



# *Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP*

*Spring 2021*

*April 13 -May 20*

*Located at*

*Saint Xavier University*

*3700 West 103rd Street*

*Due to coronavirus restrictions, classes will be on line for the Spring term.*

## ***What is the Renaissance Academy?***

The Renaissance Academy is a collegial association of retired and semi-retired men and women who meet to continue to experience intellectual growth in an environment that is open to all who believe in the importance of pursuing the Academy's lifelong learning opportunities and who are willing to contribute to the common goals through active participation in the programs offered.

## ***Renaissance Academy Information***

Email: [renaissancechgo@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancechgo@gmail.com)

Phone: 773-298-3149. **This is an answering machine only. Please leave a message.**

The Newsletter can be accessed on the Renaissance Academy website:

<http://www.sxu.edu/community/renaissance/>

## **Spring 2021 Registration**

Membership Registration and Spring Zoom Course Registration will be online on the Renaissance web page from March 26-April 2.

[www.sxu.edu/community/renaissance](http://www.sxu.edu/community/renaissance)

Requests for assistance can be emailed to

[renaissancechgo@gmail.com](mailto:renaissancechgo@gmail.com).

**The final date for enrollment is April 2, 2021.**

You may select up to three Zoom classes.

Due to restrictions of the COVID pandemic, Renaissance Academy will continue to offer virtual classes via Zoom to its members. We ask members to understand that our facilitators have little experience with this new form of educational presentation. Please be patient with the facilitators and with the Zoom format.

Sometime after registration has closed for the Spring session, you will receive a Zoom invitation for each class you signed up for. ***Save this invitation because it is good for the entire 6-week session.***

During a class, you may find yourself “kicked-out” of a session or your screen may freeze. If this happens, please go back to the class invitation and restart the process to rejoin the class.

We ask for your cooperation during the classes. Facilitators will give you suggestions on how to participate in the class. Please follow the facilitators’ directions for class participation.

We are so grateful to everyone who is working hard to offer classes during these difficult times. We are especially grateful to the facilitators who are leading us into the virtual world of education!

Dan Byrne

**Spring Session Apr.13 – May 20**  
**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday 2:15-3:15**

<b><u>Class No.</u></b>	<b><u>Course</u></b>	<b><u>Facilitator</u></b>
1.	Irish Short Stories	Maureen Connolly / Peg Walsh
2.	Why Birds Matter	Mike Hastings

**Tuesday 3:30-4:30**

3.	Short Stories	Carol Conway/ Ginny Lock
4.	Spring Fling in Art	Sue Wrzesinski

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Thursday 2:15-3:15**

### **Class**

**No.**

**Course**

**Facilitator**

- |    |                               |                            |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5. | Having Fun with Storytelling  | Betty Kort                 |
| 6. | Science Fiction Short Stories | Dan Byrne/Jim Walsh        |
| 7. | Fake News                     | Jim Durkin/<br>Mike Yeager |

**Thursday 3:30-4:30**

- |    |                 |   |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 8. | Murky Mysteries | Jean Day<br>Eileen Holderbaum<br>Cathy Morrin |
| 9. | Great Decisions | Dan Lynch                                     |

## **Book Discussion**

April 15 Noon

Poetry discussion  
led by Jean Day

## Spring 2021 Session April 13 – May 20

**TUESDAY 2:15-3:15**

### **1. Irish Short Stories**

**Maureen Connolly/ Peg Walsh**

All the stories in this anthology are new. This anthology displays its diversity by featuring female authors, Northerners, those born in Ireland and current residents of Ireland. The youngest writers are in their twenties, but it is not just youth which is new: some of the best writers represented here are in their forties, fifties, and sixties and only just beginning to publish.

This anthology and many of its individual stories ask again and again questions about contemporary Irishness. The author hopes this anthology is a celebration of the “drunkenness of things being various.”

*Being Various* edited by Lucy Caldwell, can be purchased through Amazon. Used books are available at a very low price.

Class size limited to 20.

## 2. Why Birds Matter

### Mike Hastings

Buds, blooms and bird song are all signs of renewal. I love birding in the Springtime. Join with me as we continue to focus on the return of our feathered friends. We will look at this species unique ability to vocalize in “song,” how they weave nests, and the eggs that rest there. Also, we will learn how the Chicago’s area’s geography creates a welcoming stop over as they finish their journey to the North Woods and beyond.

“In a world that seems very puzzling, is it any wonder birds have such an appeal? Birds are, perhaps the most eloquent expression of reality.”

Roger Tory Peterson ( 1908).



**TUESDAY 3:30-4:30**

### **3. More Short Stories**

#### **Carol Conway/ Ginny Lock**

Love to read quality works, but don't have time for novels? In this session, we will read and discuss some of the world's best short stories and have fun doing it.

All stories can be found online by using Google. For the first session, please read:

*The Cop and the Anthem* by O Henry and *The Veldt* by Ray Bradbury.

If you have trouble finding them, email Carol at [cairec49@yahoo.com](mailto:cairec49@yahoo.com).

## 4. Spring Fling in Art

### Sue Wrzesinski

I will present a combination of mostly new topics and take a closer look at some material that I've covered in previous courses. Since we're on Zoom, we've been previewing videos before class and it's working really well. I won't be offering optional projects for these topics.

- What are the big art movements about?- *new*
- Women in art – *updated*
- James McNeil Whistler; Art for Art's Sake (1834-1903) –*new*
- Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera; Marriage, politics, disability- *new*
- Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera -*continued*
- Richard Diebenkorn (1922-1993) – *new*

**THURSDAY 2:15-3:15**

## **5. Having Fun with Storytelling**

### **Betty Kort**

There is a storyteller in each of us. The Spring Session will be devoted to developing our stories and gaining confidence in sharing stories. Who among us hasn't heard a storyteller at a family gathering, a business luncheon or a class reunion and marveled at the joy the storyteller brings to the occasion.

Topics will include the art of telling, visualizing, discovering point of view, developing complex characters, plot and story structure and capturing your audience. Join in the fun of storytelling and find the storyteller in you.

## 6. Science Fiction Short Stories

### Dan Byrne / Jim Walsh

Join us as we explore some of the finest science fiction short stories ever written. The book we will use for class is *The Science Fiction Hall of Fame Volume One (1929 - 1964)*, edited by Robert Silverberg and published by ORB, a Tom Doherty Associates Book (1998).

Silverberg has compiled what many fans consider a nearly definitive anthology of modern Science Fiction stories. The contents of this book were chosen by vote of the membership of the Science Fiction Writers of America, an organization of some three hundred professional writers whose roster includes virtually everyone who has had Science Fiction published in the United States. The book is available at Amazon as well as other book stores. Check your local public library.

We will discuss the first story, *A Martian Odyssey*, during the first class session.

## **7. News; Real News, Fake News, & A Bit of Fun**

### **Jim Durkin /Mike Yeager**

Today's day is filled with events that alter, illuminate and often surprise us and you are there front and center! Join us as we attempt to make sense of the news of the day. Your perspective, of course, is always welcome.

*“And now you know the rest of the story...”* Mike Yeager Jim Durkin

**THURSDAY 3:30-4:30**

**8. Murky Mysteries  
Jean Day/Eileen Holderbaum/  
Cathy Morrin**

This class is a continuation of previous classes but a new book will be used --*The Best American Mystery Stories 2018*, edited by Louise Penny, available on Amazon, in the library and book stores.

Each week we will read at home a new short mystery by one of America's best current mystery writers, then discuss it in class. Be prepared to share thoughts about each story, as well as the writer.

This class has a strong emphasis on class participation and discussion. An email will be sent before each class with the name of the story that will be discussed.

## **9. Great Decisions— The Foreign Policy Association**

### **Dan Lynch**

Each week we will consider and discuss a different world situation concerning United States Foreign Policy. Some of the topics we hope to cover are, as materials are available:

- Climate Change
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Global Supply Chain
- Brexit and the E.U.
- The Arctic
- Two Koreas

The Course goal is to review and discuss these issues in order to better understand our nation's interests in these areas.



# Spring 2021

## Dates to Remember

**Mar. 26-Apr.2**

**On-line registration**

**April 13**

**First day of Spring term**

**May 20**

**Last day of Spring term**



# OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021

<b>President:</b>	Eileen M. Holderbaum
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mary Hendry
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sue Wrzesinski
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mary P. Cavanaugh
<b>Information Systems:</b>	Jim Condon
<b>Past President:</b>	Grace Ann Kartheiser
<b>Consultant:</b>	Donatta Yates
<b>SXU Liaison:</b>	Linda Moreno

## STANDING COMMITTEES

<b>Curriculum:</b>	
Dan Byrne*	Maureen Connolly
Cathy Morin	Peg Walsh
<b>Membership:</b>	
Bobbie Murray	Mary Howley
Mary Anne Gaynor	Sheila O'Sullivan*
<b>Special Events:</b>	
Phyllis Sheahan *	Rose A. Drever
Sandra Stephens	Kathleen Fassl
<b>Farrell Forum:</b>	
Marge Gierstikas	Joanne Gruca*
Kay Heafey (advisor)	
<b>Care:</b>	
Mary M. Doody*	Geraldine H. Cooney
Judy Sandburg	
<b>Communication:</b>	
Maxine Byrnes*	Katherine Sullivan
<b>Newsletter:</b>	
Peggy Dosch*	Melaine Herbert
Maureen O'Connor	
<b>Historian:</b>	Catherine Reardon
<b>Office Managers:</b>	
Sandra Flanigan	Marcia Janas
Linda Sherwood	

\*Committee Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to communicate with our membership more effectively and efficiently Renaissance Academy has installed a messaging service. This service can reach our members via home phone, cell phone and through email and text messages. It is most important that we have your communication information so that when classes are canceled due to inclement weather, or when it is time to notify our membership of classroom assignments, we can reach you without difficulty. This service will also provide us with the opportunity to reach our members with reminders of all Renaissance Academy activities, such as Farrell Forum and other scheduled events.

Please help us to make this communication system effective by making sure that we have all your information. We must have your home phone number and email address. It would be most helpful if you have a cell phone to provide that number as well. With this information we will be most assured to reach you with all important messages from Renaissance Academy.

If we do not have your information, we won't be able to reach you with all that is upcoming and new with Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP.