



Fall 2025 Newsletter



President's Corner

Welcome back to school!

Our Open House Reception in the Butler Room was very successful. Thank you to Dr. Keith Elder, Saint Xavier University President, for welcoming us. Thank you to Membership Chair Betty Kort and Special Events Chair Marsha Levin for creating an opportunity for us to hear about this Fall's classes as well as to share some time with friends, new and old.

In June, Renaissance offered our membership a survey, and we were pleased to receive responses from 65 members. The survey helped us identify people who were interested in sharing their time and talents to serve in various capacities. We can already feel the energy of new blood and new ideas as we continue to evolve as a growing volunteer-run organization. If you could not respond to the survey during the Summer, do not be shy! We are always looking for people to serve in leadership positions, people with new ideas for classes, people who are willing to do data entry, and people to plan and help out at our events. Please contact us at Renaissancechgo@gmail.com. We will get back to you and find a job for you!

We are excited to announce that enrollment for Fall 2025 is at an all-time high, reflecting our vibrant community and the appeal of our engaging course offerings. This growth is a testament to the dedication of our members and the welcoming atmosphere that makes SXU such a special place to learn and connect.

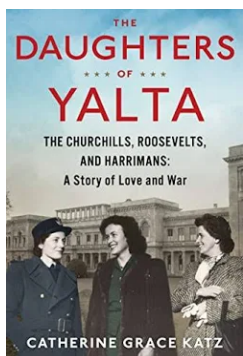
Nancy North and her Curriculum committee have put together a wonderful group of classes for the Fall term. They all sound interesting! It was hard to decide which classes to take.

We look forward to another year of life-long learning as well as meeting new friends.

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!



Book Club - Evergreen Park Library

November 11, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Betty Kort, Facilitator

*The Daughters of Yalta:
The Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans:
A Story of Love and War*
by Catherine Grace Katz

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

October 7: First Day of Fall Term

November 11: Book Club 11:00 a.m. Evergreen Park Library
Facilitator Betty Kort

November 13: Last Day of Fall Term
TGITT After classes Butler Room

December 9: Orland Chateau Christmas Luncheon
14500 S. LaGrange Rd., Orland Park



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 give access to the track (not the gym) whenever the Center is open.

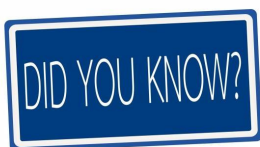


The Renaissance Care Committee is chaired by Melaine Herbert. If you learn of a death of a member or someone in a member's immediate family, please let her know. Her email is herbartchicago@gmail.com



McDonough Chapel Schedule

Mass: Noon on Wednesdays and 7 p.m. on Sundays
Prayer Happening: Noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
(For example music, silence, liturgy of the hours...)



Access to **Warde Academic Center** where our classes are held is limited. The easiest entrance for Renaissance members is the handicap entrance located on the north side of the building. Our classrooms in the science wing can both be accessed from that hallway. **Remember** to wear your name tag, please. Also, remember to put an emergency contact on the back of your name tag when you receive it the first week of classes.



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

Renaissance Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Only use for general questions. **Telephone: 773-298-3149**

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



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.

A Renaissance Person to Know - Sr. Jean McGrath, CSJ



Interviewed by Mary Healy

I joined the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph as an altruistic child of the 1960s, believing that as a member of a religious community, I could best answer the challenge of JFK to “ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” As in other congregations at the time, our novitiate had over sixty young women in formation when I entered, three months after graduating from McAuley. Although numbers are quite different now, it is good to appreciate and celebrate the many leadership roles women have assumed in the Church.

I received my degree from Rosary College (now Dominican University) with a major in English. Being the second oldest of seven children and having vast babysitting experience in the St. Cajetan community where I grew up, I looked forward to teaching little children and was delighted when my first assignment was to teach second grade. Quite frankly, although I loved the work, my classroom management skills with mini scholars left much to be desired.

My next assignment was to teach English and Theology at St. Paul High School in the Garfield Ridge area. The school was a unique educational experiment designed by the Archdiocese and the Chicago Public Schools. Students spent half of their day at St. Paul, where they took English, Social Studies, and Religion Classes, and the balance of their day at Kennedy High School, two blocks away. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the school closed. While at St. Paul, I completed my Master's in school administration and was asked to become the principal at St. Hugh School in Lyons, IL. After eight years at St. Hugh, the outgoing principal at St. John Fisher asked if I would consider applying to be the new principal at St. John Fisher. What I thought would be a three-year commitment ended thirty years later when I retired.

Renaissance classes have been a wonderful asset to some of my retirement hours. I enjoy the classroom conversations and the camaraderie of fellow “students.” Other retirement time is spent on committee work with the Sisters of St. Joseph, volunteer projects, reading, long lunches and dinners with friends, and enjoying my siblings and their fast-growing families, most of whom, as we tease, never moved out of the 60655 zip code.

The altruism of the sixties did not result in heroic work in foreign lands. Rather, my missionary zeal and life's journey to date led me across 103rd Street from St. Cajetan,

where the seed was planted, to St. John Fisher. I continue to strongly believe that a vibrant parish and school community is where most of us experience what it means to be "Church." Church as a community of faith where we come together to strengthen our love for God, strive to provide the best for our families and others, seek peace and justice for those most in need, and walk with each other in good times and not so good times. During these turbulent times, I guess that is what JFK and Jesus would want.



Betty Kort is excited to share with the Renaissance Academy members the upcoming production of ***Singin' in the Rain*** presented by the Beverly Theatre Guild.

This beloved musical will be performed on
Friday, Oct 17 at 7:30pm,
Saturday, Oct 18 at 2pm & 7:30pm and
Sunday, Oct 19 at 2pm

in the Morgan Park Academy Baer Auditorium
2153 W. 111th St. Chicago, IL 60643.

Please contact Betty Kort, 708-819-0139 if you are interested in purchasing tickets.

Tickets are also available on line at <https://beverlytheatreguild.org/>



Renaissance members can obtain \$10.00 student tickets to Southwest Symphony Orchestra concerts by going to southwestsymphony.com, clicking on "Get Tickets," and either choosing "SALT," or "Artist's Circle - SALT." All concerts are at Trinity Christian College, Ozinga Chapel Auditorium unless otherwise noted. 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463

Congratulations!

The formal investiture of **Keith Elder, Ph.D.** as the **twenty-second president of Saint Xavier University** was held on October 2, 2025. A Mass preceded the Investiture Ceremony and was followed by a Community Lawn Party and Fireworks. The Renaissance Academy is thrilled to welcome Dr. Elder. His leadership comes at an important time, and we are eager to support his efforts to strengthen and elevate Saint Xavier University. The Renaissance Academy members wish you wisdom, joy, and success in the important work ahead.

	SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY MUSIC DEPARTMENT Fall 2025 Concert Series	
ALUMNI RECITAL Thursday, October 9th, 7:30 P.M. Music Performance Hall	JAZZ NIGHT I Sunday, October 12th, 3 P.M. Music Performance Hall	WIND ENSEMBLE & CHAMBER ENSEMBLES Sunday, November 2nd, 3 P.M. Music Performance Hall
UNIVERSITY CHORALE & CHAMBER SINGERS Friday, November 14th, 7:30 P.M. Music Performance Hall	UNIVERSITY CHORALE & CHAMBER SINGERS Sunday, November 16th, 3 P.M., St. Denis Church, 8301 S. St. Louis, Chicago	JAZZ NIGHT II Friday, November 21st, 7:30 P.M. McGuire Hall
FISH 'N' CHIPS LIVE Saturday, November 22nd, 7:30 P.M. McGuire Hall	CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR Sunday, December 7th, 3 P.M. Shannon Center	PIANO SHOWCASE Sunday, December 7th, 7:30 P.M. McGuire Hall
Above dates are subject to change. General admission - \$8., Seniors & military - \$5. More information call (773) 229-3421 or visit www.sxu.edu Keyword: Concert.		



TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE!

Go to the Renaissance Academy at Chicago website <https://renaissancechgo.org/> and in the Past Events Photos box click the "Learn More" button. Multiple photo albums of previous events are available for you to peruse thanks to many hours of work by Pat Schultz. Thank you, Pat, for donating so much time to this endeavor.

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