



## Winter 2025 Newsletter



### President's Corner

Hi everyone! Welcome back to school!

I hope that you had a pleasant holiday season. I look forward to seeing you all in classes this week. Over 180 people have registered for classes this term! I want to express a heartfelt thank you to every one of the dedicated people who worked to put together another term of interesting and fun classes and to the people who have made registration for these classes an uncomplicated and easy procedure.

We will have another TGITT in the Butler Room after Tuesday classes on Tuesday, February 25, starting at 5:00. You will receive invitations and response forms in early February. Those who attended this event in November had a great time. It's a good opportunity to meet new people!

Please put March 11 on your calendar for the annual Memorial Mass at 10:00, followed by the Spring Renaissance Forum. This is always a special day.

Please look for other interesting educational and entertainment opportunities on our Facebook page. It is a good source for up-to-date information.

Jean Day



### Join Us In Prayer...

On **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**, Renaissance Academy will host a **Memorial Mass at 10 a.m.** in McDonough Chapel to remember deceased former members of Renaissance. The last Memorial Mass was in March 2024. We will honor all those who have died since then. If you know of former members, or spouses/children of current members who have passed away, please send their names to Maureen O'Connor [maureenoc67@gmail.com](mailto:maureenoc67@gmail.com). This Mass will be followed by the Renaissance Forum in the Butler Room. See information below.



## RENAISSANCE FORUM

### Women in History

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 11:30 a.m., Butler Room

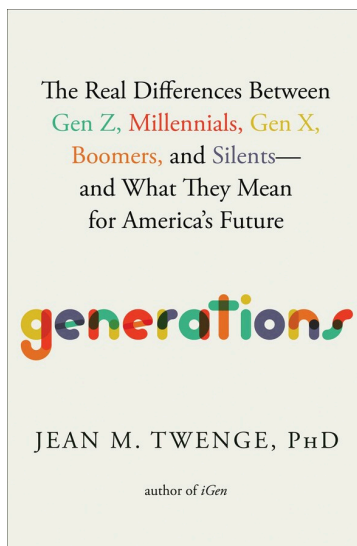
Presented by **Martina Mathisen**

This engaging program is a fascinating look at dynamic women who have impacted our lives. The women portrayed were doing big things, secret things, and even dangerous things. Some were well known, others not well known, each marvelously expressed themselves and their passions.

History comes alive as Martina Mathisen plays **Annie Oakley** with entertaining storytelling. Martina then introduces **Harriet Tubman** and **Madame Curie**. Without leaving the stage, Martina presents the tales of **Clara Barton**, who then introduces the stories of **Anne Sullivan** and **Florence Nightingale**. You'll then meet **Amelia Earhart** who will introduce **Bessie Coleman**.

So many women have made a difference in our American experience. These women were, for a time, all alive at the same time. The program concludes with a positive and life-affirming message on the difference made by everyone in the room.

The forum is free of charge for Renaissance Academy members. Guests are welcome for a suggested \$5 cash donation. **You will receive an email invitation with a link to RSVP for this event closer to the date of the Forum.**



## ***Generations***

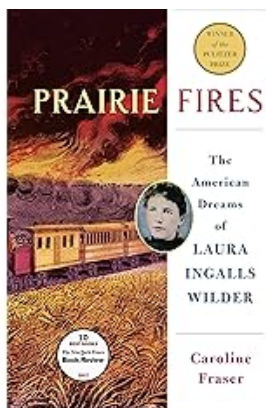
by Jean M. Twenge

### **Book Club – Zoom**

**Monday, February 24, 11:00 AM**

**Betty Kort, Facilitator**

The United States is currently home to six generations: Silents, Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, Generation Z, and Generation Alpha. Each group has had vastly different life experiences as well as extremely divergent beliefs and behaviors. What are those differences and what causes them? ***Generations*** gives readers a new perspective on their parents, peers, coworkers, and children, no matter which generation defines them.



## ***Prairie Fires***

by Caroline Fraser

### **Book Club – Zoom**

**Monday, March 10, 11:00 a.m.**

**Sue Wrzesinski, Facilitator**

This is one of the best books I have ever read and I was not familiar with *The Little House* books!

*The Little House* books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Laura Ingalls Wilder's real life was harder and grittier than that: a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. It was only in her sixties, after losing nearly everything in the Great Depression, that she turned to children's books, recasting her hardscrabble childhood as a celebratory vision of homesteading—and achieving fame and fortune in the process—in one of the most astonishing rags-to-riches episodes in American letters.

Spanning nearly a century of epochal change, from the Indian Wars to the Dust Bowl, Wilder's dramatic life provides a unique perspective on American history and our national mythology of self-reliance. With fresh insights and discoveries, ***Prairie Fires*** reveals the complex woman whose classic stories grip us to this day.

Winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Biography



### **Winter 2025 Dates to Remember**

January 21:	First Day of Winter Term		
February 24:	Book Club <i>Generations</i>	11:00 a.m. Facilitator	Zoom Betty Kort
February 25:	TGITT	5:00 p.m.	Butler Room
February 27:	Last Day of Winter Term		
March 10:	Book Club <i>Prairie Fires</i>	11:00 a.m. Facilitator	Zoom Sue Wrzesinski
March 11:	Memorial Mass	10:00 a.m.	McDonough Chapel
	Renaissance Forum	11:30 a.m.	Butler Room



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

Mary Doyle  
Gail Gottner  
Brenda Harris  
Daryce Hoff Nolan  
Ray Kratzer

Mary Christine (Chris) Recker  
Ginger Stasaitis  
Sharon McKernin  
Kathy Savory  
JB Alonzo



### 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 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.



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](mailto:schultzp@comcast.net)

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

**Renaissance Email:** [renaissancechgo@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## Prayer Request

Please keep Carol Conway in your prayers. She is our spiritual rock, our publicity chief, and an awesome book discussion facilitator.



## A Renaissance Person You Should Know Bobbie Murray

*by Mary Healy*

**Bobbie Murray**, a woman of many interests and talents, complements our Renaissance family. The eldest of four, Bobbie was born on the Southwest Side and attended St. Denis Grammar School and Bogan High School. Her parents encouraged her to become a nurse, and Bobbie was interested in that career. However, she abandoned that idea after a disastrous attempt to journey to the North Side via the mysterious world of public transportation. A few months later, having mastered the art of commuting by bus, Bobbie accepted a position with a manufacturing company and rose to become the secretary to the Nationwide Director of Advertising. After a sabbatical to raise her sons, Bobbie returned to office work for 20 years concentrating on real estate and multiple areas of law. She retired in 2009.

Bobbie met her husband Bill in Jacksonville, Florida, at a christening. Bill worked with the baby's Father when both men were serving in the Navy. Bill and Bobbie married one year later and lived in Jacksonville for three months until his discharge. They then lived in Bill's hometown, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania for a year and a half. When Bill took a job with AT&T they moved to Chicago.

Married for 44 years, Bobbie is the proud mother of 2 sons, grandmother of 9, and great-grandmother of 2 with a 3rd on the way.

After retirement, both Bobbie and Bill served the Evergreen Park American Legion. In 2015, Bobbie became a volunteer with Honor Flight Chicago where she now devotes most of her time and expertise. She has had the privilege of assisting and sending over 11,000 veterans (since its inception in 2008) for their well-deserved day of honor in Washington, D.C., visiting the memorials in their honor.

Her hobbies include sewing, needlework, embroidery, cross-stitching, knitting, crocheting, and other crafts. An avid traveler, Bobbie has explored much of the United States, has visited Canada, and toured most of Europe. She would love to get to Australia and New Zealand someday.

Bobbie joined Renaissance for companionship and continued learning. "News and Views" is her favorite class as she enjoys hearing the perspectives of others on current events. When asked for advice, Bobbie encourages us to be kind, work hard, don't give up, keep trying, and have an open mind.

**2024 - 2025**  
**Renaissance Academy**



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