

## Bits & Pieces

### Public Lectures

#### Wolfensohn Hall

Carlo Ginzburg, Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles, will speak about the historian's craft at **4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 3**. Edward Witten, Charles Simonyi Professor in the School of Natural Sciences, will speak about knots and quantum theory at **5:30 p.m. on Friday, October 28**.

### After Hours Conversations

#### Harry's Bar

Informal and brief talks by Institute Faculty, Members, Visitors, and Staff, followed by conversation and drinks, will begin at **6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3**. For more information and a schedule of talks, which will take place on Mondays and Thursdays during the term, visit [www.ids.ias.edu/after-hours-conversations](http://www.ids.ias.edu/after-hours-conversations). Future sessions will start at 5:30 p.m., as detailed on the website.

### Princeton Symphony Concert

**Sunday, October 9, 4:30 p.m.**  
Wolfensohn Hall

Tickets are free but should be reserved in advance. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Performances are not suitable for children under the age of eight. To reserve up to four tickets per household, please visit <http://web.ias.edu/events/PSO-oct2011>.

### Institute Celebrates Halloween

IAS children begin preparing for this trick-or-treat tradition by gathering for pumpkin decorating from **4:00-5:30 p.m.** in the Activities Center on **Friday, October 21**. Then just before dusk on **October 31**, IAS children, dressed as superheroes, ghosts, or in any costume they choose, gather at the Activities Center to receive glow-in-the-dark necklaces before beginning their door-to-door quest for candy and other treats. Further Halloween information is available in previous *Tat*/October issues, which can be found in the Activities Center or online at [www.ias.edu/people/amias/tati](http://www.ias.edu/people/amias/tati). There is no charge for these two events and no reservation is needed. Children are asked to bring their parents along with them. For further information, please contact Linda Cooper at [llg@ias.edu](mailto:llg@ias.edu) or ext. 8259.



### American Repertory Ballet

**Sunday, October 15, 10:30 a.m.**  
Wolfensohn Hall

The American Repertory Ballet presents a family program with excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet*. To reserve up to four tickets per household, please visit <http://web.ias.edu/events/ARB>.

### Pottery Class

If you are interested in learning the techniques of working with clay from an experienced instructor, please contact Linda Cooper at [llg@ias.edu](mailto:llg@ias.edu) or ext. 8259 to reserve a place in the class, which is limited to ten people per term. There is a \$15 per class fee collected by the instructor. The class begins on **Tuesday, October 11**, and meets from **9:30 a.m. to noon**. IAS has its own kiln and all supplies are provided through the weekly fee.

### The Museum of Modern Art Trip

Members/Visitors and their families are welcome to join our AMIAS-sponsored trips. The first one for this year will be **Saturday, October 22**, to the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. We travel via bus to the museum, departing Fuld Hall at 9:30 a.m. and returning to IAS by 5:30 p.m. The fee of \$25 per adult and \$15 per child (ages 5-12) includes bus transportation, museum entrance fee, and optional audio guide. To make a trip reservation, please go to the AMIAS trip website [www.ias.edu/people/amias/trips](http://www.ias.edu/people/amias/trips). You may also make a reservation for the November 19 trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Reservations are limited to the first fifty people who register.



Volume 8, Issue 2

October 2011



INSTITUTE for ADVANCED STUDY  
TIMES at THE INSTITUTE

## A Year at the IAS with the Bierl Family ...part 1

*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. His wife, Judith, and fourteen-year-old twin daughters, Josie and Maura, spent the year at IAS with him at 119 Oppenheimer Lane. Before leaving, they wrote a collaborative essay on some impressions of their unforgettable year at the Institute.*

*Part I with contributions from Anton and Josie appears below. Part II with contributions from Judith and Maura will be published in the November issue of Tat.*

*Josie writes:*

Living at the Institute was very interesting and full of new experiences, and definitely helped making friends and feeling at home. I remember, when we arrived here, after a long and nerve-wracking flight and a two-hour drive from the Philadelphia airport, we were happy to have such a nice apartment and to finally have time to rest.

At the official barbecue we had the chance to meet a lot of other people from the Institute as well as guys of our age with whom we would go to high school and become close friends.

Two weeks after our arrival, school started and the first few weeks were quite hard, with all the new faces and having to get used to the different school system. But soon we made friends and felt comfortable, even though some things al-

students from the sport teams wore their tricots to class and painted their faces in the school colors, something I have never seen before, not only because our school teams at home are usually unprofessional but also because they don't have this kind of school spirit.

*Anton writes:*

Coming from a thriving European city, we were a bit worried that life in a small town might become too quiet. However, we soon understood that our fears were mistaken. Princeton is not a regular American environment but an exciting "powerhouse" in all respects, not only in research but also in culture, art, and overall social life.

During our last eight years as German immigrants in Switzerland, we never led such an active life. At IAS, we made good—and hopefully—life-long friends. Everybody welcomed us warmly. We were invited to many parties and had quite a few of them ourselves.

*continued on page 2*



*The Bierl Family at the High Line park in New York City*

## A Walk along the Stony Brook River

*Helen Goddard writes:*

The Institute is located within the Stony Brook watershed and this river is well known to inhabitants of Princeton as it is prone to flooding. It quite often forces the closure of Quaker Bridge Road, the shortest route to Wegmans food store! In the 1690s an important Quaker settlement grew



*The Poetry Trail includes forty-eight poem boards.*

up in this area using the water power to mill grain. If you walk along the Trolley Trail at the edge of the Institute Woods, away from Member housing, you will come to the Quaker Meeting house and cemetery. This is where Richard Stockton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, is buried. The Trolley Track is marked on

the map of the Institute Woods, included in your Welcome Package and online at [www.ias.edu/files/pdfs/ias-woods.pdf](http://www.ias.edu/files/pdfs/ias-woods.pdf).

The Stony Brook river is a sizeable tributary of the Millstone River which flows into the Raritan River. This river discharges into the Atlantic Ocean downstream from New Brunswick. You can

see the Stony Brook where it wanders through the Institute Woods roughly parallel, for a while, with the canal; it makes its way past the marsh and the Charles H. Rogers Wildlife Reserve and thence under Alexander Road and into Lake Carnegie. This lake was created by Princeton Uni-

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## 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)

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See also the AMIAS website at [www.ias.edu/about/amias](http://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](mailto: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 Institute with the Bierl Family ... continued from page 1

We were frequent visitors to the Garden Theatre and watched almost every movie worth seeing. Moreover, we attended exciting performances at the McCarter Theatre, listened to great concerts of modern music and jazz, saw exhibitions and museums, and undertook numerous excursions to the cities close by, sites of interest, beaches, and landscapes as we hardly ever do at home.

And even our gourmet tongues almost never met great disappointments. The pinnacle in this regard was “the best restaurant in town,” our Dining Hall run by a *Swiss* chef. In a wonderful way life complemented scholarship and made it more productive. *Mens sana in corpore sano*—with that in mind and with Linda [Cooper]’s kind exhortations, I even began playing tennis and doing yoga. I still remember the first tennis lesson on the court with an immensely patient coach Kevin who, even when I missed the ball, encouraged me with “right idea!”

As an enlightened intellectual, I had certain prejudices against meditative techniques—but soon learned that I was wrong. Perhaps also due to the fact that I mostly represented the only male participant, I felt invigorated when, after an hour of unusual movements and stretches, we laid on the ground and our wonderful teacher Diane uttered on us such magical spells, like “Relax your eyes in the sockets. . . !” Then the entire body relaxed indeed and was only

awakened and called back by a mystical bell.

Sitting the whole day in an office and with all the great food, I soon started jogging in the picturesque woods around the historical venue of the Battlefield where I met deer and rabbits. And when the warm and humid summer set in, we all joined the cozy Nassau Swimming Club, more for our teenagers’ sake. Apparently, it was less “cool” for them than for their parents; I even did my every day lap swimming already before breakfast.

Another highlight: the IAS midwinter party. As a non-expert who has hardly swung his legs to conventional rhythms since his first dance classes and the traditional *waltzer* at the wedding, I was given the advice to practice before the upcoming event. Judith and I hilariously mimicked the tango looking at YouTube—a great method—but we hardly needed such efforts in perfection because the party turned out to be all but the expected ballroom dance in black tuxedos. We wildly danced on the floor to rock music until long after midnight and had so much fun.

After one year completely immersed in real American family life at the Institute, with children at school, camps, and sleepovers, we fell in love with Einstein’s academic town, encircled by parks and woods, and could all imagine staying. But the regular life with new challenges called us back.

## A Walk along the Stony Brook River ... continued from page 1



Children playing in the brook

able. Once there, park in the lower parking lot by the soccer fields, part of a public park run by Princeton Township with a playground and restrooms. Now you have a choice. If looking for the river, head for the far end of the car park and bear to your right. The path will take you into the woods and along the river. If it has been raining, take boots and proceed with caution! Fall, winter, and spring may be too wet for wading, but it is a good walk anyway.

Alternatively bear to your left and head uphill for the Poetry Trail. This is a mile-long stroll mainly through meadowland with forty-eight poems displayed on boards, all relating to an environmental theme. There are several benches on which to sit and contemplate the scenery. This poetry walk was opened in October 2010. You can find ideas for other walks by looking at the booklet called “Walk the Trails in and around Princeton” by Sophie Glovier. Remember also to check through past issues of *Tati* for other places to visit. These can be found in the activity center just outside the laundry room, or can be accessed online at [www.ias.edu/people/amias/tati](http://www.ias.edu/people/amias/tati).

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### An Institute Woods Exhibition

A selection of photographs taken in the Institute Woods by Vladimir Voevodsky, Professor in the School of Mathematics, will be on display **October 24–December 2** at the Johnson Education Center of D&R Greenway Land Trust. An opening reception for the exhibit will be held **November 6** from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Johnson Education Center, located at 1 Preservation Place in Princeton. For more information, visit [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org) or call (609) 924-4646.



# October 2011

More information about the AMIAS activities listed in this calendar may be found at [www.ias.edu/about/amias/activities](http://www.ias.edu/about/amias/activities).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Reservations are required for dinners, concerts, and trips. Thank you!</i></p> <p><i>Dates and times are current as of publication date.</i></p>						<p>1</p> <p>A Night at Harry's, 8:00 p.m., HB</p>
2	<p>3 English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL Public Lecture, 4:30 p.m., WH Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC After Hours, 6:00 p.m., HB</p>	4	5 <p>Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC Dinners Begin, DH</p>	6 <p>After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB</p>	7 <p>Hatha Yoga, 12:00 p.m., DR Dinner, DH</p>	8
9 <p>Princeton Symphony Concert, 4:30 p.m., WH</p>	10 <p>English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC Movie Mondays, 7:00 p.m., DR</p>	11 <p>Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC</p>	12 <p>Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC Buffet Dinner, DH</p>	13	14 <p>Dinner, DH Film Series, 8:00 p.m., WH</p>	15 <p>Family Performance: American Repertory Ballet, 10:30 a.m., WH</p>
16	17 <p>English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC</p>	18 <p>Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC</p>	19 <p>Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC Dinner, DH</p>	20 <p>After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB</p>	21 <p>Hatha Yoga, 12:00 p.m., DR Fun Fridays, 4:00 p.m., AC Dinner, DH</p>	22 <p>AMIAS Trip to MoMA</p>
23	24 <p>D&amp;R Greenway Exhibit Opens English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC</p>	25 <p>Pottery Class, 9:30 a.m., AC</p>	26 <p>Tennis Lessons, 5:30 p.m., TC Dinner, DH Film Series, 8:00 p.m., WH</p>	27 <p>After Hours, 5:30 p.m., HB</p>	28 <p>No Yoga Public Lecture, 5:30 p.m., WH No Dinner</p>	29 <p>No Lunch</p>
30	31 <p>English Conversation, 10:00 a.m., OL Halloween IAS Trick-or-Treat, 5:30 p.m., AC</p>					<p>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.</p>