

## Newsletter – Winter 2016

### President's Message by Ashwini Mokashi

Welcome to the PRF academic year 2015-2016.

As President, I am thrilled to see a fully engaged Board and to welcome new members, and would like to thank all our members for their continuing support. I am especially pleased to announce that new member Lina Genovesi has stepped up to become the chair of the PRF newsletter, which performs an invaluable function in keeping us all up to date on each other's accomplishments.

In this issue, I would like to bring to your attention several concerns that I, and others, have expressed about the future viability of PRF. How does a non-profit organization like PRF survive the test of time and what does it mean for the members to belong to such an organization? While PRF has many active members, other members are inactive. There are many reasons for this inactivity: the demands of ongoing research, employment, or childcare and/or eldercare. While PRF welcomes members with diverse situations, it also befits the organization to acknowledge that although independent research may not be the sole pursuit in life at all times, for members of PRF, it has always been a priority and the reason for our members to come together.

PRF means many different things to its members. Some members may enjoy attending study groups or work-in-progress sessions, while other members may value the opportunity to meet educated people who are calm, composed and rational even through the tougher times in their lives.

PRF provides a means to publicize the research accomplishments of its members and to share their interests with a like-minded group of cohorts, and through PRF, we form a community with a sense of belonging. It always pleases me, when someone requests that I send out a word about their not being well. Such a request implies that they are confident in finding sympathy, compassion and help from their friends in the PRF community. As long as we have a sense of community feeling, a sense of belonging, I am sure PRF will survive the test of time.

Having said that, it remains important to understand the challenges PRF faces. There was a time, when independent scholars were outliers. Anyone who was not in the academy either pursued another line of work or gave up any hope of publishing research papers. In the last few decades, independent scholarship has become more mainstream. As a result, some may wonder if PRF has run its course, whether it has the future that was envisioned at its foundation. If PRF needs to change in view of these societal changes, what new form might it

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take in order to survive and thrive? Should PRF work more in concert with other groups in Princeton? If so, which groups? What can be done to make PRF more visible: should meetings perhaps be held at some public place?

The argument for PRF is that it is an advocate for independent scholars and scholarship; it provides an opportunity for WIPs and is a vehicle for grant management (as well as offering modest grants). But there is no denying that its membership is aging and that a significant number of its members are inactive “sleepers.”

If members believe it is important to continue, how do we attract new members? Several Board members have suggested that the key to finding new members is the organization’s website, which raises the question as to whether someone should be hired to revamp and maintain the website and perhaps the newsletter. Should membership fees be raised to support such a financial outlay? Should PRF consider offering membership to scholars who may be in Princeton temporarily and will move on after a period, like spouses of Institute for Advanced Study members? Such questions have been raised and should be addressed as we move forward this year.

It is my hope that we will have a meeting in April/May in order to address the many questions raised above. I would very much like to engage the membership at large in a discussion of what they expect from the organization, what they see as the future of PRF, and what they might do to contribute to that future.

I would also like to take this opportunity of announcing the formation of a new humanities study group to replace the history group. This study group will focus on works of nonfiction, including history, philosophy and psychology; and will meet twice in the spring. It has been suggested that study groups might be held in some public space such as the Princeton Public Library and be open to members of the public. The science and poetry groups attract some number of non-members, whose participation helps foster the viability of these groups.

As it happens with most volunteer organizations, PRF has a limited number of members who are able and willing to volunteer for the necessary tasks of running the organization. New members are often able to fill that void. PRF is indebted to those volunteers whose time we value immensely. Their efforts allow PRF to function. Please join me in thanking them for all they do.

## New Members

### Raphael Rosen

Raphael Rosen caught the science-writing bug while working at the Exploratorium — San Francisco’s hands-on museum of science, art, and human perception, and was inspired by the Exploratorium’s exhibits, which communicated science ideas clearly and in a down-to-earth fashion. (The giant ball bearing and wave interference exhibits stand out in his memory.) Always interested in the ways in which science and writing intersect, Jerry P. King, author of *The Art of Mathematics*, as well as K.C. Cole, Philip Hoare, and Bryan Magee provided inspiration.



**Raphael Rosen**  
Photo credit: Elle Starkman, PPL

Rosen has written for the NASA Spitzer Space Telescope mission, as well as for [www.Space.com](http://www.Space.com), where he explored the aesthetics of space telescope images and covered recent research news in the space community. He wrote about arts and cultural events for the Wall Street Journal, and interviewed paleontologist James Horner for a piece about fossil auctions that ran in *EARTH* magazine. Rosen also wrote a story about Mayfield Parrish’s lavishly illustrated undergraduate chemistry notebook for *SciArt in America*, and contributed short news items to *Science World*. He has written for *Discover* and *Scientific American*, participated in healthcare marketing initiatives for NYU Langone Hospital, and authored two books.

Rosen has a master’s degree in specialized journalism from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California and bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Williams College. Originally from Winston-Salem, NC (hometown of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts), he currently lives in Princeton, NJ, with his wife and son.

Raphael joined PRF this spring, and is an active participant of the Science Group.

### Kairy Koshoeva

I found my way to PRF through Karen Reeds’ mother-in-law, Hedy. It was then 2013 and Kansas City. For Hedy’s 90th birthday, Karen and Jim Reeds wanted to give her a private concert. Hedy is a talented pianist and flutist, and music had been her life-long passion. When she moved into her assisted-living apartment, she insisted that she find an apartment big enough to accommodate her baby grand piano. The private concert was arranged through a mutual friend in the Kansas City Symphony, and a professional flutist and myself performed for Hedy. Her apartment and the halls overflowed with family, friends, fellow residents, and staff as we played duets and solo pieces.



**From the left: Jim and Karen Reeds  
and Kairy Koshoeva**

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Two years later, when I had a job interview for a faculty position at the New School for Music Study in Kingston, (<http://www.nmspiano.org>), Karen and Jim invited me to lunch and gave me a little tour of Princeton. When accepted to join the New School as faculty, I moved to the Princeton area, Karen and Jim asked me to stay with them until I could find a place to live. Karen suggested that I apply for PRF membership. All PRF members, especially Joyce Irwin, Boris Katz and his friend Jim Manganaro were welcoming, and I was introduced to wonderful musical circles in the Princeton area.

I am grateful for our friendship and thankful for PRF's welcome!

## Member News

### Robert (Bob) Craig New Article

Bob has published an article in The Winter 2016 issue of *New Jersey Studies* “Starting from Scratch...” about 17th-century building tradesmen in Middlesex County. The article is based on research that Bob has conducted over the past several years and brings to fruition work that was the subject of a Work-In-Progress about five years ago

You can download the article at <http://njs.libraries.rutgers.edu/index.php/njs/index>.

### Lara Freidenfelds New Essays

Lara has published short essays about gun control, the politics of housework and being a wife, educating children about sex in an age of internet porn, and other topics as a regular contributor to the peer-reviewed blog, *Nursing Clio*. She is especially proud of her reflections on disability, and what it means to think of her visual impairment as primarily a problem of social norms and standards of courtesy rather than an individualized medical problem. She also weighed in on Mark Zuckerberg’s highly-public and emotional discussion of his wife’s miscarriages, sharing insights that will be expanded in her book-in-progress, “Counting Chickens Before They Hatch?: An Historian’s Take on Pregnancy and Miscarriage in Contemporary America.” She is looking forward to sharing some of her recent research in an invited talk at the Hastings Center for Bioethics and Public Policy in March 2016.

Lara’s essays are available at [www.larafreidenfelds.com/blog](http://www.larafreidenfelds.com/blog).

### Shelley Frisch Latest Translation

Shelley reports that her latest translation, of Karin Wieland's *Dietrich and Riefenstahl: Hollywood, Berlin, and a Century in Two Lives*, was published by Liveright/Norton in October 2015. After the translation was listed on several Best of 2015 round-ups, it has now been

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named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Awards. The awards ceremony will take place in March 2016 (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/19/business/national-book-critics-circle-announces-award-nominees.html?emc=eta1&r=0>).

Shelley introduced this book, in conversation with Professor Emeritus Michael Wood, at Labyrinth Books on Nassau Street. Thanks so much, Terri McNichol, for joining us that evening! She also presented the book at McNally Jackson Books in Manhattan.

Shelley has completed the final volume of Reiner Stach's monumental Kafka biography, which will be published by Princeton University Press in Fall 2016. Her book, "*Kafka: The Years in Insight*," is listed on Amazon ([http://www.amazon.com/Kafka-Years-Insight-Reiner-Stach/dp/069116584X/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1453220863&sr=8-5&keywords=shelley+frisch](http://www.amazon.com/Kafka-Years-Insight-Reiner-Stach/dp/069116584X/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1453220863&sr=8-5&keywords=shelley+frisch)).

## Back Story with Joan Goldstein

Joan has hosted "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" since the fall of 2009, when Princeton TV30 Public Access invited her to produce a public forum on social issues that would reflect both national and local concerns.

"Back Story with Joan Goldstein" has recently taped two conversations on Iran. The first, on The Iran Nuclear Deal brought together two scientists from Princeton University, Robert Goldstun and Hal Feiveson, to explore the in-depth questions of this ongoing international issue. You can stream the program at <http://vimeo.com/137600727>.

The second show on Iran and Persia featured Jamilah Gerber to explore the culture and people of Persia and Iran. You can stream the program at <http://vimeo.com/150673910>.

The newest, upcoming show on Building Interfaith Communities brings together three religious leaders: Rev. Bob Moore, Peace Action Coalition, Rabbi Adam Feldman, Princeton Jewish Center and Imam Qareeb Bashir of the Mosque in the Windsors.

Dr. Goldstein is a founding member of PRF, serves on the Board and regularly attends the Science/Science History Group. In addition, she is a Research Sociologist and author, has produced and hosted TV shows for the past 9 years, and has had as guests on her shows, authors, Senators as well as college students. Her focus is upon social, economic and political issues.

Princeton Community TV can be viewed on cable Channel 30 throughout the municipality of Princeton on the Comcast cable system and on Channel 45 of Verizon's FiOS system. Princeton TV can be viewed online and is now available on Roku.

## Linda Holt Articles

Linda has been writing previews, interviews, and reviews for the Broad Street Review (Philadelphia) and the Princeton Packet. Some examples are at <http://bit.ly/11P99Ki>, <http://tiny.cc/j6dr8x> and <http://tiny.cc/x7dr8x>.

## **Winifred Hughes Winner of the Red Berry Editions Chapbook Contest**

Winnie is the winner of the 2015 Red Berry Editions Summer Chapbook Contest for her chapbook *Nine-Bend Bridge* (<http://www.redberryeditions.com>).

In January and February, Winnie taught a course on the Literary Language of Nature for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association's new adult education series. She will be a featured reader in the Poets at the Library series at the Princeton Public Library on March 14, 2016.

## **Joyce Irwin Latest Article**

Joyce has published an article entitled "Preaching About Pipes and Praise: Lutheran Organ Sermons of the Seventeenth Century." The article analyzes the various approaches taken by preachers in sermons delivered at the dedication of new or renovated organs in their parishes in various German towns. Dominant themes are the history of organs in the Bible and Christian history, allegorical meanings of different parts of the organ, exhortation to praise of God, and expectation of eternal salvation. The article appears in the new online Yale Journal of Music & Religion in an issue devoted to Music and Preaching. To download the article, go to <http://elischolar.library.yale.edu/yjmr/vol1/iss2/3/>.

## **Laura Kahn New Book**

Laura Kahn reports that her new book "One Health and the Politics of Antimicrobial Resistance" will be published this spring by Johns Hopkins University Press.

The book focuses on issues around the controversial subject of growth promoting antibiotic use in livestock and the rise of antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals. These issues are highly political with most of the public opposed to it. Europe and the US have approached these issues in very different ways. Laura examines the history behind the issues and examines US, EU, and global data in antibiotic use, resistance, and livestock production. The results are unexpected, and Laura has developed policy recommendations to address them.

Last month, Laura gave a book talk to the Old Guard and received very good reviews/comments.

## **Karen Reeds Talk on "Keeping Warm in Colonial New Jersey"**

Karen reports that she is giving a talk on the topic of "Keeping Warm in Colonial New Jersey." The talk will be held on February 18, 2016 at 7pm at the Bergen County Historical Society, Steuben House, Historic New Bridge Landing, 1209 Main Street, River Edge, NJ.

The talk is based on Karen's recent article: "Houses No Warmer Than Barns: Peter Kalm on Fireplaces and Firewood in Colonial Pennsylvania" published in *The Pennsylvania Magazine*

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of History and Biography's thematic issue on energy and on the keynote lecture she gave last fall at FinnFestUSA in Buffalo New York on Kalm's scientific account of Niagara Falls.

In the mid-18th century, Pehr Kalm, a naturalist and agricultural economist, left Sweden to explore America on behalf of the great Swedish scientist, Carl Linnaeus. During the two winters that Kalm spent in New Jersey, he was astonished to find that the weather here was no milder than in his Northern homeland -- and that the "houses were no warmer than barns." Thanks to his friendship with Benjamin Franklin, Kalm himself could stay warm by a Franklin stove.

Karen's interest in Kalm stems from her research for her 2007 exhibition, *Come into A New World: Linnaeus & America*, at the American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, and the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton. With a NJ350 Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, she is currently working on a book about Kalm and colonial New Jersey. If you'd like a copy of the PMHB paper, please email Karen.

In her talk, Karen will draw on Kalm's sharp-eyed observations of American material culture and natural history to consider the ways early New Jerseyans kept from freezing to death.

## Work-In-Progress

### **Elizabeth Anne Socolow WIP: "Shakespeare's Biblical Conversations with and about King James in Four (or Five) Jacobean Plays."**

When: March 24, 2016 from 2 to 4 PM

RSVP: Terri McNichol

Where: Terri will provide directions when you RSVP

To whet your appetite:

The story of how Shakespeare "spoke" in his plays, their themes, characters and plots, to and about his patrons, first the Tudor Queen, Elizabeth, and then the first Stuart, King James, is something we tend not to focus on.

Because King James, with some 125 translators, was producing from year one of his reign in England (1603), the Bible translation that bears his name, Shakespeare turned to biblical stories, themes, and ideas in a new way after Queen Elizabeth died, when his company became The Kings Men and had the royal patronage not of a Tudor but of a Stuart.

In particular, he turned to the Apocryphal stories, which are unfamiliar to us in America. This talk will briefly explain the publication history of the King James Bible, summarize the relevant biblical stories and then look at how Shakespeare uses them as a way of addressing King James and his audience about issues in the royal family. (The story of how he addressed Queen Elizabeth in his comedies for the same purpose is examined in the scholarly literature, and a very short version of that material will be offered at the beginning).

This Work-In-Progress will bring to light four (possibly five) biblical texts as they influence Shakespeare’s plots and demonstrate his predilections once a married, but homosexual king was on the throne.

## Grants and Scholarships

### Toni Vogel Carey Winner of a Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grant

Toni reports receiving a Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grant for 2015. The award of the grant is for a paper, “The Butcher, the Baker, and the Golden Rule: Adam Smith on the Nature of Commerce,” presented in Rotterdam in July 2015, at an Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society (ECSSS) conference, and it forms part of a book-in-progress on Adam Smith, whose tercentenary is 2023.

Adam Smith’s *Wealth of Nations* (1776) launched modern market economics and is remembered mostly for two passages:

*[An individual] intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end, which was no part of his intention. [But] by pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it.*

*It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities, but of their advantages.*

Largely based on this, the *Wealth of Nations* is usually considered, to quote Joseph Stiglitz, “a stupendous palace erected upon the granite of self-interest.” Yet you would be hard-pressed to find the term “self-interest” anywhere in this two-volume work. While the term ‘interest’ does appear with some frequency, Smith shows far more enthusiasm for “the desire of bettering our condition,” which “comes with us from the womb, and never leaves us till we go into the grave.” Bettering our condition can take many forms, of which “an augmentation of fortune” is merely the “most vulgar and the most obvious.”

Commercial transactions typically take place between strangers, where the ruling principle is simply to “buy as cheap and to sell as dear as possible.” However, in order to complete a transaction and not just wrangle on forever, to some extent buyer and seller must take each other’s needs and wants into account. For Adam Smith, this means “trading places in the imagination,” a notion central to his moral philosophy; and Hobbes and Bishop Butler actually equate trading places in the imagination with the Golden Rule. Adam Smith does not go quite that far; still, if imagining oneself in the place of another is built into doing ordinary business, it does bend the arc of commerce in that direction.

## Miscellaneous

### Coming Up

Boris Katz reports that the Science/Science History group has the following plans:

March 11, 2016: We will be discussing the book *The Vital Question: Energy, Evolution, and the Origins of Life*, by Nick Lane. We will be meeting at Ashwini Mokashi's house.

April 8, 2016: We will be discussing the book *p53: the Gene that Cracked the Cancer Code*, by Sue Armstrong. We will be meeting at Jim Manganaro's house.

May 13, 2016: We will be discussing the book *Heart of Darkness: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Invisible Universe*, by Jeremiah P. Ostriker and Simon Mitton (recommended by Evelyn). Evelyn invited Prof. Ostriker to come to our meeting and he accepted! Meeting location: TBD.

### Applying for a PRF Presentation Grant

Guidelines: PRF will award a limited number of annual grants to offset the expenses of presenting papers at scholarly conferences or equivalent occasions. The first five grants awarded in any given year will be referred to as the Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grants.

Purpose: The purpose of the PRF Presentation Grants is to assist PRF members whose expenses to travel to conferences to present scholarly papers or equivalent creative work are not fully subsidized or reimbursed by an employer, academic institution, or other outside source and whose otherwise unreimbursed expenses for registration, travel, and lodging exceed \$300/trip.

Types of Grants: Grant awards are made on a rolling basis, with no annual deadline, in an amount to be determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the Treasurer. The number and amount of the grants may vary from year to year, depending on the PRF budget for that year.

Eligibility: Any PRF member in good standing for at least one year are eligible. The PRF member 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.

Documentation: Documentation will include a copy of the conference program or acceptance by the program committee, a statement of your eligibility, an abstract of your presentation, receipts, a tally of presentation-related expenses, and the amount and source of any other grant for expenses for your presentation (e.g. a travel grant from a scholarly society).

If you meet the criteria in the guidelines above, please assemble the documentation and send the material to Karen Reeds.

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If you are the recipient of a grant, we ask that you write a short item about the presentation and conference for the PRF Newsletter.

### Membership Dues

PRF dues make it possible for PRF to hold events, host our website, use the Princeton University Libraries, and support our members' scholarly activities through PRF Presentation Grants.

Your 2016 PRF membership dues are \$35 for an individual and \$50 for a household. If you have not paid your 2016 dues, please send your payment to Karen Reeds' attention. Please include your name, address and e-mail on your check.

Please let Karen know if you have any questions.

## PRF Officers and Committee Chairs for 2015-2016

### Officers

President: Ashwini Mokashi  
Vice-President: Linda Arntzenius  
Treasurer: Stephanie R. Lewis  
Interim Treasurer: Karen Reeds  
Secretary: Joyce Irwin

### Chairs

Calendar: Linda Holt  
Newsletter: Lina Genovesi  
Membership: Ludmilla Popova-Wightman  
Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein  
Program: Pamela Sheehan  
Website: Lara Freidenfelds  
Grants Officer and Liaison: Karen Reeds  
Library Access: Eva Bodanszky  
Publicity: Winifred Hughes  
Work-In-Progress: Terri McNichol