One way to do that is to join one of our committees; in addition to providing you a direct voice in guiding our direction, it will give you a chance to interact with other scholars who share similar interests.

Lisa Perry, President

I hope the New Year finds each of you well and happily engaged in your research and publication interests.

The new board of directors and officers have been working hard to adjust to our new roles and to help move our organization forward in ways that will be meaningful or beneficial for you. This issue of The Independent Scholar, our first in thirteen months, is just a beginning. You will see that we have also developed an online survey asking for your input on direction as well as your interest in participating in our committees.

With all the great ideas that have been generated, as well as those passed along by our former officers and board members, this looks to be an exciting year. This issue includes many of those ideas; the survey includes questions related to others. Among the ideas are reinstituting a membership card that can be used at your local libraries and other institutions, access to grant funding information, access to JSTOR, and rolling membership dates that will be based on the month members join rather than a calendar year.

As we move into this new year, I hope you will look for opportunities to help our organization grow and become a stronger representative for your interests.

NEW MEMBERS WHO JOIN DURING THE YEAR WILL NOW ENJOY A FULL 12 MONTHS OF MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO HAVING TO RENEW; THE BOARD DECIDED TO MAKE THIS CHANGE FOLLOWING REQUESTS FROM OUR MEMBERS. WE HOPE THIS CHANGE WILL HELP US TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUE TO GROW THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION.

When you renew, also consider joining one of our great committees to help improve our services, expand our reach, and move forward into the new year in a way that better meets your needs. Also consider joining or starting an interest/study group. More information on all these is available INSIDE THIS EDITION of TIS. Renew today at www.ncis.org.

IT’S RENEWAL TIME AGAIN!

It is once again time to renew your membership in the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. All current memberships expired at the end of December, 2010.

In the future, memberships will be on a rolling basis. This means all memberships are now valid for 12 months, not just through the current calendar year.
GRANTS AND AWARDS

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars is now inviting applications for its 2011 grants and Awards Committee. This year the Committee will award the Eisenstein-DeLacy Prize for the best published article by an NCIS member. This prize will be awarded with a $200 honorarium. Additionally, there will be three travel awards each of $200 for travel to an academic conference to assist travel related to research.

All applications must include a CV. For the Eisenstein-DeLacy Award, a copy of the article to be considered must also be included, with information on place and date of publication. More than one article may be submitted. For the travel awards, a travel and expense budget and description of research project must be submitted. If the travel is to a conference, all related materials must also be included.

The deadline for submitting applications is July 15, 2011. The decisions of the Grants and Awards Committee will be announced by September 15, 2011 and will be posted on the NCIS website, along with profiles of the winners. All applications should be sent to the chair of the Awards Committee, Christopher Robinson at: chrisrobinson@rocketmail.com

MEMBER SURVEY NOW ONLINE

In order to help our newly-elected board of directors and officers to be more responsive to member needs, we have created a survey for you to complete. It addresses member benefits, participation, and provides you with the opportunity to tell us how to be more effective in serving our members.

No personal information is required, although there is an option to enter your e-mail address if you would like us to contact you regarding your responses.

The survey should take no more than 5-10 minutes of your time. Please take a few moments to complete the survey at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CJPHWNQ. Simply type the address into your web browser and answer the ten short questions there.

START OR JOIN AN INTEREST GROUP

At present, we have one group for military history; do the online survey and help us to form groups that will help you network with other scholars who share your passion.

To get this started, NCIS President Lisa Perry has offered to help with a Public History group if there is sufficient interest.

Similarly Tricia Cusack would like to start a group interested in the conjunctions of art, place, and identity.

NCIS Member Susmita Barua has also expressed an interest in a group on Grassroots Activism.

Use these ideas to help discover your own areas of creativity. In the survey (see above) you will have an opportunity to tell us what you are passionate enough about to want to engage with other, like-minded scholars.
AN INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR: AN INDEPENDENT VOICE

BY GAYLE A. SULIK*

Last spring, I left a tenure track faculty position in sociology to pursue my research and writing independently. The decision followed six years of teaching, research, and service—first at a highly selective liberal arts college and then at a Ph.D granting institution. Throughout these years I honed my skills as a teacher, researcher, and writer.

But in 2008, I received a research award from the National Endowment for the Humanities that changed my life. The award gave me a one-year paid leave to finish the research and writing for my book Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women’s Health. Based on eight years of ethnographic and historical research, Pink Ribbon Blues highlights the hidden costs of the pink ribbon as an industry, one in which the Cause has become a brand name with a pink ribbon logo.

After completing the book, I realized that my calling was to work in a more focused, public, and action-oriented capacity than the Academy would accommodate. To make a difference in breast cancer, I needed to have an independent voice, one that did not represent any organization, institution, or sponsor. Now I do, and it’s making all the difference.

“TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BREAST CANCER, I NEEDED TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT VOICE”

*Gayle Sulik Ph.D is a medical sociologist, author, and health advocate whose work focuses on the impact of illness on individuals, families, and communities. Pink Ribbon Blues: How Breast Cancer Culture Undermines Women’s Health was published by Oxford University Press (New York) in 2010. For more information, go to www.pinkribbonblues.org.
WONDER REGAINED
BY RUTH E. FEIERTAG

Falstaff: Why Hal, 'tis my vocation Hal, 'tis no sin for a man to labour in his vocation.


I have been struggling for some time to explain to the incredulous (among whom I sometimes count myself) my life as an independent scholar. I do not call it my choice, because in many ways it does not seem to be one: it is more an addiction, or, as I prefer to think of it, a vocation. Because research and writing take time away from the job search that “ought” to be my primary priority, I may be, like Falstaff, a kind of thief, stealing time, committing thefts of omission. Perhaps I shall start writing with a stocking pulled over my head.

Despite these doubts and self-accusations, I know that there are many reasons to pursue independent scholarship, and while I am neither a student of Romanticism nor a scientist — though I do enjoy a good baking-soda-and-vinegar volcano — I recently found a reminder of one of these reasons in Richard Holmes’ The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science (2008). Holmes claims as his subject the time between the round-the-world voyage of Captain James Cook and the voyage of Charles Darwin to the Galapagos islands. “This,” he tells us, “is the time I have called the Age of Wonder, and with any luck we have not yet quite outgrown it” (p. xvi). I would contend that of all people, independent scholars have the least excuse for outgrowing this age, that we, like Holmes’ poets-scientists, should be “driven by a common ideal of intense, even reckless, personal commitment to discovery” (p. xvi). I would like to suggest that we also consider, as Holmes asks us to do, whether “the ideal of subjectivity [need be] eternally opposed to that of scientific objectivity. … The notion of wonder seems to be something that once united them, and can still do so” (xvi).

“I SUSPECT THAT THIS SENSE OF WONDER INSPIRES MANY OF US, AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL SHARE IT MORE OPENLY”

I suspect that this sense of wonder inspires many of us, and I hope that we will share it more openly, and that we will try to sense it in fields not our own, that we will find a way to ask our colleagues in genetics to read our papers on literature or the poems we penned (or computered) in secret, that our historians will confess their side-interests in physics, that our astronomers will seek the opinions of art historians. Let us take risks, consider the fantastic, discover where speculation leads us, NCIS presents us with the resources — ourselves — to cross boundaries; let us say to one another, “I have a new thought, made a new discovery. It is amazing, and I am full of wonder.”

SHARING THE WONDER
BY LISA PERRY

Tell us your story; how did you come to independent scholarship? Did you choose it, or did it choose you? Tell us your story and maybe you will see it in print in later editions of TIS!

Other ways to share the wonder of being an independent scholar include getting involved with committees or with study or interest groups (see elsewhere in this issue).
BOOK REVIEW
BY ANN LEE MORGAN


Perhaps a little too academic to interest a trade publisher, yet perhaps a little broadly conceived to attract an academic house, art historian Piri Halasz’s memoir of her adult life ranges across journalism, the history of art during the past century, and American politics, along with ruminations on her own subjectivity. In other words, it might be said to reflect the mind of an independent scholar vigorously engaged on multiple levels with her social and cultural milieu. She herself calls the book “a study in creativity” (p. 2). And so it is that, as well, for the thought process that unifies her disparate subjects exemplifies a mode of problem-solving sited in the Freudian unconscious (p. 13).

An introductory chapter outlines her family background, early years, and education, through earning a B.A. in English at Barnard in 1956. From college, she went straight to *Time* magazine. The first of three main sections of the book gives a vivid, inside picture of Henry Luce’s influential newsmagazine in its heyday. Starting on the “clip desk” (where she cut stories from newspapers for writers’ use), in thirteen years there Halasz worked her way through successive positions as a researcher and writer in a highly competitive environment. (Among the first women elevated to writer, she ranked also as the first within “living memory” [p. 2] to produce a cover story—the notable 1966 account of “Swinging London”—which, in turn, led to a commission for *A Swinger’s Guide to London*, published the following year.) Finally, she became *Time*’s art critic, but this assignment eventually undid her career in journalism, as she came to realize that art trumped magazine writing among her interests.

In the book’s second main section, the author returns to graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in art history at Columbia in 1982. Drawn particularly to modern and contemporary art, she details her education in this specialty. Just as she had revealed the workings of *Time* for outsiders to the profession, in

“SHE PROVIDES DEFT ANALYSES OF ECONOMIC AND CLASS FACTORS IN THE EVOLUTION OF RECENT AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE AND VOTING TRENDS.”
describing her own art education, she leads the non-specialist reader through important issues in modern and contemporary art. Her mentors include several well-known Columbia professors, but more importantly the prominent art critic Clement Greenberg, with whom she maintained a longtime intermittent relationship. Her particular quest in this period focuses on understanding the meaning of abstract art. In 1983, her thoughts coalesce into a “multireferential” theory of abstraction. Drawing again on her familiarity with Freudian thought, she locates the power of abstract art in its ability to synthesize disparate and sometimes even contradictory visual images, in much the same way that the unconscious works in formulating dreams.

In the final section, recounting endeavors during the years since 2001, she turns her attention to the sociopolitical environment of our times. As she describes how it has affected the creation and reception of art, we see her mind at work as she circles back to earlier decades, searching for deeper understanding of the links between art and its milieu. Later, she provides deft analyses of economic and class factors in the evolution of recent American political culture and voting trends. Halasz concludes with thoughts on what she sees as the country’s political and esthetic rightward drift. A brief postscript talks to readers about enhancing their own creativity by remaining open to the world and to serendipitous occasions, by formulating problems in terms that may lead even beyond their own solutions to new and previously unrecognized paths, and by encouraging insights from the unconscious. In short, perhaps, by living as an independent scholar.

*A Memoir of Creativity* travels many byways as Halasz proceeds through the years. Here and there, the reader finds sections that might constitute independent essays in themselves, as she returns to primary published and unpublished sources to research one or another inquiry. Her intense engagement with art continues in a blog—intended for a more specialized audience—that she has written for more than a decade. Titled “From the Mayor’s Doorstep” (because she lives near Gracie Mansion, the New York City mayor’s residence), this ambitious project, appearing six or seven times a year, chronicles the New York art scene of galleries and museums, while including also notes on shows she sees in travels beyond the city, as well as political observations.
The new NCIS Membership Committee, consisting of five subcommittees—Affiliates, Communications, Technology, Recruiting and Benefits—is working hard on behalf of our members. As Coordinator of the Membership Committee, I would like to inform you of our current activities and invite you to participate as volunteers.

The Membership Committee is currently involved in activities aimed at increasing benefits to and communicating with members, and in helping plan for our future success as an organization. Here is some of what we are doing right now:

**Membership Affiliates**, chaired by Susan Breitzer, maintains contact with current NCIS affiliates and publishes affiliate information on our website. Membership Affiliates also works to gain affiliate status for NCIS within larger organizations. Thanks to their hard work, we have been affiliated with AHA since 2010, and in January 2011, NCIS hosted a very successful reception at the AHA Annual Meeting in Boston. For a complete list of organizations currently affiliated with NCIS, please see our webpage at [http://www.ncis.org/affiliates.asp](http://www.ncis.org/affiliates.asp). Membership Affiliates has its own email address, membershipaffiliates@gmail.com, but can also be reached through the Membership Committee email at ncismembercom@gmail.com.

**Membership Technology**, co-chaired by Guillermina Walas and Klara Seddon, has worked hard this fall updating our website at NCIS.org, and in coordination with our web designer, sought to provide accuracy and improve member access to a wide range of information and resources. This work is especially important since NCIS now manages much of its business online. It is also ongoing, as web links tend to go dead and member/affiliate information changes.

**Membership Communications**, another important subcommittee which is chaired by Paula Barnes, works hard to keep the lines of communication open with our members. Among other things, they manage the Membership Committee email account (ncismembercom@gmail.com), forwarding email to various Committee or Board members as it comes in, and they also maintain member account information.

**Membership Recruiting**, chaired by Rose Varga, is currently involved in outreach activities, letting people know about NCIS and seeking new ways to inform and invite independent scholars to join NCIS.

**Membership Benefits**, co-chaired by Adam Smith and Piri Halasz, is involved in obtaining new benefits for our members and in making current benefits known and accessible to us. For example, some of the new benefits they have recently sought include membership cards, medical insurance, and legal advice.

For more information on these and other NCIS committees, please check out the NCIS Membership Committees link at NCIS.org (under the Members Only section).

All of these groups are working together, as parts of the Membership Committee, to serve the various needs of this organization in terms of communication between the Board, NCIS affiliates, and NCIS members, in attaining and making available benefits for our members, and in seeking to expand our membership.

You can help. The Membership Committee needs volunteers to aid in the many ongoing tasks involved in keeping things running smoothly and ben
efitting our members. Each subcommittee invites and heartily welcomes the participation of NCIS members in its work! Volunteers are needed to assist with current committee tasks and to help plan and organize new activities on behalf of our membership. Volunteering for us can be formal or informal. Formally, you can join us as a member of one of our subcommittees with specifically assigned tasks. Informally, you can simply help us with whatever information you make available for passing on to the membership, or by occasionally checking the NCIS website for possible errors or dead links. You can also send us feedback on the work we are doing for you.

If you’re interested in helping out, or if you have questions, ideas, or requests for the Membership Committee, please contact us at ncismembercom@gmail.com. Use the subject line to help Membership Communications decide where to send your email, or you can address it directly to a particular subcommittee if you like.

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

EDITORIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BY TRICIA CUSACK

The Independent Scholar still needs an editor and the NCIS board will continue its efforts to make suitable arrangements. This New Year issue has been produced by members of the NCIS Board. As well as an editor, the Board wishes to establish a voluntary Editorial Advisory Committee for The Independent Scholar. Its functions will be:

- To work with the editor to assess and edit contributions submitted by NCIS members.
- To provide occasional pieces for TIS.
- To monitor outcomes and contribute to a periodic report by its board members to the NCIS Board.

The Editorial Advisory Committee will include one or more NCIS Board members (currently Rose and Tricia) and several non-board members. Committee members should have:

- Evidence of academic publication, or current engagement in graduate study.
- Ideally, editorial experience
- Interest in and ability to advise on, and occasionally contribute, submissions to TIS.

An interest/training in visual art/graphic design would be a bonus.

Tricia and Rose welcome brief statements of interest from those who wish to be considered for TIS Editorial Advisory Committee membership (1 page maximum please). Contact triciacusack@gmail.com in the first instance.

RESEARCH RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BY SUSAN ROTH BREITZER

In response to growing concern over independent scholar access to university library and electronic resources, the NCIS is founding the Research Resources Committee whose duties will be as follows:

- Gather and update information concerning university and other research library access, including online
- Identify problems and concerns
- Negotiate improved access for unaffiliated/marginally affiliated scholars where possible.

This committee is seeking members, and interested persons may contact Susan Roth Breitzer at susan.breitzer@gmail.com.

______________________________
MEMBER PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS 2010-2011

Abrahamsen, Valerie
Journal article

Book review

Abrams, Brett L
Book

Anders, Tisa M.
Conference papers

Billingsley, Patricia A.
Research areas

Breitzer, Susan
Journal article

Conference paper

Carey, Toni
Book chapter

Journal articles


Conference papers

Cusack, Tricia
Books

Book chapter

Journal article

De Gaia, Susan

Book chapters


Conference paper


Feiertag, Ruth

Conference paper


Holt, Linda

Conference paper


Lloyd-Kimbrel, Elizabeth D.

Journal article


Mandel, Charlotte

Published poems


Maltese, Racheline

Book chapters


Conference papers


McDonald, Kelly

Research areas

Jane Austen; women's history; eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Britain.

Miyazaki, Yasushi

Journal article


Conference papers

MEMBER PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS 2010-2011


**Perry, Lisa**

Book
Perry, Lisa. 2010. *Images of America: Floyd County*. Charleston: Arcadia

Book chapters

Conference papers:
Perry, Lisa. Forthcoming 2011. "Memory, Identity, and Paternalism: Creating an Appalachian Camelot." Innsbruck, *Heritage of Mines and Mining Conference* sponsored by the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change at Leeds Metropolitan University (U. K.) and the Department of History and European Ethnology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

**Rohrer, Scott S.**

Book

**Seddon, Klara**

Journal Article

Conference Paper

**Sharlow, Mark F.**

Research area
Philosophy: philosophical study of religion, science and politics.

**Sheldon, Kathleen**

Book

Book chapters


Journal articles
Sheldon, Kathleen. 2010. “‘No more cookies or cake now, ‘C’est la guerre’’: An American Nurse in Turkey, 1919 to 1920.” *Social Sciences and Missions* 23, no. 1: 94-123.


**Smith, Reginald D.**

Journal articles


**Sulik, Gayle**

Book
Book chapters

Journal articles

Conference papers

Research areas
Medical sociology; community-based research and evaluation; Cancer culture and survivorship: Social Science writing; qualitative and mixed research methods

Walas, Guillermina

Book chapter
Walas, Guillermina. 2010. “Testimonio y (gen)ética postmemoria en Los rubios de Albertina Carri”. Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica. University of Texas, Austin, USA.

SDIS AFFILIATE MEMBER PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS 2010-2011

We value our affiliate members and want to highlight their achievements here. This issue, we are featuring members of the San Diego Independent Scholars. In future issues, we will highlight the achievements of our other affiliates as well.

Johnson, Grace

Book chapters

Marquis, Alice Goldfarb

Book

*[Note: This book was completed shortly before the author’s death in May 2009, and published in April 2010. Alice Marquis,
an art historian, was a founder and active member of San Diego Independent Scholars (sent by Gerry Horwitz).]

**Samaras, Thomas T.**

**Book chapter**


**Journal articles**


**Wells, Judith S. Green**

**Book chapter**


**Wells, Willard**

**Conference paper**


**Note:**

The above listing is intended for reference as an occasional, perhaps annual feature of the Newsletter. As well as indicating what other Independent Scholars are currently engaged upon, it may help you to think about organising an interest/study group. If you do this, please let TIS know so we can advertise it in our next issue.

---

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lisa Perry, President, lpncis@gmail.com
Guillermina Walas, Vice-President, guiyermin@hotmail.com
Rose Marie Varga, Secretary, rmvarga@umich.edu
Adam Smith, Treasurer, adambensmith@hotmail.com
Paula Barnes, pcbncis@gmail.com
Susan Breitzer, susan.breitzer@gmail.com
Tricia Cusack, triciacusack@gmail.com
Susan De Gaia, sjdegai@gmail.com
Piri Halasz, piri@mindspring.com
Catarina Krizancic, catarina.krizancic@gmail.com
Klara Seddon, kseddon@institutecr.com
Lilian Tsappa, ltsappa@gmail.com