



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, fellow PRF Members,

Thank you, Colleagues, for your unflagging dedication to PRF when there are so many distractions in our lives and in the world. Some of the benefits that originally drew us to PRF lie dormant, waiting for less contagious times. Like you, I miss our monthly luncheons and conversations at the Institute for Advanced Study, our twice-annual get-togethers, in-person Works-in-Progress, and the ability to stroll into the Princeton University Libraries—PRF access card in hand—to browse the stacks and fatten our research dossiers with world-class findings.

But independent scholarship has not ground to a halt, nor have the social amenities, which have endeared this organization to its members for scores of years, diminished or faded away. Thanks to our connectedness through social media and Zoom, we continue to contribute to the development of our peers and to our own pursuits as scholars, artists, and humanists. We do this by sharing resources, participating in Study Groups, and celebrating our accomplishments with each other in the spirit of eager delight, gratitude, and mutual appreciation.

The success of each PRF member is a success for organization as a whole and its mission to foster collegiality and to contribute meaningfully to the world of knowledge and truth.

Our Study Groups have been vibrant and energizing during these sometimes days of darkness. Meeting on Zoom once or twice a month, our colleagues and guests from other associations have enjoyed sharing the intellectual spark that critical thinking and imagination can ignite. Diverse points of view add spice to the conversation, and we are challenged to step outside of our areas of expertise. As my friends in the Science/Science History Group know (far better than I), gases, and even the Universe itself, keep changing and expanding through space and time. So too our ideas grow and move off in different directions as we hear other informed perspectives and find they have breathed new life into our preconceptions.

So, yes, there is independent research and a lively life of the mind during and after the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, thanks to PRF and other, more specialized organizations and societies to which we may belong. The ties we share are even stronger during times of duress, and supporting each

other, we continue to flourish regardless of the temporary set-backs thrown our way. Have a great 2022, everyone!

Linda Holt
PRF President

STILL CELEBRATING EVELYN M. WITKIN AT 100!

Find out why the scientific world honors Evelyn and why her work as a geneticist continues to bear fruit: the Rutgers University Symposium in her honor is now online at (see *PRF Newsletter*, Spring/Summer 2021)

<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/rutgers-celebrates-world-renowned-geneticist-evelyn-witkin-she-turns-100>

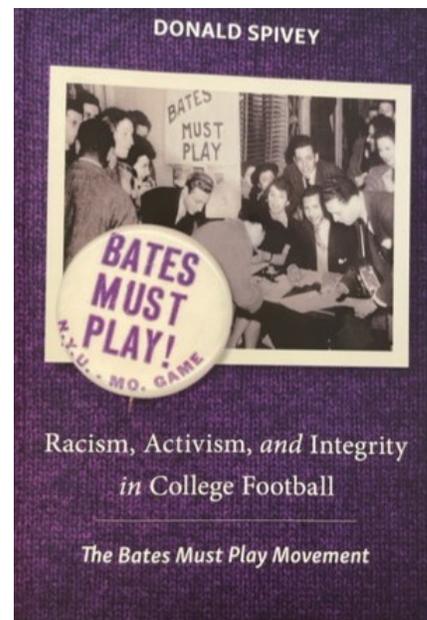
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxypFzhrWsWGwxtZ6ZpWJmOzQs16ohagi>

Here is Evelyn speaking for herself at the end of the Symposium:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VuDKCpTbg&list=PLxypFzhrWsWGwxtZ6ZpWJmOzQs16ohagi&index=18>

Evelyn received a wholly unexpected birthday gift during the summer: a book that honors her as an activist while a student at New York University sixty years ago! In *Racism, Activism, and Integrity in College Football: The Bates Must Play Movement* (Carolina Academic Press, 2021), Donald Spivey, Distinguished Professor of History, University of Miami, recounts what happened in 1940-1 when NYU sidelined its star football player, Len Bates, rather than let him play against the University of Missouri's all-white team. Evelyn Maisel was one of seven students who led protests against NYU's "gentlemen's agreement" to

abide by Missouri's Jim Crow policy. NYU suspended all seven, a move that set off even more protests.

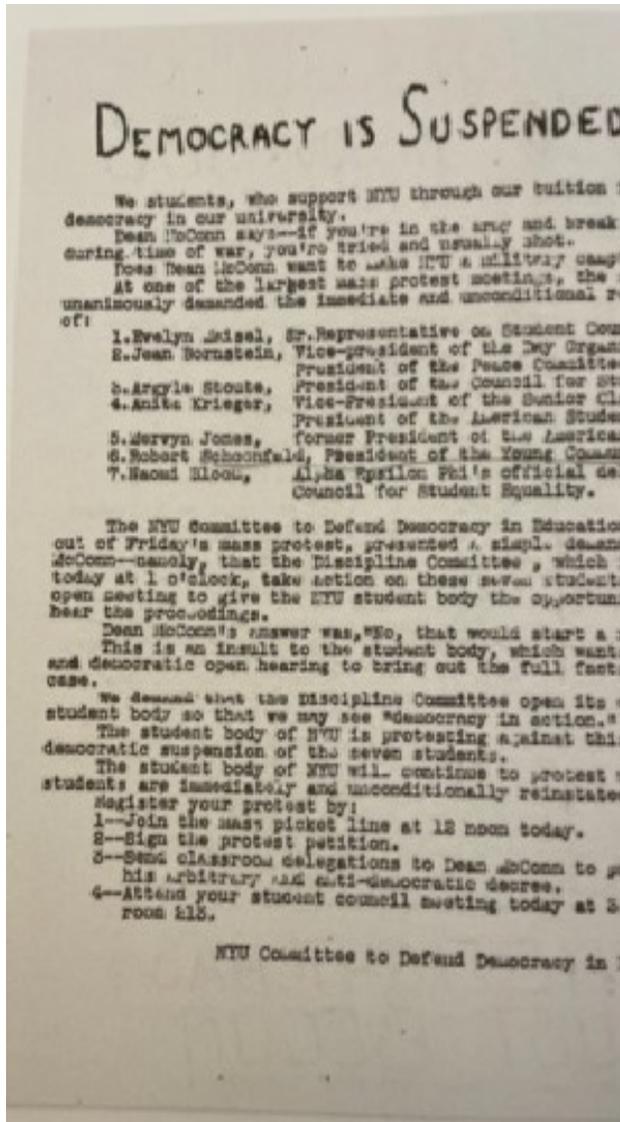


The Bates Must Play Movement inspired similar protests across the country (although full integration of college athletic teams was not accomplished until 1971).

Prof. Spivey spent many years trying to track down the Bates Seven and was finally put in touch with Evelyn in 1999. She happily shared memories and her files of mimeographed protest flyers.

NYU's suspension changed Evelyn's life. Instead of going to NYU for graduate school, she turned to Columbia. When asked at her interview there about her role in the protests, she was told by the great geneticist Theodore Dobzhansky: "I like trouble-makers!" For the rest of that success story, go to the Rutgers Symposium and to this 2012 interview: "It Was Heaven: An Interview with Evelyn Witkin."

PLOS Genetics,
doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1003009.g002
Evelyn tells the story of the Bates Seven in her own voice: *Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Digital Archives, Oral History, recorded June 1, 2000, [Racial Segregation at NYU—Columbia University](#)*



MEMBER NEWS

PRF's Advisory Board member and distinguished historian, **Natalie Zemon Davis**, has just published *Leo Africanus Discovers Comedy: Theatre and Poetry Across the Mediterranean* (Centre for Renaissance & Reformation Studies/ IterPress, Toronto, [Natalie Zemon Davis Leo Africanus bk FINAL_ES51_Flyer-2](#)).

From the publisher:

Using the North African diplomat Hasan al-Wazzan, known in Europe as Leo Africanus (c1488-after 1532), as its guide [to] the worlds of Italian and Islamic theatre in the late medieval and early modern period, ... *Leo Africanus Discovers Comedy* is... a study in the delicate transmission of knowledge across borders, cultures, and religions.

In correspondence with PRF member, Maureen Mulvihill (who had immediately shared news of the book with relevant scholarly listserves), Natalie explained how the work arose from her earlier book, *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim between Worlds* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Hill and Wang, 2006):

“It was lots of fun to do this project, which was inspired initially by serving as historical consultant for Wajdi Mouawad’s play *Birds of a Kind* (*Tous des Oiseaux*), the latter being initially commissioned to connect with my *Trickster Travels*. Wajdi took the play in other directions, though Leo Africanus has a role in it. AND as I worked with Wajdi, I realized that I had not thought at all about theatre

when I did *Trickster Travels*. So I decided to look into it and had such a good time.”

NB Add Natalie’s autobiographical reflections to your must-read list for the New Year: Natalie Zemon Davis, *Passion for History: Conversations with Denis Crouzet*, ed. Michael Wolfe. The book was originally published in 2010 by Penn State University Press and is now available open access online at De Gruyter: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9780271091297-toc/html>

This fall **Lara Freidenfelds** found new directions for her skills as a historian of science, medicine, and women’s health and community activist. Lara worked as an expert witness for a talcum powder lawsuit. She also ran for the Board of Education in Chatham Borough. While she did not win her race, she had many fruitful conversations about education in her community. Now she is looking forward to spending more time writing book reviews and essays for Nursing Clio (<https://nursingclio.org>). (Speaking of reviews, Lara’s book, *The Myth of the Perfect Pregnancy: A History of Miscarriage in America* just got a rave review in the leading history of science journal, *Isis*.)

Connie Goddard, who did a Work-in-Progress Zoom in the summer of 2020, is pleased to say that her book manuscript, currently titled “Revisiting Industrial Education: Lessons from Three Distinctive Progressive-Era Schools,” is now being reviewed by a major academic publisher. This past spring, Connie’s commentary, “Scaling Up and Student Agency,” in

Teachers College Record (April 15, 2021, <https://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 23676), reflected on the lessons that graduates of the Progressive-Era manual training schools might offer both students and education policy-makers in today’s COVID era. During Fall 2021 she followed that piece up with: a talk at a John Dewey Society meeting in Vermont; two presentations at the History of Education Society meeting in San Diego (one focusing on careers undertaken by graduates of New Jersey’s Bordentown Manual Training School, the other describing an innovative program in Wisconsin); and a Zoom program to the Society of Midland Authors about the Chicago Manual Training School (video at <https://midlandauthors.org/events-past/> November 16th, 2021).



The Bordentown Manual Training School Glee Club, 1943. New Jersey State Archives

The pandemic has not stopped **Joan Goldstein** from continuing to produce new programs for her show, *Backstory with Joan Goldstein*, on Princeton Community Television. Joan’s most recent conversation, with Dr. Myra L. Weiner, scientist and author of the recently published memoir,

Uprooting the Poison Tree (Eliezer Tristan Publishing, 2019), is now available at <https://vimeo.com/659419974>.

From Dr. Weiner's preface:

"My professional discipline, toxicology, provided a perfect resource for viewing some toxic experiences as assaults by real poisons, chosen carefully to accurately reflect those experiences as metaphors. Similarly, my spiritual search dictated that there could also be antidotes to mitigate those sinister struggles, to negate their power, and to add more meaning to my life. Thus, the poisons and antidotes became metaphors for my life experiences."

In a recently published study, **Joyce Irwin** analyzes the theological issues posed by music's affective qualities that Martin Luther grappled with in the sixteenth century and Lutheran composer Johann Mattheson tackled anew in the eighteenth-century: "Luther, Mattheson, and the Joy of Music," in Mattias Lundberg, Maria Schildt, and Jonas Lundblad, eds, *Lutheran Music Culture: Ideals and Practices* (Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, 2021), 115-34. Although few people today are likely to read Mattheson's 600-page biblical commentary on the subject, many are finding joy in his music, e.g., his Christmas Oratorio: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rfi4K2pO_w0).

Could playing the piano be dangerous to your health? **Beverly Jerold's** latest article explores the occupational hazards of playing nineteenth-century instruments: "The 19th- century piano and finger-strengthening devices," *The Musical Times* 162/1956

(Autumn 2021): 21-39. As performances moved from the salon to the concert hall, pianists had to play louder and press harder on the keys. To see some of the diabolical finger-stretching devices Beverly discusses: <https://www.ripm.org/cnc/> (search "machines").

In October **Kairy Koshoeva** traveled to Moscow to play in a concert at Gnessin's Russian Academy of Music, celebrating the 80th birthday of her "dear professor," Vera Nosina. Enjoy Kairy's October 23, 2021 performance of the Pas de Deux, *andante maestoso*, from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet* (arranged by Mikhail Pletnev): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzamTdUSaHk> Kairy notes, "You can see my teacher in the purple gown, sitting on the stage. It was very intimidating to play in front of her!" The day before, Kairy also gave a solo recital. The First President of Kyrgyzstan came to Moscow to introduce her in the Malachite Concert Hall in the House of Scientists and to remind everyone to thank their teachers! (Unfortunately, it was arranged on such short notice that no recording was made.)

Eleni Litt and **Lena Struwe** both had paintings displayed in the Princeton Art Council's Annual Members Exhibition in December 2021. A total of 114 art works were selected for the show, including drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and works in other media.

Eleni, a longtime PRF member, showed her abstract painting: "We Need a New Language." Eleni writes about the piece: "It's about a number of things... Throughout the winter season we're always talking about

light and dark, privileging ‘light’ as better. Of course it’s lovely to ‘shed a light on things’ or ‘see the light’ or be ‘enlightened.’ At the same time the velvety darkness of the night is quite beautiful. ...and so many wonderful things happen in the ‘dark’: some animals hibernate, seeds begin to sprout, humans (and other animals) sleep and so much more. Notwithstanding that for some the lack of daylight and sunlight can be difficult for some people, we need to raise up the blessings of darkness and the dark. And it ought to be obvious that there is a social justice implication here as well. The piece uses ‘dark’ colors, and in the right light all the beauty of the variations of darkness are hopefully visible.”

During the pandemic, Eleni has continued to work full time (as Associate Provost of Faculty Affairs at The New School in NYC), but has also managed to tuck in her creative practice by teaching at the West Windsor Art Center and the Princeton Adult School.



As Eleni approaches retirement, she expects to devote more time to making and sharing art, furthering social justice projects through the Athena Advisors, where she is the Inaugural Artist in Residence, and

taking part in the Rutgers Environmental Steward Program.

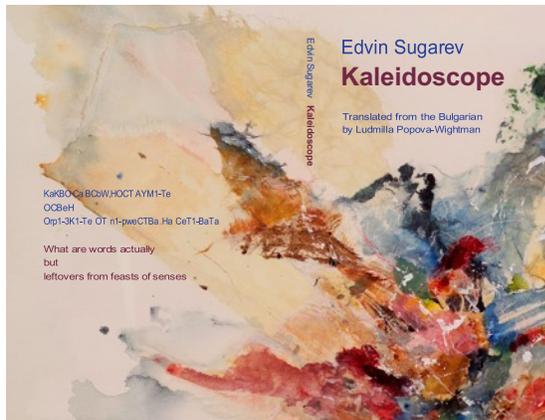
Lena Struwe, a participant in PRF’s Science/Science History Group, notes that, during the pandemic, she had started taking



watercolor classes online through the Princeton Arts Council: “The colors in ‘My Mom’s Watercolor Box’ are painted with the actual watercolors in my mom’s box. My mother, Anna Struwe, died in 2019, and I inherited about 1000 pieces of her art work and also a lot of her art supplies.”

Lena also puts her watercolor skills to use in nature journaling in her teaching and research at Rutgers where she serves as Professor of Plant Biology and Director of Rutgers Chrysler Herbarium. For a sample, see her card accompanying the birthday *Phalaenopsis* orchid for Evelyn Witkin in the Spring/Summer 2021 PRF Newsletter.

Ludmilla Popova-Wightman has just published *Kaleidoscope*, a bilingual collection of original haiku, written by Edvin Sugarev in Bulgarian, and translated into English by Ludmilla. Ludmilla had previously translated a selection of Sugarev's poems, *Secret Senses* (also Ivy Press, 2006). Both books are available from Ivy Press, ivypressprinceton.com.



Cover collage by Grace Koo

What are words actually
but
leftovers from feasts of senses

Edvin Sugarev

In December, **Karen Reeds** gave an illustrated zoom talk to the Medical History Society of New Jersey: “The Sniff Test: Making Sense of Medicinal Plants in Colonial North America.” She had presented earlier versions to the 41nd Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum: Scent and Fragrance in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and to the Rutgers Botany Salon, run by **Lena Struwe**. Just a few days before the MHSNJ talk, Karen’s research on early European explorers’ encounters with

unfamiliar American plants took an unexpected, pandemic twist. In an Elizabethan herbal, she noticed that nigella an Old World garden plant, was credited with the virtue of “restoring the sense of smell in those who have lost it.” Turning to PubMed, Karen found new clinical research from September 2021 that suggested *Nigella sativa* might help patients with mild COVID-19 infections who suffered from anosmia, that is, the loss of the sense of smell. Under many common names—kalonji, blackseed, black cumin, black caraway, and fennel flower among others—nigella seed has been used in many Indian and Near Eastern cuisines since antiquity. (Karen is grateful to Jamie Gerber for pointing out a place to buy the aromatic seeds locally.) The recording of Karen’s talk will eventually be posted on MHSNJ.org. Karen makes a medical disclaimer: she is a historian of medicine and botany, *not* a physician, pharmacist or herbalist. Don’t try to use *Nigella* for anosmia without consulting your doctor.

PRF MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Several PRF members have moved recently:

- Linda Arntzenius, to Hamilton
- Jamileh Gerber, to Stonebridge, a continuing care retirement community in Skillman NJ, just north of Princeton
- Ashwini Mokashi to Oxford, England
- Ann Morgan and Bill Gear, also to Stonebridge, in Skillman.

For everyone, please send any updated contact information to Linda Holt for the PRF Members Directory.

IN MEMORIAM: Anne D. Groom

PRF joins the family of Anne Groom, a long-time member of PRF, in mourning her death. This obituary appeared Town Topics on December 21, 2021.

Anne D. Groom passed away at the end of November in Edmonds, WA, after many years of decline with dementia.

Like her husband, Len Groom, who predeceased her in August, she lived most of her life in Princeton. After graduating from Princeton High School, Anne received degrees in English literature from Barnard College and Rutgers University.

She had many interests that she pursued throughout her life. Anne loved language and worked first at ETS in Research, creating a series of advanced exams in literature, and later edited a series of texts and teacher's editions for Macmillan Publishing. She also worked as an editor for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Following retirement from her positions as an editor, Anne's academic interests found their expression through her involvement over the years with the Princeton Research Forum. She edited the manuscripts of many PRF members, and was an active discussant on a wide range of topics.

Anne greatly enjoyed music and singing, and she was an active and founding member of the Princeton Pro Musica, as well as a member of the Westminster Choir, over decades. She retained her love of music to the end of her life, never happier than when she was singing.

Anne's love of travel and adventure took her abroad numerous times, and she lived in England with her husband, Len, when his work as an architect for The Hillier Group took them to London. She enjoyed hosting her children and friends in London especially.

A devoted daughter and daughter-in-law, as well as a beloved wife and mother, Anne's family mourns her passing.

SCHOLARLY OPPORTUNITIES

Princeton University Library Special Collections Research Grants Program—application deadline, January 14, 2022

The Princeton University Library Special Collections Research Grants program, funded by the Friends of PUL, is accepting applications through January 14, 2022. With grants of up to \$4,000, this competitive grant program offers researchers from around the world access to PUL's unique and rare collections.

Awarded to short-term projects lasting between two and four weeks, the grants aim to promote scholarly use of the Library's special collections. Research projects are focused on scholarly use of archives, manuscripts, rare books, and other rare and unique holdings of PUL. For more details and application materials:

<https://library.princeton.edu/news/general/2021-10-31/research-grant-program-princeton-university-library-kicks-october-11th>
<https://library.princeton.edu/special-collections/research-grants-faq>

Saroyan Prize competition–deadline January 31, 2022

The Saroyan Prize is a biennial competition for newly-published books, both works of fiction (novels, short story anthologies by a single author, or drama) or non-fiction (biography, history, or memoirs). The prize commemorates the life, legacy and intentions of William Saroyan—author, artist, dramatist, composer—and is intended to encourage new and emerging writers.

Details at

<https://library.stanford.edu/projects/william-saroyan-international-prize-writing>. NB The January 31, 2022 deadline is for *receipt* of the book.

If you are interested in reviewing books for future Saroyan prizes, talk to **Karen Reeds**, who served as a Saroyan reviewer last year. She believes everyone in PRF would make a good reviewer. For more information, write Sonia Manoukian Lee, Associate Director for Development, Saroyan Prize Administrator, Stanford Libraries, Stanford, CA 94305-6004, sonialee@stanford.edu.

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

PRF's own reference librarian: Jamileh Gerber

Take advantage of Jamie Gerber's decades of experience as a librarian. Even though Princeton University Library is not currently open to PRF members, Jamie can point you to specialized open-access databases and information clearing-houses you might have forgotten or not have known about. The Library of Congress, for example, remains

an extraordinary resource both for reference help and its digital collections:

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/refcorr.html> and <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>.

Jamie also notes that your local public library may still be able to get you university library books through interlibrary loan. (By the way, libraries are no longer worried about books spreading COVID.)

Open-access digital resources–beyond Google Books

The digital availability of Natalie Zemon Davis's *Passion for History* is a reminder that more and more scholarly presses are making books available open-access online. For example, the De Gruyter website, <https://www.degruyter.com/> lists a large collection of open-access books or chapters published by themselves as well as a number of top American university presses. Whenever you search online for a publisher, book, journal, author, or subject, try adding "open access" and see what turns up.

For books in progress: "Independent Publishing: A Primer from Concept to Completion," by Phil Stover

This fall, the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) sponsored a seminar by Phil on independent publishing. Unfortunately, the video's sound quality was poor, so NCIS decided not to post it online. But NCIS has provided a link to Phil's seminar PowerPoint:

<https://www.nowinconclusion.com/presentations> (scroll down to "Independent Publishing: A Primer from Concept to Completion"). It is full of valuable advice for anyone thinking about publishing their own books, including how to get your own

ISBN and strategies for design, editing, indexing, and marketing. (While you are at it, check out the PowerPoint for Phil's keynote presentation at the 2019 NCIS conference: "Enthusiasm Stew: A Recipe for Success as an Independent Scholar—My Personal Journey.")

"Publication Success" videos

Recent conversations among PRF members on our zoom get-togethers about their books-in-progress suggest that this video on writing general-audience books might be helpful: "Pracademia: The growing trend of academics writing popular books,"

<https://www.aclang.com/event-recording/routledge-november-30-2021/>.

It is one of a series of "Publication Success" interviews with publishing professionals (from NYU Press and Routledge in this case) organized by Avi Staiman, Academic Language Experts, a business that offers editing/translation/publishing services to scholars.

PRF and NCIS: STRENGTHENING OUR TIES

PRF is an affiliate member of NCIS, the National Coalition of Independent Scholars <http://www.ncis.org/>. The most obvious value of our being a Partner Group is that PRF members can submit manuscripts, book reviews, and our own books for review to NCIS's open-access, peer-reviewed journal, The Independent Scholar. Read the journal at: <https://www.ncis.org/the-independent-scholar/tis> and address queries to <mailto:tis@ncis.org>.

NCIS also sponsors H-Scholar, an international web-based listserv/discussion group for independent scholars, where subscribers can post announcements, queries, and join in discussions on topics affecting independent scholars. H-Scholar is part of H-Net, a group of discipline-based listserves and related services to scholars in the humanities and social sciences. To explore H-Scholar and H-Net Commons:

<https://networks.h-net.org/>

<https://networks.h-net.org/h-scholar> .

While PRF members are not automatically NCIS members, by joining NCIS as an individual member—as a number of PRF members have done—you benefit as an individual (want a webpage?), as a member of PRF, and as a part of the larger community of independent scholars.

MAILING ADDRESS & WEBSITE

PRF's mailing address is:

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

Our website is:

www.princetonresearchforum.org.

DUES REMINDER

PRF observes the academic year from September 1 through August 31. Annual dues for an individual are \$40; the bargain price for a couple is \$60. A lifetime membership is \$400. The official deadline for receipt of dues for 2021-2022: December 31, 2021. But it's not too late to mail checks for missed 2020-2021 dues (nor too early for 2022-2023) to:

**Princeton Research Forum
PO Box 264,
Kingston, NJ 08528-0264.**

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

To arrange for a work-in-progress or presentation, please contact WIP Chair Ellen Gilbert.

PRF PRESENTATION GRANTS

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. 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 generosity continues to fund these grants.

Grants are awarded on a rolling basis, with no annual deadline. To be eligible, applicants must be PRF members 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. Grant recipients are asked to write a short item about the presentation and conference for the PRF Newsletter.

Pandemic note: To support PRF members' presentations in the zoom era, the PRF Executive Board is formulating new guidelines for these grants. If your talk was or will be online, talk to Karen about ways that a PRF Presentation Grant might apply to expenses you've incurred, e.g., travel to archives (rather than the traditional expense of conference travel).

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Spring/Summer Issue: *deadline* mid-June for publication in July.

Fall Issue: *deadline* mid-late October for publication in November.

Winter Issue: *deadline* mid-late February for publication in April.

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