

President's Message



Deanna Hanson
President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

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Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Tuesday, Sept. 2

First day of classes

Friday, Sept 5

First Friday Pizza
at Round Table
following the Forum

Monday, Sept. 8

RS Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Dolores Eitel's
90th Birthday

Friday, Sept. 12

New Member Pizza
following the Forum

Saturday, Sept. 27

Program Leaders Workshop,
Student Union

THE RENAISSANCE RECORDER

California State University, Sacramento

Lifelong Learning Since 1986

Welcome New Members

Fall is here! Maybe the weather is still a bit warm, but classes are beginning! Hopefully, you are registered. Remember, classes begin on Tuesday, September 2 on Zoom. The first Friday on September 5 will include some of our favorite classes as well as many new ones on campus and on Zoom. Mayor Kevin McCarty is our first Forum speaker on 9/5 at 3:00 in Mendocino Hall, Room 1005. Don't forget first Friday Pizza at Round Table Pizza in the Student Union following the Forum.

The "Welcome New Members" title to this message is very important. In past years, we have heard from some new members that they weren't sure where to go, weren't invited to eat lunch at tables with other members, weren't "greeted" and generally didn't feel welcomed. We want to make sure that doesn't happen this year so please introduce yourselves to those you don't recognize, invite them to join your tables. It's usually obvious when someone leaves a building and is looking around. Ask them where their next class is, maybe offer to show them the way or invite them to lunch with you and your friends. Making eye contact with a friendly smile is always a great welcome. And please remember to wear your name badge.

The Membership Committee is planning an additional Friday pizza on **September 12th** for new members. We will answer any questions and ask them what they've experienced after only two weeks. We hope for great attendance. As of the publication of 8/15/2025, we have 201 new members and 1339 total members. For those of you who attended Open House, you likely met many of them. For those of you who encouraged your friends to join – thank you very much!

Open House was terrific thanks to so many of you who were involved. I'm sure you noticed the addition of many of our new partners! We are continuing to promote additional partnerships with performing arts organizations as well as other community organizations. Please see the article in this publication about our partners. You may have ideas about other groups you may be able to introduce to Renaissance. I'd like to see more sports, museums, and other entertainment venues. The Membership Committee is continuing to promote these partnerships so contact Susan Wheeler if you have ideas.

I want to point out two new on-campus partners who are very generously offering their support to Renaissance and our members. Capital Public Radio is running on-air spots. We will be inviting them to events throughout the year. Remember how much fun college football games were each fall? The Sac State Athletics Department is excited to partner with us. We will enjoy discounts

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and group seating for all sports, beginning with the Saturday, September 27th, Cal Poly/Sac State football game and tailgate party. Watch the Weekly Update for more information.

Also, watch for much more “publicity” about Renaissance Society. Our Communications and Marketing team members are very talented, and you will see new additions to the website, the Facebook page, as well as the Weekly Update and Recorder issues.

Enjoy your classes, your new and old friends and all of the great activities this fall. As always, please contact me with any questions, ideas, or concerns. And please introduce yourselves to me!!

Deanna Hanson

Incredible turnout for Fall Orientation & Open House!

Over 250 people registered for the Fall Orientation & Open House in August. Returning members, new members and folks from the community who were interested in learning about RS participated in this event. The orientation helped clarify the RS mission and outline ways to get the most out of membership. Bottom line-ENGAGE! In addition to participating in the various seminars and programs, attend a social event, volunteer for a committee to support the organization, and spread the word about RS



to your friends. Word-of-mouth is the very best form of recruitment to grow membership and it's not too late for the Fall semester.

[Click here to watch the Fall Orientation video.](#)

Following Orientation, the Open House featured many of our new Community Partner arts organizations that offer special benefits to RS members. These new Partners include; B St. Theatre, Capital Stage, Folsom Concert Association, the Harris Center, and the Sacramento Ballet with more to come!



In addition to these new partner organizations, many of our Community Partners and Sac State Partners had tables to share information helpful for our members.

Of course one highlight of the event was the opportunity to chat with program and seminar leaders about their offerings this fall. So many great options!

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made this event possible. For more photos of these events, check out the Renaissance Society Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/rensocietysac> Please share RS posts to your personal Facebook page to help spread the word about our amazing organization.



The American Jewish Community and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement

submitted by Darryl Freeman

Historical documents in the U.S. National Archives and the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL reveal the significant contributions of the American Jewish community in the Civil Rights movement in the U.S. Immigration of Jewish people in the United States grew from 3,000 in 1809 (the year of Abraham Lincoln's birth) to over 150,000 in 1865. (U.S. population at that time was 31,400,000+)

President Abraham Lincoln had over 100 Jewish friends in his social-political circle. Five of those friends led by Jewish lawyer Abraham Jonas are credited with lobbying Lincoln to run for the U.S. Presidency. In 1862 Lincoln appointed the first Jewish Chaplain for the 7,000 men and women who identified as Jewish that served in the Union Army. President Lincoln intervened when General Grant issued a General Order barring the military from doing business with Jewish merchants because he thought they were also selling to the Confederates. The President's personal physician, Russian Jew Charles Henry Liebermann M.D. was an attending doctor trying to save Lincoln's life after the doctor trying to save Lincoln's life after the assassination action of John Booth.

As far back as the 19th century, Jewish storekeepers were virtually the only Southern merchants who addressed black customers as "Mr." and "Mrs." and permitted them to try on clothing. By the early 20th century, a few Southern Jewish activists bravely publicly spoke out against the evils of white supremacy. In 1929, Jewish American Journalist Louis Isaac Jaffe, editorial writer for the Norfolk Virginia-Pilot won the Pulitzer Prize for his denunciation of lynching in the Southern States. In the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, the Supreme Court accepted the research of the black sociologist Kenneth Clark that segregation placed a stamp of inferiority on black children. Clark's study had been commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, who also submitted an amicus curiae brief to the Court. The Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Congress also submitted amicus curiae briefs on behalf of the cause. Once the judgment was issued, those Jewish defense organizations continued to file legal briefs in civil rights cases dealing with housing, employment, education, and public accommodation.

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American Jews played a significant role in the founding and funding of some of the most important civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

From 1910 to 1940, more than 2,000 primary and secondary schools and 20 Black colleges (including Howard, Dillard and Fisk universities) were established in whole or in part by

contributions from Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. At the height of the so-called "Rosenwald schools," nearly 40 percent of Black people in the south were educated at one of these institutions. The Rosenwald Fund also made fellowship grants directly to African American writers, artists, researchers and intellectuals between 1928 and 1948.

During the Civil Rights era, American Jews established themselves as social political influencers in the United States.

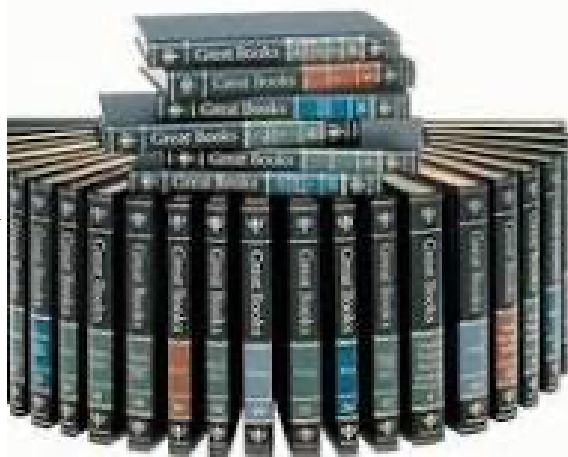
Renaissance Great Books

A subcommittee of the Program Committee recently began to explore the content and practices of some of our "closed" programs in hopes of expanding or replicating them. This is the first in what we hope will be a series describing some of these programs and encouraging members to consider similar programs.

Are you eager to delve into classic literature, both ancient and modern through thoughtful discussion with fellow members? The Renaissance Society's Great Books group offers just that, using the renowned 'Shared Inquiry' method to guide participants in reading and exploring a diverse range of work, including plays, poetry, philosophy, essays, anthologies and books, both fiction and nonfiction.

Our current Great Books group is at full capacity and has been for some time. However, if you're interested in forming a new Renaissance Great Books group, please reach out to Jean Cawood, administrator (jczcawood@comcast.net) or Dan Rooney, tech host (dandarooney@icloud.com).

Our Great Books group follows the discussion guidelines set by the Great Books Foundation, established at the University of Chicago in the 1940s. The Foundation's 'Shared Inquiry' method is used worldwide and is



widely taught in U.S. schools. Our group is part of the San Francisco Great Books Council which regularly offers workshops to help facilitators and participants master the 'Shared Inquiry' approach. We firmly uphold these time-tested rules to help ensure productive, respectful and enriching discussion for everyone involved.

The Great Books Foundation recommends groups of 10-16 participants for the most dynamic conversations. This allows all members to participate. In larger groups quieter voices may go unheard.

Since the onset of COVID, all of our meetings have been via Zoom—a format that has proven highly effective for our discussions. If this approach interests you and you would like to form another Renaissance Great Books group, contact Jean or Dan for more information about 'Shared Inquiry' and the key roles that Jean and Dan play to make the group successful.

Sue McGinty Has Traveled from CSUS Faculty Member To Renaissance Society Member

By Judy Lewis

After spending her first 13 years in Red Bluff, California, Sue's family moved to San Rafael, where she graduated from high school. Her college years began at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, before she completed the Physical Therapy program at the University of California's San Francisco Medical Center. She met her future husband, Denis, who was a first-year medical student, at her apartment complex. After completing the PT program at UCSF, she worked for the Visiting Nurses Association doing home care in San Francisco. She and Denis married following his 3rd year in medical school.

While Denis interned at Los Angeles County, USC Medical Center, Sue worked there, too. At the end of his internship, he was assigned by the U.S. Army to Korea. He suggested that Sue get her shots and join him, so she did. The couple lived in a Korean village and their older son was born there. While in Korea, Sue volunteered at the 121st Evacuation Hospital and at a nearby orphanage.

Next her husband, whose specialty was urology, was reassigned to Letterman Hospital, so it was back to San Francisco, followed by Los Angeles again. Sue completed her Masters' Degree in Physical Therapy at USC while they were in Southern CA and their second son was born there.

Sacramento beckoned with a job offer after residency, so they moved in 1979. After working as a Rehabilitation Coordinator with the Visiting Nurses Association, in 1995 she joined the faculty at CSUS, setting up a brand new Physical Therapy program. By the second year of the program, Sue began 16 years as chairperson. While working at CSUS, she returned to school to get her EdD at the University of San Francisco with an emphasis on Curriculum and Instruction. She describes the physical therapy offering as "extremely competitive, with students who are the cream of the crop and highly eager to learn." Following her retirement from CSUS in 2012, with the passage of "Obamacare" legislation, Sue volunteered with Covered California to provide public education and outreach in helping individuals sign up for health-care coverage. She worked primarily with college students on the CSUS campus.

Sue has lived in the same home that she loves for 46 years, and is reluctant to downsize because she relishes visits from her three sons and grandchildren. A long-time holder of season tickets to the Sacramento Republic FC games, Sue says hers is a "soccer family." One of her sons played professionally and is now a coach.



In 2014, she joined the Renaissance Society, as she had become familiar with the group while working on campus, and also with the Renaissance members who volunteered to work with PT students who were enrolled in the Geriatrics course in the PT program.

She believes in practicing what she preaches and so, in keeping with her focus on maintaining her health, Sue walks four to eight miles daily, as well as doing Pilates.

In September of 2024, she arrived in Portugal on the anniversary of her husband's death, and began the 200-mile coastal route of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, from Porto, Portugal to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The trek took her 18 days, and she considered it an 80th birthday gift to herself.

Currently, Sue serves on the University Foundation Board, which holds the fiduciary responsibility for CSUS's endowments. She also serves on the Community Advisory Committee of the Physical Therapy program. In addition, she co-chairs Renaissance Society's Scholarship Committee with Laurye Brownfield. Sue reports that "It feels good to know that we can make a difference in the lives of students."

DINING TOGETHER - September 2025

By Susan Wheeler

Dining Together will meet at **New Kathmandu**, 3672 J St, Sacramento, (<https://direct.chownow.com/order/41747/locations/63192>) at 5:30 PM on September 10, 2025. Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Susan Wheeler (swheeler_1@yahoo.com) no later than September 5th. There is a free parking lot behind the restaurant. The restaurant offers vegetarian options. The restaurant will provide separate checks. This dinner is limited to 20 people. Note: The link to the restaurant shows pick-up or delivery; the menu is the same if you order in the restaurant.

The diners will conform to

[County Covid Health Requirements](#)



DINING TOGETHER - October 2025

By Suzie Fogg

Dining Together will meet at **MING DYNASTY**, 1211 Broadway in Sacramento at 5:30 PM on Wednesday October 8, 2025. Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Susie Fogg, susiemfogg@gmail.com no later than Friday, October 3. There is plenty of free parking on 3 sides of the restaurant. The restaurant is known for its Dim Sum dishes. Please bring cash as there will not be separate checks. Looking forward to seeing you there!



"Renaissance Society 2025 Fall Semester"

by

Sheldon Yee
August 8, 2025

In A Few Short Weeks
Classes Begin Meeting
Catch Up With People
Summer Plans, And Greeting.

The At-A-Glance Booklet
Has Already Been Printed
With So Many Adventures
Implied And Hinted.

Orientation And Open House
To Focus Our Attention
From Our New President And
Committees
With Honorable Mention.

To Accompany The Narration
Our Famous Slide Show
From Our Technical Experts
Who Are Gifted And In The Know.

Later Class Sign Ups
Are Done Entirely Online
Its Almost Effortless
Anyone Can Align.

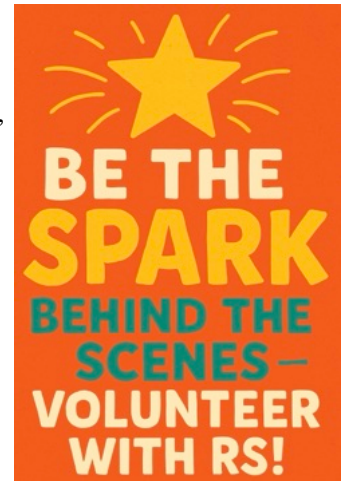
Countless Seminar Topics
Of Every Possible Kind
The Only Limitation
What Is Conceived In Your Mind.

Consider Renaissance This Fall
What Can You Lose?
Determine Your Destiny
Based On What You Choose.

Stop Dreaming, Start Doing
Your Intellect Is Harkening
Only \$120 For Tuition
And \$44 For Parking

BE THE SPARK!

Want to make a difference, meet amazing people, and have a little fun while you're at it? The Renaissance Society is powered by passionate members just like you—sharing ideas, building community, and bringing lifelong learning to life. Whether you've got an hour or a hidden talent, there's a place for you to shine. Special skills are always helpful, but not required—just a willingness to help. From event support to idea-sharing, every volunteer role adds value. We are in great need of help and appreciate anything you can do. Are you a people person who thrives on connection? Ready to jump in and make some new friends? Our **Membership Committee** is calling your name! Help us welcome new members, share the joy of lifelong learning, become an Ambassador by representing Renaissance at community events and build a vibrant, engaged community. Volunteering with RS isn't just rewarding—it's downright fun. Click **ON the graphic to the right** and let's do something great together!



We continue to add partners to our growing list. This is a current list. Information about performance and offerings will be listed in the Weekly Update and on our Website:

B Street Theatre
Broadway Theatre at the Music Circus
Capital Public Radio
Capital Stage
Celebration Arts
Capital Stage
El Dorado Musical Theatre
Folsom Concert Association

Harris Center
OutWord Magazine
River Fox Train in West Sacramento
Sacramento Ballet
Sacramento Choral Society
Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera
Sacramento State Athletics



Alison Gist, long-time member of RS , participated in Marian Kile's book club for many years.

Arne Edward Hyson, husband of Dianne Hyson, died unexpectedly on June 2. Arne's career began in Manitoba, working in residential and therapeutic recreation for youth with mental health needs. He later served as a recreation therapist in Alberta before moving to California in 1990. Over the years, he held increasingly senior roles in psychiatric care, culminating in his 19-year tenure with North Valley Behavioral Health LLC (NVBH), where he became CEO in 2017.

David Alexander Battin, age 74, of Sacramento, California died of a sudden heart attack on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. He and his wife Marcia were both Renaissance members. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. There will be a celebration of life in the future.



The Sofia, Home of B Street Theatre

DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS - August 8-31

Get ready for thrills, laughs, and high drama as DRACULA: A COMEDY OF TERRORS swoops onto the Main-stage **August 8 - 31**. Dracula is back, and this time, he's too hot to handle and too undead to resist! Forget the old brooding bloodsucker—this is a whole new bite on the legend. Leave the kiddos at home, this one is strictly 16+.

Remember, Renaissance Society Members get a 20% discount on theatre tickets! Use promo code REN20.

Remember each Tuesday evening during the run of the production is Talkback Tuesday! [Ticket Link](#)

Save the Date – 2026 Season Celebration! Aug 24

Mark your calendars for B Street Theatre's 40th Anniversary Season Announcement Celebration on Sunday, August 24 at The Sofia! B Street would love to have Renaissance Society members in the audience to celebrate and get a sneak peek of what's on stage next season! RSVP for free here: [Season Announcement RSVP](#).

Volunteer with B Street at Brewfest – Sept 13

B Street Theatre is proud to be the non-profit beneficiary of the **Point West Rotary Brewfest** on Saturday, September 13 at Discovery Park! This is a fantastic opportunity to support B Street and meet hundreds of beer lovers from across the region. In order to meet our beneficiary requirements, we're looking for **25 volunteers** to greet guests, handout cups and water, and scan tickets for an 11:30 - 4 pm shift! Sign up and learn more about how you can help [here](#).

In the mood for something different?

Join us for **Seekers of the Strange**, **Maximum Occupancy**, and **Perfect is the Enemy of the Good**! Each month B Street Theatre Company Members provide a little something different Upstairs at the B!

Perfect is the Enemy of The Good - Thursday, August 28 at 7 pm.

Hosted by B Street Theatre founding company member Elisabeth Nunziato, join us for once-a-month cabaret of comedy and meaning, in the spirit of *A Prairie Home Companion* meets *The Moth*! Featuring comedy sketches from the Actor's Workshop, soulful and candid guest interviews, and warm, witty reflections to help us find the good in the chaos of modern life. [Ticket Link](#).

In A Nutshell: True Stories told live on stage! - Friday, August 29 at 7 pm.

Every month, The Sofia hosts our friends from **In a Nutshell** to invite four experienced storytellers from all walks of life to tell a true story LIVE based on intriguing, off-the-beaten-path theme prompts designed to challenge the storytellers to dig deeper and engage audiences with their heads, hearts, and everything in between. At *In a Nutshell*, audiences can count on a riveting evening of storytelling from experienced storytellers with a diversity of lives-lived. The August theme is Bullies and features Brian Copeland, Kimberlli Joy, Corey Rosen, and Kathleen Taylor. [Ticket Link](#).



Save Your Seats for the Entire Year



The 2025-26 Season Begins Soon

The new **Renaissance Society Partner Webpage** has been developed. Here is the link:

[RS + Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera](#)

Hundreds have already secured their seats for the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera's electrifying 2025–2026 season. Will you be among them?

What's in store this season?

Across seven spectacular programs at the **SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center**, you'll encounter drama, beauty, and musical genius:

- **Jeremy Denk**, one of the most acclaimed of our time, performs Beethoven's radiant **Piano Concerto No. 4**
- A rare chance to experience **Bartók's** haunting one-act opera, **Bluebeard's Castle**—a psychological thriller told through music
- **Copland's** beloved **Appalachian Spring**, full of hope, heart, and American spirit
- **Verdi's** deeply human tragedy, **La traviata**—a jewel of the operatic canon
- **Fauré's Requiem**, with the full Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera Chorus, brings luminous serenity to the stage
- **Beethoven's** triumphant **Symphony No. 9**, a soul-stirring finale that celebrates the power of unity and joy

New This Year: Two programs will be performed *twice*, offering more flexibility and more chances to attend the most in-demand concerts.

Choose the package that fits your schedule:

- Choose 6 Saturday evenings + Friday *La traviata*
- Choose 5 Saturday evenings + Sunday *La traviata* & Sunday Beethoven

[Learn More](#)

Why Subscribe? Subscribers get:

- The **best prices** (up to 20% off single ticket prices)*
- The **same great seat** for every performance
- Early access and priority upgrades
- **Peace of mind** - no scrambling for sold out shows

Learn more and reserve your seat today at [sacphiloper-a.org/2024-2025-Season](#) or call the box office at **916-476-5975**

Single tickets go on sale Tuesday, August 12. Get the best seats by subscribing today.

[Subscribe Today](#)



Save 25% on tickets to **THE LEHMAN TRILOGY** at Capital Stage.

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🏆 2022 Outer Critics Circle Award Winner for Outstanding New Broadway Play

🏆 NY Times Critic's Pick

📅 **Runs Aug. 27–Sep. 28**

🎫 Use promo code 25LEHMANBROTHERS
[capstage.org](#) - 916-995-5464

Why Support ASI Food Pantry?

This is Christin, a graduate student who utilized the ASI Food Pantry throughout his college career at Sac State. He just graduated with his Master in Computer Science and wanted to thank RS and ASI Food Pantry for making it possible for him to succeed.



**“FUN”
RAISER**
FOR THE RENAISSANCE SOCIETY OF
SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY

**SACRAMENTO HORNETS
FOOTBALL**
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 • 6 PM

 **VS CAL POLY
TAILGATE PARTY
3 PM**

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, AND
CHEERING FOR OUR HORNETS!

PREMIUM SEATS WITH EXTRA LEGROOM BETWEEN
THE 30 AND 40 YARD LINE

STAY TUNED FOR OUR TICKET PROMO
CODE IN OUR NEXT WEEKLY UPDATE 

Join us for a thrilling “FUN” Raiser for the Renaissance Society at Sacramento State University! We have fantastic tickets to the Sacramento Hornets football game on Saturday, September 27th, at 6 PM against Cal Poly.

Kick off the afternoon with us at a special tailgate party for Renaissance members, their families, and friends at 3 PM. Enjoy and share some delicious food, great company, and cheer for our Hornets!

Our premium seats offer extra legroom and comfy padding between the 30 and 40-yard line—perfect for game day.

Watch for our ticket promo code in the next weekly update. Don’t miss out—we can’t wait to celebrate with you!

RENAISSANCE RECORDER EDITOR

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October Submissions Due: September 8th -15th

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Growing Pains

We have so much to tell you each month that we find we are constrained by the 8-page printed newsletter. So, any time it is necessary, we will be having more information in our on-line version. For those few of you who receive the print version in the mail, we hope you will click on the blue link below and try the expanded more colorful version of the [Recorder](#) on the Renaissance website. Scroll down to the bottom of the left **green** column, click on the link to “Get the (*month*) Recorder” and . . . get **all** the news.

