



Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP

Spring 2023

April 18-May 25, 2023

Located at

Saint Xavier University

3700 West 103rd Street

We are back on the SXU campus for Spring!

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.**

Spring 2023 Registration

We are back on the SXU campus for Spring!

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

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

March 31 – April, 7, 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 NFP
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
April 7, 2023.



President's Message

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade.

Charles Dickens

How well we understand Mr. Dickens! As I write this, we have a “dusting” of snow and are hoping for some afternoon sun to melt it away. It’s Spring, and the days are growing longer. We have enjoyed this past mild winter, especially because we were free to attend classes on campus as well as stay home for some cozy Zoom sessions on Wednesdays. Thank you to Sue Wrzesinski and all the facilitators for giving us something to look forward to, think about, and learn.

The successful Winter Term culminated on Tuesday March 7, with a moving Memorial Mass. All who attended raved about the joyful liturgy commemorating the 60 Renaissance members whom we have lost since our last Memorial Mass in 2019. We thank Carol Conway and Father Jim Donovan for their caring planning and reminder that our friends gone

ahead are in a better place. Following the Mass almost 100 Renaissance Academy members and their guests enjoyed Leslie Goddard's performance of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Thank you Jo Ann Gruca and Sandy Stephens for ensuring the success of this event. We are looking forward to a Spring Term featuring several returning facilitators as well as some new volunteers who have planned a variety of offerings both on campus and on Zoom. Be prepared to register on line in late March and to begin classes on April 18.

Once again, we will celebrate the year with a Spring Luncheon at Orland Chateau on May 22nd. We will ask you to register on line for this event. We'll see you there!!

**Spring April 18 - May 25
Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30
SXU on campus**

- 1. Award Winning Short Films
Mimi Burke**
- 2. The Irish in the Golden Age of Hollywood
Brian and Erin McCann**

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

- 3. News and Views
Mike Yeager Team**
- 4. A World on the Wing - Spring Migration
Mike Hastings**

Wednesday Zoom classes

12:00- 1:00

- 5. The Literature You Weren't Ready for in High School: *The Scarlet Letter***

Carol Conway

1:15- 2:15

- 6. Great Short Stories
Maureen Connolly**

**Thursday 2:30 - 3:30
SXU on campus**

7. Women Aviators and Astronauts

Karen Fitzgerald / Betty Kort / Nancy North

8. Ultimate Journey II

Dan Lynch

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

**9. Social Media 101 Part 3
Sharon Coghlan Gerc**

**10. Native Art of North America
Sue Wrzesinski**

Spring 2023 Session April 18 – May 25

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 throughout the world. Please come and enjoy them and help us enjoy them. As always suggestions are welcomed.



2. The Irish in the Golden Age of Hollywood

Brian and Erin McCann

This class will explore Irish Americans who acted, directed, and wrote in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's in Hollywood's Golden Age. We will also take a look at some of the issues and pressures they faced toiling in the studio system. In addition, we will learn about the Irishman who guided the film industry in censoring itself by imposing a powerful censorship code. Lastly, we will examine a selection of both classic films and recent ones paying tribute to Ireland.



Tuesday 3:45- 4:45

3. News and Views

**Kathleen Austin, Pat Clair, Jim Condon,
John Garstka, Mary Hendry, Mike Yeager,
Mike Young**

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.



4. A World on the Wing - Spring Migration

Mike Hastings



Return and renewal are the major tasks for birds during this most important season. Spring migration jumpstarts a bird's annual life cycle.

Billions of birds leave their wintering grounds of South America, Central America and the Gulf coast each February and March. They arrive on their

northern breeding grounds just in time to feed on nectar, insects and fish. Thus strengthened they begin to establish territory, look for a mate, build nests, incubate eggs and care for hatchlings.

In this course, we examine these events as acted out by Sandhill Cranes, Ruby Throated Hummingbirds, Warblers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a variety of birds of the Midwest.



Wednesday

Zoom classes

12:00 – 1:00 PM Zoom

5. The Literature You Weren't Ready for in High School: *The Scarlet Letter*

Carol Conway

Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic rings true today as certain people continue to be judged more harshly than others and stories of clerical abuse remain in the news. 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. Reading the introductory section, "The Custom House," is optional.

Week 1: Chapters 1-5

Week 2: Chapters 6-9

Week 3: Chapters 10-13

Week 4: Chapters 14-17

Week 5: Chapters 18-21

Week 6: Chapters 22-end



I am using the Norton Critical Edition, second edition, 1961, if you want the same version.

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

6. Great Short Stories Maureen Connolly

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 one's own view of the world – both as it has been and as it is today.

The first two stories we will read for the spring session will be: *The Only Son of Aoife* (1902) by Isabella Augusta, *Lady Gregory* and *The Leopard Man's Story* by Jack London. 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



Thursday 2:30 – 3:30

SXU on campus

**7. Women Aviators and Astronauts
Karen Fitzgerald / Betty Kort /
Nancy North**

The topic of Women Aviators and their history has led us beyond the 20th Century. Let's keep going, discovering who are these women who find themselves launched into space?

Women continue to break barriers and receive recognition of being the 1st. We'll find out more about Peggy Whitson. Did you know Peggy set the record on September 2, 2017 for most **cumulative days** living and working in space by a NASA astronaut at 665 days? Peggy's longest consecutive time in Space was 289 days. In 2020 another woman, Christina Koch completed a record setting 328 consecutive days on the International Space Station. We will find out more about these women and many others who lead amazing lives as astronauts, scientists, and engineering specialists in the Aerospace industry.

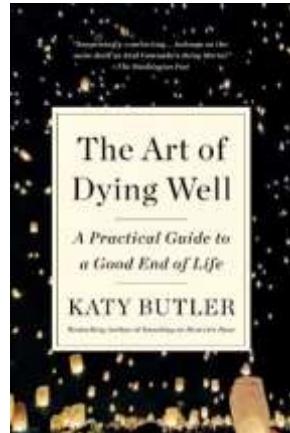


8. Ultimate Journey #2

Dan Lynch

Kind of a continuation of Ultimate Journey #1, with suitable or unsuitable humor!

Remaining as healthy and happy as possible and as medically informed and unafraid, through the predictable health stages of later life, from vigorous old age to final breath involves many disparate factors, such as social isolation, communicating with your medical providers, nutrition, and exercise, just to name a few.



In order to move towards accomplishing the goal of a happy and healthy later life, we will be discussing many issues and events and referring to the book *The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life*, by Katy Butler.

Although the subject is most serious, it is, at the same time vitally important for you and your loved ones and we will strive to have some fun too.

This class needs 20 participants to take place.

Thursday 3:45 - 4:45

SXU on campus

9. Social Media 101 – Part 3

Sharon Coghlan Gerc

During the 3rd and final part of the social media introduction course from The Great Courses, we plan to discuss and create the beginning workgroup to set up a private Facebook Page for Renaissance Academy members. We will begin to work on this project during class with expectations of having a private social Facebook Group for members soon. In addition, each week we will spend time watching a selection of YouTube's Kindness 101 initiative from Steve Hartman and others. We will watch brief videos we select and discuss our thoughts on the topic of kindness and others. A suggested weekly plan is listed below.

Week 1: Overview of key topics from Fall and Winter terms.

- Facebook Private Group development overview/view Facebook video.
- You Tube goes viral for kindness: *topic selection (see bottom of page).
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Week 2: Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP Facebook Group team volunteers.

- Kindness YouTube video of the day (*kindness topic *tbcd* 10 minutes)

Week 3: Facebook Group teamwork.

- Kindness YouTube video topic of the day (*kindness topic *tbd*- 10 minutes).

Week 4: Facebook Group teamwork.

- Kindness YouTube video of the day (*kindness topic *tbd*- 10 minutes).

Week 5: Facebook Group teamwork.

- Kindness YouTube video of the day (*kindness topic *tbd*- 10 minutes).

Week 6: Facebook Group teamwork.

- Kindness YouTube video of the day (*kindness topic *tbd*- 10 minutes).

*Kindness viral video *tbd* topics to choose from: Gratitude, Friendship, Character, Grit and Perseverance, Empathy and Compassion, Integrity, Kindness, Gratitude, Inclusion and Equality, Heroism, Bullying, and Heartwarming stories. The class will prioritize topics in the first class.



10. Native Art of North America

Sue Wrzesinski

This course will explore the cultures and arts of native American nations. Our typical image is of a Plains warrior on horseback with a full feather headdress chasing buffalo and bringing food back to a teepee encampment. But, that's a gross generalization of the Pre-Columbian peoples of our vast continent. As in the early U.S. and Europe, social hierarchies, religious expression and cultural and physical demands drove the creation of art.

Environments affected cultures and available materials. So, life differed greatly from the Eastern Woodlands and Southeast, the Great Plains and Southwest, the Great Basin and the Plateau and Northwest coast up to the Arctic and sub-Arctic. Fossilized footprints show that humans were in New Mexico about 23,000 years ago! We'll enjoy Navajo weaving and sandpainting, Mississippi Mound architecture, California woven basketry, Inuit sculpture, Pueblo pottery, the totem poles and carved masks of the Northwest coast, quillwork of the Eastern Woodlands and, of course, the beadwork of the Great Plains tribes.



APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

**Let's celebrate by getting together
and sharing our favorite poems!**

Choose a poem from your childhood, your high school or college days, or a verse that has pulled at your heart for some reason or another. It could be funny, touching, and/or thought provoking. It could be beautifully phrased or discordant. It could be a song, a rap, or a psalm.

You may want to share why this poem is meaningful to you. You may want to read it, sing it, or recite it from memory. Anything goes!

Please join us on April 25 at 11:00 A.M.

**Location:
Evergreen Park Library
9400 S. Troy Avenue
Evergreen Park, IL
Jean Day - facilitator**



Spring 2023

Dates to Remember

March 31	Online registration begins
April 7	Spring registration ends
April 18	First day of Spring term
April 25	Poetry Celebration 11:00 AM Evergreen Park Library
May 1	Facilitators' Meeting 10:30 - 11:30 AM Oak Lawn Library
May 22	Board Meeting Orland Chateau 11:00 AM
May 22	Spring Luncheon Orland Chateau 12:00 PM
May 25	Last day of Spring term
June 21	Board Meeting

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023

President:	Maureen O'Connor
Vice President:	Jean Day
Secretary:	Sheila 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* / Grace Ann Kartheiser
Special Events:	Chris Bibro / Sharon Gerc Marianne Grisolano Marcia 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 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 will not be able to reach you with all that is upcoming and new with Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP.