



President's Message



Deanna Hanson

President

The Renaissance Society
of Sacramento

deannahanson@gmail.com

Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

Key Dates

Saturday, Sept. 27

Program Leaders Workshop, 8:30am
Student Union

Saturday, Sept. 27, 3:30

Potluck Tailgate followed
by 6:00 football game
(see Deanna's column
for more details)

Wednesday, Oct. 22

"Meet New Members"
dinner, 4:00 PM,
at Ippolito's Trattoria,
9500 Micron Avenue,
Sacramento

THE RENAISSANCE RECORDER

California State University, Sacramento

Lifelong Learning Since 1986

Learning And Enjoying New and Old Friends

Fall colors on campus! Leaves will soon begin to fall! This is my favorite time of year because Sacramento and especially the Sac State Campus are so beautiful. There is so much to include in this newsletter. You will notice the on-line version has more information than can be included in the print version. You may be wondering why. Because of printing and mailing costs, we are restricted to 8 printed pages. But we have so much more to say that we decided to add additional pages and information to the on-line version. If you find you no longer need us to mail you a copy, please call the office and let us know so that we can print fewer copies and save money for other priorities.

This edition contains a list of our generous donors this year – those who give to Renaissance above and beyond expectations. In addition, I want to recognize Trish Fontana who contributed five Tuition Assistance Memberships. As you know, this program allows individuals to become members if it is difficult for them financially. The program is explained on the RS website on the Membership Tab. We also received a generous memorial gift in the name of a former member, Donald Cole.

Renaissance reached a major milestone for Scholarships. We now have sufficient funds for a 4th endowed scholarship. Again, thank you for your generosity. Our students really appreciate it.

So many of you were on campus for the first Friday and your donations to the Food Pantry were amazing. Just within the classroom envelopes I personally turned in, we accounted for over \$1600 collected on September 5, 2025. That does not factor those who contribute online or used the QR code on the slide. In addition, it's important to understand how great the need for the Food Pantry is. The first two weeks of class more than 1200 students used the food pantry! Also, on the first Friday of classes, we had a record number of members attending First Friday pizza at Round Table. The following Friday we hosted new members for pizza and a get acquainted session.

As always, I look forward to your comments, questions and suggestions on how we can improve. I wish I could wave a magic wand and solve every problem immediately. Rest assured we hear you and we are working on many things with more information to come.

If you read this before the end of September, I hope you plan to join us for the Tailgate Potluck starting at 3:30 and the Sac State/Cal Poly football game at 6:00 Saturday, September 27th. We will supply hot dogs, buns and condiments.

Stingers Up!!!

Deanna Hanson

Anne Putt Has Spent Her Life in Central California

By Judy Lewis

Born in Stockton, Anne has ventured as far north as Yuba City. A graduate of Hiram Johnson High School in Sacramento, she enrolled at Sac State, and then earned a B.S. in dietetics at U.C. Davis in 1975. Because the job market was tight, she worked in retail for a few years before earning an MBA from Sac State.

Initially, Anne was employed by a small consulting firm, before returning to Sac State to earn an MS in Accounting. She felt the initial MBA was very general and she wanted to focus on something more specific. Anne had observed her Stockton grandparents struggling financially, and wanted a more secure career. For three years, she taught accounting at Sacramento City College.

Following her daughter's birth, Anne opted to stay at home for a few years. She volunteered with the PTA, took some classes, and assisted her husband Allen Putt, who taught at Sac State, with grading papers.



By 1993, Anne had decided that she needed to earn some serious money. She earned a CPA license, and began 15 years with the State of California. She worked with several agencies, the longest being Caltrans.

Their daughter, whose liver was failing, moved back home with her parents. In 2013, she passed away in Birmingham, Alabama, while waiting for a liver transplant.

Dementia took her husband Allen in 2021. And her mother, Beverly Spencer, also a Renaissance member, passed away at age 98 on July 12, 2025.

Anne is currently writing a book on the topic of transforming suffering into happiness.

Last year she served as assistant controller for the Renaissance Society and enjoyed volunteering with Sac State students who are earning their PhDs in Physical Therapy. She assisted with setting up this year's Open House, describing all of the Renaissance members as "so open and inviting."

As a widow, Anne enjoys the company of her two Yorkies and gardening in the East Sacramento bungalow she and her husband purchased many years ago.

Why Wear Your Renaissance Society Badge

Our Renaissance Society badge has our name on the front. But the most important piece of information on our badge is the Emergency Contact information on the reverse side. If you're ever in a situation where you need medical attention, that badge can be a lifesaver. Please remember to always wear your badge when on campus and make sure your information is up-to-date. If you need to pick up your badge, it's available at the Renaissance Society office located at 350 University Ave., Suite 108, Sacramento. Please call (916) 758-5133 to make sure your badge is available for you to pick up.

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Thank You

On behalf of the entire Renaissance Society, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your extremely generous support of our Scholarship Fund, Endowment, and Give Something Extra Campaign.

Your kindness is more than a gift—it is an investment in students' futures. Because of your generosity, Sacramento State students have been able to pursue their dreams with greater confidence and fewer obstacles. Many have expressed deep gratitude for the opportunities your support has opened for them.

We are proud of the lasting impact your contributions make in the lives of students and in the strength of our community. Thank you for believing in the mission of the Renaissance Society and for continuing to make such a meaningful difference.



The Renaissance Society of Sacramento

Tanya Ferguson	Patricia Pavone	Janis Austin	Dolores Eitel
Heidi Foster	Joyce Poirot	Sarah Ayres	Jeanne Ekstrom
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Laura Parker	Barbara Thomas		
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And many more donors who have chosen to remain anonymous. We appreciate you all.

PROGRAM LEADERS WORKSHOP

September 27th

Student Union

PARKING PASSES WORK ON SATURDAY

If you have been considering becoming a Program Leader but want to know more about the what and how of becoming a leader please attend this workshop. The first 90 minutes is for new leaders this semester and those who are thinking about becoming a leader. We will introduce you to a new website that helps new leaders with the process. Time will be spent answering questions and information about how to be successful as a Program Leader will be explored.

The session for new and those considering becoming a leader starts at 8:30. At 10:30 the current leaders will join us. You will have a chance to talk with them and get their ideas and recommendations.

Of course there will be coffee, tea and goodies in the morning and lunch will be included.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Here is the link to the [Program Leaders Workshop](#)

In Memoriam



Dr. David Battin died Aug 8, 2025 from a sudden heart attack. He was active in RS with the Adventurers and the Cook's Tour. David and his wife Marcia recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Celebration of Life will be held at his son Matt's home on Sept 20 at 4 pm. Condolences sent to Matt and Emily Battin at 410 Sandburg Dr in Sacramento 95819.

Donald Cole died at the end of August 2025. Donald worked for California State Department of Finance and the Department of Water Resources. For over 35 years. He was quite the bowler and bowled a 300 game when he was 63. His obituary's list of memorial donations included the Renaissance Society. Condolences sent to wife Verna at John Cole-Hall, 7900 Colbert Drive Rancho Marietta, CA 95683.

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, susiem-fogg@gmail.com no later than Friday, October 4.

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.



Dining Together - November 2025

By Susan Wheeler

Dining Together will meet at **Mulvaney's B&L**, 1215 19th St, Sacramento, (<https://mulvaneysb.com/>) at 5:30 PM on November 12, 2025. Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to Susan Wheeler (swheeler_1@yahoo.com) no later than November 9th.

There is street parking so please allow extra time to park. Please remember to bring cash. This dinner is limited to 24 people.



THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HEARS YOU

Submitted by Jackie Lamb

At the recent Orientation and Open House, the Program Committee conducted a survey of those in attendance. We wanted to know how to best offer programs to our membership. We promised those who completed the survey that we would report on the results.

What we heard

- 80% indicated a very strong preference for in person classes over Zoom when they had to choose their preference.
- 75% were willing to attend Saturday programs
- 66% were willing to attend evening classes or events
- 98% were willing to pay extra for a special program
- 50% of those were willing to pay \$25 to \$50 extra
- 13 indicated they were interested in becoming a program leader

Areas of Interest

Preferred topics were:

50% Music and Performing Arts
33% want more Arts and Crafts
80% want Current Events and Politics
80% want Science and Technology
70% want History

More information:

- Those with mobility issues identified difficulty with being on campus. Transportation and parking were listed as problems.
- When asked about Zoom classes, they identified technology as a major problem - both their own skill level and those of the Program Leader
- They liked the convenience of Zoom classes
- Most choose to attend the Zoom class live rather than watch the recording. However, they like having the recording for when they had to miss class.
- Most thought that in person classes were more informative and participants enjoyed dialogue with the Leader and with other participants

The Program Committee thanks everyone for their input. As we go forward this information will be, and is, very helpful. We especially want to thank Sandy Britton for all her work in developing and scoring the surveys. Her help made it all happen!



On Thursday, November 20th from 5:00- 7:00pm, the Sac State Dreamer Resource Center (DRC) will be celebrating its 10-Year Anniversary. The celebration will take place at the Harper Alumni Center on the Sac State campus. This event is limited to 300 people. Renaissance Society has supported the DRC for many years - a number of our members have visited and helped the center and its students. More details will be posted in a Weekly Update when the registration link becomes available. In the meantime, please **save this date and time.**

Anthony Montanino, Sacramento Artist

Catherine O'Brien's late husband, Anthony Montanino, painted many prominent locations and buildings in Sacramento. Catherine has published a walking map which is linked here. His paintings will be familiar to many Renaissance members and we wanted to share this map with you.

Montanino on the Map

Media Release:

For immediate release

Contact: Catherine O'Brien

catherine.obrien@gmail.com

Smartphone-Enabled Walking Tour of Sacramento, As Seen through the Eyes and Paintbrush of Artist Anthony Montanino

The buildings and parks of Sacramento were visual inspiration for Anthony Montanino. His paintings, known for their bold colors and strong use of light and shadow, decorate the walls of public spaces and private collectors' homes throughout the area.

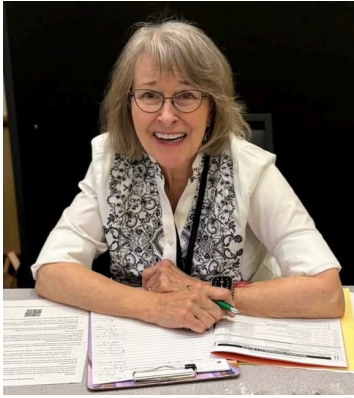
Now many of his pieces are available for anyone to view, right where he first sketched them out. Thanks to a free smartphone map, you can take a self-guided tour, from McKinley Park through the Victorian and Craftsman streets of midtown Sacramento, past the State Capitol, the waterfront, and Old Ironsides, to Broadway's Tower Theatre, viewing images of more than 60 Montanino paintings as you go.

Just find a [Montanino on the Map](#) postcard at a local gallery. Point your smartphone's camera at the card's QR code (or point your web browser to bit.ly/4nHdj7r) to see a map of downtown Sacramento with picture-frame icons. Tap on one for a pop-up window with the painting of that location. The map will give you walking or driving directions that will take you to view the building or scene in the painting. When you're ready to move along, simply tap another picture frame nearby on the map to continue your tour. Your travels will take you through midtown Sacramento's shady streets, past parks, corner groceries, and dining establishments that were among Anthony's favorite subjects. Enjoy Sacramento from the artist's perspective.

So grab your phone, scan the code, and start exploring Sacramento as seen by Anthony Montanino!

[QR Code for Montanino on the Map:]





Thanks to Renaissance Volunteers for the Fall 2025 Orientation and Open House

Thanks to the Renaissance members who volunteered for the Fall 2025 Orientation and Open House on August 8. The event was well attended by new and returning members, excited to start the new semester. We could not have done it without you!



Orientation Welcome Table: Bob Silva, Marian Sheppard

Open House Welcome Table: Deborah Seiler, Marsha Holland

Open House Set Up: Al Barake, Mike Blixt

Member Sign Ups: Eric Levinson, Sarah Ryan Roberts, Tom Nelson, Kevin Collins, Ron Marcroft



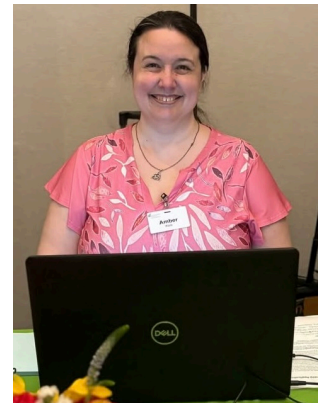
Hospitality Table: Susan Brackenhoff, Anne Putt

Open House Badge Table: Nancy Martin, Virginia Sturdevant

Open House Staff Table: Dave Ferguson

Roving Greeter: Frank Martinez

Volunteer Coordinator: Carol Barake



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 *Recorder*" and . . . get all the news.

RENAISSANCE RECORDER EDITOR

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or

Rick Atkinson

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