



RENESAN

2016-2017 Annual Report

Board of Directors

Steven Rudnick, President
Margie McGregor, Vice President/Marketing
John Littrell, Secretary
Neil Heighberger, Treasurer
Nancy Baker, Chair Curriculum Committee
Mark Davis, Member at Large
Robert Glick, Member at Large
Bruce Johnson, Member at Large
Marquisa LaVelle, Member at Large
Jeremy Sabloff, Member at Large
Ling Tong, Member at Large
Barbara Walzer, Member at Large

President's Report

As you will see from the other elements in this Annual Report, RENESAN had a good academic year. I would like to use the opportunity of the Annual Report to extend a lot of thanks to everyone involved in making this happen. RENESAN is a volunteer organization. The only way that I can acknowledge the efforts of the Board of Directors, its officers, and its committees is by saying "thank you, thank you, thank you." This year, I particularly want to single out a few individuals for their contributions.

Neil Heighberger has stepped off the board after serving as both President and Treasurer. If you read his report from last year, you will remember that he talked about our staff reorganization, which took place mainly through his efforts. The fruits of that were clear to me this year as we not only delivered a successful academic program, but also cleared up several existing deficiencies regarding our reporting to state and federal agencies, which had been ignored for years. Neil's reorganization plan also resulted in our hiring Kim Washburn as our Administrative Assistant, another important element in our success. In his position as Treasurer, Neil spearheaded the hiring of our wonderful new bookkeeper, Erin Taylor, who is identifying the remaining employment and reporting issues that we had neglected.

Also stepping away from the board this year were two other long-serving members who have made major contributions to our organization. Donna Gomien, in addition to serving as Secretary, spearheaded the effort resulting in a consistent set of Policies and Procedures available on this website. Donna also led a successful effort to clean up our physical files that had been collecting with little rhyme or reason for years.



Paul Widick left the board after many years of service including stints as both Secretary and Treasurer. I will personally miss Paul's calm wisdom that helped us get through many board meetings.

Several new people have joined the board this year, each bringing new knowledge and skills to our governance. Marquisa LaVelle, a retiree from the University of Rhode Island, has taken on the task of chairing a new standing committee on Human Resources, a committee that found its origins in Neil's reorganization efforts. Jeremy Sabloff has joined the board after many years with the Santa Fe Institute and put the finishing touches on the revisions of the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures. Robert Glick has joined our board after many years with the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation and many years of teaching for RENESAN.

Bruce Johnson has joined us as a retired Professor Emeritus of Accounting from the University of Iowa. The affiliation proved to be invaluable as Bruce stepped in to fill a gap in our bookkeeping needs when we found ourselves looking for a new bookkeeper. Bruce also serves on our Curriculum Committee. Also coming to the board from the Curriculum Committee is Mark Davis, who has also taught many courses for us.

The Curriculum Committee has put forth what I think is the most ambitious and exciting package of offerings in RENESAN's history. Heading it up is our Symposium, "Making Sense of The Sixties: Then and Now" that we are offering in collaboration with the New Mexico History Museum and its exhibit Voices of the Counterculture in the Southwest. This was undoubtedly a crucial time in many of our lives, filled with both pain and pleasure, excitement, and trepidation. I hope to see many of you there and at the 1960s dance celebration that is a part of this. There are also 60 more courses, lectures, trips, and presentations, many of which I hope you find of interest. I am looking forward to your participation in our programs.

And finally, and again, a big thank you to everyone, staff, board, committees, colleagues, and participants who make it so rewarding to serve as President of RENESAN.

Steven Rudnick, President



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Curriculum Committee's Report

Committee members:

John Andrews

Joanne Birdwhistell

Barbara Burnett

Nancy Chambers

Mark Davis

Bette Evans

June Ferrell

Ruth Greenberger

Barbara Hadley

Bruce Johnson

Karen Kleeman

Barbara Lanning

Margie McGregor

Lib O'Brien

Tracie Oliver

Fran Salkin

Membership of the Curriculum Committee changed this past spring with the addition of John Andrews and June Ferrell. George Aune resigned from the Committee when he and his wife relocated part of the year to Tucson. Margie McGregor and Nancy Baker held an orientation session on August 2, 2016, for five new members to discuss how the Committee, Board of Directors, and overall organization works.

The Curriculum Committee has been very productive, helpful in identifying potential new instructors, and conscientious about maintaining working relationships with active instructors/lecturers. In addition, it has been a very collegial group with lots of ideas for programming.

During the Fall 2016 semester, we had a bit of a scare when four of the 54 offerings had to be cancelled or postponed at the last minute. Two of them, "Hotspots" and "The Supreme Court," are typically high enrollment classes. Both instructors had health issues. The instructor for "Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde" has a dedicated following of students, and although the course would have been a smaller discussion course, it was missed when he had to cancel for family reasons. "Notes on Music: Lohengrin," to have been offered in partnership with Performance Santa Fe, had to be rescheduled to a time when RENESAN was not be in session. We are especially grateful to Mark Davis who offered to teach a course on the Supreme Court last fall. While his enrollment was not as high as it might have been had Jim Fitzpatrick been



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able to teach, it helped offset the loss of enrollment and gap in curriculum. One of the two Fiber Arts Trips was also cancelled due to a lack of sufficient enrollment. We were pleased to welcome ten new instructors, lectures, discussion facilitators, and trip leaders during the Fall semester.

Of course, RENESAN also had a 20th Anniversary Celebration last October. A separate special committee organized this luncheon event.

There were also 54 courses, lectures, and trips originally scheduled for the Spring 2017 semester. Fortunately, only one of them, “The Politics and Economics of China,” had to be cancelled at the last-minute due to an unexpected scheduling conflict for the instructor. Because of the size of the waiting lists and the willingness of the trip coordinators, a second trip was added, the “Geologic Hike to Abiquiu” and the “Velarde Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Tour.” The second trip to Mesa Prieta had to be postponed about a week when a substantial spring snow storm made the original date unfeasible. When it was announced that Bob Dylan had won a Nobel Prize for his writing, Lib O’Brien offered to add a last minute one session course on Dylan’s poetry for Spring semester. Mark Davis coordinated RENESAN Reads! in the absence of John Littrell and Mark will assume this responsibility this coming year. We were delighted to have nine new instructors, lecturers, discussion facilitators, and trip leaders for the Spring semester

Since the Fall 2017 semester is now scheduled, I personally believe it is one of our richest semesters in terms of range and number of offerings. During much of the past year, Lib O’Brien, Margie McGregor, Ellen Rosell, Bruce Johnson, and others devoted many hours planning the Fall 2017 symposium on “The Sixties.” Much of this work was done in partnership with staff from the New Mexico Museum of History. We are all grateful for these efforts to create what promises to be an exciting week-long event. In addition to the symposium, we have nearly 60 courses, lectures, RENESAN Reads! discussions, and trips planned.

Over the summer months, the Committee has made some revisions to the evaluation process and has updated the list of responsibilities for liaisons. Special thanks to Tracie Oliver for her work on these projects.

This has been my second full year as chair of the Curriculum Committee. I could not have accomplished this work without the support of the committee members and the Board of Directors. For this, I am most appreciative.

Nancy Baker, Curriculum Committee Chair



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Registrar's Report

During Fall 2016, there were 30 courses, 10 lectures, 5 RENESAN Reads, and 5 trips with 2,369 net seats sold. During Spring 2017, there were 32 courses, 11 lectures, 5 RENESAN Reads, and 6 trips with 2,402 net seats sold.

Ellen Rosell, Office Manager

Treasurer's Report

REnesan is in a solid financial position. We finished last year with a net income balance of \$1,675. The staff, under the leadership of Dr. Ellen Rosell, was instrumental in insuring that we finished without a deficit. Our bookkeeper departed the first of January and an open inclusive search required several months to conduct. We were successful in hiring an experience bookkeeper, Erin Taylor, who assumed the responsibilities of the position in May. I would like to thank Bruce Johnson for serving as the interim bookkeeper while we were searching for a new permanent bookkeeper. The board has adopted a balanced budget for the 2017-18 year that does not include fee increases.

Neil Heighberger, Treasurer

Secretary's Report

Bruce Johnson served as Acting Secretary for four months during John Littrell's Semester at Sea travel. Copies of the approved, monthly RENESAN board minutes for the 2016-2017 academic year are filed in the RENESAN Office, St. John's United Methodist Church.

John Littrell, Secretary

Marketing Committee's Report

The Marketing Committee is responsible for informing RENESAN students and the Northern New Mexico community about our curriculum and other special events. The committee is also responsible for designing, producing, and distributing RENESAN catalogs and other informational material.

Two exciting opportunities during the past academic year enabled to increase our visibility in the community:

In early January 2017, our office received a call from Jennifer Levin, a writer for the Santa Fe New Mexican's Pasatiempo. It was referred to me, as Chair of the Marketing Committee. I met with Jennifer and Pasatiempo's Editor, provided them with background



information about RENESAN and contact information for students and faculty members who could talk to about their involvement with us. The end result was a very favorable article in Pasatiempo's January 27, 2017, edition titled "College Seniors: Renesan Institute for Lifelong Learning."

Our other exciting opportunity arose when we became aware of the New Mexico History Museum's exhibit "Voices of Counterculture in the Southwest" overlapping with our November 2017 Symposium on "Making Sense of The Sixties: Then and Now." I contacted the Co-Curator of the exhibit, and Lib O'Brien, coordinator of our symposium, and I began a series of meetings with Co-Curator Meredith Davidson in November of 2016, including one with the museum's Director, Andrew Wulf. The museum was very interested in collaborating with RENESAN on our respective programming on The Sixties. As a result, we have our first partnership with a major Santa Fe cultural institution scheduled for November 13-16, 2017.

We continue our weekly Constant Contact emails to our list of over 1,800, highlighting the lecture of the week and including information about upcoming classes, RENESAN Reads!, and the Tuesday Current Affairs discussions. We also send out brief descriptions about our weekly lectures for inclusion in their calendar listings to Santa Fe NOW, Albuquerque Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, IQ Magazine, Pasatiempo, Santa Fe Reporter, and Los Alamos Monitor. Our ads run in Pasatiempo and the Sunday edition of Santa Fe New Mexican the Friday and Sunday before online registration opens.

Jim Baker, is responsible for the Marketing Committee's catalog production and continues his work of designing and laying out our semiannual catalogs – adding engaging graphics to liven them up.

We continue our "Down and Dirty Grass Roots Marketing" effort, thanks to Board and Curriculum Committee members, staff, and volunteers who distribute catalogs, bookmarks, and posters of our ads to locations appropriate to our demographic --- libraries, gyms, cafes, performing arts venues, medical facilities, and offices, etc. This was so successful in the spring that we ran out of catalogs after six weeks. Materials become available for pick up in a marked container outside the office after the catalog has been mailed.

Margie McGregor, Marketing Committee Chair