

# *prf* Princeton Research Forum

## Newsletter – Fall 2014

### President's Message

*By Ashwini Mokashi*

My best wishes to all of you from Europe, and I welcome you to another year of PRF in 2014-15! I am very excited about being a part of this organization, even from a distance.

2013-14 was very successful as we continued our programs and welcomed seven new members, bringing our total membership to 67. Each of us contributes to the Forum by participating in our study groups and through our individual writings and publications.

We intend to start a new study group this year whose members will read new and old works of local Princeton scholars in the humanities. We would also like to take on additional interesting projects, improve our presence in various social media sites, and enhance our alliance with other independent scholars associated with the National Coalition of Independent Scholars.

PRF has a rich tradition of members who devote their time to running the organization as they continue their own research as well as other personal and professional activities. We highly appreciate that and respect their time. To further this tradition, we would like to encourage and welcome any assistance you could provide in helping this organization grow and prosper. If you can contribute a few hours of your time during the year or month or week, please let us know. We promise to give you a job that suits your time constraints. If you would like to try out a leadership position on the board, please let us know that as well. We will welcome your presence and ideas, and, most importantly, your contribution to PRF. Borrowing the words of John F. Kennedy, we can say “ask not what PRF can do for you—ask what you can do for PRF!”

Having said that, let me wish you all a wonderful year of research, grant opportunities and a stimulating intellectual environment in beautiful Princeton, New Jersey!



## New Members

The Forum recently welcomed three members.

### Lina Genovesi

Lina Genovesi has written about technology, health care, and business topics for leading trade magazines and online publications. She has experience developing investigative articles, product reviews, and regulatory and research summaries. In addition to her experience as a writer, Lina has professional training and education in the many aspects of science, business, and law relating to basic research, academic research, drug development and approval, clinical research, clinical regulations, health care, and regulatory policy and compliance.



Lina Genovesi

### John Lenard

Until his retirement in 2011, John Lenard was a professor of physiology and biophysics at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. John spent most of his career in the areas of virology, cell biology, and microbiology. He was the first post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of



John Lenard

[S. Jonathan Singer](#) to work and publish on the structure of biological membranes. At the same time, he published, with a graduate student from a different lab, a method for removing [synthetic peptides](#) from the resin on which they were synthesized. This method—treatment with anhydrous HF—was based on his thesis research, and remains the standard procedure, now repeated commercially thousands of times daily.

As a professor at RWJ Medical School, John hosted a very bright Harvard graduate student—James Rothman—who stayed as a guest in his home while they worked on a project of mutual interest as part of his thesis. They became close friends, and last December, John was privileged to attend Mr. Rothman's acceptance of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in Stockholm.

### Boris Katz

Boris is from Pinsk, USSR. He studied mathematics and computers at Minsk University in Minsk, USSR, where he received his B.S and M.S. degrees. From 1970 to 1980, Boris worked and conducted research in mathematical logic and computer science at the Institute for Electronic Computers in Minsk. He emigrated with his family to the US in 1980.

From 1976 until 1980, Boris was working toward a PhD in mathematics. His thesis advisor was Prof. A.V. Gladkii of the Institute of Mathematics of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and of Tver (Kalinin) University. The results of his research were published in professional journals and presented at various conferences.

Boris completed the requirements for his PhD, but his emigration precluded the defense of his Ph.D. thesis. After arriving in the US, he was offered the opportunity to finish his work at the Curren Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU, but for financial reasons was not able to accept the offer and left mathematics for a career in software development. His employers have included Information Builders, Syncsort, Applied Data Research, IBM, and Lehman Brothers.

Since 1990, Boris has run his own internet-based company, Darwin Holdings Inc./Argali Software.

Since arriving in the United States, Boris's interests have shifted from mathematics to evolutionary biology and social sciences. In the late 80's to early 90's he was a part-time graduate student in evolutionary biology and anthropology at Rutgers University. Boris continues to pursue independent study in evolutionary biology and social theory.



Boris Katz

## Works in Progress

*By Lara Freidenfelds, Ph.D.*

Fall has arrived, and it is time to plan a new season of work-in-progress meetings! I hope you will consider sharing research with the group. We generally meet for about an hour and a half, with a half-hour presentation followed by a lively group discussion. We can discuss research at any phase. You can bring us a speculative idea for a new project and we can help you flesh it out and give it direction. Or you can share finished research and get our thoughts about how and where to publish. Or anything in between.

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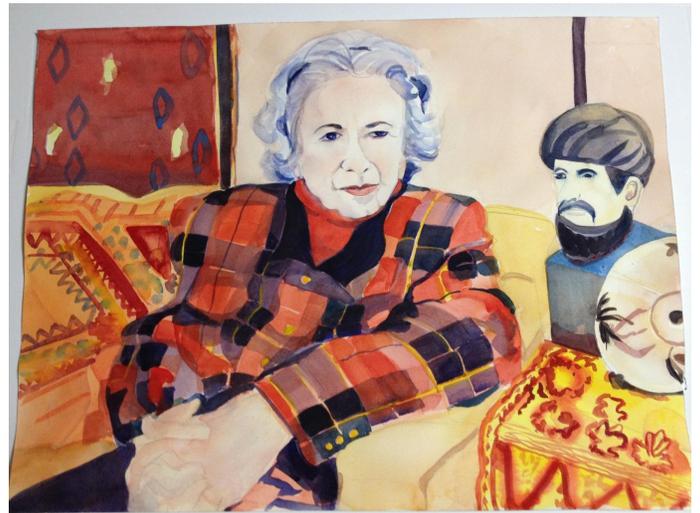
We already have one meeting planned, exact date TBD. Sarah Reichart will discuss "Three Heptagonal Sacred Spaces," complete with images. I can't wait!

If you would like to add your research to the roster, please contact Lara Freidenfelds.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

## Annual Meeting Showcases Good Food and a Talented Artist

PRF members' artistic talent for cookery and watercolors took center stage at the Forum's annual "pot luck" dinner on June 7. After members dined on an assortment of delectable dishes from around the world, Terri McNichol unveiled her watercolor portrait of Elizabeth Ettinghausen—the first installment of what Terri hopes will be a series of paintings of PRF members. The Iranian sculpture and sixteenth century bowl included in the painting reflect Elizabeth's interest in Middle Eastern art.



Elizabeth Ettinghausen is captured in this watercolor portrait by Terri McNichol.

## Annual Membership Dues Deadline: November 1

PRF dues are payable on November 1, 2014: \$35 for an individual membership, \$50 per household/joint membership, and \$350 for life membership. Your membership dues are just sufficient to underwrite the cost of our three access cards to the Princeton University Library system and the basic expenses of organizational maintenance. Our rates are a bargain considering all the benefits that PRF offers its members, including the opportunity to apply for the Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grants, which help defray the travel costs associated with giving a scholarly paper.

Contributions to PRF are also welcome. Please check with your tax adviser regarding the tax credit for contributing to a non-profit organization.

## Board Members for 2014-15 Elected

At its June 7 annual meeting, the Forum members elected the following officers and committee chairs:

### Officers

Vice-President: Terri McNichol \*

Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein and Joyce Irwin \*

## Committee Chairs

Calendar: Linda Holt

Grants: Karen Reeds

Web: Ann Morgan

Library Access: Eva Bodanszky

Newsletter: Don Benjamin \*

Work-in-Progress: Lara Freidenfelds \*

Membership: Ludmilla Popova-Wightman \*

Publicity: Winnie Hughes

Program: (open)

\* denotes incoming officeholder

## Opening for Program Committee Chair

There is an open position on the PRF board for program chair. If you are interested, please contact Ashwini Mokashi for current or future openings.

## PRF Presentation Grants

*By Karen Reeds*

Giving a talk at a meeting? Save your receipts and apply for a PRF Presentation Grant when you get home. The grants help our members cover some of the costs of registration, travel, and accommodation. It's the easiest grant application you'll ever make. The first five grants awarded in a given year are named in honor of our late colleague, Frankie Hutner (1918 - 2014), a founding member of PRF whose grant overhead continues to fund these grants. The grants are awarded on a rolling basis, with no annual deadline

To be eligible for a PRF Presentation Grant, the applicant must be a PRF member in good standing for at least one year, must be an independent scholar, must incur presentation-related expenses in excess of \$300 that are not fully reimbursed by any other grant or institution, and must not have received more than one Presentation Grant within the previous five years.

If you meet the criteria, please send your documentation as soon as you have given a presentation to Karen Reeds.

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## Applications for 2015 Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program Are Open

The Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program offers annual awards to scholars wishing to conduct independent study or research at one or more of the Smithsonian's 19 units and research centers. Scholars can apply for these fellowships through the Smithsonian's Office of Fellowships and Internships.

Visit this site for details at

<http://www.smithsonianofi.com/fellowship-opportunities/smithsonian-institution-fellowship-program/>



## Members' Activities



*Sarcodon fuscoindicum*  
Violet Hedgehog Mushroom  
Gouache and Watercolor  
Lucy Martin

**Helen Schwartz** is teaching a class on "Modernism—And How it Got Here," at Evergreen Forum. She is then taking her act on the road and will be lecturing at other venues including Windrows.

**Karen Reeds** notes that the show she described in her catalogue essay, "Impossible Plants"—Weird, Wild & Wonderful: The Second New York Botanical Garden Triennial Exhibition—has had its run extended through October 26, 2014. You can see it at the Ross Gallery, New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. For a taste of its delights, go to the website of the [American Society of Botanical Artists](#). (See picture at left).

**Joan Goldstein**, founding PRF member and board member-at-large, continues her public affairs TV30 shows

titled: "Back Story with Joan Goldstein." Here are some links to her latest shows on controversies in Princeton:

The Battle Over the Battlefield in Princeton, with guest attorney Bruce Afran: <http://vimeo.com/107836034>

The Controversy Over Affordable Housing in Princeton: <http://vimeo.com/104410081>

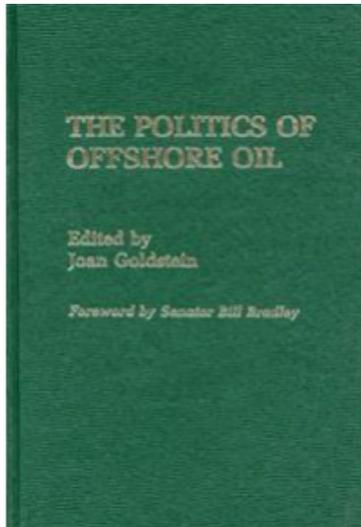
More on Affordable Housing: <http://vimeo.com/105992416>

Black Community in Princeton: <http://vimeo.com/94403931>



A College Student Finds Her Path: <http://vimeo.com/99658201>

You can find her former shows at <http://vimeo.com/channels/backstory> <http://vimeo.com/channels.backstory>. She welcomes your thoughts and ideas.



Joan Goldstein has a Ph.D. in Research Sociology and is the author of three books on energy and the environment, including *The Politics of Offshore Oil* (1982; reprinted by ABC-Clío), which explains and predicts many of the current national and international swings in oil prices, distribution, and politics found in today's news. Her book, *Environmental Decision Making in Rural Locales: The Pine Barrens* (1981; reprinted by ABC-Clío), was her doctoral dissertation, funded in part by The Resources for the Future Foundation, in Washington, D.C. During that period (the 1980's), she served on a White House Technical Advisory Committee on Offshore Oil Leasing and was interviewed on NBC. With a post-doctoral fellowship from NIMH-PHS, she also studied communities living near nuclear power plants and wrote op-ed articles for *The New York Times*.

Dr. Goldstein is now teaching a social problems college course for high school seniors at The Lewis School in Princeton.

## Membership Directory

*By Don Benjamin*

Over the summer, we moved our membership directory into a Microsoft Access database. The database includes each member's interests, committee and group affiliation, and leadership role(s).

The database allows us to print a general alphabetical membership directory, membership lists organized by interest, committee and group rosters, and leadership positions. All information is private and will be available only to PRF members.

From time to time we'll ask the PRF members to review their contact information and update their interest profiles, and we'll provide updates quarterly and whenever our membership changes.