

OBSERVER
MARCH 2, 2020

FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Negotiations with CUNY and The New School

IRP's negotiating team (the EC plus Carol Groneman and Bernie Belkin) is continuing to meet with CUNY officials, working out the overall terms of our becoming a program of the Graduate Center. To develop the terms in greater detail, the Advisory Board has appointed two temporary committees: a Founding Board and an Operations Committee. The Founding Board is chaired by a CUNY official and Harold Berkowitz (both as nonvoting members); the voting members from IRP are Eileen Sullivan, Michelle Harris, Carol Groneman, and Richard Resnik; there will be three CUNY voting members. The IRP members on the Operations Committee will include Miriam Lawrence, Denise Waxman, and Jerry Vogel; CUNY will appoint staff from all their operations divisions, including budget, room assignments, and administration. Both committees begin work this month and should finish before the end of May.

It has become clear that the Graduate Center hopes to house all of our activities at the Graduate Center itself, located at 5th Avenue and 34th Street. Accordingly, the negotiating team is transmitting to the GC specifics about our need for rooms not only for study groups but also for committee meetings and events and also for our public programs like OSOL's workshops on Saturday morning and our

traditional Fridays@One. The committee, SIG, and activity chairs have supplied the data and the negotiating team thanks them for their very advanced planning.

The details of rooms, room assignments, administrative support, catering, as well as our new name, will constitute the agenda of the Founding Board and Operations Committee.

Regarding TNS, the Executive Committee meeting with the President, Provost, and Executive Dean of TNS is still scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

IRP Elections

At its February 25th meeting, the Board decided unanimously to hold elections for a new board in the fall (October or November), with the newly-elected members taking office in January for the start of the spring semester. Last year, the board postponed elections for up to one year, resolving to keep the current leadership in place until our affiliation and space issues were settled and anticipating (or hoping) that they would be settled within a year. Now in the final stages of the negotiations with CUNY and expecting a new start in September, the board decided that the current leadership would remain through the transition and a newly-elected board would take office in January 2021 as we settle into our new status. All IRP members who have been

members for one year or more are eligible to run for the board. Details will follow.

Start and End Dates for Fall Semester

For those of us who plan far in advance, the anticipated start date for the fall 2020 semester is Wednesday September 9. Most study groups will complete their 12th week during the week of December 1 and complete the 13th, during the week of December 8. A few SG will end one week later.

New Members

As part of our effort to welcome new members to the IRP, and help them become part of our activities, the AB authorized a reception for the new members, held at the home of Barbara Marwell, who organized and hosted the affair. Of the 19 members who joined the IRP this academic year, 17 attended, as did their mentors. In addition to Barbara, the welcoming team included Susan Belkin and Sue Goldman, chairs of the mentoring committee; David Grogan, Richard Resnik, Susan Rubens, and Doris Wallace of the orientation committee; Jan Adler of the culture and community committee; Sheila O'Connell, veteran member of the curriculum committee; and, from the Advisory Board, Bernie Belkin, Jane Case Einbender, Jonathan Gaines, Carolyn Preiss, Michael Shapiro, Eileen Sullivan, and Harold Berkowitz.

Reminder: IRP Office and SLU Rooms

Thanks to Adam, a calendar of our events and meetings is available on the ZINE (click on the calendar tab and scroll down). If you are scheduling a meeting, check the calendar first and then email Adam with your date/time. The Executive Committee again asks members to email, rather than phone, requests to

Adam and to identify the nature of the request in the subject line. Also, please set up appointments with Adam and avoid just dropping by, when this is at all possible.

Again, as a reminder, two rooms, 19b and 1923 are available at SLU Monday through Thursday for committee meetings and events after regular class hours, until 4:30. Room 1923 is also sometimes available for committees during class hours. Adam records these meetings on the calendar, so you can check and see when the rooms are free. For socializing, the pantry areas on both 18 and 19 and the reception area on 19 are available and either room 1804 or 1923 is often free. Walk by to check them out.

NEW EVENTS

Travel: Upcoming Trips:

Civil Rights Journey

- When: Thursday May 14 to Sunday, May 17

Sponsored jointly by the Travel and the Diversity Committees, this civil rights journey will increase your understanding of the civil rights movement and its implications for the present day. The trip includes visits to the King Center in Atlanta; the Rosa Parks Museum and other sites in Montgomery, Alabama; the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma; the Civil Rights Institute and 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham; and Sunday morning church services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. A minimum of 20 people must sign up for this trip to take place.

The cost is \$1,085 per person, dropping to \$955 a person if more than 20 enroll.

The cost does not include airfare to Atlanta. For more information, contact Myriam Bucatinsky at:

Myriambuca@gmail.com.

Morocco Sahara Odyssey

- When: January 10-25, 2021

The Travel Committee would like to put together a trip to Morocco with Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) and is assessing interest within the IRP. The trip would be for a small group of 16 people. The price per person would be \$2,995 plus round trip airfare of \$900. For more detail, visit www.oattravel.com/TPP or www.oattravel.com/MSO21.

To reserve, call Overseas Adventure Travel Reservations at 800-955-1925 and mention Group Code: G1-29177. Say you want to reserve for the Morocco trip in 2021 with the Institute for Retired Professionals. The deposit is \$350 per person. If you have questions, contact Myriam Bucatinsky at myriambuca@gmail.com.

MEMBER FORUM

Study Groups

Jan Adler reports that many members responded to his request for suggestions about a study group on the awareness of death, which appeared in last week's *Observer*. Members offered readings and topics and also volunteered to lead a session on a specific issue. Jan advises other members developing an idea to use the *Observer* in the same way. Have more ideas for Jan? Send to: adlerjan@optonline.net.

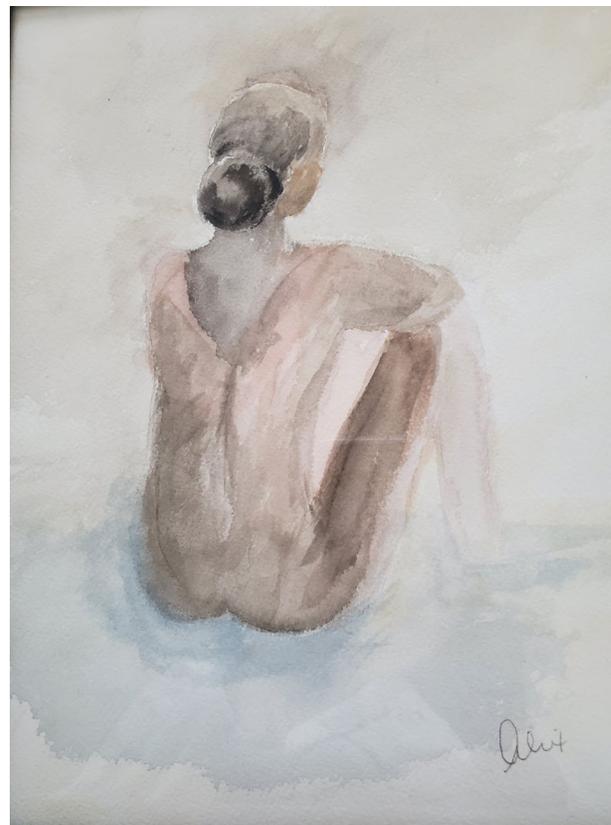
In that spirit, Eileen Sullivan is planning a presentation on the concept of patriotism or love of country as it has developed

over time and would welcome suggestions about perspectives, issues, and readings. Contact her at:

esullivan@rcn.com.

Online Art Show

Alix Kane provides the ninth contribution to the online art show.



Dancer at Rest, 9" x 11" watercolor, by Alix Kane

According to Alix:

"This is a watercolor of the model in the art class I took last year. It was my first attempt at painting a figure."

Travel Committee Seeks New Members

The Travel Committee is looking for new members to help organize and expand our travel adventures for this year and beyond. If you are interested, please contact Myriam Bucatinsky at

myriambuca@gmail.com, or Bob Gerace at rgerace234@yahoo.com.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Members have added to the list of restaurants and places of interest near SLU, originally compiled by Susan Winston. To access the information, [click here](#). Check it out and be sure to email Leslie and Adam if you have made other discoveries.

Performance: "Upper West Side Story"

Carol Sterling, invites fellow members and their guests to a free performance of Stephen Spielberg's "Upper West Side Story," in honor of the Jewish holiday of Purim. The performance is on Monday, March 9 at 6PM at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68 Street. Carol is a proud member of the ensemble and has participated in 13 previous Purim shows over the years. If you are able to attend, please email Carol at:

Csterling646@gmail.com.

REMINDERS

Register for 'A Roadmap To Retirement'

- Saturday morning, March 7
- The New School University Center, 63 Fifth Ave., Starr Foundation Hall, Room UL 102 (lower level)

The Our Stage of Life Committee presents Robert Freedman Esq., an authority on elder law and advocacy for vulnerable populations, who will discuss the legal issues we are likely to face as we age. Mr. Freedman was a founder of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section of the New York State Bar Association.

Coffee and light refreshments begin at 9:30AM. Mr. Freedman's presentation begins at 10, followed by a Q and A session.

The event is open to IRP members and their friends as well as to members of the community. Admission is free. Please register in advance; the committee needs a count to arrange seating and order the refreshments. [Click here to register](#).

Curriculum Committee Workshops in March

All workshops will be held at SLU, room 1923. To register for one of them, [click here](#).

HOW'S IT GOING?—Current coordinators are invited to discuss experiences with their study groups—what's working and what's...not so much.

- Monday, March 2, 1:15-3PM, or
- Wednesday, March 4, 3-4:30PM

Come and share insights and techniques with your colleagues. These meetings have proven very helpful!

COMPLETING A PROPOSAL—Want some help completing a study group proposal for next semester or for the future? Join us on:

- Monday, March 9, 1:15-3PM or
- Wednesday, March 11, 3-4:30PM

Learn more about finding appropriate resources on your topic, organizing a working syllabus, and completing the proposal form. Experienced coordinators will be there to answer your questions.

Artsig Goes to the Shed

- Exhibit: Agnes Denes: Absolutes and Intermediates

- When: Wednesday, March 18, 3:30PM
- Where: 545 W 30th St, New York, NY 10001
- Admission: \$10

The Artsig has added a second day to this trip to accommodate the demand. The trip on the 17th is full but spaces are still available on the 18th. So sign up to celebrate the 50-year career of Agnes Denes at the Shed, the new cultural center at Hudson Yards. The exhibit presents 150 works by this important conceptual, environmental and ecological artist. Join us afterward at the Shed's coffee bar. See NY Times Review "At 88, Agnes Denes finally Gets the Retrospective She Deserves". Sign up via email to Dick Kossoff, chemkos@aol.com.

Women's Group

The IRP Women's Group will meet in room 1923 at SLU on Friday, March 6, at 1PM.

Rather Be In Philadelphia? Spring Break Travel

Celebrate food and the arts in the City of Brotherly Love, two nights, three days. Depart April 14, return April 16. Make your own itinerary. This is independent travel.

- R/T New York City Penn Station to Philadelphia, \$90, 1 hour 30 minutes
- Hotel: Hampton Inn, Philadelphia center city, near all attractions, \$169 per night, subject to change (plus 15% tax, according to availability, single or double), hot breakfast included. Make reservations and payments directly to the hotel.

The Travel Committee can help with an information session before the trip and by coordinating meetings of IRP members during the trip. Contact Bob Gerace at rgerace234@yahoo.com if you are interested. Also see *Observer* February 24 for more detail.

RESOURCES

IRP Zine

- To access the Zine, go to www.irpzine.org. To view the directory or IRP Faces, you must login with these credentials:
 - Username: IRPNewSchool
 - Password: Fall2018
 - For the fall and spring calendars, [click here](#).
 - Member bios: <https://www.irpzine.org/news/new-member-bios-fall-2016/>
 - Observer Archive: <https://www.irpzine.org/irp-observer-2/>

New School Events Calendar

- [Learn more](#) about upcoming events at The New School.

CUNY Events

- Graduate Center Spring Public 2020 Events—To view the lineup and reserve your spot now, click here: www.gc.cuny.edu/publicprograms
- School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) [public programming schedule](#), 2019-2020
- [Public programs in Midtown Manhattan](#)