



The Renaissance  
Society of Sacramento  
**fall.catalog.2020**

**learn.connect.share**  
*celebrate lifelong learning*

# behind the scenes

As you read through the catalog to choose your courses, we thought you might want to have a behind the scenes look at what it takes to bring you the high-quality courses that the *Sacramento Renaissance Society* is recognized for.

Long before you receive your catalog, a core group of volunteers on the Program Committee brainstorms ideas of what makes a good *Renaissance* class. We talk to previous seminar leaders and presenters to encourage them to offer a popular class again or develop something new. We search our membership rolls to generate lists of potential new instructors for series and one-time presentations. We contact potential speakers from the community and urge them to participate. A successful instructor mulls it over, discusses it with others, does exhaustive research, and then puts pen to paper to sketch out the course content. They finally turn all those months of work into a 100-word course description they submit to the Committee for review.

Program Committee members work with instructors to ensure that the course description and content are clear and well developed, that courses of a similar nature don't compete for the same time slot, and especially important in the virtual world, make sure the instructor has a co-leader to help teach or organize.

We won't go into details about catalog production, but if you think of what it takes to herd cats, you'll have a good sense of what happens to produce a catalog three times a year.

New this year: The catalog is basically online only and in the form of a flip book, available on our website. Just like turning the pages of a book, you can flip through it page by page to digest all we have to offer.

Registration is now open. ([www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc))

An orientation for new members, a *Rendezvous* session that allows you to meet potential instructors, occurs on Aug. 14. Programs begin on Sept. 4, though a few might begin a little earlier.

There you have it. We hope you enjoy choosing your classes and we look forward to another successful *Renaissance Society* season.

**Cindy Suchanek & Allan Keown**  
Co-Chairs Seminar Committee

**Maryellen Burns**  
Coordinator, Catalog Working Group

# explore

*the next chapter in our story*

Like most learning organizations this fall, the *Renaissance Society* is engaged in a new journey exploring and adapting to current challenges inconceivable at the start of 2020. In many respects, it seems like we are at the dawn of an historic moment that has altered our trajectory as we move together into this new virtual world.

Planning for this new era of *Renaissance* requires us to rethink everything and use unexplored tools. Looking from the past to the future is paramount and is reflected in the approximately 100 programs that we offer this fall. Whether your exploration might involve *Historical Figures of Western Civilization*, *Women Who Dared*, *Bob's Flash Mob of Classic Rock Radio Shows*, *Conversations about Racial Healing*, *Disinformation*, or *Contemporary Thought and Global Perspectives*—our programs will satisfy at least a part of your hunger for knowledge, connection, and fun.

This eCatalog is one of many examples of our new approaches to learning, teaching, and service. Flip through these pages, check out everything we are doing, and join us as we explore this next chapter in our story.

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# welcome

## to the Sacramento Renaissance Society

These are exciting times! The worldwide pandemic may have caused mandated “physical distancing,” but it has not caused us to put barriers on using our minds. This societal disruption has motivated our *Renaissance Society* (RS) peer leaders to dig deep and use our talents to temporarily transform our 34-year old organization from a physical to a virtual classroom. The good news is we have over 2,000 talented RS members with a wealth of knowledge and life experience. A core team of over 150 leaders has spent the last four months using our collective creativity, brains, wisdom, and passion for lifelong learning to innovate and devise new ways to continue to learn, connect, and share in the virtual *Renaissance 2.0*.

This new and improved “flipbook” catalog is a prime example of our innovation. The flipbook shares almost 100 different opportunities to learn. There is literally something for everyone. We continue our unique tradition of peer-to-peer learning. Our seminar leaders and presenters are all volunteers, not paid professors. Most of our members were not teachers or academics in our chosen professional careers. However, we all share a passion for lifelong learning, socializing, service, and fun. At some point, we all step up to volunteer to share our knowledge and interests with our classmates.

The great thing about *Renaissance* is there are no grades given or attendance taken, just a common excitement for learning for the fun of it. Please feel free to share this electronic catalog with your family, friends,

and associates. You can send them the link or a copy of the PDF catalog so they can see what they are missing.

I invited my sister and my brother-in-law to attend our first Summer Speaker Series 2020 session on June 5 with Mike Agron’s ***Celebrating the Great American Songs That Intersect Entertainment, Politics and Patriotism***. They were amazed by the musical presentation! Sister Sue asked, “Do you think we ought to join?” I gave her a resounding YES! Just because you live across the Puget Sound from Seattle does not prevent you from joining. That is one of the great features of the virtual classroom; there are no physical limitations due to classroom size, space availability, or day of the week. Many of our presentations will be recorded for sharing and later playback. *Everyone is welcome!*

So, thank you to everyone who has already renewed their annual *Renaissance Society* membership. Welcome to our new members who have joined. and those who are thinking about joining RS for our year-round programs and services.

I look forward to seeing you in the virtual classroom this fall to learn, connect, and share.



Ken Cross  
Board President  
The Sacramento  
Renaissance Society

# become part of

## our Renaissance Society Community

### For an annual membership fee of \$100, we offer:

- A lively community of other intellectually curious adults eager to pursue their passion for lifelong learning, community and service.
- Unlimited access to hundreds of compelling seminars, talks, discussions, workshops, presentations, documentaries, hands-on activities, and community forums. Most are available only for our members. *All year-round*.
- Exciting ways to connect with friends new and old through our Renaissance Society Facebook group; *The Renaissance Café* blog; *The Recorder*, our monthly newsletter; *Constant Contact* email blasts; virtual hangouts with other aficionados of food, travel, games, books, the arts, film; and other “shared interest groups or clubs”.
- Opportunities to give back to the community by participating in a committee, coordinating a seminar or program, giving to the ASI Food Pantry and Student Scholarships, and serving the University in various ways.

When we get the all clear to get together in person, we’ll offer a variety of events—from *First Friday* pizza parties, to weekly coffee dates, new member dinners, cultural events and excursions and other opportunities to gather, socialize and have fun.

**How to Join:** Our renewal and new member portal launched on June 1. Just follow this link to our website and let the fun begin: [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc) Questions? For general membership questions: phone or email [renaissa@csus.edu](mailto:renaissa@csus.edu) or (916) 758-5133.

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# who are we?

The Renaissance began in Italy, largely as an outgrowth of interest in the mastery of a wide-ranging set of disciplines, including philosophy, science, history, and the arts. Values such as secularism, beauty, humanism, individualism, skepticism, and classicism were central. The word itself comes from the French phrase *renaissance des lettres*, used by the 19th century historian Jules Michelet. In Old French *renaissance* means "rebirth."

The *Renaissance Society* has served Sacramento's community of lifelong learners for over 34 years. From its very origins, the RS has been nurtured and supported by California State University, Sacramento.

This year we feel more connected to our Values than ever.

## values

### Member Participation and Connection

We are a member-driven organization engaging our members in all aspects of RS operations.

### Diversity

We encourage and support membership diversity, both in racial, ethnic, and social dimensions, and also in thought, life experience, and perspective.

### Lifelong Learning

We believe in intellectual curiosity, personal growth, scholarship, research, creativity – and learning for the sheer joy of doing so.

### Community Engagement

We come from many different neighborhoods and communities throughout the Sacramento Region. Since 1986, when RS became a partner with Sac State, our members have been a visible presence, another "student body," when we are on campus. We are engaged with and supportive of the communities where we live and learn as well as the Greater Sacramento Region.

### Organizational Integrity

We provide innovative, affordable, and flexible learning opportunities for our members, and committed to high operational standards, transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

### Gratitude and Appreciation

We are a friendly organization and warmly welcome everyone we meet—new, existing and prospective members. We believe in and practice the values of gratitude and appreciation for each other and all others with whom we interact.

### Respect

At all times we treat each member and all Sac State students, faculty, administrators and staff with the utmost respect.

### Service

We are dedicated to serving each other, the California State University, Sacramento community, and the greater Sacramento region to the best of our ability.

**who we are**

- 35 Number of Years the Sacramento Renaissance Society at CSUS
- 2300+ Number of Mature Lifelong Learners
- 300+ Seminar, Lectures, & Presentations Annually
- 150+ Instructors & Community Leaders
- 75% Average Membership Renewal

**who we serve**

100%

- Learners 50 Years and Older
- Live Within the Greater Sacramento Area
- Community of Knowledge Seekers
- Retirement-Age Adults Who Identify as Lifelong Learners

**why join Renaissance**

- Stay Mentally Fit in Retirement Years and Age Successfully
  - Discover Social, Cultural, and Academic Interests Locally and Beyond
- Network with Like-Minded Individuals
  - Reconnect with New and Old Friends

# how to join us

We offer two registration options:

- Online, with a credit card payment.
- Mail a paper application and check to the Renaissance Office.

The online Internet process is simple and safe. Go to our website: [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc). Follow the prompts on the page. The system will ask for credit card information to process your payment but does not retain it once the transaction completes.

Here is the link for online membership signups. <https://apps.cce.csus.edu/sites/renaissanceSociety/index.cfm?>

**Paper**—You can use the form on the following page for either new or renewal memberships. Follow the instructions. Print out the form and mail it to the office with your check made payable to The Renaissance Society. Or print out the form in the e-catalog

*The Renaissance Society*  
 California State University, Sacramento  
 6000 J Street, Mail Stop 6074  
 Sacramento, California 95819-6074



# 2020-21 membership

Are you a new member of the Renaissance Society? yes no

first name	last	date
street address	city	zip
phone	email	
emergency contact name		phone
membership fee		<b>\$100</b>
donation for Renaissance Society General programs**		<b>\$</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>

\*\* do you want your donation to be anonymous? yes no

*Note: there will by no refunds*

Mail check payable to: The Renaissance Society  
 California State University, Sacrameto  
 6000 J Street – Mail Stop 6074  
 Sacramento, Ca 95819-6074

Important: please answer the following questions since this will determine how you recieve Renaissance Society publications:

- Renaissance Society publications are available online. Limited print copies are made but it is expensive to reproduce and mail them. Please indicate if you will accept an online copy of each publication.
  - a) I will read the Catalog online Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  - b) I will read the Renaissance Recorder online Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  - c) I will read the Membership Directory online Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
2. Do you want your name, email and phone listed in the Membership Directory? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

# our programs

where the fun begins!

Renaissance Society Seminars, Presentations, and Shared Interest Groups. Sign up for as many programs as you want to enjoy. Unless there is a time conflict, registration should not be an issue.

## this new, crazy online world we're in

The fascinating, informative, funny, and entertaining seminars that have always been the heart and soul of Renaissance continue.

We are lucky to be in a technology-strong era and we will use that technology to deliver our programs in the safety and comfort of our own homes.

We will **Zoom**, primarily—a platform that has become extremely popular in the era of stay-at-home. Everyone from businesses to family to schools to programs like ours is using it to connect with each other. Some of you are probably already utilizing it to socialize with friends and family.

It is not difficult to use. You will get directions from your seminar leaders. You can download the Zoom program for free onto your computer, tablet or smartphone and practice yourself. Note: You need to have a stable wifi connection.

What about the spring semester? No one knows what the world will be like by then, but we are planning for options. We don't know whether it will be safe to return to the Sac State campus next spring. Therefore, we are actively pursuing a dual-track approach, to provide members with the option to attend classes either on-campus, online, or both.

# learn.connect.share

# seminars

## The Arts, Entertainment, Food and Travel

### Bob's Flash Mob Classic Rock Radio Show

Bob Lang  
Tuesdays, Sept. 8 to Oct. 13  
12 to 1:45 am

Bob Lang's previous music appreciation classes have been studies of American musical genres (Rock 'n' Roll, Jazz, Swing, etc.). *Bob's Flash Mob Classic Rock Radio Show* is more free-form and really just for fun! Classic rock music—some of it familiar, other selections less known—will be presented from various periods with as many videos as possible, and of course, lots of back stories and little known facts. Additionally, the six-week class will be augmented by sporadic online "flash mob" gatherings with little notification, so stay close to your email!

**Bob Lang's** primary career was in broadcasting, split evenly between radio and television. He taught media classes at Los Rios Community Colleges and was an equipment and soft skills trainer. He has written two books, one of which, *Now You're Talkin'*, was intended for media professionals and students. Bob is a local musician performing with the band *On Air*. He retired from the California Department of Corrections in 2011.

### History and Practice of Songwriting

Al Zagofsky  
Tuesdays, Sept. 8 to Dec. 1  
10 to 11:45 am

You, too, can write a song. You don't have to read music—most songwriters, including such notable composers as Irving Berlin and all of the four Beatles, couldn't. Learn how Paul Simon, Paul McCartney, Peter Dinklage, Mike Stoller, Jerry Leiber and other songwriters created songs like *The Sounds of Silence*, *Yesterday* and *Puff the Magic Dragon*. We will also discuss commercial vs. noncommercial music and the rise and fall of the Tin Pan Alley and Brill Building songwriting factories.

**Al Zagofsky** has written over 40 songs. He has no training in either songwriting or music, which qualifies him to teach this subject, as it doesn't take any training to be a songwriter. In addition to this seminar, Al has taught Renaissance Society classes in movement awareness, storytelling and journalism.

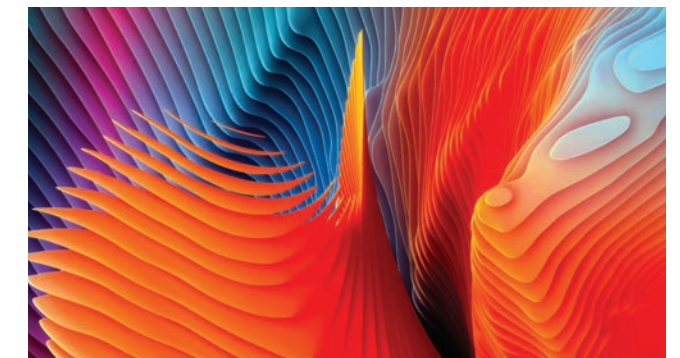
### Photography as Art

Roger Klemm  
Wednesdays, Sept. 2 to Dec. 2  
10 to 11:45 am

Participants will see the world by learning what art can teach them. Many of the lessons will be structured so participants can work from home and share the insights on the seminar's website. Lessons may include macro/closeup, geometry, color-field theory, multiple exposure using multi-planar examples, monochrome (as interpreted by Grisaille, dark art and light art), in addition to other subjects.

The seminar is only open to experienced photographers who are computer savvy. It is currently full, but a waitlist is maintained.

**Roger Klemm** is a preservation architect, trained in both historic and modern architecture and additionally trained in classical and modern art and art history. He also has been a commercial and published architectural photographer. This is the 15th semester he has taught for the Renaissance Society.



### This is Sinatra!—Celebrating the Artistry of the Man and His Music

Mike Agron  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Dec. 4  
12 to 1:45 pm

We will explore the backstories, composers, arrangers, and musicians that shaped this charismatic entertainer known as *The Voice*, *Chairman of the Board*, and *Ole' Blue Eyes*. Watch rare performances and recording sessions with other legendary performers such as Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis, the Rat Pack, and more. Whether you are a long-time Sinatra fan or are curious to better understand what made Sinatra, Sinatra, grab a front row seat for this musical journey

Growing up in Los Angeles, the heart of the recording, TV, and film industry, **Mike Agron's** exposure and love of music and entertainment started at a very young age. He even dreamed about becoming a recording engineer!

## Books, Language and Literature

### High Intermediate Spanish

Melody Flores  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Dec. 4  
10 to 11:45 am

This class provides a relaxed atmosphere to build on your existing high intermediate level of Spanish. It is a participatory experience of reading, translating and improving grammatical skills. This class has been meeting regularly. The class and the waiting list are both full at this time. Especially under the current circumstances, we will not be adding students.

**Melody Flores** has led this *Renaissance Society* class for many years. She takes delight in sharing her knowledge of Spanish and together with her students appreciates the opportunity for lifelong learning.

### Language and Cultural Families of the World

Marty Keale  
Tuesdays, Sept. 8 to Dec. 1  
2 to 3:45 pm

Using a mix of DVDs, Power Point, and on-line lectures, this seminar will provide a global perspective of the development of human language families, as well as a brief overview of the cultures and migrations which are related to the major families. The DVDs used in the course are from *The Great Courses*; the instructor is John McWhorter, whose linguistic expertise, teaching skills and sense of humor are familiar to many *Renaissance Society* members.

**Marty Keale** has been studying language development, human cultures, and migrations for over 15 years. He has led several well-attended *Renaissance Society* seminars on these closely related topics.

### Meeting Each Other Through Sharing Life Stories

Karen Gierlach  
Tuesdays, Oct. 27 to Dec. 1  
10 to 11:45 am

Artistic prompts like art postcards, poetry, quotations and key questions will open up topics to share. Everyone's life is full of meaning and mystery if we take a closer look. Come and reflect on yours and those of your classmates to gain new insights into the journey each of you has traveled to become who you are today. We will also look at your life now as well as your hopes for the future. The explorations will use a framework of 7 and 21-year cycles, the same that are used in Waldorf schools for the childhood years. These 7-year cycles continue on into adulthood. They can also be related to the four seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter.

**Karen Gierlach** is a former Waldorf teacher and uses the developmental picture of the human being as presented by Rudolf Steiner. She enjoys creating possibilities for people to listen to each other's life experiences in an atmosphere of mutual interest and trust. Since her retirement, she has facilitated biography and social art workshops, both in the U.S. and overseas. She serves on the board of the Center for Biography and Social Art.

### Writings about the California Delta, From Native Peoples to Joan Didion

Bob Benedetti  
Thursdays, Sept. 10 to Dec. 3  
12 to 1:45 pm

Writers focusing on the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta describe a unique place but differ in their definitions of its essential nature. For Native Peoples the Delta was a paradise, for the Spanish a fearful place. For gold miners the Delta was a highway; farmers praised its fertility but were challenged by floods. Pleasure seekers marvel at its many hide-a-ways while migrants decry harsh working conditions. Environmentalists defend habitats; engineers celebrate water distribution. This seminar explores these many voices with the help of visiting lecturers.

**Robert Benedetti** is a retired faculty member trained in political science. He has served as chair of both the Florida and California Council for the Humanities. His research focuses on cities and towns. Recently he directed a study for the Delta Protection Commission on Delta Narratives, exploring themes in Delta history.

## Contemporary Thought: Local and Global Perspectives

### Cracker Barrel

Anita Fante  
Tuesdays, Sept. 1 to Dec. 1  
12 to 1:30 pm

A year round, weekly discussion group that emphasizes thoughtful dialogue on current issues of interest—social, political, economic and cultural. Participation in group discussion is not required but is desirable. Prerequisites include good listening skills as well as tolerance and patience for the values and beliefs expressed by others.

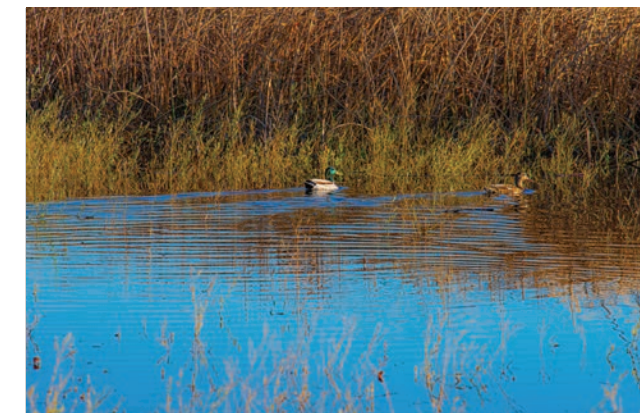
**Anita Fante**, the moderator, has over two years chairing the Cracker Barrel.

### Documentaries

Allan Keown and Judy Maben  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Dec. 4  
10 to 11:45 am

Now in its 10th year as a *Renaissance Society* seminar, *Documentaries* will screen a lineup of cutting-edge films selected from recent finalists for the Oscars and winners at multiple film festivals in 2019 and 2020. The specific selections will be available in August. As always, there will be an emphasis on both general as well as smaller-group discussions. Seminar leaders look forward to sharing their choices with fellow documentarians in a new virtual format.

**Allan Keown** and **Judy Maben** have been leading, co-leading or attending this seminar each Fall Semester for the past 10 years. They are passionate about reviewing the prior two years' documentaries to locate those films that engage viewers artistically, theatrically and politically.



### The Influence of Communication Media on Culture

Phil Lane  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Oct. 14  
12 to 1:45 pm

The mass media have had a great influence on American culture since its inception and has reflected and helped to shape the changing cultural values of our society. The symbiotic nature of media and culture is exemplified in every communication medium, including print, radio, movies, television and video, as well as computer-based social media. This seminar will focus on this relationship in the 20th and 21st centuries by examining such issues as gender, ethnicity, social identity and information handling as they relate to the various media.

**Phil Lane** has a PhD in Communications Media Studies from Northwestern University. He has taught at five universities, including 35 years at Fresno State, where he taught courses in radio, TV, and film until he retired in 2005.

### The Pandemic and the Economy

Duane Campbell and Carl Pinkston  
Thursdays, Sept. 10 to Oct. 15  
12 to 1:30 pm

This course examines the political and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Who is to blame for the initial slow response? What can be done now? The Federal Reserve and Congress have provided a massive stimulus to the economy, but the state budget will have to include major cuts in social services and other programs essential to California's citizens. Trade wars, Social Security, employment, labor, immigration, collusion, tax avoidance, and the Resistance movement are among the topics to be considered.

Participants will work together in groups. No prior experience of economics is needed, but participants must have working ability to use both the internet and Zoom.

**Duane Campbell** is a retired professor of bilingual and multicultural education at Sac State. He has taught classes in politics and economics and has been an activist for over 40 years. **Carl Pinkston** is the director of the African American Research Institute.



### Racial Healing Circles: Conversations on Race

Stacy Walton and Gretchen Jung  
Mondays, Sept. 14 to Dec. 7  
10 to 11:45 am

*Racism is the elephant in the room.* It is an obvious problem in our society, but we can choose not to discuss it, observe it from afar, or dance with it. In this interactive seminar, we choose to dance, creating courageous conversations that put racism front and center, using the Circle Process, adopted from indigenous practices, as our model for dialogue. The Circle Process creates a safe space for both racial dialogue and, ultimately, racial healing, which is central to restorative justice. This 12-week seminar includes discussion of active listening, unconscious bias, authenticity, and the difference between intent and impact in missteps in communication.

**Stacie L Walton MD, MPH** is a Speaker and Trainer for Implicit bias and Social Determinants of Health for personal and professional audiences. She currently co-facilitates a community Racial Healing Circle in Sacramento with Gretchen Jung.

**Gretchen Jung M.S., M.A.** has been involved in social justice since the 1950s. Her MA degree is in Bilingual Multicultural Education. She is passionate about diversity, inclusion and all forms of social

justice. Her most recent activism includes Coming to the Table Racial Healing Circles, Sacramento Area Congregation Together (ACT) social justice group and facilitating book groups and film groups on social justice themes at the Center for Spiritual Awareness.

### Racism and Prejudice

Greg Beale  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Dec. 4  
12 to 1:30 pm

A study of the historical antecedents of the systematic growth of racism and prejudice in the world, with particular emphasis on the United States, from Christopher Columbus to the KKK. Will also examine how the current pandemic reflects this prejudice, as well as how it has brought out the best aspects of American society.

**Greg Beale** has taught this seminar for the *Renaissance Society* for the last two semesters and offered a course on The Native American Experience for the previous two semesters. He is a credentialed teacher of U.S. history and taught on this subject for several years. In addition, he has a master's degree in government and has made an extensive study of racism and prejudice. Greg is also a retired superintendent of a school district located next to a Native American Rancheria, where he witnessed the range of problems inflicted upon a victimized culture.

### Reassessing American Leadership

Harry M. Cohen  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Dec. 4  
10 to 11:45 am

Examines how America's preeminent world leadership, and the international world order it has created, has waned in the face of populism and authoritarianism—and why freedom, democracy and human rights appear to be in retreat. This diminution of American leadership will have a significant and profound impact on domestic and international security, freedom and prosperity.

Seminar sessions will focus on what America should and can do to regain its position as the free world's leader and, together with other nations, strengthen democratic values throughout the world. Additional discussions will explore the history that gave rise to America's role in the world and whether the hopes and inspirations of its past have significant value in a rapidly changing world. Reading material will be emailed.

**Harry M. Cohen** has maintained an intense interest in history and political science since his college days. He has taught seminars about American leadership for the *Renaissance Society* for three years. In addition, he has three years of experience teaching courses in management and finance for the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, California, and has also presented numerous technical accounting and tax courses for several CPA firms in San Francisco.

### Top "10" U.S. Domestic Issues and Potential Solutions

Ken Cross  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Dec. 2  
12 to 1:45 pm

This seminar focuses on current U.S. domestic, social justice issues and potential solutions to: the current global pandemic, poverty, homelessness, affordable housing, jobs and income inequality, diversity, equity, and mass incarceration—crime, punishment, and prison reform, immigration, healthcare, education, climate change and a sustainable world, and money, dysfunctional politics and campaign finance reform (capitalism and the erosion of democracy).

The series utilizes documentary film, expert speakers, and discussion to define the issues and organizing action steps that we can take as citizens to promote positive change. Resources include film, books, articles, and organization websites to expand personal knowledge and awareness. The seminar's speakers are community-based experts who have spent decades developing and implementing real world solu-

tions to domestic issues here in Sacramento and the State of California.

Since 1995, **Ken Cross** has volunteered and worked in the non-profit sector with the American Red Cross, UC Davis Hospice, the Spiritual Life Center, and most recently with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento as CEO and President 2003-2015. He has served on the Board of Directors of Women's Empowerment, the Sacramento Housing Alliance, the Aids Housing Alliance, the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Renaissance Society. Ken has over 40 years of service in the government, business, and non-profit/social sectors making a difference in local communities.

### Transportation and American Government

Art Bauer  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Dec. 2  
12 to 1:45 pm

How Americans organized to build their transportation system tells a story of how we learned to govern ourselves. The states' role versus the national government, the westward expansion and slavery, private versus public investment, laissez-faire versus economic regulation, the freedom to travel and civil rights, and urban versus rural are among the themes in our history that transportation services were an important feature. This class will include readings, presentations, class discussion, and two guest speakers.

**Art Bauer** has been a transportation consultant for 45-years. Among his activities he served for twenty years as a staff transportation consultant to the state Senate. In addition, he and his wife Sandra operated a transportation consulting firm for 25 years. The firm's clients were from both the public and private sectors. For ten years, he taught professional development training for mid-career professionals under the auspices of the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Berkeley.

### Understanding American Voters

Jeffrey Shelton  
Tuesdays, Sept. 8 to Oct. 15  
2 to 3:45 pm

Examines changes in the composition, beliefs and behavior of American voters since the mid-20th century, including voting patterns of people of color, the 2016 presidential election and the upcoming 2020 presidential races. Participants will discuss theories about the factors that influence voters, including economic condition, education, identity, race, religion, in-group and out-group thinking, immigration and gender.

Explores how passions, instead of reason, can help create and reinforce ideology, partisanship and polarization. Looks at survey research and polls to determine if political campaigns change elections and, if so, when and how these campaigns matter. Students do not need a degree in political science or statistics to take this course.

Please note: This seminar will **not** serve as an opportunity for anyone to promote their views about politics.

**Jeffrey Shelton** is a veteran staff member of the California legislature, serving in members' districts and the Capitol for 15 years and in government relations and regulatory affairs for 24 years. He got his first campaign job in 1972 and eventually worked in numerous legislative and statewide campaigns. Jeffrey has a bachelor's degree in political science and is an attorney. He says he is "fascinated, amazed and sometimes alarmed by what influences people to make political decisions."

## Economics

### Active Retirement Investing

Bill Bailey with Marsha Holland  
Wednesdays, Sept. 16 to Oct. 21  
10 to 11:45 am

Are you willing to take the time to research the critically important issues and decisions necessary to survive a long and happy retirement? Do you want to more accurately evaluate the performance of your current financial advisor to make sure you are receiving the appropriate fiduciary standard of care and services? Hunter William ("Bill") Bailey will provide the information you need to better understand the financial world. No products or services will be sold.

**Bill Bailey**, the recipient of a master's degree in Financial Services (MSFS) and the author of two books, brings over 40 years of experience as a professional financial advisor focusing on investment services.

### The Economist

Wayne Luney  
Mondays, Sept. 7 to Dec. 1  
7 to 8:30 pm

*The Economist* is the best and most comprehensive weekly news magazine in the English language. It was founded in England in 1843 to advocate for the repeal of the Corn Laws. Today it is global in its coverage. Seminar members will be expected to read and be prepared to discuss selected articles in the current is-

sue. Since the print edition usually reaches subscribers on Saturday, we will have our discussions on Monday evenings to be more current with the events than we had been in the past.

**Wayne Luney** has facilitated the Economist seminar for The Renaissance Society for a couple of semesters. He is also co-coordinator of the University Services and performing arts ushering programs.

### Heterodox Economics: Modern Money Theory

Mark Dempsey  
Fridays, Sept. 4 to Oct. 9  
12 to 1:45 pm

Orthodox economists from right (Mankiw) to left (Krugman) did not predict the Great Recession. MMT predicted it and offers some encouraging remedies to current social problems, providing seldom-heard solutions for "problems" like National "Debt."

So—it's not business as usual, and the class takes only six sessions. Participants get about 60 pages of material (maximum 20 pages of reading per class, usually much less), for background to the class discussion. People who have taken the seminar and/or read the material have said "I'll never look at the economy the same way again."

Retired technical writer **Mark Dempsey** spent many years explaining complex software. In addition, he has experience in the real estate industry as a broker, loan officer, and member of a Sacramento County Community Planning Advisory Council.

## Health and Well-Being

### Delaying Death and Avoiding Disability

Don Forrester  
Thursdays, Oct. 29 to Dec. 3  
2 to 3:45 pm

Presents the best science on prevention, stabilization and reversal of significant chronic conditions (diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, dementia, and cancer) and disability (back pain, arthritis). Woven into the sessions will be useful concepts, including quality improvement, management, statistics, complex systems, genetics, and human learning. The goal is to provide participants with information and tools they can use to improve their quality of life. To this end, the seminar will explore the relative importance of various behaviors in achieving personal goals that may involve avoiding chronic conditions and medications, disability and improved fitness.

**Don Forrester** is a family medicine physician with 45 years of clinical experience. He worked for the Permanente Medical Group in Sacramento from 1978 to 2008. Since "retiring" he gained further expertise in the successful prevention and reversal of chronic conditions with patients at the McDougall Clinic, Sacramento Job Corps, and EarthSave's Meals for Health. He has advanced training in quality improvement and is a Fellow with the American College of Physician Executives. In addition, he serves on the board of NutritionFacts.org.

### Delving into Dementia: the Science, the Caring, the Hope

Mynga Futrell  
Thursdays, Sept. 10 to Dec. 3  
10 to 11:45 am

This seminar promises a "deep dive" into its unwelcome subject matter, aiming for authentic understanding by blending a scholarly approach with lively personal stories. Expect some additional leavening with humor to help you learn some knack of humor too, just in case cognitive decline confronts a friend or loved one.

**Mynga Futrell's** professional career was interrupted in the early 1990s, delivering a "learn-from-scratch" dementia-care experience. Soon afterwards, she offered her personal experience to bolster the Alzheimer's Association's educational efforts. She continues volunteering, even as dementia hit her family again. Her husband received his Alzheimer's diagnosis in 2010, and he continues to decline. To ease the serious probing of the topic, she inoculates you with humor.



## Learning and Listening

Laura Gaeta with Julia Ahlquist Tanner  
Fridays, Sept. 11, 18, 25  
10 to 11:45 am

Are you living with hearing loss? This three-class seminar will help you better understand and manage this loss. The seminar leaders, along with Sacramento State graduate students, will provide you with information and training so you can achieve optimal communication. Topics include what hearing loss means as we get older; hearing testing; technology options available, including and beyond hearing aids (such as hearing assistive technology and smartphone applications); and an introduction to training in communication strategies, clear speech, and lip reading. Classes will include a combination of lectures and breakout discussion time. Your frequent communication partner—spouse, family member, or friend—is welcome to join.

This seminar has been offered every semester since Fall 2018. It was previously called *Optimal Hearing, Wellness, and Balance*. To register, e-mail the Maryjane Rees Language, Speech, and Hearing Clinic at [speechclinic@csus.edu](mailto:speechclinic@csus.edu)

**Laura Gaeta, PhD**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Sac State. Co-host **Julia Ahlquist Tanner**, Doctor of Audiology (Au, D) is the owner of The Hearing Solution, a private audiology practice. She focuses on providing her patients and others with the most effective hearing skills and strategies so they can improve the quality of their hearing and conversations.

## Relationships

Nanci Kuzins and Anamaria Pasquiers  
Thursdays, Sept. 10 to Dec. 3  
10 to 11:45 am

Come learn the Compassionate Communication skills that will bring joy and meaning into your relationships. Leaders will use games, role plays, and exercises woven with information found in *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz, *Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life* by Wayne Dyer and other sources to learn these skills. This new language of life can reduce stress, decrease anxiety, clear up misunderstandings and heal old conflicts. Learn how to interrupt when necessary; release resentment when you hear a "NO"; and let go of any shame, guilt, or fear, when you need to say "NO" to someone else.

**Nanci Kuzins** is committed to helping people find their self-empowerment and voice so they may

develop skills to enrich life for themselves and others through Compassionate Communication. She is co-founder of Community Skill Exchange Sacramento, a time bank in which members exchange skills and services for time instead of money and all are equal.

**Anamaria Pasquiers** is committed to helping people gain a deeper understanding of themselves and others so they may build strong, healthy relationships. She consults on alternative medicine, self-healing methods and spiritual counseling. In addition, Anamaria is a local social activist and interfaith minister who has led spiritual growth groups focusing on Taoism, Kundalini Yoga, A Course in Miracles, and she has served as a prayer chaplain.



## History

### Daring Women War Correspondents

Jennifer Kerr  
Wednesdays, Oct. 21 to Dec. 2  
2 to 3:45 pm

Marie Colvin, an American reporter who worked for *The Sunday Times* of Great Britain, was assassinated while covering the siege of Homs, Syria, in 2012. She and other intrepid women correspondents defied those who opposed their career paths to tell the truth, particularly what wars do to women and children. This course will follow the scary careers of many women who chose and choose to keep finding the truth despite being told they should stay home.

**Jennifer Kerr** was a reporter for the *Associated Press* for over 40 years, based in the California Capitol Bureau in Sacramento from 1977-2001, mainly covering the state Legislature. She previously worked in AP bureaus in West Virginia and Los Angeles.

### Donner Pass: Who Came, What They Did, Where They Went and What They Left

William Sullivan  
Thursdays, Sept. 10 to Oct. 15  
12 to 1:45 am

It has been said that Donner Pass might be the most historic square mile in California. This seminar will explore why that statement is true, focusing on the people who used the pass, what they did there, and where they went after using the pass, and what they left for us to see. Specific topics include the geography of the area, Native Americans, early explorers, emigrants, roads in the area and aviation (really!). Places and things that can be visited are a major focus of this seminar. Discussion will be encouraged.

**William Sullivan's** ancestors spent the winter of 1844-45 snowbound, which may be why he has long been interested in the Donner Pass. He has hiked, camped, gotten lost, explored, researched and generally spent much time there and the area holds an endless fascination for him. William has taught U.S. history at the high-school level and was also a community college instructor and guidance counselor.

### Hellenisms

Ed Sherman  
Mondays, Oct. 19 to Nov. 30  
10 to 11:45 am

Each week will focus on a different cultural era of Greek history and a person or persons who best exemplify that period. Homer and Agamemnon will represent the Greek Bronze Age; Pericles will host the Classical age; Alexander the Great will be the symbol for the expansion of Greek culture and the transition to a multi-cultural Hellenistic era. Six weeks.

**Ed Sherman** studied and taught ancient history for 50 years. He lived in the eastern Mediterranean for 2 1/2 years studying antiquities.

### Historical Figures of Western Civilization

David Warren  
Mondays, Sept. 14 to Dec 7  
12 to 1:45 pm

Historical Figures of Western Civilization presents 12 of the historical characters David Warren portrayed throughout his teaching career and examines the historical eras they helped shape. The characters are Zeus, King Tut, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Lorenzo di Medici, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Louis XIV, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

**David Warren** has been an educator for over 40 years, which includes 24 years teaching Western Civilization at Sacramento City College. He studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood and earned his PhD in Rome in the early 1950's. When he returned to the United States, he was a school administrator for a decade before coming to Sacramento in 1997 to chair the Humanities Department at Sacramento City College. David retired in 2003 and joined the *Renaissance Society*, for which he has led a six-cycle set of seminars.

### The Middle East: The Impact of Religion and Empire

Norv Wellsfry  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Dec. 2  
12 to 1:45 am

Today's Middle East is the result of a complex mix of religion and empire, fueled in recent times by oil. This seminar will explore the historical roots of the factors that have emerged to create the modern complications of the Middle East. Major elements will include the foundation and expansion of Islam, the Crusades, Arabic empires, the impact of European empires, and the roles played by the currency of oil. Includes presentations and videos, as well as participant contributions on relevant topics and people.

**Norv Wellsfry** has been interested in the Middle East since he learned about the Crusades and Lawrence of Arabia. With the increasing attention to the Middle East, he has become more interested in the historical context that shaped the current environment. He has taught two previous seminars on the region, as well as shorter presentations on Islam.

### Turning Points in American Democracy

Catherine Minicucci  
Thursdays, Sept. 24 to Oct. 29  
2 to 3:45 pm

When our country was founded, only white men with property were allowed to vote. Today, however, most citizens can vote (except for felons in some states). How did our democracy expand to provide voting and other civil rights for an ever-greater number of citizens? This 6-week class will examine major turning points in the evolution of American democracy: the long road to emancipation for slaves, the tumultuous post-Civil War Reconstruction era, the 70-year struggle for women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, and enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Catherine Minicucci has always been interested in history and her retirement affords her the time to conduct in-depth research in American history. She has presented a number of off-campus Renaissance Society seminars on various aspects of U.S. history and taught *Turning Points in American Democracy* during the 2019 Fall Semester. This year's seminar will cover fewer topics than last year's in order to accommodate the online format. Catherine's professional background is in education policy and evaluation, with 30 years of experience operating her own research and evaluation consulting business.

## Technology

### iPhone and iPad Basics

Carol Dabrowiak  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Oct. 14  
10 to 11:45 am

Learn the basics of iPhone and iPad. Using a team approach to teaching, we will present the features you need to take advantage of your devices: Settings, Control Center, Notifications, Contacts, Calendar, Notes, Maps and more. This seminar is for beginners or anyone wanting to improve their Apple skills. The seminar lasts for six weeks.

After retiring from Sacramento County **Carol Dabrowiak** got her first iPhone and started to learn how to use its features. She shared what she learned with her friends and quickly realized that the best way to learn something was to teach it. She says that each time she teaches this class she learns something new.

# presentations

Single Presentations that Whet our Appetite for More...

## Arts, Entertainment, Food and Travel

### A Virtual Gallery of My Art and Environment

Lawrence Fox  
Monday, Nov. 2  
2 pm

There's something special about visiting the home of an artist. It allows us a peek into their inner sanctum. Let us be voyeurs as we explore the nooks and crannies filled with their own artwork and the myriad artists, art objects and antiques they collect. **Lawrence Fox** will take us on a private tour of his 19th century home in Midtown—from Cluck, the six-foot chicken on the balcony that guards the collection, to museum quality artwork by Wally Hedrick, Mel Ramos, Stephen Kaltenbach, David Gilhooly, and the ceramic noses of Tony Natsoulas; plus the many prints, paintings and sculptures he has produced himself. Larry has two master's degrees from Sac State, and has worked as a graphic designer, teacher and book designer.



### The City College Art Balls, 1927 - 1947

Bruce Marwick  
Monday, Sept. 14  
2 pm

The Preservation Chair of the Sacramento Art Deco Society, Bruce Marwick, will tell the remarkable story of the City College, formerly Sacramento Junior College, Art Balls. The Art Balls were designed and staged by the College's Art Students' League, and starting in 1931, held at the Memorial Auditorium. The League gave thousands of dollars in profits back to art students in the form of scholarships.

**Bruce Marwick** is a board member of the Sacramento History Alliance. He also has written many articles about early 20th Century Sacramento artists and architects, including Alfred Eichler, designer of the Tower Bridge; and Carlo Taliabue, a noted Gladding McBean sculptor.

### Time to Draw

Julia Stagg  
Tuesday, Oct. 13  
2 pm

Time to Draw!—have fun drawing characters on paper that show emotion, dance, walk, climb a ladder or do what you do—read, protest, study, or ride a horse. Using the easiest of shapes, lines, letters of the alphabet and numbers, along with humor; participants, in the privacy of their home will explore what it means to reconnect with their inner artist. Drawing skills not needed. Humor is welcome in creating a coloring book available for downloading. If you enjoy the class, Julia will consider offering additional sessions.

As an artist who draws daily, **Julia Stagg** appreciates a good story on paper, with characters or figures—a comic style—involved in a narrative. The story gets built up with details and structural elements are drawn out. Listening to the explanation of the *why* or *what*, about a simple art piece is beguiling and fun.

## Books, Language, and Literature

### Book Review: Fat Rascals—Dining at Shakespeare's Table

Maryellen Burns  
Tuesday, Oct. 20  
10 am

Shakespeare's food was as diverse and colorful, as ornate and thrilling as the words in his plays. John Tufts, a Shakespearean actor, has brought this delicious cuisine sizzling back to life in his book—*Fat Rascals*, a deep dive into the world of Shakespearean Cuisine. We'll review the book, share a few minutes of his YouTube cooking classes and be transported back in time through Elizabethan and Tudor dishes like a roast joint of mutton, tansies, fritters, Twelfth Night Cake and more. Sacramento Shakespearean actors may join us with a little ribald Shakespeare food trivia contest. Have a book you'd like to Review? We're hoping to make this an irregular series.

### How Shakespeare Changed Everything: A 90-minute talk in two parts

Gerry Camp  
Monday, Oct. 19 and 26  
2 pm

William Shakespeare was the most influential person who ever lived. *He shaped our world more than any political or religious leader, more than any explorer or engineer*, remarks writer Stephen Marche. One word he wrote in 1596—and never repeated—is responsible for millions of dollars in damage in the United States. His influence on one actor led directly to the most significant murder in world history. He added more than seventeen hundred words to the English language: words such as *fashionable*, and *eyeball*, and *gossip*. How did he do these things? By writing stories everybody liked. Or as Sam Goldwyn put it, *Fantastic! And it was all written with a feather!* **Gerry Camp** has taught a series called *Shakespeare Uncovered* for many semesters. Look for it as it may pop up as a semester long program this fall.

## Contemporary Thought: Global Perspectives

### Debate Club—Four Speakers, One Topic

Inspired by Dave Abelson  
Moderated by Maryellen Burns  
Monday, Sept. 21  
2 pm

All right, we admit it. We're not against outright thievery. We've stolen this concept from the FiveThirtyEight Debate Club. Four speakers, one topic. Traditional debate style. Except that you, the audience, get to chime in at the end. The topic is books. Decluttering queen Marie Kondo says no more than 150 books should grace our shelves. What do our debaters think? Would you like to be one of them?

### Understanding the Election

Jeff Shelton  
Thursday, Dec. 3  
11 am

This seminar is a follow up to the 6-week seminar that **Jeff Shelton** presented earlier in the year, titled *Understanding American Voters*. He reviewed the many factors that influence voting, including partisanship, ideology and polarization. He also took a long look at the 2016 election and considered what might happen in this year's election. Hopefully, all the votes will be counted, and we'll know about the outcome of the election for President, including who voted for Donald Trump and who voted for Joe Biden. In this presentation we'll see what happened on November 3rd and how that might accord with what we thought we knew about voters. It will not be necessary to have taken the seminar to benefit from this presentation.

## Health and Wellness

### Age Related Hearing Loss and Hearing Aid Technology

Laura Gaeta  
Julia Ahlquist  
Friday, Nov. 13  
11 am

This is a two-part presentation. The first half will cover how we hear, what happens to our hearing as we get older, and strategies for managing hearing difficulties. The second half will explore technology options for those with hearing loss, including hearing aids, and

what you should look for when seeking care for your hearing. There will be time for a Q&A at the end of the presentation.

**Laura Gaeta, PhD**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at CSU, Sacramento. Julia Ahlquist Tanner, AuD, is an audiologist and private practice owner (The Hearing Solution) in Sacramento. Together, they have led a seminar on hearing loss and communication strategies since Fall 2018. Drs. Tanner and Gaeta both enjoy educating Renaissance members about hearing loss and hearing technology.

### Introduction to Walking Meditation Using a Labyrinth

Christie Braziel  
Thursday, Oct. 8  
10:30 am

Looking for a simple way to let go of everyday stress? Learn another way to meditate, walking an ancient time-tested design known as a labyrinth. Join this one-hour lecture with PowerPoint slides, video and handouts. You will learn: What is a labyrinth? Difference between a maze and a labyrinth. Amazing variety of benefits from walking a labyrinth. Guidelines for walking the labyrinth. The three stages of the labyrinth walk. How to find local labyrinths to walk. Ideas on building your own labyrinth. **Christie Braziel** is a Veriditas certified, trained labyrinth facilitator. After quarantine restrictions are lifted, we will visit a local labyrinth for a walk together. Class enrollees can watch for that invitation.

## History



### American Revolution: How the US and Britain went their separate ways

Catherine Minicucci  
Wednesday, Sept. 16  
2 pm

This lecture will cover America under colonial rule, issues leading to revolution, war, and the immediate aftermath. She will cover American unrest, "sedition," and formation of a new American identity as well as Britain's attitude toward the American colonies and its inept colonial administration. The Revolutionary War pitted a hardened battle tested British force against local and state militias and an underfunded Continental Army. She will discuss how we won the war and a new nation was born.

**Catherine Minicucci** is very interested in American history and enjoys researching historical topics in depth. For this lecture, she read books about the Revolution from the British and American perspective and visited Philadelphia where she saw battlefield sites and visited the Museum of the American Revolution and the National Constitution Center.

### The Explosive Story of the 1893 Chicago Worlds Fair Ferris Wheel

Maryellen Burns  
Tuesday, Sept. 29  
10 am

The story of the worlds first Ferris Wheel starts as so many great stories do with Americans desperately trying to outdo the French to create a structure that would rival the Eiffel Tower. George Washington Gale Ferris was hired to do the job and created a feat of engineering—a Wheel that was 256 feet high. Find out more about his tragic tale—and the explosive fate of his one true wheel. **Maryellen Burns** has long been fascinated by the Chicago World's Fair, created to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage to America.

### Railroads of Lake Tahoe

Norv Wellsfry  
Thursday, Dec. 3  
2 pm

Before the Lake Tahoe Scenic drive and casinos were built, and the lake became a popular vacation spot, there were logging, railroads, and steamboats. Lake Tahoe's first developers were the railroads, timber and mining companies that extracted the wealth of the

area. But before Lake Tahoe could be developed, the first transcontinental railroad needed to pass over and through the Sierra Nevada. Join in to explore the early history of Lake Tahoe in this presentation.

**Norv Wellsfry** has been a Railroad "Foamer" since his earliest Lionel Train set. Along the way he also earned a bachelors, masters, and doctorate and worked in community colleges as an administrator and faculty member for 46 years. He is currently a member of the Seminar committee and serves the Board of Directors of Renaissance as the Controller.

## Science, Nature and Technology

### Container Gardening

Karen Martin  
Monday, Sept. 28  
2 to 3:45 pm

Are you a new gardener? Or a veteran with a green thumb who wants to explore something new? Learn the easy and creative possibilities of gardening in containers—from edible fruits and vegetables to ornamental plants, grasses, and bulbs. We will cover how to choose the best containers and plants, plus the unique cultural needs of container gardens, like soil mixes, watering, and fertilizing.

**Karen Martin** is a Sacramento County UC Master Gardener who finds her bliss digging in the soil and sharing garden chat with fellow gardeners. She is happy to share both her triumphs and her challenges gardening in containers, because that's what makes gardening such a great, lifelong learning pursuit. She has been a *Renaissance Society* member since retiring from teaching in 2012, and she currently is a Member at Large on the RS Board.

### Garden Chat: Fall in Your Garden

Karen Martin  
James E. Brown  
Rick Castro  
Monday, Oct. 12  
2 to 3:30 pm

Join a casual conversation with a panel of three Master Gardeners as they focus on Fall tasks in the garden. They will describe seasonal tasks such as planting a winter vegetable garden or sowing a cover crop, starting a compost pile, pruning and dividing perennials, and winterizing your garden. Come with your ques-

tions and enjoy a verdant exchange with fellow *Renaissance Society* garden lovers. Learn about some great resources for researching more of your own gardening questions that might arise beyond this class.

**Karen Martin** is a Sacramento County UC Master Gardener who finds her bliss digging in the soil and sharing garden challenges and triumphs with fellow gardeners. She has been a Renaissance member and seminar leader since retiring from elementary teaching in 2012 and currently serves as a Member at Large on the RS Board.

**James E. Brown** found his love of gardening working as a child on his grandfather's farm and in his mother's flower garden. Today he is a passionate community garden advocate, working his large garden plot and serving four years as the Southside Community Garden President. As a Sacramento County UC Master Gardener, he divides his time between answering garden questions via phone and working in the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center. He has been a *Renaissance* member since 2017.

**Rick Castro** has been a life-long advocate of community gardens, helped create many from the early 80's to now and has been known to maintain neighbors' gardens all throughout Midtown. His main themes are lush Victorian style gardens using native plants and an adherence to drought tolerance. He is also a Sacramento County UC Master Gardener.



# tuesday speaker series

Coordinators: Ed Sherman and Jack Jennings  
All presentations are held from 2 to 3:45 pm on the dates indicated

Sept. 8

## Egyptomania | Ed Sherman

What is Egyptomania? How did it originate? What were its manifestations in 19th Century western Europe? What was the cultural impact of the King Tut exhibitions on American culture?

September 15

## Collapse of Civilization | Marty Keale

In the 12th Century BC, the Middle East was home to a number of vibrant empires. There were almost constant wars, of course, but also considerable trade and sharing of languages, art & architecture, and gods. But then, in a matter of two short decades it all collapsed, and the known world descended into a Dark Age which lasted for centuries. We will explore what little is known about the causes and immediate impacts of the collapse, as well as the new world which eventually evolved out of it.

Sept. 22

## Australian Aboriginal Rock Art | Anne Rewell

Australian Aboriginal Rock Art is the oldest unbroken tradition of art known on the planet. Australia has well over 100,000 Aboriginal rock art sites, from the Far North to the island state of Tasmania. Many are 20,000 years old, with some believed to be over 60,000 years old.



Sept. 29

## The West is Best! | Carolyn Martin

The women's suffrage "score" in 1914 was Western States 11 victories versus 1 success east of Kansas. Why the geographic split? Emphasis will be on the innovative, energizing California campaign in 1911 plus highlights from other Wild West triumphs.

Oct. 6

## Ancient Culture Wars | Ed Sherman

Western cultures are now engaged in protracted culture wars that have roots in antiquity. What are they and how did they come about?

Oct. 13

## Eleanor Roosevelt—Reluctant First Lady | Marian Kile

Eleanor Roosevelt: who was this reluctant first lady? Marian will bring her story to life and let us get to know the person that was more than just "the eyes and ears" of FDR, the 32nd President of the United States.

Oct. 20

## The Electoral College | Eric McElwain

A historical overview of the electoral college and why we have one, a discussion about what it would take to change the system, and an update on the most recent Supreme Court decision affecting the electoral college.

Why do we have an electoral college? Should the President be chosen simply by a majority of the popular vote? What would it take to change our system? With an eye on the results of the 2016 election, where the winner of the popular vote did not win the Presidency, and the possibility of a similar result in 2020.

Oct. 27

## Dubai, a Middle East City State | Anne Rewell

Beginning in the 5th century Dubai was a caravan stop on the trading route from Oman to Baghdad. In the 1700's the area was known as the Pirate Coast. Administered by the British for 160 years they gained their independence in 1970. Now a world class city in the heart of the Middle East.

Nov. 10

## Wendell Phillips and the Queen of Sheba | Lynette Blumhardt

From Africa to Yemen, American archaeologist Wendell Phillips was driven to find the Queen of Sheba's palace. Was the Queen real? Was Phillips nothing more than a huckster? Lynette will explore the myth, Phillips' life and his work.

American archaeologist Wendell Phillips, who was born and educated in the Bay Area during the mid-20th century, was driven to make his mark in the world of archaeology. His plan was to find the Queen of Sheba's palace. Phillips launched a number of well-funded expeditions to Africa and into the Arabian Peninsula.

Nov. 17

## Ireland Today | Mike Storey

Ireland Today explores the current status of the Republic of Ireland, including its relationship to Northern Ireland, its economic fortunes, its changing laws regarding such moral issues as divorce, abortion and gay marriage, along with a look at the "Troubles" and Brexit.

Dec. 1

## The 19th Amendment | Catherine Minicucci

It took women 70 years to get the vote in the United States. This presentation will describe the history of the struggle and the final exciting political end game that resulted in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

Dec. 8

## The Precarious Life of Bees | Connie Gustafson

Bee species around the world are threatened by pesticides, viruses, parasites and modern agricultural practices. How can we as individuals help these important pollinators survive the threats to their very existence?

**extra, extra!!**

The Renaissance Society has vastly expanded our presence as a result of going virtual—unlimited by physical classroom space, dates, and times.

Now, not only can you participate in a seminar or presentation from home, you can watch it anywhere, and register for as many programs as you want, unless the registration date/time conflict.

If this seems too good to be true, it's not. You can "do" RS five days a week, as often as you want, until it's time to sleep, eat, or take a short break!

# friday speaker series

Coordinator: Anne Rewell  
All presentations are held from 10 to 11:45 a.m. on the dates indicated

Sept. 4

## Women Who Dared | Carolyn Martin

Bold, shocking adventures of our first female Presidential candidate who advocated “free love” in 1872, a mountain climbing record holder, the first woman to drive across America, an anti-lynching advocate, a union organizer.

Sept. 11

## Judy Chicago: The Artist | Florence Young

Judy Chicago is a fascinating artist, innovator, and iconoclast who became a founding force in the feminist art movement of the 1970s. You will see and learn about a variety of her works in various mediums, including her most famous work, “The Dinner Party,” honoring 39 remarkable women, which was shown in the U.S. and abroad to over one million viewers.

Sept. 18

## Figurative art of Ancient Greece | Ed Sherman

A survey of sculpture and painting from the Archaic and Classical eras illustrating the Greek “Cult of the Body.”

Sept. 25

## Braver Angels: Reuniting America | Ed Jaszewski and Catherine Moulton

Eight Democratic-leaning voters and seven Republican-leaning voters moving through a Braver Angels signature Red/Blue workshop, from initial skepticism to more profound understanding and empathy. You’ll get an inside look at how a Democratic voter went from threatening to cut off relationships with Trump voters to becoming dear friends with one—and how a Republican voter moved from disdaining progressives to taking co-leadership with one in a movement that now spans the country.

Oct. 2

## Australian Bushfires of 2020 | Anne Rewell

The 2020 bushfires that consumed vast areas of Australia were the worst in the country’s recorded history. Devastation to fauna and flora was high but human loss was miraculously low. We will examine the where and try to determine the why of the fires.

Oct. 9

## Changes in the Newspaper Business | Dale Kasler

Dale Kasler has been a newspaper reporter his entire adult life and has been with the Bee since 1996. He will speak about how the business has changed, particularly in the past decade - a time of great upheaval that drove the Bee’s parent into bankruptcy. He’ll address how these changes affect the newspaper you read every day, whether it’s in print or via the internet.



Oct. 16

## Eye on Sacramento: Looking Out for the Public Interest in Local Government | Craig Powell

Craig Powell is a retired attorney, businessman, community activist, and president of Eye on Sacramento, a watchdog and policy group. A long-term solution to homelessness has been a priority for the past two years. Powell will talk about the creation of Hope for Sacramento, which is based on a successful program, Haven for Hope in San Antonio, TX, now a national model.

Oct. 23

## Baseball and the Trojan Wars | Donn Miller

Ulysses becomes Roy Hobbs in the movie *The Natural*. Roy Hobbs in the movie *The Natural* is actually Ulysses returning from the Trojan War. He fought against a Cyclopes (Gus Sands), is introduced to Zeus (Pop Fisher) and his assistant coach Red (Mars), is sent to the locker room to find Doc Dizzy (Hades), and so on. Roy and Pop Fisher have to find a way to beat the Judge (Neptune) and win the pennant (getting home safely to be with his wife again (Iris) and son (the Boy)). But there is a battle that only Roy (Ulysses) can win or die trying.

Oct. 30

## Speaker and Program to be announced at a later date.

Nov. 6

## History, Culture and Conflict in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta | David Abelson

The Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta consists of more than a half-million acres of diverse natural resources, rich farmland and an intriguing history dating back the state’s creation in 1850. Surprisingly few Californians know where the delta is located, and even fewer have visited this spectacular part of our state. This talk will present a brief overview of the Delta’s complex ecosystem, economy and current controversy over building one or more large tunnels for water export to agricultural lands and cities located far outside the region. Abelson is an attorney who specializes in

environmental law and has taught several courses on California’s water resources at Sacramento State.



Nov. 13

## Food on the Move | Maryellen Burns

The first food trucks in California were horse-drawn wagons that delivered sandwiches, tamales and refreshments to 19th Century night workers and bar denizens. They took to the streets in the 1880’s. As time went on food served reflected the various cultures of the cities themselves. Business empires started with these mobile kitchens, which started as humble conveniences but have become the place where ambitious chefs test their ideas before opening restaurants. Food and cultural historian Maryellen Burns takes us on a journey through this moving tale.

Nov. 20

## Where the Money Went: The Acquisition and Use of the Fortunes Amassed by the Central Pacific Associates | David Helman

This talk is about the five Central Pacific Railroad Associates, commonly referred to as the Big Four, how they acquired their vast wealth and what was the disposition of their estates by themselves and then their heirs upon their deaths.

Nov. 27

## Thanksgiving (No Program)

Dec. 4

## Speaker and Program to be announced at a later date.

# forums

**FORUMS** are a special category of presentations involving community leaders, active professionals, and highly acclaimed speakers addressing topics of current special interest to a wide variety of our *Renaissance* members. These esteemed speakers are also seasoned experts in their fields of knowledge. They bring a diversity, depth, and breadth of topics that inform us about **critical issues facing us on an ongoing basis. These presentations occur on Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 pm**; when no other *Renaissance* seminars or presentations are scheduled. They also encourage the listening audience to ask probing questions about the topics presented. Below are the FORUM speakers for Fall Semester 2020, featured from September 4 to December 4. We encourage you to attend and learn from our fascinating speakers this Fall.

## Sept. 4

### DR. GRANT BALLARD | The Mysterious Increasing Penguin Populations of the Ross Sea, Antarctica



Originally from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, **Dr. Ballard** obtained his PhD from the University of Auckland in New Zealand and is Chief Science Officer at Point Blue Conservation Science, based in Petaluma. Managing a team of 160 scientists, he is responsible for shaping and growing Point Blue's research and conservation programs towards the vision that healthy ecosystems will continue to sustain thriving wildlife and human communities for decades to come. He is a practicing ecologist with fieldwork since 1991 in California, Alaska, and Antarctica. Dr. Ballard will show you what it's like to conduct research in one of the most beautiful, challenging and hostile environments—Antarctica. You will see some of the cutest animals on earth, the penguins.

## Sept. 11

### DENNIS MANGERS, LINDA BIRNER, CHRISTIE BRAZIEL, DANE WHITAKER | Coming Out of the Closet: Personal Stories of Pursuing One's Authentic Self

A panel of courageous LGBTQ women and men is willing to tell personal stories of declaring as lesbian, gay and transgender. Hear their journey to overcome family, religious and societal attitudes that may have helped or hindered the intense personal experience of coming to terms with their authentic selves and whom they love.



**Dennis Mangers** has been a professional singer, an elementary school teacher and principal, a corporate executive, a state Assemblyman and a lobbyist. He is currently serving as Strategic Advisor for arts, culture and the creative economy to Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. Dennis was a founding member of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus and a founding member of CAP/PAC, Sacramento's first LGBT political PAC. He was the first LGBT community member to serve on the Board of CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Services) Sacramento. He married his partner of 26 years, Michael Sestak on June 17, 2008 the first day it became legal in the state.



**Linda Birner** received degrees in psychology and journalism from Sac State in 1975. She founded the first LGBT Sacramento newspaper, *Mom, Guess What?* She has also served on the Sacramento Human Rights Commission, Affirmative Action Committee, Police Chief's Advisory Board and First Citizens Police Academy, County Sheriff's Community Advisory Board and County District Attorney's Citizen Academy. Birner's passion for political activism started early as President of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a member of the local American Association of University Women (AAUW).



**Christie Braziel** graduated from Sac State in 1974 with a BA in drama, feeling like her life was on track. But something quietly lurked in the back of her awareness. It wasn't until retirement that she did feel safe to fully allow the feelings that had been repressed so well for so long. At 65 years old, she came out of the "straight closet" and acknowledged and

claimed her true and complete self. She is equally comfortable telling her journey of self-discovery.



**Dr. Dane Whitaker** (DVM, MPVM) has practiced veterinary medicine in the San Francisco area for over 25 years. He completed his Master's degree in Preventive Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis in 2017 and is currently providing veterinary relief services for the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. Dane is the president of the Pride Veterinary Medical Community, a national LGBTQ+ veterinary group. He has given numerous presentations on LGBTQ+ issues at conventions and veterinary colleges, including *From Personal to Practical: Building on Experiences to Create a Culture of Inclusion for Queer-Identified Veterinary Students*.

## Sept. 18

### STACEY SHELNUH-HENDRICK | Museums as Places for Object-Based Learning



**Stacey Shelnuh-Hendrick** is the Director of Education at Crocker Art Museum. In 2019, she won the National Education Association's Art Museum Educator of the Year Award. According to Stacey, museums are places we visit to understand the objects in our world (natural and man-made) along with their stories. Stacey will show us that we can discover how art objects at the Crocker relay the values, beliefs, thoughts, and characteristics of the people who create, collect, and engage with them. During her presentation she will address the following topics: concept of object-based learning and experiences; types of objects the Crocker has collected; and a sampling of the Crocker's spring 2020 collection and its connection to the concept of object-based learning.

## Sept. 25

### STEVEN MAVIGLIO AND ROB STUTZMAN | What You Need to Know About California's 2020 Ballot Measures



California voters once again will decide on a plethora of ballot measures ranging from rent control to eliminating cash bail. Learn who's behind these initiatives, what the implications are on public policy if enacted, and other information to help you make an informed



choice. Political consultants **Steven Maviglio**, a Democrat; and **Rob Stutzman**, a Republican, have both worked on dozens of statewide initiative campaigns. They will detail each measure on the ballot in a fact-filled (and sometimes amusing) presentation.

## Oct. 2

### Dr. Francine Steinberg | Nutrition and Health: Issues and Insights



**Dr. Francine Steinberg**, PhD, RDN, will help us understand how recent research might impact our health, including the effects of keto, paleo and Mediterranean diets. She received the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Excellence in Research Award. Her B.S. and PhD degrees are from UC Davis; she completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Washington School of Medicine and a dietetic internship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Steinberg is Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutrition at UC Davis and Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. Her research program focuses on foods, food components and food choices impacting health outcomes. Her primary research interest is in reducing risk factors for cardiovascular and obesity-related chronic diseases.

## Oct. 9

### ROB BRINZER | SEAL Teams to Civilian Life: Core Attributes to Bridge Life's Transitions



**Rob Brinzer** is a 2001 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He served on Navy SEAL (Sea, Air, and Land) teams, and saw combat actions in both Africa and Afghanistan. He later earned his MBA with a dual focus on International Business and Healthcare Administration from George Washington University in Washington D.C. Currently, Rob is the Vice President and General Manager of RSI, a commercial refrigeration services and construction company and President and CEO of Clean Coast Resources, an environmental services company. His talk will focus on the core attributes that enabled him to have a successful career in the SEAL teams, and how those attributes were directly translatable into a successful civilian career post-military service.

## Oct. 16

### DR. CHARLES BAMFORTH | Beer: Looks Good, Tastes Good, Does You Good!

**Dr. Charlie Bamforth** is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California, Davis, and has been part of the brewing industry since 1978. He retired as the first Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Malting and Brewing Sciences at UC Davis in December 2018. He has published more than 300 papers and articles and has written or edited more than 20 books, including *In Praise of Beer*, a volume dedicated to helping the drinker make the best beer choices for health and enjoyment. Charlie is a funny and fascinating speaker and will treat us to a "horse's mouth" trip through the wonderful world of beer and how we can celebrate its diversity, quality and role in a fulfilling lifestyle.



## Oct. 23

### DR. BRIAN LANDSBERG | Voting Rights Then and Now

**Dr. Landsberg** is Professor Emeritus at McGeorge School of Law, where he has taught Constitutional Law, Anti-discrimination Law, and other courses since 1986. He served in the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice for 22 years, beginning in 1964. He is currently finalizing a book about school desegregation in Alabama. His prior books include: *Free at Last to Vote: The Alabama Origins of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and Enforcing Civil Rights: Race Discrimination and the Department of Justice*. Professor Landsberg will be discussing the origins of the Voting Rights Act, the scaling back of its protections, and some current challenges to voting rights.



## Oct. 30

### DR. JIM DRAGNA | Finish in Four: Graduation Success at Sac State

President **Robert Nelsen's** top mandate from the CSU Chancellor was to get undergraduate students to graduate in four years; he hired Jim Dragna as the "Graduation Czar." Dr. Dragna arrived in January 2016 to find that the four-year graduation rate for first-time freshman was 8 percent, one of the lowest in the system. The five-year rate was 32 percent, and the six-year rate was 46 percent. "Finish in Four" and "Through in Two" campaigns are part of the California State University's Graduation Initiative 2025 aiming to increase the number of freshman and transfer students earning a degree in four (or two) years. In 2018, President Nelsen accepted an Excellence in Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) in Washington for the successful strategy to increase graduation rates and reduce achievement gaps. "Czar" Jim Dragna will share how they started this change process in a little over three years and their ongoing efforts.



## Nov. 6

### DR. ROBERT NELSEN | Sac State's Evolution in Response to the Pandemic

Sacramento State President **Robert S. Nelsen** will give *Renaissance Society* members an update on the ongoing Sac State transformation to a virtual classroom over the Spring, Summer and Fall 2020 semesters. He will share lessons learned, what the plans are for the future, and best practices that can help us adapt as a lifelong learning organization and continue to support Sac State students and leadership. He was appointed Sacramento State's eighth president in March 2015. His experience in public higher education spans nearly three decades, most of it spent in the University of Texas system. He was president of UT-Pan American from 2010 to 2014. In 1989-90, Nelsen taught English at the University of Illinois at Chicago before joining the faculty of the University of Texas-Dallas, where he founded the creative writing program and served as its director. During his 18 years at UT-Dallas, he also was a professor of Literary and Aesthetic Studies and served as vice provost.



## Nov. 13

### CASSANDRA WALKER PYE | A Conservative's Take on America Now

**Cassandra Walker Pye**, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategist at Lucas Public Affairs, has worked in global, national and state roles as a strategic communications and public affairs practitioner. She has served in leadership roles in the public and private sectors. She was deputy chief of staff for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and a member of his post-election transition team. She is former political director and corporate affairs Vice President for the California Chamber of Commerce and directed government affairs for the California Retailers and California Grocers Associations. She is one of *The Sacramento Bee's* 87 Statewide Influencers, a member of PPIC's Leadership Council and immediate state board past President for California Women Lead.



## Nov. 20

### Dr. Elina L. Niño | To Bee or Not to Bee: Is there a Choice?

**Dr. Elina L. Niño** is a Cooperative Extension Specialist with the Department of Entomology and Nematology at UC Davis. Her passion is bees, especially improving honey bee health and particularly honey bee queen health. This includes understanding queen mating and reproductive processes and discovery and evaluation of novel biopesticides against varroa mites. Dr. Niño is also involved in precision beekeeping as she investigates the use of cutting-edge technologies to make beekeeping more efficient and sustainable. She also teaches numerous beekeeping workshops and developed the first Master Beekeeper Program that serves California and neighboring states. She obtained her Master's degree studying dung beetles from Northern California State University and her PhD working on reproductive changes in honey bee queens from Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Niño has a fascinating knowledge of bees that will surely make you fall in love with them.

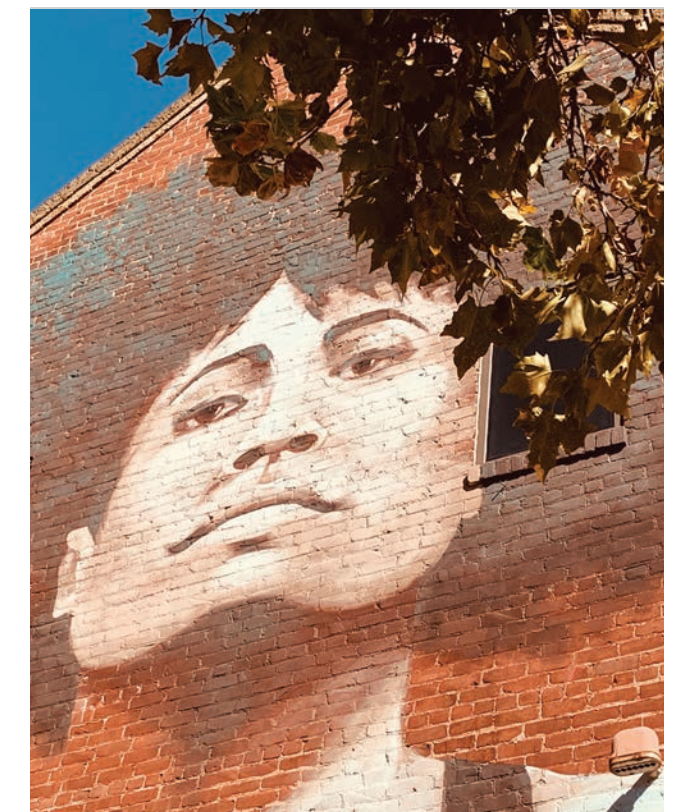


## Nov. 27 No Forum

## Dec. 4

### KEN CROSS | The Renaissance Society: Past, Present, and the Vision for the Future

This year has been a time of rapid change, adaptation, and transformation for the Renaissance Society. With the mandated "social distancing" pandemic protocols, an opportunity was revealed for the *Renaissance Society* to reinvent the 35-year old organization. Tune in to hear the lessons learned and best practices developed to make this leap to the virtual classroom. Find out what the future holds and share your thoughts and ideas for the *Renaissance Society's* continuous improvement. **Ken Cross** graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1974 with a BS degree in civil engineering. He served as an airborne ranger, U.S. Army armor officer for 10 years. Later Ken was a financial planner, sales manager and corporate sales trainer serving career military service members. For the 20 years before retirement, he was the Spiritual Life Center Church Development Officer followed by 12 years as CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento. Ken joined Renaissance in 2016 and as of July 1st, he is our new *Renaissance Society* President.



# talk talk talk

## A Community Series | Evenings at 7 pm

Talk Talk Talk is a series open to the community, free of charge. Although it can't replace the many wonderful programs, we offered throughout the Sacramento Public Library system, we hope it will provide a taste of what we have to offer, until we're able to be together again.

We'd like to thank our partners—*The Sacramento Public Library, Friends of the Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Book Collectors Club, Sacramento Art Deco Society, Sacramento River Delta Historical Society, Sacramento Historical Society, Les Dames D'Escoffier Sacramento* and others who will join us this fall season to provide fascinating conversations about the world around us.

Everyone is welcome to all events, but spots are limited to first come-first served. Information on how to register will be on our website: [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc) or email [renaissancesocietysacramento@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancesocietysacramento@gmail.com)

All programs will be held on Zoom

### Brain Health-You Can Make A Difference!

Kathleen Hart  
Thursday, Sept. 10  
7 pm

Concerned about brain health? Alzheimer's and dementia are widely regarded as the most devastating diseases of the 21st century. One out of 10 people aged 65 and older are at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. Join this online event to learn more about brain health and how you **CAN** make a difference. Kathy Hart participated in a two-week Friendship Force journey in 2019 that focused on Health and Wellness. She will share some of the information she learned relative to how you can have an impact on the health of your brain.

**Kathy Hart** is not a medical professional but is very interested in learning how daily choices and lifestyle behaviors have a major impact in personal health.

### Food Production, Consumption and Resistance among Japanese Americans Incarcerated by the United States Government during World War II

Paula Fujiwara,  
Wednesday, Sept. 16  
7 pm

Paula Fujiwara is a third generation Japanese American, whose family has been in Sacramento since the early 1900s, except during World War II, when her grandparents, parents, relatives and friends were incarcerated in the concentration camps, mainly at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. She presented this talk at the 2019 Oxford Symposium on Food and

Power, for which she received an honorable mention as a first-time presenter. In addition to her interest in the world's myriad food cultures, she has a particular focus on Victorian and Edwardian etiquette books, cookbooks and household manuals.

In her professional life, **Paula Fujiwara** is the Scientific Director of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease ([www.theunion.org](http://www.theunion.org)), which addresses the clinical, political and epidemiologic issues surrounding lung disease in low- and middle-income countries, particularly tuberculosis, the world's biggest infectious disease killer with 1.5 million deaths/year.

### The Food Traditions of Georgia

Kelsey Maher  
Wednesday, Sept. 23  
7 pm

Join Kelsey Maher over the snowcapped and church-steeped Caucasian mountains, across the smooth pebbled beaches of Batumi, to the lined vineyards of Kateketi in a talk about the food traditions, etiquette, and traditional winemaking practices of the local Republic of Georgia.

**Kelsey Maher** is a culinary educator and program manager. Originally from the rural South, she grew up in a community that produced and exchanged seasonal vegetables and fruits with each other. While living abroad in Central Asia and the Caucasus, Kelsey learned different methods of cooking familiar produce. This inspired her to study culinary diplomacy in graduate school at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Kelsey co-hosted *The Culinary Citizen*, a podcast about culinary diplomacy, for two years, has taught culinary classes to children and adults, and sits on the board of Slow Food California. This fall you will

either find her foraging for mushrooms or harvesting mussels from the coast.

### What Is A Book?

Lawrence Fox  
Maryellen Burns  
Wednesday, Sept. 30  
7 pm

*"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some are to be chewed and digested."*

~ Francis Bacon, *Essays* 1625



A book that *only* contains text is simply a book; something that belongs on the shelf of a bookstore, library or nightstand. Artists have used the book as inspiration in a myriad of ways and techniques, from traditional to the experimental. *The book* could be made through fine press printing or hand-crafted, the pages illustrated with computer-generated images or cheap photocopies. Books can become sculptures, tiny and gargantuan; sliced up and reconfigured; made from all kinds of materials with unconventional objects incorporated. Book artists, **Maryellen Burns** and **Lawrence Fox**, will take you through a little book arts history and share a multitude of images designed to whet your appetite for creating one of your own. *Co-sponsored by the Sacramento Book Collectors Club*

### Culinary Confessions—Debbie Arrington, Bobbin Mulvaney, Sue Robison, Kathi Riley, Roxanne O'Brien

Tuesday, Oct. 6  
7 pm

*Confession* is good for the soul. Or so we told our five women panelists from the Sacramento chapter of Les Dames D'Escoffier, a worldwide philanthropic society of professional women leaders in the multifaceted fields of contemporary gastronomy, hospitality and sustainable food and agriculture. Former food editor **Sue Robison** will moderate a panel with food writer **Debbie Arrington**, restaurateur **Bobbin Mulvaney**, Chef **Kathi Riley**, and recently retired ARC cooking instructor **Roxanne O'Brien**. They'll reveal their secret food fantasies, occasional mishaps in the kitchen, guilty pleasures and otherwise embarrassing moments. Other Les Dames will join us and with prodding might share some of their *not necessarily rated G* stories as well.

### The House of Twenty Thousand Books

Sasha Abramsky  
Tuesday, Oct. 13  
7 pm

*The House of Twenty Thousand Books* is a family memoir about Sasha Abramsky's grandparents, Chimen and Miriam Abramsky, and their unique home at 5 Hillway. In their semi-detached house, so deceptively ordinary from the outside, they created a remarkable House of Books. It became the repository for Chimen's collection of thousands upon thousands of books, manuscripts and other printed, handwritten, and painted documents, representing his journey through the great political, philosophical, religious, and ethical debates that have shaped the Western World. **Sasha Abramsky** is a freelance journalist. He has written widely about poverty and inequality; hunger; mass incarceration; and the treatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. He has written nine books and teaches writing part-time at the University of California, Davis.

### A Walk through the Past – Sacramento's Historic Burial Practices

Dr. Bob LePerriere  
Thursday, Oct. 15  
7 pm

This presentation touches on the history of interesting modes of burials in the past and covers different contemporary burial practices. It is followed by a virtual tour of highlights in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery (Old City Cemetery). Time permitting, participants will experience a virtual tour of Sacramento County Cemeteries. **Dr. Bob LePerriere** has been involved in Sacramento Area history for over 30 years. He started the committee to restore our Historic City Cemetery and currently chairs or co-chairs five historical groups and is on the board of five other organizations. He also curates the Museum of Medical History of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society, which opened in November of 2001.



## Sacramento's Art Deco Hidden Treasures

Bruce Marwick  
Thursday, Oct. 22  
7 pm



The Preservation Chair of the Sacramento Art Deco Society, Bruce Marwick, will be sharing images and stories about our City's "Moderne" hidden treasures. The presentation will include Art Deco buildings, murals, paintings, and sculptures. Many of the treasures are rarely seen items from Sacramento's libraries and archive collections.

**Bruce Marwick** is a board member of the Sacramento History Alliance. He also has written many articles about early 20th Century Sacramento artists and architects, including Alfred Eichler, designer of the Tower Bridge; and Carlo Taliabue, a noted Gladding McBean sculptor.

## The Reputation of Pandemics

Christina Richter  
Wednesday, Oct. 28  
7 pm

In 1918, before we even knew what a virus was, the Spanish Flu was dubbed as another 'la grippe.' But it came in three waves and proceeded to kill more people than the casualties of WWI. In 1968, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated, while the Hong Kong flu and the Vietnam War raged. Join Christina Richter as she drills down into the history of pandemics in the last century and brings to light some of the parallels and problems, both locally and nationally, that we can relate to in today's pandemic of 2020.

**Christina Richter** is a local historian, author and presenter. She is the immediate past president of the Roseville Historical Society, a Placer County Historical Advisory Board member, and is the Region 8 Vice President for the Conference of California Historical Societies and at docent for the Placer County Museum. She is also a 2019 Sacramento Historical Society Enlightenment Award recipient. She can be reached at christina@crfamilystory.com.

## From Jennies to JATO: World War I, Sacramento, and the Ascent of an "Air-Minded" California Community

James Scott  
Wednesday, Nov. 4  
7 pm

The First World War was seminal to the development of military aeronautics and aircraft/aerospace manufacturing in California. An intimate look at both Liberty Iron Works and Mather Field reveals how World War I made Sacramento a martial city, strongly committed to a century of pursuing, and playing host to, military aeronautics and aircraft/aerospace production. We know the places today as Mather Airport (until 1993, Mather Air Force Base) and aerospace giant Aerojet-General, an early innovator of Jet-Assisted Take-Off (JATO), and the indirect progeny of Liberty Iron Works. Sacramentans (and Californians) were engaged with an adoration for the military, a sense of regional independence, a reverence for the economic promise of the aircraft and aerospace industry, and an aviation-centered mentality that would endure through the twenty-first century.

Sacramento Public Library Archivist **James Scott** began conducting interviews with local Vietnam veterans back in 2012. He has since written two books on World War history in Sacramento, and any others.

## Under the Covers – Sacramento's Historic Independent Bookstores

Scott Burns and William Burg  
Tuesday, Nov. 10  
7 pm

In the early seventies Sacramento was home to more than 30 independent bookstores—more if you count the antiquarian booksellers that sold exclusively at book fairs. The really memorable ones were not only a place to find books—new, used, rare or otherwise—but also an important gathering place where you could get recommendations from a knowledgeable employee, enjoy a visiting author or a local poet, connect with friends for a spirited discussion or simply curl up in a chair with the bookstore cat and indulge your passion for reading. Bibliophile **Scott Burns**, historian **William Burg** and a bookstore owner or two will ruminate about the iconic bookstores and booksellers long gone, the surprising rebirth of local independents in the last few years, and suddenly the real possibility of their extinction.

What **Scott Burns** knows about the history of Sacramento's book business would, well, fill a book. **William Burg** is the author of six books on Sacramento history.

## Dining on the Rails

Marilyn Sommerdorf and the Alter Egos  
Tuesday, November 17  
7 pm

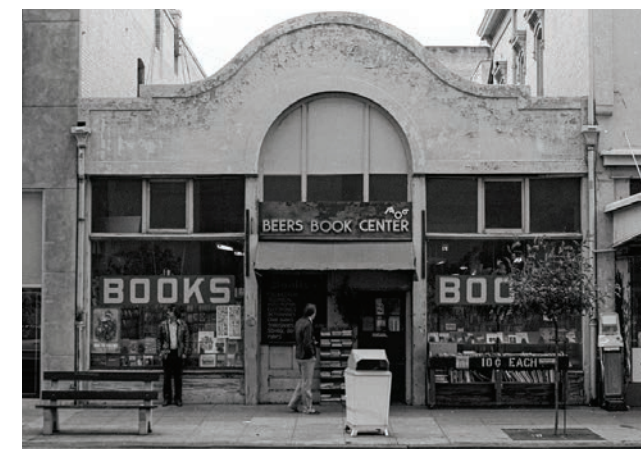
During the golden age of American train travel, the dining car was the heart of train life, a place for passengers to relax and enjoy a meal in the company of newfound friends. Train chefs prepared food from scratch, dining cars were set with fine china, crystal and silver; and a bud vase with a single rose graced the table. Earlier train travel, however, wasn't so posh. Join railroad historian **Marilyn Sommerdorf**, as she shares the nuts and bolts of **Dining on the Rails** and our *Renaissance Society* troubadours—**The Alter Egos**, as they share vignettes from journalists, famous and not so famous, travel writers, Pullman chefs, and itinerant food vendors to give you the real taste of rail travel history.

## The History of Tea

Anne Rewell  
Tuesday, Dec. 1  
7 pm

The simple brew of plant leaves and water has a long, thriving cultural and religious history. Next to water, it is also the world's most consumed beverage. From its beginnings in China, we will discover how tea spread world-wide and how it is prepared from England to Turkey and places in between.

While visiting a tea plantation in Sri Lanka, **Anne Rewell** learned the fascinating history of tea in India. Anne is also the moderator for the Friday Speakers Series.



*Renaissance provides me with the opportunity not only for lifelong learning, but also for a unique learning experience enriched by the perspective of its peer group instructors and associates.*

—Susan George

*Renaissance is a joy and a haven for those who want to keep thinking, keep discussing, keep learning and keep discerning—with like-minded people. Alone no more!*

—Mimi Dixon

*The Renaissance classes are a highlight of my week! Coming together with this diverse and wonderful group of people is a true joy.*

—Bob Keith

*It's never too late to learn and to enjoy.*

—Ivy Hendy

*I'm very fortunate to have discovered this treasure and look forward too many more years as a member.*

—Irene Stone, 100.

# shared interest groups

Whether we call them affinity groups, shared interest groups, special interest groups, clubs, or group activities we join them because we enjoy being around people who share similar interests, qualities, or ideas. Our Shared Interest Groups have traditionally met off-campus in people's homes, libraries, community centers, residence centers, or restaurants and coffee houses. Since public meetings are unlikely for most activities for the foreseeable future, many groups and clubs that provide opportunities to connect outside the classroom are either attempting to meet on Zoom or waiting until we get the all clear from Sacramento County Health officials to assemble in person.

If you want to find out more or know you want to join any of the listed groups, please contact either the designated coordinator or register online. Registration information will be on our website. [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc)

A number of groups are not meeting in the Fall. We hope they will return this spring.

## Arts, Entertainment, Food, and Travel

### Alter Egos – Renaissance Society Actors and Storytellers

Maryellen Burns – [maryellen\\_burns@mac.com](mailto:maryellen_burns@mac.com)  
Christie Brazier and a cast of 20 others  
Days and Times? When we want to get together.

This July a group of Renaissance and community members joined together to create a reader's theater performance called *Dining on the Rails*. The script was created using original diaries, newspaper articles, oral histories and personal interviews. We rehearsed and performed it for 200 people, more than some community theaters in town have during a month-long run. We had so much fun working together that we'd like to continue. If you enjoy the art of research, developing a character, creating simple costumes or hats, telling a story in three to five minutes or stringing them together for a full-length production, join us. Aspiring playwrights, directors or radio documentary makers also welcome. Why not a Podcast or YouTube movie?

### A Cook's Tour of Sacramento Meanders

Dan Cross and Maryellen Burns  
Dates and Time vary.  
[ozarkdan865@gmail.com](mailto:ozarkdan865@gmail.com) | [maryellen\\_burns@mac.com](mailto:maryellen_burns@mac.com)

This fall's *A Cook's Tour* is still trying to find its feet during the pandemic, so join us as we meander through the region—either in person, when possible, or on Zoom, when not. We missed a half dozen spots this past spring that we'd still like to visit when Coun-

ty guidelines allow—the *Hotel Leger in Mokelumne Hill*, *Boeger's Winery in Placerville*, *Sportsman's Hall in Camino*, the *St. George Hotel in Volcano*, and *Giusti's in Walnut Grove*. Closer to home, we may visit historic restaurants and bars. All will have outdoor patios (no inside dining for us) and allow ample physical distancing. Love a good sandwich? We may meet in East Portal Park after going to Roxie's Deli or a sandwich place of your choice. Cheese your thing? La Crosta in West Sac will provide all we need for a tasting, including the wine. Virtual tours of regional bars, breweries, and even Old Sacramento may take the place of in person gatherings. All include an opportunity for us to get to know each other better. Have other suggestions of ways to keep connected over food, drink, and conviviality? Potential speakers or other venues? Register and all will be revealed via email.

### Digital Photography

Jane Steele and Colleen Wong  
Tuesdays, 6 weeks, Sept. 15 to Nov. 24  
10 to 11:45 am  
[jas2go@me.com](mailto:jas2go@me.com)

We are geared toward photographers who are interested in exploring the various modes and settings of their cameras. This year we will explore techniques such as how to capture mood, how to "see the light," using negative space and other techniques in photography. The class alternates between class sessions and field trips. Field trips will provide an opportunity to practice what is learned in class. We will hold the class using Zoom this semester. Field trips will be held while we practice social distancing and other safety measures.

### Enlightened Aging

Renee Balcom  
Wednesdays, Sept. 9 to Dec. 2  
12 to 1:30 pm

Our content will deliver vital ideas and perspectives on the issues that matter most to us as we age. Join us at Enlightened Aging as we learn from our presenters, an elite group of experts who will share their knowledge and findings with us. We will discuss the challenges facing our society as the population ages. Subjects to be covered are Elder and Family Law, Options for Safety, Alternative Living and Housing, Dating and aging and so much more.

### iPhone Photography Experimental Studio

Melissa Green and Cynthia Nicholson  
Thursdays, Sept. 3 to Oct. 15  
10 to 12 pm.  
Register online  
[garden\\_gurl@comcast.net](mailto:garden_gurl@comcast.net)

This seminar includes participant demonstrations where experienced photographers use iPhone apps to create digital artwork. Online demonstrations with shared albums are our learning and critique platforms. This semester we continue using apps for computer migration and reporting exposure metadata. Visit our website for demonstration videos and artwork examples at <https://rsiphonephotostudio.blogspot.com>. New photo studio artists should be at ease with iOS basics and expect to purchase \$25 in apps. Requirements: iPhone 7, 8, X, XR, XS, 11, 11Pro; iOS 12 or 13, AppleID. An iPad is helpful for editing images. This is **NOT** a beginner photography seminar. All enrollees go to **WAITLIST** and will be contacted by instructor to check prerequisites mentioned above. A computer is helpful to attend the Zoom meetings so you can use your iPhone or iPad for demonstrated activities.



## Eight Wanderers of the World (more or less)

Over the years many writers, cultural historians and travelers have compiled lists of the Seven Wonders of the World—the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, Wonders of Nature, Underwater World, and Industrial World. Join us as we explore Eight Wanderers of the World (more or less). Register for the series, even if you decide to drop in just once in a while to experience a virtual journey to places on your bucket list. A list of Zoom talks, days, and times will be sent to you as they pop-up.

### The Comstock Lode and the Making of San Francisco

Beth Mann

How did two San Francisco bartenders become two of the biggest players in the get rich schemes of the world's largest silver strike? Come meet the Bonanza kings—the makers and shakers of the Comstock and ultimately of San Francisco and the other speculators, engineers and hardworking miners who made Virginia City the richest city in the world.

### A Murder in Venice

Maryellen Burns

Venice, a city of masks and riddles, where narrow streets and passageways form a giant maze that confounds the uninitiated and deepens the sense of mystery. Maryellen Burns takes us on a journey with mystery writer Donna Leon, and fellow *Renaissance* members Rick Castro and Lawrence Fox, as they stumble upon the many fictional stories of Commisario Guido Brunetti and the all so true story of either the suicide or murder of gay artist, journalist and erotic poet Mario Stefani.

### Exotic Mount Everest and Shangri La

Karun Yee

In 2019, Karun Yee was fortunate enough to visit Nepal and Bhutan on a Gate 1 Discovery Tour. She was inspired by the picture of the Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan. Each small exotic country is a place you only dream about in fairytales. The whole way of life runs the gamut, from extremely poor simple day to day existence to elaborate, exquisite and extravagant luxuries seen through the eyes of a tourist. The fascinating stories each scenic place represented were so interesting, she had to dig deep. Of course, why

people believe, and practice certain religions is a mystery, only turning to traditions for an answer. She has learned, the more you travel the world, the better the understanding a person has of the beauty of life.



### The Persian Empire

Lawrence Fox

The Persian Empire is the name given to a series of dynasties centered in modern-day Iran that spanned several centuries. This region was a global hub of culture, religion, science, art and technology for more than 200 years before it fell to the invading armies of Alexander the Great. Lawrence Fox was in the Peace Corps in Iran in the 1970's and remained for 4 ½ years. He will take us on a tour of places that he has seen and things he has done. Lawrence has a master's degree in art and education, and has traveled the world including India, Southeast Asia and throughout Europe.

### Morocco

Marty Keale

Morocco is an ancient kingdom with a wide variety of geography, cultures and languages. Marty has prepared a slide show of his January 2019 tour of Morocco, which emphasizes the diversity of this exotic and beautiful land and draws sharp contrasts with our travels in Europe.

### The Adventures and Misadventures of a Traveler

Dan Cross

Seeing amazing architecture, admiring centuries old pieces of art, experiencing different cultures, tasting new foods, and partaking of beers and spirits from around the world while accumulating memorable experiences to last a lifetime has become a quasi-addiction for Dan Cross. Join him on a journey through some of his favorite spots, and his not so favorite encounters.

### Books, Language, and Literature

#### Book Group—Partners in Crime

Lynda Cassady and Pat Stokes  
4th Thursdays – ongoing  
1:30 to 2:30 pm  
Cassidy.lynda@gmail.com

Discover new mystery writers. Each month a member selects, and author and members read any of that author's books. At the monthly meeting, we share opinions in a friendly and frank roundtable discussion. The group has been meeting at McClatchy Library. At present, the group is full, and a waiting list maintained. Cassidy.lynda@gmail.com or pstokes689@comcast.net.

#### Le Cercle Francais (Conversational French)

Karen Durham  
Wednesdays  
1 to 3 pm  
Karendurham615@gmail.com

This seminar has traditionally met at the Campus Commons Clubhouse. It is for French speakers at an intermediate level, requiring a working acquaintance with the language through high school or college classes or from living in a French-speaking country. Members share common interests through presentations, reading and conversation. Registration is required. Seminar size is limited to 15 and a waiting list is maintained.

### Monday Book Club

Carol Hayes,  
First Monday, every month year-round  
1 to 2:30 pm  
cacarol@att.net

16 members currently sign-up by emailing or calling Carol Hayes or co-chair. We each take turns reviewing book/author and then everyone else has a turn to give opinion/comments. We read all types—mostly fiction and generally current. The group has been meeting at 150 East Ranch Drive at their clubhouse (near corner of Munroe & American River Dr.) Waiting list maintained.

### Memoirs

Frances Clarke  
Mondays, September 21, October 5, October 19  
2:00 to 3:45 pm  
fclarke@surewest.net

Share your meaningful stories, experiences, perspectives. Photographs, artwork, drawings, scrapbooks, antiques or other creative ideas are welcome. We motivate and inspire each to create a legacy for others.

### Topical Book Group—The People of Modern China

Nancy Findeisen  
Wednesdays, Sept. 16 to Dec. 16  
10 to 11:45 am  
Nancy.findeisen@gmail.com

Over four months this fall, the Topical Book Group will read and discuss four books offering insightful reporting on the lives, dreams, struggles and achievements of ordinary people living in modern China. These highly rated books are by journalists and other writers with many years of experience living in China. A copy of the annotated book list will be provided upon registration.



### Tuesday, Book Club

Marian Kile and Ilana Wolpert  
Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 15  
10 to 11:45 am  
MarianKile@yahoo.com

Why join a book club? Why not join? We hold our discussion in a Zoom meeting to share ideas and perspectives. We read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books that are available in the Sacramento Public library system, including eBooks. Members engage in intelligent yet comfortable discussions about the writing and the author. We meet year-round, once a month, on the third Thursday. Maximum registration: 18

### The New Yorker Magazine Discussion Group

Ronald Meyer  
Mondays, all year round  
10:30 to 12:30 pm  
Ronson3841@gmail.com

This seminar is for those who enjoy reading the New Yorker magazine. Participants read and review each week's issue in advance of the meeting. Members freely discuss articles in the recent issue, share opinions and gain insights. We meet every Monday throughout the year. We meet year-round. The New Yorker Magazine Discussion group has been in existence since the 1990's. All our members subscribe to the magazine. We are currently meeting via Zoom; however, we normally meet in the KOH Library in The Center at 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento.

### Spanish Conversation, Advanced

JoAnn Peter  
Thursdays, Sept. 3 to Nov. 19  
10 to 11:45 am  
Jp10299@yahoo.com

This Shared Interest Group is for Spanish speakers at an advanced level. The emphasis on conversation. The ability to use the imperfect and reterite tenses is necessary. We may read articles on current events, literature selections, watch a video or review grammar as desired by the groups. Please contact leader before registering.

## Writers Group 1

Dan Keller and Marian Kile  
Sept. 17 ongoing  
Mondays, 10 to 11:45 am  
dakeller@comcast.net

Members write in a wide-open range of subjects; poetry, memoirs, random thoughts, even new challenging styles; expertise is not needed. Each week writers distribute copies and read their material to the group. The group provides feedback, verbally or in notations on the distributed copies. All our members have welcomed the feedback, and everyone gains in the discussions.

## Writers' Workshop II

Anita Adams  
Lani Hahn  
Tuesdays, 12 to 2 pm  
Anitadadams@earthlink.net  
songlani@aol.com

Our members come from a variety of backgrounds and write in a wide range of styles with their own choice of subjects. They bring at least six copies of what they wish to share, limiting their writing to 1,000 words each week. Feedback is provided, if requested, as well as positive encouragement. Registration is required. There is a maximum of 10 members: a waiting list is maintained. Contact the leaders for more information.

## Economics

### Corporate Accountability: Restoring the Balance

James McRitchie  
Fridays, Oct 16, 23, 30; 12 to 1:30 pm

Corporations are the most powerful social invention for creating wealth. They can also ruin our environment and tear our social fabric. Even small shareholders can make corporations more accountable and sustainable, using the tools of democratic corporate governance and social media. This class will be a workshop to discuss possible campaigns in influence corporate behavior. This class may be continued if enough interest.

## Games and Hobbies

### Games for Entertainment

Roberta (Bobby) Frieze and Judy Keaton  
Thursdays, 1 to 3 pm

Card games, word games, dominoes and team games are played. A basic knowledge or skill of cards and trump is helpful. We enjoy spending a few minutes socializing at each meeting before game play starts. Our members host and provide refreshments on a rotating basis depending upon their own calendars. We meet in members' homes on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. 12-member maximum. A wait list is maintained. We will only meet if the county guidelines allow.

### Mah Jong 2

Carol Campanova and Marsha Holland  
penelope3888@gmail.com  
marsha.holland@sbcglobal.net

If you are interested in playing or learning Mahjongg—no matter your skill level – here is your chance! We will be holding a meeting to put together skill-level groups. At that meeting we will determine how many groups of players will form and go forward. Please register online and you will be contacted for the meeting's date/time/place when Sacramento County health guidelines permit.

## Health and Well-Being

### Walkabouts

Lance Muller  
Wednesdays, 9:25 am  
renaissancewalkabouts@gmail.com

Each Wednesday morning, we walk at a different location chosen by volunteer leaders. Our Tortoises group walks 2 miles. Our Hares group walks 4 miles. Announcements are at 9:25, followed by stretches and then we begin our Walkabout.

We will follow Sacramento county health and *Renaissance Society* guidelines before scheduling. Members must wear face coverings and maintain six feet distancing from the nearest walker.

It is highly unlikely that we will be able to schedule a group lunch at a neighborhood restaurant afterward, unless they have well-spaced, outside dining. We may offer an occasional self-catered picnic at our walk location.

For safety reasons, each participant must wear their *Renaissance* badge with their emergency con-

tact information filled-in. We need to pledge to walk on the left side of trails and bikeways. Sorry, no dogs are permitted. Register online at <https://renaissance-walkabouts.weebly.com/>, and click the 'Walkabouts Registration' tab.

## Technology, Science, and Nature

### Inspired by Nature—Learning to Observe

Janice Kelley  
Tuesdays, TBA  
8:30 to 10:30 am  
4 sessions per group. Will repeat at least once during the fall.

Walks, talks, and writing celebrate the beauty of nature through mindfulness, observation, and creative expression. An observation walk invites participants to slow down, practice mindfulness, use our sense of smell, touch, sight, and hearing as we walk, stop, listen and watch. We will take notice of relationships and changes in both wildlife and landscape over time. Learning the art of keeping a journal is central to capturing our observations, feelings, and impressions, asking questions, recording insights and sketching. Bring either a bound blank journal, a sketchbook. Bring a spiral notebook with lined paper if you plan to write instead of sketch. Enrollment limited to 12. This group will meet in person, if county guidelines allow.

### ANDROID BASICS—Via EMAIL

Carol Limbaga, Victoria Star  
climbaga@comcast.net

This is an Android Smartphone drop-in via email support group. We help one-to-one, hands-on with YOUR cell phone. Discuss your BASIC usage: phone features, settings, make and receive calls, contact info, voice-mail, message/text, delete, email, camera, phone apps and play store. We want YOUR basic questions!



## Pop-Ups

**Pop-Up's** are, generally speaking, virtual or in person activities our members can participate in, outside our regularly scheduled programming.

A **Pop-Up** may be offered by a member who suddenly decided to offer a talk, walk, hands-on workshop, or virtual hangout with just a few weeks' notice. Or, one of our remarkable partners in the arts, music, theater, library, poetry or history community might invite us to sponsor one of their programs or suggest a brand-new collaboration.

It might be a one and only type of event or a series. A few of the ideas we've discussed might not even happen this Fall. We recognize that some ideas need a little more time to percolate. And a champion to get it going.

**Morning Coffee** will be an occasional one hour get together, in small groups at local coffee houses or online, to have an animated conversation about what's happening around us.

**History Happy Hour** will allow us to raise our glasses to the past and discover the odd and fascinating things people did before Zoom. Each session will feature a historic drink to lubricate the discussion.

**Sacramento Stories** will explore the people, places and happenings that make our community such a vibrant and special place to live. For example – a walk through Old Sacramento captures its role as the genesis for a new multi-cultural city with its unique food and saloon culture.

**Debate Club** could feature a frivolous topic or something really serious. Cats or Dogs? Classical Music or Jazz? Urban Living or the Suburbs? Vegan vs. Carnivore?

Virtual **Day of the Dead** celebrations, gallery tours, talks on **Blue Zones** and **Blue Suede Shoes**, even a **Cook's Tour of Sacramento Dive Bars** are just a few of the ideas we've bandied about. Now, it's time for you to weigh in.

Propose your own **Pop-Up**. A single event or a series. By yourself or in partnership with others. Don't want to lead it yourself but would like to see it happen or know of a happening we can promote? Send us a less than one-page proposal with a title, description, date, how long, and a little about your passion for the subject, and we'll get back with you to get it on the schedule.

Maryellen Burns—Pop-Up Coordinator  
maryellen\_burns@mac.com

# join our team!



We are always looking for inspiring individuals to teach for the Renaissance Society. Interested in becoming an instructor?

Our seminar leaders, co-leaders, and speakers are at the heart of the Renaissance experience. We welcome and appreciate new and

returning instructors and invite proposals for single presentations or a series lasting three, six, or twelve weeks. We also encourage a variety of teaching formats, including facilitated discussions of books, films, or ideas; informational lectures; presentations; hands-on instruction; and field trips. From Arts to Food to Hiking to Zoology, we welcome all topics, issues, and activities.

Our peer-to-peer instructors have found teaching, in some cases for the first time, to be a rich and rewarding experience. The topic selected may reflect either vocational expertise or an avocational passion. Invariably, Renaissance instructors report that the teaching process deepens their own knowledge of the subject matter. Participants also bring their own expertise and life experiences to the classroom which makes for lively exchanges.

Traditionally, Renaissance instructors have come from the membership. However, we also actively seek presenters and speakers from the community who have knowledge of a wide variety of subject matter, sensitivity to different learning styles, and an ability to communicate concepts in a clear fashion.

## How to Submit a Proposal

Check out our website for up to date information on how to submit a proposal. The Program Committee reviews course proposals and provides instructor support and training. Send an email to [renaissa@csus.edu](mailto:renaissa@csus.edu) or Phone: (916) 758-5133 for more information.

[www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc)

## how do I register?

Once you become a member you will receive additional information on how to register for seminars, presentations or shared interest groups. You can take as many seminars as you'd like, as long as the times don't conflict. For example, if there are two classes on a Friday at 10 am you can only sign up for one. Participation in presentations is unlimited. Sign up for as many as you'd like. There are dozens to choose from. If you aren't a member of Renaissance you can still attend our free Community Speakers Series – Talk Talk Talk as well as other programs that might Pop-Up from time to time. Information on how to register will be constantly updated on our website.

## how do I take classes online?

Once you register for a course, you should receive a registration confirmation email from your instructor and a reminder email prior to class with all the information you need to join on Zoom.

- If you haven't used Zoom before, allow about 15 minutes to set it up before your first use.
- If you plan to use a laptop or desktop, the first time you click on a link it will download a free and secure program to your computer.
- If you plan to use a tablet or smartphone, you'll want to download the free and secure Zoom application from your application store.

## what equipment do I need?

At the most basic level, all you need to use Zoom is a telephone, such as a smartphone or landline. However, if you have access to a computer or mobile device you can use the full capabilities of Zoom.

The following equipment will greatly enhance your experience:

1. **Web camera:** A camera will increase your connection with your instructor and your peers by allowing you to see each other face-to-face. If you do not have access to a web camera, you will still be able to see the instructor.
2. **Headset with a microphone:** This will let you hear and be heard more clearly. This does not need to be fancy equipment; it can be the same as the headphones you might use with your phone.
3. **Charger:** Charging your device during class will ensure that you do not have an unexpected power outage interrupting your learning.

## is there training I can attend?

There are also online resources on our Renaissance website, including both a video on using Zoom, as well as handouts which you can download and print out. In addition, the Zoom website itself offers many training resources and classes you may sign up to take.

<https://tinyurl.com/RSWebsiteHomePage>

## fall 2020 virtual orientation & rendezvous

Join the Renaissance Society for a **Virtual Orientation & Rendezvous** on Friday, August 14, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Zoom.

Whether you are long-time member, a new member or thinking about joining the Renaissance Society this year, please attend the RS semiannual Orientation & Rendezvous to learn more about our Fall 2020 lifelong learning programs and services.

### **Orientation & Rendezvous program agenda:**

**Orientation**—Learn how virtual classrooms will operate and how you can participate.

**Rendezvous moderated panel**—Receive an overview of the numerous changes and transformations of our Renaissance Society programs and services for the Fall 2020 semester.

**Question & answer session**—Ask questions of the panel to clarify what to expect this Fall.

**Volunteer opportunities**—Hear from Sac State organizations seeking volunteers to support the students and campus: The Sac State Gerontology and Physical Therapy Departments and the UC Davis Department of Preventive Medicine.

**To register** for the Orientation & Rendezvous, go to RS website homepage: <https://tinyurl.com/RSWebsiteHomePage>

**Zoom invitation**—After you register, you will receive an email with the Orientation and Rendezvous Zoom invitation link.

### **Following the Orientation & Rendezvous**

- **Survey**—Please complete the Constant Contact RS Member Profile survey that you will receive by email following the event.
- **Fall 2020 “Flipbook” Catalog**—Check out the new and improved Fall 2020 “Flipbook” catalog: <https://tinyurl.com/RSWebsiteHomePage>

## how members stay connected

The Renaissance Society offers many ways to stay connected. Every Wednesday, (and many other days, too) members receive our e-blast on **Constant Contact**. Check your email often. Renaissance Society staff and volunteers do their best to keep you up to date with all of our new and exciting offerings. **The Recorder**, our monthly newsletter, provides many stories about our members, upcoming events and programs, updates by our president and information about new initiatives and opportunities for service.

We will continue our Monthly **New Member Pizza Party**—We invite all members to join us at 4 pm, the first Friday of the month. Order in a pizza, grab a glass of wine, beer, or other beverage of your choice and chat with friends new and old. When county guidelines allow it, gather with a few friends at your local pizza palace and Zoom along with us. Our first party is scheduled for the first day of class, Friday, Sept. 4. Next dates are Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.

Join our **Facebook** page online. Over 300 members have already. Post coping tips and strategies; photos of your neighborhood, favorite animal or child, or links to streaming cultural events. The sky is the limit.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/renaissancesocietysacramento/>

Contribute to **Renaissance Cafe**, our take on cafe culture—a virtual space set up as a blog to share our passion for learning, engage in deeper conversations about the ideas and issues that matter to us, meet new people and hook up with old friends, as well as link to resources that connect us to the world. Curated by RS members, it offers a space to post stories, essays, opinion pieces, original art and photography, short films or videos, gardening, cooking and coping strategies, and other ways to navigate the weird world we are now required to live in. <https://www.renaissancecafesacramento.com>.

We have a **Friendship Circle Phone Tree**, facilitated by our Ambassadors, just to keep in touch with our members. Stay connected to your peers! Call each other to check in, keep in touch online, and offer each other support.

**A Taste of Tradition**—Our annual Holiday Celebration will still take place this year, albeit in a new environment. A dedicated group of Renaissance artists, writers, musicians, and thespians are already at work to whip up a little something new and different to celebrate the end of the fall series of programs.

# in this time

*of a worldwide pandemic crisis, what is the value of the Renaissance Society?*

- **Continue to be a lifelong learner**—Being isolated at home, what better way to use your time than to keep your mind active and engaged?
- **Increase your learning capacity**—The Renaissance has expanded the learning week from Friday and Saturday to multiple days per week. You no longer must worry about competing seminars because of time and space limitations.
- **Stay socially connected**—All research studies show that the best way to age well is to stay socially connected and in touch with your friends and loved ones. Isolation is not good for a person's mental or physical health.
- **Have fun**—Find Renaissance Society activities that feed your soul and brighten your spirit.
- **Continue to find ways to serve**—Service is the highest form of love. Be creative and find a way you can give back and make a difference in your community and the world. Even in a pandemic there are creative ways to pay it forward and serve others.
- **You have the time, use it wisely**—The one thing we all share is a limited amount of time on this earth. Look for ways that help you grow in mind, body, and spirit.
- **Be a Millennial 2.0**—This is trademarked Renaissance Society (spoof) tagline. Most of us are almost twice the age of most millennials (our kids and grandkids). Let's show them how this remote learning and Social Media is really supposed to be used to share factual, in-depth information that helps us evolve as human beings!

# scholarship program

## New! Renaissance Society Member Scholarship Program

Finances should not be a barrier to lifelong learning. So, on Dec. 9, 2019, the Renaissance Society (RS) Board of Directors approved a Member Scholarship Program. The program provides current and prospective members of our community who demonstrate a financial need and a commitment to lifelong learning the opportunity to participate. The member scholarship program waives annual and mid-year membership dues as well as UTAPS parking permits, if needed, for a limited number of applicants for the current academic year.

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

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

**Electronically** at [shari.lowen@csus.edu](mailto:shari.lowen@csus.edu) or **by mail** to **The Renaissance Society, CSUS 6000 J Street, MS 6074, Sacramento, CA 95819-6074** or **delivered in person to the RS office in the Adams Building, Room 106, 7750 College Town Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.** (Please slide under the door.) Completed applications must be received by August 10. Applications will be reviewed for completeness and meeting the need criteria. A lottery drawing will be conducted, and winners notified prior to the semiannual RS Orientation & Rendezvous on August 14.

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

# give generously

*Renaissance members give generously  
making a difference*

*"Giving is not make a donation, it is **making a difference.**"*  
—Kathy Calvin, Former President, UN Foundation

There are many ways that you can support Sacramento State students and your fellow Renaissance members with donations to one or more of our funds. Make your gifts in honor of someone's birthday or achievements—a very special way to celebrate a friend or family member. Donate a Gift of Learning for someone who cannot afford to join or to the Special Program Fund or *Renaissance Society Fund* to help us sustain and enhance our programs. Give to the Scholarship Fund or the ASI Food Pantry to help students struggling financially. Whatever your passion, whatever your donations, know that your gifts will **make a difference** throughout the year.

- **Renaissance Scholarship Fund\***: Provides scholarships annually to Sac State students.
- **Renaissance Special Program Fund\***: Provides resources for new and innovative programs that educate and engage Renaissance members, Sac State students, and the community.
- **ASI Food Pantry\***: Provides food and personal supplies for students in need.
- **Give the Gift of Learning Fund**: Provides scholarships for members unable to afford the Renaissance annual membership fee.
- **Renaissance Society Fund**: Supports the general program operations of the Renaissance Society.

\*Contributions to these funds are tax-deductible.

## How to SHARE

Online: You can donate to two funds, the Renaissance Scholarship Fund and the Renaissance Special Program Fund, online. Use the University Foundation at Sac State website for gifts to *Renaissance Scholarship Fund* and *Renaissance Special Program Fund*: <https://tinyurl.com/RSSpecialProgramFund>.

**By Check:** Donations to all the funds can be made by check. Please enclose the form below with your check made out to the payee for each fund as indicated in the form. Mail to *The Renaissance Society*, Sacramento State, 6000 J Street, Mail Stop 6074, Sacramento, CA 95819-6074.

# gift form

*making a difference*

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renaissance Scholarship Fund (payable to University Foundation at Sacramento State - note, RS Scholarship)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renaissance Special Program Fund (payable to University Foundation at Sacramento State - note, RS Special Program)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ASI Food Pantry (payable to ASI Food Pantry)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Give the Gift of Learning (payable to Renaissance Society - note, Member Scholarship)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Renaissance Society general support (payable to Renaissance Society - note, RS Programs)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Gift

name		
address		
city	state	zip

I wish my gift to remain anonymous. yes no

This gift is in honor of in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of honoree (please print)

Please send notification of my tribute to \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of honoree (please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check payable to: The Renaissance Society  
California State University, Sacramento  
6000 J Street – Mail Stop 6074  
Sacramento, Ca 95819-6074

# a membership gift

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

The sign-up process is easy and straightforward: simply go to online membership signups here then click on “Sign Me Up” for new members; fill out your family member’s, relative’s, or friend’s personal information; click submit; and then enter your credit card information. It will take only 5-6 minutes. It really is a meaningful gift!!

# who volunteers?

## Everyone!

Our vibrant volunteer culture springs from a sense of belonging and shared commitment, expressed in members’ involvement in every aspect of The Renaissance Society’s operations and programming. Whether you’re telling your friends about Renaissance, teaching or hosting a class, coordinating an event, raising funds, working in the office, serving on the Board or any one of a hundred other activities suitable for every interest, ability or availability, our members contribute to our outstanding success as the premier place for lifelong learning in the Sacramento region.

## Why volunteer?

**For the connections:** Volunteering links you up with people who share your interests, your goals, your passions. Try something new and see where it leads you.

**For the fun:** We take a “people first” approach to connecting volunteers to opportunities. Do what you love; love what you do.

**For the satisfaction:** Renaissance thrives when everyone gets involved. When you pitch in, you get more than you give.

## What do volunteers do?

Everything!

Want to help out every once in a while, when you have an hour or two available? Become an event volunteer. Passionate about a topic or hobby? Share your knowledge and experience by teaching a course! Looking for a way to connect with members on an ongoing basis, using your talent and expertise on anything from finances to curriculum development to strategic planning; membership, diversity and cultural engagement and communications and social media, we have committees and activities that match any area of interests

**We’re especially proud of our commitment of service back to the Sac State community.**

# our ambassador program

In January 2019, an enthusiastic and dedicated group of members helped create a speaker’s bureau to share the *Renaissance Society (RS)* story. Our goal: *Raise RS visibility in the community to increase participation in a lifelong-learning journey for intellectually curious adults.*

We give public presentations at community events and for various organizations. We share personal testimonials and printed materials, including invitations to join our volunteer, peer-taught roster of subject matter experts who teach our many, varied seminars.

*Until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, this public venue outreach is on a temporary hold.*

# gerontology

Help a Sac State Gerontology Student earn classroom credits and experience working with an Elder. If you have been an Elder Mentor in the past, you can volunteer again. Volunteers will experience:

- Assignment to a Gerontology Student for four or five on- or off-campus meetings during the semester.
- Getting to know your Student and participating in social, physical and mental acuity assessments during the meetings.
- Help Students who have experience with seniors in skilled nursing but want to experience a senior who is aging well.
- Help a Student earn three college credits in a required class.
- Attend a reception for Mentors hosted by Students at semester's end.
- Some volunteers are asked to speak in Gerontology classes.

Renaissance has participated in this program for several years, and many Elder Mentors continue a friendship with their Students for years after the semester is completed.

If you are interested in volunteering as an Elder Mentor, watch for Constant Contact emails with opportunities or sign up at the Rendezvous.

# u-mentor program

To initiate your interest in becoming a mentor to a Sac State student, complete the online Mentor application. Sac State's Human Resources will send you a link for an online background check. Fingerprint checks and \$30 fee will be waived for RS members. The U-Mentor program staff will match interested students with Renaissance Society members based on a student's major and mentor interest. Be sure to indicate Renaissance member on the application "other," asking how you found out about the program. It may take a few weeks for the program to recruit students and match with mentors.

For more information, contact the Sac State U-Mentor coordinator at [Degreesproject-03@csus.edu](mailto:Degreesproject-03@csus.edu). Renaissance Society member contact is Sue Bollig, [suebca2012@gmail.com](mailto:suebca2012@gmail.com).

# new member faqs

- **How will I learn about the opportunities available to me as a Renaissance Society (RS) member?** The RS website and the monthly Renaissance Recorder newsletter are your primary resources. Additionally, you will receive frequent updates by email.
- **What is Constant Contact (CC)?** Constant Contact is the online program RS uses to send mass emails to members. You will be automatically subscribed to CC when you register. Watch for several emails each week keeping you informed of activities.
- **When can I sign up for Fall Programs?** The eCatalog will be posted online in early August. You will then receive an email letting you know the first date you can register for seminars. The semester will begin virtually the week of Aug. 31. Most classes will begin on Friday Sept. 4.
- **How can I get assistance with the technical aspect of virtual seminars?** RS is using Zoom technology. A training team is creating tutorials and handouts. Watch your email for notifications about training.
- **I have a friend who is interested in becoming a member but is on a limited income and cannot afford the registration fee. Is financial assistance available?** Yes, in December 2019 the RS Board of Directors approved a Member Scholarship Program.
- **How many staff people does RS have?** RS has two part-time paid staff people. A group of highly committed volunteers is responsible for all aspects of the organization. The various committees are always looking for assistance. Consider sharing some of your time and talents with RS.
- **Whom should I contact with questions about RS?** Please review the RS website and this FAQ to see if you might have missed the information you are requesting. If you still have questions, you may email the RS Office at [renaissa@csus.edu](mailto:renaissa@csus.edu) or phone (916) 758-5133.

# what does the future hold?

On May 12, 2020 California State University, Sacramento, the nation's largest four-year public university system, announced that classes at its 23 campuses would be canceled for the fall semester, with instruction taking place almost exclusively online. In anticipation of this decision, the *Renaissance Society* Board of Directors voted unanimously to shift temporarily from the physical classrooms to virtual classrooms for the fall 2020 semester. The RS Board is committed to continuing to offer our lifelong programs and services.

**So, what will happen in the spring of 2021?** As this fall catalog is being published in August 2020, we do not know for certain what the future holds. However, our April 2020 RS member Constant Contact survey feedback was "loud and clear" that our members miss being on campus in the face-to-face learning environment. Over 28 percent, or almost 600 members, responded that one of their highest priorities is the social connection of coming to campus and being with their friends and fellow RS students.

The RS board is committed to opening our physical classrooms as soon as possible within the mandated "physical distancing" guidelines from the various state and local governmental organizations. *The Renaissance Society* is a guest on the Sac State University campus and follows the university's rules. Since 1986, the Sac State College Department of Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS) has been our host. SSIS Dean Dianna Hyson is our Sac State Liaison. Dean Hyson and her staff are actively keeping RS updated on the latest information and changes on the Sac State campus. Know that as soon as we know more information, we will as soon as possible pass the facts onto you.

In the meantime, please take care of yourself and your loved ones. Be safe, healthy, and follow the advice of our public health officials.

Thank you for being a member (or almost member) of *The Sacramento Renaissance Society!*

# fall 2020 program schedule at a glance

What follows is an at-a-glance schedule that sets forth all our Fall 2020 programs. There are three types of programs, Seminars, Presentations, and Shared Interest Groups.

Our Seminars are led by one or more leaders and co-leaders. Each is a series ranging from three, six, or twelve weeks, focused on one subject. There are thirty-three seminars in all.

Our increasingly popular one-time Presentations feature a variety of topics by Renaissance and community speakers and total a record sixty-five presentations. They are One and Only: Presentations that Whet Our Appetite; Tuesday Speakers Series; Friday Speakers Series; and Talk, Talk, Talk: A Community Series. Our premier Members-Only program—Forum—will again feature a sparkling group of community speakers just as it has since our founding in 1986.

We have also arranged twenty-six Shared Interest Groups that include various activities and interests that center on what people enjoy doing together, such as photography, games, walking, reading, writing, eating and drinking, travel, etc.

This array of incredible educational opportunities allows you to take as many courses as you want—as long as they don't have a time conflict. This fall we'll be limited only by our interests, curiosity, and level of energy, not by physical space or date/time. How extraordinary!

SEMINARS					
Seminar Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Active Retirement Investing	Bill Bailey, Marsha Holland	9/16-10/28	Wed/10 am	14	
Bob's Flash Mob Classic Rock Radio Show	Bob Lang	9/6-10/13	Tue/noon	9	
Cracker Barrel	Anita Fante	9/1-12/1	Tue/noon	11	
Daring Women War Correspondents	Jennifer Kerr	10/21-12/2	Wed/2 pm	16	
Delaying Death and Avoiding Disability	Don Forrester	10/29-12/3	Thu/2 pm	14	
Delving into Dementia: the Science, the Caring, the Hope	Mynga Futrell	9/10-12/3	Thu/10 am	15	
Documentaries	Allan Keown, Judy Maben	9/4-12/4	Fri/10 am	11	
Donner Pass: Who Came, What They Did, Where They Went and What They Left	William Sullivan	9/10-10/15	Thu/noon	16	
Hellenism	Ed Sherman	10/19-12/21	Mon/10 am	16	
Heterodox Economics: Modern Money Theory	Mark Dempsey	9/4-10/9	Fri/noon	14	
High Intermediate Spanish (Full)	Melody Flores	9/4-12/4	Fri/10 am	10	
Historical Figures of Western Civilization	David Warren	9/14-12/7	Mon/noon	17	
History and Practice of Songwriting	Al Zagofsky	9/8-12/1	Tue/10 am	9	
iPhone and iPad Basics	Carol Dabrowiak	9/9-10/14	Wed/10 am	17	
The Influence of Communication Media on Culture	Phil Lane	9/9-10/14	Wed/noon	11	
Language and Cultural Families of the World	Marty Keale	9/8-12/1	Tue/2 pm	10	
Learning and Listening	Laura Gaeta, Julia Ahlquist	9/11-9/25	Fri/10 am	15	
Meeting Each Other Through Sharing Life Stories	Karen Gierlach	10/27-12/1	Tue/10 am	10	
The Middle East - The Impact of Religion and Empire	Norv Wellsfry	9/9-12/2	Wed/noon	17	
The Pandemic and the Economy	Duane Campbell, Carl Pinkston	9/10-10/15	Thu/noon	11	
Photography as Art (Full)	Roger Klemm	9/2-12/2	Wed/10 am	9	
Racial Healing Circles: Conversations on Race	Stacie Walton, Gretchen Jung	9/14-12/7	Mon/10 am	12	
Racism and Prejudice	Greg Beale	9/4-12/4	Fri/noon	12	
Reassessing American Leadership	Harry Cohen	9/4-12/4	Fri/10 am	13	
Relationships	Nanci Kuzins, Anamaria Pasquiers	9/10-12/3	Thu/10 am	15	
The Economist	Wayne Luney	9/7-12/7	Mon/7 pm	14	
This is Sinatra! Celebrating the Artistry of the Man and His Music	Mike Agron	9/4-12/4	Fri/noon	9	
Top "10" U.S. Domestic Issues and Potential Solutions	Ken Cross	9/9-12/2	Wed/noon	13	
Transportation and the American Government	Art Bauer	9/9-12/2	Wed/noon	13	
Turning Points in American Democracy	Catherine Minicucci	9/24-10/29	Thu/2 pm	17	
Understanding American Voters	Jeff Shelton	9/8-10/13	Tue/2 pm	13	
Writings about the California Delta, From Native Peoples to Joan Didion	Bob Benedetti	9/10-12/3	Thu/noon	10	

## PRESENTATIONS

ONE AND ONLY: SINGLE PRESENTATIONS THAT WHET OUR APPETITE					
Presentation Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Age Related Hearing Loss and Hearing Aid Technology	Laura Gaeta, Julia Ahlquist	Nov 13	Fri/11 am	19	
American Revolution: How the US and Britain went their separate ways	Catherine Minicucci	Sep 16	Wed/2 pm	29	
Book Review: Fat Rascals: Dining at Shakespeare's Table	Maryellen Burns	Oct 20	Tue/10 am	19	
The City College Art Balls 1927-1947	Bruce Marwick	Sep 14	Mon/2 pm	18	
Container Gardening	Karen Martin	Sep 28	Mon/2 pm	21	
Debate Club - Four Speakers, One Topic	David Abelson, Maryellen Burns	Sep 21	Mon/2 pm	19	
The Explosive Story of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair Ferris wheel	Maryellen Burns	Sep 29	Tue/10 am	20	
Garden Chat: Fall in Your Garden	Karen Martin, James Brown, Rick Castro	Oct 12	Mon/2 pm	21	
How Shakespeare Changed Everything: A 90-minute talk in two parts	Gerald Camp	Oct 19	Mon/2 pm	19	
Introduction to Walking Meditation Using a Labyrinth	Christie Braziel	Oct 8	Thu/10:30 am	20	
Railroads of Lake Tahoe	Norv Wellsfry	Dec 3	Thu/2 pm	20	
Time to Draw	Julia Stagg	Oct 13	Tue/2 pm	18	
Understanding the Election	Jeff Shelton, Claudia Shelton	Dec 3	Thu/11 am	19	
A Virtual Gallery of My Art and Environment	Lawrence Fox	Nov 2	Mon/2 pm	18	

## PRESENTATIONS

TUESDAY SPEAKERS SERIES					
Presentation Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Ancient Culture Wars	Ed Sherman	Oct 6	Tue/2 pm	22	
Australian Aboriginal Rock Art	Anne Rewell	Sep 22	Tue/2 pm	22	
Collapse of Civilization	Marty Keale	Sep 15	Tue/2 pm	22	
Dubai, A Middle East City State	Anne Rewell	Oct 27	Tue/2 pm	23	
Egyptomania	Ed Sherman	Sep 8	Tue/2 pm	22	
Eleanor Roosevelt: Reluctant First Lady	Marian Kile	Oct 13	Tue/2 pm	22	
The Electoral College	Eric McElwain	Oct 20	Tue/2 pm	22	
Ireland Today	Mike Storey	Nov 17	Tue/2 pm	23	
The 19th Amendment	Catherine Minicucci	Dec 1	Tue/2 pm	23	
The Precarious Life of Bees	Connie Gustafson	Dec 8	Tue/2 pm	23	
The West is Best!	Carolyn Martin	Sep 29	Tue/2 pm	25	
Wendell Phillips and the Queen of Sheba	Lynette Blumhardt	Nov 10	Tue/2 pm	23	

PRESENTATIONS					
FRIDAY SPEAKERS SERIES					
Presentation Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Australian Bushfires of 2020	Anne Rewell	Oct 2	Fri/10 am	24	
Baseball and the Trojan Wars	Donn Miller	Oct 23	Fri/10 am	25	
Braver Angels: Reuniting America	Ed Jaszewski, Catherine Moulton	Sep 25	Fri/10 am	24	
Changes in the Newspaper Business	Dale Kasler	Oct 9	Fri/10 am	24	
Eye on Sacramento: Looking Out for the Public Interest in Local Government	Craig Powell	Oct 16	Fri/10 am	25	
Figurative Art of Ancient Greece	Ed Sherman	Sep 18	Fri/10 am	24	
Food on the Move	Maryellen Burns	Nov 13	Fri/10 am	25	
Friday Speaker and Program to be announced later	TBA	Oct 30	Fri/10 am	25	
Friday Speaker and Program to be announced later	TBA	Dec 4	Fri/10 am	25	
History, Culture and Conflict in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta	David Abelson	Nov 6	Fri/10 am	25	
Judy Chicago: The Artist	Florence Young	Sep 11	Fri/10 am	24	
Where the Money Went: The Acquisition and Use of the Fortunes Amassed by the Central Pacific Associates	David Helman	Nov 20	Fri/10 am	25	
Women Who Dared	Carolyn Martin	Sep 4	Fri/10 am	24	

PRESENTATIONS					
FORUMS					
Forum Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Beer: Looks Good, Tastes Good, Does You Good!	Dr. Charles Bamforth	Oct 16	Fri/3 pm	28	
Coming Out of the Closet: Personal Stories of Pursuing One's Authentic Self	Christie Braziel, Dane Whitaker, Linda Birner, Dennis Mangers	Sep 11	Fri/3 pm	26	
A Conservatives Take on America Now	Cassandra Walker Pye	Nov 13	Fri/3 pm	29	
Finish in Four: Graduation Success at Sac State	Dr. Jim Dragna	Oct 30	Fri/3 pm	24	
Museums as Places for Object-Based Learning	Stacey Shelnut-Hendrick	Sep 18	Fri/3 pm	27	
The Mysterious Increasing Penguin Populations of the Ross Sea, Antarctica	Dr. Grant Ballard	Sep 4	Fri/3 pm	26	
Nutrition and Health: Issues and Insights	Dr. Francine Steinberg	Oct 2	Fri/3 pm	27	
Sac State's Evolution in Response to the Pandemic	Dr. Robert S. Nelsen	Nov 6	Fri/3 pm	28	
SEAL Teams to Civilian Life: Core Attributes to Bridge Life's Transitions	Rob Brinzer	Oct 9	Fri/3 pm	27	
The Renaissance Society: Past, Present, and the Vision for the Future	Ken Cross	Dec 4	Fri/3 pm	29	
To Bee or Not to Bee: Is There a Choice?	Dr. Elina Lastro Niño	Nov 20	Fri/3 pm	29	

Forum Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Voting Rights Then and Now	Dr. Brian Landsberg	Oct 23	Fri/3 pm	28	
What you Need to Know About California's 2020 Ballot measures	Steven Maviglio, Rob Stutzman	Sep 25	Fri/3 pm	27	

PRESENTATIONS					
TALK, TALK, TALK: A COMMUNITY SERIES					
Presentation Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	ü
Brain Health: You Can Make a Difference	Kathleen Hart	Sep 10	Thu/7 pm	30	
Culinary Confessions	Deborah Arrington and the Women of Les Dames Escoffier	Oct 6	Tue/7 pm	31	
Dining on the Rails	Marilyn Sommerdorf	Nov 17	Tue/7 pm	33	
Food Production, Consumption, and Resistance among Japanese Americans Incarcerated by the United States Government during World War II	Paula Fujiwara	Sep 16	Wed/7 pm	30	
The Food Traditions of Georgia	Kelsey Maher	Sep 23	Wed/7 pm	30	
The History of Tea	Anne Rewell	Dec 1	Tue/7 pm	33	
The House of Twenty Thousand Books	Sasha Abramsky	Oct 13	Tue/7 pm	30	
From Jennies to JATO: World War I, Sacramento and the Ascent of an "Air-Minded" California Community	James Scott	Nov 4	Wed/7 pm	32	
The Reputation of Pandemics	Christina Richter	Oct 28	Wed/7 pm	32	
Sacramento's Art Deco Hidden Treasures	Bruce Marwick	Oct 22	Thu/7 pm	32	
Under the Covers – Sacramento's Historic Independent Bookstores	Scott Burns, William Burg	Nov 10	Tue/7 pm	32	
What is a Book?	Lawrence Fox, Maryellen Burns	Sep 30	Wed/7 pm	31	
A Walk through the Past – Sacramento's Historic Burial Practices	Dr. Bob LePerriere	Oct 15	Thu/7 pm	31	

SHARED INTEREST GROUPS					
Shared Interest Group Title	Instructor Name	Date	Day/Time	Page	✓
Alter Egos - Renaissance Society Actors and Storytellers	Maryellen Burns, Christie Braziel	9/4-12/4	varies	34	
ANDROID BASICS-Via EMAIL	Carol Limbaga	9/4-12/4	TBA	39	
Book Group - Partners in Crime	Lynda Cassady, Pat Stokes	9/23-12/23	Thu/1:30 pm	36	
A Cook's Tour of Sacramento Meanders	Dan Cross, Maryellen Burns	9/4-12/4	varies	34	
Corporate Accountability: Restoring the Balance	James McRitchie	10/16-10/30	Fri/noon	38	
Digital Photography	Jane Steele, Colleen Wong	9/15-11/24	Tue/10 am	34	



# board of directors

## Officers/Executive Committee

President	Ken Cross	916-995-8288	kencross@kencrossconsulting.com
Vice President	Barbara Davis-Lyman	916-743-5445	Barbara8744@comcast.net
Controller	Norv Wellsfry		nlwellsfry@comcast.net
Secretary	Bob Benedetti	209-603-6281	rbenedetti@pacific.edu
Past President	David Abelson	916-446-6178	abelsonfamily@comcast.net
Members-at-Large:	Christie Braziel	916-486-0826	Christie_braziel@hotmail.com
	Susan George	916-927-8786	tamed4ite@yahoo.com
	Karen Martin	916-204-1870	martinke@comcast.net
	Deborah Seiler	916-704-5735	deborah.seiler2@gmail.com
	Chuck Wiseley	916-682-8857	chuck@wiseley.org
	Vacant		

## Committee Chairs

Comm. & Mktg.	Deborah Seiler	916-704-5735	deborah.seiler2@gmail.com
Finance & Admin.	Norv Wellsfry		nlwellsfry@comcast.net
Forums	Tom Suchanek		thsuchanek@ucdavis.edu
Gerontology Liaison	Evelyn Boggs	916 -955-1593	evieboggs@comcast.net
Historian	Vacant		
Long-Range Planning	Vacant		
Membership, Diversity, & Community Engagement	Ken Cross	916-995-8288	kencross@kencrossconsulting.com
Nominating	Vacant		
Recorder	Cheryl Huffman		chuffman79@aol.com
	Jennifer Cummings	916-425-9350	jennifer1945@hotmail.com
Resource Development	Nancy Findeisen	916-391-5046	nancy.findeisen@gmail.com
Rules	Bob Benedetti	209-603-6281	rbenedetti@pacific.edu
Scholarships	Chris Budwine		budwine1@yahoo.com
Seminars	Allan Keown	916-501-8833	ahkeown@gmail.com
	Cindy Suchanek		csuchanek3@gmail.com
Technology	Jeff Hendy	916-337-9852	edhjeff@gmail.com
University Services	Vacant		
Website	Jennifer Kerr		jenniferkerr66@icloud.com

## CSUS Liaison

CSUS Liaison	Dianne Hyson	916-278-6504	dhyson@csus.edu
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## Staff

Office Manager	Shari Lowen	916-758-5133	shari.lowen@csus.edu
Senior Clerk	Lorene Sarne	916-661-6981	lorene.sarne@csus.edu

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Cheryl Adler, Christie Braziel, Dan Cross, Lawrence Fox, Tom Haseltine, Jeff Hendy, Robert Katzki, Marty Keale, Janice Kelley, Jennifer Kerr, Rebecca Kuzins, Karen Martin, Bruce Marwick, and Lorene Sarne.





# come to your senses

join the *Sacramento Renaissance Society*

Have you been going 'round and 'round about how to spend your time this fall? An entirely new experience awaits as you **Indulge** your passion for learning. **Join us** and **Learn** more about the world, as you **Share** your knowledge and enthusiasm with other intellectually curious adults. **Listen** to great music, *view and discuss* new documentaries, *explore* ancient worlds and contemporary thought surrounded by your peers. **Savor** almost 100 online seminars, talks, presentations, discussions, workshops, and performances. **Celebrate** the freedom of learning about everything and anything, as you **Connect** with friends, new and old, and enjoy **Tastes** of everything *that* the *Sacramento Renaissance Society* has to offer.

Mailing Address

6000 J Street, Mail Stop 6074

Sacramento, California 95819-6074

Email: [renaissa@csus.edu](mailto:renaissa@csus.edu)

Website: [www.csus.edu/org/rensoc](http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc)

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