

Bits & Pieces

Edward T. Cone Concert Series

Friday, November 4, and Saturday, November 5, 8:00 p.m., Wolfensohn Hall

Institute Artist-in-Residence Derek Bermel performs on clarinet with composer Timothy Andres on piano, accompanied by Haruni Rhodes on violin. A concert talk will take place in the hall following the Friday performance and at 6:30 p.m. prior to Saturday's performance. Please visit www.ias.edu/special/air/music to register for tickets.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

The United States reverts to standard time on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks and watches back an hour.

Writers Conversation

Tuesday, November 8, 5:30 p.m., Dilworth Room
American composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim will talk about his life and work with Derek Bermel, Institute Artist-in-Residence. Please reserve at <http://web.ias.edu/events/writers-nov2011>.

Public Lectures

Wolfensohn Hall
Peter L. Galison, Joseph Pellegrino University Professor at Harvard University, will speak about the limits of objectivity at 5:00

p.m. on Friday, November 11. Danielle Allen, UPS Foundation Professor in the School of Social Science, will speak about education and equality at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16. Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians and Chair of Food and Water Watch, will give a lecture on the global water crisis at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30.

Princeton Symphony Concert

Sunday, November 20, 4:30 p.m., Wolfensohn Hall
Tickets are free but should be requested in advance. To reserve up to four tickets per household, please visit <http://web.ias.edu/events/psa-nov2011>.

Princeton Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, November 25, 4:45 p.m.

At the end of November, just after Thanksgiving, Princeton lights its Christmas Tree. The festive event begins in the center of Palmer Square on the green just in front of the Nassau Inn. The lighting is complete with the appearance of Santa Claus arising from a chimney. Many other events are held during the holiday season and will be highlighted in the December issue of *TatI*.

Make your reservations now for the Holiday Buffet on Friday, December 16. Reservations are limited and tend to fill up quickly! For more information, visit www.admin.ias.edu/dh/ias/buffet.

Weather Alerts

With the winter season upon us, it is helpful to be prepared in case of snow or ice storms. Being prepared may mean having fresh batteries for your flashlights and purchasing bottled water or canned food. To stay on top of the weather, you may access Princeton's weather forecast at www.weather.com.



Volume 8, Issue 3

November 2011



INSTITUTE for ADVANCED STUDY

TIMES at THE INSTITUTE

Princeton Theological Seminary

Paul Rorem, a former Visitor (1998-99, 2006-07) in the School of Historical Studies, writes:

Between the Institute and downtown Princeton is another venerable local educational institution that may look like it's part of Princeton University, but it's not. Going toward town on Mercer, just past the Einstein house, is Princeton Theological Seminary, where Library Place marks the ongoing construction of a new seminary library. In 1812, the Seminary split off from the "College of New Jersey," as Princeton University was known then, for the sake of educating Presbyterian clergy. So it is fast approaching some bicentennial festivities. It is still Presbyterian, but includes many other Christian denominations, and offers a Ph.D. besides the basic ministerial degrees. The relationship to the Institute is slim, but growing. During World War II, the Institute welcomed a refugee historian named Edward Jurji and then

helped him find a faculty position at the Seminary, which he occupied until his retirement in the mid-1970s. Other historians from the Seminary have been IAS Visitors over the years, including Bruce Metzger and Leong Seow in ancient (biblical) texts, and myself and Scott Hendrix in medieval or early modern studies. The Center of Theological Inquiry on Stockton Street is a spin-off of the seminary, a mini-Institute now on its own; it will be hosting dialogues of science and theology during the coming year including Piet Hut from IAS. The Seminary welcomes Institute families to its dining hall and bookstore (in Mackay Campus Center), daily worship in Miller Chapel, and special lectures and concerts, plus its guest quarters in the School of Christian Vocation and Mission. Most of all, the



Handbell concert at Princeton Theological Seminary

library, although now squeezed into one building at Stockton and Library Place, still welcomes IAS scholars while construction continues through 2012. For more information, see the website www.ptsem.edu.

If you are looking for accommodations near IAS, you may choose to contact Princeton Theological Seminary's Erdman Center, located at 20 Library Place, (609) 497-7990. Room rates start at \$55 per night for a single bed with a shared bathroom to \$90 per night for a family suite that can sleep two to three guests.

Thanksgiving—An American Tradition



Brig Gebert writes:

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. This year it will be on Thursday, November 24. It's as festive and elaborate as you want it to be. It's about being thankful for the bounty of the harvest and giving thanks with family and friends. Traditionally, it revolves around food. It might be the classic turkey with all-American side dishes, like sweet potatoes and stuffing, or "tweaked" versions, representing your heritage or taste preferences. You can purchase "turkeys" made with vegetarian ingredients, or stuff your turkey with more meat. Everything goes! See www.new-jersey-leisure-guide.com/thanksgiving-in-new-jersey.html for more fun tips to celebrate Thanksgiving in New Jersey.



A shared Thanksgiving dinner in the Activities Center

In the past, several families at the Institute have gotten together and brought dishes to share in the Activities Center. If you are interested in organizing an event like this, please contact Linda Cooper at llg@ias.edu. You might enjoy another American Tradition: the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. It takes place on Thanksgiving Day and dates back to 1924 when it was started to celebrate all the diverse heritages of Macy's employees. Since you live in Princeton and just a train ride away from the action, you should consider visiting the parade in person, or join the millions who watch it in the comfort of their homes on television.

Whatever you do, please share your favorite activity with us, your very grateful *TatI* team.

Linda Cooper writes:

On Friday, November 18, 4:00 p.m., IAS children are invited to the Activities Center to decorate their own giant paper turkey. The children may bring their own decorations or use the ones provided. There is no fee for this activity and no reservation is required. We will be using paint, so please dress the children accordingly and parents, please accompany your children.

November 2011

Volume 8, Issue 3

TIMES at THE INSTITUTE

INSTITUTE for ADVANCED STUDY

Einstein Drive, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540

Times at the Institute
is published by the Association of Members of the Institute for Advanced Study (AMIAS)

Editorial Board:
Linda Cooper, Brig Gebert, Helen Goddard, Kelly Devine Thomas

Layout and design:
Brig Gebert

Photos:
Linda Cooper, Brig Gebert, Danielle Otis, Jen Strickland de Salazar, Vladimir Voevodsky

Please contact Linda Cooper with questions about AMIAS Activities at (609) 734-8259 or llg@ias.edu.
See also the AMIAS website at www.ias.edu/about/amias for information about AMIAS activities and to read past issues of *Times at the Institute*.

Please send comments or contributions for this publication to tati@ias.edu.

Founded in 1974, the Association of Members of the Institute for Advanced Study (AMIAS) is the organization of scholars and researchers who are current or former Members of or Visitors to the Institute. Its central purpose is to support the mission of the Institute and to continue for future generations the opportunities for independent, undistracted scholarship that AMIAS members have experienced.

A Year at the IAS with the Bierl Family...part 2

Anton Bierl, Professor Ordinarius for Ancient Greek Literature and Language at the University of Basel (Switzerland), was a Member in the School of Historical Studies in 2010–11. Before leaving the Institute, he and his wife, Judith, and fourteen-year-old twin daughters, Josie and Maura, wrote a collaborative essay on some impressions of their unforgettable year at the Institute. Part I with contributions from Anton and Josie appeared in the October issue. Part II with contributions from Judith and Maura appears below.



The American Museum of Natural History in New York

Maura writes:

With parents very interested in culture and art, who tried to miss not a single museum wherever we went (New York, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, etc.), my sister and I had to spend long exhausting days, for example at MoMA. The Museum of Natural History in New York, however, was something totally different. My family would have never gone to a natural history museum, if there were not the trip offered by the Institute. I was already excited days earlier, because I had seen the movie “A Night at the Museum,” in which all kinds of creatures and people in the Museum of Natural History come alive during the night, while the museum guard tries to keep every-

thing organized. I saw huge dinosaur skeletons, ancient animals and peoples, and the best of the museum, the planetarium.

As a freshman in high school coming from Switzerland and naturally not yet fluent in English, the beginning of school was really hard. Being supposedly good enough for the regular English class, I immediately had to write essays every week and even read the *Odyssey*, to the great pleasure of my father who teaches ancient Greek and is a specialist in Homer.

It took me the first quarter to get used to everything and even a bit longer until I had no problems with the language at all. Without a school bus, my sister and I had to get to school by bike (even sometimes in the winter), which took us twenty-five minutes. After school, there were always hours of homework to be done. When I joined the track team for the spring season, I experienced the American way of practicing seriously every single day and going to meets almost once a week.

During vacation or holidays, it was always something special to have lunch at the Institute cafeteria.

We had a harsh winter with lots of snow in Princeton. On some days the whole Institute was covered in deep snow, and you could not leave the house until the streets were dug out. Meter-high snow piles were everywhere, but my father nevertheless biked to his office. On a school-free day due to a severe snowstorm, some kids and I tried to build a snow igloo on top of a huge but flat snow pile—it only lasted, however, until a snowplow destroyed it.

Judith writes:

A little more than a year ago, we arrived with eight suitcases, partly filled with Toni’s papers and books. Everything fit nicely into our apartment. We wondered how some neighbors who had arrived with big containers were able to organize their



Judith and Anton Bierl at the annual Midwinter Party

belongings. Our house in Basel is a very snug two-hundred-year-old farmhouse with small rooms and windows with green shutters. Clarke House on the Princeton Battlefield reminds me of it. I had always wanted to live in such an old house, but after this year, surrounded by modern architecture, I am not so sure anymore. We were surprised by all of the historic buildings in Princeton, and I was amazed at how clean and orderly the town was—even more clean than Switzerland! The police presence and the prompt parking enforcement are likewise impressive. It was always nice to stroll in town, visit the public library, and have a coffee. Sometimes I even unexpectedly met one of my daughters walking down Nassau Street with friends.

Supposedly the Princeton weather in July and August is so unpleasant that many scholars leave the Institute in June. We enjoyed our summer at the Institute tremendously, and the few times it was very hot and humid, we thought of countless rainy days in Switzerland and spent the day in the pool or our cool air-conditioned apartment. After we had to cancel our big trip to the Wild West the children said, “O Mum, don’t worry, didn’t we somehow have a whole year of vacation?”

Crossroads Craft Fair

The first Sunday in December, Crossroads traditionally holds its annual scholarship event. This year it will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. It is a fun afternoon full of family-friendly activities, good food, beautiful things to buy, and above all, friendship. All of the proceeds of the event benefit the Crossroads scholarship fund, providing tuition assistance to Princeton-area families in financial need. One of the highlights of the event is the craft sale, full of handmade items: toys, clothing, decorative pillows, jewelry, among other splendid objects. The majority of these are made by members of the Crossroads community at weekly craft workshops. Each year, the staff also sew a patchwork quilt, which is raffled (see image). A silent auction offers additional delights, such as a stay in a vacation home, homemade meals, or theater tickets.

November 2011

More information about the AMIAS activities listed in this calendar may be found at www.ias.edu/about/amias/activities.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Reservations are required for dinners, concerts and trips. Thank you! Dates and times are current as of publication date.		1 Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC	2 Dinner, DH	3 After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	4 Hatha Yoga, 12:00 p.m., DR Dinner, DH AiR Concert, 8:00 p.m., WH	5 AiR Concert, 8:00 p.m., WH
6 Fall Back	7 English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB Movie Mondays, 7:00 p.m., DR	8 Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC Writers Conversation, 5:30 p.m., DR	9 Buffet Dinner, DH Film Series, 8:00 p.m., WH	10 After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	11 Hatha Yoga, 12:00 p.m., DR Public Lecture, 5:00 p.m., WH Dinner, DH	12
13	14 English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	15 Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC	16 Public Lecture, 4:30 p.m., WH Dinner, DH	17 After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	18 Hatha Yoga, 12:00 p.m., DR Fun Fridays, 4:00 p.m., AC Dinner, DH	19 AMIAS Trip
20 Princeton Symphony Concert, 4:30 p.m., WH	21 English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	22 Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC	23 No Dinner	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Institute Offices and Dining Hall closed	25	26
27	28 English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB	29 Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC Playreading, 7:00 p.m., MH	30 Public Policy Lecture, 5:00 p.m., WH Dinner, DH	AC: Activities Center; BH: Bloomberg Hall; CNS: Crossroads Nursery School; CR: Common Room; DH: Dining Hall; DR: Dilworth Room; HB: Harry's Bar—upper level of Dining Hall; HC: Housing Complex; MH: Marquand House; OL: 97 Olden Lane; TC: Tennis Courts; WH: Wolfensohn Hall; WLH: West Building Lecture Hall; WLR: White-Levy Room.		