LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2018-19 season of the Princeton Research Forum. I hope you have had an enjoyable and productive summer. As the temperatures drop and brilliant fall colors appear in field and forest, it’s an opportune moment to reflect on recent activities and to consider the year ahead.

If you have not already done so, please take a look at the revised PRF Website, www.princetonresearchforum.com. While the site is continuing to evolve, thanks to the hard work of Lina Genovesi, our Web master, it contains all the essential information about membership and services. If you need to update your listing, please send information to Lina Genovesi, our Web master, at info@princetonresearchforum.org.

While you are updating your Web listing, you may also want to share your recent accomplishments with PRF Vice President Linda Arntzenius, who has graciously and generously offered to edit the Fall Newsletter for us. While obviously too late for this newsletter, we are happy to collect these articles for future editions.

As you know, we are eagerly seeking a PRF member to gather information and produce an online publication for us several times a year. If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer, please contact Linda or myself. We would be happy to help set up a template and provide other forms of support as the new editor gets started. It really is a fun and creative way to contribute to PRF and makes an attractive grace note to a resume or CV.

The Fall Get-together is another activity occurring in October. As you may know, Winnie Hughes, who usually hosts the event (formerly known as the “Wine and Cheese”), has been caring for her husband, Fred Spar, who is slowly recovering from a traumatic injury. We thank Winnie for all she does for PRF, including serving as Publicity Chair and her activities with the Poetry Group, and wish speedy healing and happiness for both Winnie and Fred in the months and years ahead.

The Fall Get-together will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 28, at Princeton Windrows, allowing time for those attending the Princeton Symphony Orchestra concert that day to at least stop by toward the end of our soirée. Princeton Windrows will provide light fare such as sandwiches, but members may bring wine or other beverages if they are so inclined. Please note the time change for our event: it is 5 to 7 p.m.

As always, a reminder to support PRF through your annual dues. Information is provided elsewhere in this newsletter. You may want to include a reminder in your online calendar for September each year. Additional contributions to support PRF are always welcome.

I hope you will be able to attend at least some of our special interest group meetings for Humanities, Science/Science History, and Poetry, and take advantage of the Works in Progress as they are announced throughout the year. Ellen Gilbert, our Works in Progress Chair, would be delighted to hear about your proposals.

A final note: PRF thrives on fresh ideas, and one of the best ways to welcome change is with new members. Let’s all vow to be watchful for potential new members, of all ages and backgrounds, and introduce them during a discussion group or at our monthly luncheons at the Institute for Advanced Study.
May the camaraderie we enjoy today lead to an even more diverse community of scholars in the future.

Best wishes to all,
Linda Holt, D.Litt.
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DEBORAH GREENHUT AT MORVEN

Princeton’s historic Morven Museum & Garden welcomed Deborah Greenhut on Wednesday, October 17, for an event titled, “Advancing the Woman’s Sphere: American Women’s Poetry from Newspapers and The Lady’s Book to Facebook and Social Media.”

Deborah’s one-hour presentation examined the evolution of the public sphere in American women’s literature through writings that record a social side of life as a companion to the professional and political aspects recorded by their male counterparts. “Poetry by women provides excellent evidence of the developing mores and traditions of the country as it evolved from a colony to a socialized country,” said Deborah, adding that “Annis Boudinot Stockton stands at the center of the first 300 years of this evolution—well educated, well-read, and expressive, though not well-published in her lifetime.”

Annis Boudinot Stockton circa 1780

In addition to work by Stockton, Deborah looked at two other important women writers, Anne Dudley Bradstreet and Emily Dickinson, for an examination of Stockton’s poetry within the context of the founding mothers of women’s literary culture in a comparison of those themes with contemporary social media.

Stockton pursued her admiration of George Washington in her letters and in her poetry, as is evident from this excerpt from Poem #42.

To General Washington, Aug. 26, 1783

—Say, can a female voice an audience gain
And stop a moment thy triumphal Car
And will thou listen to a peaceful Strain:
Unskill’d to paint the horrid Scenes of war…
And oh if happily in your native Shade
One thought of Jersey enters in your mind
Forget not her on Morven’s humble glade
Who feels for you a friendship most refin’d.

In return, Washington rewarded Stockton by inviting her to “do[ing] something towards introducing federal fashions and national manners? A good general government, without good morals and good habits, will not make us a happy People; and we shall deceive our selves if we think it will. A good government will, unquestionably, tend to foster and confirm those qualities, on which public happiness must be engrafted.”

The workshop provided a brief overview of various tropes and conceptions of public and private personae to help participants contemplate the evolution of the social sphere in America.

Deborah received the 2017 Princemere Poetry Prize for her poem, “Poem with Parrots for My Dangerous Man.” For more, visit: http://www.princemere.com. She has written and illustrated seven children’s picture books, which she published on Kindle, a number of which have achieved the #1 rank on Amazon. She is currently working on a memoir.

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JAMIE GERBER REPORTS FROM APS LIBRARY CONFERENCE

In September, PRF Member Jamileh “Jamie” Gerber attended “The Past, Present and the Future of Libraries” conference organized by the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Commemorating the Society’s 275th anniversary, the interdisciplinary conference explored the history of libraries, the present opportunities for libraries, and the potential future for libraries as they continue to evolve in the 21st century.
Here is Jamie’s brief report:

As a librarian and researcher, library-related topics are dear to me. I believe libraries have played an important role in the collection, development, and the transfer of knowledge through history and regions. They have been custodians of Benjamin Franklin’s ideal to “Advance knowledge in all fields.”

The genealogy of American libraries can be traced back to private collections, county houses, literary saloons, and parochial reading rooms. They grew fast in number and content, providing an educational foundation for the colonial and antebellum American. The first libraries in that era were primarily sought both to solidify their own status and convert the colonial enterprise into a structure of culture. They were mostly reserved for rich white men who paid a membership and annual subscription fee.

Both before and after the Civil War, libraries were considered to be educational institutions that disseminated knowledge and elevated society. For the “development of the female mind,” both black and white women, were encouraged to become members of a library. Actually, membership in a library became a requirement for women to be accepted at institutions of higher education.

As libraries grew, the public demand for their services increased. Their collections had to satisfy public needs and tastes. Collection development became a vital part of their services.

In 1731, Benjamin Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia. Members had to pay annual subscriptions and fees. Some consider the Philadelphia Company as the first American library. The Boston Public Library was recorded to be the first, growing out of parochial libraries in the early 18th century. It was officially opened on March 28, 1854. All adult residents of the Common-Wealth of Massachusetts were entitled to free borrowing and research privileges.

New York Library, another eminent library was founded in 1895 as an example of private philanthropy for public good. It is the largest marble building in the U.S. Its collection of reading is very large as well: 53 million, second only to the Library of Congress, with 167 million. For those who are interested, there are records of books that the Founding Fathers ordered and borrowed.

Along with the increase in the number of public libraries, came the academic, corporate and special libraries. Princeton’s Firestone Library opened in 1948. Harvard University Library opened in 1915. National Library Services for the Blind was founded in 1882. Regardless of type, objective, and interest, all libraries have been going through drastic changes.

The volumes of the books, magazine, and electronic databases are increasing dramatically as well. In early 1990 this phenomenon was named “information explosion.” Digital technology made the library services more manageable and more accessible to readers and researchers.

With regret, I could participate only during the first day of the conference. Conference papers are available on the APS Library website: https://www.amphilsoc.org/library#paragraph416. Interested individuals can call the library (215-440-3400) for an access password.

The APS Library is located at 105 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-3386; the Reading Room is generally open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call for hours.

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IN MEMORIAM

ROSEMARY O’BRIEN (1925 - 2018)

Longtime Princeton Research Forum member Rosemary O’Brien died on September 29, 2018 at her home at Princeton Windrows after a long struggle with Parkinson’s disease. She was 93.

Born June 6, 1925 in South Bend, Indiana, the eldest child of Dr. Peter Birmingham and Sarah Birmingham, Rosemary graduated from Saint Mary’s College in 1947 and earned a master’s degree in Far Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan in 1979. In 1948 she married James L. O’Brien of Beloit, Wisconsin, with whom she raised three children in South Bend, Indiana and Ann Arbor, Michigan, before moving to Princeton in 1968.

Rosemary had a passion for reading and a great talent for writing, culminating in her book on the noted traveler Gertrude Bell, Gertrude Bell: The Arabian Diaries, 1913-1914. She enjoyed travel around the globe with her husband Jim, an attorney and executive with Bendix International. Rosemary also developed an increasing interest in other women’s issues and published articles and chapters on women’s historical and cultural topics. She enjoyed...
participating in various book groups and reading clubs and was a keen participant in the PRF History Studies Group. Active in many civic activities in Princeton, she was among the first women to be inducted into the Old Guard of Princeton Nassau Club.

Rosemary was buried in the Princeton Cemetery. Her life was celebrated on Saturday, October 13 at Princeton Windrows. [Adapted from an obituary published in Ann Arbor News, Oct. 4, 2018.]

Maureen Mulvihill remembered Rosemary as “an accomplished woman who made serious and deep contributions to our world of scholarship. I recall a few cordial exchanges with Rosemary when I was a new PRF member in the early 1990s. She was interested in me, my work, training and background. She was an asset to the Princeton Research Forum and she led a long, productive life. And doubtless a happy one. I shall soon raise a glass to her memory. Rest in Peace, Rosemary, you were beloved by many, I am sure, and you shall be missed and remembered.”

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IN MEMORIAM
FANNIE PECZENIK (1947-2018)

Known fondly to several PRF Members as “Our Fannie,” Fannie Peczenik died on 15 June 2018 after a three and a half week hospital stay following a sudden collapse, possibly related to esophageal cancer. We are grateful to Fannie’s husband and fellow PRF member Don McNeill for the following:

Fannie Peczenik was born on May 3, 1947 in Vienna to parents from the Lviv region of Ukraine (both born when it was part of Austria-Hungary), who were sheltered and protected during the German occupation by a Ukrainian man and his family. They moved to Vienna in 1946 and subsequently to Brooklyn, New York, in 1951. These circumstances were a vital part of Fannie's personal and intellectual interests all of her life.

She graduated in 1967 from Brooklyn College with a major in foreign languages. She was always proud of her public school education. In May of last year, she attended the graduation exercises for Brooklyn College on her 50th graduation anniversary. Her Ph. D. thesis at the City University of New York (1981, English literature) was entitled “Adam’s Other Self: A Reading of Adam’s Eve.”

Fannie Peczenik in May of last year at the graduation exercises for Brooklyn College on her 50th graduation anniversary. (Photo courtesy of Don McNeill)

Fannie joined the Princeton Research Forum when it was first founded. She was working on her dissertation at the time. Her writing and studies encompassed the following:

- Literary criticism, from Milton to Mailer, etc.;
- Animals, Pittsburgh (and New York) birdwatching examiner (2009-2015), plants;
- Travel and memoirs;
- Short stories and a novel;
- Translations (Italian, Yiddish, Spanish);
- Editing (technical, language, for friends).

Her last article submission, in April of this year, was an essay on Goethe’s Faust and quantum mechanics. This was quite popular among Don’s colleagues with whom Fannie discussed the idea and to whom she sent drafts of her essay.

Her computer desktop contained icons for these topics, as well as ones on Henry James in New York, vegetarianism in central Europe, and New York and Nova Scotia in the late 18th century. Her business card read: “Writing, Translating, Editing, Retrieving information”— the last category covering an immense variety of data on law, history, literature, science, and all the above.

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Fannie’s delightful short story for children, *Nobody’s Cat*, was published in recent issues of *Cricket* magazine and featured this drawing. According to Fannie, the pictured cat bears an uncanny resemblance to the neighborhood cat who inspired the story.

**Gloria Erlich** offered this remembrance: “Fannie Peczenik joined PRF shortly before she completed her doctoral work, so we had the pleasure of her enthusiasm for not only her beloved Milton but also for so many other interests: travel, birds, the Yiddish language and theater. Over the years Fannie and I kept in touch largely by phone. I looked forward to exchanging ideas with her about Henry James, to whom we always referred as ‘our Henry.’ She was young, she was beautiful, and she was full of life. I think most of us will always think of her as ‘our Fannie.’”

**Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych** recalled that when Fannie resided in Princeton, she was one of PRF’s most active members. “She participated in several PRF Groups. In the PRF Editorial Associates, she often edited general and technical articles. In the Translation Group, she was one of our most inspirational and supportive members. Members were obligated not only to translate texts but also to critique all our individual translation efforts. While she herself translated Yiddish texts, she was able to provide very insightful comments to those of us who translated Bulgarian, French, German, Hebrew, Singhalese, or Ukrainian texts. Fannie contributed much to our enjoyment of the translation process and our group. She had a very gentle sense of humor, a lovely laugh, and a slightly impish spark in her eyes. ‘Our Fannie’ was very special and quite unique. Unforgettable.”

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**PRF E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Some PRF members have asked whether it’s possible to obtain email addresses that include Princeton Research Forum in the address. Thanks to the efforts of Web Master Lina Genovesi it is possible to have email addresses such as `yourname@princetonresearchforum.org`. And, if you are able to follow some basic technical instructions, it is possible to send and receive email via an existing gmail account.

If you would like to have your own PRF email address and are open to attempting to follow the technical directions of setting the PRF mailbox and linking to your personal account, please contact Lina with your preferred PRF e-mail address. Lina will set up your PRF e-mail via the website and will provide you with a password and with a copy of the instruction manual so that you can format your PRF e-mail and if possible link up your PRF e-mail to your personal e-mail.

Setting up your own PRF mailbox appears easy if you follow the instructions in the manual and forwarding from the PRF address to your personal email address seems to be straightforward with gmail and PC/Windows configuration.

For other types of accounts (using Outlook or MSN, for example) it is hoped that the instructions in the manual will guide you. Please note that if you are unable to link up your PRF mailbox to your personal e-mail, you can always send your e-mails via your PRF personal e-mail account; your PRF mailbox will work on its own and does not need to be forwarded to your personal e-mail account.

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**MEMBER NEWS**

**Linda Arntzenius** is currently working on the second issue of a new magazine from the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton. The second issue of *Fresh Thinking* is due out in January 2019.

**Toni Vogel Carey’s** article “Hail, Malthus” (about the many things Malthus got wrong) appeared in the April-May 2018 issue of *Philosophy Now*, where she is a regular contributor. She received a Ronin Institute travel grant to help defray the cost of presenting a paper at a Scottish Enlightenment conference at Glasgow University in July. Her article “Adam Smith’s Newtonian Ideals” will be out this fall in issue 11 of the *Adam Smith Review*. 

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Robert Craig reports that as one of his current projects he is studying the life of a 17th-century itinerant carpenter in New Jersey. While still a work-in-progress, he hopes that his research will add to the work he has produced on early building tradesmen in the state. He has already had a couple of articles published on this subject and is moving in the direction of an eventual book.

Shelley Frisch notes that her latest translation, of Katja Petrowskaja's Vielleicht Esther (Maybe Esther, published by HarperCollins in the US, and by Fourth Estate in the UK), has just been longlisted for the Warwick Prize, which honors translations of women writers.

Shelley and the book’s author, Katja Petrowskaja, have been invited to London for a conference next spring to present the book at an evening event.

Ellen Gilbert reports that senior adults, an important population served by People & Stories/Gente y Centos, for which organization she serves as President of the Board of Directors, were the focus of a recent telescast in Action News at Noon’s (6ABC) series on the “Art of Aging.” The segment, which was filmed at Elm Court and features reporter Tamala Edwards in conversation with coordinator Pat Smith and local seniors, can be viewed at https://6abc.com/health/people-and-stories-brings-seniors-together-through-reading/4447133/. For more information, please visit peopleandstories.org.

Member-at-Large Joan Goldstein will once again teach an Evergreen Forum course. Titled “Building Acceptance of Diversity,” the six-week course will focus upon gender in today’s world. Topics with guests include the life experiences of “#Me Toos” and comparisons with feminists of the 1970’s; with and LGBTQ and Rainbow Coalitions. The course will begin in Spring, 2019.

Joan’s TV30 show “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” for which she is both host and producer recently featured contemporary battles over the Princeton Public School Referendum. Her guests included Patrick Sullivan, President of the School Board and Board Member Dafna Kendal. A second show featuring critical members of the community is planned. Shows are broadcast on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m.

On the evening of October 20, Joan performed her poetry at Café Improv at The Arts Council of Princeton on Witherspoon Street.

For more information, visit: link: https://warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/2018_warwick_prize_for_women_in_translation_longlist_announced1

Joan’s poems span the fullness of her life’s story. Her program was titled “The Woman Who Does Tai Chi at Elm Road.”
Here is one of her opening poems:

**MY GORGEOUS BLUE BABY CARRIAGE**

There I am, tucked into the
well of my gorgeous blue baby carriage
from Germany, dark blue, without benefit of
brakes; parked on
The sidewalk outside
The butcher shop.

Through the plate glass window
of his shop, Benny the Butcher spied
me rolling towards the gutter's edge,
Rolling spritely towards the
Murderous auto and he
Loped out the door,
Long legs stretching, reaching
Out to grab my dark blue
German baby carriage without brakes
And me inside, unaware.

“You could have been killed…”
My mother would tell me later,
recalling a time before words,
When I had been rescued by a man
I never knew.

— Joan Goldstein

**PRF President Linda Holt** is the author of a review
of Laura Dassow Walls’s biography, *Thoreau: A Life* (2017). The review appears in the current issue

Journal home page:  [https://tinyurl.com/y9ymq7ga](https://tinyurl.com/y9ymq7ga)
Book review:  [https://tinyurl.com/y983bg57](https://tinyurl.com/y983bg57)

Linda continues to write about classical music
performances for the *Broad Street Review* in Philadelphia. She has two books coming out in the
spring. Harvard Square Editions will publish her
second novel about young Beethoven, *Invictus*
(written as L.L. Holt) while Nova Science Press will
publish a book about science and Daoism which she
is co-editing with Yueh-Ting Lee, Dean of the
Graduate School and Professor of Psychology at
Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

**Winifred Hughes**’s chapbook of nature poems,
titled *Frost Flowers*, won awarded honorable
mention in the 2018 New Women’s Voices
Chapbook Competition. It will be published by

Here is the title poem:

**FROST FLOWERS**

Too late for the other kind—fleshy
petals, flashy colors, turgid
pistil and stamen—frostweed makes
do with what it has, pulling

water from ground not quite frozen
into stems cracked by the cold,
extruding slithers of ice, unfurling
ribbons and whorls of it,

white or transparent, that blossom
overnight into spun sugar,
only to dissolve in sun. If you try
to pick them, they will shatter.

Shall I offer them to you, because it’s
autumn where we find ourselves,
because we know what is beautiful,
what will vanish at our touch?

—Winifred Hughes

In September, **Joyce Irwin** presented a paper entitled
“Luther, Mattheson, and the Joy of Music” at a
conference on “Lutheran Music Culture” at the
University of Uppsala, Sweden. Johann Mattheson
was an 18th-century music theorist and composer who also wrote theological works. His Neuangelegte Freuden-Akademie examines references to joy in all the books of the Bible.

PRF member and accomplished concert pianist Kairy Kosheeva was featured in an October 10 article by Elaine Strauss, titled “A Pianist Converses in ‘International Language’” (https://princetoninfo.com/a-pianist-converses-in-international-language/), in advance of her Sunday Musicale concert at the Jacobs Music Company, 2540 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville on Sunday, October 14.


Terri McNichol is a contributor to The Sustainable Enterprise Fieldbook, Building New Bridges, which is now available in its 2nd printing: https://bit.ly/2vtSkMS.

Dave Ulrich, Rensis Likert Collegiate Professor of Business Administration at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan and Partner at the consulting firm RBL Group (http://www.rbl.net), has described the book as an “incredible work,” that defines both the breadth and depth of the sustainability movement. He goes on: “The Activities, Cases and Tools delineate the qualities of a sustainable enterprise with insight practical value, and passion. It will shape the path to a better world for at least another 10 years. Mega-kudos to the authors for this amazing compendium, the definitive statement of the sustainable enterprise.”


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**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, PRF Grants Committee.

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**DUES ARE DUE**

PRF observes the academic year from September 1 through August 31. The official deadline for receipt of dues for the 2017-2018 academic year is December 31. The easiest way for you to pay your dues is to come to the Fall Get-together party on Sunday, October 28 and hand PRF Treasurer Joyce Irwin a check made out to Princeton Research Forum. If you can’t make it to the party, please mail your check to the new PRF mailbox: Princeton Research Forum, P.O. Box 264, Kingston, N.J. 08528-0264. Annual dues for an individual are $40; $60 for a couple. Lifetime membership is $400. So far thirteen PRF members have taken this step and become Lifetime Members.

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**ANNUAL FALL GET-TOGETHER**

This year, we will hold the Get-Together at Princeton Windrows, thanks to the efforts of PRF Treasurer and Windrows resident, Joyce Irwin. All members and prospective members are invited to meet, nibble, and network! Food will be provided, but contributions of wine or other beverages are greatly appreciated. Those attending the Princeton Symphony Orchestra concert that afternoon are welcome to stop by during the final hour of our event. Remember to bring your 2018-19 dues check, payable Princeton Research Forum, to the party!

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**NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

The schedule for future issues is as follows:

- Winter/Spring Issue: deadline mid-late January for publication February 15;
- Spring/Summer Issue: deadline mid-late April for publication May 15;
- Fall/Winter Issue: deadline mid-late Sept for publication October 15

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**PRINCETON RESEARCH FORUM OFFICERS 2017-2018**

President: Linda Holt  
Vice-President: Linda Arntzenius  
Treasurer: Joyce Irwin  
Secretary: Karen Reeds  
Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein; Ludmilla Popova-Wightman

**Committee Heads:**  
Calendar: Pat Hyatt  
Grants Officer & NCIS Liaison: Karen Reeds  
Library Access: Eva Bodanszky  
Membership: Terri McNichol  
Program: Pamela Sheehan  
Publicity: Winifred Hughes  
Newsletter: Open (Interim Editor: Linda Arntzenius)  
Work-in-Progress/Presentation Seminars: Ellen Gilbert  
Webmaster: Lina Genovesi

**Chairs of Study Groups:**  
Humanities: Ashwini Mokashi  
Poetry: Winifred Hughes  
Science/Science History: Boris Katz

Princeton Research Forum, P.O. Box 264, Kingston, N.J. 08528-0264.