

# Renaissance

Monthly November 2023

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*Reflections* is Renaissance Institute's annual juried literary and arts magazine, published in the spring each year. Marcia Dysart and Carolyn Sutton are the editors.



The Bread and Soup "Free Lunch" event, sponsored by the Social Committee, was a great success.

Hello, RI friends,

As Thanksgiving break approaches, we are grateful for the fall classes we've enjoyed, and for the variety and pleasure of our social activities. Members have continued to return to campus, and our classrooms have been full. Meanwhile, many members still participate via Zoom, and both options will continue to be available in the Spring Semester. Our open house for prospective members was a well-attended, and we look forward to greeting new members after our winter break. RI offices will be closed 11/20-11/24.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## A CONVERSATION WITH MARCIA DYSART

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*“...This is the members’ time of year; from now until Jan. 12 poetry and prose can be submitted. All art and photography needs to be in by Feb. 6.”*



**You’ve been involved with *Reflections* for a long time. How did you get involved initially?**

I had been at Renaissance for a couple years and attended a meeting with Elizabeth Fanto who was the editor at that time. My role became a juror for prose. The next few years I also did some of the announcements and some small posters to encourage members to submit their pieces.

**We have quite a few new members at Renaissance. Could you give us a short history of this publication? How has it evolved and changed over time?**

Two members, Jo Atwater and Margaret Doyle, began the magazine in 1992. At first, they sold it for \$3.50, but later it was decided to be included in the membership fee. For 11 years, it was in black and white, 38 pages of art and writing. We then moved from black and white to one color, and then to full color pages. When Jo resigned from the position in 2003, Laurie Rosenberg did 2004-2005; Jim Butzow did 6 years, 2006-2012; Elizabeth Fanto did 6 years, 2014-2020.

Carolyn Sutton and I have continued it from the 2020-2021 issue. We have always aimed for at least 40 pages per issue, featuring most of the artists and writers from Renaissance.

**Please describe the process of putting together *Reflections*. You have teams of people performing specific tasks, correct? Is there a defined order in which these things are done?**

There are quite a few steps in the process of producing *Reflections*. This is the members’ time of year; from now until Jan.12, poetry and prose can be submitted. All art and photography needs to be in by Feb. 6. Art must come to, and be picked up in, the office--due to the need to photograph pictures. Everything else is online.

Very quickly after each deadline, submissions are sent to respective jurors, judging is completed, and some clarity starts with the jurors’ choices. Carolyn sets up a master page for each editor and designer so that we can enter submissions into **InDesign software**, several design and layout sessions take

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place and covers are discussed. From mid-February through late March, editors and designers are busy finalizing each page, looking for problems, making corrections and choosing many of the attractive borders, strokes and background colors. Then Carolyn resolves problems on every page, using the **InDesign** magic that no one else understands; then the magazine goes to publisher, proofs come back to designer and are approved; the publisher completes the magazine, and it is distributed at the end of the semester.

**You are the editor for prose content and Carolyn Sutton is the editor for graphics, correct? Can you describe the challenge—and also the rewards—of coordinating all the teams working on *Reflections*?**

Speaking as the editor who receives submissions, the challenge is to make sure to get each piece (name of person, title of piece, category or medium, and number of words in prose) in a file.

The rewards are working with others on taking those independent submissions (we usually get 130-145 items) and turning them into the final magazine. A stressful, but productive, day in February is when all designers and editors get together and put the jurors' preferences out on tables; everyone will have looked at them before, but it is the opportunity as a group to agree on matching poetry and prose with specific artwork

**Does everyone work from home, or are some functions performed in the Renaissance offices?**

Each of Carolyn's and my years have been different, but we have progressed from working on *Reflections* from home to being able to use computers in the Renaissance office, which has enabled some of us to learn some **InDesign** creative basics and features for the magazine.

**Is the entire membership of RI invited to submit prose, poetry, art and photography? Or is it limited to members of writing classes, art classes, etc.?**

ALL RI members who would like to are encouraged to submit. Some think they are not good enough. but have been pleasantly surprised by giving it a try and finding success.

**Often the advice is to submit three items, preferably of different size or length. Why is this? Are shorter prose pieces preferred?**

*“All media are juried by three or more jurors. Many times our designers and editors would be happy to include several submissions by one person, but the expense of printing our publication limits the choices based on space.”*



*“Since members submit all prose and poems to me, opening each one is like a gift.”*

Although no one does so, members may submit as many as 12 items (art, prose, photography and poetry – 3 per category).

Because we have many creative contributors we try, if possible, to include at least one piece from each submitter, but sometimes there is not enough room. All media are juried by three or more jurors. Many times our designers and editors would be happy to include several submissions by one person, but the expense of printing our publication limits the choices based on space. Prose pieces of 1200 words (the maximum) take two pages and with dialog, even more. so shorter submissions often work best.

**This sounds like a lot of work. What makes it all worthwhile?**

Since members submit all prose and poems to me, opening each one is like a gift. Reading pieces about nature, family memories, philosophical ideas, travels, incidents and many other topics leave me amused, thoughtful, remembering similar situations, emotional and always inspired by the creativity.

**Please remind us of the deadlines! Can people start submitting stuff now?**

YES! We are happy when people do not wait until the last minute



**Again: Prose**  
**Deadline is**  
**January 12. Art &**  
**photography**  
**deadline is**  
**February 6**

## ❄️ WINTER IN THE CITY COMMITTEE ❄️

This Winter, would you like to have an authentic Indian lunch, with friends? . . . holiday potluck meals? . . . High Tea at Emma's? . . . a visit to Winterthur in its Yuletide glory? . . . tours of the BMA and Walters Art Museums? . . . a group hike in nature? All these activities – and many more – await RI members, when classes end in December. Thanks to the generosity and creativity of our community, over 30 people have volunteered to host 40+ ever-popular and novel events for Winter in the City.

The catalog of events is due to be published by the end of this week. At that time, it's vital for members to follow these sign-up procedures, so registration will run smoothly and fairly. Please . . .

- **Email the sponsor** to register for an event.
- Keep a record of all activities you've signed up for and contact the sponsor if you don't receive confirmation of your request.
- Record your events on your personal calendar.
- Let the sponsor know, ASAP, if you must cancel. Members on wait lists might be able to attend.
- DO NOT attend an event for which you haven't registered. Contact the sponsor to see if there are spaces available or to be added to a wait list.
- Guests are welcome, but members come first when there's a limit. **Email the sponsor** to see if you can bring a guest.
- Note activities which include a fee and check with sponsors to see if they need the money in advance.
- Bring a mask, for indoor activities, in case it's required.

**\*\*Cancellations occur frequently, so be sure to join wait lists for events that are filled. \*\***

New events may be added, after the catalog is published. Maybe, YOURS!?! **Updates will be sent to members and posted on the RI MEMBER WEBSITE – <https://renmember.com> – in the WIC Events Quick List section.**



**THANK YOU!**  
*Susan Serotte*





# A DELIGHTFULLY CHILLING EVENT: OCTOBER 31ST

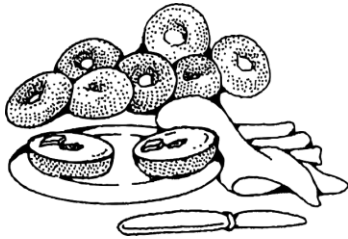
Witnessed by the Roving Reporter

Renaissance members took full advantage of the fact that Halloween Day was a Tuesday, when we were on site in the FIC, trying to take classes--although we may have been a little distracted.





**Outreach Task Force:** RI held an open house for perspective new members. We had 18 non-members show up and I am pretty sure at least half of them are going to sign up this spring. The majority of people were guests of present members with a few that had seen it on **Nextdoor**. A great time was had by all. Our volunteers worked hard with great speakers all around. Many people stayed afterwards to ask questions and tell us how great everything sounded. The fresh fruit and bagels were also a help in persuading them. A lovely slide show of RI pictures and pictures from our members in our art classes looped in the background. Two people were disappointed that they could not give Sandy a check right then and there. It was such a success we will have another one before Fall registration. We even persuaded Sister Kathleen Feeley to say something and she was as vibrant and energetic as always. -



Laurie Rosenberg [loreleirex@gmail.com](mailto:loreleirex@gmail.com)

**Curriculum Committee:** The Curriculum Committee has been busy finalizing the class schedule for the Spring Semester. We were pleased to receive a great variety of proposals from our current instructors. We also welcome some returning and new instructors. As always, we have been working to balance on campus with Zoom options and hybrids, creating a workable schedule and ensuring that we have a wide range of classes to appeal to our diverse membership. Course schedules and catalogs should be available by **December 7** in time for review before **course previews on December 12 and 14**. Please mark your calendars! - Terry



Weisser [terryweisser@gmail.com](mailto:terryweisser@gmail.com)

**Social Committee:** In October we enjoyed our “Bread and Soup” lunch with lots of participation from the student body and great soups presented by the Social Committee.



In November we are celebrating “All Souls Remembered” with a memory table in the hall outside of the Renaissance Room or “003”. The table was set up on November 9 and will remain in the hall until after the Memorial Service on November 16, 2023. Please bring in mementoes and photos of those you have lost. This includes animals as well as people. After the Memorial Service items can be retrieved or will be stored in the office so that you can reclaim them later.

**December brings the Holiday Party on Friday December 8.** The time and location of the party have not yet been determined but it is hoped to be in the large room in Feeley. We will be having a cookie contest, lots of refreshments, and entertainment by the Renaissance Singers. Stay posted for announcements regarding this event. - Bev Fransen [fransenbeverly1@gmail.com](mailto:fransenbeverly1@gmail.com)



## WHAT ARE THE CLUBS DOING?

**Mystery Book Club:** Dear Mystery Readers, we continue to enjoy each other's company as we discuss mysteries. *All RI Members are invited to join us.*

Next meetings and books:

- Friday **December 1, 2023, 11:30 AM, *The Searcher*** by Tana French We are meeting on this date instead of the end of November or the end of December.  
*We will meet in the Club House at Cross Keys*
- Friday, **January 26, 2024, 11:30 AM *Big Sky*** by Kate Atkinson. *We will discuss meeting place for January 26 on December 1.*



Please come with book ideas for future selections for February and March.

All of the above books have at least one copy available at the Baltimore County Library. -Nikki Cole [colendleb@aol.com](mailto:colendleb@aol.com)

**Get To Know You Club** will continue to meet twice a month on Mondays at 2:00pm. In November we will meet on Nov 13 and 27th. We meet at the home of Barbara Rooney. We encourage new members to join our friendly meetings as a way to get to know other members. For more information contact Barbara at [roddonia@comcast.net](mailto:roddonia@comcast.net). - Betty Loafmann [4eastinn@gmail.com](mailto:4eastinn@gmail.com)



**A New Club Has Formed- The POP-UP Club:** RI members who take classes on campus value our sense of community and part of this are the ad hoc conversations we have between classes. RI members who take their classes exclusively or primarily on Zoom have less opportunity for these conversations. Now we have found a way to address this gap. After several meetings with representatives of this zoom

community, we have created the **POP-UP Club**. Periodically, the club will offer its members a chance to discuss a particular topic. Everyone who meets the criteria of taking classes exclusively (or almost exclusively) on Zoom is an automatic member. There is no cost or other obligations. Discussions will be scheduled for times when there are no classes. The first discussion will be scheduled in the next two weeks. Anyone with a suggestion of a topic for discussion \*(no lectures- this is not a class) are asked to send your ideas to Betty Loafmann

[4eastinn@gmail.com](mailto:4eastinn@gmail.com)



**Music Fellowship: MUSICAL EVENTS AT THE RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE - FALL 2023:**

On **November 8**, RI members enjoyed a concert by the Renaissance Pickers, RI members John and George Meredith along with their brother, Jim Meredith and long-time friend, John Partilla.



These next two events take place in FIC 003 at Noon:

**November 29:** By popular demand, we will repeat the SONG CIRCLE. Renaissance 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. With the Holiday season around the corner, we will also sing some Seasonal songs and Carols.

Additional items:

The Renaissance Singers are meeting on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM in the Riley Room in Fourier Hall. We are preparing some wonderful Songs of the Season for a Concert on Friday, December 8 at the Year-end Party at Noon.

-John Meredith [johnmeredith1439@gmail.com](mailto:johnmeredith1439@gmail.com)



**Congratulations to Nancy Heinold, RI member and director of the Renaissance singers. Her 65+ USTA tennis team won the Mid-Atlantic championships and will be competing in the National Invitational in Surprise Arizona in January.**