



*Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP*

*Fall 2025*

*October 7 -November 13*

*Located at*

*Saint Xavier University*

*3700 West 103rd Street*

*We are back on the SXU campus for Fall!*

*We will also offer a class online via Zoom.*



## ***What is the Renaissance Academy?***

The Renaissance Academy is an association of retired and semi-retired men and women who get together to experience intellectual growth in an environment that is open to all who believe in pursuing the Academy's lifelong learning opportunities.

Members are encouraged to volunteer their energy and skills to make the program successful. Please consider how you might contribute your time and talent to our organization.

### ***Renaissance Academy Information***

Email: [renaissancechgo@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancechgo@gmail.com)

Phone: 773-298-3149. **This is an answering machine only. Please leave a message.**

The Newsletter can be accessed on the Renaissance Academy website:

<https://www.renaissancechgo.org>.



## **Fall 2025 Registration**

We are back on the SXU campus for Fall classes!  
We will also offer a class via Zoom and a book club.

Membership Enrollment will be available **September 19 thru September 26**. We will be emailing you a **link** to our **New Membership Enrollment System**. It will also be available on our website

<https://www.renaissancechgo.org>.

**Every member must have access to email. No information or materials will be mailed.**

The membership enrollment fee for the entire year is \$180. This new system is different but improved. You will initially need to set up **a new one-time Renaissance Membership account**. Establishing an account means picking a username and password (make it easy to remember and/or make a note of it). Once you have an account you will not have to re-enter your personal data every time you register for classes in the future.

After setting up your account and charging a onetime annual membership fee payment to your credit card, you will proceed to Online Course Registration. For your convenience, each course description will be included on the Course Registration form.



The fee includes: classes for **all three terms**, Christmas and Spring luncheons, use of the Shannon Center track on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Renaissance Forum and the opportunity to audit an SXU class with consent of professor.

**While participating in our various programs, you may be included in photos and/or videos. These photographs and videos are used in a variety of publications and advertising materials. By registering for our programs, participants consent to the use of these photos and videos.**

Requests for registration assistance can be emailed to [renaissancechgo@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancechgo@gmail.com).

**The final date for enrollment is September 26, 2025.**





Time flies! I cannot believe that summer is over! Now, as Autumn approaches, we have an opportunity to transition into a new mode. It is time to go back to school, to expose ourselves to new ideas and to connect with new friends.

Thanks to the volunteer work of our Curriculum Committee and our facilitators, we will be offering some great courses this Fall!

Please plan to attend our Open House reception in the Butler Room at Saint Xavier University on Tuesday, September 16th, starting at 2:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity to welcome new members as well as to get reacquainted with friends from previous classes. Starting at 3:00 p.m., there will be a program featuring our facilitators, who will provide presentations about their classes before registration begins.

Keep in mind that the SXU cafeteria is a great place to grab lunch or a snack before classes begin. We receive a 10% discount by presenting our membership badges.

Walking the track at the Shannon Center on class days is included with membership and is a great way to keep in shape. The Shannon Center is open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

Student discounts are also available for the Southwest Symphony. See the Renaissance website for details.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to another year of our shared journey in Lifelong Learning!

See you soon!

Jean Day, President



**Fall 2025 Session  
Oct. 7 – Nov. 13  
On Campus**

**Tuesday 2:30-3:30**

- 1. The Orchestra: Its Music and Its Instruments  
Ron Small**
- 2. News and Views  
Mike Yeager and team**

**Tuesday 3:45- 4:45**

- 3. Making Ethical Decisions  
Madonna Murphy**
- 4. Treating Anxiety  
Maureen Connolly**



**Fall 2025 Session  
Oct. 7 – Nov. 13  
On Campus**


**Thursday 2:30 – 3:30**

- 5. Transcendental Beauty: Catholic Church Art  
and the Chicago Tradition  
Mary Esterhammer Fic**
  
- 6. Zentangle: Meditative Drawing for Stress  
Relief  
Mary Ellen Ziegler / Carmen Reyes**
  
- 7. Thinking with the U.S. Constitution  
Matt Costello**



**Thursday 3:45 – 4:45**

- 8. Tasty Talk**  
**Rita Hannon / Caron Beissmann**
- 9. Hummingbirds**  
**Mike Hastings**
- 10. Broadway Musicals**  
**Betty Kort**



**Fall 2025 Session**  
**Oct. 7 – Nov. 13**  
**Zoom**

- 11. Are We on the Same Page?**  
**Teresa Miller**



**Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30  
On Campus**

## **1. The Orchestra: Its Music and Its Instruments**

**Ron Small**

This class will show the part the conductor and musicians play in the Symphony Orchestra. The course starts first with the role of the Conductor. Using videos, we will hear from famous conductors regarding what they feel a conductor does for the orchestra and experience them in rehearsal. Each of the following weeks will look at the various sections of the orchestra, the instruments in those sections, how they are played and listen to those sections for their sound when played without the rest of the orchestra. The use of the instruments is demonstrated by members of The Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Via videos we will visit various factories to see how musical instruments are made.





## 2. News and Views

**Kathleen Austin, John Garstka, Mary Hendry,  
Patrick Monahan, Matt Costello, Nancy North,  
Mike Yeager**

News & Views is a current events exercise. We dip into international and local news, as well as pop culture events. We encourage class participation and are at our best when we hear everyone's opinions.

Our day is filled with events that alter, illuminate, and often surprise us and you are there front and center! Join us as we attempt to make sense of the news of the day. Your perspective, of course, is always welcome.







**Tuesday 3:45 - 4:45  
on campus**

### 3. Making Ethical Decisions

# Madonna Murphy

How do good people make tough choices? In this course we will study ethical theorists, ethical behavior and moral decision-making in order to understand how we deal thoughtfully with the ethical challenges we face every day with our family, friends and our community.

What makes a decision ethical? Is there anything we can do to get our society to be more ethical? How can we promote living virtues such as honesty, respect, fairness and compassion and use these virtues as we take the needs of others into consideration when we make moral decisions? Case studies and moral dilemmas will be used in the class to guide our discussion.





## 4. Treating Anxiety

### Maureen Connolly

Have you ever considered that you might owe your life to anxiety? Learn how to identify anxiety in your everyday life and discover the techniques you can use to address your anxious thoughts and behaviors.

Dr. Ellen Hendriksen is the instructor for this *Great Course* program and will help us identify anxieties as well as give us some very practical strategies on how we can calm any negative anxieties we may be dealing with in our daily lives.



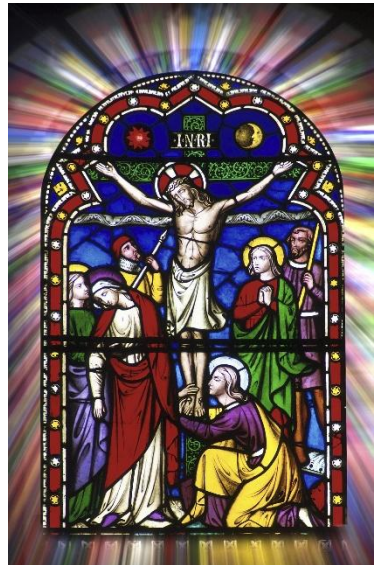


**Thursday 2:30 – 3:30  
on campus**

## **5. Transcendental Beauty: Catholic Church Art and the Chicago Tradition**

**Mary Esterhammer Fic**

From the earliest days of the Church, Christian artists have expressed their faith by creating images to honor God. Through a variety of media (including painting, sculpture, mosaics and stained glass) these objects delight our senses and elevate our appreciation of the Incarnation. In this course, we will examine the history, styles, and meaning of some of the world's most beloved art, and we will learn about the hidden gems in some of Chicago's spectacular churches.





## **6. Zentangle: Meditative Drawing for Stress Relief**

**Mary Ellen Ziegler / Carmen Reyes**

What is Zentangle? Fun! “A shift in focus: A Mental reset. It’s about enjoying the process.” You will learn and discover more tangles with a few simple materials. Bring your favorite pen - I use a micron black 02 or 03. I look forward to our new explorations!





## 7. Thinking with the U.S. Constitution

**Matt Costello**

If, as Jedediah Britton-Purdy of Duke Law School suggests, “democratic publics are the appropriate final arbiters of disputes about constitutional meaning”, how should we, as the democratic public, interpret this 18<sup>th</sup> century document for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Reading the Constitution with a focus on current issues and controversies might help us answer that question. During this term, we will explore the Constitution paying particular attention to such issues as separation of powers, state-federal relations, and civil liberties and rights, and we will consider how this helps us understand contemporary issues including taxes and tariffs, redistricting and voting, freedom of religion and of the press, and immigration among others.





**Thursday 3:45 - 4:45  
on campus**

## **8. Tasty Talk**

**Rita Hannon / Caron Beissmann**



These are meals you don't have to cook but they will surely include great conversation with friends or family. Perhaps a good excuse to invite someone you've met at class and would like to know better or form a "Team" with classmates you already know.

So you'll have plenty of time to schedule your meals, you will receive information for the restaurants we'll be visiting about two weeks before each class. Some of them you may already know and some may be brand new to you. You'll also receive questions to help evaluate your restaurant experience.

Try one or both. It'll be fun!

We will be looking for volunteers to brave the stage and present their thoughts to the class. Open discussion will be included as time allows.

*Renaissance Academy will not be covering costs for your meals or providing transportation.*

*Non-Renaissance Member dining companions will not be allowed to join the class because of SXU Rules and space accommodations.*



## 9. Hummingbirds

**Mike Hastings**



Hummingbirds are the only birds that fly forward, backward, sideways and upside down! These are the tiniest of birds and may travel great distances during migration. Banding of a Rufous Hummingbird revealed that it had migrated from Florida to Alaska - about 3,500 miles. There are more than 320 different species of hummingbirds and they are only found in North and South America.

This course will discuss

- What is a hummingbird?
- How are hummingbirds like and unlike other birds?
- What are the elements of a hummingbird's life cycle?
- Where and when do they migrate?
- How to attract and enjoy hummingbirds?
- The history of human's relationship to this bird - in culture, in legend, the arts and popular imagination.



## 10. Broadway Musicals

### Betty Kort

Do you enjoy music and musical theater? You will enjoy this class. The musical has enthralled, enchanted, and enraptured audiences for more than 100 years. We will discover together what is the quintessential American art form: **the Musical**. Using the many reference books that are dedicated to the art form, I will profile some of the best, biggest, most influential, and most fascinating musicals ever produced. The beauty of technology will allow me to share clips and photographs that illustrate the stunning designs of the shows profiled. Reference materials available from the library will be the ultimate guide to Broadway shows, filled with insider knowledge.

We will explore a variety of titles: *Annie*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sweeney Todd*, *King and I*, *Hello Dolly*, *Les Miserables* and more.

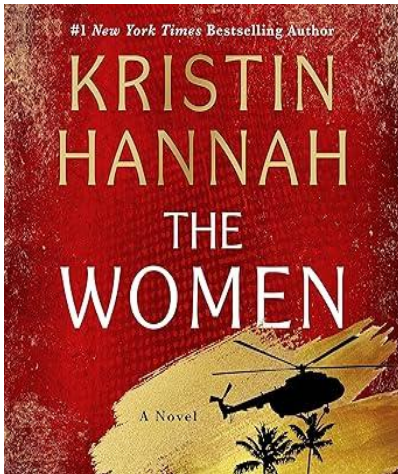
Our first class will feature *Singin' in the Rain*. This particular musical will be performed right in the Beverly area at the Morgan Park Academy Baer Auditorium on Oct 17, 18, 19. There will be opportunity to purchase discounted tickets for this charming and funny song and dance musical by contacting Betty Kort. Please call Betty at 708-819-0139.





**Wednesday Noon-1:00  
Zoom**

**11. Are We on the Same Page?  
Teresa Miller**



Is Historical fiction a favorite? If not, consider this group anyway as we learn and revisit history through new perspectives. We meet Wednesdays on Zoom at noon. Come for the “novel” conversations and enjoy a book choice you may not have otherwise selected.

Our first book is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

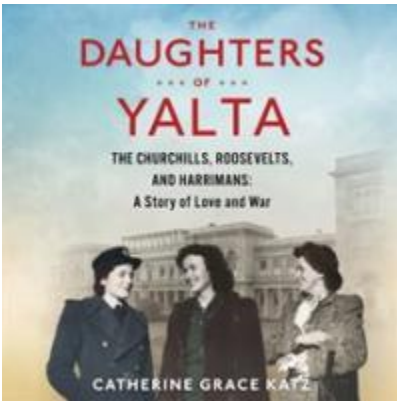


**BOOK CLUB**  
**NOVEMBER 11- 11:00 AM**  
**EVERGREEN PARK LIBRARY**

***The Daughters of Yalta - The Churchills,  
Roosevelts and Harrimans : A Story of Love  
and War***

**by Catherine Grace Katz**

**Betty Kort – Facilitator**



The story of the "daughter diplomacy" of Anna Roosevelt, Sarah Churchill, and Kathleen Harriman, three glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference with Stalin in the waning days of World War II.

Tensions during the Yalta Conference in February 1945 threatened to tear apart the wartime alliance among Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin just as victory was close at hand. Katz uncovers the dramatic story of the three young women who were chosen by their fathers to travel with them to Yalta. Anna Roosevelt, Sarah Churchill and Kathleen Harriman were each bound by fierce family loyalty, political savvy, and intertwined romances that powerfully colored these crucial days. Situated in the political maelstrom that marked the transition to a post-war world, their relationships were tested and strengthened by the history they witnessed and the future they crafted together.



## **Fall 2025**

### **Dates to Remember**

<b>Sept. 16</b> <b>2:30 – 4:30</b>	<b>Open House</b> <b>Butler Room All Are Welcome</b>
<b>Sept. 19 – Sept. 26</b>	<b>On-line registration</b>
<b>October 7</b>	<b>First Day of Fall term</b>
<b>November 11</b> <b>11:00-12:00</b>	<b>Book Club</b> <b>Evergreen Park Library</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Last Day of Fall term</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>TGITT - after classes</b> <b>Butler Room</b>
<b>December 9</b> <b>12:00PM</b>	<b>Christmas Luncheon</b> <b>Orland Chateau</b>





## OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS

### 2025-2026

<b>President:</b>	Jean Day
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kate Walsh
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Greene
<b>Information Systems:</b>	Jim Condon
<b>Consultant/Past President:</b>	Maureen O'Connor
<b>SXU Liaison:</b>	Linda Moreno/ Sandra Diaz

### STANDING COMMITTEES (\*Committee Chairperson)

<b>Care:</b>	Melaine Herbert
<b>Curriculum:</b>	Nancy North* / Madonna Murphy / Mike Yeager
<b>Historian:</b>	Pat Schultz* / Peggy Devlin Casey
<b>Information Systems Support:</b>	Jim Condon* /Vanessa Glover Mary Johnson /Paula O'Brien / Jim Sim
<b>Membership:</b>	Betty Kort* /Maggie Bertling/ Chris Bibro / Maureen Jucas / Paula O'Brien / /Maureen Jucas Peg Schneider / Jim Sim /
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Peggy Dosch*/ Mary Healy Maureen O'Connor
<b>Office Managers:</b>	Nancy Ficaro*
<b>Publicity:</b>	Mary Gallagher
<b>Renaissance Booklet:</b>	Mary Johnson* / Grace Ann Kartheiser
<b>Special Events:</b>	Marcia Levin* / Sharon Powers*/ Pat Clair