

**OBSERVER
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

Our New Space

Our first week at CUNY's School of Labor and Urban Studies was difficult in some respects and a success in others. To start with the difficulties: although we understood that we had three rooms at SLU from 9:30 to 4:30, it turns out the 3 rooms are available to us only until 3. This has implications, of course, for our committees who prefer to have meetings, workshops and other get-togethers after classes. Second, because SLU built its classrooms and reception areas near their offices, we received complaints about the effects of our conversations in the hallways and reception areas.

On the road to the successes, we do have some ways to deal with the situation. First, SLU has made available a 4th room, free of charge, 1923 on the 19th floor, for meetings, workshops, etc. from 9:30 to 3 Monday through Friday. Committees that are willing to hold events during class time (for example on alternate days each month to accommodate as many members as possible) or after 12:30 on Friday, can book this room through Adam. Committees can also, of course, schedule meetings and other events at TNS through Adam.

For rooms to socialize and eat, 1923 at SLU is available when not being used by committees. Other spaces at SLU more available than hallways for socializing and also for lunch are the pantry/kitchen

areas on both the 18th and 19th floors and the reception area on 19. (Just be conscious to take with you what you bring in—as the Sierra Club and Appalachian Mountain Club say regarding environmental preservation).



IRPers enjoying company and food in the pantry area on the 18th floor.

Regarding the 100% successes, members were delighted to return to classes; coordinators were ready to go, displaying impressive skill with the A/V equipment thanks in part to the work of the new Tech Committee; and SLU's tech staff were very responsive to any requests for assistance. So for what is a great tribute to all, 35 study groups—ranging in topics and time from American Humor on Monday at 9:30 to Literature and Science on

Friday at 11—led by experienced and new coordinators-- got off to a great start.



Here are other IRPers in the reception area on the 19th floor. Photo credits: Adam Blaton.

General Membership Meeting

- Friday, February 14, 1:15-3:15PM
- Theresa Lang, 55 West 13th Street, Room 202

Please come to hear the latest news and stay for the reception to see old friends and make new ones. New members are especially welcome.

Fundraising

Acknowledgment letters will be going out later this week to thank all the members who have contributed so far to the Instituted for Education in Retirement (IER), our fundraising arm. The campaign continues, as we hope to come as close as possible to 100 percent participation.

EVENTS

Save the Date

The Our Stage of Life Committee presents:

A ROADMAP TO LEGAL ISSUES IN RETIREMENT

- Saturday, March 7, 9AM-Noon
Coffee and light refreshments begin at 9AM, Mr. Freedman's presentation begins promptly at 10, after which there will be a Q & A session.

Robert M. Freedman, Esq., a nationally recognized authority and pioneer in the field of elder law and advocacy for vulnerable populations, will discuss legal issues that we all must face as we age.

Join your fellow IRPers and members of the community at The New School University Center, 63 Fifth Avenue, Starr Foundation Hall, Room UL 102 (lower level).

Admission is free, but please register in advance by [clicking here](#).

Thinking About Coordinating But Want Assistance?

Bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee's **LET'S GET STARTED** workshop in room 1923 at SLU on:

- Wednesday, February 26, 11:15-12:45PM

Whether you have just the germ of an idea or one that is almost fully developed, this workshop is for you. We will work together to support the development of your ideas, suggest resources, help you to find a co-coordinator (if you want one) and answer your questions about the Study Group proposal process. RSVP to

Adam via email irp@newschool.edu or 212-229-5682.

Upcoming workshops, Save the Dates

- How's It Going, Wednesday, March 4, 11:15-12:45PM, Room 1923, SLU
- Developing a Proposal, Wednesday, March 11, 11:15-12:45PM, Room 1923, SLU

ARTSIG

Event Schedule Changes

We have had to reschedule the spring ArtSig events. The new schedule (in order) is:

- The Shed (Agnes Denes), March 17 (as previously planned)
- Brant, moved from February 18 to a new date in April (exact date to be determined)
- Mana, in May (exact date to be determined)

More details will be announced later.

Online Art Show

Robin Sacknoff provides the fifth contribution to our online art show.

According to Robin:

“As a street photographer, I always look for inspiration as I walk around the city. I saw this image on a wall in the Meatpacking district, and it resonated with me at once. In troubled times we need these simple words.”



Einstein, by Robin Sacknoff

Virtual Senior Center Program, Member Experiences & Opportunities

On Wednesday February 5th, the IRP Virtual Senior Center Committee, which has provided webcasts to homebound seniors in the Selfhelp Community Services Program for many years, will host its first presentation this semester. Rosalie Frost will discuss "Through the lens of three more photographers-Eugene Atget, Ruth Bernhard and Robert Mapplethorpe".

In this program IRP members choose the topics for their webcast. Topics range widely in content, but all are geared to promoting lively 45-55 minute discussions with engaged participants. Webcasts are held on Wednesday afternoons at 3PM in the IRP office at 16th Street. Adam is available to oversee the

session and provide technical assistance as needed.

In an effort to provide a sense to IRP members of how satisfying it is to participate in this program, we asked last semester's presenters to describe their topics and their experience with the participants. Here are excerpts from the response of two of those presenters, Arlynn Brody and Steve Kalinsky.

Arlynn Brody: "The webcast I presented invited my audience to actively participate in a discussion of the themes and characters of Tennessee Williams' play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". Steve Kalinsky participated with me in reading aloud (with our most dramatic voices) parts of Act 1. I then described my interpretation of the action. A few of the video participants asked questions which enhanced their understanding of the play.

A couple of the participants requested further readings. We read scenes from Acts 2 and 3, which I had prepared in advance. Much to my surprise they loved our acting. We were told that now they understood the play. We were asked to return. I was amazed at how much we were appreciated. It was so gratifying to be invited back. This was part of a course that Steve and I coordinated on Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller. It was a wonderful experience".

Steve Kalinsky: "Eva Vogel joined me on the webcast. Our topic was immigration to the United States. We discussed history, pointing out how restrictions (or lack of restrictions) have changed over the centuries. We emphasized that economic conditions here and whether or not it was a time of war or peace made a big difference. Eva spoke a little bit about

her experience. And then we opened the discussion to our audience. WOW. They were quite animated. We had a couple of women who were holocaust survivors who told extremely compelling stories and another woman described how she left the West Indies for the United States. We and our audience then spent some time critiquing current US policy. We (Eva and I) exited the webcast at 4PM. The audience continued the conversation among themselves. I have done about a half dozen of these webcasts. This one was, by far, the most interesting from the standpoint of the comments made by the participants and the most fun for me. It was quite an afternoon".

So, now that we have given you a taste of the variety, energy, and fun that have brought some IRPers back for more webcasts, please consider whether you may be interested in doing one yourself. If interested in exploring this further, please contact Fran De Lott via email to francesditt@gmail.com or phone, 212-362-9807.

Finally, the Virtual Senior Center Committee is interested in adding one or two members who will assist in identifying members for future webcasts. This does not require committee meetings or much time, but it is important to widen the net for new presenters. Contact Fran De Lott if interested.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Information Sessions Coming Up; Please Spread the Word

The Admissions Committee will hold Information Sessions for potential new IRP members on:

- Friday, February 28, 1-3PM at SLU

- Wednesday, April 22, 3:15-5:15PM at TNS

Now is the time to reach out to people you think may be interested in joining the IRP. We are seeking to broaden our membership with qualified applicants who will reflect the diversity of our city. If you know such individuals, please tell them that they can arrange to attend one of the information sessions by calling the office or by sending an email to Adam.

LunchMate

The Community Building Committee, chaired by Jan Adler, is asking you once again to help strengthen our communal bonds and our knowledge of a new neighborhood by making dates for lunch with members new to the IRP or new to you, during this spring semester. Feedback from the effort last semester was quite positive, so try it, or try it with someone else. If you have other ideas about the focus of this committee, email Jan Adler at: adlerjan@optonline.net.

RESOURCES

IRP Zine

- To access the IRP 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](#).

New School Events Calendar

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

CUNY Events

- Learn about [Music in Midtown](#), a program of free concerts at 1PM on Thursday afternoons at the Graduate Center on 5th Avenue and 34th Street
- School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU) [public programming schedule](#), 2019-2020
- [Public programs in Midtown Manhattan](#)
- Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation of the Graduate Center presents: Music from Copland House-Voyage Out on Monday, February 3, 7:30-PM, at Elebash Recital Hall, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 365 5th Avenue. Free concert.