



Fall 2023 Newsletter



President's Corner

The trees are in their autumn beauty...

W. B. Yeats

La di da, tis autumn! So much to love about this season.
We're back.

Our **Opening Reception** in the Butler Room was quite a success. Thank you to Membership Chair Betty Kort and Special Events Chair Sandy Stephens for creating this opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with returning friends. Classes begin on October 10; happily, they will be both on-campus and on Zoom.

The **Renaissance Forum** will take place on October 17 at 11:30 in the Butler Room. JoAnn Gruca has arranged for a seasonal speaker. (If you plan to attend, *you must have registered by Sunday, October 8th* through an email to renaissancechgo@gmail.com.) After the Presentation, there will be time for a light lunch and to visit with friends before we go to our Tuesday afternoon classes.

While you are on campus, may I suggest that you take a walk to **Mary's Garden** (west of the Warde Academic Center). There you will find a new memorial brick honoring Donatta Yates, one of our founding members, as well as an older memorial brick honoring the memory of the founder of Renaissance Chicago, Eleanor Zaynor.

Additional special events have been planned. There will be a **TGITT** at Gilhooley's on October 26th and our **Holiday Luncheon** will take place at the Orland Chateau on December 5th.

Let's make the best of this season of falling, but beautiful, autumn leaves!

Maureen

**Academy of Our Lady
2nd Grade Dance Recital in Chicago**

*Can you spot
two Renaissance Members in this photo?*
(Elementary school closed in the 1950s.)



Many of us join Renaissance Academy to meet new people as well as for life-long learning opportunities. Yet some of our members have known each other for a long, long time! The above photo includes one of our Facilitators, **Mimi Burke**, in the front row 3rd from left and one of our members, **Marge Carroll**, in the back row first from the left .in their 2nd grade dance recital at Academy of Our Lady. Never mind what year it was. We'd love to hear from other members who've reconnected with old friends.

ATTENTION



There are no longer any regular office hours for the Renaissance Academy. If you need to access the office, you must make an appointment to gain access.

Welcome

**Renaissance is Pleased to Welcome the
Following New Members Fall 2023!**

Mrs. Ruth Allaway
Ms. Nora Brennan
Sr. Margaret Brennan
Ms. Jackie Cataldo
Ms. Mary Cavanaugh
Mrs. Michelle Coleman
Mr. Thomas Coleman
Mrs. Kathleen Conroy
Mr. Donald Crowe
Mrs. Margaret DePrima
Ms, Karen Dertz
Mrs. Phyllis Driscoll
Ms. Patricia Durkin
Mrs. Kristin Faron
Mrs. Nancy Ficaro
Mrs. Laurie Foody
Ms. Kathleen Gallagher
Mr. Martin Gallagher
Ms. Maureen Gillen
Ms. Joan Hagen
Mrs. Angela Heilman
Ms. Kthleen Higgins
Dr. Paula Hodowski
Ms. Mary Rose Jeffry
Ms. Maggie Jung
Mrs. Linda Keating
Mrs. Kathleen Kennedy
Mr. Robert Kinsella
Mrs. Nancy Looney
Mrs. Geri Magnuson
Mrs. Dolores McNamara
Ms. Sally Miller
Ms. Hilary Murdock
Dr. Madonna Murphy
Ms. Meg Mutter
Ms. Jo Ann Newmeyer
Ms. Kathleen O'Toole
Mrs. Phyllis O'Keefe
Mr. Jim Sampson
Ms. Pamela Sheridan
Mr. James Sim
Mr. Jeff Stanczak
Mrs. Elizabeth Topa



2023-2024 Dates to Remember

- October 10: First day of fall classes
Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
- October 17: Renaissance Forum 11:30 a.m.
Butler Room
- October 26: TGITT 5:00 p.m. Gilhooley's
- November 14: Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
- November 16: Last day of fall classes
- December 5: Holiday Luncheon Orland Chateau
Cocktails, 11:30 a.m, Luncheon 12:00 p.m.
Board Meeting Orland Chateau 10:30 a.m.
- December 15: Winter registration begins
- January 9: Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
- January 16: First day of winter classes
- February 13: Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
- February 22: Last day of winter classes
- March 7: Memorial Mass 10 a.m. McDonough Chapel
Renaissance Forum 11:30 a.m. Butler Room
- March 12: Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
- April 9: Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom
First day of spring classes
- May 16: Last day of spring classes



Thank Goodness It's Thursday

October 26, 2023

Gilhooley's~~3901 W. 103rd St.
5:00 p.m. Prepay \$22 per person
Multiple hors d'oeuvres, cash bar



RENAISSANCE FORUM
Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
Saint Xavier University, Butler Room
Haunted History
presented by historian Terry Lynch

Join other Renaissance Academy members as we welcome Terry Lynch to speak on a topic appropriate for the Halloween season: “Haunted History” of the Midwest. Featured tales will include the S.S. Eastland, Brookfield Zoo, the Fort Dearborn Massacre, and John Dillinger, to name a few. Mr. Lynch is a nationally known actor who has specialized in bringing history to life for more than a decade. He reminds audiences that “history happens when you least expect it.”

The forum is free of charge for Renaissance Academy members. Guests are welcome for a suggested \$5 cash donation. ALL attendees (members and guests) **must have pre-registered by Sunday October 8th** at renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Looking forward to being together for the Renaissance Forum on October 17 as we learn about a hauntingly interesting topic. Light refreshments will be served.



**Renaissance Founders
Honored in
Mary’s Garden**

When Eleanor Zaynor retired from her career as a teacher of the visually handicapped, she was determined to remain active and productive. She discovered a program for senior citizens in Baltimore which inspired her to approach the Continuing Education Department at Saint Xavier

University (College at that time) for an on campus location.

Guided by SXU and the Elderhostel organization, she created the Renaissance Chicago NFP program which began in Spring 1991. Donatta Yates was one of the 85 original charter members. She continued to participate and often facilitated until her death last year.

The original mission of lifelong learning and active involvement of all members continues 31 years later.



These memorial bricks in Mary’s Garden celebrate the contributions of these women whose inspiration and enthusiasm have enriched so many lives. To visit Mary’s Garden on campus, turn left as you exit Classroom S-101 and take the door in the breezeway facing the Athletic Center. Follow the path toward the statue of Mary encircled by the memorial bricks.

A Renaissance Couple You Should Know

by Mary Healy



Kate & Bill Walsh

Bill and Kate Walsh have a philosophy: “If you have faith and determination, you can do anything.” They have exemplified this idea throughout their 57 years of marriage. Displaying that determination, Bill held many jobs to put himself through school employed as a postal worker, factory worker, and CTA bus driver.

The couple met at a fraternity party when Bill was in medical school. Kate had just graduated from nursing school. Bill said it was love at first sight because Kate had “a job, a car, and money!” They have been blessed with 7 children and 17 grandchildren.

Both Bill and Kate are originally North Siders and now reside in St. Barnabas. They married in 1966. Due to Bill’s training, the couple lived in eight cities nationwide before returning to Chicago. They have enjoyed vacationing in several countries— England, France, Germany, and Israel.

In addition, they have completed short-term medical missions in Bolivia, Kenya, and the Philippines. Bill also served two short tours with Doctors Without Borders in Africa and Sri Lanka. Long-term missionary work had been a goal for the couple, and finally, in 2004, they were able to join the Mission Doctors Association where they served three years in Uganda. They are thankful for this experience. Bill, especially, is grateful for his medical career.

In their spare time, Bill enjoys walking, biking, and reading. Kate finds gardening a pleasant hobby. Bill and Kate are fairly new to Renaissance, and an exemplary addition. These are good and giving people whose experiences can enrich all our lives.



REV. WILLIAM MALLOY *Speaker Series*



AND GOD SAID IT WAS GOOD

October 15 @ 11 am



"Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness." Paragraph 230, Laudato Si.

Presenter Carol Conway will offer "simple daily gestures" that each of us can do to leave a better world for all people.

After retiring from 34 years as a high school English teacher in CPS, Carol earned a Master's in Pastoral Studies from Loyola—focusing on Catholic Social Teaching—and was then hired by Fr. Bill Malloy as his Pastoral Associate at St. Germaine.

Passion for the Earth began when her Depression-era parents explained why it was important to turn off lights, not waste food, and conserve in other areas. Becoming an Associate of the Sisters of Mercy furthered that passion with their Critical Concern of Care of Earth.



Carol Conway

FUTURE DATES:

NOVEMBER 12, JANUARY 21...

**LOCATION: ST. BARNABAS PARISH HALL
10134 S. LONGWOOD DRIVE CHICAGO, IL**

Light refreshments provided. Questions?
email Mark Piper, piper.mark.evans@gmail.com



Virginia Wrobel Long Time Renaissance Member

So Much More than just an OCS
(EP Office of Citizens' Services) Volunteer

When Virginia and her family moved to Evergreen Park in 1970, she was looking for a way to get involved in her new community. She had previously been involved with PTA, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and was a school aide at her children's

school. Unable to find a place to volunteer, she became involved with an initiative to enhance services to the senior citizens in Evergreen Park. Virginia reported that a group of local volunteers went door to door with a questionnaire inquiring about the current needs for senior citizens. Virginia was one of those volunteers. As a result of that questionnaire, the Village decided to begin a program for the seniors in Evergreen Park.

When Virginia heard they were looking for a director she threw her hat into the ring. On September 3, 1974, the Office of Citizens Services began with Virginia Wrobel as the director. Virginia stated, "I like helping people in whatever way I can." During her 50 Plus years in Evergreen she has been involved with many village groups. She talked about starting a Salvation Army Program as well as the Village Pantry in 1981. She has served on the Board of the Village Pantry, The Senior Council, and PLOWS. She is also involved with the Evergreen Park Historical Commission, The Red Hats, and a local widows group. When she finds free time she likes to read, play scrabble, and travel.

Virginia has traveled all over the world, including the Amazon, Africa, China and Japan. She has also been to all 50 states and most of Canada. She stated that her most memorable trip was "chasing gorillas in Africa." Virginia has four children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who live all over the United States. She continues to visit them on a regular basis. In honor of Virginia's commitment to the Office of Citizens' Services and the Village of Evergreen Park, she was honored with a Dedication Ceremony on Wednesday, May 10. The Office of Citizens' Services Library (3450 W. 97th Street) dedicated the library as the "Virginia Wrobel Reading Room."

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FACEBOOK PAGE! Renaissance Academy has a Facebook Group for current members. New members will be receiving an email with a link to join. If other Renaissance members would like to join they should email Pat Schultz: schultzp@comcast.net

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

Renaissance Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Telephone: 773-298-3149

N.B. Renaissance Office is not staffed, please leave a message or contact via Email.

2023 - 2024 Renaissance Academy			
<u>Officers</u>		<u>Committees</u>	
President:	Maureen O'Connor	Care:	Melaine Herbert
Vice President:	Jean Day	Curriculum:	Sue Wrzesinski* Grace Ann Kartheiser
Secretary:	Catherine Morrin	Historian:	Pat Schultz
Treasurer:	Sharon Coghlin Gerc	Information Systems Support:	Vanessa Glover Judith Huff Ken Huff Mary Johnson Pat Schultz
Info Systems:	Jim Condon*	Membership:	Betty Kort
Past President/ Consultant:	Eileen Holderbaum	Newsletter:	Peggy Dosch* Mary Healy Maureen O'Connor
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		Publicity:	Carol Conway*
		Renaissance Forum:	JoAnn Gruca* Pat Clair Therese Cunningham Mary Howley
		Special Events:	Marci Janas* Sandra Stephens* Chris Biros Sharon Gerc Marianne Grisolano Joyce Martin Marion McFarland Judy Reagan Sr. Joan Weithman Mike Young
			*Chairs

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.