

Renaissance

Monthly October 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet the Instructors PG. 2 - 3

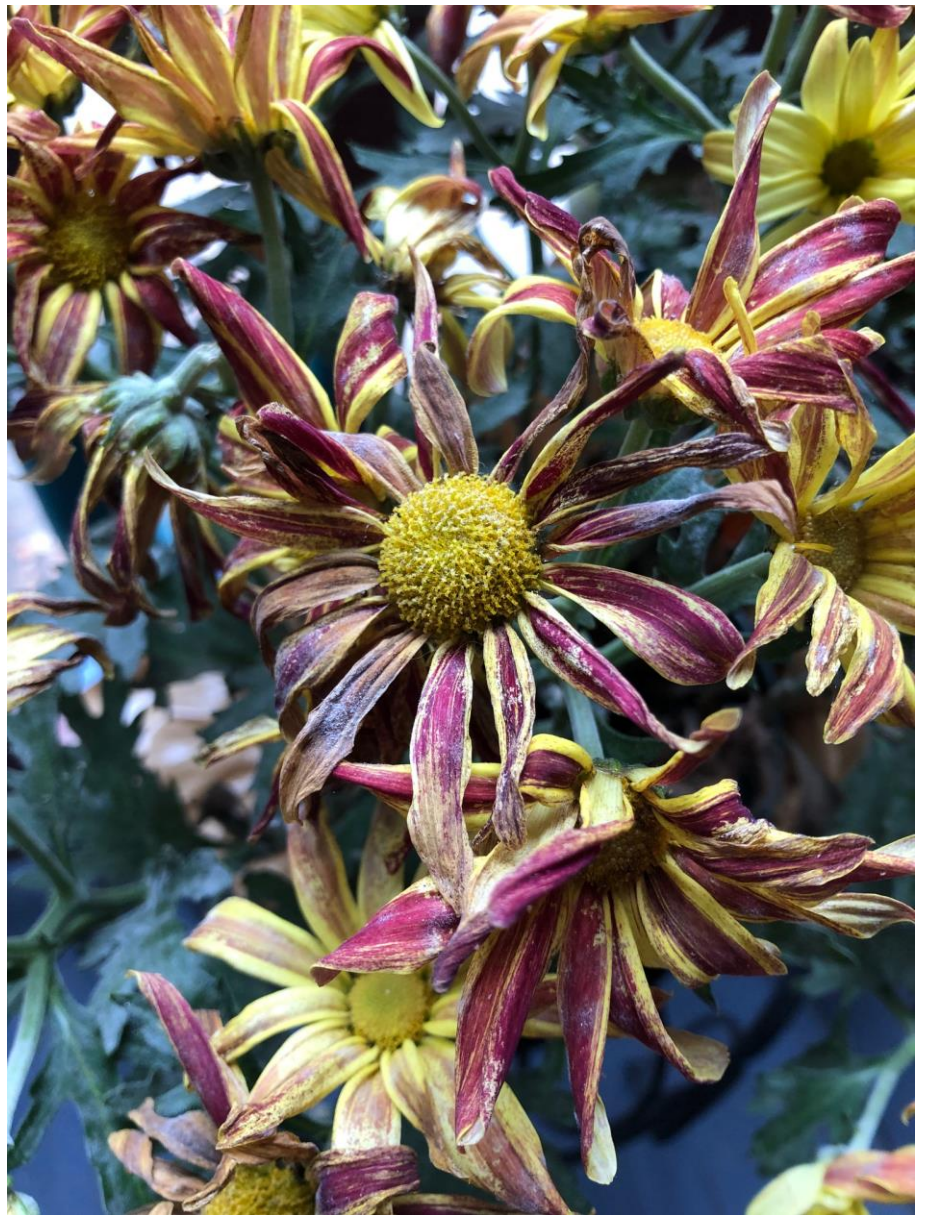
Terry Weisser interviews Carol Daddazio about the rewards and challenges of teaching.

Behind the Scenes PG. 4 - 5

Winter in the City is launched, and the Roving Reporter describes behind-the-scene activities at RI,

Clubs & Committees PG. 6 - 9

Information from the council, and updated information from the Renaissance committees and clubs, and a salute to our Zoom community.



Autumn in Baltimore: A Glory of Colors
(Courtesy of Carlene Moscatt)



Bread & Soup Free Lunch Has a Large Devoted Following

Hello, RI friends,

October is a busy time. We are all abuzz with business and pleasure, so let's get straight to the point:

OCT 17th TUES: COURSE PROPOSALS DUE

OCT 19th THURS: BREAD AND SOUP FREE LUNCH

OCT 31st TUES: HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

NOV 8th WED: OPEN HOUSE FOR FUTURE NEW MEMBERS

NOV 9th THURS: DEADLINE for WIC SUBMISSIONS

For details about all these events, keep reading



A VISIT WITH CAROL DADDAZIO

AS INTERVIEWED BY TERRY WEISSER

What brought you to Baltimore and to Renaissance Institute?

Our daughter and her family moved here and since we couldn't bear to be apart, we found ourselves in Baltimore. We had lived in Brookline, MA for almost 40 years and this was a large and mostly happy adjustment. Fortunately, the people we've met in Baltimore are friendly and warm. We took classes at a couple of other places but didn't find a good match. From the beginning of my experience at RI, I knew this was the place for me.

You immediately joined the Curriculum Committee and focused on helping to develop our pool of instructors. Why is that?

Out of curiosity I dropped into a Curriculum Committee meeting and found a group of hard-working, smart people so I joined up. I'm particularly interested in trying to grow our group of instructors. Everyone has so many experiences and interests that I'd like to see more people try teaching at RI.



How has your background as a teacher influenced you at RI?

Second only to my family, I'd have to say I love teaching. I think teaching has enriched my life beyond words. Whether working with six-year-olds or adults, I always learn more than I teach. The people at RI are a fascinating group. I'm dazzled at the breadth of their experiences. I don't think you have to have been an educator to offer a class here. Everyone I've met knows a lot about something they enjoy. That interest and enthusiasm is what makes for a great class. The biggest obstacle to getting new members to teach is a lack of confidence or maybe shyness, but to me that's unwarranted. We've all taken classes from people who aren't trained as teachers but do a wonderful job. I'd like to encourage people to try and of course I'm willing to help as much as possible.

Do you prefer Zoom or classroom courses?

I joined RI the very semester COVID shut us down, so I'd say zoom is very natural to me. I've missed out on meeting new people on campus but the idea of watching a class in my comfy slippers is pretty appealing.

Do you have a favorite teaching moment?

Apart from the fun of being in a class and being able to show members something new, my favorite moments have been when I've encouraged a member to take on a larger role in teaching. It's been wonderful to see people stretch and grow. I'd say they've found it rewarding too.

You seem to always come up with courses with engaging subjects that connect with members. For the spring semester you have chosen “Villains.” How did you come up with that theme? Do you have any advice for others thinking about developing a course?

I recently taught a class called “Singular Lives” about people who made a huge impact in a positive way. But then I wondered about people who were not so good, who were proper villains and I thought it would be fun to get to know some of them. I suspect that at least some of the villains have redeeming qualities. I didn’t think I could do all the work so I asked people I know and in one case someone I didn’t know at all if they’d like to think about presenting a villain. Very few people turned me down, most often people did have someone in mind who interested them.



I think that most members would like to make a presentation if they have an interesting topic, and they feel they can get support as necessary. It’s been so much fun to ask and see how members really are enthusiastic about contributing. Maybe people can’t see themselves doing a six-week class, but they can do one presentation. Of course, I’m hoping they will enjoy it so much that they think about doing a class on their own or maybe with help from other members.

Are there other classes you’d like to teach or take?



Right now, I’m wondering whether I could do a class on documentaries. There are some amazing ones and they’re short enough for one class. I’d like to take a class on “The Moon: Science and Art,” because although I get the basics about the moon there’s a lot I don’t understand. I’d also like a class on American Geography because it’s staggering how much geological variety there is in our country. I wish someone would do a whole class on Rembrandt or maybe a class on the top European painters of the last 500 years. I love children’s books and I’d love a class where we discuss our favorites or our children’s favorites. I know so little about African or Asian art, it would be great to have a class on those styles of art in some kind of context.

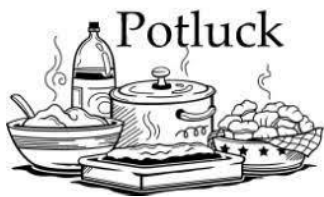


A Message from RI Director Shirley Bigley: I have some much-needed orthopedic surgery scheduled for October 18 at Union Memorial so I will not be on campus for about a month. I expect to be home by the 20th and return to “work from home” status after about two weeks.

Please consider helping out Sandy by volunteering at the kiosk or answering the phones if she is helping others or managing tech issues.



As part two of the semester begins, people also may need help finding classrooms, especially if some larger rooms come on line. Please be patient as we work through that.



WINTER IN THE CITY

Is only 8 weeks away!



SUSAN SEROTTE

RI's motto, "Join for the classes, stay for the friendships," reflects our strong community within Renaissance. Winter in the City – unique among lifelong learning programs – provides semester break activities, allowing RI members to socialize and learn, in less formal settings than classes. At these events, hosted by member volunteers, we meet new people, get to know each other better, and build relationships.

The Winter in the City Committee is counting on you to help us put together a rich array of events for the months of December and January.

If you're wondering what type of activity to host, you'll find lots of ideas on the RI website – www.renmember.com – along with step-by-step directions for planning an event and writing a catalog entry. Activities which have always been very popular include potluck meals in members' homes or in FIC, often coupled with a theme, games, or discussions, restaurant meals, hikes in local parks, and museum tours. John Meredith's sing-alongs have been big hits, as well. We will try to include more Zoom events, this year, and have posted a few examples on the website. A chronological list of events will also be found on the website, so sponsors can avoid scheduling on a date already taken.

The semester break runs from December 9 – February 2. **Spring Course Previews will take place on December 12 and 14, from 10:00 to noon; events should not be planned at those times.**

The success of this project depends on broad member participation. We hope you will step up and host a get-together. We guarantee you'll enjoy making new friends! **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING EVENTS IS THURSDAY, NOV 9.** Please send your description to riwinterinthecity2@gmail.com, ASAP. THANK YOU!



A SALUTE TO BEHIND THE SCENES HEROS

“... calm prevailed, as Sandy Adams appeared and performed a deep diagnostic dive under the computer...”



One day, the Roving Reporter was strolling through FIC, enjoying the sights and sounds of a typical morning at Renaissance. Fresh-brewed coffee perfumed the air, and a table was laden with cookies, pretzels and fresh fruit to sustain us through a full morning of classes. RI members filled the hall and the RR traveled happily from one lively conversation to the next.

The sounds of the chorus could be heard, as they warmed up, zipping through a few scales before practicing holiday music. A couple of members appeared at the end of the hall bearing big bags of books, as they continued the task of moving volumes from the old library in Fourier to the new library in FIC. A cameraman and reporter for a local TV station appeared, ready to film classes in progress and interview members.



Later in the day, the RR visited a class in which there was an equipment snafu—calm prevailed, as Sandy Adams appeared and performed a deep diagnostic dive under the computer. This made the Roving Reporter chuckle, as Nancy Heinold had been observed earlier, during chorus rehearsal, making a similar deep dive under the piano.

“...This made the Roving Reporter chuckle, as Nancy Heinold had been observed earlier... making a similar deep dive under the piano.”



Popping into the RI offices in order to check the calendar, the RR was richly amused to see the versatile Ms. Adams on the floor, along with RI member Joyce Dennison, hard at work replacing a flat tire on the dolly. (The RR hadn't realized that dollies were prone to flat tires.)

Another activity that intrigued the RR was the quartet in Shirley Bigley's office, examining carpet samples for a possible new rug in the Renaissance Room. Rugs don't just materialize, as it turns out—someone has to choose the color before talented people arrive to install it.



After observing these wonders it occurred to RR that Renaissance keeps humming for a lot of reasons, thanks to dedicated people, but so much of its success is thanks to all these behind-the-scenes preparations, decisions, adjustments, and repairs. So, here's to everyone hard at work behind the scenes: we see you!



COMMITTEE & COUNCIL UPDATES



News From the Council: RI sent 6 individuals to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute’s conference held at Clemson University from July 17-19, 2023. Post-conference, the group members each submitted a summary of their findings and met in person to identify six possible paths for Renaissance in the future. These findings were presented at the Sept 27 Council meeting. The group agreed that Marketing, Relationship with NDMU, and Growing Hybrid Classes (a subcategory within the topic of Curriculum) are the highest priorities that deserve the Council’s attention. The suggestions in the remaining areas – Membership/Social Engagement, Volunteer Engagement, and Community Engagement with ‘Greater’ Baltimore Metro – reflect a collection of and opportunities for RI to explore to enhance its program. Members interested in additional detail can access the minutes on the RI website. –Sandy Adams, Page Campbell, Elizabeth Fanto, Amanda Joyce, Beth Volk, Tim Casey tjwcasey@comcast.net

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Reflections - Carolyn Sutton (the2suttons@gmail.com) or Marcia Dysart (mjdysart@gmail.com).

REFLECTIONS, our annual arts and literary magazine is gearing up!

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED:

- Submit art, photography, prose and poetry for publication. Submission sheets with pertinent information are on the remember.com site under Forms
- **Join our team** as a juror, designer or editor. Contact Marcia Dysart mjdysart@gmail.com or Carolyn Sutton the2suttons@gmail.com if you are curious.

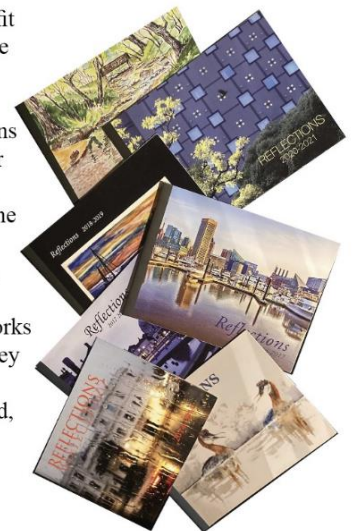
HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

- Prose and poetry categories welcome essays, poems, memoirs, short stories, plays and more. Length restrictions are on submission sheets
- IMPORTANT DATES**
- Prose, poetry and digital photography may be submitted any time until January 12, 2024.
- Original artwork must be dropped off at the RI office between February 6 and 8, 2024 and will be photographed and available for pickup by February 15.

THEN WHAT?

- Editors review the work and begin to make suggestions for works that go together, that compliment each other, or enhance each other in some way.
- Copy editors and visual editors review the pieces to ensure they fit the size, style, and content requirements for the publications.
- Designers take over, working in Adobe InDesign, making decisions about each page and its particular aspects. They look at the overall flow of the book, at the style of the publication, and at any special considerations would make each submission the best it can be. Typically, a team of designers works together on a number of pages they take responsibility for.
- Final copy is submitted, reviewed, and sent to the printer.

SEE THE FORMS at remember.com for complete information.



SOUND INTERESTING?

- We’re here to teach you all about the process, and about using the software, Adobe InDesign. Email Carolyn the2suttons@gmail.com. You’ll get a chance to learn and practice the entire process before making a final commitment. We have a team of designers who stand ready to take on more partners!!



Social Committee: We are preparing a “**Bread and Soup**” luncheon on **October 19, 2023**. It is a “Free Lunch” and will be served at 12:15 in the large room in FIC. We will be serving until after 1 PM. All are welcome. All are also invited to bring deserts for this occasion and they can be brought to the kitchen anytime in the morning of October 19 or to the luncheon. “Soup and bread” is being prepared by the committee and other RI members. There will be vegetarian and gluten free offerings...



We are looking forward to a **Halloween Celebration on the 31st of October**. We encourage you to come in a costume and be ready to parade in the hallway at 12:15 after the second classes finish. We have a parade leader, prizes will be awarded, and music and dance is in the mix. Don't be late! Get your costume ready! We'd love it if you brought some donations of treats.

In **mid-November RI will be having the fall memorial service**. We will have tables in the hallway to remember those whom we have lost. You might want to start thinking about bringing in pictures or mementoes for this “All Souls Remembered” event. —*Beverly Fransen*
fransenbeverly1@gmail.com

Membership: The RI Membership Committee would like to continue to welcome the 27 New members and 10 Returning members to the Fall semester. We will be scheduling a Zoom meeting in the next few weeks to take the pulse on “Life at Renaissance.”



Anyone who has not received the member information packet may pick one up at the RI Offices upon request. 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. New members have been provided name tags with special notations so if you see them on campus, please give them a warm RI "welcome. – *Vickie and Joe Lapicki*

jlapicki@aol.com



Curriculum Committee: Last call for course proposals! Have you been thinking about submitting a course proposal for spring semester but procrastinating? Do you want to dip your toe in teaching but can't find just the right subject? Do you have a topic you want to tackle but lack the confidence to present it? We are here to assist and inspire you. We can suggest possible topics, mentor you in putting together a course and work with you on best practices for teaching and classroom and online technology. **Proposals are due October 17**. We would be pleased to receive yours. *Terry Weisser* — terryweisser@gmail.com



Communications Committee: We've been working hard to get the word out about all the activities scheduled for October, November and beyond. At the same time we're savoring the present, where the full classrooms attest to the quality of the courses. We've observed the emergence of a vibrant Zoom community of RI members, and we look forward to reporting about enhanced opportunities for social as well as academic activities for out-of-town and out-of-state friends. --Amanda Joyce amanda.joyce7131@gmail.com

Library Committee: The RI Library is open for business in its new location! (The "library" is actually a bookstore with all books for sale). It is in FIC Room 018, just down the hall from the RI office. Come in whenever school is in session, browse and buy. We are still in the process of moving books from our old library in Fourier 107 to our new site. Anyone who wants to help transfer books, please stop by Fourier 107, fill a bag with books and leave them in FIC 018, either on the table or on an empty shelf.

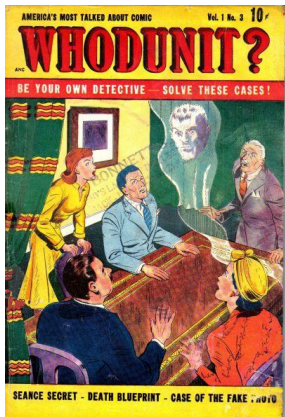


We have fiction, mysteries, all kinds of non-fiction, poetry and even some reference books. All books are still only 50 cents - just put the money in the green coffee can. Happy browsing!

Judy Floam - jmfloam@gmail.com



WHAT ARE THE CLUBS DOING?



Mystery Book Club: We invite all RI Members to join us for thoughtful discussions.

-Friday, **October 27, 2023, 11:30 AM**, *Rules of Prey* by John Sanford. Whitney Jacobs will lead the discussion

-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

-Friday, **January 26, 2024, 11:30 AM** *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson

We will meet at the Cross Keys Clubhouse in October, and December 1.

All of the above books have at least one copy available at the Baltimore County Library. As always, we welcome all RI members to join our discussions. -- Nikki Cole colendleb@aol.com



Music Fellowship: The following events will take Place in FIC 003 (the Big Room!), on Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon.

October 25: UKE JAM AND SINGALONG. All Uke players at any skill level are welcome and we need singers also to join in.

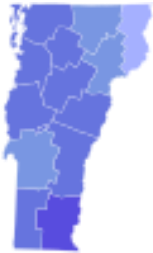
November 8: BLUEGRASS CONCERT by the “Renaissance Pickers”. This Band includes RI members John and George Meredith along with their brother, Jim Meredith and long-time friend, John Partilla.

November 29: CONCERT by “Tomato Junction”. This is the Renaissance Institute House Band featuring several R. I. Members. *John Meredith* - johnmeredith1439@gmail.com



Thanks to Zoom, the Renaissance Community has extended north, south, east & west.

Happy Halloween, whatever your time zone may be!



- PIKE'S PEAK -

