



Spring 2025 Newsletter



President's Corner

Here we go again! It was great to enjoy a little Spring Break, but isn't it fun to get back to the routines of going to school, of meeting and greeting new and old friends, and of exploring new things?

Have fun! See you in the halls!

Jean Day

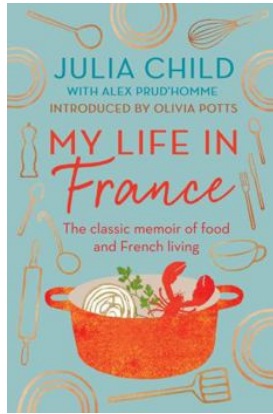
On March 11, 2025, Renaissance Academy held its annual Memorial Mass and Spring Forum.

Thanks to excellent planning by Carol Conway, the Mass was beautiful. Grace Ann Kartheiser, Melaine Herbert, and Kate Sampson provided excellent readings. We had a candle ceremony at the beginning of the Mass honoring 18 current or former members or members of their immediate families who had died during the past year. Impromptu music was provided by Mary Ellen Ziegler on a Native American flute. Seventy-three Renaissance members and guests attended the mass. Many thanks to Dr. Jenny DeVivo, SXU Vice President of Mission and Heritage, who coordinated with us on the McDonough Chapel arrangements.

Following the Mass, our Spring Forum took place in the Butler Room. Martina Mathisen presented "Women in History," an exciting and fun program. Barbara Croker, a guest, played ambient music on the grand piano before the program started. Sandra Diaz, our SXU liaison, was an invaluable help at this event. Thank you, Sandra! Country House provided a delicious light lunch. One hundred people attended the Forum.

Pat Shultz and her assistant took many photos and posted them on Facebook.

It was a thoroughly lovely day!



My Life in France by Julia Child with Alex Proud'homme

Book Club - Oak Lawn Library
Tuesday, May 6th, Noon
Mike Hastings, Facilitator

"...learn from your mistakes, be fearless and above all, have fun."

While Julia Child's advice is intended for cooking, it also pertains to how she lived her life outside of the kitchen. *My Life in France* begins in 1948 with Julia arriving in France at age 32, charging ahead to win Cordon Bleu certification, joining Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle in their struggle to complete *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, then propelled by the new television media, starring in *The French Chef*. This memoir shows how an enthusiastic young woman grew into an American icon. A read that will both whet your appetite for a slice of Charlotte Russe and a sip of champagne and satisfy the soul for being in touch with a life well lived.



Spring 2025 Dates to Remember

April 8:	First Day of Spring Term		
April 14:	Playwriting Workshop	11:00 a.m.	Zoom
	Facilitator		Betty Kort
April 17:	Poetry Celebration	11:00 a.m.	Evergreen Park Library
	Facilitator		Jean Day
May 6:	Book Club	Noon	Oak Lawn Library
	<i>My Life in France</i>	Facilitator	Mike Hastings
May 15:	Last Day of Spring Term		
May 20:	Spring Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Cash bar
	Orland Chateau	Noon	Lunch

Saint Xavier University News

As Saint Xavier University comes out of the COVID years, things are looking good. Fall 2024 Enrollment Highlights from the Winter SXU Magazine:

- Marking the third year of the past four with 720+ enrolled freshmen.
- Welcoming the largest entering transfer class since 2017 (320), the largest class of new athletes (196), and the second-largest incoming undergraduate class on record.
- Recording the first semester in many with an increase in new graduate students.



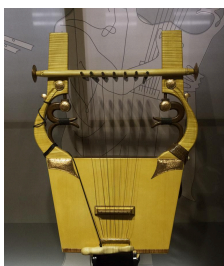
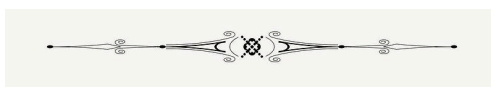
Champ's Kitchen

Champ's Kitchen is an on-campus food pantry located within Saint Xavier University's **Warde Academic Center** aiming to alleviate hunger on campus so students can continue to focus on their studies and succeed in their chosen academic and career pathways.

The food pantry is located in **Room L-208** and is open **Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** To help alleviate hunger on our campus, please consider donating. We are in need of the following items:

- Soups
- Canned vegetables and beans
- Ramen, rice, mac and cheese, pasta and sauce
- Boxed meals
- Protein (canned meat, tuna, chicken, peanut butter)
- Snacks (granola, crackers, chips)
- Cereal
- Toiletries, feminine products and hygienic products such as shampoo and soap

To make a financial contribution, please visit [Make Your Gift to SXU](#) and **under Designation scroll down to Champ's Kitchen**. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to stop by WAC L-208 or reach out to champsKitchen@sxu.edu.



The Religious Studies Faculty personally invite you to attend
The 2025 Sister Josetta Butler Lecture:

Ancient Christian Song: Sounds and Settings

Dr. Charles Cosgrove

Butler Reception Hall

Tuesday, April 15th 7:00 pm

We hope to see you there!

Welcome: Renaissance Academy is pleased to welcome new members this Spring 2025 term! So happy that you have joined us.

Arlene Gottardo

Diane Ryan



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, put an emergency contact on the back of your name tag!



Have you joined the **Renaissance Facebook** group? 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.

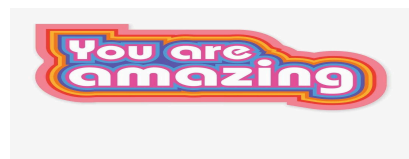
Telephone: 773-298-3149 N.B. Renaissance Office is not staffed. Please leave a message or contact us via email.

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.



Did You Know?

Show your Renaissance Academy nametag and receive a 10% discount on purchases in the cafeteria!



The focus is on member participation and peer teaching.

That's a quote from the Renaissance Academy Mission Statement. We need you! Please think about how **you** can participate in the Fall. Contact any board member to explore how you can share your time and talents and please be receptive if someone reaches out to you. Thank you in advance!



A Renaissance Couple You Should Know Brian & Erin McCann

(Photo taken in Ireland)

by Mary Healy

Erin and Brian McCann are truly dedicated Renaissance members. Originally Southsiders, they now live in Geneva to be close to their grandchildren. Despite the distance, they attend classes regularly and have facilitated several courses.

Both come from large Irish families. Brian is the second oldest of six, and Erin is the youngest of seven. They attended Catholic grammar and high schools. Brian graduated from SIU and did post-graduate work at Chicago State. Erin received her degree from Loyola University.

Cupid was at work in Dunkin' Donuts years ago! This is where they met through a mutual friend. They have been married for 48 years and have two children and six grandchildren. That coffee run paid off!

Brian and Erin have enjoyed varied careers.

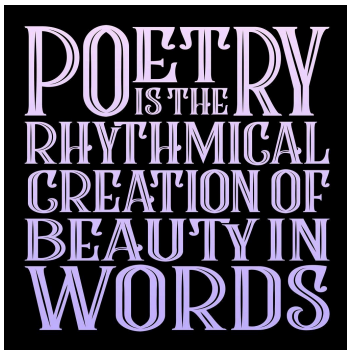
Brian worked as a steelworker in college and was a race relations instructor for the US Army. He then taught for 35 years for CPS, including a stint as a guidance counselor at George Washington High School. After retiring, Brian wrote a novel entitled *Death in Chicago A Sanctuary City*. He hopes to write another book eventually.

During college, Erin worked at Wrigley's Gum Company, bagging and sealing gum, at Burns Security, and at the Chicago Board of Health. Erin taught in CPS and then at a Catholic school for a total of five years. Then, she became a Chicago Police Officer assigned to the Youth Division where she worked undercover in the narcotics section and a rape response pilot program. She later became an investigator for the Illinois Supreme Court for 23 years. In retirement, Erin enjoys babysitting, reading, gardening, golfing, sewing, and rehabbing the old houses they have resided in.

In 1986, Brian, Erin, and their children shared an amazing experience. They moved to Germany for a year. Brian taught for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, and the children attended the DODD school in Karlsruhe. Living in Germany enabled them to travel to seven countries and experience what it was like to actually live in Europe. This was a defining event in their lives!

A serious problem Brian would like to be managed is worldwide immigration. Erin hopes to see world hunger addressed. She acknowledges any Irish kid growing up was aware of the Great Famine.

They appreciate the lifelong learning aspect of Renaissance, as well as the sense of community and camaraderie. Such interesting Renaissance members!



APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!

Jean Day - Facilitator
Evergreen Park Library
April 17, 11:00 am

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.***

A poster for a play. The top left says "Gaelic Park Players Presents" and the top right says "Spring 2025". The central illustration shows a small white house with a red roof on a green hill, with a winding path leading to it. In the foreground, two black and white cows are holding a red banner that reads "WHAT PRICE ON THE DUBLIN MARKET?". Below the illustration, the text reads "By John Kiernan Henry", "Director: Melanie Jones", and "Assistant Director: Elizabeth Tinley". At the bottom, the "PERFORMANCE DATES:" are listed: "Fridays, April 25 & May 2 - 8:00 PM", "Saturdays, April 26 & May 3 - 8:00 PM", and "Sundays, April 27 & May 4 - 3:00 PM". To the right of the dates is a QR code. Further right, under "TICKETS:", the price "\$15" is listed. At the very bottom, small text provides contact information: "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.com".

Gaelic Park Players Presents

Spring 2025


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ON THE
DUBLIN
MARKET?

By John Kiernan Henry
Director: Melanie Jones
Assistant Director: Elizabeth Tinley

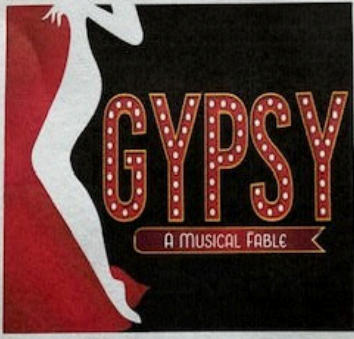
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BEVERLY THEATRE GUILD
- Chicago's Longest Running Community Theatre -



A musical that chronicles the tumultuous rise to fame of Gypsy Rose Lee, a burlesque star, as her ambitious mother pushes her and her sister through a life of hardship and show business dreams.

Performances
 May 2nd—7:30 pm
 May 3rd—2:00 pm
 May 3rd—7:30 pm
 May 4th—2:00 pm

All performances held at:
The Baer Theater
 at Morgan Park Academy
Home of the Beverly Theatre Guild
 2153 W. 111th Street, Chicago

Group ticket rate \$18 for Renaissance Academy members!

Those interested should contact Betty Kort 708-819-0139 or email candbkort@aol.com with the performance date and time you would like to attend.

You're Invited!



**Worth Township's
Community
Resource Fair**
 Wednesday, May 14, 2025
 10:00 am—12:00 pm
 11601 S. Pulaski in Alsip

Numerous organizations will be on hand to offer information about their no-cost or low-cost services and programs for you and your family.

For more information, please contact us at 708-371-2900 or at info@worthtownship.com

- Free Admission
- 50+ Vendors
- Awesome Giveaways



Pathlights
In partnership with: **Enriched by experience.
Empowered in life.**

The Renaissance Academy will have a booth at this Community Fair!

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 Jim Sim
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