

President's Corner



Deborah Seiler

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

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Renaissance Website:
<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

August 18: Orientation and
Open House, 10 am to 12:30 pm

August 21: Member Survey

August 21: Spring 2024
Application to Teach goes out to
members. Deadline is Sept. 22.

September 5: Renaissance
classes begin

September 8: Help Desk, Lobby
Suites

September 8: "First Friday"
Pizza

September 15: Help Desk,
Serna Plaza

September 17: Renaissance Fall
Social (See page 8)



Our grandkids are going back to school, and so are we!

But we don't have to worry about tests or homework or term papers. And we can take whatever classes we like, when it's convenient, and where it suits us.

This fall, our Program Committee has lined up 108 programs, not including the Wednesday Science Series or the Monday Big History presentations! Just like last year our programs are on Zoom on Mondays through Thursdays and we will have 30 classes on campus on Fridays. The on-campus experience will be welcome for many who long to linger among the trees, see the amazing campus art works, meet new friends in class, and socialize at campus sites.

Our Forum line up is also stellar, beginning with our California State Attorney General, Rob Bonta and continuing with Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. Remember, after the Forum on the First Friday of each month, go to the Round Table pizza restaurant in the University Union to join fellow Renaissance members for a little Friday afternoon fun and conversation over pizza and a beverage of your choice.

And speaking of social events, mark your calendar for the September 17 celebration of Mexican Independence Day at Arden Park.

Want to share these fun times with a friend? We encourage you to help us boost our membership by using a Guest Pass you will find at the Open House on August 18. It has been a well-kept secret that Renaissance policy is to allow a member to bring a friend up to two times to a class. Introduce that person to the campus, guide them to convenient parking spots, tour eating establishments in the union, meet other Renaissance members, and with luck your friends will join our group. Prospective members may be baffled at first by the large campus and its many offerings, but with a little initiation, they will navigate like pros.

None of the great fun and good times in Renaissance just happens. Volunteers make it happen. Volunteers are the core of our organization and I invite you to lend a helping hand as a tech host, a party planner, a Program Committee member, a catalog proofreader, a videographer, a membership Ambassador, or any of about a dozen simple tasks that together form a magnificent whole.

Join us on another exciting adventure as we Learn. Connect. and Share.

Deborah.



September Forums

Sept 8

Attorney General Rob Bonta: California's Chief Law Officer Addresses Our Most Significant Legal Challenges



Growing up as the son of activists during the civil rights movement, and with parents who worked alongside Cesar Chavez for the United Farm Workers, Attorney General Rob

Bonta's fight for justice is hardwired into his DNA. In 2012 he was the first Filipino American to win election to the California Legislature, and in April 2021 he became California's first Attorney General of Filipino descent. Since then, he has worked tirelessly as the "Attorney for the people of California." Rob has passed major reforms that reversed long-standing injustices, and he will provide us with an update on the most important legal issues that face our grand state of California. This presentation is dedicated to his father, Warren Bonta, a long-time Renaissance Society member, who passed away unexpectedly this past year.

Sept 15

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg



Mayor Steinberg is the 56th mayor of Sacramento and has held that office since December 2016. He is one of Sacramento's most accomplished public servants, serving the Sacramento community for over 20 years.

In June 2021, Steinberg was one of 11 U.S. mayors to form Mayors Organized for Reparations and Equity (MORE), a coalition of municipal leaders dedicated to starting pilot Reparations programs in their cities. He will be interviewed by Dr. Kim Nalder (Professor of Political Science at Sac State, Executive Director of Calspeaks Opinion Research, and Director of the Project for an Informed Electorate) on such wide-ranging topics as homelessness and mental health,

transportation, reparations, increasing local impacts of climate change, challenges of connecting with our diverse electorate, and future strategies for governing our capital city.

Sept 22

Dr. Scott Wilks: The First Proof That a Fusion Energy Source Is Possible: Creating a Star on Earth

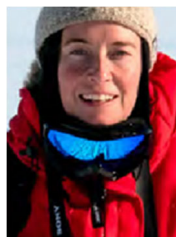


Dr. Scott Wilks has been a research scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for over 30 years. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and received the 2006 Award for Excellence in Plasma Physics

Research for his contributions to an advanced laser fusion concept called fast ignition. On December 5, 2022, a team at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Ignition Facility achieved fusion ignition for the first time in history. This major scientific breakthrough, decades in the making, paves the way for advancements in national security and a future clean, abundant energy source. This is History-Making news!

Sept 29

Kathryn Kasic: Behind the Scenes of The Lake at the Bottom of the World



Dr. Kathryn Kasic is Associate Professor of Film Production at Sac State. Her work has resulted in 100+ productions, including broadcasts on BBC, Discovery, Smithsonian, PBS, and National Geographic, for which she received numerous awards.

Professor Kasic field-directed BBC's Earth Shot: Repairing Our Planet, featuring David Attenborough and Prince William. She will speak on her role directing The Lake at the Bottom of the World, a documentary in West Antarctica, where a team of scientists, struggling against the ferocity of wind and ice, explored a subglacial lake buried 3,600 feet beneath the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. These results have transformed our understanding of the Antarctic continent and the future of the Earth's climate.



Volunteer Highlights

By Deborah Seiler

Volunteers are the core of our organization, and this month I'd like to celebrate two members who have made major contributions in very different ways.

Dora Dugars a retiree with a love for volunteer work, had heard of the Renaissance Society since 2014 from a fellow Harris Center volunteer (thanks Kathy Hart!) and finally joined two years ago during the peak of the COVID-19 shutdown. Even with her active participation in being a Met Opera Ambassador - EDH, volunteering in her grandchildren's elementary schools, passing out water for the Amgen Bike Tours, participating in the Farm to Fork bridge party set-up, being a docent trainee at the Sacramento History Museum and many more, she found the time to dedicate towards diving into our various programs such as walking groups, online learning, being a Gerontology mentor and summer programs.

In fact, the success of our 2023 summer program was due in huge part to Dora's ideas and contacts. She introduced us to: Her Gerontology mentee, Beverly Townsel, who participated on a multicultural panel of students who shared their experiences at Sac State University. She found Gina McVey, a panelist on our Vets program who spoke about her Croix de Guerre and Purple Heart recipient, WWI grandfather, Cpl.

Ruth McElhinney joined the Renaissance Society right after she retired in 2015 and almost immediately joined the Membership, Diversity and Community Engagement (MDCE) Committee. To this day, she is actively involved in the committee's outreach and social events and loves to share the opportunities Renaissance offers with other seniors.

She also serves on an informal steering committee for the Monday Big History series where, despite her lack of teaching experience, she jumped in and led some of the seminars.

She has been active with the Sacramento Archeological Society for nearly thirty years and says that connecting people in the Archeological Society with Renaissance's Big History group for shared seminars is a "natural" for her. Ruth also

Lawrence Leslie McVey of The Harlem Hellfighters. She reached out to Sacramento OBSERVER President and Publisher, Lawrence "Larry" Lee who spoke to our group with clarity and passion about the role of state and local media in addressing problems of poverty and ignorance. And she introduced Phil Sexton for a one-time upcoming presentation "Preserving the Legacy of Gold Mountain" (October 2023).

Dora's most stunning Renaissance accomplishment to date was in single-handedly organizing the Grand Finale of our summer program. From idea to venue to performance to programs to food donations (thank you Allan Keown!) and even a very successful in person and virtual donation vase for the church's future endeavors, she personally found and contacted the St. Andrews AME Church and worked with their Reverend Thompson and member Kimberly Washington to create an atmosphere of unadulterated pure love set to music and dubbed "Let the Music Speak" (thank you Reverend Thompson!). The AME choir, a world-renowned opera singer, a singer from the group James Jackson & Voices of Sacramento and even Joseph & Lauren Jones (Dora's grandchildren) as ushers welcomed and blessed over 200 people with their talents and giving and over 890 video views. The program will forever be remembered in the annals of the Renaissance Society.

Take a bow, Dora!

serves as a docent at the California State Indian Museum and has connected Renaissance with the Museum to enhance our programs. She was instrumental in helping us attract Al Striplin as a presenter on Native American cultures and as a docent at the tour of the CA Indian Museum during our summer program this past June.

"I love Renaissance Society because of the learning opportunities and the people. There are so many courses I want to join and sometimes my 'eyes are bigger than my stomach' and I end up with as many courses as I did when I went to school. And the people I meet are all interesting and informed. I work with Renaissance because it teaches me something new every day - and it's fun!"

Ruth makes Renaissance fun for all of us and we thank her.



Boudica: One Woman's Courage Nearly Changed the World of English History

By Jeff Hendy

In the annals of history, the fight for freedom from tyranny is a fight that many men have taken up. But few men can compare with a flame-haired, battle-ready woman who lived 2,000 years ago. Around 60 CE the people of Britain were struggling to free themselves from the yoke of the occupying Roman forces. They needed a champion, a crusader, a fighter, to act as their torchbearer. A lone woman from a tribe called the Iceni became their warrior/leader, a woman whose courage knew no bounds. Her name was Boudica.

A quote from an historian who lived in the same era as Boudica states: "Boudica was a striking looking woman. She was very tall, the glance of her eye most fierce; her voice harsh. A great mass of red hair fell down to her hips." He closes by writing, "Her appearance was terrifying."

Perhaps that look of an other-worldly battle-angel helped her in her effort to build herself into a larger-than-life warrior. Britain was under patriarchal Roman rule, where a woman's value was at best to be a wife and mother. Women's limited freedoms and status depended upon the authority of the wealth of their father and later their husband. They did not receive education, were not taught to write, nor permitted to vote.

Yet Boudica overcame all restrictions and discrimination. She was then, and remains today, a symbol of strength and persistent commitment in the fight to defeat tyranny.

Her personal trouble with the Roman occupiers started when Boudica's husband, hoping to curry favor with the Romans, made out his will to the Roman Emperor as co-heir with his daughters. Boudica's husband had considerable wealth. He hoped by this gambit to keep his estate and his daughters free from Roman attack.

The Roman Governor of Britain had other ideas on the subject of inheritance of lands and property.

After Boudica's husband's death, his lands and household were plundered by the Romans.

They took all the estate and had Boudica publicly flogged. Her daughters were then raped by Roman soldiers.

These were violent times. Many of the Iceni and other British tribe members watched as Roman temples and luxury estates were built. While asserting their rule as privileged and civilized, the Romans were committing barbarity on those over whom they ruled. Dishonor and rage grew in Boudica. She petitioned other Iceni chiefs and their families who had suffered similar fates. War and bloody mayhem was what their solution was to rid Britain of the occupying Romans.

Three decisive battles ensued. Boudica led an army of 230,000 against the Romans. She won the first two battles but was decisively defeated in the third. To stave off Roman persecution and unimaginable torture, she took poison.



Yet the symbol of Boudica, the warrior heroine mounted on her iconic chariot, avenger of the terrible wrongs committed in the name of Rome, still resounds today.

In the early 20th century, Boudica was adopted as an emblem for the suffragettes. Today you can find many paintings and sculptures to her. The most famous is the statue of her in her war chariot called, "Boudica and Her Daughters." It stands in London, on the Embankment near the Palace of Westminster.



Dimensions of American Diversity

By Darryl O. Freeman

Race or Ethnicity, which do we need?

In the Fall of 1993 Time magazine featured the portrait of a young adult woman with brown eyes and hair. The text on the cover of the weekly said, "Take a good look at this woman. She was created by a computer from a mix of several races. What you see is the remarkable preview of "The New Face of America."



What was touted as recognition of the changing public attitudes toward mixed races, was actually an acknowledgement of a multiethnic America. The computer-generated figure was composed of 15% Anglo-Saxon, 17.5% Middle Eastern, 17.5% African, 7.5% Asian, 35%

Southern European and 7.5% Hispanic. I'm certain that if a similar image were produced today based on the actual percentage of so-called mixed-race individuals and the actual percentage of the U.S. Census account of the general public's racial/ethnic identity, this image would look considerably different. Nevertheless, this article coincided with the 1993 Congressional hearings on race and the U.S. Census and subsequent social political discourse on the issue. (pre-internet)

Gallup polls in 1993 showed that 48% of adults approved of interracial marriage. The latest polling by Gallup in 2021 determined that 94% of the general public approved of interracial marriage. The question to be asked is what percentage of the U. S. population now identify as mixed race/ethnicity as a result of interracial relationships? The latest U.S. Census reports that almost 12% of the U.S. population engage in interracial marriage or cohabitation. The growth of interracial marriage and cohabitation has fueled the rise in biracial or mixed-race/ethnic children.

One of the most recent comprehensive studies of multiracial/multiethnic Americans, by the Pew Research Center in 2021, reported that about 7% of the US population self identifies as biracial or

multiethnic. Those individuals often report identity challenges navigating life in this diverse society. 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.

Multiethnic folks report regularly being faced with the "What are you?" question. They feel as though the question would be more accurately framed as, "Which socially constructed identity can I assign you to so that I can know how I should judge you?"

From my perspective, the challenge of racial/ethnic identification in this country emanates as the outcome of a public discourse historically treating the socially constructed notion of race and cultural ethnicity as though they are, by definition, one and the same. Race is primarily based on the phenotype recognition of folks (skin color, eye shape or other physical features). Ethnicity, in contrast, includes characteristics such as cultural background, national origin, traditions, religious practices and ancestral language.

With the rise in the number of multiethnic people in this country, racial categorizing will become even more complicated and perhaps even inconsequential. That inevitability is arguably a generation or so away. However, there is a movement to challenge the social political lobbying of those groups of people who identify as single race. The marginalization of the use of the word race or at least eliminate equating race and ethnicity in public discourse (media postings and government policies) would assist in eliminating the racial social political discourse divide in this country. This would not deny the daily lived experiences of racial identification in the interim.

The United States Supreme Court may have unwittingly demonstrated a "wokeness" in terms of this multiethnic issue by marginalizing the use of "race" as public policy in public educational institutions' admissions. This movement would normalize the public acceptance that we are a "salad bowl" as opposed to "melting pot" American Society.

References

"The United States of the United Races," by Greg Carter (New York University Press, ISBN 978-0-8147-7250-8)
:Tripping the Color Line," by Heather M. Dalmage (Rutgers University Press, ISBN 0813528445)
Gallup and the Pew Research Center are nationally recognized polling services.

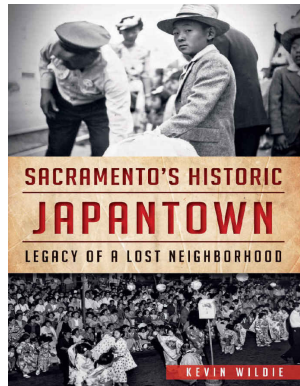
READINGS ON DIVERSITY

By Robert Benedetti and Roberta Gleason

In our on-going commitment to former-President Nelsen's campus-wide plan to end discrimination and prejudice, we present our latest.

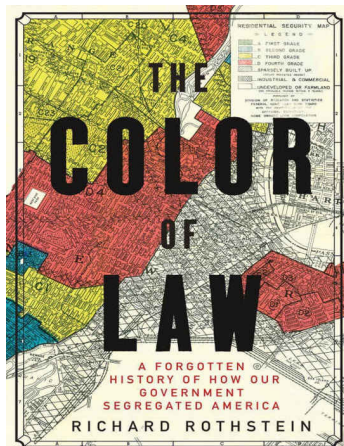
Sacramento's Historic Japantown: Legacy of a Lost Neighborhood by Kevin Wildie.

"No physical reminders are left of Sacramento's Japantown that was not once, but twice abruptly disrupted — first by the mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and then by the complete obliteration of the streetscape in the name of redevelopment in the late 1950s. Only through hearing the memories of those who lived and worked in the area surrounding Fourth Street does the vigor of the neighborhood come back to life. Through family photographs, archival documents and a lively narration from Nisei interviews, Kevin Wildie's 'Sacramento's Historic Japantown: Legacy of a Lost Neighborhood' creates a moving picture of what once was."



The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein.

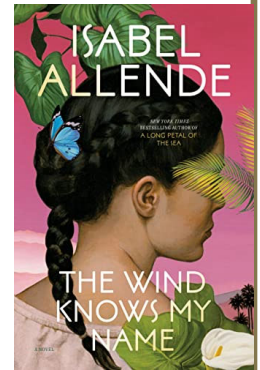
Segregation de facto? Or what courts call "de jure", namely, segregation by intentional government action, segregation by law and public policy. "Original and insightful... The central premise of [Rothstein's] argument... is that the Supreme Court has failed for decades to understand the extent to which residential racial segregation in our nation is not the result of private decisions by private individuals, but is the direct product of unconstitutional government action. The implications of his analysis are revolutionary."



— Geoffrey R. Stone, author of *Sex and the Constitution*

The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende

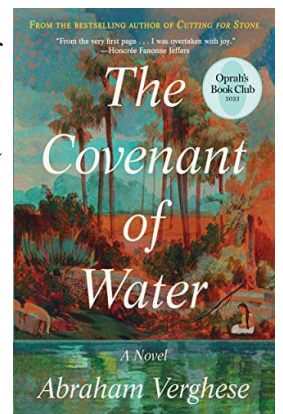
"The lives of a Jewish boy escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and a mother and daughter fleeing twenty-first-century El Salvador intersect in this ambitious, intricate novel about war and immigration."



"Allende's storytelling walks a lyrical romanticism on roads imposed by social and political turmoil."—NPR

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

"A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the difficulties undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. It is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years."



DINING TOGETHER

By Cheryl Nelson

Dining Together will meet at
Bennett's American Cooking,
2232 Fair Oaks Blvd.

(www.bennettsamericancooking.com)
at 5:30 PM on September 13, 2023.

Dining Together members who wish to attend should RSVP to Cheryl Nelson: slynnsearch@yahoo.com, or, (916) 421-0407 no later than September 3, 2023. Separate checks will be provided. Parking is available.



Member Profile Where is Anne Rewell This Month?

By Judy Lewis



The oldest of three girls, Anne Rewell was born in Sydney, Australia. Her father was an undercover customs officer, while her mother was the first woman to serve as the head of a British soap factory floor. Like many of her fellow Australians who felt isolated

“down under,” in her early twenties Anne headed to Europe to explore the world. She moved to London, and for two years, she traveled throughout Europe, camping in a van with several other explorers.

When she arrived in the United States, Anne met Jerry Campbell, who has been her husband for fifty years. Their family consists of a daughter in the Netherlands and a son in Sydney, Australia.

Her career has always been in the accounting field. She was employed with a CPA firm in Australia, and a Greek shipping company in London. In the U.S. she worked for Big 8 accounting firms. At age 55, she retired. Anne considers herself lucky, since she always worked in the tax field, so she has been able to work four or five months each year, enabling her to travel the world.

Among her favorite countries she has explored include Russia, Peru, and Jordan, because each one is so totally different. Ireland appealed to her as she searched for Irish ancestors.

Anne joined the Renaissance Society eight years ago and soon began speaking on varied topics for the Friday morning and the Tuesday afternoon Speakers Series. She has amazed members of the Travel and Adventure class with videos and narration covering many of her world travels. Anne entertains participants when she points out that over the years, her husband is always pictured wearing the same shirt. During Fall semester, she will team up with Theo Goodwin to present a class on Picasso. The park-like Sac State campus and variety of class offerings particularly appeal to her.

So where are Anne’s next destinations? Sydney, to visit her son, followed by Santa Barbara, then a 14-day cruise to Quebec City from New York. And she teases “we have not firmed up Christmas yet.”



In Memoriam Diana Loo

Journal Entry by Lucy Berger

I am blessed to know and love my good friend Diana and it feels unreal that she is no longer physically present with us. We hiked, biked, kayaked, practiced Qi Gong led by Diana, watched whales and eagles, went to Sacfit (occasionally), traveled to many beautiful nature areas in Northern CA, laughed, and ate our way through so many meals together. While Covid raged, we clung to our outdoor adventures and shared many hikes with a special group of Trail Tripperz determined to stay healthy and be out in nature. We continued to make time every week to do these fun activities and I was amazed at all of the other things Diana was fully involved in: Teaching Qi Gong; Renaissance Society; tech host to zoom classes; Miata Club trips with her husband Chris; mentoring Gerontology students; taking advanced photography classes; going on cruises; visiting her beloved daughter, son-in-law and the grandchildren she adored; taking pictures for the Elks Lodge; playing in ukulele groups; looking for bears; looking at the Milky Way in the desert; visiting Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay and most recently Yosemite to list a few! I already miss her so much and just really want to call her up in the morning and say where would you like to hike today! Thank you for being my friend.

Al Gallardo

By Elyse Freitas

My Grandfather, Al Gallardo, was a long time member of the Renaissance Society. He took courses on Spanish, Engineering Marvels, Constitutional Law, and others, and they were things he looked forward to every week! My grandpa had signed up for the Fall Semester, but passed at the age of 96 on 6/25.

Before Covid, Grandpa Al would drive to campus and walk to his class. During Covid, he logged in to classes on zoom, and his classes were the things he looked forward to most. He would always tell me and everyone else in the family what he was learning about and how much he enjoyed his classes; when the semester was finished, he looked forward to receiving the course catalog and discussing his options for the next semester with us. Post Covid, no longer able to go to campus given his declining mobility, he continued attending classes on zoom. He was really happy that there was a zoom option that allowed him to take classes from home.

I’m writing to thank you so much for the Renaissance Program. My grandpa loved it. Additionally, it inspired all of his kids and grandkids to continue with lifelong learning. I hope when I am a senior citizen, the Renaissance Society will still exist or there will be another program like that to keep me engaged with my community and the world around me!

Jan Summers

On Saturday, May 27, 2023, the world lost our beloved Jan Summers. Jan had been battling health issues for some time, and slipped away peacefully into God’s full care that morning. A Celebration of Life will be held on August 19, 2023 at Spiritual Life Center in Sacramento at 2:00. For details, contact prglogan@surewest.net.

Jan was a Renaissance woman with many talents and interests, but most importantly she was a determined, fun-loving, creative, vivacious human who loved her friends and family, and was greatly loved in return. Jan was an advocate for nature and natural settings, and supported programs that encouraged environmental education for all and especially school children. She had an active social life with a huge circle of friends.

Jan loved and appreciated theatre, artistic pursuits, singing, trees, great books and food, traveling, classy attire, cats, camping and being outdoors. Jan’s active life included serving in the Renaissance Society, Campus Commons Home Owner’s Association and Spiritual Life Center, where she was an active choir member for years.



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October Submissions Due: September 2



Renaissance Society Fall Social

When: Sunday, Sept 17, from 12:30 – 4:30 (setup help welcome 11:30-12:30)

Where: Arden Park at 1000 La Sierra Blvd

Why: To celebrate our return to lifelong learning and pay honor to Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month: eat, drink, chat, listen to music, and clean up.

RS provides entrees, desserts, and ice. Please bring your own drinks, lawn chair if preferred, and an appetizer, side, or salad to share. (Remember that the park strictly forbids GLASS!!) Remember to wear your badge!