



Winter 2023 Newsletter

President's Corner



“UN SUCCES FOU!”

As they say in France, our first term post-Covid was a “mad success.” There are so many people who worked behind the scenes volunteering their time and talent to make it all happen. Merci beaucoup to all! We’re back! Enjoy the Winter Term!

Maureen O’Connor

The Renaissance Academy is delighted to welcome additional new members to the 2022-2023 academic year. This brings our total membership to 193.



- Ms. Donna Castelli
- Mrs. Mary Irene Clarke
- Ms. Loretta Gawel
- Ms. Margaret Kelly
- Mrs. Dolores Smith
- Mrs. Cheryl Thaxton
- Mr. Lester Wright
- Dr. Loretta Young-Wright

Our Mission Statement

The Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP was created for those individuals of the community, retired and semiretired, 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.

Book Club, January 24, 2023
Oak Lawn Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave.,
Room B, 1-2 p.m.



Make Your Bed

by Admiral William H. McRaven

Facilitators: Bern Stiemann and Mike Yeager

Admiral McRaven shares the life lessons he learned as a Navy Seal that will change your life for the better. The basis of the book is a speech available on YouTube. Definitely a *short* book with a *tall* message!

William Harry McRaven (born November 6, 1955) is a retired United States Navy four-star admiral who served as the ninth commander of the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from August 8, 2011, to August 28, 2014. He was the chancellor of the University of Texas from 2015 to 2018.



On March 7, 2023, Renaissance Academy will hold a **Memorial Mass** in McDonough Chapel to remember deceased former members of Renaissance. We will also remember members' spouses and children.

Because we have not had a Memorial Mass since March 2019, 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 Jean Day (jeanday625@gmail.com) by **February 15, 2023**.

Light refreshments after the mass in the Butler Reception Room at 11 a.m.

Presenting A Renaissance

Someone You Should Know:

Mary Hendry

I grew up in Saint Thomas More parish where we moved when I was in third grade. My dear parents bought their first house there when we adopted my brother, Tom. Lucky day for our family!

After Saint Thomas More Elementary School, I attended Mother McAuley High School and Saint Xavier. Those schools were my dad's choice because he had a sister who was a Sister of Mercy. Even though I was less than enthused about staying so close to home for college, it turned out my dad made a wise choice for me. I loved it! I earned a degree in English and intended to teach middle grades but was offered a job at Saint Xavier as an Admission Counselor following graduation.

That first job led to my 44 years of working in higher education. I held a variety of positions all dealing with the recruitment and retention of students. I spent 29 years at SXU where I also earned a master's degree and another 15 years at Roosevelt University. I retired 12 years ago as Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. I worked with 125 fine women and men who cared about student success. Great staff makes a university greater and I was certainly blessed with those with whom I worked at both institutions. I still enjoy lunch a couple of times a year with several of my former staff leaders.

While in high school, I was a frequent attendee at the Saint Sabina Parish Community Center for Sunday night teenage dances. Just before my sophomore year a friend from elementary school stopped to chat on one of those Sunday nights. He was with a fellow Leo High School student, George Hendry. Do you believe in love at first sight? I do, because I took one look at George, and that was it! An occasional dance over the next couple of years led to our first date as seniors. Homecomings, Christmas dances, and proms followed.

After high school, George headed to Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and I commuted to Saint Xavier. We didn't "go steady" until our engagement one year after graduation and then had a beautiful wedding in 1969.

Three wonderful children followed. Tragically, our second son, George, died at age 24 in 1997. He is missed every day. But, thankfully, we have our eldest son and daughter to bring us joy. Jack is a CPD sergeant, married, living on the north side, and father to Ross (13) and Sadie (11). Our daughter, Bess, is a CPS principal at Blair Early Childhood Center. She and her husband and children, George (10) and Mary (7) live a few blocks away from us in Saint Cajetan parish where George and I have lived for more than 50 years.



I started my career on the cusp of the Women's Liberation Movement when a young woman traveling alone to high schools from New York to Colorado was an anomaly. Over the years I was often asked to give talks to young people, especially women, on career development. My advice usually included two beads of wisdom. First: Always Follow Your Gut! Whenever I haven't, I have regretted it. Second: Marry the Right Person! I sure did since George is a spouse who has always appreciated and encouraged me. He has "had my

back." He was a hands-on father and now grandfather. George is a family man. Who could ask for more?

Spending time with my family including our four bright, wonderful, fun and funny grandchildren gives me the greatest pleasure. Our cottage near the lake in Michigan City, Indiana, holds many memories of happy times with family and friends.

A couple of months after retiring I joined Renaissance. It has been a most enriching experience! I have taken classes in all three terms ever since. Donatta Yates has been (hands down!) one of the most outstanding teachers I have ever had. She inspired me to LOVE poetry. And Maureen Connolly increased my appreciation of Irish prose. Sue Wrzesinski makes Art History come alive for me.

I have facilitated several classes over the years including Storytelling and Current

Events in the News. I also served on the Board for two years. All have been fun and educational experiences.

I also enjoy taking watercolor classes and have done some consulting for colleges and universities. My favorite hobby is reading fueled by my membership in a great Book Club for the last 45 years. I meet monthly with a dozen women friends from every stage of my life. Those meetings are not to be missed.

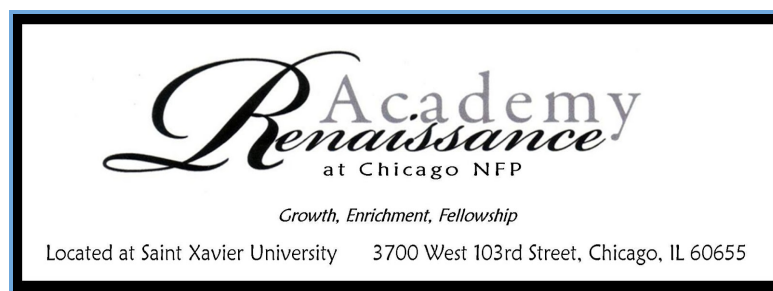
So thank you, Newsletter Editors, for giving me this chance to reflect on so many blessings I have enjoyed in my 77 years!



Wintering

You may think yourself lazy, or flawed. Yet your body is made of almost exactly the same elements as the stars. Your bone composition matches the coral in the seas and you, my friend, are ruled by the moon and the sun. Whether you like it or not. So no, you are not lazy, Nature is simply pulling you too slow, like the life, the flora and fauna around you. It is not your moment to rise. It is winter, you are wintering. And you are right on time.

Donna Ashworth



If you are reading this you have accessed our new website!

For more information we invite you to check out the website frequently:

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



RENAISSANCE FORUM

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Butler Reception Room
11:30 a. m.

Eleanor Roosevelt
A Living History Portrayal
by Leslie Goddard

Award winning actress and scholar Leslie Goddard will portray one of the most fascinating and influential public figures of the twentieth century. Born during America's Gilded Age, Eleanor grew from a shy orphan into a confident, driven woman who championed progressive causes and human rights. The presentation draws on Eleanor's own letters, diaries, newspaper columns, and other writings. Through attendance at this program, we will learn more about this American stateswoman who has been called "The First Lady of the World."

Meet America's longest serving First Lady in this program, set in 1946, as she grapples with the question of what to do after her White House years.

Light refreshments will be served at 11 a.m.

Attendees must observe all public health guidelines currently in place.

Hello
my name is

**Remember to Wear
Name Tags!**

Saint Xavier University requires Renaissance members to wear the tags while on campus. They are easy to wear with the attached lanyard. Please remember to wear yours whenever you are on campus for class or for an event. Please add your emergency contact information to the back of the tag.

Renaissance Academy Calendar 2023



- Tuesday, January 17, 2023 **Winter Term Begins**
- Wednesday, February 1, 2023 **Facilitators' Meeting 10:00 a.m. Zoom**
- Tuesday, February 14, 2023 **Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.**
- Thursday, February 23, 2023 **Winter Term Ends**
- Tuesday, March 7, 2023 **Renaissance Members' Memorial Mass 10:00 a.m.,**
McDonough Chapel
In remembrance of Renaissance members, their spouses and
children who have passed away since last memorial Mass
in March, 2019.
- Light Refreshments in Butler Reception Room 11:00 a.m.**
- Renaissance Forum 11:30 a.m.**
Butler Reception Room
Portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt
By Leslie Goddard
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023 **Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom**
- Friday, March 31, 2023 **Spring Registration Begins**
- Friday, April 7, 2023 **Spring Registration Ends**
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 **Executive Board Meeting (Budget) 10:30 a.m. Zoom**
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023 **Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Zoom**
- Week of April 17, 2023 **Spring Newsletter Online**
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023 **Spring Term Begins**
- Wednesday, May 3, 2023 **Facilitators' Meeting 10:00 a.m.**
- Monday, May 22, 2023 **Board Meeting**
10:30 a.m. Orland Chateau 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, May 22, 2023 **Spring Luncheon 11:30 a.m.**
Orland Chateau
14500 S. LaGrange Road in Orland Park
- Thursday, May 25, 2023 **Spring Term Ends**

2022-2023 Officers

President	Maureen O'Connor
Vice-President	Jean Day
Secretary	Sheila O'Sullivan
Treasurer	Sharon Gerc
Info Systems	Jim Condon
Past President	Eileen Holderbaum
Consultant	Donatta Yates
SXU Liaison	Linda Moreno Sandra Diaz

2022-2023 Standing Committees

Care	Ramune Rackauskas* Maggie Berlini Fran Genender Anne Sheridan Pullos
Publicity	Maxine Byrnes* Katherine Sullivan
Curriculum	Sue Wrzesinski* Grace Ann Kartheiser
History	Vacant positions
Membership	Vacant positions
Renaissance Forum	JoAnn Gruca* Pat Clair Therese Cunningham Kay Heafey (advisor) Mary Howley
Communications Specialist	Pat Flaherty* vacant position
Newsletter	Peggy Dosch* Mary Healy Maureen O'Connor vacant position
Office Managers	Michael Yeager* Sr. Joan Weithman
Special Events	Marci Janas* Sandra Stephens* Kathleen Fassel Sharon Gerc Phyllis Sheahan Mike Young

Save the Date!



Annual Spring Luncheon

Monday, May 22, 2023
11:30 a.m.

Orland Chateau
14500 South La Grange Road
Orland Park, IL 60462

*Chairperson