

President's Message



Deborah Seiler

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

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Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Friday, May 3
***Voting ends; results
announced***

Friday, May 10
Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 19
***Social Event at Nepenthe
Clubhouse***

Monday, May 20
Applications to Teach DUE

Friday, May 31
Program Leaders Workshop

Saturday, June 1
2023-2024 registration begins



Happy Endings

May marks the end of the Spring semester, and what a successful semester it has been. We ended the 2023-2024 academic year with 1,784 members, of whom 284 joined in the spring, and 76 are honorary members

The Spring semester featured 35 seminars, 45 single presentations, 25 Shared Interest Groups (SIGs), and 13 Forums. None of this could happen without the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and the hard work of our office staff. Tireless in their commitment, they are already planning for Fall programs.

For those of you who are wondering how to survive without Renaissance classes, take heart! Our Summer Program begins Friday, June 7, ending Friday, August 2. Most of the eight presentations will be held in Del Norte Hall, Room 1004 from 10 am until 11:30 am with tours and no host lunches to follow. Be sure to check the website for details as times and locations can vary. This year's theme is "Celebrating Sacramento Diversity through Art, Music, Food and Theater." We'll begin with a tour of the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum, a fashion show with African American textiles, musical performances by the Capitol Chinese Orchestra and a Japanese orchestra playing traditional instruments. We'll have two Planetarium tours and a tour of the Guild Theater in Oak Park. This free summer program is a great chance for you to invite a friend to enjoy our programming, the wonderful campus, and the social opportunities we have planned.

All of our social events will be an opportunity to thank our many donors who contribute to the scholarship and special projects funds, the ASI Food Pantry, and to our Renaissance general fund through the Give Something Extra program which occurs during the registration/renewal process. These donations make a true difference in the lives of Sac State students and help us avoid raising membership dues.

Don't forget to attend our Annual Meeting on Friday, May 10 at 3 pm which will feature remarks by President Luke Wood, a video featuring our seven student scholarship recipients, and the presentation of the 2024 Warren Bonta Diversity and Inclusion Award to the St. Andrews AME Church in honor of the fabulous Gospel Choir performance they offered us last July. It will also include the announcement of election results for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors and updates on our scholarship and food pantry giving. When the meeting ends at 4 pm we will go to the University Union for a reception in Engrained to honor our awardees.

On June 1, we once again celebrate the beginning of registration for the 2024-2025 year. It's time to reach out to encourage new folks to join our great organization.

Welcome to end of semester events and to a summer of fun!



May Forums

Forums are a special category of highly acclaimed and high-profile speakers addressing current topics of special interest to a wide variety of our Renaissance members. These esteemed speakers are also seasoned experts in their fields. They bring a diversity, depth, and breadth of topics to inform us about critical issues facing us and our society on an ongoing basis.

All Forums occur on Friday afternoons from 3 to 4 pm when no other Renaissance seminars, Shared Interest Groups, or presentations are offered. Speakers encourage the audience to ask probing questions about their topics.

Forum speakers for Spring 2024 will give in-person presentations in Mendocino Hall 1005. In addition, the new hybrid technology will enable these presentations to be simulcast via Zoom and viewable in real-time from home. Note: To access any of the previous Forums that are on our YouTube Channel, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/@therenaissancesociety-foru8188/featured>

May 3

Professor Scott Stephens: Forest Fires in California's New Climate Reality



There is Hope: Past forest management in frequent-fire adapted forests has increased their fire hazards and vulnerability to widespread drought and bark beetle mortality and climate change is making this situation even worse. While there are big challenges to conserving these

forests in the western US we have the research and tools to move forward. Partnerships with Indigenous people could accelerate this process. Professor Stephens received a Fulbright Fellowship in 2014 to Western Australia and in 2022 he was appointed to the Federal Wildfire Commission to advise efforts in suppressing and mitigating wildland fires.

May 10

Deborah Seiler Renaissance Society President: Renaissance Society Annual Meeting



Previously, Deborah Seiler served as Assistant to CA Secretary of State March Fong Eu for Elections and Political Reform and many other positions related to elections and legislative committees, including an appointment to the CA Fair Political Practices Commission. This Annual Meeting

will feature scholarship recipients and the winner of our annual Warren H. Bonta Diversity and Inclusion Award, and remarks by President Luke Wood. Following this Forum, an end-of-year celebration with scholarship recipients will be held at the Engrained Restaurant.



Let's All Celebrate our Spring Party on May 19

By Debbie Martinez, MDCE Chairperson

Spring semester is almost over so in the immortal words of Kool and the Gang, "Let's all celebrate and have a good time!"

Come party with us on Sunday, May 19, from 1 PM to 4 PM at Nepenthe Club House in Campus Commons.



We've got some great activities planned, including music, delicious food, and refreshing drinks. Plus, you'll get to catch up with old

friends and meet new ones. The Renaissance Society will provide all the food and drink including beer, wine, and soft drinks. Just bring yourself!

It's a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful spring weather while spending time with friends and fellow Renaissance members. If you'd like to attend, RSVP to the RS office at (916) 758-5133 or renaissa@csus.edu by May 13th so that we can make sure we have enough food and drinks for everyone.

Directions to Nepenthe: Take Howe Avenue and turn left at Swarthmore. Turn right on Commons Drive and the Nepenthe Club House driveway will be on the right.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Dimensions of American Diversity
Is America Becoming More Accepting of Diversity?

By Darryl O. Freeman

On a day-to-day basis as we navigate life in this diverse American society, there appears to be a tacit appreciation as to the innate connection we have as human beings. Many are finding American society more accepting and more appreciative. Here are three examples.

The LGBTQ+ Community: The social political issues of the LGBTQ+ community for example intersect with those of race, ethnicity, and religion in this country. How members of this community navigate life in this society is arguably more profoundly affected by public attitudes and interactions regarding their personal lifestyle than by public policies. Public policies have incrementally evolved, and religious institutions are continuing to struggle with the status of members of the LGBTQ+ communities. There is reason, however, for members LGBTQ+ communities to be hopeful and more comfortable navigating life in our American society.

2023 studies by survey firms like Gallop and GLAAD report that a large majority of Americans, regardless of political party or faith support LGBTQ+ rights and protections. A 91% supermajority of non-LGBTQ Americans agree that LGBTQ people should have the freedom to live their life and not be discriminated against. 75% of non-LGBTQ adults feel comfortable seeing LGBTQ people in advertisements. 73% of non-LGBTQ adults report feeling comfortable seeing LGBTQ characters included in TV shows or movies. Americans overwhelmingly agree same-sex couples should have the legal right to marry, a majority that has grown notably stronger since 2014.

Interracial couples: While there are areas of the country where it is still uncomfortable for interracial couples to reside, discriminatory government statutes are no longer in force. According to the U.S. Census Department, marriage looks a lot different today in many ways than in years past. As our nation becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, so are married couples. The percentage of married-couple households that are interracial or inter-ethnic grew across the United States from 7.4% in 2000 to over 13% in the 2020 Census.

Approval of interracial marriage has increased in subsequent measures, surpassing 70% in 2003, 80% in 2011 and 90% in a current Gallup study. The current figure marks a new high in the survey trend, which spans more than six decades. Just 4% approved when Gallup first asked the question in 1958.

A similar gradual change can be seen in the willingness for the public to vote for ethnic minority candidates. This trend spans just as much time as Gallup's trend on interracial marriage. While voting for a racial minority candidate was unpopular in the 1950s, nearly all Americans say they would be willing to do so now.

People with disabilities: People with disabilities have had a challenge gaining an equal social political status as human beings able to contribute to the advancement of society. Overall, there are about 42.5 million Americans with disabilities, making up 13% of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, according to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2021. This group includes people with hearing, vision, cognitive, walking, self-care or independent living difficulties. 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.

New data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, however, indicates that in 2023 disabled people made record-breaking employment gains. Benefiting from opportunities created by tight labor market conditions and increased workplace flexibilities, such as telework, employment rates for working-age disabled women and men hit record highs in 2023—36.1 percent and 38.2 percent, respectively. These statistics mirror public acceptance to working with disabled individuals. When polled as to whether or not they consider their own workplace accessible, the vast majority of workers say they highly value physical accessibility in the workplace.

Additionally, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics, during the 2021-22 school year, there were 7.3 million students with disabilities receiving special education services, making up 15% of total enrollment. This figure rose since 2010-11, when 6.4 million disabled students made up 13% of school enrollment. Eliminating the stigma of being disabled is a work in progress in both public policy and public attitude.

These three diversity situations are an example of how evolving public policies and, more importantly, public attitudes, and behavior are positively contributing to the health and welfare of our developing diverse democratic society. While arguably slowly evolving, there is ample statistical as well as public behavior evidence of acceptance and embracing of our diverse society.

The general public is recognizing the reality that in this country, sooner or later a person may work with, socialize with, be served by, or serve someone who is different in terms of race, ethnicity, gender identity or disability. Consequently, it is beneficial as individuals to appreciate the value of our diverse society contributions to making this a great country to live in.



Member Profile

Bert MacBride Knows Real Estate Backwards and Forwards

By Judy A. Lewis



If you purchased a home in the Sacramento area in the last 60 years, you may well have run into Bert MacBride.

A Sacramento native, he joined the Air Force one year after his high school graduation.

Initially, he found himself working on B36 airplanes as an engine mechanic at Roswell. The Air Force then sent Bert to Wichita, Texas for further training. This landed him back at Travis Air Force Base in California, where he was assigned to work on C124 transports.

Following his Air Force time, Bert attended American River College and Sacramento State, where he earned a degree in Business. After obtaining his Real Estate license in 1960, Bert initially worked in his uncle's business for four years before striking out on his own in 1964.

He and his wife and business partner, Marilyn MacBride, report that "after 61 years of marriage and working together, we have never had too much togetherness." Both Bert and Marilyn have served terms as president of the Sacramento Real Estate Board.

Bert joined the Renaissance Society in 2010 and noted that Marilyn has served as president of our organization. A history buff, Bert has been described as very knowledgeable about both U.S. history and world history. He will be sharing that knowledge during the Spring semester with a presentation on the Korean War from 1950-1953.

Fair Oaks residents, the couple have particularly enjoyed spending time at their mountain cabin in Kyburz and hiking in the area. They are proud of their "two very successful sons."

These days, Bert says he "just plays it low-key, trying to stay out of trouble."



Schubert's Trout Quintet

On March 8, Bob Seyfried and Leo Eyler's Classical Music Class enjoyed a noteworthy performance of three movements of "Die Forelle," the Trout Quintet, of Franz Schubert.



Noelle Anderson, a member of Renaissance since 2004, brought her music friends Erik Williams, violin; Galina Mistyuk, viola; Yuriy Hristev, cello; and Dr. Terry Cobb, bass. Noelle is a hardworking piano student of Erina Saito.



DINING TOGETHER

By Cheryl Nelson

Dining Together will meet at
La Rosa Blanca, 2813 Fulton Ave.
(<https://www.larosa-blanca.com/>)
at 5:30 PM on May 8, 2024.



Members should RSVP to Cheryl Nelson at slynnsearch@yahoo.com no later than May 2, 2024. Separate checks will be provided but the restaurant requests cash payment for quicker processing. Parking is available.



And Speaking of Restaurants...

Our Summer Program is packed with presentations from diverse communities in Sacramento. Do you have a favorite restaurant from some of these communities to suggest as "culinary field trips" after one of the presentations? Contact Deborah Seiler, Deborah.seiler2@gmail.com with ideas.



Haiku in Time of War

By Theo Goodwin

War unfortunately occurs again and again in the world of humans. We have battled and killed our enemies for many millennia since prior to written history. Sometimes it is necessary, other times optional. Our weapons of destruction have become faster and more deadly. Has the world gained or suffered because of war? History is written by the victors and by the victims who live to tell their stories.

I do not invite a debate over the contemporary wars. Rather I offer haiku as a way to view war by looking at the granular aspects of battle, warfare and their results. It is a way to narrow one's thoughts and emotions to a few words strung together to find meaning. It is a way to examine and to imagine the impact of war on individuals: based on the nature of war, the experiences of war and its haunting memories.

These haiku poems are not written in strict compliance with the formal 5-7-5 three-line format. They are written in "free verse" poetic form based upon a liberal interpretation of the 5-7-5 model. Some lines have fewer or more syllables. This free verse approach allows for more flexibility and creativity.

1.
WW2, Korea
Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan,
We live in their shadows
2.
Bullets, bombs, missiles
Soldiers fight lonely battles
Generals command
3.
Digital tools
guide bombs, dictate to drones who
never face the dead
4.
I had a home,
my wife, children, a village –
now all are ghosts
5.
The factory built
tanks on the assembly line,
I liked my job.

6.
We met in training,
wed, were deployed in battle,
she survived, I died

7.
Before the bombs fell
I sang to my baby daughter;
She is dead; I cannot sing

8.
Hear the rata-tat-tat of
snare drums and bugles calling men
to fire muskets

9.
My foot I lost fighting
but in saving me my buddy
Jack lost his life

Friends, I wrote these haiku poems trying to identify my own contradictory feelings and thoughts about our contemporary wars. We are a generation that both fought in and protested the War in Vietnam. We have lived in the very big shadow of that war. Our children know little about the Vietnam War. Their children will understand even less. Unfortunately each generation will have its own wars to debate and to fight. Please write a haiku poem to articulate your own feelings about the impacts of war.



In Memoriam

Lance Muller, 75, who led the Renaissance Society's walking group for many years, passed away on April 4. He was well-known for scouting out new territories for members to explore, while providing detailed maps, backgrounds, and history of the areas.

Renaissance Member Noel G. Hinde died on March 3, 2024 at 89 years. Born in Chicago, she graduated from Bowling Green (OH) State University in 1955 and that year married Donald Hinde in Bowling Green and had their children there. In 1973, the family moved to Sacramento when Mr. Hinde became Director of the University Union at Sac State. He died in October of 2005. There will be no public memorial service, but please consider a contribution to the Renaissance Scholarship Fund at Sac State.





FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS

Celebrating Sacramento Diversity in Art, Music, Food & Theatre

June 7 Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum
No host lunch

June 14 African American Fashion Show
Planetarium Tour

June 21 Latin American Arts Organizations and How They Address Community Issues
Tour detail coming soon

June 28 Capitol Chinese Orchestra Performance
Tour detail coming soon

July 5 Holiday

July 12 The Secret Story of Quilts & the Underground Railroad
Planetarium Tour

July 19 Art Walk & Presentation on Mexican Muralists

July 26 Playwright and author Ginger Rutland on upcoming play; *When We Were Colored*
No host lunch

August 2 Japanese Traditional & Contemporary Music Recital
Tour detail coming soon

Details & registration here:
<https://csus.edu/rensoc>



Why I Like Being a Program Leader

By Cathy Adams Minicucci

I have been leading seminars on history topics for the Renaissance Society for five years. I started by offering short presentations in participatory classes on campus before Covid. Those experiences gave me the confidence that I could effectively lead a seminar on my own.

My first stab at a seminar was very ambitious: Turning Points in American Democracy. It was six weeks, in person on campus class in 2019. Evaluations from class participants helped me refine and improve the topics for future classes.

Leading seminars has been a very rewarding experience. I enjoy seeing the faces of my fellow adult learners and gaining valuable insights from them in in-person classes. The give and take in classes is intellectually stimulating.

Participation in Renaissance Society has helped me to gain a deeper understanding of topics in history and guided my continued research on American history. I've met new friends in Renaissance classes that enrich my life. Last, but not least, being on campus and seeing college students brings back happy memories of my college experience in the 1960s.



Speak Your Mind, Share Your Stories, Dazzle Us With Your Knowledge

Renaissance has talent, and it is YOU! Applications to teach for the Fall Semester have been sent and are due **May 20**.

Yes, you can do it! Start with a one-time presentation or offer a 3, 6, or 12 week seminar. Launch your own Shared Interest Group on a favorite topic. Don't be afraid. Our Tech Committee can help you with logistics.

Contact Lorene Sarne in the Renaissance Office for an application if you don't have one.
Lorne.sarne@csus.edu



READINGS ON DIVERSITY

By Robert Benedetti and Roberta Gleason

Wake: The Hidden History of Women-led Slave Revolts

by Rebecca Hall (Author), Hugo Martínez (Illustrator)
Part graphic novel, part memoir, *Wake* is an imaginative tour de force that tells the “powerful” (The New York Times Book Review) story of women-led slave revolts and chronicles scholar Rebecca Hall’s efforts to uncover the truth about these

women warriors who, until now, have been left out of the historical record. Women warriors planned and led revolts on slave ships during the Middle Passage. They fought their enslavers throughout the Americas. And then they were erased from history.

Under the Skin

by Linda Villarosa
In 2018, Linda Villarosa's New York Times Magazine article on maternal and infant mortality among black mothers and babies in America caused an awakening. Hundreds of studies had previously established a link between racial discrimination and the health of Black

Americans, with little progress toward solutions. Now, in *Under the Skin*, Linda Villarosa lays bare the forces in the American health-care system and in American society that cause Black people to “live sicker and die quicker” compared to their white counterparts. Today's medical texts and instruments still carry fallacious slavery-era assumptions that Black bodies are fundamentally different from white bodies. Study after study of medical settings show worse treatment and outcomes for Black patients. Black people live in dirtier, more polluted communities due to environmental racism and neglect from all levels of government. And, most powerfully, Villarosa describes the new understanding that coping with the daily scourge of racism ages Black people prematurely. Anchored by unforgettable human stories and offering incontrovertible proof, *Under the Skin* is dramatic, tragic, and necessary reading.



Volunteer Highlights

By Deborah Seiler

Loretta Burdeaux is a major contributor!

If you don't know Loretta Burdeaux, just look for the biggest smile in the room. Behind that smile is a sharp mind and a willingness to help, qualities that enable our Renaissance Society to function as a 99% volunteer organization.

A Renaissance member since 2020, Loretta, along with Jennifer Kerr, takes the narrative of the Weekly Update and adds colorful, subject matter appropriate graphics to finalize the document that arrives in your email box every Wednesday morning.

Her ability to manage Constant Contact communications enables us to send you timely updates on all the major issues we have, not only on Wednesdays, but also on other occasions.

Behind the scenes, Loretta worked to garner us a spot on Capitol Public Radio's Insight program with Vicki Gonzales to talk about our 2023 Summer Program. This was one of the best opportunities to talk about Renaissance we have had in recent times and she's already working to help promote our upcoming 2024 Summer Program.

Loretta always comes up with great messaging to communicate complex issues that help members understand various processes and promote our activities to the public.

And, she doesn't stop there. Look for her Shared Interest Group (SIG), *The Music of Your Life*, which she co-chairs with retired winemaker Lester Bennett. The program is all about members connecting with each other every week by sharing a song and story from their own lives.

Loretta is a retired educator who enjoys water aerobics, Tai Chi, playing the ukulele, singing with the Threshold Choir, and taking Renaissance classes.

Truly a Renaissance woman!



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