

## President's Message



### Deanna Hanson

President

The Renaissance Society  
of Sacramento

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Renaissance Website:

<https://csus.edu/rensoc>

### Key Dates

Friday, August 1

Final Summer Program  
Capital Stage Behind the  
Scene (sold out but keep  
checking)

**Monday, August 4th**

Fall catalog is released

**Friday, August 8th**

Orientation and Open House

**Monday, August 11th**

Course enrollment  
opens at 8am

**Tuesday, September 2nd**

First day of classes

## REFLECTION AND INSPIRATION

I am writing this column well before you read it. In fact, today is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and I spent some time re-reading the Declaration of Independence. I admit it has been a long time since I really read it, and I am reflecting on what Thomas Jefferson conveyed when he wrote it so eloquently almost 250 years ago. I believe it is still a very current document and one we should all reflect on. We will have opportunities to do that as spring and fall courses will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Country as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Renaissance Sacramento in 2026.

This document also is an inspiration to me of how important Renaissance Society is in my life. Renaissance has given me the opportunity to learn so much more than I ever knew about history, music, science, culture, and oh, so much more. It has allowed me to meet and work and play with people I would likely have never met – people with different views from mine and different backgrounds in many cases.

As President, I want to ensure we continue to provide this and much more as we move forward and I need your help to do this. I need your help with building our membership. I need your help recruiting members to serve on committees and to assume leadership roles. I need your ideas and contacts to help promote more partner relationships. And, I want to know what we are doing well, what new classes you would like to see and who we can recruit to teach them. Most importantly, I need your thoughts and opinions on how we can improve.

I've used the word "I" often in these thoughts. Certainly, this is not to insinuate that I will do it alone. I have a wonderful, talented, committed Board of Directors and highly involved committee members who really do all the work. As your President, however, I feel a responsibility to ensure that we can continue to provide what you, our members, expect. So, I, personally, want to hear from you. Please call me, search me out on campus, and email me your thoughts.

In the meantime, I want to express profound gratitude to Jackie Lamb for her work arranging the incredible summer program events. I'm sorry you all didn't get the chance to enjoy them and I'm sorry that we don't have recordings. The venues were space limited and not conducive to recording.

Warmly,



# Kathy Hart's Days Are Always Filled to the Brim

*By Judy Lewis*

The daughter of a military man, Kathy Hart was born and lived briefly close to an Air Force base in Harlingen, Texas. Her father's tour finished, so he took the family to Pullman, Washington where he completed his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. As a large animal veterinarian, he relocated the family to Willows, California, before heading to Missouri where he focused his efforts on discovering a cure for cancer while earning his master's degree in Virology. The family moved again once he accepted a teaching position at California's College of Marin.

This move enabled Kathy to graduate from high school in Petaluma and to attend junior college in Santa Rosa.

Following her marriage, she and her husband moved to Sacramento where she earned a B.A. in Community Health.

An opportunity to work for Federal Express opened up, and Kathy started working while she began graduate school, ultimately earning an MBA. She moved to Orange County for a few years, where she opened a new FedEx facility. She describes working for the company as an amazing opportunity, despite the pressure it sometimes entailed.

Back in Sacramento, when she learned about the Renaissance Society, Kathy was able to arrange her work schedule in order to attend Friday classes. Eleven years ago, she retired and became a full-time member. She recalls Mary Ellen Burns encouraging her to become more involved by sharing a class on Health and Wellness during the pandemic.

Watercolor painting is one of Kathy's passions, and she facilitated several beginner-friendly classes via Zoom. Many presentations given during the pandemic are on YouTube under the name Renaissance Café. She has also assumed responsibility for the Renaissance Society's Facebook page, which anyone outside the organization can also view.

For the past three years, she has set up the registration for summer classes through Eventbrite. This

public site helps promote our organization to non-members with the goal of recruiting new members for the fall.



Because of her love of the performing arts, Kathy volunteers at the Harris Center, the Music Circus, Broadway on Tour, B Street Theater, Capital Stage and other venues.

Through her church, she learned of a non-profit which serves marginalized children in Uganda. Kathy traveled there on her own, spending two months volunteering for the Children at Risk Action Network. Turning to her love for jewelry-making, for the past ten years she has been donating 100% of her sales to support the Uganda nonprofit.

Kathy served on the board and ultimately as president of Friendship Force, which connects members throughout the world for home stays. The mission is to better understand different cultures, and ultimately become friends "because a world of friends is a world of peace". Kathy was proud when the Sacramento club was named Club of the Year in 2018. She continues to actively recruit new members to the group.

Once the pandemic was over, she joined the Folsom Garden Club which she considers another amazing group. The gardeners fundraise with a garden tour, and silent auction to generously sponsor college scholarships and provide grants used in the community for projects such as a school garden.

Prior to the COVID shutdown, Kathy traveled extensively, and she's hoping to get back on the road again soon. She expresses her appreciation for the many "fabulous" Renaissance members who volunteer so much of their time making the many offerings a success. She encourages every member to reach out to a few friends and encourage them to attend the next Orientation and Open House on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Kathy believes the best ways for us to continue to be a thriving lifelong learning organization is to personally recruit new members.

## Dear Renaissance Society Members

As members of the Renaissance Society of Sacramento, we are united by our passion for lifelong learning, community, and giving back. Many of us are at a stage in life where Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts are a reality—and an opportunity.

If you are taking an RMD this year, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA. A QCD is a tax-smart way to support the causes you care about most while potentially reducing your taxable income. It's a win-win: no taxes for you, and a lasting impact for our community.

We invite you to direct your support to one (or more) of these critical, tax-deductible efforts at Sacramento State:

🎓 Renaissance Society Scholarships – Supporting current Sacramento State students, often first-generation college students, who inspire us with their drive and potential.

💡 Renaissance Scholarship Endowment – Building a sustainable future through long-term investment in student success.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Sacramento State University's Tax ID number is 94-6001332. If you are donating through your IRA provider, be sure to specify that your gift is designated for one of the Renaissance Society's initiatives.

If you're in a position to give through your RMD or another method, we encourage you to act this year. Your gift, large or small, reflects the generous spirit of our Renaissance community.

For questions or assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Renaissance Office or Rebekah Rabirot, Senior Director of Development, College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies at Sacramento State, at [r.rabirot@csus.edu](mailto:r.rabirot@csus.edu).

With appreciation,

Mike Pidd  
Chair, Resource Development Committee  
Renaissance Society of Sacramento

### ♥ Make Your RMD Count for a Lifetime of Learning ♥

Support the Renaissance Society with your IRA Required Minimum Distribution

Since 1986, the Renaissance Society has empowered older adults to **Learn. Connect. Share.** through vibrant peer-led courses:



Now, make a lasting impact—tax-free—by your RMD to support

### Donate Directly from Your IRA

#### Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):

- Must be age 70½ or older
- Donate up to \$100,000 annually tax-free
- Satisfies your RMD and supports lifelong learning
- No itemized deduction required

#### Direct Your Gift To:

University Foundation at Sacramento State  
6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6030  
**Tax ID: 94-3001359**

Memo: Renaissance Society Scholarship & Endowment Fund

Prefer digital? Email: [giving@csus.edu](mailto:giving@csus.edu)



# Gerontology Student Mentoring - A Great Experience

*By Jenny Stevenson*

The goal of this mentorship project is for students to learn about aging, specifically the “well side” of aging, where students will interview and connect with an older adult for experience in their future careers. This affords students the opportunity to meet with members of the Renaissance Society to learn about them, their lives, and learn about their strategies for aging.

## **About your mentorship commitment:**

You will be assigned a student during the first few weeks of the Fall semester. You can plan to meet with your student three times during the semester, online, most likely through Zoom, for 45 minutes to 1 hour each time. The students will be interviewing you for three course writing assignments throughout the semester (mentor/student agreement form will be signed). The assignment questions will be based on your life. You and your student will schedule your interviews based on the assignment due dates.

These are the topics of each assignment, where a detailed list of the exact questions will be sent to each confirmed mentor in future emails:

- #1: Biographical Sketch of your life and map/diagram of your life structure systems (tentative due date-9/28)
- #2: Reflections, Challenges, & Wisdom (tentative due date-10/26)
- #3: Aging, Legacy, & Future Outlook (tentative due date 11/30)

The students will receive your contact information with your permission and will contact you in late August or early September to set up your initial meeting/interview for their first assignment. You will then schedule your subsequent meetings. There may be students who can meet in person, or a mixture of online and in person, but this is not a guarantee. Once the semester begins, we will be surveying which students may be able to meet in person and you will be able to share your preferences at that time as well. If you do meet in person, we ask that you do not drive one another or meet at each other's homes. A public meeting place is best, like

on Campus or a coffee shop. You are also welcome to mentor more than one student based on enrollment totals. At this time, you will need to be a current Renaissance Society Member.

Thank you so much for your interest! For more questions or to sign up, please feel free to email Jenny Stevenson at: [j.stevenson@csus.edu](mailto:j.stevenson@csus.edu)

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## **Volunteer Opportunities to Support Sacramento State Students**

Renaissance Society members are part of the Sacramento State community and are actively involved in supporting Sacramento State students in a variety of ways:

- Mentor a Gerontology student enrolled in Strategies for Optimal Aging. In-Person or Zoom meetings with Gerontology students four times during the semester to discuss questions on life and your insights into the aging process. A rewarding interpersonal connection with students that enriches the lives of Renaissance members and students alike.
- Support students experiencing food insecurity by volunteering at the ASI Food Pantry or special events such as the Friendsgiving Feast. Renaissance members are a major source of donations through the first Friday brown envelopes circulated at in-person classes, or on-line at the Renaissance Society website Donations link.
- Assist the Theater Department by volunteering to usher at the student theater and dance productions offered each semester. Renaissance members also support the Theater Department with their enthusiastic attendance at campus productions.
- Meet the volunteers involved in these activities at the Open House event on August 8, 2025. Additional volunteer opportunities appear frequently in the Weekly Update circulated to

(Continued on next page.)

## (Volunteer Opportunities continued)

Renaissance members via email.

### Questions?

Please reach out to the Volunteer Services Coordinator, Carol Barake, at [cmbarake@comcast.net](mailto:cmbarake@comcast.net).

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## Volunteering

By Deanna Hanson

I've never enjoyed summer travel – too many people, higher prices, crowded freeways and airplanes. But I know many of you go on vacation in the summer (because I've tried to contact you). Soon we will be busier again as fall classes begin. Many of you, however, find time to volunteer beyond Renaissance. There are so many wonderful organizations and causes and some of you may be looking for other ways to share your talents, meet people and have fun.

We would like to feature organizations where you volunteer. Send us the information, or better yet, let us interview you so that we can help you recruit more volunteers. We also hope you will volunteer for Renaissance Society committees or become a Presenter or a Tech Host or submit an article for this newsletter. And certainly, we want you to share your experiences and recruit your friends. We are happy to provide any information you may need to help you do this

I find Renaissance members everywhere I go and most of you are like me. If we have a hole in our calendar, we look for a way to fill it. We have so much to give and share that I will take the chance and let you know of things I find interesting, and you might also. Here are a couple that recently caught my eye.

If you are a Renaissance Presenter or would like to share your passions with others, contact Natalie Phelps, Marketing Director, at 916 929-3966 or [campus-md@raystoneinc.com](mailto:campus-md@raystoneinc.com).

I attend quarterly meetings of the Sacramento County ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Connection) and the Continuum of Care and Sacramento Steps Forward meetings which provide services related to preventing and providing for the homeless in Sacramento. There are so many associated organizations under these umbrellas needing volunteers. Many of them participate in our Open House. Renaissance has provided outreach at many senior health fairs and many of our members volunteer to help with the homeless count and other events.

Please share what you do, and we will feature organizations each month. If you would like further information, contact Deanna Hanson or Susan Wheeler. Yes, we have much to give, and we also have much to gain!

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## Mark your calendars!

Orientation and Open House will be held in the Sac State Union Ballroom, Friday, August 8, from 10 – 12:30. Come to learn what's new, to meet program leaders, to pickup a name badge, to ask a tech question, to savor a cookie. Something for everyone whether you are a new or well-seasoned member. It's really the first mixer of the semester. Bring your friends.

### In Memoriam

Pauline Cagle of West Sacramento

Renaissance Society Member  
since 2013

Worked at California Regional  
Center as a social worker for  
special needs children

Her obit said she was "an  
enthusiastic student"

## Harvest Day 2025

This annual gardening event is hosted by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County and held at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center located 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard Fair Oaks, CA



This year, **Harvest Day 2025** will be held on Saturday, August 2nd, from 8 AM to 2 PM. The event features educational talks, workshops, plant sales, local vendors, food trucks, and friendly Master

Gardeners to answer your garden questions and show you what they are growing, making it a popular destination for garden enthusiasts and families. For more details on this year's event, visit their **Harvest Day** page.

The Renaissance membership committee will staff a table. Stop by and say, "Hi!"

## Dining Together August

*By Cheryl Nelson*

Dining Together will meet at  
**Yanni's Bar & Grill,**  
6628 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael,  
at 5:30 PM on August 13, 2025.

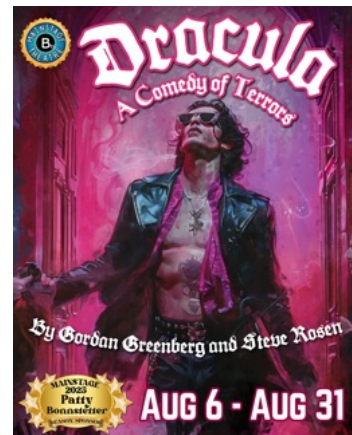


Dining Together members who wish to attend should **RSVP** to **Marcy Dobrow** ([drdobrow@aol.com](mailto:drdobrow@aol.com)) no later than August 8th. On-site parking is available. Please bring cash (including small bills) – the restaurant will not accept individual credit cards for payment.

## Partnerships

We have been very fortunate to develop partnerships with a variety of community organizations. I hope many of you have taken advantage of their offers. If you haven't, be sure to watch for announcements in the Weekly Update. There are great productions, and we are happy we can provide this nice benefit for our members. At this moment, we have agreements with the following:

- Clara Studios at 24<sup>th</sup> and N Street has offered to host the Renaissance Board of Directors meetings monthly in their Auditorium.
- Capital Stage is continuing to offer a 16% discount to RS members for 2025/26 season tickets. Use discount code *RenSoc2526*
- B Street Theatre, Discount for Dracula. Members can use discount code *REN20* to purchase tickets for Dracula opening August 8th.



- Harris Center
- Sacramento Ballet
- Sacramento Choral Society
- Broadway Sacramento

Members enjoyed the dress rehearsal of Hello Dolly, courtesy of Broadway Sacramento. If you would like to be on a list for future ticket opportunities, please send Deanna Hanson a note –

[deannahanson@gmail.com](mailto:deannahanson@gmail.com).

We continue to talk with several organizations about expanding our list of partnerships. We hope to grow beyond the arts to sports and other recreational and historical opportunities for our members. If you have ideas or contacts, please contact Susan Wheeler, Membership Committee Chair at [swheeler55@gmail.com](mailto:swheeler55@gmail.com).



# Citizenship Rights in the United States

by Darryl Freeman

The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed by Congress June 13, 1866 and ratified by the States by July 9, 1868. It is one of the Reconstruction Amendments (as a result of the U.S. Civil War), granting citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States,” including formerly enslaved people (and Native Americans). It also guarantees equal protection under the law and due process, forming the basis for many landmark civil rights decisions.

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1:

*All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*

The first major legal challenge to this section of the Amendment regarding birthright citizenship was precipitated by the federal government’s attempt to enforce a provision of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by the U.S. Congress on May 6, 1882. It was the first significant federal law to restrict immigration based on nationality **or** ethnicity, specifically prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers. The act was originally intended to last 10 years, but it was extended multiple times and wasn’t fully repealed until 1943 (spurred by the support of the Chinese government during World War II). A significant provision of the Act was that it denied naturalized citizenship to those Chinese already living in the United States and those born in the United States.

The first significant judicial challenge to the Chinese Exclusion Act was the case of the United States v. Wong Kim Ark 169 U.S. 649 (1898). His suit was brought to the Supreme Court by a Chinese man born in the United States who was denied reentry to

the U.S. after a trip to China. Immigration officials asserted that he was not a U.S. citizen and subsequently restricted his entry into the U.S. as a Chinese immigrant. Mr. Ark challenged the Chinese Exclusion Act birthright citizen restriction based on the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States. The Court ruled in his favor citing that, based on the first sentence of Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment, a child born in the United States of Chinese parents who were ineligible to be naturalized themselves is nevertheless a citizen of the United States entitled to all the rights and privileges of citizenship. (1)

A few legal challenges have reached the Supreme Court. In 1982 Plyler v. Doe challenged U.S. born immigrants children’s access to public education. The Court ruled they were entitled to birthright citizenship. In 2004 Hamdi v. Rumsfeld case of detention of a U.S. citizen born to Saudi parents, the Court accepted his birthright citizenship.

Some lower court cases, States political efforts and Congressional proposals have aimed to deny citizenship to U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants, but none have reached the Supreme Court in a way that directly reexamines *Wong Kim Ark*. Since that case, the U.S. Supreme Court has not directly reexamined or narrowed the birthright citizenship rule set in *Wong Kim Ark*. The core principle — that anyone born in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction is a citizen — remains **settled law** at the Supreme Court level.

However, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed a class action suit against the recent Trump Executive Order which denies automatic birthright status to children of immigrants born in the United States. This case will most likely be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in its next session which begins in the Fall of this year.

Footnotes

1). <https://constitution.congress.gov>

2). Takaki, Ronald, “A Different Mirror,” Little, Brown and Company 1993 Revised 2008



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## Sweet news: Hornet Honey is back and dripping with flavor

*Submitted by Office of Sustainability*

Small batch. Big flavor. Sustainably harvested honey from happy bees right here at Sac State.

**Here's how to buy:**

[Visit the sales page](#)

Follow the steps to complete your purchase

Save your receipt as proof of purchase

Pick up your honey from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday at the Office of Sustainability in Modoc Hall 2004. Honey is available while supplies last. Each 6-ounce jar is \$12, plus tax.

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### RENAISSANCE SOCIETY

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September submissions begin: August 2