

Renaissance Society Summer Semester 2026

“Protecting Democracy” SIG

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Updated 5/5/2026

SIG (shared interest group) description: This SIG is a continuation of a series of Renaissance Society (RS) Protecting/Preserving Democracy SIGs and seminars conducted over recent years. The purpose of this SIG is to gather RS members who share our values about democracy and believe everyone in our society should be treated with respect and without bigotry. We seek ways to support each other as we seek social justice, promote the common good, and work to protect our democratic government and institutions. Our task: to support each other, and to identify, explore, and share information about opportunities for activism. The SIG will be led by a team of volunteer teachers/facilitators/participants from previous protecting and preserving democracy SIGs/seminars.

Location: **Sac State Alpine Hall 122.** Room confirmed for May 8, 22, and 29. Waiting on Sac State Space Management room confirmation for the remainder of the summer semester.

Time: **Friday 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

Spring semester dates: **Weekly classes will begin** on Friday, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. > May 8, 15, 22, 29 June 5, 12, 19, 26 **(No class on July 3rd on July 4th Holiday Weekend)** July 10, 17, 24, 31 2026.

Sign-up registration not required: Renaissance Society does not register summer semester classes.

Goals & Objectives:

- **Discussion:** In each class we will discuss what is happening in our society, how we feel about these events, and what we can do to resist undemocratic actions. In each class we will learn in more detail what the current regime is doing in our country and what the reaction must be to resist this increasingly authoritarian administration.
- **Gather and organize:** Gather Renaissance Society members who share our values for preserving democracy and fostering respect without bigotry for all members of our society. Organize using our individual passions and talents to be of service and on purpose. Be part of the solution to restore the rule of law, the Bill of Rights, and adherence to our U.S. Constitution.
- **Support:** Find and implement ways to support one another to seek social justice and protect our American people and our democratic government and institutions.
- **Share:** Identify emerging community organizing best practices and lessons learned. Share information about opportunities to organize, serve, and be activists to protect the United States, our fellow Americans, and our democratic way of life.
- **Action:** Find our “niche” in the resistance movement and take action to preserve our democracy.

Ken Cross is a 1974 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. He served for ten years as a U.S. Army airborne ranger armor officer. For a decade Ken worked as a financial planner, sales manager, and corporate trainer serving career military U.S. service members. His final career was as CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento building affordable housing for local low-income families. In midlife, Ken and his wife Christine took a year-long sabbatical traveling through 42 US states, searching for their life’s purpose. Ken has led Life’s Purpose workshops since 1998. He previously taught a RS “Top 10” U.S. Domestic Issues & Potential Solutions social justice seminar from 2016 to 2022. In 2025 he began facilitating/teaching Protecting & Preserving Democracy SIGs and seminars.

Protecting Democracy SIG Summer 2026

Seminar time 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. each Friday

Topic blanks below to be filled in weekly based on current political environment.

1	Week #1	May 8, 2026 Friday	<i>Leadership for the 21st Century</i> Ken Cross
2	Week #2	May 15, 2026 Friday	<i>Curiosity - Bridging - Belonging: Building Connections in Divided Times</i> Teresa Lyday-Selby
3	Week #3	May 22, 2026 Friday	<i>Curiosity - Bridging - Belonging: Building Connections in Divided Times</i> Teresa Lyday-Selby
4	Week #4	May 29, 2026 Friday	_____ Ken Cross
5	Week #5	June 5, 2026 Friday	<i>The Ramifications of Violating the Rule of Law</i> Barbara Evans
6	Week #6	June 12, 2026 Friday	_____ Jeff Ferreira-Pro
7	Week #7	June 19, 2026 Friday	<i>The 2026 Midterm Election with guest Steven Cash</i> Ted Goodman - *June 20th "Salon"
8	Week #8	June 26, 2026 Friday	<i>Dealing with the Politics of Revenge</i> John O'Neal
	NO CLASS	July 3, 2026	July 4th Weekend
9	Week #9	July 10, 2026 Friday	<i>Compromise, Consensus, and Change</i> Trish Fontana
10	Week #10	July 17, 2026 Friday	<i>What is the state of the Resistance today?</i> <i>What should be our focus from Jul.-Nov.?</i> Duane Campbell
11	Week #11	July 24, 2026 Friday	_____ Jeff Ferreira-Pro
12	Week #12	July 31, 2026 Friday	<i>Juxtaposition Between Lying & Critical Thinking</i> Barbara Evans

***Special: State of Exception Gaming Salon**, Saturday, June 20, 2026, 9:30 am-3:00 pm.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/state-of-exception-gaming-salon-tickets-1988417785122?aff=oddtcreator> **Deadline no later than June 15th !**