

## INSTITUTE FOR RETIRED PROFESSIONALS

The Observer, September 29, 2020

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear all,

Thank you to the nearly 200 members who joined us last week at the General Membership Meeting – you received a follow-up email on Thursday with important links and reminders mentioned in the meeting.

We saw a good response to our tech help desk offered three days last week, nearly 20 members came in and received assistance so that they can receive Graduate Center email in a convenient way. If you are still in need of help, we will schedule additional help desk hours. Please express interest by emailing [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu).

On Friday, we kicked off the Fridays@3 series with speaker Harold Holzer. Thank you to the committee who organized and the members who joined for a captivating talk! We recorded the session and will be share the video publicly once it is closed captioned. Some study group coordinators have expressed interest as it relates to current coursework – these connections are always so rewarding. Mark your calendars for the upcoming lectures! Details follow in this issue.

I will host Director's Office Hours on Tuesday from 12-1pm. Please join me in [my virtual office](#) to introduce yourself and tell me more about your experience with the IRP and how your fall term is starting off.

Stay well,  
Mariel

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

There will be no IRP study groups on Monday, October 12, Columbus Day, and Wednesday through Friday, November 25-27, for Thanksgiving. The last day of 13-week classes will be Monday, Dec. 21. End dates will vary depending on the day of the week.

### **ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION**

Twelve of the 15 positions on the Advisory Board will be up for election in November. The other three are reserved for the chairs of the Admissions, Curriculum and Diversity Committees.

The positions will be open to all members of the IRP community, without exception, who have been members for at least one year. For this election only, in order to create a staggered cycle, positions will be divided into 1-year, 2- year and 3-year terms, and one position will be reserved for a newer member, that is, someone in the second or third year of membership in the IRP. All members are eligible to vote in the election. Announcements about the opening of nominations and the dates for the election will be

placed in the Observer with links to the nominating form.

Please think of running for this important body!

### **STUDY GROUPS**

#### **Call for Proposals**

Are you thinking about coordinating a study group, and if so, have you let the Curriculum Committee know of your interest? The committee will assign one of its members to help you develop your idea and submit a proposal; click here, or send an email to Curriculum Committee Chair Jonathan Gaines ([jgaines@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jgaines@gc.cuny.edu)). The strength of the IRP and its curriculum depend upon members coordinating study groups. If you are concerned about coordinating on Zoom, there will continue to be Curriculum and Tech Committees coordinator skill workshops. In addition, we urge members who don't have experience coordinating or who want help developing a study group idea or writing a proposal to look for the Curriculum Committee's announcements for its Let's Get Started and Developing a Proposal workshops. See the first one below!

## Diversity

The IRP is committed to creating and maintaining educational curricula that incorporate the values of a multicultural and diverse community and that reflect the pluralism of the United States and world society. Study groups that focused specifically on subjects of diversity and inclusion have included The Warmth of Other Suns, James Baldwin, North American Indians, Hinduism, Japanese Literature, Latin American Literature, Latin American Film, and Films by African American Directors, and as well as study groups whose subject matter dealt with instances of discrimination, as the study groups on Caro's Robert Moses and the Myth of the Frontier. We would like to present more such study groups. We encourage you to send us your ideas for future study groups on these subjects whether or not you would be interested in coordinating them.

## Thinking About Coordinating but Want Assistance?

Bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee's **LET'S GET STARTED** Workshop on Monday, October 5, 3:45-5:00PM, or Wednesday, October 7, 3:45-5PM.

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 Linda Anstendig, [lanstendig@gmail.com](mailto:lanstendig@gmail.com) by Friday, October 2; Zoom invitation will follow.

## IRP MEMBER SURVEY – GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

Tell us about yourself by taking the IRP member survey, please follow this [link](#) to complete it.

**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR TWO IER COMMITTEES**

**The Board of Directors of the Institute for Education in Retirement (IER), the IRP's fund-raising arm, seeks qualified IRP members to join the Finance and Investment Committees.**

**The responsibilities of the Finance Committee include:**

Develop and maintain the organization's budgeting and financial planning,

Monitor the organization's internal controls,

Prepare and distribute to the board timely, accurate and user-friendly financial reports.

Prepare and file financial documents as necessary.

**The responsibilities of the Investment Committee include:**

Find and recommend to the board a qualified investment advisor, who will recommend for board approval the best investment strategy for IER's assets.

Monitor the performance of the investment advisor and investments over time.

Work with the advisor to develop policies, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, regarding the IER's Investment objectives, risk tolerance, and reporting.

**We are looking for people with investment experience for the Investment Committee and financial, budgeting or accounting experience for the Finance Committee. Nonprofit experience is helpful but not essential.**

Please send letter of interest and brief statement of your experience and qualifications to Colette Siegel at [treasurer@iernyc.org](mailto:treasurer@iernyc.org).

**NEED TECH HELP?**

From IRP: Direct your browser to the IRP tech stuff webpage -- <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechnstuff> -- for advice on setting up emails and Zoom accounts, among other things. If you want additional help, send an email to [tech@iernyc.org](mailto:tech@iernyc.org).

From GC: Send email to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu).

Accessing GC Email: Direct your browser to <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa>

## **OBSERVER SCHEDULE**

Please submit your items to Leslie Davis at [ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu) by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in Monday's issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT UPDATE**

Important Information for New Yorkers from Gov. Cuomo. New York has taken a host of measures to make voting safer and easier during the pandemic. For the first time in NY, all registered voters can request an absentee ballot (under the "temporary illness" excuse). If you choose to vote by absentee ballot, there are several ways you can cast your completed, signed ballot.

- Put it in the mail ensuring it receives a postmark no later than November 3.
- Drop it off at an Early Voting poll site between October 24 and November 1.

- Drop it off at a poll site on November 3 by 9:00PM. Drop it off at your county Board of Elections Office starting September 8 through no later than November 3 by 9:00PM

The City Board of Elections Launches Tracking System So Absentee Ballots Don't Get Lost in the Void. Once an absentee ballot is requested, the system generates a tracking number. Once the absentee ballot application is sent, and a ballot is filled out and placed in the mail, the system will use "Intelligence Mail barcode" technology, allowing a voter to track the status of their ballot. A "valid" ballot will be counted in the tally. If a ballot is considered invalid, election officials will be able to provide directions on "curing" the ballot, offering a voter extra time to fix any issues on the ballot to ensure it's re-validated. The curing process involves the voter having to go to their borough BOE office and correcting the error, such as a missing date or signature. <https://nysballot.election.ny.gov/TrackMyBallot/Search> [\[nysballot.elections.ny.gov\]](https://nysballot.elections.ny.gov)

## ONLINE ART SHOW

Mary Padilla: Mu ( Nothingness)



Mary says: I created this Western abstraction of the Japanese word Mu (Nothingness) from a standing position in order that the motion of my body be reflected in the outcome. I used a three-foot-long calligraphy brush and sumi ink on rice paper.

### Calling All Painters, Photographers, Block Printers, Textile Artists, Collagists, and Sculptors

Did you spend the lockdown making art? Show us what you did by displaying it in the Observer's Online Art Show. Take a photograph of your work, add a title, and a sentence or two about how you made it -- or why or where.

Send to Carol Millsom  
[carolmillsom35@gmail.com](mailto:carolmillsom35@gmail.com).  
Artwork is published in the order in which it is received.

## EVENTS

### ADVANCES IN CIVILIZATION

On Thursday, October 1 at 4PM, Advances in Civilization will host a discussion on "Information Retrieval and Melvil Dewey," who invented the Dewey Decimal System. The discussion will be led by Barbara Preschel. Members who would like to attend should contact Steve Kalinsky at [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu) for a Zoom invitation.

**Advances in Civilization**, which meets via Zoom every other Thursday at 4PM is seeking IRP members to lead a discussion on someone or something that has advanced civilization. The usual format is a 20- or 25-minute presentation by the discussion leader followed by a group discussion (but we are very flexible). The topic is solely up to the discussion leader. If you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information about the program, please contact Steve Kalinsky at [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu)

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Pour at Four** returns on Friday, October 9. Susan is excited to bring the Pour back from vacation. Join her from 4 to 5PM for an end-of-the-week gathering on Fridays in the 24-hour chat room at: <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff> Want to co-host? Contact Susan at [srubens@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:srubens@gc.cuny.edu)

**The Women's Group** meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Email Arlyne LeSchack at [aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).

**The Men's Group** meets every Wednesday at 3:30PM. Email Jay Fleishman at [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu).

**Reading Stories Aloud with Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman** will not take place on regular class days. We will meet again during breaks and holidays and will let you know the specific dates. Email Sharon Girard at [sgirard@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:sgirard@gc.cuny.edu).

## MEMBER FORUM

**From Carol Borelli: Parli italiano?** Perhaps you would like to enjoy an aperitivo and conversation together, once every month on a designated day at aperitivo time? (Parliamo solo in italiano, per favore!) If you are interested, be in touch with your ideas at: [cborelli@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:cborelli@gc.cuny.edu).

Please write IRP italiano in the subject line. Or you can call me at 212 579-4879. Grazie.

## UPCOMING & ONGOING CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

**CHANGE: Making Education More Equitable - Tressie McMillan Cottom, Carla Shedd & Cathy N. Davidson**  
**September 30, 2020: 7:30 PM**  
**[ONLINE EVENT - REGISTER ON ZOOM](#)**

**Sudhir Hazareesingh on  
Toussaint Louverture, with Amy  
Wilentz**

**October 1, 2020: 2:00 PM-3:00  
PM**

<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/sudhir-hazareesingh-on>

**Charles Post: "The Dynamics of  
Plant Closures in the U.S. Tire  
Industry, 1966-2008"**

**October 1, 2020: 4:00 PM-5:30  
PM**

<https://tinyurl.com/ARC-Seminars>

**Chaos in many-body quantum  
systems**

**October 2, 2020: 10:00 AM-6:00  
PM**

This is a Zoom event; please  
[register](#) for invitation.

**Immigration Seminar Series:  
Victor Nee**

**October 2, 2020: 3:00 PM-4:30  
PM**

[Register online](#) to receive the  
Zoom link

**Stone Center on Socio-  
Economic Inequality:  
[Conference on Coalitional  
Democracy](#)**

**October 2, 12:00 PM to 5:45 PM**

***The Reacher Guy: The  
Authorised Biography of Lee  
Child by Heather Martin on  
October 8, 2020 at 7:30PM.***

Heather Martin and Lee Child will  
have a lively discussion about Ms.  
Martin's book and a Q&A with the  
audience will follow. This event is  
by registration only, to register  
please click [here](#).

**The Graduate Center Presents  
Music from Copland House,  
October 13, 1:00 – 2:00PM.**

"Illuminating essential truths about  
the music." *The New York Times*

Aaron Copland wrote the  
homespun Sonata for Violin and  
Piano during his downtime on the  
backlot of Hollywood's Samuel  
Goldwyn Studios, where the  
composer was working in 1943 on  
a feature film, *The North Star*.  
Despite not wanting to write an  
overtly virtuosic or folk-influenced  
composition, Copland managed to  
include elements of both in a  
gracious, lyrical piece that dazzled  
with a homespun, vernacular  
approachability. Legendary critic  
Virgil Thomson called the Violin  
Sonata one of Copland's "most  
satisfying pieces [with] a quality of  
calm elevation and of buoyancy  
that is ... irresistibly touching."



Pianist and Copland House Artistic & Executive Director Michael Boriskin joins violinist and Graduate Center Doctoral candidate Magdalena Filipczak for an in-depth discussion of the piece, followed by a complete performance, and then a live Q&A with viewers. Music from Copland House Artists: **Michael Boriskin**, pianist. Graduate Center Artist: **Magdalena Filipczak**, violinist

Register [here](#) to attend this free event.

#### **NON-CUNY ONLINE RESOURCES AND EVENTS:**

**El Museo del Barrio** has published numerous [exhibition catalogues and brochures](#) to enjoy from home.

**Jazz at Lincoln Center** is offering [free weekly online programs](#).

**The Jewish Museum** has made their [audio tours](#) available online.

**MoMA** is offering free online [courses and specializations](#).

**The Whitney Museum of American Art** is offering from artist talks to art history courses, webinars and creative projects for everyone, see what's coming up [here](#). Explore exhibitions online [here](#).

**BRIC Rotunda Gallery** is offering free Media Education Courses. More information [here](#).

