



2026 Spring Newsletter



President's Corner

Here we go again! It was great to enjoy a little Spring Break, but now it feels good to get back to the routines of going to school, meeting and greeting new and old friends, and exploring new things!

On March 10, 2026, Renaissance Academy held its annual Memorial Mass and Spring Forum. Thanks to excellent planning by Melaine Herbert and Maureen O'Connor, the Mass was beautiful. We had a candle ceremony at the beginning of the Mass honoring 14 current or former Renaissance members as well as members of their immediate families who had died during the past year. Lovely introductory music was provided by Mary Ellen Ziegler on her Native American flute. Father Jim Donovan delivered an inspiring eulogy. Laura Alonso and Betty Kort provided music during the mass. Over 80 Renaissance members and guests attended the mass. Many thanks to Dr. Jenny DeVivo, SXU Vice President of Mission and Heritage, who helped plan and coordinate with us on the McDonough Chapel arrangements.

Following the Mass, our Spring Forum, coordinated by Forum members Pat Clair and Marcia Levin, Special Events Chairperson, took place in the Butler Room. Mary Kopale hosted a Happiness Workshop, an interactive, fun program. Barbara Croker played ambient music on the grand piano before the program started. Country House provided a delicious light lunch. Over one hundred people attended the Forum. Pat Shultz, our photographer, took lots of pictures and posted them on Facebook. It was a delightful day!

Have fun! See you in the halls!

Jean Day

SXU Cafeteria

10% Discount with Renaissance Name Badge



The SXU cafeteria kitchen offers "from scratch" fresh salads, a full deli, homemade pizza and pasta dishes, as well as a grill station. Daily specials are available. Meeting at the cafeteria for lunch or a cup of coffee and a cookie before class is always a fun way to connect, and a way to eat without

cooking!



Portrait of the First American Pope: Leo XIV

By Matthew Bunson

Book Club - Evergreen Park Library

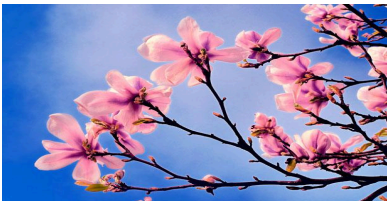
April 15, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Zoom - April 22, 2026 Noon

Madonna Murphy, Facilitator

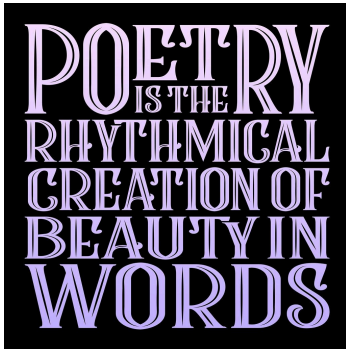
Join in a thoughtful discussion! *Portrait of the First American Pope: Leo XIV* by Mathew Bunson, published by EWTN, available on Amazon for \$14.22.

Optional Field Trip to see the Pope's boyhood home and school/parish in Dolton, followed by lunch at Aurelio's Pizza in Homewood on Wednesday, April 29. Meet either at SXU at 11:00 a.m. to carpool or at the Pope's house at 212 East 141st Place, Dolton, IL, at 11:30 a.m.



Spring 2026 Dates to Remember

April 7:	Spring Term Begins		
April 15:	Book Club	10:30 a.m.	Evergreen Park Library Portrait of the First American Pope: Leo XIV Facilitator Madonna Murphy
April 16:	TGITT	5:00- 7:00 p.m.	The Butler Room
April 21:	Poetry!	11:00 a.m.	Evergreen Park Library Facilitator Jean Day
April 23	Quilt Field Trip	3:30	Block House Gallery
April 29	"Pope" Field Trip	11:00	SXU
May 14:	Last Day of Spring Term		
May 19:	Spring Luncheon	Noon	Orland Chateau 14500 S. LaGrange Road



APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Let's celebrate by getting together and sharing our favorite poems! Please join us on

April 21 at 11 A.M.

Jean Day - Facilitator

Evergreen Park Library

9400 S. Troy Avenue

Evergreen Park, IL

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!

A poster for a quilting exhibit. The title "Quilting Is An Art" is in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, "A SHOWCASE OF SOUTH SIDE QUILTERS" is in a smaller, sans-serif font. The poster features several images of quilts: a colorful geometric quilt, a quilt with a pink and green striped pattern, a quilt with a purple and white pattern, and a quilt with a yellow and purple pattern. The text "Opening Reception" is in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, "Saturday March 21" and "5pm-8pm" are in a bold, serif font. The location "Block House Gallery 11137 S. Langley Ave" is in a sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are logos for "BLOCK HOUSE GALLERY" and "PULLMAN ARTS".

Field Trip!

Do you remember going on a field trip in school? More recently, you might have been a chaperone for one of your grandkids. Minus the yellow school bus, Betty Kort is organizing an outing to the Block House Gallery for the "Quilting Is An Art" exhibit. **Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 23.** The gallery is open on Thursdays from 4 PM to 6 PM. The plan is to carpool at 3:30 immediately after her 2:30 class that day. It is a short 25-minute drive to the Pullman Park area. Participants do not need to be in her History of Quilt Making class to attend.

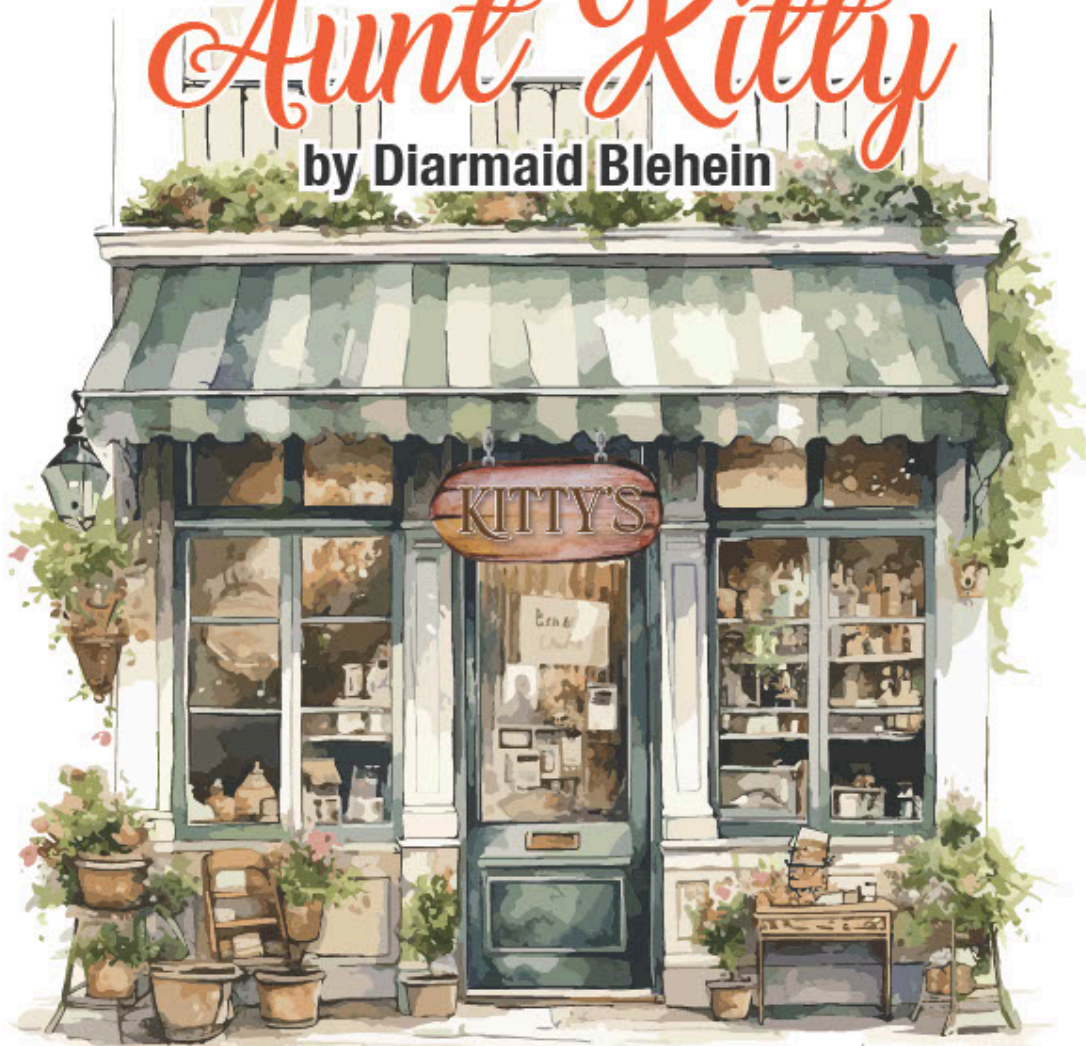
Please contact **Betty** for more details.
708-819-0139 or email candbkort@aol.com

Gaelic Park Players Presents

Spring 2026

WORLD PREMIER

HELPING *Aunt Killy* by Diarmaid Blehein



Director: Melanie Jones • Assistant Director: Ted Holste

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Fridays, April 17 and 24 - 8:00 PM

Saturdays, April 18 and 25 - 8:00 PM

Sundays, April 19 and 26 - 3:00 PM

TICKETS:

Theater Tickets \$17
(INCLUDES A \$2 SERVICE FEE)

Pub Dinners will be offered Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, with a 10% discount off the entire bill (full access to the Carraig Pub menu). Please contact the Gaelic Park Office to make your Pub reservations—708-687-9323.

Purchase Tickets at: www.ChicagoGaelicPark.com
Tickets are Non-Refundable



For reservations or more information, please call Chicago Gaelic Park 708-687-9323
Chicago Gaelic Park • 6119 W. 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL 60452 • www.GaelicParkPlayers.org

The Evergreen Park Recreation Department Candlelight Theatre
presents



The Song of Bernadette

The Classic
Drama by
Jean & Walter Kerr
based on the
novel by
Franz Werfel

PERFORMANCE DATES:
Friday, May 15 7:30pm
Saturday, May 16 7:00pm
Sunday, May 17 3:00pm

TICKETS
Adults \$12
Seniors/Students \$10

Performance Hall
Evergreen Park Senior Center
9547 S. Homan Avenue



Tickets also available at the Community Center, 3450 W. 97th Street

Please note that this is the 1944 dramatic play version and not the current musical "BERNADETTE" that played in Chicago.

Renaissance Member Betty Kort will be portraying Mother Marie Therese Vauzous. Attend and cheer her on!



SHREK THE MUSICAL is the stage adaptation of the beloved DreamWorks film Shrek. "Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek. . . ." Thus begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wise-cracking donkey and a feisty princess. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude, and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you've got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero—Shrek. The characters you know and love will come to life on stage, accompanied by a live orchestra. You will love this musical. It's not just for kids!

The Baer Theatre at Morgan Park Academy, Friday, April 24, @ 7:30 p.m.

2153 W. 111th Street

Chicago, IL

Saturday, April 25, @ 2:00 p.m.

(ASL Interpreted performance)

Saturday, April 25, @ 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 26, @ 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are going fast, so don't delay. **Contact Renaissance Member Betty Kort, and she will assist in securing tickets. 708-819-0139**



Saint Xavier University Health Center

For quality care you can trust, the SXU Health Center is a nurse practitioner-led primary care clinic that serves students, faculty, staff, and community members with holistic care consistent with SXU's standard of excellence. For more information, click the appointment link below.

- [Schedule an Appointment](#)



Another benefit of Renaissance Academy membership:

We can walk the track at the Shannon Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays when Renaissance is in session. Senior membership (\$200 for a year) would allow access to the track (not the gym) whenever the Center is open.



Mission Statement: *The Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP* was created for those individuals of the community, retired and semi-retired, who have the desire to learn simply for the joy and excitement of learning. Its primary purpose is to provide forums for participatory group study on topics decided on by the membership. The focus is on member participation and peer teaching. Aims include intellectual stimulation, cultural enrichment, and fellowship.



Have you joined the **Renaissance Facebook** group yet? *New* members will receive an email with a link to join. Current Renaissance members who would like to join should email Pat Schultz at schultzp@comcast.net

Renaissance Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Only to be used for general questions. **Telephone: 773-298-3149**

N.B. Renaissance Office is not staffed. Please leave a message or contact us via email.



You look great in photos!

Check out the Past Events Photos tab on the Renaissance website and see how much fun was had! Multiple photo albums of previous events are available for you to peruse.

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

"Spring is the time of plans and projects."

Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

A Renaissance Person to Know - Fred Wohlberg

Interviewed by Mary Healy



We have a dynamo among us, and his name is **Dr. Fred Wohlberg**. Fred has had a full and adventurous life! After graduating from St. Ignatius College Prep and Loyola University, Fred began his ascent into the medical field. After attending the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, he served his internship and residency at Cook County Hospital for two years. Then he

spent three years at Hines VA Hospital for Urology as a resident. With all that education, Fred then began a Urology practice that lasted over 40 years. During that time, Fred held many responsible positions. He served as President of the Professional Staff, member of the Board of Directors, and Chief of Surgery at Little Company of Mary Hospital. In addition, Fred was president of both the Chicago Urological Society and the Illinois Urological Society. Further, Fred served as a physician at the Cook County Coroner's Office and Cook County Jail. Before beginning his residency at Hines, Fred had a few free months, so he worked as a physician at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Despite his busy career, Fred enjoys a full family life. He and his wife, Marillyn, have been married for 55 years. They are the proud parents of 4 children, doting grandparents of 12, and great-grandparents of 2. Fred and Marilyn are avid golfers, and when not spending time with family, they can be found on the golf course.

Loving travel, Fred has visited much of the world. He has been to Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Greece, Cyprus, Rhodes, Thailand, Burma, Nepal, China, Singapore, Bali, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, Hong Kong, Austria, Hungary, Doha, Tehran, Dhahran, Africa, Canada, and most of Europe and the United States. Fred and Marilyn lived in Turkey for two years at Incirlik Air Force Base, where Fred served as a physician at the base medical center. While there, Fred and Marilyn were able to rent a car and travel in the area during their free time.

As you can see, Fred has lived life to the fullest! He hasn't wasted a minute!

**2025 - 2026
Renaissance Academy**



<u>Officers</u>		<u>Committees</u>	
President:	Jean Day	Care:	Melaine Herbert
Secretary:	Kate Walsh	Curriculum:	Nancy North* Madonna Murphy Mike Yeager
Treasurer:	Mike Greene	History:	Pat Schultz* Peggy Devlin Casey
Info Systems:	Jim Condon*	Information Systems Support:	Vanessa Glover Mary Johnson Paula O'Brien Jim Sim
Consultant/ Past President:	Maureen O'Connor	Membership:	Betty Kort* Maggie Bertling Chris Bibro Maureen Jucas Paula O'Brien Peg Schneider Jim Sim
SXU Liaison:	Linda Moreno Sandra Diaz	Newsletter:	Peggy Dosch* Mary Healy Maureen O'Connor
		Office Management:	Nancy Ficaro*
		Publicity:	Mary Gallagher
		Special Events:	Marcia Levin* Sharon Powers* Pat Clair
		Course Booklet:	Mary Johnson* Grace Ann Kartheiser
			*Chairs