

RI NEWSLETTER SPECIAL EDITION – A GUIDE TO THE COMMITTEES & CLUBS

2022 - 2023



(Laura Workman)

From 2022 sketching group
hosted by Andrea Naft

ONE COMMUNITY, MANY MOVING PARTS

Committees are the sturdy fabric of our program, and each strand is essential. While the Council and Administration supply much in the way of policy making, hard work, and vision, the committees contribute ideas, perform innumerable hands-on tasks, and plan many of the events that allow Renaissance members to enjoy so much in the way of year-round stimulation, study and fellowship. In this special edition of the newsletter, the committees will introduce themselves, explain what they do, why their work is important, and what you might be expected to do if you join. A committee is at its most dynamic when there is a continuing mix of new and veteran members.

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From the Summer in the City
Archive: RI members tour the
Bromo Seltzer Tower

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Our members: Janet Currotto, Elizabeth Fanto, Amanda Joyce, Ellen Lindenbaum, Saul Lindenbaum

“Take a turn or two with the Weekly Announcements; interview an interesting instructor for the newsletter; take a photo or two to accompany an article; or take a turn as the Roving Reporter!”

What is your committee’s purpose?

Well, of course we aim to keep the RI Community informed about all things related to RI – classes, social activities, community events, outreach. And we try to get the word out in a variety of ways – via email, morning announcements, on-campus bulletin board and the website. One thing we ensure is, there need be no *one* way that RI members get their information.

What exactly do you do? Tell us about a typical month in the life of your committee.

We’re a task-oriented group. Each week Elizabeth puts together Weekly Announcements which Sandy then distributes to the membership via email. She also creates an abridged version for instructors to read aloud to their classes. With half the members on campus and half on zoom, the announcements give everyone the same information at the same time. Amanda puts together a newsletter that goes out the middle of each month, with input from the whole committee. Our creative consultants, Saul & Ellen Lindenbaum, contribute essays and interviews. Janet prepares a bulletin twice a month that replicates a physical bulletin board and includes RI activities as well as campus-wide and community events.

Favorite Memory or Accomplishment?



Taking photos of Bob Jacobson’s music class in FIC, Spring 2022. It felt so good to be back on campus, making noise!

Why would I want to join the committee? What would I be expected to do?

Community spirit has always been essential to Renaissance, and we see communications as an important way to tie our community together. If you join, you can be as busy as you want to be: take a turn or two with the Weekly Announcements;

interview an interesting instructor for the newsletter; take a photo or two to accompany an article; or take a turn as the Roving Reporter! Interested? amanda.joyce7131@gmail.com

THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

“There is no requirement for teaching experience or curriculum development, just a desire to help create the best program possible for Renaissance.”

Are you curious about how our courses are developed?

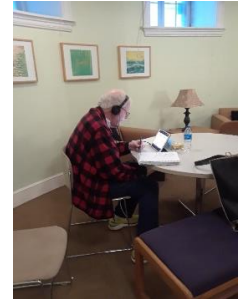
Would you like to be part of that process?

Have you ever wanted to change the course offerings or the schedule?

Would you like to share your ideas for new courses in a comfortable, collegial setting?

Would you like to contribute to Renaissance in a meaningful and enjoyable way?

Would you like to meet other members and form new friendships?



Why not join us on the Curriculum Committee? The courses at Renaissance are the backbone of our program. It is what attracts and keeps our members coming back for more. Our committee focuses on developing the courses and the schedule for the academic program. We are a congenial group that respects diversity of thought and values its members' input in decision-making. There is no requirement for teaching experience or curriculum development, just a desire to help create the best program possible for Renaissance.

What do we do? We meet once a month, usually on the first Wednesday at 2:00 on Zoom, so casual attire is welcome (even comfy PJs and fuzzy slippers). At our meetings we:

- discuss current issues and gather feedback on Renaissance members' preferences
- create task forces to find solutions to pressing questions, giving leadership opportunities to members of the committee
- reach out to potential instructors encouraging the development of new courses
- review and approve a solid and varied program of courses for each semester
- organize course previews so that members can make informed choices about courses they are considering

Our Product? A varied and solid course program presented to current and potential members. **We welcome you!** Please join us to become part of an exciting, productive, and friendly committee with a central and meaningful impact on the Renaissance program.

Contact *Terry Weisser* or *Kathleen Bennett* for more info. Terryweisser@gmail.com, bkbbennet@verizon.net

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Renaissance Institute Finance Committee oversees the total finances for the organization. The committee is responsible for, but not limited to the following tasks:

1. Preparing the annual ROI Budget, in concert with the RI Council and Director
2. Overseeing the monthly expenditures of the organization, with the RI Director
3. Preparing the monthly budget report for presentation to the RI Council, Executive Committee and RI Membership
4. Assisting various committees in developing budgets for their programs
5. Working directly with committees that require funding, such as social, marketing, and curriculum
6. Developing additional methods of funding RI

The Finance committee is a small group of individuals that provide financial guidance to the overall RI Organization.

“We are looking for individuals that have some financial background that would like to help with this program. We need more individuals that have a desire to help grow and keep the Renaissance Institute financially sound.”

If you would like to help, please contact me. Thank you - Ken Pfeifer
wkpfeifer@comcast.net



LIBRARY COMMITTEE

“We hope to revive the Library Sale soon. And Committee members take turns writing a “Librarian’s Corner” column for the RI bulletin, reviewing a book or books that can be found in The Library.”

What is the Library Committee? First of all, what is The Library? To start, you need to know that the RI Library is not a library. Why is it called “The Library”? I’m not sure, but I think you used to be able to borrow the books. Now it’s a mini-bookstore, a room full of books for sale, at 50 cents a book. You’ll find it in Room 107, Fourier Hall. Before Covid changed everything, RI members spent all their campus time in Fourier and could just pop into Room 107 to buy a book between classes. To browse The Library now, you have to already be in Fourier, or make a special trip there. But your browsing will be well rewarded, with books on all subjects: mystery, history, novels, biography, travel, plays, poetry, art and more. Books are donated by RI members and proceeds go into the RI coffers. And because many of us now go to classes in FIC (and that’s where the coffee and snacks are), we have a Library cart in the RI office at the end of the hall, with a curated selection of books and a cash box for payments.



So that’s The Library. But what does the Library Committee do? We don’t have regular meetings, just a few jobs to do. We shelve new donations: when people donate books, they leave them near the door in Room 107, and we put them on the shelves where they belong. We select books for the book cart in the RI office. And during the summer, we spend a morning in The Library organizing the books.

In past years, the Committee held a sale every semester, selecting books to put out on tables in the Fourier lobby, for members to browse and buy. We hope to revive the Library Sale soon. And Committee members take turns writing a “Librarian’s Corner” column for the RI bulletin, reviewing a book or books that can be found in the Library.

If you are interested in joining the Library Committee, please contact me at

jmfloam@gmail.com

Judy Floam, Chairperson

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Current members: Kathleen Bennett, Babs Biermann, Page Campbell, Tim Casey, Paula Murphy, Ken Pfeifer, Kathleen Stone

Mission

Seeking and utilizing best avenues to promote continued growth of membership through ongoing, effective, and timely creative efforts.

What is our current activity

Our 2022 committee is just emerging from the Pandemic years, RI was threatened and unsure of its direction. RI survived. This past summer we accessed assistance and direction from NDMU Graphics Dept. That led to the production of RI bookmarks and small business cards. Both were distributed to current members with the intention of slipping them into the hands of future members. Both are still available in the RI Office.



Since we are gaining a richer vision, and learning our resources to reach a greater audience, a drive to offer our program to newly retiring people throughout the Baltimore area, as well as those who can participate from afar, is now important. We are recognizing an expanded neighborhood.

Presently we are preparing a brochure about RI's unique qualities to offer to retiring employees of local corporations, institutions, and businesses. We expect to continue to collaborate with existing RI committees to spread the word about RI and to enrich our own community.

“We are welcoming off-standard ideas and begging for those from current members. We need fresh, wild, and out-there suggestions. We also hope that any members with marketing experience will consider giving us a boost.”

Why you will want to join this committee

We are welcoming off-standard ideas and begging for those from current members. We need fresh, wild, and out-there suggestions. We also hope that any members with marketing experience will consider giving us a boost. We are a pretty hot committee, eager to use cutting edge and evidenced based practices as our resources will allow.

We meet about once every other month, but often convene via email and zoom more frequently, when new issues and ideas arise. - Paula Murphy murphpgm@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

“Committees are composed entirely of volunteers who bring energy, experience and dimension to the dynamic academic community. Without exception, all committees are critical to the success of Renaissance and all members are enriched by the labor each group contributes to keep the organization flourishing.”

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Membership Committee chair and committee members to work together in an environment that enhances creative action, builds friendships, increases personal growth, and produces a positive result that will satisfy the needs of Renaissance while making those who have done the job feel worthy and proud.



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Committees make decisions about work in their area of responsibility. It is essential that they interact with each other in the spirit of shared intellectual and cultural pursuits which Renaissance represents.

COMMITTEE MAKEUP

Chairpersons of the committees are named by the President, and members of the committees are named by their chairperson. Each Committee Chair has the option to appoint a co-chair.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MISSION

Promote membership recruitment, retention and satisfaction. Respond to the needs of all Renaissance members. Maintain a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for new and current members. Recruit new members and promote continued participation of existing members.



- Conduct meetings with committee members.
- Recruit new committee members and promote participation of existing members.
- Encourage members to bring friends and acquaintances who may be prospective members to visit.
- Identify new and prospective members who would make good candidates to coordinate classes, have special talents or areas of expertise. Share with Curriculum Committee.
- Ensure the needs and suggestions of members new and old are addressed through a variety of communication methods.
- Work with other committees to encourage more social activity among members by small interest group development and extended programming to include social components.
- Initiate programs to achieve a membership reflective of the racial and ethnic makeup of the community served by Renaissance.
- Orient new members to RI culture.
- Assure new members have committee contacts available.
- Utilize handbook for new and ongoing members.



Reflections

WHAT IS IT? Our annual juried literary and arts magazine, published in the spring each year. There are two major groups that make this happen: members who submit pieces and those involved in creating and publishing the magazine.

WHAT CAN I SUBMIT, HOW AND WHEN? Up to three entries in each of four categories: art, poetry, photography and prose: paintings, memory pieces, poems, drawings, essays, photos, very short stories or plays, sculptures and other 3-dimensional pieces. Submission sheets have important information you need to send in your works. There will be publicity letting you know when your entries can be submitted. Deadlines are mid-January to very early February. Some class instructors will advise regarding selections. Editors will be glad to assist you with any questions or problems that you might have.

WHO PRODUCES THE MAGAZINE? Many members with varied roles. Editors receive pieces, get them to the jurors, sort out juror results, assess art/photography submissions and how they may relate to poetry/prose pieces and contribute to final layout. Jurors, knowledgeable about their subjects, read prose/poetry works or view photography/art pieces and judge how they might fit well in the magazine. Designers fit entries onto each page and assess details of how each page appears

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN? September - meeting of members who are interested for current year, jurors selected, calendar completed. October – submission sheets available on renmember.com, publicity starts. November-December – submissions can be sent, publicity continues. January – prose and poetry deadline, jurors receive works and complete judging, artists can bring original work into office. February – art and photography deadline, jurors receive works and complete judging, art is photographed and returned to artists. All entries are entered into InDesign software, covers considered, first layout to match poetry and prose with artwork. March–early April – several design and layout sessions take place, editors assist, magazine goes to publisher, proofs come back to designer, final proof approved May – publisher completes magazine and it is distributed at the end of the semester.

2022-2023

Reflections is looking for a few people who would like to learn InDesign on campus to input prose and poetry and assist with design.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

“When this committee was formed more than 15 years ago, the registrants filled out their course selection on paper.... Now, with the process being on-line, the committee's work has shifted to a limited advisory role, which is not to say the advice is not needed.”

The Registration Committee has undergone more changes than any other RI committee in many years, because the registration process itself has changed. When this committee was formed more than 15 years ago, the registrants filled out their course selection on paper and committee members checked them for errors and made suggestions concerning choices that were made by the registrants.



To many of us, this day was our favorite day of each semester. Everyone showed up on registration day. The production of the manual process was amazing. People would line up as early as 7am to be sure they were able to get the classes they wanted.

Everyone having been reminded several times that to make the process easier to correct, "PENCIL, PENCIL, PENCIL" became the theme of the day!

It is hard to believe but we would register as many as 250 people and feed their information into the system all in one day.

Now, with the process being on-line, the committee's work has shifted to a limited advisory role, which is not to say the advice is not needed. Assistance is still often needed to help new members and to troubleshoot the occasional snafu with registration. We also offer occasional pre-registration advice to the membership. For example, know what courses you want to take and make a list before you begin the actual registration as the system may time out on you and require that you start over.

One of the parts of assisting with registration I personally enjoy is the opportunity it presents to meet and converse with members who you might not get to know otherwise. Although it is no longer as personal as it once was, the opportunity is still there to make an RI friend! Carolyn Santry - co-chair clsant@hotmail.com Margaret Wright- Chair margwright@comcast.net

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

“People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” If you are reading this then YOU ARE LUCKY!

The RI Social Committee is dedicated to serving the membership to build and sustain friendship both on and off campus during the class year and summer and winter vacation breaks. This effort is extended to both in-person and zoom environments. The committee sponsors, arranges, creates, and advertises events and activities via bulletin boards and email announcements extended weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly to members. Committee members can be called upon to contribute in all sorts of ways including donations of food, activity set-up/clean-up, collecting information and resources, and soliciting members to join and even inventing new activities. The levels of expertise needed in this group are infinite.

Two ongoing processes are actively pursued by this group:

Observing and surveying the membership of RI to best understand the needs, interests, and preferences

Gauging event success noting ways to improve and expand

“Committee members can be called upon to contribute in all sorts of ways including donations of food, activity set-up/clean-up, collecting information and resources, and soliciting members to join and even inventing new activities.”



Our most popular events to date have been: Opening Day Party at the KOC parking lot; Zoom Halloween Party; Holiday Party on campus; Zoom Valentine Party; St. Patrick’s Day or PIE Day (3.14159... or March 14th), and our End of Year Party – again at the



KOC parking lot. The RI musicians and singers have been present at many of these events making them extremely delightful.

New ideas are being vetted now. Through the airwaves and in person we need you and your ideas and we want your company. The overall commitment of this committee is “inclusion” and the fostering of friendship, two very unique components of RI. Interested? Contact Beverly Fransen beverlyfransen@frontiernet.net or Linda Webb lwebb6666@aol.com

SUMMER/WINTER in the CITY COMMITTEE

“Each year, during the weeks between semesters, we help members get together and have a good time. “

The mission of this committee is the enhancement of community at Renaissance. In other words, we are the Glue Factory. Each year, during the weeks between semesters, we help members get together and have a good time. This usually includes learning, sometimes exercising and almost always eating - the skill set we rarely brag about, but do exceedingly well.

We host 1-3 meetings, in which members create a list of possible activities, solicit invitations from members who will host events (we are especially fond of potlucks), ensure that these invitations are communicated via emails as well as posted on our website and then sit back while the hosts and their guests communicate final plans.

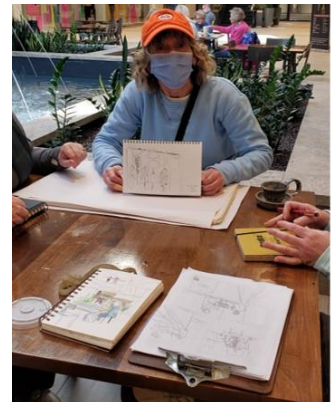
RI is so much more than classes. It is a community of interesting people. The best way to experience the richness of belonging to RI is through the work of this community. Please join us. Susan Serotte nshed7915@comcast.net and Becky Kennedy beckykvt@gmail.com



Andrea Naft



Nancy Caplan



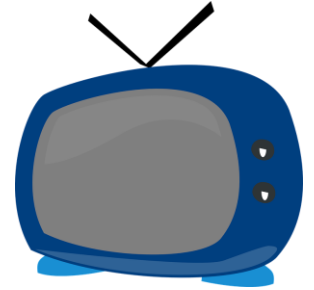
A sketching group hosted by Andrea Naft met in the winter and continued through Spring 2022. They met at a number of venues including Kenilworth, Rawlings Conservatory and Walters Museum.

RENAISSANCE ALSO HAS CLUBS – HERE ARE A FEW



THE GET TO KNOW YOU CLUB: You may be surprised to learn that the purpose of our club is to facilitate members "getting to know each other." We meet in someone's home or on zoom depending on the latest COVID threat. We take great pride in our sophisticated agenda. Our meeting officially begins when anyone arrives and protocol is strictly followed by starting with "Hi. How are you doing?"

From there we discuss anything anyone thinks of. Sometimes we discuss a movie, something seen on tv, or a book. Names related to these topics are often forgotten, but that in no way impedes the conversation.



We meet every other Monday at 2:00pm. Anyone interested in joining either a) once in a while or b) regularly, can do so by contacting *Betty Loafmann* or any other of our 8-13 members. 4eastinn@gmail.com

MYSTERY CLUB



What is your club's purpose?

The Mystery Club is a gathering of mystery enthusiasts, who wish to share their insights into the solving of the current book's mystery. We discuss craft, plot, characters and of course clues. Books to read are chosen by the participants.

What exactly do you do?

We meet once a month, usually on the last Friday of the month for approximately one hour. During our meeting, as with most book clubs, we chat among ourselves first. Next, we discuss the book in a very informal context. Each member is respected and heard. Fortunately, we don't always agree about the selected book. Different perspectives are welcome. At the end of our discussion, we nominate books for our next selection, and agree as a group, on the next title or titles.

Why would I want to join the club? What would I be expected to do?

Reading mysteries is enjoyable and thought provoking. Each member is expected to read the selected book and contribute to our discussion. Nikki Cole colendneb@aol.com

MUSIC FELLOWSHIP

These are the dates for the musical events that were scheduled this fall and offered on Wednesdays, from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM, in Feeley 103.

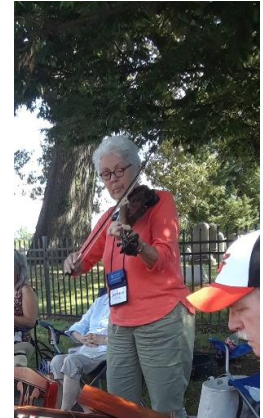
Oct. 19: BLUEGRASS /COUNTRY BAND CONCERT

Oct. 26: UKELELE JAM

Nov. 2: BLUEGRASS /COUNTRY BAND CONCERT

Nov. 30: CONCERT BY "TOMATO JUNCTION"

The Uke Jams are open to all: musicians on other instruments, singers, and listeners. We try to accommodate everyone by providing lyrics and music sheets for guidance. It is always a lot of fun.



The Bluegrass Bands are the same groups that entertained the History of Country Music Class in the Spring. We have some new material and we encourage sing-along participation from the audience. Our new name is "The Renaissance Pickers."

"Tomato Junction" is now the name of the Renaissance Institute house band featuring the hammered dulcimer, fiddle, guitar and piano. You may have seen our debut at the welcome back party on Sept. 9.

ALSO: The Renaissance Singers, directed by Nancy Heinold, will entertain at the RI Christmas Luncheon THURSDAY, DEC. 8, at 12:30. Look for more details from the Social Committee.

– John Meredith

johnmeredith1439@gmail.com

