

Renaissance

Monthly February 2024

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Clubs & Committees PG. 6 - 8

Updates from the committees, and tales from the Renaissance clubs as we commence the Spring Term.



A sample of Winter in the City – Sangam Indian Cuisine & a Hike on the NCR trail

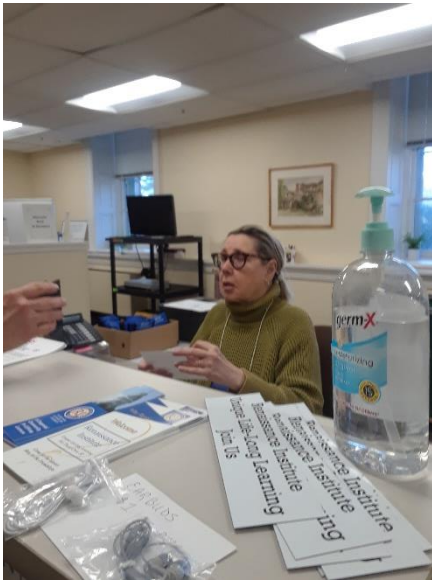


Serving a Meal at Ronald McDonald House – a Renaissance Tradition

Greetings, RI friends,

Spring Semester is in full swing, and we're pleased at the presence of so many new members. Our classrooms are full, as are the hallways between classes. After our holiday break, it's a pleasure to rejoin friends at RI, and, as always, we can be as busy as we want to be. Some folks may prefer to take classes only, while many others may be interested in teaching a class, participating in a club, or joining committee. Helping to plan and organize activities is a wonderful way to contribute, and the more active the committees are, the more events we have to look forward to!

“...From Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 we welcomed 48 new members and 17 returning members...”



Vickie Lapicki greets new members

“One of the most enjoyable benefits of being an RI member is sitting down next to a stranger and learning about some aspect of this person’s life.”



GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Roving Reporter Investigates

We are fortunate to welcome 27 new members and nine returning members to RI this semester. From Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 we welcomed 48 new members and 17 returning members. New members can be identified by the green stickers on their name tags and we know the veteran members will make new members feel welcome. I spoke to one new member who was amazed at how friendly people at RI are. She also commented that she “loved” her first birding class.

The Roving Reporter (RR) thought it would be interesting and fun to ask our newest members to tell us a little about themselves and the new members did not disappoint. They have brought unique interests as well as many of the same interests that have brought us all together.

One of the most enjoyable benefits of being an RI member is sitting down next to a stranger and learning about some aspect of this person’s life. We’ve all been thrilled, and awed by finding out how accomplished our fellow members are.

Let’s take a look at how some of our new members responded to the request: “Would you please send the Roving Reporter a word or two about some of what makes you tick.”

Several referred to their careers, including people from the world of education. One new member’s educational experience spans from working with Kindergarten and First Grade school children to college students. (The RR has seen some “very active” RI members too!)

There is a long-time Baltimore lawyer who practiced in the Maryland AG’s Office for 34 years. She must have seen a lot of Maryland history in that time. We have a new semi-retired nurse with a long history of working in a local ER. No doubt she has some fascinating stories she could share.

As far as active people go, this is a very fit group, enjoying hiking and exercise. A new member commented “I have a personal trainer twice a week and have begun kickboxing which I love!” Impressive.



Page Campbell Discusses Curriculum

“Joining RI seems like a big adventure, the first in my recent retirement.” Another person declared, “I love being back in school with no tests or exams to worry about.”



New members pick up their ID badges, tour the FIC, and stay for coffee, bagels, and conversations

One person has left a career in IT and explicitly does not want to teach a class in it. She explained, “I am not offering to teach a class in it!” Fair enough.

We have an inventor in our group now. I imagine she has some terrific experiences to share.

Many people mentioned a love of reading that has lasted a lifetime. Some are already in book groups, including one person who leads her reading discussion group at a local women’s club.

One new member is eagerly awaiting Spring so that she can get her hands in the dirt. She loves plants of all types and might consider getting a job in a nursery.

This is a music-loving group. A few people said they love all kinds of music and one person especially likes live rockabilly and blues. She’s looking forward to the many musical offerings at RI.

New members are interested in both local history, particularly Baltimore’s history and world history. Other topics that seem popular are politics, religion, spirituality and art. These topics are some of our most popular so that should work out very well.

A peripatetic new member has lived in such far flung places as London, Paris, Abu Dhabi, India and many lovely locations across the USA. We welcome him to Baltimore and are eager to hear about his experiences.

People expressed hope that RI will be a place to cultivate friendships. Many new members expressed their enthusiasm for trying new experiences and learning new information. One new student remarked, “I am looking for both social and educational opportunities. I hope that RI fits the bill.” The RR thinks this member will fit right in to our friendly group. Someone said, “Joining RI seems like a big adventure, the first in my recent retirement.” Another person declared, “I love being back in school with no tests or exams to worry about.”

The RR will leave it to you, Dear Members, to find out which new members have had these experiences. We’re off to a great start!



SCENES FROM WINTER IN THE CITY

BY SUSAN SEROTTE

Winter in the City is a memory, now – and what lovely memories it brought us! Many RI members generously shared their homes and other favorite haunts, and even more members had good times as we tried new games, ate delicious food, talked A LOT, and learned all sorts of information about the world and each other. **THANK YOU** to all hosts and participants!!

We received very positive feedback from participating members and hosts:

- *I had a ball with Winter in the City! I was able to interact with other members easily, via email. The Dictionary Game was a great way to end the season!*
- *Sixteen signed up for the Virtual Art Fair and Share, including the eight exhibitors. We had work in a variety of media, and it sparked interesting discussions.*
- *WIC was the best thing about the winter break!*
- *I was involved in online and in-person activities and had a swell time in all. The three Zoom events I participated in were well supported. Seems like out-of-town folks, as well as those with transportation/mobility/health issues, really want to participate, so it would be a fine thing if a few more Zoom events could be added to the mix.*
- *You can streamline it for me, Hon. Sign me up to host Rocket to Venus again, this winter!*
- *Such an easy way to have members get together and enjoy each other's company!*

You can be involved in planning for Summer in the City by joining the committee. Planning and brainstorming sessions will commence, soon. Contact nshed7915@comcast.net, with questions or to volunteer.

Come for the Classes & Stay for the Friendships!





OFF & RUNNING

All Things Social Spring 2024

BY BEV FRANSEN

The Social Committee is off and running for the spring of 2024 semester.



We look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming **FREE LUNCH on Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 in the Renaissance Room (003 FIC)**. This event will feature BREAD and SOUP prepared by members of the committee and other RI fine cooks. We have our own collection of crock pots so all you need to do is bring in soup on the morning of the event and we will heat it up and serve it. If you have time, we will love it if you serve your own soup. Now, for dessert, we invite the student body to check your cook books and whip up something to share with everyone.

The next event is on **Thursday March 14th** in the coffee area. This is **Pie Day (Pi)** and we invite bakers and buyers to bring us your favorite pie. We invite all to come and eat pie! It's a great occasion.



Our last big event will be the **End of Year Party on Friday May 3**. Stay tuned for more details about this traditional event.

We invite the student body to remember to bring in donations of snacks which we serve with morning coffee. And we invite all of you who are on campus to stop by for conversation and refreshments before or between your morning classes. fransenbeverly1@gmail.com



(Cityscape courtesy of Carol Daddazio)



Did someone say it never snows in Baltimore?



WHAT ARE THE CLUBS DOING?



Mystery Book Club:

All RI Members are invited to join us.

Our next selections are:



- Friday, February 23, 2024, 11:30 AM *Glory Be* by Danielle Arceneaux
- Friday, March 22, 2024 11:30 AM *Blood Sisters* by Vanessa Lillie ((earlier than usual to avoid Good Friday)
- Friday, April 26, 2024 11:30 AM *Dying on the Vine* by Aaron Elkins
- Friday, May 31, 2024 11:30 AM *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves

We will meet at the Cross Keys Clubhouse in February, March and April. We hope to meet outside in May in the courtyard at Cross Keys. At least one copy of each of our selections is available at the Baltimore County Library. Nikki Cole colendleb@aol.com



Genealogy Club: We meet 10 AM on the 2nd Friday each month. JOIN us for research tips, sharing and motivation! E-mail me to receive the monthly ZOOM invitations. - Sue Brooks brooksaw123@yahoo.com

MUSICAL EVENTS AT THE RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE, SPRING, 2024:

The following events will take Place in FIC 003 (the Big Room), on Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Bring your lunch, bring a friend or two and join in the fun!



Feb 21: SONG CIRCLE. R. I. Members and guests join in singing and dancing along with some well-known pop and folk songs from the 60's and the 70's.

March 13: UKE JAM AND SINGALONG. All Uke players at any skill level are welcome and we need singers also to join in.

April 10: BLUEGRASS CONCERT by "High Strung Revisited". Special guest Denis Smith will join in on the Hammered Dulcimer.

April 17: BLUEGRASS CONCERT by the "Renaissance Pickers." Two R. I. Members are in this band.

May 1: CONCERT by "Tomato Junction." This is the Renaissance Institute House Band featuring several R. I. Members. John Meredith johnmeredith1439@gmail.com



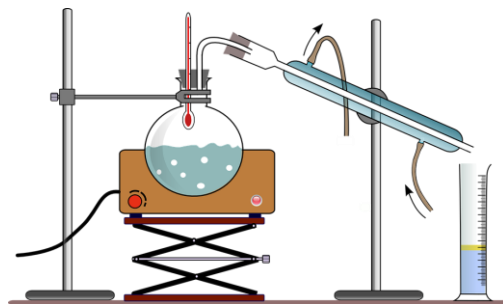
COMMITTEE UPDATES



Membership: The RI Membership Committee welcomed 27 New and 9 former Returning members for the Spring 2024 semester. Orientation was conducted on Zoom on January 29th and was well attended. Many members came to the campus on Thursday, February 1st for “Welcome

Day” activities where they picked up name badges, parking permits, and class materials. They were also given tours of the facilities and enjoyed refreshments. They were also given the opportunity to sign up for clubs or committees and many did so. As always, the new members will be provided name tags with special notations so if you see them on campus, please give them a warm RI welcome. We want to continue with providing each new member a mentor to help transition into Renaissance so if you are interested in helping, we would appreciate your support, please send us an email. - Vickie and Joe Lapicki jlapicki@aol.com

Curriculum: As we start the new semester mingling on campus or zooming in online, we have heard positive vibes about courses and instructors. More members are making use of Zoom spaces on campus so they can mix and match without traveling between classes. At our recent meeting we covered a variety of subjects, evaluating current courses and exploring possibilities for new ones with an eye to breadth and balance in our program. We recognize a need for more science classes and hope to make some progress in the fall. We are beginning to explore intergenerational classes with NDMU, and we are discussing possibilities for special lectures. We will soon put out a call for Fall '24 course proposals. Our committee is ready to support anyone who would like to put together a course. Terry Weisser terryweisser@gmail.com , Kathleen Bennett bkbbennett@verizon.net



Library Committee: Since Judy Floam is in the process of moving to Boston, Meg Siewert and Helen Walters will be the co-chairs of the Library Committee for the foreseeable future. On the welcome day for new members we had a book sale outside the current library in FIC which did fairly well. Last week we were able to pack up ten boxes of books from Room 107 Fourier and donate them to the Towson Library for their book sale. The shelves in Fourier have been emptied out so now the library is totally housed in FIC. We encourage members to stop by, browse and buy books for 15 cents. - Helen Walters hwalters407@gmail.com

Reflections Committee: All the submissions for 2023-24 are in. The poetry and prose jurors have completed their evaluations. The selected pieces are being proofed and entered into the software, InDesign. Armand Pulcinella has photographed all the artwork, Carolyn Sutton edited it, and the photography and art jurors are assessing it now. February 21st is the big day during which the designers match all the submissions and choose the pages to design. We look for content in words and pictures that relate and then spend the rest of February and March setting up the book so that it has a pace and style. – *Marcia Dysart* mjdysart@gmail.com

The Reflections team recently gathered in the Fourier lounge as they began putting together Reflections 2024.



Updates from the RI Office:

- Remember we share our rooms with other campus classes so please be considerate and if you rearrange furniture in classrooms to put it back to original layout.
- If you need to make class changes (add or drop please email Sandy Adams, sadams@ndm.edu or call the office at 410-532-5351)
- Update on our director, Shirley Bigley: She is out of the Hospital following orthopedic surgeries and is now receiving treatment at home.