Fall 2019 Newsletter

Renaissance Academy at Chicago NFP
Growth, Enrichment, Fellowship

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

Calendar

September 24: Fall Term Begins

October 8: Board Meeting 11:00 Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105

October 17: Facilitators’ Meeting 12:30 Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105

October 22: Book Club 12:00 Oak Lawn Library

October 22: TGITT 4:30 Gilhooley’s

October 24: Farrell Forum 11:30 Butler Room

November 12: Executive Board Mtg 10:30 Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105
Board Meeting 11:30 Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105

November 14: Fall Term Ends

December 10: Board Meeting 11:00 Orland Chateau
Christmas Luncheon 12:00 Orland Chateau
Someone You Should Know:  
Joyce Lynch-Hurth

by Melaine Herbert

Determination and resilience are personal qualities that have helped Joyce Lynch-Hurth build a rich and fulfilling life and continue to shape her in the present! She says of her early years, “My goal was always to teach,” and being a facilitator with RA is helping her continue to reach that goal. She joined RA only three years ago. Whether she’s presenting Spanish for Beginners and learning Spanish along with the class, or investigating and discussing the challenges of an aging brain, she thanks Renaissance for “the opportunity to fulfill my passion to teach and continue to learn.”

After graduating from St. Nicholas of Tolentine grade school and Oak Lawn Community High School, Joyce attended MVCC with additional classes at Valparaiso and Olivet Nazarene University. She finally got to teach preschool for three years, until “life got in the way.” She raised two boys and a girl in Crestwood, IL, then continued her career as a receptionist for an ad agency downtown (a fun job, she remembers).

Soon her life got even busier. “A second marriage blessed me with five more lovely daughters and a new career as an Insurance Agent for MetLife, including a variety of side jobs along the way (such as a nail technician, cashier and waitress.) I retired as an optician for LensCrafters in Chicago Ridge Mall.”
Still residing in Crestwood, Joyce is enjoying not only Renaissance, but being active in the lives of her grandchildren, as well as many hobbies including gardening, sewing, reading, swimming, horseback riding and music. Musically, she plays the bells in her church and is a member of the Renaissance Chorale. She volunteered with the Conservation Commission in Crestwood. However, the accomplishment Joyce is most proud of is “sharing in the raising of 8 loving, productive children and, in progress, 20 grandchildren, all of them without addictions, alcoholism, smoking or abusive behavior.”

Joyce has traveled out of country only once--to Mexico and enjoyed the eye-opening experience of a different culture. In the US, she has traveled from Boston to South Carolina for an insight into American history. Colorado, Arizona and Southern California provided the most beautiful scenery, and the Florida Keys gave her a feel for the island lifestyle.

She credits faith in the future and the perseverance to get there as being the trait that has helped her most in life. One problem in the world she’d like to solve -- world hunger. She’d advise someone starting out in life to always try to live in God’s grace by doing the right thing.

Seems that Joyce has taken her own advice, and Renaissance Academy is all the luckier for it!

President’s Corner

Days are getting shorter, trees are changing color, and Renaissance classes are beginning. The Curriculum Committee has worked hard this summer to present a variety of courses reflecting many different interests. Now what we need from membership is participation because that is what makes a good class a great experience.

In addition to our classes, plan to join the Book Club at the Oak Lawn Library and TGITT at Gilhooley’s on October 22nd. On October 24th, there will be a Farrell Forum recollection of the Our Lady of the Angels Fire. Fall session ends with our Christmas Luncheon on December 10th. Plan on really enjoying the Renaissance experience-- get involved!

Grace Ann Kartheiser
By August 1968, the American space program was in danger of failing in its two most important objectives: to land a man on the moon by President Kennedy’s end-of-decade deadline, and to triumph over the Soviets in space. With its back against the wall, NASA made an almost unimaginable leap: It would scrap its usual methodical approach and risk everything on a sudden launch, sending the first men in history to the moon – in just four months. And it would all happen at Christmas.

In a year of historic violence and discord the Apollo 8 Mission would be the boldest, riskiest test of America’s greatness under pressure. In this gripping insider account, Robert Kurson focuses on the three astronauts and their families. The astronauts were Mission Commander Frank Borman, idealistic Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders, a young nuclear engineer and hotshot fighter pilot making his first space flight.

Drawn from hundreds of hours of one-on-one interviews, and filled with vivid and unforgettable detail, Rocket Men is the definitive account of one of America’s finest hours. In this real-life thriller, Kurson reveals the epic dangers involved, and the singular bravery it took for mankind to leave Earth for the first time -- and to arrive at a new world.
THINK TANK

The Think Tank (an innovation of Donatta Yates) met for the third time on June 6, 2019. The objective is to augment membership by enhancing program content, maintaining fiscal responsibility, identifying and resolving issues. This review is to support Renaissance Academy’s organizational goals of growth, enrichment and fellowship.

A few of the items the members discussed were:

Classroom content: Members noted that the 2019 Spring term was successful given the diversity of courses as well as the addition of six new facilitators.

Membership Directory: To insure that information found in the directory is beneficial to members, efforts are made to reduce misspellings, missing emails, etc. As the directory information is taken directly from the members’ registration forms, we do encourage our members to verify personal information submitted. Incorrect registration forms make for incorrect directory information!

Emergency contacts: Emergency contact information is especially important for health and safety reasons. The registration process requires this information beginning Fall, 2019.

The group also discussed ways to increase membership, recruit new facilitators and initiate new programs.

If you would like to have input on these decisions and help shape our future, think about attending the Think Tank next year, usually held in June. All are welcome.
All facilitators and members who are interested in facilitating a class in the Winter and/or Spring 2020 terms are invited to attend on Thursday, October 17 at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in room 105 of the Andrew Conference Center. Please note that this is a change in location for the meeting. The Andrew Conference Center is located north of the Shannon Center, next to Pacelli Hall.

We need facilitators for both the Winter and Spring terms. Please remember that the facilitators are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Members who want to reserve a day and time for a class should attend this meeting or contact a member of the Curriculum Committee as soon as possible. If you have any questions about facilitating, please contact Dan Byrne (708-857-7018) or any member of the Curriculum Committee.

NEWS TO SHARE?

Starting this year the RA Newsletter will have a mailbox in the Renaissance Office. If you would like to submit any news or ideas to share please place in an envelope addressed “Newsletter.” Include your name in case we have any questions, and drop off or slip under the office door. We will try to incorporate your submissions. Looking forward to hearing from you!
Farrell Forum
Thursday, October 24, 2019
11:30am, Butler Room

Jim Gibbons presents the
Our Lady of the Angels
School Fire

Historian Jim Gibbons has had a passion for history since he was in college. His popular presentations not only teach about historical events, but also stress the benefits of learning from them. “Life is no mystery when you know your history” is his motto which informs his riveting presentations.

Many of us remember the October 1958 tragic fire at Our Lady of the Angels School: 92 children and three nuns perished. Inspired to research this after reading To Sleep with the Angels, Gibbons contacted some of the survivors to learn more. He will include a discussion of the life and death of Margaret (Peggy) Anne Sansonetti, one of the victims.

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. Light refreshments will be served.
Tuesday, January 21  Winter Term Begins

Thursday, January 30  Facilitators’ Meeting 12:30 pm  
Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105

Thursday, February 13  Farrell Forum  11:30 am  
Butler Room

Thursday, February 27  Winter Term Ends

Tuesday, March 17  Spring Term Begins

Thursday, March 19  TGITT  4:30 p.m.  
Gilhooley’s

Thursday, April 16  Memorial Mass 10:00 a.m  
McDonough Chapel  
Light Luncheon following Mass  
Butler Room  
Farrell Forum 11:30 am  
Butler Room

Thursday, April 23  Facilitators’ Meeting  
Andrew Conf. Ctr. Rm 105

Thursday, May 07  Spring Term Ends

Tuesday, May 12  Spring Luncheon  
Orland Chateau

Tuesday, June 09  Volunteer Luncheon  
Ridge Country CC
2019-20 Officers:

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