



Fall 2024 Newsletter



**Renaissance Academy is pleased to
welcome many new members for our
2024-2025 terms! So happy to have you!**

Christina Adachi
Laura Alonzo
Veronica Berglind
Jan Brooks
Deborah Childs
Nancy Crivellone
David Degnan
Michelle Dignan
Mary Fitzpatrick
Mary Gallagher
Gerri Gates
Sandra Gibbons
Jannith Goldrick
Mary Grandau
Annette Hanson
Ava Harston
Janice Harvey
Nancy Harvey
Elizabeth Hayes
Margaret Hilburger
Mary Sue Ingersoll
Denise Johnson
Kathleen Jones
Maureen Joyce
Maureen Lucas
Rita Koziarski

Marcia Levin
Clare Linnane
Lori Lurquin
Patricia Mannix
Jody Marovitch
Diane Matthews
John Mayer
Julie McGrath
Kathleen McLaughlin
Mary Michaels
Teresa Miller
Patrick Monahan
Patty Mullenhoff
Mary Quinn
Jane Regalado
Jack Regan
Cyndi Rickman-Williams
Peg Schneider
Andy Sloyan
Lynn Sloyan
Sister Rita Specht
Jane Surma
Barbara Thompson
Kathryn Wiggins
Mary Ellen Ziegler
Lynn Zippel

President's Corner



"I watch the birds fly south across the autumn sky
And one by one they disappear."
The Moody Blues, "*Forever Autumn*"

Welcome back to school!

Our *Getting to Know You 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 Sandy Stephens for creating this opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with returning friends.

We're looking forward to the *Renaissance Forum*. Karen Danczak Lyons has arranged for historian Jim Gibbons to present an entertaining program; see more details elsewhere in the newsletter. You will soon receive an email invitation, and **you must respond by October 16 to attend**. We're also looking forward to the *TGITT* event and our *Holiday Luncheon*.

We are so lucky to have a home at Saint Xavier University. It is such a delight to see the young students coming and going. Other benefits include walking the track at the Shannon Center from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on class days, visiting the lovely McDonough Chapel, (the schedule is highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter) and this year we will receive a 10% discount at the cafeteria by showing our Renaissance name tag! In addition, see information further on in the newsletter about the wonderful concert series presented by the talented Saint Xavier University Music Department. The Southwest Symphony Orchestra and Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra also provide discounts to Renaissance members!

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Jean Day

RENAISSANCE FORUM

History Unveiled - The Truth About The Presidents

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 11:30 a.m., Butler Room

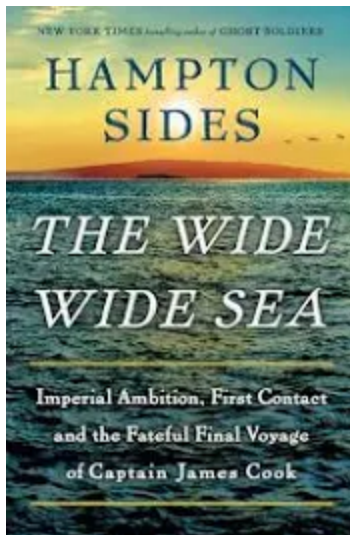
Presented by **Jim Gibbons, Historian**



Did you know that four presidents rode in the same car that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in after his assassination? Have you heard about President Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley's meeting when Elvis requested to become a Federal Agent-at-Large in the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs? Did you know former President Jimmy Carter fought a "Killer Rabbit" who dared to approach his fishing boat? Historian Jim Gibbons will present fun-filled trivia and historical facts on the presidents. Light refreshments will be served.

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 register by sending an email to: renaissancechgo@gmail.com**

A Plethora of Books for Your Enrichment!



The Wide Wide Sea

by Hampton Sides

Mike Hastings, Facilitator

Book Discussion

Oak Lawn Library, Rotary Room

November 6, 2024 - Noon to 1 p.m.

A *New York Times* Bestseller and named a Best Book of the Year So Far for 2024 by the *New York Times Book Review*. A 'thrilling and superbly crafted' (*The Wall Street Journal*) account of the most momentous voyage of the Age of Exploration, which culminated in Captain James Cook's death in Hawaii, and left a complex and controversial legacy still debated today. On July 12, 1776, Captain

James Cook, already lionized as the greatest explorer in British history, set off on his third voyage in his ship the *HMS Resolution*. Two and a half years later, on a beach on the island of Hawaii, Cook was killed in a conflict with native Hawaiians. How did Cook, unique among captains for his respect for Indigenous peoples and cultures, come to that fatal moment? Hampton Sides' bravura account of Cook's last journey both wrestles with Cook's legacy and provides a thrilling narrative of the titanic efforts and continual danger that characterized exploration in the 1700s.

Cook was renowned for his peerless seamanship, his humane leadership, and his dedication to science. The famed naturalist Joseph Banks accompanied him on his first voyage, and Cook has been called one of the most important figures of the Age of Enlightenment. He was also deeply interested in the native people he encountered. On previous expeditions, Cook mapped huge swaths of the Pacific, including the east coast of Australia, and initiated the first European contact with numerous peoples. He treated his crew well and endeavored to learn about the societies he encountered with curiosity and without judgment. At once a ferociously paced story of adventure on the high seas and a searching examination of the complexities and consequences of the Age of Exploration, *The Wide Wide Sea* is a major work of one of our finest narrative nonfiction writers.

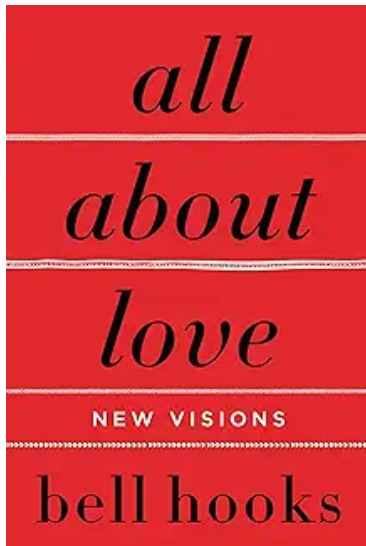


Have you taken a day away lately to bask in sunshine, poke around in nature...?

"Every person needs to take one day away. A day in which one consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist eternally in our absence. Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us."

Book: *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*

~Maya Angelou



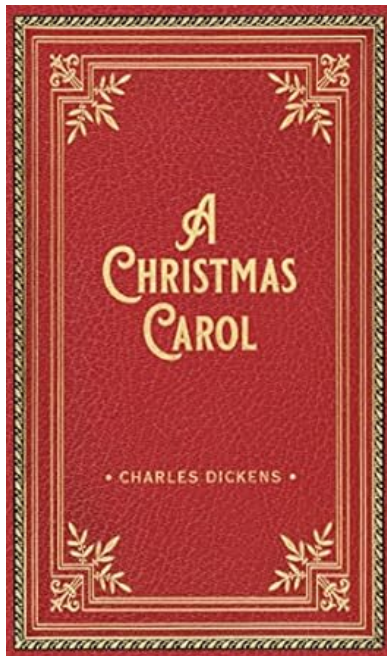
all about love

by abell hooks

Betty Kort, Facilitator

Book Club
November 13, 2024
Zoom, 1:00 p.m.

Who is bell hooks and why did she write the book *all about love*? And why does she use lower case letters for her name? There is a lot to unpack in this little book. *all about love* was written in 2001 and is readily available at libraries and second-hand bookstores.



A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

&

The Gift of the Magi

by O. Henry

Carol Conway, Facilitator



Book Club
November 18, 2024
TBD

December 11, 2024
Noon on Zoom

Read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (It's not long, and you've probably only seen the movies) and O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*. You can find the latter for free online.

Carol Conway (cairec49@yahoo.com)

2024 Dates to Remember

October 24:	Renaissance Forum	11:30 a.m.	Butler Room
November 6:	Book Discussion <i>The Wide Wide Sea</i>	Noon Facilitator	Oak Lawn Library, Rotary Room Michael Hastings
November 13	Book Club <i>all about love</i>	1:00 p.m. Facilitator	Zoom Betty Kort
November 14:	Fall Term Ends		
November 14:	TGITT	5:00 p.m.	Butler Room
November 18:	Book Club (See December 11)	1:00 p.m. Facilitator	Oak Lawn Library Carol Conway
December 3:	Christmas Luncheon Cash bar	Noon 11:30 a.m.	Orland Chateau
December 11:	Book Club <i>A Christmas Carol</i> <i>The Gift of the Magi</i>	Noon Facilitator	Zoom Carol Conway



TGITT!

Thank Goodness It's Tuesday/Thursday
Join us for this Fun Social Gathering!

Thursday, November 14, 2024

5 p.m. (Right after class)

Butler Room

Watch for your email invitation.



McDonough Chapel Schedule (During academic year)

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...)

Do you remember a time ...

When gray-haired grandmas wore heavy black orthopedic shoes
and smelled like lavender?

When the tinkling of the ice cream man's bike
brought out kids like mice to cheese on a hot Chicago day?

When you knew that "Wanzer on milk is like sterling on silver"
because some was dropped at your house each day?

Do you remember a time ...

When the best smell in the world was sheets fresh from the clothesline—
unless it was the wax wafting from a box of 64 Crayola crayons?

When any adult sitting outside was *in loco parentis* for the whole block?

When you waited to be asked two or three times
before accepting food or drink from a friend's mom?

Do you remember a time ...

When the dining room table was for huge holiday dinners, your homework,
your parents' writing Christmas cards, doing taxes, and signing report cards?

When your Duo-Tang folder and the clicking of pencils, pens, and crayons
in your pencil case signaled you were ready for whatever teachers tossed at you?

When you drank from yard hoses and jelly glasses and thought a Yeti was mythical?

Do you remember a time ...

When the only thing you looked down at while walking was a comic book
or the latest Nancy Drew?

When your local library was a magical place with a towering desk
where you feared returning books late?

Where "gang" meant your group of friends who walked together to school,
the park, and White Castle?

Do you remember a time ...

When you spent hours playing Red Rover, Mother, May I, Statue Maker, and school?

When we didn't need phones to call friends—
just had to shout YO-OH and their names?

When alleys were safe enough to play kick the can?

Do you remember a time ...

When you could watch a whole night of TV without hearing one bad word?

When a school yard brawl was easily stopped by two short nuns,
and knives were only used at the dinner table?

When the only bullies were on the playground, not in the political field?

Do you remember such a time?

I do.

I hope you do too.

How I wish everyone did.

Carol Conway



A Renaissance Person You Should Know

Michael Hastings

by Mary Healy

Michael Hastings, a man of many interests, is an enthusiastic facilitator who has devoted much time to *Renaissance*. His birding classes are especially popular.

Growing up on the West Side in the Austin neighborhood was a positive experience for Michael. He was particularly fond of the local library with its massive, creaky double doors. The library featured a collection of books about knights and steam engines. These hard-bound books allowed Michael to explore the world without leaving his community. A helpful librarian took her job seriously, allowing no talking, only whispers!

In addition to the magical library, Austin was the home of a Chicago Park District swimming pool where Michael learned to swim.

Michael attended Our Lady Help of Christians grammar school, one of the many Catholic schools in Austin. The enrollment was 1700 students with 50 kids in each classroom. Michael is amazed at how well the BVM nuns handled these large classes.

For nearly 40 years, Michael and his wife have lived in Oak Lawn where they raised their family. St. Linus is their parish and they consider it wonderful.

In his free time, Michael frequents the Oak Lawn Library, golfs at Stony Creek, and visits nature preserves to bird watch. His love of reading continues. Renaissance members enrolled in his classes appreciate his knowledge and enthusiasm for our avian friends.

A person Michael would have enjoyed meeting is Rachel Carson, a brilliant and courageous scientist.



Speaking of *Someone You Should Know*, Renaissance Member **Marge Carroll** was featured in the *19th Ward Quarterly* after her recent move to Mercy Circle. Check out her interesting history in the article on page 21 of the August issue of the *19th Ward Quarterly*.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Don't Forget!

Due to security concerns, access to Warde Academic Center is limited. The easiest entrance for Renaissance members (since we don't have a swipe card) is at the handicap entrance located on the north side of the building. Our classrooms in the science wing can both be accessed from that hallway.

FLICKR SITE!

Photos and videos of Renaissance Academy events are now available to view and download from the Renaissance Academy Flickr site thanks to Pat Schultz!

<https://bit.ly/RA-Flickr>

You may also view these albums by going to the Renaissance Academy Home page <https://www.renaissancechgo.org> and clicking on Past Events Photos at the bottom of the page.

FACEBOOK PAGE!

Have you joined the Renaissance group on Facebook? New members will receive an email with a link to join, hopefully by the end of October. Any current Renaissance member who would like to join should email Pat Schultz: at schultzp@comcast.net



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

Renaissance Email: renaissancechgo@gmail.com

Telephone: 773-298-3149

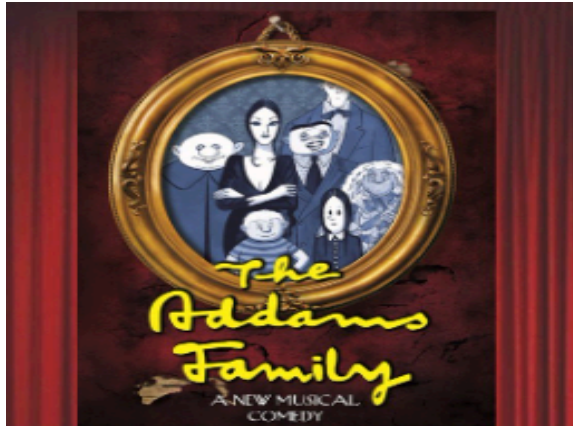
N.B. Renaissance Office is not staffed.

Please leave a message or contact 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.

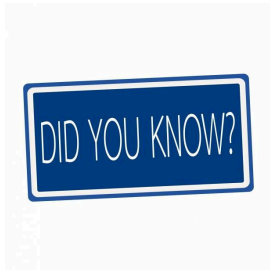




**Catch *The Addams Family* this Autumn
a new musical on October 25, 26, 27!**

Also, the **Beverly Theatre Guild** partnered with Jenny's Steakhouse and Banquets/ 11041 S. Menard, Chicago Ridge to offer a Dinner Theatre Package. Get the package or theatre tickets only at:

beverlytheatreguild.org



Renaissance members can purchase SXU concerts with Renaissance ID for \$5., also Southwest Symphony for \$10. and Illinois Philharmonic for \$25.

Saint Xavier University Fall Concert Series 2024

Jazz Faculty Recital
October 13, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

Vocal Studio Recital
November 14, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

Jazz Night I
October 18, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

Fish 'n' Chips Live
November 22, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

Wind & Chamber Ensembles
November 3, 3:00 p.m.
Music Performance Space

Jazz Night II
December 6, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

University Chorale & Chamber Singers
November 8, 7:30 p.m.
Queen of Martyrs Church of
St. Gianna Parish
10233 S. Central Park Ave. &
November 20, 3:00 p.m.
McDonough Chapel

Christmas Spectacular
December 8, 3:00 p.m.
Shannon Center

Piano Showcase
December 8, 7:30 p.m.
McGuire Hall

Southwest Symphony Orchestra and the
708 802-0686
<https://ipomusic.org>

Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra
Please contact Jean Day for more information.
708 309-1279

These orchestras perform at Ozinga Chapel at Trinity Christian College,
6601 W. College Dr., Palos Heights

2024 - 2025
Renaissance Academy



<u>Officers</u>		<u>Committees</u>	
President:	Jean Day	Care:	Melaine Herbert
Vice President:	Maureen O'Connor	Curriculum:	Sue Wrzesinski* Sharon Coghlan Gerc Grace Ann Kartheiser
Secretary:	Kerrie Stone	History:	Pat Schultz* Peggy Devlin Casey
Info Systems:	Jim Condon*	Information Systems Support:	Vanessa Glover Mary Johnson Madonna Murphy Pat Schultz
Treasurer:	Michael Greene	Membership:	Betty Kort* Maggie Bertling Paula O'Brien
Past President/ Consultant:	Eileen Holderbaum	Newsletter:	Peggy Dosch* Mary Healy Maureen O'Connor
SXU Liaison:	Linda Moreno Sandra Diaz	Office Management:	Mike Yeager* Vanessa Glover Rita Hannon
		Publicity:	Carol Conway* Chris Bibro Mary Gill
Course Booklet:	Mary Johnson* Grace Ann Kartheiser	Renaissance Forum:	Karen Danczak Lyons* Pat Clair Therese Cunningham
		Special Events:	Sandra Stephens* Marci Janas Joyce Martin Marion McFarland Judy Reagan Mike Young Sr. Joan Weithman
			*Chairs