

# *Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP*

*Winter 2021*

*February 2-March 11*

*Located at*

*Saint Xavier University*

*3700 West 103rd Street*

*Due to coronavirus restrictions, classes will be on line for the Winter 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/>

## **Winter 2021 Registration**

Membership Registration and Winter Zoom Course Registration will be online on the Renaissance web page from January 15-January 22.

[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 January 22, 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 Winter 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

**Winter Session Feb.2 – Mar. 11**  
**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.	Fake News	Jim Durkin/ Dan Lynch

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

3.	Why Birds Matter	Mike Hastings
4.	Topics in Art	Sue Wrzesinski

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

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

### **Class**

**No.**

**Course**

**Facilitator**

- |    |                                    |                             |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5. | The Art of Storytelling            | Betty Kort                  |
| 6. | The World's Greatest Short Stories | Carol Conway/<br>Ginny Lock |

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

- |    |                 |                   |
|----|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7. | Murky Mysteries | Eileen Holderbaum |
| 8. | Year in Review  | Jim Machiniak     |

## **Book Discussions**

February 25 Noon

*The Life Changing Magic of  
Tidying Up*  
led by Betty Kort

**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, Northerns, 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. Fake News**

**Jim Durkin/ Dan Lynch**

**NEWS, REAL NEWS, FAKE NEWS, AND A BIT OF FUN—-and “what’s happenin?”**

“Today is a day filled with Events that Alter and Illuminate Our Times, \_\_\_\_\_

And You are there!

We attempt to address current topics you are interested in from national, state, county, city and your perspective.

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

### **3. Why Birds Matter**

**Mike Hastings**

“Why Birds Matter” Pick up where you left off or dare to meet the challenges of the most popular sport in America today – Birding!

We will focus how birds live through nature’s harshest season - Winter. How, when and why do the color of a bird’s feathers change. Learn about bird song. What is the meaning of bird song. How to spot owls in the Winter. And much more! The course is guided by selections from *National Geographic’s – The Guide to Birding in North America*. Explore your relationship to things with feathers.

## 4. Topics in Art

### Sue Wrzesinski

Each week, we will meet an artist who has contributed somehow to the evolution of European art. I've selected six artists to study in depth: Jan Van Dyck and Albrecht Durer, Rembrandt van Rijn and Jan Vermeer, Vincent Van Gogh and a living artist – David Hockney. You may notice that several of these are Northern Renaissance artists. Also, we'll look at some innovations that they used in their work.

Just for fun, I will also offer a **completely optional** project or exercise to do at home that relates to our topic.

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

### **5. The Art of Storytelling**

#### **Betty Kort**

The gift of storytelling may be one of life's most powerful and envied skills. A story well told can make us laugh or weep. We all want to tell good stories, but often don't realize how fundamental storytelling is to our human experience. Storytelling isn't just entertainment; your story is what grounds you. Telling our own stories is how others get to know us. This course will examine how storytelling works and how to use techniques to enhance our stories. Though we cannot use in-class videos, there will be links for TED talks and YouTube to be viewed on your own. Special storytelling guests will share their techniques for good storytelling. Class participants (volunteering optional) will have the opportunity to develop and share a story.

## 6. The World's Greatest 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.

Please purchase the Dover Thrift Edition *The World's Greatest Short Stories, 2006*. Amazon has it for \$5.99, others for as low as \$1.39 (plus postage).

For the first session, please read *Bartleby the Scrivener* by Herman Melville.

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

## **7. Murky Mysteries Eileen Holderbaum**

This class is a continuation of previous classes and the same book will be used--*The Best American Mystery Stories of the Century*, c. 2000, edited by Tony Hillerman, available on Amazon (new from \$9.77 + s & h; used from \$.01 + \$3.99 s & h). Each week read at home and discuss in class a new short mystery by some of America's best mystery writers. Be prepared to share thoughts about each story, as well as writers class members might like to explore, since this class has a strong emphasis on class participation and discussion.

Class limit 25

## **8. A Year in Review**

### **Jim Machniak**

This term, we will start with the year 1920. The 1920s was the first decade to have a nickname: "Roaring 20s" or "Jazz Age." It was a time of prosperity, changes in sexual behavior, jazz bands, bootleggers, raccoon coats, bathtub gin, flappers, flagpole sitters, and marathon dancers. Many people rejected moral standards and came out with new styles of dressing, dancing, and music. This was a time where people began to relax and let loose.

The Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, creating the era of Prohibition. Therefore, when signing into class, please hide all wine and beer bottles from view.

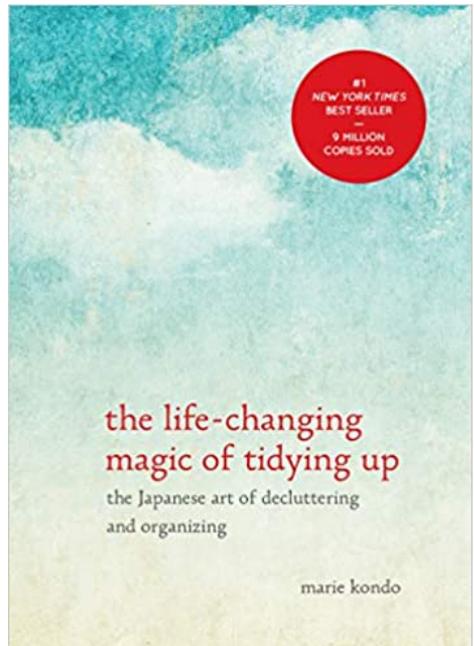
**Book Club –February 25**  
**Zoom – 12:00 PM**  
***The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up***  
**by Marie Kondo**

**Betty Kort – Facilitator**

*The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo

This book describes the KonMari method of tidying up. Published in 2014, #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER \* This book sparked a revolution and inspired the hit Netflix series *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo* : the original guide to decluttering your home once and for all.

The book and audio CD are available from the suburban and Chicago Public Libraries. It is also available as an ebook and Audiobook on Libby or other library digital media.



## **Dates to Remember Winter 2021**

**Jan. 15 -22**

**On-line registration**

**Feb. 2**

**First day of Winter term**

**Mar.11**

**Last day of Winter term**

# OFFICERS, COMMITTEE & BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021

<b>President:</b>	Eileen M. Holderbaum
<b>Vice President:</b>	Mary Hendry
<b>Secretary:</b>	Maureen Fleming
<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>	Julie Davis

## STANDING COMMITTEES

<b>Curriculum:</b>	
Dan Byrne*	Maureen Connolly
Cleo Lampos	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.