

PRESIDENT'S

CORNER



KEN CROSS
PRESIDENT

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

kencross@kencrossconsulting.com

Key Dates

April 18 - May 6
Voting Period for Members
of the Board of Directors

April 22 - 23
Give Sac State Day

May 1
Cinco de Mayo Social

May 6
Last day for Spring pro-
grams

May 6
Election Results Announced

May 9
Annual General Meeting

Congratulations! Renaissance Society (RS) members are within days of the completion of our Spring 2022 semester. The good news is we all passed our Renaissance Society (RS) final exams with flying colors! 1700 Renaissance members participated this academic year in 214 programs and over 21,480 individual program enrollments. RS has 65 Honorary Members who are 90 years of age or older and certified as true lifelong learners!

The Renaissance Society (RS) **annual Board of Directors elections** are under way and voting will wrap up shortly. The Board officers and Member-at-Large (MAL) candidate profiles are in this edition of the Recorder newsletter. Voting is 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. If you have not already cast your ballot, please vote now, and encourage your fellow RS friends and associates to vote.

The **RS Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 9 on Zoom. The program consists of 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 to the Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ), and a brief RS Board President's society update. The Annual General Meeting Zoom link is being sent via Constant Contact.

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 weekly sessions will be held 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. starting June 3 on campus in Del Norte Hall 1004 in a HyFlex mode. HyFlex is an in-person and simultaneous live streaming presentations on Zoom. Following the program at 11:30 a.m. each week, a series of social activities are planned to include "brown bag" lunches and tours of various campus facilities.

Our **RS membership portal reopens June 1 for 2022–2023-member registration**. Next month's June Recorder will be the Special Membership Renewal Edition. The newsletter will contain updates on membership enrollment for the 2022-2023 academic year: a manual application, key dates, member scholarship program and the annual "give something extra" campaign information to help support our lifelong learning organization and much more.

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 at our in-person Summer Program on campus and streaming live on Zoom each Friday!

Renaissance Society 2022-2024 Board of Directors Nominees

The Renaissance Nominating Committee, in accordance with Renaissance Society bylaws, is pleased to present the following slate of eligible candidates:

In compliance with Covid regulations, the RS Board of Directors agreed during their April 11 Board Meeting, to once again follow the election guidelines established in Section VI.D of the Renaissance Society's Bylaws: 1) This year's election shall be by mail. 2) Electronic ballots shall be used to the maximum extent feasible. 3) Mail-in ballots will be used when otherwise necessary.

Please Vote for each major office and vote for 3, two-year term, Members-at-Large.

Voting begins April 18, 2022 — by online or mail-in ballots. Deadline for all submissions is May 6.

OFFICERS NOMINEES (ONE-YEAR TERM) JULY 1, 2022 — JUNE 30, 2023



PRESIDENT: DEBORAH SEILER

My learning journey began in the Chico Public Library, continued to Chico State, the University of Vienna, Austria, and then to UC Berkeley. After Berkeley, I lived and worked as an ex-patriot in (then) West Germany from 1971 to 1973, returning only when the US signed a peace treaty ending the Vietnam War. During

graduate studies, I was one of six fellows nationwide at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace where I studied foreign aid policy. Upon returning to California, I became Secretary of State March Fong Eu's Chief of Elections and Political Reform. I left to become Chief Consultant to the Assembly Elections and Reapportionment Committee, then joined an elections printing and voting system company. During that time, I wrote and published a monthly newsletter, The Seiler Report, served as a member of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, and provided elections advice and observation in countries ranging from Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Philippines, and Nigeria, among others. In my late career I administered elections for Solano County and then became Registrar of Voters for San Diego County.

I joined the Renaissance Society in 2017, served on the Finance and Administration Committee, and then chaired the Communications and Marketing Committee. I have written over 100 Weekly Updates and two Annual Reports which has deepened my understanding of and appreciation for Renaissance. My husband Jim and I enjoy two sons, their significant others, three grandchildren, and hound dog, Elvis.

VICE PRESIDENT: VACANT

No applicants (Vacancy to be filled pursuant to RS By-Laws Article VI (E))



SECRETARY: ROBERT BENEDETTI

I have served as Secretary of the Renaissance Society for the past four years. In addition, I frequently offer classes on American government and on the California Delta.

I am an emeritus professor of political science from the University of the Pacific where I also served as Dean of the College. Moreover, I have been a visiting scholar at the Center for California Studies, Sacramento State. I have additionally served as chair of state humanities councils in Florida and California.

I received my doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. My undergraduate degree I acquired from Amherst College.

My wife Susan and I currently live in Campus Commons.

CONTROLLER: NORV WELLSFRY

In my professional career, I acquired the financial and managerial skills that are particularly relevant to the Controller position. In addition to teaching Accounting and Computer Information Science, I held a number of administrative positions that utilized my analytical, financial and



accounting skills. Most recently as the Vice-President of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, I had primary responsibilities for assessing the financial strength, effectiveness, and integrity of community colleges in the West.

I have been a board member and officer in a number of community and professional organizations at the local, State, and national level and served as President in both State and National organizations. I understand the skills and attitudes needed to make an organization like Renaissance strong and relevant to its members. During my membership in Renaissance, I have made numerous presentations and developed and led Seminars on the Middle East. I am a Member of the Renaissance Board of Directors and am an active member of the Finance and Administrative, Seminar, Resource Development, and Long Range Planning Committees. I also volunteer with several community organizations.



KEVIN BRAY

After retiring from Sierra College in 2012 after thirty years, I joined the Renaissance Society and have been a member ever since. I have enjoyed the fact that the community colleges and the Society have much in common as to mission and values and am excited at the opportunity to get more involved.

I graduated from UC Berkeley in 1972, and from San Francisco State University in 1977, with an MA in Counseling. From then until retirement, I have worked as a counselor, psychology instructor, and administrator, and have participated in statewide college associations and state governance committees. I ended my career responsible for managing planning, research, and grants for my college, including writing strategic plans. I hope to help with similar things for the Society. My other activities and interests include docenting at the Crocker Art Museum for the last five years, at first with kids, and now with adults. I also shoot tons of photographs and have learned much in the Society's photo classes. I am also a relentless reader who loves our Great Books group and the access to Sac State's library we get with our membership.

I am recently remarried and am enjoying a new blended family, including three adult sons and their partners, and two grandchildren, aged one and four, all living within five miles of our home in Gold River.

KATHRYN TOBIAS



I am a life-long learner! I love taking classes, whether it's the Renaissance Society's Big History class, where I have given presentations on textile history, to classes on quilting, gardening, or mysteries. I also love teaching, having taught environmental and planning law for twenty years at UC Davis Extension, Sac State and McGeorge School of Law. I teach classes at work as well, as senior counsel at California State Parks. My first class at Renaissance was about canals and I ended up giving one class on The Erie Canal. As an American history major, I couldn't believe how much I didn't know about that subject. I was hooked.

I'm interested in contributing my planning skills to Renaissance. Where do we go next? Building on the amazing organization already in place, what do we see in our future? We have all seen how fast things can change in a crisis – what should we be prepared for next? How do we best serve our regional area? Do we reach out to underserved areas outside Sacramento or keep our focus tight?

I've served on several boards in Sacramento, as well as my professional affiliation board. Contributing time to this kind of effort is a pay-back for me, in thanks to the people who started this organization and the people who put their time and hearts into teaching the classes we all enjoy. This is amazing resource for the Sacramento area and I am so excited about this opportunity.



STACIE WALTON

I graduated in Cultural Anthropology from Stanford in 1980 to become a University professor. I detoured to medical school, completed a Pediatric Residency, and obtained more training in public health. During the first ten years of my career, while caring for patients, I taught medical students and residents the art of cross-cultural communication. I eventually worked for Kaiser, served as the Diversity Champion, and helped the Diversity council.

As a physician, I always described myself as being a detective. Presented with information and data, I then would provide the parent or the team with the explanation for the evidence.

I joined a start-up a year ago called Take Your Seat. Our mission is to increase the number of Black professionals on corporate boards while simultaneously training board directors to embrace an inclusive perspective and develop effective board governance with divergent thinking

I have a joy for life, and people enjoy working with me.

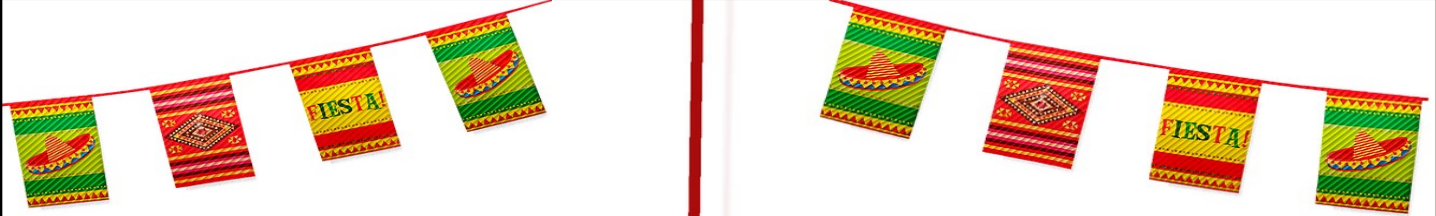
I look at life from a perspective of acceptance of differences.

I believe it is essential that we begin to feel comfortable talking about race and racism to heal as a country. I think we live in a white supremacist ideology culture and we are all wounded by this belief that one group with white skin is superior to another with black skin. I bring an openness to explore how racism and other social injustices may influence the work of the Renaissance Society.

I teach two Renaissance classes, Race Conversations and Recognizing and Reducing Implicit Bias.

RS END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR / CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA

Sunday, May 1, 2022; Arden Park; 1000 La Sierra Drive; 2-6:00 pm



Theme: Formal RS-Sponsored Social Contact Resumes: Celebrate the End of Our School Year and Our Mexican Heritage.

Who Attends: Members only, sign in, please wear your badge...for planning, positive RSVPs are required by **April 20** to the RS Office: renaissa@csus.edu

For questions, contact Allan Keown via email: ah-keown@gmail.com

Space Limited: There are **only 124** seats available at the Community Center. Blankets/lawn chairs will be welcome after formal seating is taken or if preferred.

What: A Cinco de Mayo themed buffet; music by Mariachi *Latino* de Sacramento.

When: May 1, 2022 at Arden Park Clubhouse, 2-6:00 pm.

Where: Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive.....outdoors with picnic tables as well as folding tables and chairs.

Food: Please bring a potluck salad for 8-10 labeled with all ingredients (to respect individual allergies and life style) and please do not forget serving utensils-- plus additional food ordered from La Esperanza and Emma's Tamales (vegan). Any extra food will be offered for take home!!

Appetizers: Chips, pico de gallo, guacamole, nuts, fruit, cheese, crackers, etc. provided; please feel free to donate other snacks to the appetizer table rather than a salad.

Desserts: Cakes provided.

Utensils/plates/cups: Provided.

Beverages: BYOB; alcohol is permitted but **no** glass is allowed; bring your own non-alcoholic beverages; water and ice provided.

Ice chests: Bring your own if needed; ice provided.

ASI Food Pantry Donations: Last chance to donate to the food pantry this academic year.

Music: Mariachi *Latino* de Sacramento from 5-6:00 pm. with tips requested if you like them....)

Schedule:

2-3:00 = Set up, drinks, appetizers

3-4:30 = Dinner, dessert

4:30-5:00 = Take down and put up furniture except chairs

5-6:00 = Mariachi *Latino* de Sacramento

6-8:00 = enjoy the sunset and hang out in the park, not at the clubhouse (by gracious invitation of Collin, the Arden Park manager).

Health: Although we'll be outside on open-air patios, we are requiring that you be vaxxed and boosted if coming. In addition, if you have testing kits, please test -- with negative results -- before attending.

PLEASE NOTE: We have very limited formal seating set at 124 seats. Sign up promptly with an email to the RS office to assure your attendance.

ETHNIC REFLECTIONS

DIMENSIONS OF AMERICAN DIVERSITY

By Darryl Omar Freeman

During the Civil Rights Movements of the 1960s, there was a consciousness raising among social activists of all so-called races and ethnicities as to the innate connection we have as human beings. As a result, people who up until that time had been inclined to avoid public condemnation and scorn due to their ethnic lifestyle choices that were counter to normative society, began to demand recognition as equal human beings.

With the prolific use of the Internet in the 21st century, individuals can now raise and advocate for issues in a manner that heretofore was the domain of institutions and organizations. Our network of mutuality has never been more obvious with the abounding communications that occur daily through social electronic media. A generation of young folks are “woke” to the notion that even though some social political issues are more directly impactful with certain race or ethnic groups, these issues indirectly impact us all.

The social political issues of the LGBTQ+ community intersects with those of race, ethnicity, and religion in this country. How members of this community navigate life in this country is profoundly affected by public policies and subsequent public attitudes about their personal lifestyle. While public policy has incrementally evolved, religious institutions are continuing to struggle with the status of gays and lesbians in different religious communities. There is reason for members of the LGBTQ+ communities to be hopeful, however, as recent Pew Research studies indicate that 6 in 10 of the general public, favors same-sex marriage. While institutions struggle, parishioners have moved ahead along with normative society.

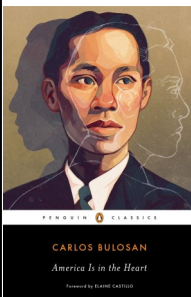
There are areas of the country where it is still uncomfortable for interracial couples to reside. While discriminatory government statutes are no longer in force, the social political stigma still impacts the lives of interracial couples in contemporary times. Of course, with interracial marriages often comes mixed race/ethnicity children. One of the most recent comprehensive studies of multiracial/multiethnic Americans, by the Pew Research Center, identified that about 7% of the US population self identifies as biracial or multiethnic. Not only is the general public often perplexed as to how to approach a mixed race/ethnic person on a social basis, but within families of mixed individuals, interactions with single race relatives can also be challenging.

In terms of identity formation and navigating life in the United States, people with disabilities have a challenge gaining an equal social political status as human beings able to contribute to the advancement of society. Whether the disability is due to military service, industrial accident, medical or genetic disposition, people with disabilities are often faced with the biased stereotype inclination of our society to consider them unable to fully participate in the goals of a work environment. When disabled individuals are a racial or ethnic minority, the challenge to be fully accepted in the mainstream of society is even more challenging.

The temperament of the public should not be one of accommodation but equalitarian inclusion of contributors to building the future of our country. A good example of this change in public

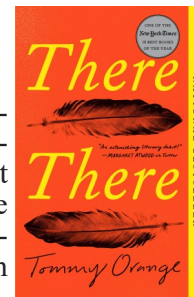
attitude is the use of signers for the hearing impaired for government press conferences and other speaking engagements. Along with governmental actions, private sector collaboration and media support will increase the general public’s mindfulness of the benefits of inclusion to the advancement of our diverse society.

READINGS ON DIVERSITY PROJECT



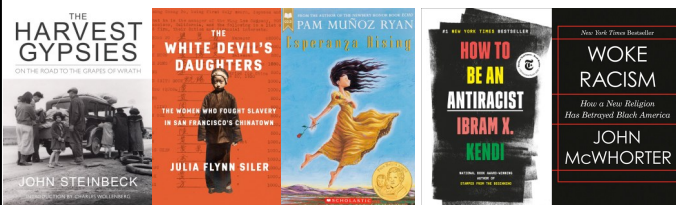
By Robert Benedetti and Roberta Gleeson

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.



America is in the Heart, Carlos Bulosan, (Penguin)
There There, Tommy Orange (Knopf)
The Harvest Gypsies, John Steinbeck (Heyday)
The White Devil's Daughter: The Women who fought Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown, Julia Siler (Vintage)

For middle school/ high school:
Esperanza Rising, Pam Munoz Ryan (Scholastic)
 For young children: *You are not Alone*, Alphabet Rockers/ Ashley Evans (Sourcebooks Explore)
 Books recommended by member Dolores Eitel:
How To Be An Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi (One World)
Woke Racism, John McWhorter (Penguin Random House)

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

A Seat at the Table -- 9257 Laguna Springs Dr. Suite 130
 Elk Grove, CA. 95758
 (916) 538-3482



www.aseatatthetablebooks.org

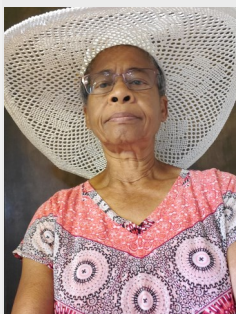
Underground Books -- 2814 35th Street, Sacramento, CA. 95817



MEMBER PROFILE

VELMA PARKER IS COMFORTABLE IN HER NEON TIGHTS

By Judy A. Lewis



The middle child of five siblings, Velma Parker has spent nearly all her life in Sacramento. Following her graduation from Sacramento High School, she enrolled at Sacramento State College (now University). After her junior year, she married and moved to Illinois, where her husband was a graduate assistant at Western Illinois University. Velma earned a degree in Psychology at the same institution.

During the two years that the couple was in Illinois, the first of their daughters was born, and the second one after they returned to Sacramento. Initially, Velma intended to follow her mother's footsteps, as a stay-at-home mom. In 1975, she earned a master's degree in Social Work from Sac State. Her husband encouraged her to use her MSW, so she applied for a position with Sacramento County Children's Services. Over the years, Velma worked in a variety of social service programs, including Foster Placement, Adoptions, Children's Protective Services Emergency Response and Court Services. When a position with the Elk Grove Unified School District became available, she changed employers. Her duties included providing social services to both elementary and high school students, as well as working with teenagers in the Independent Living Program who were about to age out of foster care. In 2013, Velma retired.

One of her fellow members of the St. Andrews AME Church congregation, Jane Williams, suggested investigating the Renaissance Society. It was through Renaissance that Velma became aware of the Cardiovascular Wellness Program. The emphasis on plant-based eating began a new lifestyle, which she credits with making a huge change in her life. Through her medical coverage, she was able to participate in a clinical trial which required participants to eat a whole food plant-based diet for two years. Following this lifestyle has allowed her to discontinue her diabetes medication. She reports that she never feels like she's on a diet, as she can eat as much of the plant-based foods as she wants. She describes the food as "delicious, filling and satisfying."

The Renaissance walking group particularly appealed

to Velma. With her new slender physique, and her neon-colored apparel, she gives the impression of an Energizer bunny as she zips along. Her daughter Carolee, who is employed by Union Pacific Railroad as a train conductor, joins Velma when her schedule allows. Velma's younger daughter, Jana, is an elementary school teacher in Washington, D.C. Jana is married and has a 9-year-old daughter, Velma's only grandchild.

As a volunteer with the Sacramento Public Library, Velma assisted patrons with the 3-D printer, as well as helping the Book Den with its sale of donated books. Her husband of 51 years, Travis, joined her in retirement after 41 years of coaching track and field, cross-country and soccer at Cosumnes River College.

DINING TOGETHER JUNE 2022

Dining Together will meet at:



Danielle's Creperie
(<https://daniellescreperie.com>)
3535 Fair Oaks Blvd
at 5:30 PM on June 8 and 16, 2022.

Dining Together members who wish to attend should select **ONE** preferred date and **RSVP** to Cheryl Nelson: slynnsearch@yahoo.com, or, (916) 421-0407 no later than June 2, 2022.

Separate checks will be provided. Parking is available, but limited. The dinners will conform to County and Renaissance COVID health requirements.



FINALS BOOSTER KITS



The ASI Food Pantry is collecting donations to support Sac State students in need as they study hard to cross the 2021-2022 finish line! Funds will be collected throughout the semester to cover the cost of 100 kits in preparation for Finals Week. Each kit costs \$45 & include healthy snacks, laundry cleaning supplies, disinfectant cleaning supplies and testing materials, perfect for that final stretch of the academic year!

Donate online:

<https://swarmfunding.csus.edu/project/30878>



In Memoriam



THANK YOU NOTES FROM 2021 FINALS BOOSTER KITS RECIPIENTS

"THANK YOU SO MUCH FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART! WHEN I SIGNED UP FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING THIS EXTRAVAGANT. THE FOOD WAS SO FRESH AND THERE WAS LOTS OF VARIETY. I'VE ENJOYED HAVING NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND I'M MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE TIDE DETERGENT! SHOUT OUT TO THE SCHOOL AND THE AMAZING DONORS, SOME OF US STUDENTS DON'T HAVE FOLKS TO GO HOME TO AND GET THE BASICS FROM SO IT'S REALLY NICE TO HAVE STRANGERS WHO CARE PROVIDE THAT TYPE OF SUPPORT! Y'ALL ARE AMAZING!"

"DEAR DONOR, AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF CSUS I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS. THE STUFF INCLUDED IS VERY USEFUL ON A DAILY BASIS FOR MANY STUDENTS AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO!"

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. THE KIT HAS ALLOWED ME TO HAVE CLEAN CLOTHES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, AS WELL AS NOT WORRY ABOUT NEEDING ITEMS DURING MY FINAL WEEKS AT THE UNIVERSITY. NOW THAT I AM GRADUATING, I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE CLEAN CLOTHING AND ITEMS TO IMPROVE PERSONAL HYGIENE IN MY HOUSEHOLD. THANK YOU FOR HELPING IN THESE ROUGH TIMES. "

◆ Rick Bettis died February 12th. He was a long-time member of Renaissance and active in many voluntary associations.

◆ Ruth Kletzing died November 30, 2021. She was active in Renaissance from 1989 until 2019!

◆ Dennis Kohlmann died January 24th. He was active from 1999 through 2015. His great interest was the Civil War.

FINALS
BOOSTER
KITS

California State University,
Sacramento
The Renaissance Society
6000 J Street – MS 6074
Sacramento, CA 95819
80700128

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RENAISSANCE RECORDER EDITORS

For Submissions, Contact

Lorraine Murphy

ltara626@gmail.com

Elizabeth Deuso

eliza.deuso21@gmail.com

(Deadline for June *Recorder* submissions is May 2)

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

Administrative Office

Email: renaissa@csus.edu

Website: www.csus.edu/org/rensoc

Phone: (916) 758-5133

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

