

## PRESIDENT'S



## CORNER

**Aug. 15** - RS Informational Survey  
**Aug. 19** - Seminar Leaders Workshop  
**Sep. 6** - Fall Programs Begin  
**Sep. 9** - Forums Begin  
**Sep. 18** - Fall 2022 Bar-B-Que

**Renaissance Website:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/rensociety/>

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## More on Transitions and Traditions

As a kid I always felt excited about the return to school in the Fall. The slight crispness of the air. A new pair of shoes. Butterflies about meeting the new teacher, perhaps, but excited to see my friends again.

Our return to campus this September is another example of transition and tradition. Just like school and college days, the excitement about meeting old and new friends, the thrill of learning new things, makes us charge out of bed in the morning. This year for the first time in two years and for the very first time for new members, our Friday classes will be on campus. Some will be in person only and others will be both in person and virtual. It's "tradition" with a "transition" thrown in.

In yet another interesting twist, our famous Friday afternoon Forums will be on Zoom, but members who are on campus can go to Del Norte Hall Room 1004 to view presentations on screen. Good thinking, Forum Committee!

The on-campus experience will be welcome for many who long to linger among the trees, meet new friends in class, and socialize in one of the campus restaurants. During our recently concluded Summer Program, members thoroughly enjoyed the food at Engrained restaurant and pizza at Round Table, both located in the University Union. Going to the "food court" near Starbucks and taking a brown bag lunch to the shady Riverwalk area was another leisurely way to spend an hour.

New members may be baffled at first by the large campus and its many offerings. No need to fear. Maps of the campus—including all-important places to park—are available at the information kiosk in the Union and online (here). The charming Herky Streetcar, named after the energetic Sac State mascot, can help you traverse the campus (see pg.3). Students are especially sweet and always willing to help give directions. And if you're adventurous, here's a link to a map of "Hidden Gems" which make the campus such an intriguing place to explore.

Many of you have grown to appreciate the convenience of classes on zoom. No rush-hour traffic worries or parking hassles. No need to miss if you live in Oklahoma or Maine. For you, our hard-working Program Committee has compiled an impressive array of Zoom classes from Monday through Thursday.

It all begins on September 6 and lasts until December 2. There's even a "Back to School" party at Arden Park on Sunday, September 18 (details on pg.2).

So, let yourself experience the excitement and energy of starting a new school year. We're all still kids at heart, and life with your Renaissance Society has abundant new ways for all of us to Learn. Connect. and Share.

## Forums

### Sep. 9 — **Ruslan Gurzhiy**: *The Ukranian/Russian War: First-Hand Insights*

**Ruslan Gurzhiy** was born in Belarus and immigrated to the US in 2001 and has been a film producer, writer and director who has worked in the Russian TV industry. In 2014 he created the first



Russian-speaking news portal in California, Slavic Sacramento (*Slavicsac.com*), which is the most visited of such news resources on the West Coast. Russ will be joined by experts on Ukraine with **Marta Dyczok** (a Professor of Political Science at

Western University), and Russia with a highly published Russian investigative journalist **Ksenia Kirillova** (who is an analyst for the thinktank: Center for European Policy Analysis) to give us some first-hand insights into how each of these Slavic compatriotes view the Ukranian/Russian conflict of 2022.



### Sep. 16 — **Steven Maviglio and Rob Stutzman**: *Ballot Measures in the Nov 2022 Election*



California voters will decide the fate of nearly a dozen ballot measures in the November election. Who's behind them? Who's funding them? What are their implications for public policy? Two Sacramento-based political

experts, Democrat **Steven Maviglio** of Forza Communications and Republican **Rob Stutzman** of Stutzman Public Affairs both have worked on multiple initiative campaigns over the past two decades. They will offer their insights on the upcoming initiatives. Learn about what's hidden in the fine print, the budget implications and who has endorsed each initiative to help you make an informed decision when your ballot arrives.



(Cont'd on Pg. 3)

## Fall 2022 Back-to-School Bar-B-Que

By Allen Keown

Please join us on **Sunday, September 18**, for our annual Fall party celebrating our return to RS life and the autumnal equinox (9-22). This year we'll also be holding our first bar-b-que featuring hamburgers and sausages for those interested, both meat and veggie. It will be held again at Arden Park, 1000 La Sierra Drive, gathering at 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Please bring a salad (with ingredients labeled and necessary serving utensils) or an appetizer, your drinks (BYOB), and a lawn chair if desired. We'll supply utensils, plates, cups, ice, water, non-alcoholic drinks, and desserts.



In addition, we are pleased to announce the return of musicians George Sheldon and Sandra Carter (aka "Be Here Now" Duo) from our Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. They now are some of our newest RS members! Thanks Ruth!!

### Schedule:

1:00-2:00 pm	= set up; appetizers; drinks
1:30 pm	= light charcoal
2:00 pm	= cooking, eating begin
2:30 pm	= music begins
3:30 pm	= desserts served
4:30-5:00 pm	= clean up

Questions: [ahkeown@gmail.com](mailto:ahkeown@gmail.com)

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### Please Note

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Members must sign up online for all seminars—including Travel & Adventure—that they want to attend. No drop-ins allowed.

## Sac State's Herkey Street Car Makes Campus Accessibility Easy

### Sep. 23 — **Arlen Orchard**: *California Mobility Center - A Future Mobility Commercialization Collaborative*



Recently retired as CEO of SMUD, **Arlen Orchard** had previously served on the Alliance to Save Energy 50X50 Transportation Commission, which was charged with envisioning bold & achievable goals to advance clean transportation transformation. Now, he serves as Chair of the California Mobility Center board. The organization strives to streamline the interaction between early-stage mobility companies and industry leaders. The CMC works to reduce friction in the commercialization process, accelerating the pace at which future mobility products and services head to market. Orchard will introduce some of the collaborative efforts of the CMC and discuss California's status as the location of choice for future mobility innovators, highlighting why it is a benchmark for product standardization.



It can be a little intimidating returning to campus after being on Zoom for so long, but Sac State's Herkey Street Car makes getting around campus so much easier and less stressful.

**Click** on this Map Link that shows the route the Herky Street Car follows, and the stops it makes:

<https://www.csus.edu/parking-transportation/shuttle/internal/documents/herkystreetcarroute.pdf>

**Click** on this YouTube Link for details on using the Herky Street Car to move around Sac State:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUWkXXNWFaA>

### Sep. 30 — **Daniel Hahn**: *The Evolution of Policing and Public Safety in a Time of Social Unrest*

Retired Sacramento Chief of Police **Daniel Hahn** will share lessons learned and the innovation of public safety during a time of unprecedented social unrest. Retiring in 2021 after 34 years of policing experience, Chief Hahn describes the challenges and successes as the senior law enforcement official of the 37th largest U.S. city with over 530,000 people. He will discuss his thoughts on community policing, increasing gun violence, homelessness, and numerous social justice issues. A native Sacramentan, Daniel will share why he returned to his hometown to assume the demanding duties of urban policing in one of America's most diverse cities.



## Dining Together

*By Cheryl Nelson*

Dining Together will meet at **Lemon Grass**, 601 Monroe Ave., ([www.lemongrassrestaurant.com](http://www.lemongrassrestaurant.com)) at **5:30 PM on September 14 AND 22, 2021.**



Dining Together members who wish to attend should select **ONE** preferred date and **RSVP** to Cheryl Nelson: [slynnsearch@yahoo.com](mailto:slynnsearch@yahoo.com), or, (916) 421-0407 no later than September 8, 2021.

Parking is available. Please bring cash (including small bills) as there will be group checks. The dinners will conform to County COVID health requirements.



## Volunteer Highlights

By DEBORAH SEILER

Our Renaissance Society exists because of the tireless efforts of many dedicated volunteers. Yes, we have three paid staff members, but they all work part time per university rules. Coordinating programs, planning social events, directing volunteer efforts, organizing fund raising, teaching members to use modern technologies, and so many other functions happen because of the fine folks who step up to help. Last month I began by acknowledging just two of our many volunteers. Here are two more:

**Jeff Hendy** joined Renaissance nine years ago and is our longest serving Board member. Well-known for being our tech “guru,” Jeff not only created our membership database, but he also worked with Sac State’s IT department to automate it. He helped us launch our communication system, Constant Contact, which we use for special messages and for our Weekly Updates. Every time you register for membership and sign up to take classes, you can thank Jeff for making the process quick and easy. And when we all converted to Zoom, Jeff helped organize an expert cadre of tech hosts to assist seminar leaders and presenters. We are grateful that at age 86, Jeff is now ably assisted by Sarah Ryan-Roberts. What a terrific team!



**Emily Moulton** joined the Renaissance Society in 2009 and enjoys a variety of classes and events. She has been a volunteer on the Scholarship Committee for three years. This includes participating in monthly meetings and helping to select our deserving Renaissance Society scholarship recipients. This last year, the committee transitioned to using the Sac State scholarship system. Emily was the first one to complete the review of the applications. She also functioned as the committee’s navigator, using an iPhone to successfully circumnavigate around Sacramento as the team delivered certificates and cookies. Great job Emily. At age 98, you are never too young to volunteer!

## Literary Readings On Diversity

By Robert Benedetti and Roberta Gleeson

In our on-going commitment to President Nelsen's campus-wide plan to end discrimination and prejudice, we present our latest. You may submit suggested readings for distribution to the wider membership to: [rbenedetti@pacific.edu](mailto:rbenedetti@pacific.edu).



*Out of my Mind* (2 vols), Sharon Draper (Atheneum) Youth

*You Don't Know Us Negroes: Essays*, Zora Neale Hurston (Amistad)

*The Personal Librarian* (Historical Novel about African American Belle Green, Maria Benedict) (J.P. Morgan's Librarian)

*All Because You Matter*, Tami Charles (Orchard Scholastic) Youth

*Lift Every Voice: A celebration of Black Lives* (in pictures and interviews) Nikole Hannah-Jones & Oprah Winfrey (Hearst)

## In Memoriam



**Thomas Cole** was an architect. He was born in Sacramento and worked for the State of California, as well as the Crocker Bank and Bechtel Corporation. He excelled in sports, including golf, and enjoyed poker. His friends in Renaissance will miss him greatly.

**Warren Bonta** was a model citizen. He was an ordained Methodist minister, but also served the State of California opening health care clinics. He was committed to civic rights and to the United Farm Workers. He fully participated in Renaissance classes and activities, taking leadership where needed. His contribution to the Society was great and his wise consult will be missed.

**Steward “Allen” Jamieson** was 97 at his passing on July 13<sup>th</sup>. He was a frequent contributor to Renaissance programs. In fact, his love of his friends in Renaissance and his passion for history were his reasons for staying in Sacramento.

## Save the Date!

### Estate Planning 101: A Webinar for the Renaissance Society *By Nancy Findeisen*



**Tuesday, September 20, 2022  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Registration link: [https://csus.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_jlgRd-9HSNyhxzcE1qr7w](https://csus.zoom.us/join/register/WN_jlgRd-9HSNyhxzcE1qr7w)

Please join us for a free educational seminar offering up-to-date information on constructing an estate plan that reflects your values and the legacy you wish to leave. Expert estate planning attorney Mark S. Drobny addresses common myths and misconceptions about estate planning and answers your commonly asked questions.

- Do I need a will or a trust? How can I avoid probate?
- Who will make medical and financial decisions for me if I am unable?
- How can I leave the legacy I want for my heirs and community?
- How do recent tax law changes impact my existing estate plans?
- What are options for retirement income planning?
- How can I sell appreciated stocks or real estate, reduce capital gains taxes, and create an income stream.

We are fortunate to have Mark Drobny back for this popular webinar. He is founder and CEO of Drobny Law Offices and a Certified Specialist in Estate Planning, Trust, and Probate Law by the State Bar of California Legal Specialization. Mr. Drobny is regarded as one of the region's top experts on estate planning and related topics. He is a long-time volunteer for Sacramento State and serves as a board member of the University Foundation at Sacramento State.

This seminar is a partnership between the Renaissance Society and University Development at Sacramento State.

To request accommodations such as ASL interpretation or captioning, please email [giving@csus.edu](mailto:giving@csus.edu) or call (916) 278-6989 no later than five business days before the event.

## Navigating the RS Website

*By Jennifer Kerr*

Jennifer suggests: Start by searching: '**Renaissance Society Sacramento State**' or type this 'URL' (address of the web page) into a browser's address bar:  
<https://www.tinyurl.com/rensociety>



Just about everything you need or want to know about Renaissance is on the website. Navigating it is not as difficult as you might think. Take some time to explore all the pages that you can access from the **Home Page**. Here are some tips:

- ♦ You can get to everything from the **Home Page**. Click on all the various tabs and links and check them out. On many pages, you will find a menu for that page in **green letters** on the left. Clicking on an item will take you right to it. On all pages, you can return to the top by hovering your mouse or trackpad on the right and look for **"Back to Top."**
- ♦ If you are on a page and want to get back to the **Home Page**, look at the top, just under the tree picture, for a thin black bar with the website address. Click on the gray words The Renaissance Society and you will get back to the **Home Page**.
- ♦ If you have opened a PDF (such as the *Recorder*), you can return to the previous webpage by looking for a back arrow or < symbol, usually at the top left of your browser, and clicking on it.
- ♦ You can search for pages or topics you cannot find. On every page there is a loupe symbol in the top right. Click on that and put in search words. *Note that you are searching all of the Sacramento State websites*, so be specific; write "Renaissance seminars" not just seminars.
- ♦ Look at the very bottom of the **Home Page** and click on **Meet Us**. You will see the Board of Directors and chairs of committees with photos and contact information for them. You can contact them if you have any questions or suggestions!
- ♦ Check out the Renaissance Society Calendar on the middle right. It has important dates as well as committee meeting times.

## Member Profile

### From Riding Her Motorcycle, Earning a Black Belt in Karate to Developing a Career in eLearning, Sarah Ryan-Roberts Has Done It All

*By Judy A. Lewis*



Whether it's riding her motorcycle or earning a black belt in karate, Sarah Ryan-Roberts has jumped in with both feet. A native of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, she earned a B.A. from Penn State University in Speech Communications with a Broadcasting option.

During college summers, she spent time backpacking in Europe, staying in youth hostels, and traveling by train with a Eurail pass. When a friend who was driving to Denver offered Sarah a ride, she "responded to my wanderlust to roam and break free of small-town city life." In Denver, she met her future husband, Mel Ryan-Roberts, who is also a Renaissance member.

Both Sarah and Mel shared an interest in motorcycles and martial arts. Each rode their own motorcycle (hers was Kawasaki KZ550) from Denver to the East Coast and back, and later from Denver to the West Coast, with myriad road trips in between.

Both also practiced martial arts – karate and kobudo – for over 15 years. Sarah describes martial arts as being a "big influence in my life, especially the discipline and Zen philosophy." Sarah earned her black belt in karate and was able to participate in a tournament in Japan.

Most of Sarah's career has focused on technology. In Denver, she ran the audio-visual department for the University of Colorado. By the time she and her husband relocated to Fair Oaks in 1985, both were involved with computers. She and Mel developed their own business, the IconoClass computer training center, which specialized in graphics and desktop pub-

lishing. During its 20-year existence, Sarah reports "Mel and I often said we grew a business and a child (our youngest son) at the same time."

When the business wound down, Sarah joined WebEx, where she worked as an eLearning specialist, having earned a certificate in Educational Technology from San Diego State. She ended her formal career with the training department at SMUD.



As the Covid outbreak forced the Renaissance Society to look for other methods to continue classes, Sarah volunteered for the technology committee, where she now serves as the co-chair with Jeff Hendy. The big question they faced: how are we going to transition to Zoom from on-campus classes? Many Renaissance members are grateful for the success that their efforts have produced.

Her three children reside in Carmichael, Denver, and Dallas. She and Mel have explored the world, including New Zealand, the South Pacific, Japan, and Europe. Closer to home, they keep active playing tennis and pickleball.

### Spring Fever Getting to You Already??

*By Pam O'Brien*



**Join the Renaissance Society team of leaders and facilitators.**

Please watch for the September 21 Weekly Update: Click on the listed link to the Spring 2023 Program Application.

**Deadline for Program Applications is October 12.**



# Summer Program Ends on a High Note

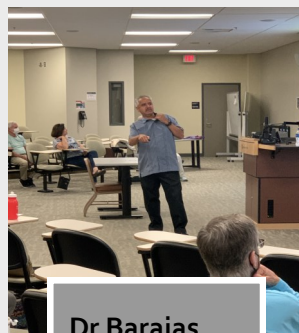
By Deborah Seiler



The Summer Program officially ended on July 29 with retired Sac State Professor Dr. Leo Eylar giving an outstanding presentation on “Conductors and Conducting.” Leo explained the relationship between most conductors and their orchestras (not particularly good), the types of batons conductors choose (tiny to large), and types of hand signals they give to orchestras. There were wonderful and sometimes highly amusing recordings which he and his wife, Carmin, chose to illustrate the topic. The first part of the recording is somewhat truncated, but almost all of it is on the website under Summer Recordings: [Summer, Forum and Other Recordings | Sacramento State \(csus.edu\)](#)



WWI



Dr Barajas

Dr. Leo’s talk capped eight weeks of fascinating presentations which garnered extremely high marks in an informal survey. They included topics ranging from Alzheimer’s to Race and Immigration to WW I in Sacramento. Most are recorded and available on

the website.



Pony Express

This was the first large-scale effort to bring members back to Sac State and it was accompanied by tours of hidden and not-so-hidden gems on campus. The most popular tours were the two of the new Planetarium, but members applauded tours of the Arboretum, the Book Bin and Tea Garden in the University Library, and even the Tree of Peace and Pony Express Marker. Several mornings before the presentation, Diana Loo led Qi Jong classes to help members stretch and relax.



Engrained Luncheon

Long delayed socializing returned. On most Fridays, members gathered outside Del Norte Hall after the morning presentation to enjoy one another’s company over “brown bag” lunches. A group lunch at the Engrained Restaurant in the University Union was delicious, and we were thrilled to be joined by Associate Dean Marya Endriga of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS). On the final Friday, Renaissance treated over 40 attendees to free pizza on the patio of the Round Table pizzeria in the Union. It ended the Summer Program on another high note with a buzz of conversation, laughter, and good cheer.

*Other members of the Summer Program Working Group were Ken Cross, Kathy Hart, Janet Heath, Cathy Minicucci, Lorraine Murphy, and Joy Skalbeck. Laurye Brownfield designed a beautiful flyer to help publicize the program.*

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***This could be You!***

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