

**OBSERVER  
MAY 11, 2020**

**FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT  
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER**

Dear IRP Members,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to The Graduate Center.

Welcome to a community where knowledge is shared. The Graduate Center thrives on collegiality and collaboration, the passion to explore new ideas, and the conviction that generating knowledge is essential for advancing the public good — the intellectual values that you hold.

As a top graduate school within CUNY, the largest public urban university in the country, we have a vital connection to New Yorkers through our more than 40 doctoral and master's programs, our research institutes and centers, and our wonderful public programming — our lively ongoing conversations about essential issues and ideas.

We invite you to sample our public programs, many of which are archived on our website. And, please join us remotely for our third annual Dissertation Showcase livestreaming on May 19, when six of our exceptional doctoral graduates present their original research in a way that you will find both inspiring and entertaining.

While we will have to wait to host you at The Graduate Center in person, it was heartening to learn that your summer enrollment has significantly expanded this year — because of the remote learning platform.

I think you will agree that this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

With warm regards,

James Muyskens  
Interim President

## FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD

On Saturday, all IRP members received the announcement about our summer sessions. The announcement, including the study group grids for both sessions and the registration form for the first session, which starts May 26, is now also posted on the Zine. Here is the link to the grids, and here is the link to the registration form for the first session.

- Session 1 Study Group Grid: <https://bit.ly/35QCICR>
- Session 2 Study Group Grid: <https://bit.ly/2WeTcmq>
- Session 1 Study Group Registration Form: <https://bit.ly/2Adk9yh>

**Please note that the deadline for priority registration for the first session is this Thursday, May 14.**

You will receive the registration form for the second session tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12.

Please be on the lookout for these emails and if you do not receive them, contact Jonathan Gaines at [jegaines@att.net](mailto:jegaines@att.net).

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Events between Spring and Summer Terms

[Click here](#) for the updated grid and descriptions of all activities, open and now closed. For your convenience, the updated grid is also on page 5 of this *Observer*.

Here are the additions to the calendar since last week.

#### Reflections on Virtual Life

The next Reflections session with Jan Adler will be on Wednesday May 13 at 1PM. Let Jan know you want to attend at [adlerjan@optonline.net](mailto:adlerjan@optonline.net) and he will send you an invitation.

#### Men's Group Now on Zoom

Meetings are weekly at 12:15PM on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The next session

is tomorrow, Tuesday, May 12. If you want to participate, email Jay Fleishman at [ejayfleish@aol.com](mailto:ejayfleish@aol.com) and he will send you an invitation.

#### Federalists Forever

Thursday May 14 and May 21 11:15AM

The Federalist Papers study group was so successful that many of its members decided to continue for the next two weeks and, perhaps, on into the summer. They are inviting all members to join their discussion of the value and utility of the Constitution not only at its founding but throughout our nation's history. The class will now also explore the role of the Constitution in resolving some contemporary political conflicts and, finally, will compare our democratic republican style of government with other forms of political organization. To that end, the next meeting on this Thursday, May 14 will compare the Chinese system with our own.

Contact Howard Miller at:

[howard3915@outlook.com](mailto:howard3915@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining and he will include you in the Zoom invitation and any other mailings, including a modest amount of readings for the Thursday meeting.

#### Reading Short Stories Aloud Will Continue

Tuesdays 4PM, starting June 2

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman will continue Short Stories Aloud into the summer. Open to previous and new participants, the sessions will be Zoomed once a week for an hour and a half.

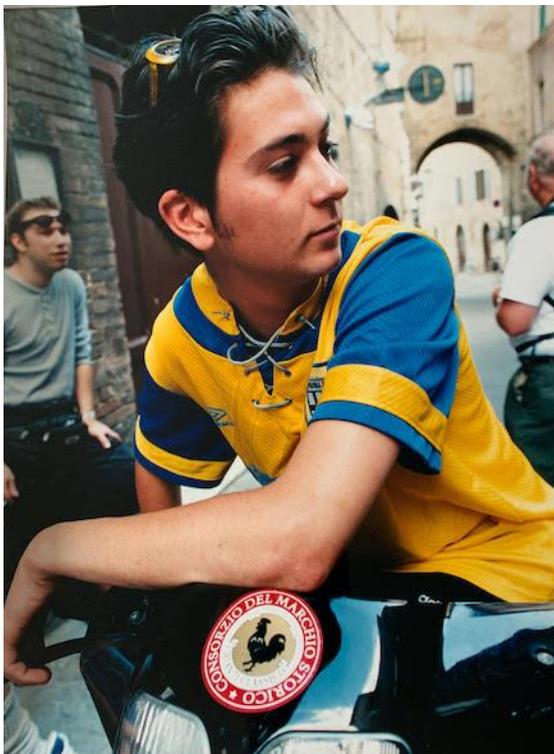
Email Sharon at [proustmatters@gmail.com](mailto:proustmatters@gmail.com) for an invitation (even if you are in the current group.)

#### Advances in Civilization

This Thursday's session at 4PM will be a discussion of Adam Smith, led by Maury Harris. If this is your first time participating in this class, email [stephenkalinsky@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkalinsky@gmail.com) for a Zoom invite.

## ONLINE ART SHOW

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



**Title:** Handsome

**By:** Robin Sacknoff, Photograph

According to Robin:

“This was taken in Italy; I was so taken by his looks that I had to photograph him.”

## REMINDERS

Voices Special Edition: deadline for writing and photos dealing with the current crisis is May 31. Contact Charles Troob at: [ctroob@verizon.net](mailto:ctroob@verizon.net).

Arranging Your Own Zoom Sessions: Send an invitation by signing on to <https://newschool.zoom.us> and follow the prompts or use the 24/7 Chat Room at: <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>. If you need help with Zoom, send an email to [tech@iemnyc.org](mailto:tech@iemnyc.org) with your name and telephone number, describing your equipment and problem. If you know the brand of your device, please include it.

## MEMBER FORUM

We're looking for short items about experiences with virtual reality and physical distancing that you find funny or unexpected and also tips on how to negotiate these difficult weeks. Please keep them coming to Leslie Davis at: [ldavis7104@yahoo.com](mailto:ldavis7104@yahoo.com).

### Enlightenment/Entertainment

#### Photographs

##### April in Central Park

From Richard Herrmann: Lesley and I get our sunshine and fresh air walking in Central Park as a respite from the pandemic.



I was inspired to pair my photographs with poems to create this PowerPoint, [April in Central Park](#).

##### In the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

From Janna Amelkin: The Brooklyn Botanic Garden is closed, but on their website ([bbg.org](http://bbg.org)) there are some interesting videos of the garden this spring.

I watched a beautiful video of the Japanese Garden with the Japanese cherry trees in full bloom. The video simulates the experience of walking through the Japanese garden, and there's another one of the spectacular blossoms

of the Japanese cherry trees on the Cherry Walk. Here's an example picture of the Cherry Blossom trees you can view on the BBG website.



#### In The Keukenhof Gardens in Holland

From Ellen Kolegar: Here are photos from the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland. The photo below is an example of what you'll find on their website (link below).



I saw them years ago, and they are truly the most beautiful I have ever seen. To view more photos, click this link: <https://bit.ly/2AdgEb7>.

#### **A Celebration**

From Susan Sabatino: BAM is having a free virtual gala at 8PM, Wednesday, May 13, on [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

#### **Accomplishments**

Mireya Perez sends this link to a podcast from her new novel, "Back to El Dorado", <https://bit.ly/2yCugwr>.

#### **Tips**

##### Food Delivery

From Bob Sholiton: Here's a list of grocery delivery services <https://bit.ly/2SPs0sD>.

And here is the website of the prepared meal delivery service that I have been using for about 10 years. There are lots of choices and they are very reliable: [www.nutropia.com](http://www.nutropia.com).

#### **RESOURCES**

##### IRP Zine

- For the fall and spring calendars, [click here](#).
- *Observer Archive*: <https://www.irpzine.org/irp-observer1-1>

##### CUNY Events

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

## IRP ACTIVITIES DURING BREAK BETWEEN SPRING AND SUMMER TERMS

### MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<b>1</b> <b>4PM:</b> Pour At Four <i>-Rubens</i>	<b>2</b> <b>4PM:</b> Reflections on Virtual Life <i>-Adler</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10AM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Book Discussion 1918 Flu <i>-Belkin</i>  <b>4PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , MovieGroup <i>-O'Connell</i>	<b>5</b> <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>1PM</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Theater SIG <i>-Smith</i>	<b>6</b> <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Theater SIG <i>-Smith</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Current Events <i>-Kalinsky</i>	<b>7</b> <b>3PM:</b> Women's Group <i>-LeSchack</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Who's the Worst? <i>-Otey, Kalinsky</i>	<b>8</b> <b>4PM:</b> Pour At Four <i>-Rubens</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>4PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> MovieGroup <i>-O'Connell</i>	<b>12</b> <b>12:15PM</b> Men's Group <i>-Fleishman</i>  <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Virtual Tour Folk Art Museum <i>-Millsom</i>	<b>13</b> <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>1PM:</b> Reflections on Virtual Life <i>-Adler</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Current Events <i>-Kalinsky</i>	<b>14</b> <b>11:15AM:</b> Federalists Forever <i>-Miller</i>  <b>3PM:</b> Women's Group <i>-LeSchack</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Advances In Civilization <i>-Opher, Kalinsky</i>	<b>15</b> <b>4PM:</b> Pour At Four <i>-Rubens</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>4PM:</b> <i>The Giver</i> Book Discussion <i>-Kalinsky, Brody</i>  <b>4PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , MovieGroup <i>-O'Connell</i>	<b>19</b> <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>1PM</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Theater SIG <i>-Smith</i>	<b>20</b> <b>11AM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Great IRP Read <i>-LeSchack</i>  <b>12:15PM</b> Men's Group <i>-Fleishman</i>  <b>1PM:</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Story Hour <i>-Girard, Schiffman</i>  <b>1PM</b> <i>[closed]</i> , Theater SIG <i>-Smith</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Current Events <i>-Kalinsky</i>	<b>21</b> <b>11:15AM:</b> Federalists Forever <i>-Miller</i>  <b>3PM:</b> Women's Group <i>-LeSchack</i>  <b>4PM:</b> Who's the Worst? <i>-Otey, Kalinsky</i>	<b>22</b> <b>4PM:</b> Pour At Four <i>-Rubens</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>4PM:</b> MovieGroup <i>-O'Connell</i>	<b>26</b> <b>12:15PM</b> Men's Group <i>-Fleishman</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>4PM:</b> Advances In Civilization <i>-Opher, Kalinsky</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## DESCRIPTIONS

### Planned Events for the Break Between Spring and Summer Terms

#### MONDAY

##### May 18, 3PM, **Discussion: The Giver by Lois Lowry**

Join Steve Kalinsky and Arlynn Brody in a discussion of *The Giver*, which won the Newberry Medal in 1994. It was written for a young audience but contains riveting and powerful themes: Utopian Society, Memory, Individualism, and Euthanasia that should provoke a lively discussion. It is 200 pages long and can be obtained on Amazon for about \$3.99 (Kindle). To purchase on Amazon, [click here](#). Email Arlynn Brody at [olliebrody@gmail.com](mailto:olliebrody@gmail.com) for an invitation.

##### May 25, 4PM, **MovieGroup**

Sheila O'Connell will hold a fourth movie discussion on May 25 at 4PM. If you are interested, email Sheila at [sheilajo@verizon.net](mailto:sheilajo@verizon.net) and she will send you the movie assignment and a Zoom invite for the first session. Limited to the first 30 members who sign up.

#### TUESDAY

##### May 12, 4PM, **Virtual Tour of Folk Art Exhibit**

Join Carol Millsom on a virtual tour of "Memory Palaces: Inside the Collection of Audrey Heckler," an exhibit of outsider art recently on display at the American Folk Art Museum. Email Carol Millsom at [carolmillsom35@gmail.com](mailto:carolmillsom35@gmail.com) for a Zoom invitation. Limited to the first 30 members who sign up.

##### May 12, ongoing weekly alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:15PM, **Men's Group**

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 12. If you want to participate, email Jay Fleishman at [ejayfleish@aol.com](mailto:ejayfleish@aol.com) and he will send you an invitation.

##### May 12, 1PM, **Short Stories Aloud**

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to the pleasures of reading short stories aloud. Stories are emailed to you in advance. We read stories by Flannery O'Connor, Grace Paley, Mark Twain, Raymond, Carver, James Joyce, Jorge Luis, Borges, Woody Allen, Oscar Wilde, Franz Kafka and others. A panel reads the story aloud - sprinkled with its interjections - questions, one-liners, insights wise and dumb and short digressions. After the reading, the plenum joins in for a brief discussion. The panel changes - giving all who wish to read the opportunity to do so. Email Sharon at [proustmatters@gmail.com](mailto:proustmatters@gmail.com) for an invitation. Say if you'd like to be on a panel.

##### May 19, 1PM, **Additional Theater SIG meetings**, if warranted. **[closed]**

#### WEDNESDAY

##### May 13, 1PM, **Reflections on Virtual Life**

This is an opportunity to reflect and share thoughts and feelings about how this crisis has affected our communal and private lives. Let's share experiences and also strategies to survive and even thrive. Email Jan Adler at [adlerjan@optonline.net](mailto:adlerjan@optonline.net), and he will send you a Zoom invite.

##### May 20, 11AM, **The Great IRP Read** **[closed]**

Join with us in our first Great IRP Read. Our book will be *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year. Read the book on your own and come together on May 20th to discuss it. Email Arlyne LeSchack at [lesca683@newschool.edu](mailto:lesca683@newschool.edu), obtain the book (\$7.99 as a PB or Kindle download at Amazon, 288 pp.) and start reading.

**May 20, 1PM, Theater SIG [closed]**

Bruce Smith leads a Zoom Theater SIG meeting where participants will view selected productions available online and then discuss the play production.

**Ongoing, weekly, 4PM, Current Events Group**

Join in a spirited discussion of weekly current events. Recent discussions included the many aspects of Covid-19. Email Steve Kalinsky at [stephenkalinsky@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkalinsky@gmail.com) and he will send you a Zoom invite.

**THURSDAY**

**May 14 AND May 21 11:15AM, Federalists Forever**

The Federalist Papers study group was so successful that many of its members decided to continue for the next two weeks and, perhaps, on into the summer with a changed time. They are inviting all members to join their discussion of the value and utility of the Constitution as conceived by the founders at its origin, and as it has guided our nation through its history. They will now also explore how the Constitution has helped resolve some contemporary political conflicts and compare our democratic republican style of government with other forms of political organization. To that end, the next meeting on this Thursday, May 14 will compare the Chinese system with our own.

Contact Howard Miller at [howard3915@outlook.com](mailto:howard3915@outlook.com) if you are interested in joining and he will include you in the Zoom invitation and any other mailings, including a modest amount of readings for the Thursday meeting.

**May 14, 4PM, Advances in Civilization**

Maury Harris will be leading a discussion about Adam Smith. IRP members who have received Zoom invites for the prior Advances in Civilization session (Archimedes) are able to log in using the prior invitation. Other members of the IRP are welcome to join us. Just send an email to [stephenkalinsky@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkalinsky@gmail.com) and Steve will send a Zoom Invite.

**May 21, 4PM, Discussion: Who's the Worst? Terrible U.S. Presidents**

America has produced some really outstanding leaders (George Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln for example) who have stepped up in perilous times and led our nation to glorious heights. Instead, please join Sara Otey and Steve Kalinsky for a discussion of two other occupants of the White House, James Buchanan and Donald Trump: bad leaders in tough times. One president lobbied the Supreme Court to rule against Dred Scott and took no action when states began to secede, opining: it's illegal, but there is nothing I can do about it. The other president separates families and puts children in cages, blackmails Ukraine, and then there is his ongoing response to COVID-19.

Email Steve at [stephenkalinsky@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkalinsky@gmail.com) and you will receive a Zoom invitation.

**Ongoing, weekly, 3PM, The Women's Group**

Join other women for discussions of current issues, both political and personal. Email Arlyne LeSchack at [arlyneleschack@gmail.com](mailto:arlyneleschack@gmail.com) and she will send you a Zoom invite.

## **FRIDAY**

Ongoing, weekly, 4PM, **Pour at Four**

Set up your own “pour” and join your fellow IRPers to toast our continued social connection via Zoom. Email Susan Rubens at [sfarubens@gmail.com](mailto:sfarubens@gmail.com). On the pour date just go onto the chat room website—IRP 24 hour Zoom Meeting Room: <https://NewSchool.zoom.us/j/381380077>. No Zoom invite needed.