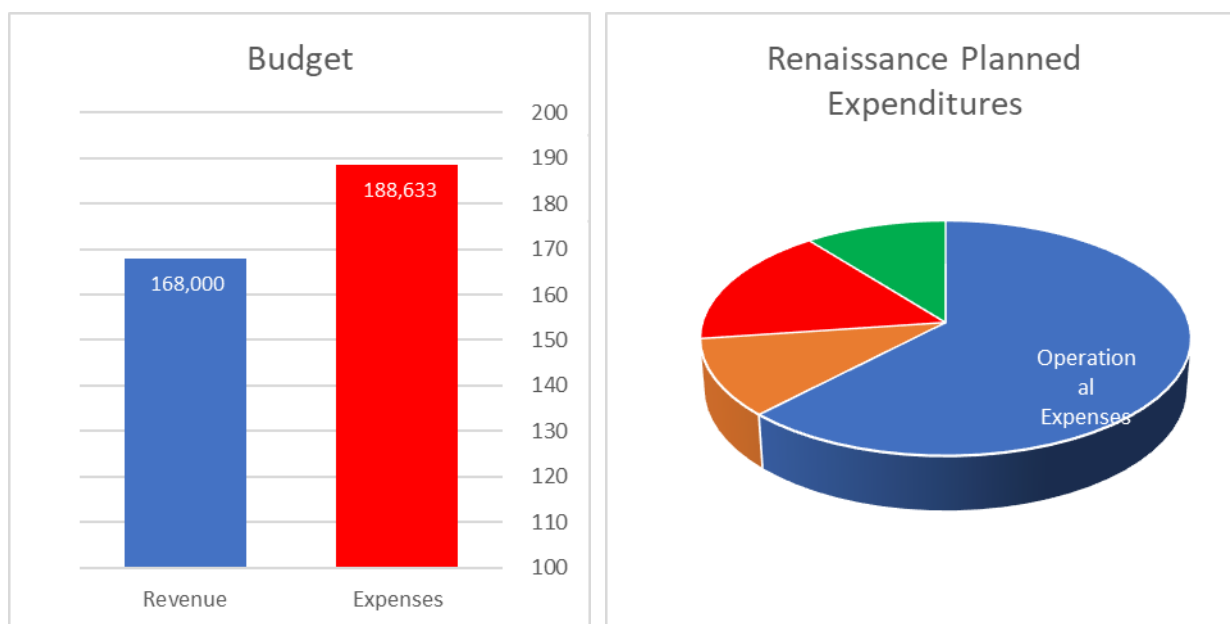
by Norv Wellsfry, Controller

When the Pandemic shut down Sac State last Spring, the members of the Society, especially the Program Committee, planned and executed an extraordinary pivot to online Seminars and other programs. A key concern was how many of our members would return for the 2020-21 program year. We anticipated that our membership would be 75% of what it had been and built the budget with an eye to that reduced membership. A long-term staff member was laid off and most Committee budgets were significantly reduced. However, the Board also created an Innovation Fund to encourage experimentation and create new ways of operating. Even with this cautious approach, a deficit of over \$20,000 was anticipated.

However, you came back and, because of the generosity of many members who contributed more than the \$100 for membership, our Revenues were more than we had anticipated. Although there is still a deficit, the reserve that Renaissance had allowed it to remain stable.

Renaissance will continue its careful approach to the next year. Because we may not be able to return to campus before the Spring, we anticipate our membership will not grow. We will continue with a limited budget. Even so, we will continue to deliver a high quality and exciting program that offers more options than members have ever had.

We look forward to returning to the campus as soon as possible. When we do, it will be because our members have supported the Society and demonstrate their confidence in our ability to provide one of the best senior learning programs in the country.



(Editor’s note: In the pie chart above, the orange section represents our Sac State service charges; the red section represents our committee ex-

Generosity
changes everything



A Membership Gift

Why not give an annual Renaissance Society membership to a family member, relative, or friend? At \$100 a year, about \$2 a week, it would mean that you can share a year of your RS experiences and compare notes with those who have been wondering all these years about what the “big deal” is with RS.

Not a member yourself, but want to give the gift of lifelong learning to someone you care about?

The sign-up process is easy and straightforward: simply go to <https://apps.cce.csus.edu/sites/renaissanceSociety/index.cfm>? Then click on “Sign

Me Up” for new members; fill out your family member, relative, or friend’s personal information; click submit; and then enter your credit card information. It will take only 5-6 minutes.

New! You can get a specially designed gift certificate to send to your recipient! Contact Office Manager Shari Lowen at reniassa@csus.edu.

Please consider this concept; it really is a meaningful gift!!



Key Save-the-Dates for the Fall 2021 Semester



Tuesday June 1, 2021: Membership Registration portal opens. RS will send a Constant Contact message on Tuesday, June 1st with a link to the College

of Continuing Education (CCE) registration site inviting you to renew your membership or to join the Renaissance Society for the first time for the 2021- 2022 academic year.

August 9, 2021: Fall 2021 Catalog will be posted on the RS website this week. Our new and improved RS catalog will offer a variety of seminars, presentations, Forum speakers, and Shared Interest Groups (SIGs).

Monday, August 16, 2021: Seminar Registration portal opens: RS will send a Constant Contact message on Monday, August 16th with a link to the CCE registration site inviting you to sign-up for programs for the Fall 2021 semester.

Friday August 20, 2021: The RS Virtual Orientation & Rendezvous from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Zoom. Watch for an invitation to join the zoom presentation.

Tuesday September 7, 2021: Seminars and Programs Begin on Zoom.

Friday, September 10, 2021: Forum Speaker Series begins on Zoom at 3:00 PM. Registration is required.

Questions or comments please contact MDCE Committee chairperson Ken Cross at kencross@kencrossconsulting.com or call (916) 995-8288.

GIVE SAC STATE DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

by Nancy Findeisen

Renaissance members donated a record \$4,720 to the Renaissance Scholarship Fund, greatly exceeding our goal of raising \$3,000, the equivalent of one scholarship. These gifts will help sustain the Scholarship Fund, which we draw on for scholarships we award to seven Sac State students annually.

A special **THANK YOU** to the generous members who contributed during Give Sac State Day 2021.

Janis Austin, Janet Egan, Diane McGuire,

Renee Balcom, Janet Feil, Deborah Seiler,

Elizabeth Borland, Nancy & Kurt Findeisen,

Fredi Slaughter-Walker, Ken Cross, Ivy Hendy,

Rhoda Stewart, Jennifer Cummings,*

Karen Lowrey, Kathleen Styc,

Barbara Davis-Lyman, Beth Mann,

Glory Wicklund,

Plus 17 Donors who wish to remain anonymous!

* ASI Food Pantry donation



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DEADLINE for the August, 2021 issue is July 2.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STARTS
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021**

See pages 2 and 3 in this *Recorder*