



Winter 2020 Newsletter

Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP Growth, Enrichment, Fellowship

Saint Xavier University, 3700 West 103rd Street, Room L214, Chicago, IL 60655

Calendar

Tuesday, January 21	Winter Term Begins
Tuesday, February 4	Book Club, 11:00 Oak Lawn Library
Thursday, February 6	Facilitators' Meeting 12:30 pm Andrew Conf. Ctr., Rm 105
Tuesday, February 11	Board Meeting, 11:30 Shannon Center, Alumni Room
Thursday, February 13	Farrell Forum 11:30 am Butler Room
Thursday, February 27	Winter Term Ends

A Renaissance Couple You Should Know Bern and Mary Stiemann

by Melaine Herbert



This past December Bern Stiemann was celebrated in a big way by his family and friends with a party for his 90th birthday. It seems fitting to select him and his wife as a “couple you should know!” His daughters put together a list of “90 Ways Bernie is Nifty.” RA agrees. A Renaissance member since 2005, Bernie recently became one of a group of facilitators who present the dynamic class “ News, Real News, Fake News and a Bit of Fun.”

Bern was born in Chicago in a snowstorm. He is 100% German and attended Leo Grammar School and St. Rita High School. As a boy he and his buddies played Kick the Can, Red Rover, Marbles and Baby in the Hole. His family took summer vacations in Grand Haven, Michigan. During high school Bern played football and worked in Jackson Park near the beach and at his father’s workplace, a grain mill.

At 16 Mary first saw Bern (19) at a drugstore counter and thought how cute he was. They struck up a friendship, but Bernie headed off to the Navy where he became a sheet metal worker which started his long career in that field. After finishing high school Mary moved to sunny California with some friends. They must have really been smitten because after a five year separation they reunited and married in May, 1955, 64 years ago!

Bern became a journeyman metal worker and was promoted to superintendent at Sundberg Engineering. Over his many years spent in metal work and engineering, Bern

designed and built many unusual structures, one a 26-foot metal tiger tail for a billboard on I-55. He worked on many buildings including Hard Rock Cafe, Midwest Stock Exchange, and the building housing the Everest Room. When the Museum of Science and Industry needed to get the U-505 submarine into the building, Bern built a roller system to move the sub from the Lake, onto Lake Shore Drive, then into the museum. He installed an HVAC system in the penguin cage at Brookfield Zoo.

With his Dad, Bern built two boats named Mary Marie 1 and 2. He himself restored a Porsche and painted it red. Bern has traveled all over the states, and to Alaska, Hawaii, Russia, Europe, China and Japan. He gardens, cooks, and enjoys golf, especially in Phoenix.

Ben and Mary raised 4 children, three girls and a boy. The family enjoyed road trips and vacations on Paw Paw and Wolf Lakes. Bern has always kept his home, yard, cars and boats in tip-top shape. He built a large train table for the kids, made an ice rink in the yard every winter and heated the garage for hot chocolate parties. They moved to their current home in Oak Lawn in 1963.

While in California Mary worked for a while at Yosemite National Park. She recalls the first time she climbed a mountain she felt so close to God. It was as if He was telling her: "Here, I'm showing you my work." That experience is still memorable after all these years. Mary worked part time in a friend's gift shop and part time in a psychiatrist's office. Her full time position was in a Radiology office. Mary began classes at RA before Bern did and her enthusiasm convinced him to join.

Health problems were challenging in the many wonderful years they shared, and each has had to care for the other. Bernie survived a heart attack and bypass surgery at 87 and a hip replacement at age 88. He worked hard in rehab and still works out to stay in shape.

The Stiemanns love spending time with their 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and are proud of having raised kind and good children. Their children remember some Bern-isms: "A job well planned is a job well done" and if frustrated "Aw dog gone it!" If the kids did something wrong, they were "Micky the mope" and when they got it right they were "on the ball!" Happy birthday to a gentleman who has definitely been "on the ball" and blessings in the future to both Mary and Bern.



Renaissance Office

The Renaissance office is located in Room L214 in the Main Building near the library. It is only open a half hour before classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The phone number is 773-298-3149. **This is an answering machine only.** Please leave a message.

President's Corner

Snow, wind, ice, brrr! The good news is the start of Renaissance's Winter Term. What better way to spend a cold, dark winter day than to meet with friends in an interesting and stimulating class. While attending, think about volunteering as a facilitator. The Curriculum Committee stands ready to help you get started with suggestions, resource material, etc.

Don't forget the Book Club at 11 a.m. on February 4 at the Oak Lawn Library discussing *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. Also plan on attending the Farrell Forum on February 13. Betsy Means will portray Jane Adams, the founder of Hull House.

Then we will be ready for the Spring Term. So enjoy all that Renaissance is offering this winter!

Grace Ann Kartheiser

Winter Facilitators' Meeting



All facilitators and members who are interested in facilitating a Renaissance class in the future are invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, February 6th, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 105 of the Andrew Conference Center. The Andrew Conference Center is located north of the Shannon Center, next to Pacelli Hall.

The Renaissance Academy depends on the active participation of *all* members to be successful. Facilitating is a great way to *do your part* and is an enjoyable way to participate. Facilitators' classes are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Facilitators who prefer a particular day and time for a future class should attend this meeting.

If you have any questions about facilitating, please contact Dan Byrne (708-857-7018) or any member of the Curriculum Committee. Many resources are available and the Committee is ready, willing and able to help you plan a class.

Book Club -February 4, 2020

Oak Lawn Library, 11:00 am

Before We Were Yours
By Lisa Wingate



Facilitator -
Cleo Lampos

Before We Were Yours is about children who were taken from their parents through kidnapping or subterfuge and then placed for adoption at a price. The novel is based on actual events when Georgia Tann served as head of the Tennessee Children's Home until it closed in 1950. This is a heartwarming story of love, betrayal and staying true to your heart. The subject matter is disturbing and unforgettable, but compelling because it is historically accurate. The discussion of the book will be heart wrenching and will include thoughts about today's battles with foster care and human trafficking. Lisa Wingate is a former journalist, and an award winning author who speaks for the disenfranchised.



NEWS TO SHARE? The Newsletter has a mailbox in the Renaissance Office. If you would like to submit any news or ideas please drop in an envelope addressed "Newsletter." We will try to incorporate your submissions. Looking forward to hearing from you!

HELP WANTED! Do you like to write? Are you familiar with working in Google Documents and/or desktop publishing? Do typos drive your eagle eye crazy? Joining the Newsletter Committee might be just right for you! The Newsletter is published three times a year at the beginning of each session. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Peggy Dosch at reinelune@gmail.com or 773 414-5723.



Participate!

Saint Xavier Campus Ministry Project

There is a simple way that you can help those living in Third World countries. According to Mary Rita Insley, Coordinator of the SXU Mercy Ministry Center, people in some countries receive prescriptions filled by a clinic or doctor wrapped in *paper*. If it rains, they get wet, if they are dropped they scatter. A not-for-profit called *Matthew 25 Ministries*, based in Ohio, has a special program called **Pill Bottles**. They collect donations of empty prescription bottles and caps to ship to needy Third World countries or disaster areas.

Saint Xavier Campus Ministry collects these containers and sends them to Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio. If you want to help, save your empty prescription containers (no over-the-counter bottles such as aspirin, etc.) only containers dispensed by pharmacies. *Containers must be washed to remove labels before donating.*

Drop your donations at McDonough Chapel on campus. The chapel is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Give to Campus Ministry representative, or deposit in labeled box in the foyer. Someone in another part of the world will be grateful!

COMING SOON IN 2020!

<i>Tuesday, March 17</i>	<i>Spring Term Begins</i>	
<i>Thursday, March 19</i>	<i>TGITT 4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Gilhooley's</i>
<i>Thursday, April 16</i>	<i>Memorial Mass 10:00 a.m</i>	<i>McDonough Chapel</i>
	<i>Light Luncheon following Mass</i>	<i>Butler Room</i>
	<i>Farrell Forum 11:30 am</i>	<i>Butler Room</i>
<i>Thursday, April 23</i>	<i>Facilitators' Meeting</i>	
	<i>Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105</i>	
<i>Thursday, May 07</i>	<i>Spring Term Ends</i>	
<i>Tuesday, May 12</i>	<i>Spring Luncheon</i>	<i>Orland Chateau</i>
<i>Tuesday, June 09</i>	<i>Volunteer Luncheon</i>	<i>Ridge Country CC</i>

Farrell Forum

Thursday, February 13, 2020

11:30a.m. Butler Room

Betsy Means Presents Jane Adams

Betsy Means is a professional actress who has performed at many venues including Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare on the Green, and Chicago Children's Theatre. Her purpose is to inspire through language of the past. Means will contribute to that purpose through her portrayal of Jane Adams.

Jane Adams devoted her life to caring for the underprivileged and fighting for the rights of workers, women and children. After going to Europe in 1887 and observing the social experimentation of Toynbee Hall in London, she returned to Chicago and founded Hull House where she could put her principles into action. In her own words "The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life." Hull House became the most famous settlement House in America. In 1931 Jane Adams was the winner of the Noble Peace Prize.

Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

The Farrell Forum is a speakers' series established in honor of the late John Farrell, a CIA analyst in the 1970's and Renaissance Academy facilitator in the early 1990's. One program is presented in each of the three terms. The program is free and open to the public.



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