



Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP

Winter 2023

January 17-February 23, 2023

Located at

Saint Xavier University

3700 West 103rd Street

We are back on the SXU campus for Winter!

We will also offer a selection of classes

online via Zoom.

What is the Renaissance Academy?

The Renaissance Academy is a collegial association of retired and semi-retired men and women who meet to continue to experience intellectual growth in an environment that is open to all who believe in the importance of pursuing the Academy's lifelong learning opportunities and who are willing to contribute to the common goals through active participation in the programs offered.

Renaissance Academy Information

The Newsletter, Enrollment and much more information is available on the new Renaissance Academy website.

<https://www.renaissancechgo.org>

Click the Enrollment tab then go to Course Registration Online Form tab to register for classes.

or just Google: **renaissancechgo.org**

Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

If your email is incorrect or has changed, please email that information to our office at renaissancechgo@gmail.com.

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

Winter 2023 Registration

We are back on the SXU campus for Winter!

We will also offer a selection of classes online via Zoom.

Registration for on-campus and/or online classes will be available

December 30 - January 6, 2023 online at

<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 \$175.

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

Checks should be made out to The Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP. Mail to:

Renaissance Academy at Chicago
Saint Xavier University
3700 West 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60655

Requests for assistance can be emailed to
renaissancechgo@gmail.com.

The final date for registration is
January 6, 2023.



“UN SUCCES FOU!”

As they say in France, our first term post-Covid was a “mad success.” There are so many people who worked behind the scenes volunteering their time and talent to make it all happen. I would especially like to thank these true Renaissance leaders:

Sue Wrzesinski, Curriculum Chair, for recruiting and energizing so many terrific facilitators to lead both online and on campus classes.

Mary Johnson, for collecting and organizing the course descriptions into our Fall Booklet, a good read for all of us.

Maxine Byrnes & Katherine Sullivan (publicity) for getting the word out that we are beginning anew.

Pat Flaherty (Communications) for letting us know via School Messenger about breaking news.

Jim Condon (Information Systems) for working his magic to get everything (Booklet, Registration, Enrollment, etc.) on line in a format we could understand and utilize.

Sharon Gerc (Treasurer), for collecting and depositing all of our checks as well as managing our Budget and paying our bills.

Sheila O’Sullivan and team for assembling and distributing name tags on the first days of class.

All of the **facilitators** who volunteered, put fascinating courses together, led us in discussions that went in so many challenging directions. We know who you are, and are so happy to see many of you again in this Winter Booklet.

Joann Gruca (Renaissance Forum) for planning way ahead to schedule an in-person event with a “touch free buffet” just in case Covid parameters prevailed. Of course, we enjoyed the October speaker and are happy to see that she has another crowd pleaser scheduled for March 7, 2023.

Phyllis Sheahan, Sandra Stephens and **Marcia Janus** who planned a beautiful Christmas Luncheon featuring a raffle, door prizes and sing along.

Linda Moreno and **Sandra Diaz** (SXU Liasons) for smoothing our re-entry back on campus, providing tech backup for the facilitators, and making our Forum and classroom sessions so successful.

We’re back! Enjoy the winter Term!

Maureen O’Connor

**Winter Jan. 17- Feb. 23
Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30
SXU on campus**

- 1. Award Winning Short Films
Mimi Burke**

- 2. Passing on the Family Jewels
Pat Schultz**

Tuesday 3:45 4:45
SXU on campus

3. News and Views

Mike Yeager Team

4. Winter Birds

Mike Hastings

Wednesday Zoom classes

10:30-11:30

5. **Landmark Films**
Kathy Konopasek

12:00- 1:00

6. **The Novels You Weren't Ready for in High School**
Carol Conway

1:15- 2:15

7. **Great Short Stories**
Maureen Connolly / Peg Walsh

January 18

2:30 – 3:30

8. **Money Smarts for Older Adults**
Sherriff's Office Presentation
This will be repeated in the Jan. 24 News class.

One Class Only

Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
SXU on campus

9. Women Aviators
Karen Fitzgerald / Betty Kort / Nancy North

10. Artists of Northern Renaissance
Sue Wrzesinski

**Thursday 3:45 – 4:45
SXU on campus**

**11. Social Media 101
Sharon Coghlan Gerc**

**12. Ugandan Adventures
Dr. Bill and Kate Walsh**

**This class will meet for three weeks only.
January 19, 26 and February 2**

Winter 2023 Session Jan. 17 – Feb. 23

Tuesday 2:30- 3:30

SXU on campus

1. Award Winning Short Films

Mimi Burke

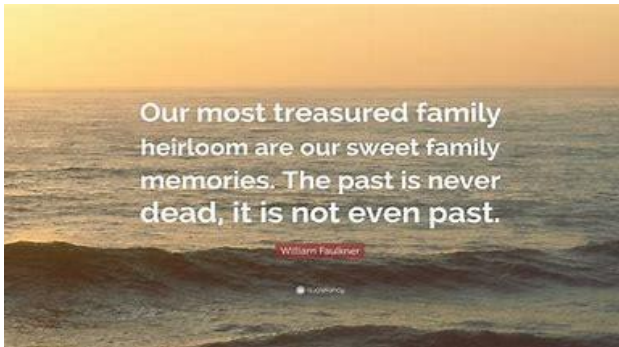
We will be viewing and discussing award winning short films. They have been produced in Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, France, and the U.S.A. Please come and enjoy them and help us enjoy them.



2. Passing on the Family Jewels

Pat Schultz

Do you watch “Finding Your Roots”? Do you worry about who is going to save all your great family stories and pictures, if you don’t save them? Pat will take you through the process of managing that pile of photos and show you ways to organize your stories. She has extensive experience in genealogy and has used many of the products and services and, yes, apps. She will help you figure out what to do with your “stuff.” Let’s make a start and share some stories!



3. News and Views

**Jim Condon, John Garstka, Mary Hendry,
Dan Lynch, Jim Durkin, and Mike Yeager**

Today's 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.

As an additional bonus to the News and Views course, the 2nd meeting will be a presentation by the Cook County Sheriff's Office – ***Money Smarts for Older***

Adults! Katherine Walsh will introduce important points including how to guard against identity theft and other forms for financial exploitation, as well as how to prepare for life events and disasters. Each participant will receive a 104-page ***Resource Guide***.

Renaissance members are welcome. Please don't sign up for the Zoom version if you attend this session.



4. Birds in Winter

Mike Hastings

Millions of birds die each Winter. This season is the most challenging for birds. On the other hand, billions survive the elements to continue their cycle of life! How do they do it? Sedentary birds have learned that remaining year-round in one habitat is their best chance for survival. Most birds rely on migration to find the necessary resources for rejuvenation. This course will examine these two strategies. I will spotlight the unique skills of the Great Horned Owl, the Snowy Owl, the Bald Eagle, warblers and shorebirds.



Wednesday

Zoom classes

5 . 10:30-11:30 Zoom

Landmark Films **Kathy Konopasek**

This film class will discuss the creative drive, background influences, production development of each chosen film. We will use the critical lens to see the difference in each film we watch, to review and discuss the historical, social and cultural atmosphere of its era and the impact, change or entertainment value the film had on the film industry.

We will discuss the creative and critical aspects and impact of the film: images used, messages revealed, dialog chosen, director tone, character development and setting. Your critiques, critical eye, point of view, and observations will be most welcome. We will examine if the film was successful; for instance, box office versus critics' reviews.

A convenience of this class is that you will watch the film at your leisure, from home or chosen location. After viewing, film discussion will be on Zoom per the schedule set by SXU. Information on finding inexpensive or free ways to see the film will be shared. However, you will need Internet access or you may already own the film on dvd.

An informal vote will be conducted to see which films we will review. However, the first pick I will make to set the tone of the class. That will be Stanley Kramer's, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. Another may be Jerry Lewis', *The Bellboy*, in case you wondered why the French revere him so.

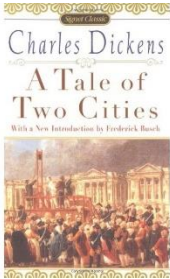


6. 12:00 – 1:00 PM Zoom

The Literature You Weren't Ready for in High School: *A Tale of Two Cities*

Carol Conway

Charles Dickens' classic novel, set in both England and France during the turbulent period of the French Revolution, is his only historical fiction. We will divide the novel in six sections, one for each class. Readers can choose to read the entire book or follow the syllabus below (but no sharing info if you read ahead 😊). Questions will be emailed days ahead of class to enhance discussion.



Jan 19 Book the First: *Recalled to Life*, chapters 1-6

Jan 26 Book the Second: *The Golden Thread*, chapters 1-8

Feb 2 chapters 9-16

Feb 8 chapters 17-24

Feb 15 Book the Third: *Track of the Storm*, chapters 1-6

Feb 22 chapters 7-15

Questions? Send me an email at cairec49@yahoo.com. Happy reading!

7. 1:15 – 2:15 PM Zoom

Great Short Stories Maureen Connolly / Peg Walsh

The book that we have chosen for our class is a treasury of one hundred tales, and it offers readers of short fiction a splendid selection of stories by masters of the form. Contributors from around the world include Edgar Allen Poe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Anton Chekov, Kate Chopin *and others*. With one hundred stories spanning more than two centuries, this comprehensive collection provides a vision of the world, over time, that one could never find in a history book. From these stories one can experience such a diversity of perspectives as well as deepening and expanding their own view of the world – both as it has been and as it is today.

The next two stories we will read will be: *The Veteran* by Stephen Crane and *The Fortune-Teller* by Joaquin Maria Machado de Assis. Story guide questions will be sent to you before each class.

100 Great Short Stories can be purchased on Amazon or Bookies@ 10324 S. Western 773-239-1110



8. 2:30 PM Zoom **Jan. 18 only**

Money Smart for Older Adults Sherriff's Office

This one-time class will be repeated as part of the News and Views class on Jan. 24th. If you are in that class, you do not need to sign up for the zoom session.

Money Smart for Older Adults



Welcome to *Money Smart for Older Adults!* By taking this module, you'll learn important points to consider in planning for a more financial future, including how to guard against identity theft and other forms of financial exploitation, as well as how to prepare financially for unexpected life events and disasters.

On campus there will be available an 104-page **Resource Guide** which contains:

- Information on how to identify and report financial exploitation
- Resources and information on protecting your assets
- Activities to help you learn the material
- Tools and instructions to complete the activities

Thursday 2:30 – 3:30

SXU on campus

9. Women Aviators

**Karen Fitzgerald / Betty Kort /
Nancy North**

During this session of Women Aviators, we will identify the women who pursued a career in aviation post WWII and the role of women in commercial flight and space exploration. What challenges did they face? An interesting statistic, the average age of an employed pilot is 45 years old. Currently, 29.3% of all pilots are women.

Here's a Sneak peek of one of the interesting women we will meet in the Winter Session:

Beverley Bass became American Airlines first female captain in 1986. On September 11, 2001, Bass' plane was diverted to Gander, Newfoundland, along with 37 other flights when the FAA closed US airspace. In the Broadway musical *Come from Away* Bass is portrayed by actress Jenn Colella. The song *Me and the Sky* chronicles Bass' career as a groundbreaking female pilot.



10. Artists of Northern Renaissance

Sue Wrzesinski

Art lovers today may be enamored by the assumed supremacy of Italian Renaissance painters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and Michelangelo. But, in the 1400s and afterwards, Northern Renaissance painters were “in vogue.” They were particularly admired for their ability to mimic reality with extraordinary naturalism. We will enjoy the work and stories of these artists:

Jan Van Eyck, Judith Leyster , Albrecht Durer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Hans Holbein, Johannes Vermeer.



Girl with the Pearl Earring

Thursday 3:45 - 4:45

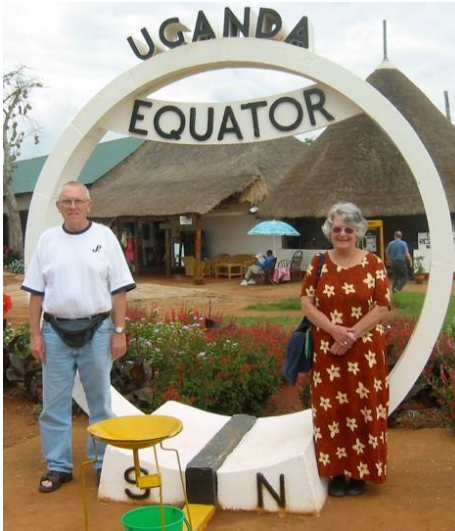
SXU on campus

11. Social Media 101 - Continued
Sharon Coghlan Gerc

The Winter session will continue with Part 2 of the 3 Part series introducing social media. We will start the year with a brief overview of key topics covered in the Fall Session and will start the new material with YouTube. We will cover curriculum in Part 2 including: YouTube, Tik Tok, Behance, Discord, Goodreads, and Medium. This course consists of video presentation and class discussion utilizing The Great Courses Social Media 101 course materials. Learn when to use social media and what to do to protect your privacy while using social media online. The Great Courses narrator and presenter, Pei Ketron, will guide us through the overview of various platforms as we learn more about the types and when to use them. (In the Spring session, Part 3 will include Reddit, Tumblr, Twitch, Nextdoor and Snapchat.)



12. Ugandan Adventures Bill and Kate Walsh



Bill and Kate Walsh will present three lectures about their unique and fascinating experiences working in Uganda about 15 years ago. Bill, a retired surgeon, and Kate, a retired nurse, volunteered in a rural hospital in Uganda for three years. The long-time commitment

required substantial training (4 months) and preparation as well as financial and personal challenges. How did they cope and find ways to make a difference in the lives of the local people? Listen to their stories and learn what it was like to live and work in a totally different environment. They met with poor hospital facilities and supplies, struggled with their own health and local superstitions and cultural biases. But they also met wonderful people, saw interesting wildlife and explored the beautiful countryside. It's funny, sad, enlightening and confounding and, there's slides!

NOTE: This class will meet for 3 sessions only: Jan. 19th, Jan. 26th, and Feb. 2nd.

**Book Club – January 24th
Oak Lawn Library – Room B
1:00 -2:00 PM**

***Make Your Bed*
by Admiral William H. McRaven**

Facilitators : Bern Stiemann and Mike Yeager



Admiral McRaven shares life lessons, he learned as a Navy Seal, that can change your life for the better. It is based on a speech available on You Tube.

Definitely a **short** book with a **tall** message!

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

**10:00 AM McDonough Chapel
Memorial Mass for members who
have died since the last Memorial
Mass.**

11:00 AM Butler Room - Light refreshments

**11:30 AM Butler Room
Renaissance Forum**

***Eleanor Roosevelt*
A Living History Portrayal
by Leslie Goddard**

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

Renaissance Forum

Eleanor Roosevelt
A Living History Portrayal
by Leslie Goddard

Award winning actress and scholar Leslie Goddard will portray one of the most fascinating and influential public figures of the twentieth century. Born during America's Gilded Age, Eleanor grew from a shy orphan into a confident, driven woman who championed progressive causes and human rights. The content of this presentation is drawn from Eleanor's own letters, diaries, newspaper columns, and other writings. Through attendance at this program, we will learn more about this American stateswoman who has been called "The First Lady of the World."



Any public health guidelines in place are to be observed by attendees.

Winter 2023

Dates to Remember

Dec. 30, 2022	Online registration begins
Jan. 6	Winter registration ends
Jan. 17	First day of Winter term
January 24 1:00 PM	Book Club Oak Lawn Library
Feb. 23	Last day of Winter term
March 7 10:00 AM	Memorial Mass Saint Xavier University McDonough Chapel
11:00 AM	Light refreshments Butler Room
11:30 AM	Renaissance Forum Butler Room

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS

2022-2023

President:	Maureen O'Connor
Vice President:	Jean Day
Secretary:	Shelia O'Sullivan
Treasurer:	Sharon Gerc
Information Systems:	Jim Condon
Past President:	Eileen M. Holderbaum
Consultant:	Donatta Yates
SXU Liaison:	Linda Moreno

STANDING COMMITTEES

Curriculum:	Sue Wrzesinski* / Mary Johnson Grace Ann Kartheiser
Special Events:	Chris Bibro / Sharon Gerc Marianne Grisolano Marc Janas* / Sandra Stephens * Mike Young
Renaissance Forum:	JoAnn Gruca* / Pat Clair Mary Howley / Therese Cunningham Kay Heafey (advisor)
Care:	Ramune Rackauskas
Communication:	Maxine Byrnes* / Katherine Sullivan
Newsletter:	Peggy Dosch* Mary Healy / Maureen O'Connor
Office Manager:	Mike Yeager Joan Weithman
Communication Specialist:	Pat Flaherty

*Committee Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to communicate with our membership more effectively and efficiently Renaissance Academy has installed a messaging service. This service can reach our members via home phone, cell phone and through email and text messages.

It is most important that we have your communication information so that when classes are canceled due to inclement weather, or when it is time to notify our membership of classroom assignments, we can reach you without difficulty. This service will also provide us with the opportunity to reach our members with reminders of all Renaissance Academy activities, such as Renaissance Academy Forum and other scheduled events.

Please help us to make this communication system effective by making sure that we have all your information. We must have your home phone number and email address. It would be most helpful if you have a cell phone to provide that number as well. With this information we will be most assured to reach you with all important messages from Renaissance Academy.

If we do not have your information, we won't be able to reach you with all that is upcoming and new with Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP.