IRP DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Our team has been enjoying the meet and greets with admissions, orientation, mentors, curriculum and coordinator training committees, held last week. We look forward to meeting all members over the next few weeks in the “meet and greet” series. It has been wonderful to hear about your careers, how long you’ve been with IRP, and memorable study groups. The discussions have been a resounding testament to IRP members’ commitment to the program and how rewarding it has been for so many. We are also using the opportunity of the meet and greets to learn what co-sponsored/co-organized programs and events would be of interest for the IRP community and wider GC community.

I would like to find ways to collaborate with committees, primarily but not solely the diversity committee, to develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan for the IRP. There is special importance for admissions, study group offerings in content and approach, special interest groups, content of public programs/events, and marketing, but beyond committees, this social contract unites all members. As I mentioned in the women’s group meeting last week, IRP members are primed for the work of self-education and community leadership based on the program’s fundamental peer learning and peer organizing. These structures and shared tenets already guide how members relate to and treat each other. We have the ever-important opportunity to be an engine of change within this community to encourage critical discourse and to bring that conversation to our other networks and extended communities.

Additionally, I am interested in gathering ideas for special programs that bring together GC faculty and students with IRP members, with a special priority of welcoming new IRP members in the fall, which is especially important in our remote format. I look forward to welcoming the new members with the orientation committee on June 22 and continuing the meet and greets with other members in the meantime. My office hours will resume on a biweekly schedule on Tuesday, June 30, 12-1PM. Please note that The Graduate Center will hold Summer Work Hours and starting the week of Monday June 22 through Friday August 7, we will work a compressed Monday-Thursday schedule and are “out of office” on those Fridays.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this program, to each other, and to social change to ensure justice and equality for Black people and people of color here and globally.

In solidarity,
Mariel
FROM THE AB AND TECH COMMITTEE

Access to CUNY Library
We have full access to CUNY library, including all its digital collections—books and articles; go to https://gc.cuny.edu and then click Library at the top of the page. The catalogue is free to all; once you've entered your search and gotten results you have to enter your CUNY email address and password.

CUNY Emails
Your email is important for many things in addition to library access. CUNY will send all IRP mail, such as the Observer and class registration information, to our CUNY email. You can always access it at https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa/. If you prefer to read your CUNY email where you read your other email, there are several options in the document at this link: https://bit.ly/3caNQO4.

IRP Tech Website
Remember this link for advice and instructions about all things tech, including emails: https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration Reminder: Add/Drop Deadline
If you’d like to modify your fall schedule, please choose from the list below. The due date for this first round of ADD/DROP is tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16.

The following study groups have LIMITED AVAILABILITY:
- Bertolt Brecht: Politics and Art
- Cleopatra - A Witness to the Ebb and Flow of History
- Homer's Odyssey
- It Can't Happen Here, CAN IT?
- North American Indians: A History
- The Underground
- TR
- Great Conversations from Great Books
- The Co-evolution of Language and the Brain

The following study groups are OPEN:
- Quantum Mechanics in the Modern World
- Revisiting Feminism
- Road to Now (A Political System in Tatters)
- Writing Memoir: Telling Your Story
- Energy: Sources, Policies, Security & Impact
- Love, Loss and the 19th C Novel
- America - Empire of Hegemon
- Shakespeare Out Loud: King Lear
- Capitalism: A History

Please send your request to Adam at irp@newschool.edu. Be sure to write ADD A STUDY GROUP in the subject line.
Do’s and Don’ts of Zoom Etiquette

On behalf of the Curriculum Committee and the Zoom Improvement Project (ZIP), Linda Anstendig sends along these guidelines for participating in Zoom classes. She notes that all of the behaviors listed (including the don’ts) have been noted by coordinators and participants. Linda also requests that we save this page and keep it by our computers; we’re all in this together on screen!

**Do** get tech help from tech assistant if needed by either making arrangements to login to class session early, or finding another mutually convenient time via email or phone call

**Don’t** interrupt class with personal Zoom issues

**Do** learn and practice *muting* and *unmuting* yourself; only the coordinator or tech assistant should remind participants to do so; *unmute* yourself before you speak; re-mute yourself right after you speak

**Don’t** call out to remind class member to unmute

**Do** learn to *raise your hand* electronically and *lower your hand* if your coordinator expects you to use that function; tech assistant can also help with lowering hands

**Don’t** wave hand or call out unless your coordinator approves of that format

**Do** use *Chat* function according to coordinator’s instructions to comment or ask a question or text a helpful message to a class member

**Don’t** use *Chat* function to criticize or send inappropriate messages to another class member

**Do** stop video (click “more” option on your picture) and make sure you’re muted if you need to leave the screen for any reason; mute phones

**Don’t** make noises or shuffle papers unless you are on mute

**Don’t** have more than one Zoom link open for same meeting (causes feedback noise)

**Do** look directly at screen and camera during class session; elevate your computer so that camera is at your eye level and you are looking directly at camera

**Don’t** have a bright light or window open behind you as it puts your picture in shadow; avoid having a flickering or pixilated screen background showing behind you

**Don’t** engage in other distracting behaviors, such as looking away, talking to a family member, adjusting your appearance, speaking on phone, eating, or smoking

**Do** dress appropriately as you would for regular classroom

**Don’t** wear beach or sleep attire.

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Diversity-Outreach Committee

On June 19 we commemorate Juneteenth when, 155 years ago, African Americans in Texas learned they were free. Although the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued more than two years earlier,
slavery continued in Texas until that Juneteenth Day. To learn more, check out https://youtu.be/hJKzdksodNY.

Voter Registration Project
The Voter Registration Committee is meeting with CUNY staff later this month to consider how we will proceed with our voter registration campaign in the fall. We will keep you advised on our plans.

There are groups dealing with voting issues that need our help now. One organization, Vote Save America, has a program that allows you to adopt a swing state from the comfort of your own home. By doing so you can directly support the work of organizers, volunteers, and candidates in one of the six key battleground states. Here is the link to a video explaining how it works. In addition to adopting a state, you may want to adopt a dog or cat after watching it: https://youtu.be/wAGhkvwfqiY. You can sign up to choose your state here https://votesaveamerica.com/adopt-a-state/.

Another organization, Reclaim our Vote, works to overcome voter suppression, specifically registering and re-registering people of color. They are partnering with an impressive array of groups and are focusing on voter suppression states—Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas. More information can be found at https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup.

IRP Voices—COVID Photos
Sixteen photos were submitted to IRP Voices in response to our request for work relating to our current situation. Some of the photos illustrate the response to the pandemic in New York City. Others bring us to memories of places visited, or to visions of beauty. Jerry Vogel has placed the photos on Google Drive—click here to view. If you click on any photo it should appear larger on your screen. You can scroll from one photo to the next by clicking on the arrows on the left and right side of the photo.

Here, to give a preview of what you will find, is the photo by Richard Herrmann—Social Distancing in Central Park.

Thank you to the photographers whose work is represented in the exhibit: Rosalie Frost, Richard Herrmann, Peter Houts, David Lerner, Michael Shapiro, Robert Sholiton, Susan Winston, Iris Zevin, and Jack Zevin.

The poetry and prose submissions, while not numerous enough for a special issue, will be part of the next issue of Voices—and some of it will appear in the Observer over the coming weeks.
ONLINE ART SHOW

Patti Kaplan provides our twenty third contribution to the online art show.

According to Patti:

“This is a pastel called “Lily Pond”, from memory of a small lily pond in the San Francisco botanical gardens. Painted from a snapshot I took while visiting my son in 2015. It’s approximately 10”x12” pastel on paper.”

Title: Lily Pond, Pastel on paper
By: Patti Kaplan

New Site for Displaying Work of IRP Artists
Revisit the IRP Art Shows of 2013, 2015, and 2018. Look again at the artwork published in the Observer this year. You will find it all on the new ArtSig site. Just go to the Zine, click on Activities, then select ArtSig. Click on the pictures to enlarge them and marvel at the creativity of IRP’s artists.

The site will not only record past art shows, it will be the place for showing future work, too. Included will be a link to Voices so that you can admire the productions of other IRP artists.

Thanks to Jerry Vogel for setting up the site and to Peter Houts for recovering all the pictures.

Questions: Dick Kossoff chemkos@aol.com.

REMINDERS

Scholarships
The Institute for Education in Retirement (IER), the IRP’s fund-raising arm, is offering a limited number of needs-based scholarships for the coming academic year. The application and instructions are on the Zine under the Scholarships tab. The deadline for applications is TODAY June 15.
Inter-Term Activities Continuing

- **Short Stories Aloud** Every Tuesday, 4PM, Contact Sharon Girard at proustmatters@gmail.com
- **Federalists Forever** Every Other Thursday, 4PM. Next sessions June 18, July 2, July 16. Contact Howard Miller at howard3915@outlook.com.
- **Men’s Group** Every Wednesday, 12:15PM, Contact Jay Fleishman at ejayfleish@aol.com.
- **Women’s Group** Every Thursday, 3PM Contact Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@aol.com.
- **Pour at Four** Every Friday, 4PM. Hosted by Susan Rubens in 24-hour chat room https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff.

**MEMBER FORUM**

Keep your ideas coming to Leslie Davis at ldavis7104@yahoo.com.

**Promoting Racial Justice**

**Research**

- From Leslie Davis: The New York Public Library’s website links to the Schomburg Center’s Black Liberation Reading List and other resources.
- From Susan Sabatino who passes along this item from her mentee, new member Shanna Richman: Merriam-Webster Revises ‘Racism’ Entry After Missouri Woman Asks for Change—https://nyti.ms/2UNNJBZ
- And here’s a link from Stand Up America to a video explaining what is meant by “Black Lives Matter”. Click here to watch the video then share it with your friends and followers.

**Donations**

Reminder: Members have commented that one way to show solidarity with those who are most affected by racism and unequal justice is to provide financial support. Since we often don’t know where to make our donations, these members have begun to suggest groups engaged in ongoing work to build strong Black communities, fight racism, and end police brutality. Here is a first list of groups vetted by Common Cause. We welcome additional suggestions.

- Black Lives Matter Global Network
- NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Movement for Black Lives
- Campaign Zero
- National Police Accountability Fund
- National Bail Fund Network

**RESOURCES**

**IRP Zine**

- Observer Archive https://www.irpzine.org/irp-observer1-1

**CUNY Graduate Center**

- See https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar for the most centralized GC events calendar.

The Advanced Science Research Center’s (ASRC) upcoming webinars explore CUNY’s interdisciplinary excellence and opportunities in the following areas:
  - June 23: Hacking Biology to Advance Medicine [go.pardot.com]

Center for Humanities: https://centerforthehumanities.org/ online events are listed (current series on translation). You can also subscribe to its newsletter.

Segal Theatre Center: https://thesegalcenter.org/ – Online events are listed; can also subscribe to newsletter.