

AUTUMN 2020

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

# News





Moses Williams, *Cutter of Profiles*, Raphaelle Peale (attr.) or Moses Williams, ca. 1803. White laid paper on black stock, 4 in. x 5 in. Library Company of Philadelphia ([www.librarycompany.org](http://www.librarycompany.org)). A silhouette of artist Moses Williams, Charles Willson Peale's (APS 1786) former slave, possibly by Raphaelle Peale or a self-portrait by Williams.

In 1802, John Isaac Hawkins gave Charles Willson Peale his physiognotrace invention, a device for tracing profiles in miniature. Peale entrusted its operation to his slave, Moses Williams, who became particularly skilled at cutting intricate, accurate likenesses. Williams's silhouettes became popular souvenirs for visitors to Peale's Museum—as many as 8,000 visitors bought them each year. However, each was just stamped "Museum" or left unsigned, so Williams's attribution as an artist was obscured. Once freed, Williams married the Peale family's white cook and used his profits to buy a two-story house.

## News

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# News from PHILOSOPHICAL HALL

Robert M. Hauser, *Executive Officer*

This account has three parts: the past November 2019 to mid-March 2020; the present lockdown, partial reopening, and social distancing; and the future—what may happen next.

## | PAST |

LAST NOVEMBER, THE FUTURE OF THE Society appeared to have few bounds. We had a most successful international symposium and November Meeting; had just painted the Library exterior; replaced worn carpets in Franklin Hall and Philosophical Hall; and arranged for extensive repair of the windows in Philosophical Hall, largely with foundation support. The 2019 exhibition, *Mapping a Nation*, brought in a record 190,702 visitors. And after 4 years of negotiation, the partnership between the APS and the David Library of the American Revolution created the new David Center for the American Revolution at the APS.

In 2019, we received a total of \$920,760 in gifts from Members and Friends to the Fund for the APS, a modest increase from 2018. The APS endowment reached an all-time high, over \$220 million, at the end of December.

We received a couple of exceptional gifts. Martine A. Rothblatt (APS 2008) and Bina Aspen Rothblatt generously funded two endowments—the Martine A. and Bina Aspen Rothblatt Digital Archivist Fund and the Franklin Conjecture Lecture Fund in support of a quadrennial lecture on the topic of biostasis, beginning in 2024. In addition, the Rothblatts will donate their papers to the APS Library & Museum. The Rothblatt Papers will add tremendously to our History of Science collections, particularly in the areas of biostasis, commercial satellite-based electronic communication, human health, and computing. We also received a very large bequest from the estate of the late Sibyl Golden, daughter of William T. Golden (APS 1982), which will add substantially to research support from the Lewis &

Clark Fund. In addition, we completed an agreement with the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society—which rents Franklin Hall for some of its concerts—to place a splendid Hamburg Steinway piano on the stage.

Associate Director for Collections and Exhibitions Mary Grace Wahl, Museum staff, and Mellon Curatorial Fellows Janine Yorimoto Boldt and Emily A. Margolis were hard at work on the installation of the 2020 Museum exhibition, *Dr. Franklin: Citizen Scientist*. And, of course, thanks to Director of Meetings Annie Westcott and the Committee on Meetings, plans were well underway for the April 2020 Meeting—a fabulous program, a catering contract, and room contracts with the Monaco and Marriott Renaissance hotels. The March 10 meeting of the Committee on Publications included a fruitful discussion of future collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

The Rothblatt Papers will add tremendously to our History of Science collections, particularly in the areas of biostasis, commercial satellite-based electronic communication, human health, and computing.

## | PRESENT |

BY EARLY MARCH, THE DEVASTATING implications of the COVID-19 pandemic were becoming clear. On March 12, the April APS Meeting was cancelled. Fortunately, the cost of our hotel contracts and most of the catering contract were forgiven. Despite the Meeting cancellation, there were productive virtual Council and Business meetings. In the course of those meetings, for the first time since 1956, the Society passed a public resolution, which was addressed to the leaders of the U.S. House and Senate. Based on “a disturbing skepticism toward evidence-based policy-making; a reluctance to accept and apply scientific knowledge; and a lack of familiarity with the relevant lessons of history, including long-past and more recent pandemics,” the resolution called for large new federal investments “to support at all levels the education of America's youth in science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts as the foundation of the nation's future health, general well-being, and security.” The resolution appears in full on the inside back cover of this newsletter. It has been shared with more than 200 scientific and scholarly organizations and is available online at <https://www.amphilsoc.org/blog/aps-membership-issues-rare-public-resolution-light-covid-19-preparedness>.

On March 13, the April opening of the Museum exhibition was postponed indefinitely. And by the beginning of the following week—partly due to orders from the mayor and governor—the APS closed completely, excepting only routine visits by facility staff to assure security and maintenance of the infrastructure. The APS staff began working from home, to the extent possible. No APS staff were diagnosed with COVID-19, and we developed a continuity plan for staff, that is, a guidance about who would succeed any member of the staff who could no longer perform their duties.

The Society guaranteed full pay to all staff, including the Museum Guides, who usually work part-time, part-year, during a training period and when the Museum is open. The budgetary impact of that promise was mitigated by a successful application for salary support to nonprofit organizations under the CARES Act.

For the first time since 1956, the Society passed a public resolution, which was addressed to the leaders of the U.S. House and Senate.

The APS staff moved quickly to create and enable virtual meetings—most using Zoom—to continue regular scholarly events and essential business meetings. We have conducted well-attended public seminars and research conferences. Brown bag presentations and writing workshops also have been conducted virtually. We have decided that the Fall APS Meeting will be held virtually from November 11 to 13 with all sessions beginning late enough in the day to accommodate Members on the West Coast. Regularly updated information about the Society's programming is available online at <https://www.amphilsoc.org/virtual-offerings>.

On July 6, after the development of well-researched policies and practices, APS facilities again opened to staff but not to the public. Under present city and state guidelines, work from home is still encouraged and practiced by most staff. However, the Conservation lab has reopened, and installation of the Museum exhibition has been completed. *Dr. Franklin: Citizen Scientist* will not be open to the public until at least April 2021. However, work is now underway to create a high-quality video of the exhibition that will be accompanied by narration and activities for both schoolchildren and adults.

## | FUTURE |

NO ONE KNOWS WHEN APS OPERATIONS will return to anything like their past. Will the epidemic continue in the fall? When will—and should—the present restrictions on social interaction be lifted? The best we can do is stay informed and flexible in dealing with whatever lies ahead.

The APS has been attentive to the urgent concerns about racial injustice raised by the killing of George Floyd. The APS

Council endorsed and co-signed the American Historical Association's statement on the history of racist violence in the United States: [https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/aha-advocacy/aha-statement-on-the-history-of-racist-violence-in-the-united-states-\(june-2020\)](https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/aha-advocacy/aha-statement-on-the-history-of-racist-violence-in-the-united-states-(june-2020)). We at the APS, with strong support from staff, are pursuing ways to increase inclusion, diversity, equity, and access at the Society, the APS IDEA.

During the unexpected, negative events of 2020, I have been buoyed by the participation and support of Members, Friends, and staff. The American Philosophical Society has weathered many a storm in its 276 years, and this one, too, shall pass.

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Detail from *Silhouette sheet*, Moses Williams, c. 1802-1825. APS. Peale-Sellers Family Collection.

# The APS and Inequality

Members and staff at the American Philosophical Society paused to reflect on our past and think about our future as the nation reckoned with racial injustice in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

BORN IN THE MIDST OF A SOCIETY enmeshed in slavery, the APS's history is inextricably entwined with race, slavery, and, later, pseudoscientific ideas that supported and perpetuated racist beliefs and practices. Many early APS Members were slaveholders themselves, most notably the Society's long-serving President, Thomas Jefferson.

Indeed, throughout the early 19th century, the Society published flawed treatises that used race as a way to explain and justify inequalities among people, and it elected Members whose accomplishments rested on claims of scientifically established differences between races. One need look no further than the recently reissued 1843 edition of the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* to see the ways in which the Society served as a conduit for such ideas. In a volume that otherwise celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Society's founding, the Society published two papers that APS Executive Officer Robert M. Hauser (APS 2005) described in the foreword as "egregious for their patently racist content." The authors were two APS Members, Benjamin Coates (APS 1823) and Samuel George Morton (APS 1828). The Society disseminated the *Proceedings* throughout the country and globe, thus both legitimating and circulating those ideas. The APS Library holds portions of Morton's papers, some of which argue, falsely, that the study of skulls proves cognitive differences between races.

In other ways also, the Society both reflected and reinforced systemic social inequalities. After electing Russian princess Yekaterina Vorontsova-Dashkova to membership in 1789, the Society failed to elect another woman until 1869, when

it elected three: Maria Mitchell, a renowned astronomer, discoverer of Comet 1847 VI, and professor at Vassar College; Elizabeth Cabot Agassiz, a naturalist, writer, and the co-founder and first president of Radcliffe College; and Mary F. Somerville, a mathematician, physicist, and astronomer.

While many pioneering Black scientists and thinkers made contributions that equaled those of APS Members, people such as Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and W. E. B. Du Bois, to name a few, it took the Society over 200 years to elect American political scientist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ralph Bunche (APS 1950) as its first Black Member.

Still, as with the country itself, there is another side to the story, perhaps best embodied in the Society's founder, Benjamin Franklin. A slaveholder for a large portion of his adulthood, Franklin became an outspoken abolitionist later in life, notably serving as the founding president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the first such organization of its kind in the United States. Throughout the 19th century, the Society's membership continued to include antislavery advocates. When the Civil War broke out, the Society expelled Matthew Fontaine Maury and William Lynch because they joined the Confederacy, the only time the Society has ever taken such an action.

And while the Society promulgated ideas based in scientific racism, it also embraced other ideas—ideas that were, in some measure, outside of the mainstream of their day. Indeed, the Society's history is replete with Members who bucked popular scientific and intellectual trends

that emphasized racial and gender determinism. Today the papers of Franz Boas (APS 1903), one of the founders of modern anthropology, are one of the jewels of the Library. Boas rejected eugenic ideas that stressed biological sources of racial and ethnic differences. Such ideas were prominent in his day, and one of their leading advocates was Charles Davenport (APS 1907), whose papers are also housed in the Library. Boas, instead, argued that culture was more important than biology to explain differences between peoples. He even directly refuted the earlier arguments made by APS Member Samuel George Morton, a position chronicled in a 2008 APS publication, *Franz Boas and W. E. B. Du Bois at Atlanta University, 1906*. The Society today has embraced the ideals of in-

clusion, diversity, equity, and access in much of what it does and, more importantly, what it endeavors to do in the future.

The APS membership is striving to achieve a balance of gender, race, ethnicity, and geographical location among its goals. Of current Resident Members, 246 (29 percent) are women, 44 are Black (5 percent), 33 are Asian (4 percent), and 2 are Native American. Of 28 Resident Members elected in April 2020, 6 are Black, 3 are Asian, and 13 are women. The Society's Officers and Council also reflect this aspiration. Currently, the President of the Society is Linda Greenhouse (APS 2001), the first woman elected to that position. The Officers of the Society include three Vice Presidents who are either a woman or person of color. The

Council includes two other Black Members and 13 women Members. Diversity is an important aspect of committees that influence and determine the future of the Society. The Chair and another member of the six-person Committee on Nomination of Officers are Black and three members are women. Women are in leadership positions as Chairs of each of the five Class Committees on Membership.

APS Meetings, one of the central activities of the Society, have addressed issues of race, economic inequality, and social justice. Among these was a 2015 panel that examined Reconstruction's failure to address the damage wrought by slavery and racism and how those "injuries of the past carry into the future"; a November 2016 talk on "How to Achieve



"Does anyone suppose that any woman in all the ages has had a fair chance to show what she could do in science?"—Maria Mitchell. Mitchell was a renowned astronomer, discoverer of Comet 1847 VI, and professor at Vassar College. After the APS elected Princess Dashkova in 1789, it took 80 more years for the APS to elect another woman. In 1869, the APS elected three more women, including Mitchell.



It took the Society over 200 years to elect its first Black Member, Ralph Bunche, in 1950. Bunche was an American political scientist, academic, and diplomat who received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize. The problem persists 70 years later. Black Members compose only 5 percent of membership. Increasing Black representation among its Members remains a concern and priority of the Society.



Funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Native American Scholars Initiative (NASI) was formed to increase access to the Society's collections by Indigenous scholars and bring diversity to higher education and libraries. APS staff, fellows, and NASI interns at a Digital Knowledge Sharing Workshop in 2018. Photo by Jessica Frankenfield.

Gender Equality in Pay"; and a November 2017 talk that asked "What Is Wrong with American Schools?" and answered that the racial and ethnic achievement gap largely explains why American schools rank behind many of their peer countries around the globe. The Committee on Meetings plans to feature related presentations in the future.

The Research and Grants Department has long supported efforts to advance knowledge about marginalized groups and support the careers of scholars from groups historically underrepresented in the academy. For almost 100 years, the Society has supported research on Native American culture and history through its Phillips Fund program. The Franklin Research Grant program also has provided support to many scholars exploring the history of race, slavery, and inequality. In 2005, the Society created the John Hope Franklin Dissertation Fellowship to support graduate students from historically underrepresented groups. Aware that the Society should be more mindful about diversity, this year the APS added an option for applicants to report their race and ethnicity. While we cannot yet say how

the Society has done with respect to race and ethnicity, we do know that, recently, more women than men received grants.

Recognizing the Society's long history of supporting scholarship on Native American history and culture, in 2015, the APS Publications Department entered into a partnership with the University of Nebraska Press to create a series entitled "New Visions in Native American and Indigenous Studies." The series is co-edited by Robert Miller (APS 2014), a citizen of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and it hopes to increase awareness of Native American issues through scholarship, ideally work done by Native scholars or in collaboration with Indigenous communities.

The Library has invested enormous resources in recent years to make its material more accessible to communities that have historically not been served by the APS Library. The Digital Library now receives over 1,500 users a month, far more than the Library could ever welcome in person, and several of its recent digital projects highlight collections that tell the story of marginalized individuals and communities.

Most notably, under the leadership of Martin Levitt (APS 2010), the Library launched an initiative to return digital surrogates of its Native American linguistic and ethnographic data to Native American communities. To aid the Library in its appropriate use of such material, the Library established an advisory board composed of scholars, APS Members, Indigenous community leaders, and archivists in 2006. The culmination of their work came in 2014, when the Library established *Protocols for the Treatment of Indigenous Materials*. The *Protocols* have served as a model for other institutions because they stress the centrality of community collaboration and consultation in the stewardship of such material. In 2019, the Society endowed the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research, an outgrowth of the project. Thanks to a recent grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Library today supports the Native American Scholars Initiative, which aims to help diversify higher education by launching new fellowships and initiating seminars and conferences that will serve nontraditional scholars and researchers.

The Museum, the Society's most public-facing program, has used the Society's collections to explore these issues in several recent exhibitions. Most notably, in 2016, it mounted *Gathering Voices: Thomas Jefferson and Native America*, an exhibition that highlighted the effects of colonization on Indigenous communities and their cultural resilience in the face of such pressure. Other recent exhibitions have featured sections on the history of colonization, Native American history and rights, gender discrimination, and racism. The Museum's Education program has also made a concentrated effort to develop curricula and activities that confront these issues.

There is surely more to do, and certainly more to do in a concerted and conscientious way. In July, Executive Officer Robert M. Hauser asked each APS department to consider ways in which it can more directly confront issues of inequality. Racial inequality is central to this charge, but the aim is also to find other ways to increase inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. The goal is to use the Society's resources to promote equality—and, in turn, enliven and strengthen the Society's original mission of promoting useful knowledge.

# Virtual Programs & Education

As all things education and programming have shifted to a virtual environment, where does that leave the Education Programs Department?

TAKING ADVANTAGE of the opportunities afforded to us by not handling over 190,000 visitors to a real-life exhibition, the Education Programs Department has been working on updating offerings and modernizing to match the digital needs of our audiences. These updates and modernizations include programs like Career Chats, Editing the Declaration, A Malignant Tale, and APS at Home.

Career Chats aligns with Pennsylvania and Philadelphia educational standards focused on career education and career readiness. After developing closer ties with the School District of Philadelphia and participating in multiple outreach opportunities at schools, like career fairs and in-school programming, the Education staff wanted to keep the conversation on museum, library, and archive careers going. The program features conversations with the Head of Education Programs and APS staff members on their careers, education, and real-world experiences. The conversations are recorded and then uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel for viewing. Among the objectives of the program is the hope that, by providing examples, representation, and real conversations on these career trajectories for students, we can increase the diversity of our respective fields—which are predominantly white.

Editing the Declaration is inspired by one of the many collaborations the department has done with the Museum of the American Revolution. Initially created for a teacher workshop hosted in Summer 2019, this now-digital resource provides classroom activities and connections to APS materials focused on the Declaration of Independence. In the wake of ongoing societal unrest just a year after that initial program, the department updated the resource to include an activity on comparing the Declaration to similar documents created to advocate for the rights of groups not reflected by the Founding Fathers. By comparing documents like Dolores Huerta's Proclamation of the Delano Grape Workers, students are bet-



APS and Museum of the American Revolution teacher workshop from Summer 2019. Photo by Adrienne Whaley.

ter able to discuss the pros and cons of the Declaration based on its legacy throughout time.

A Malignant Tale focuses on the 1793 yellow fever epidemic through a lens provided by the Wyck Association Papers. Initially having a small portion of the program dedicated to the perspective of the Free African Society and the Black nurses who often cared for the sick during the epidemic, the department used the summer break to add materials to that section. Suffice it to say, the program also takes on a new relevance during a pandemic in our own time. Research into how to better discuss the harsh realities of loss from such a time is currently being conducted, with a focus on trauma-informed pedagogy. The staff is working on how to best make the hands-on, experiential program we created into a virtual offering for schools starting in Fall 2020. By adding the lesson materials to our website, we now invite non-school-based groups to take part in the learning provided to us by that collection.

In keeping with the spirit of our free, hands-on programming for intergenerational audiences, the webpage APS at Home was

launched in the spring. APS at Home is a hub for the activities that so often provided Museum visitors an accessible and friendly window into the Society. Typically led and created by either the Museum Managers or the Museum Education Coordinator, these activities reflect themes or objects in the exhibitions. These activities can expand to reflect APS collections more broadly. Now clustered into categories like "art," "history," "science," and "interdisciplinary," the activities can fit whatever needs a parent or caregiver might have in the home. APS at Home activities are still provided free of charge, are easy to download, and try to feature household materials.

The Education Programs Department always seeks to serve our audiences in the best, most accessible and equitable, ways possible. A pandemic and reckoning with the realities of white supremacy are now pushing the department to continue and improve on that work in things we have done, are doing, and plan to do. We hope you are able to take advantage of these "new" offerings and activities!

**Michael Madeja,**  
Head of Education Programs

# Addressing Racism

Observations on Humankind:  
in *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*

WHEN I STARTED AT THE APS, my directive was to be lead curator of an exhibition on “Benjamin Franklin and science.” From the start, incorporating slavery and racism into the narrative was a priority; after all, the science of human difference was an important debate in the 18th century, and slavery affected all areas of early American life. I knew it would be difficult to find stories in the Franklin Papers about slavery that related directly to science. Luckily, my co-curator Emily A. Margolis was also dedicated to this task. The exhibition became *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*. We dedicated a section of the exhibition to the science of human difference titled “Observations on Humankind,” which explicitly addressed structural racism.

The events of 2020 have given the exhibition, which remains shuttered until at least April 2021, new urgency. Here, I want to highlight three objects from the exhibition that do important work in addressing institutional involvement in unethical scientific practices, Franklin’s racial biases, and slavery.

Fairly early in the research process, I came across an article in the 1765 volume of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*. The article was submitted by James Parsons, a physician, antiquarian, and Fellow of the Royal Society. Titled “An Account of the White Negro shown before the Society,” the essay includes a detailed description of an enslaved young man with albinism. Of note is a passage where Parsons recalls a conversation with “Dr. Franklin,” who said “that while he was in England before, he received a letter from his lady, in which was some of the wool of a white negro child’s head, by way of curiosity

... this very boy was shewed in Pennsylvania as a great rarity.” The mention of “Dr. Franklin” and “his lady” gave me pause. Franklin himself never published writings speculating on human origins or the origins of human difference. However, the topic was an important one in the 18th century as natural philosophers debated monogenesis versus polygenesis. Were all humans the same species? Or were there multiple species? How could Black parents produce a white child? These were questions that occupied many European scientists, including friends of Franklin.

The *Transactions* article reveals two important things about the Franklins. First, while Franklin never wrote down his theories on the subject, he was involved in conversations about them. Parsons specifically mentions that they conversed about the “white” man of African descent. Franklin was also curious about the subject. Why else would Deborah Franklin think to send him the child’s hair? Second, the essay implicates Deborah in these activities and discussions. While Franklin was in London between 1757 and 1762, Deborah chose to attend the public display of an enslaved “white” African child. Such public spectacles were common, but nonetheless reveal her interest in such topics. She acquired some of the child’s hair and sent it enclosed in a letter to her husband in London. This letter is now lost, but what kind of observations did that letter contain?

Volume two of the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* (1786) includes a very similar article. Published to draw attention to Philadelphia as the scientific center of the United States, the volume was in many ways an ode to Franklin’s career.

Franklin used it as a venue to publish three articles himself, including the 35-page essay on “sundry Maritime Observations,” which included a detailed account of the Gulf Stream. The essays highlighted the “best of” American science and intended to show the world that Americans were engaged in the latest scientific debates. APS Member John Morgan, doctor and co-founder of the medical school at the College of Philadelphia, published an essay titled, “Account of a motley coloured, or pye Negro Girl and Mulatto Boy, exhibited before the Society in the Month of May,

We wanted Museum visitors to reflect not just on Franklin and his colleagues, but on their own biases, which have been shaped by society and have roots in the 18th century.



Antislavery medallion given to Benjamin Franklin by Josiah Wedgwood. *Wedgwood Anti-Slavery Medallion*, William Hackwood, ca. 1787. Ceramic jasperware. APS.

1784, for Their Examination.” The essay includes a very detailed account of the bodies of Adelaide and Jean-Pierre, two 2-year-old enslaved children with vitiligo. They were studied by natural philosophers for the same reason as people with albinism. The APS and the Royal Society thus participated in the exploitation of enslaved people in the name of scientific research.

These two *Transactions* from the Royal Society and the APS will be on display in *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*, allowing visitors to see for themselves how cultural

institutions participated in these unethical practices. The resulting studies would lend scientific support to pro-slavery arguments and laid the foundation for scientific racism that emerged in the 19th century. They also shed light on Deborah Franklin and how enslaved people were mistreated and used by white scientists.

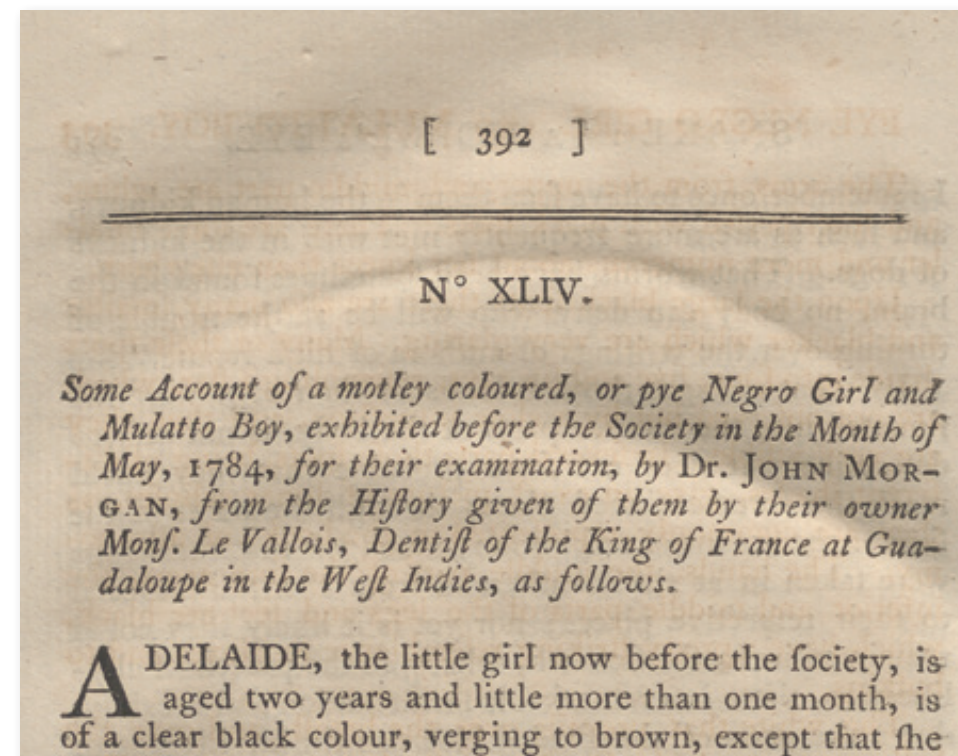
We wanted Museum visitors to reflect not just on Franklin and his colleagues, but on their own biases, which have been shaped by society and have roots in the 18th century. On display in the exhibition is a 1763 letter that provides a glimpse into how Franklin confronted his own prejudices. Upon observing students in the Bray School for Black children in Philadelphia, Franklin wrote that he now had “a higher Opinion of the natural Capacities of the black Race, than I had ever before entertained . . . I will not undertake to justify all my Prejudices, nor to account for them.” This letter appears with several other documents that address Franklin’s changing racial biases throughout his lifetime.

This letter provided the inspiration for an in-gallery installation that encourages people to reflect on their own prejudices. Franklin is often remembered as an abolitionist, but he took almost a lifetime to become one. Despite writing the abovementioned letter in 1763, he did not make a clearly antislavery public statement until 1772. Franklin was a slaveowner for far longer than he was an abolitionist. APS Head of Education Programs Michael Madeja directed the development of a framed poster that will ask visitors a series of questions alongside information about Franklin’s changing behaviors and attitudes toward slavery.

When *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist* does open to the public, I hope it provides an honest and thought-provoking interpretation of Franklin’s participation in the science of human difference. I hope the exhibition becomes a space where people can reflect and be inspired to change society for the better. The first step is acknowledging the past.

**Janine Yorimoto Boldt,**

2018–2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow



Excerpt from *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 2, 1786.

# From the Librarian

Like so many institutions, the Library & Museum has had to adapt to the unexpected this year.

WE OPERATED SMOOTHLY AND successfully for much of the year—until March, that is, when the Society had to adjust to a world disrupted by the coronavirus. While the second half of the year was marked by several unforeseen events, the Library & Museum staff showed incredible resilience and, thanks to their perseverance, had several impressive accomplishments.

When we drew the curtains on our *Mapping a Nation* exhibition in December 2019, we celebrated one of the most successful shows ever. This exhibition set a new attendance record, hosting over 190,000 people. We also welcomed 129 teachers to workshops and other programs related to the exhibition, more than ever before. The scholarly conference inspired by *Mapping a Nation* had over 300 in-person attendees, while 1,435 people viewed it online.

*Mapping a Nation* was longtime Museum Director Merrill Mason's final show, and its success was a testament to the incredible work she put into enlivening the exhibitions and making the work accessible to wider audiences. After Ms. Mason's retirement, the Society decided to integrate the Library and Museum into a single unit. While Library and Museum staff had always worked closely together, the Society hoped that staff would find even more ways to collaborate by more formally merging the previously separate units.

Throughout the fall of 2019, we held monthly brown bag lunches that allowed staff to learn more about their colleagues' work. Almost immediately, we began to see the benefits of our integration. This new working arrangement allowed us to brainstorm future exhibition topics, launch new programming initiatives, plan for a better allocation of space, and draft a revised collection development policy.



Mohegan girl, 1909-1932. Lantern slide. Frank G. Speck Papers. APS. Jessica Markey Locklear, the 2019 Martin L. Levitt Fellow, digitized the 400+ images of anthropologist Frank Speck's (1881-1950) lantern slide collection. These images document hundreds of Indigenous communities from central and eastern North America.

There was growing excitement for our planned 2020 exhibition, *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist*, as it was going to be the first exhibition mounted under this new configuration. The Center for Digital Scholarship developed an impressive digital project that complemented the exhibition. Education staff planned to incorporate this project into their programming so it could reach more classrooms. Our Scholarly Programming Department collaborated with the exhibition's curators to develop several programs meant to promote their contributions. By all accounts, we were

more than ready for the exhibition to open on April 3, 2020. Of course, none of this happened, and, indeed, none of it will happen until at least April 2021.

Nonetheless, when the Society shuttered its offices, we saw an opportunity for innovation, adapting to these unexpected circumstances so that the Society could continue to serve its mission "to promote useful knowledge" in this new environment. Our collections staff began a series of remote cataloging projects that will improve both descriptions of and access to our materials. One of the highlights of

this work is a complete re-cataloging of all past APS Meetings videos. We hope that this new video platform will make it easier for people to find and use these videos, especially teachers and students. With our archivists and catalogers working diligently to update our finding aids and improve our records, it feels strange to say, but I believe our collections will be in a stronger position when we reopen.

Our programming staff also adapted quickly to the changes wrought by the pandemic. Within a week of our closure, we began to host virtual programs. Our online programs have been a smashing success, regularly surpassing the attendance numbers of our in-person events and allowing us to connect with many APS Members, APS Friends, former fellows, and researchers who live far from Philadelphia.

The highlight of our virtual offerings was our symposium held in June, "Evidence: The Use and Misuse of Data." Though scheduled far before the pandemic's onset, it proved timelier than we could have imagined when first planned in the fall of 2019. The keynote presentation, featuring APS Members Richard Shiffrin, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Stephen Stigler, and Linda Greenhouse, drew almost 400 viewers.

In total, the 5-day symposium ended up attracting over 1,500 individuals. All videos are now posted online, and the APS Press will produce an anthology of the papers that were presented.

With *Dr. Franklin, Citizen Scientist* practically completed but delayed for at least a year, the Museum staff began researching ways to create a virtual tour so people could experience the exhibition online. To support both this project and several others, the Society applied for and received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES grant. Despite there being over 2,300 applicants, the NEH could only award 317 grants. Our success is a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of our staff, as well as a sign of the strength of our collections and Museum program.

The Museum's virtual tour will allow visitors from around the world to walk through our gallery and learn about science in the age of the Enlightenment. Indeed, we hope that our experience this year might lay the foundation for developing virtual tours for all of our future exhibitions. Such tours provide a great way to preserve the work online and disseminate it to a wider audience for a longer period of time.

All the while, Library & Museum staff have continued to make headway on important ongoing projects and launched several new ones with an eye toward a future in which we can all once again return to work. Our collaboration with the David Library of the American Revolution (DLAR) continues to gain steam. In February, we accepted over 8,000 volumes and 9,000 reels of microfilm from their collections. Thanks to the efforts of our catalogers and archivists working remotely, the David Library material will be ready for researchers as soon as we reopen. Thanks to a grant from the McLean Contributionship, we also have purchased a high-speed scanner that will allow us to digitize all 9,000 reels of DLAR microfilm, making access easier for researchers. We have launched several David Center programs that focus on the Revolutionary era and will welcome our first David Center fellows in the coming year.

In anticipation of the 250th anniversary of 1776, and with the establishment of the David Center well underway, the Library & Museum took the lead in organizing a multi-institutional project entitled "Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation's Founding." Our hope is that over the next several years, we will digitize all Revolutionary-era manuscript material at the APS, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Library Company of Philadelphia and create a shared digital repository that houses all of these items. The long-term goal is to create a platform by which other, smaller archives can contribute their material as well. We applied for and received an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant to pilot the technology and test this project's feasibility.

Finally, there was one major project that we continue to pursue; the installation of compact shelving in the Library. Space for new collections is tighter than ever, and the shutdown may provide an opportune time for us to make such major renovations to the Library's space. With this addition, we will be able to bring the Museum's artifacts back into Library Hall and create additional room for our continued acquisitions of important material.

As always, I welcome any thoughts or ideas you have. Please feel free to email me at [librarian@amphilsoc.org](mailto:librarian@amphilsoc.org).

**Patrick Spero**, *Librarian and Director of the Library & Museum*



APS fellows with Head of Scholarly Programs Adrianna Link and Librarian and Director of the Library & Museum Patrick Spero in December 2019. L-R: S. Prashant Kumar, Janine Yorimoto Boldt, Emily A. Margolis, Adrianna Link, Timothy Bowers Vasko, Bethany Farrell, Julie Fisher, Jeffery Appelhans, Hannah Anderson, Gina Surita, Megan McDonie, and Patrick Spero. Photo courtesy of Johanna Austin, [www.AustinArt.org](http://www.AustinArt.org).

## Conservation Department Donates PPE to Philadelphia

1,200+,  
57, 40, 24,  
207, 12

NO, THIS IS NOT SOME OBSCURE CODE or a number series aptitude test. This particular series of numbers represents the amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) the Conservation Department donated to the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management in March 2020. Specifically, those figures represent (respectively) almost every nitrile glove, respirator, surgical and dust mask, respirator filter, protective clothing, and eye goggles/safety glasses that we could scrounge from the many places where the Conservation Department keeps disaster supplies at the ready, as well as routine stock within Franklin Hall and the Library. And then there were over 200 non-conservation-grade gloves that were sent courtesy of our Facilities Department. (Thanks, Nik Goripow!)

Backing up to the beginning of the story, Assistant Conservator Anisha Gupta (who's always in the know) was one of the first in the conservation community to recognize a need for PPE. In an email to Associate Conservator Renée Wolcott and me on March 18, Anisha explained that hospitals were getting dangerously low on masks and gloves. She had heard another conservator say that their lab was donating equipment to hospitals, so Anisha thought that the APS could do the same. She noticed that we had equipment such as gloves and N95 masks that would be useful to medical professionals.

We all agreed this was the right thing to do. Anisha immediately filled in the Personal Protective Equipment Donations Form on the Philadelphia Department of Public Health website. I think her early work on this, and her posts on social media, helped other conservators in our area follow suit. After Anisha initiated contact, I started unearthing the PPE we had stored in the various outposts throughout the two buildings. I scooted from place to place, IKEA bag in tow, to ultimately dump my haul into one large central pile that would

be ready for Lieutenant Joseph Millward's pickup team from the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management.

The dire and rapidly changing aspect of the situation was pretty scary, especially in those early days. We didn't know much about COVID-19 at the time—the means of transmission were very vague, and it was believed that all surfaces could transmit the virus readily if contaminated. Mask use was discouraged; only caregivers of the sick were to wear them. I used my conservator's background knowledge to properly don and doff nitrile gloves for my work. I erred on the side of caution seeing that gloves were, by some, viewed as essential protection.

Things became even hairier when, on March 23, we were alerted of a staff member who exhibited the classic symptoms of COVID-19 (thankfully, it turned out to be a lousy cold and sinus infection). In any case, along with the issued alert, staff were instructed to stay home and away from the APS, with one final trip allowed to collect the supplies and equipment needed to work from home. I had gathered the PPE but was still working out transfer of the materials with Lieutenant Millward.

After a few missed connections (Comcast and the Internet can't find me in the bowels of the Library), Lieutenant Millward and



I talked and decided the best approach would be for me to collect the PPE from the APS and store it in my car until he and I could coordinate the exchange. On March 26, I was able to drive the PPE out to an auxiliary warehouse set up in Northeast Philadelphia. Lieutenant Millward was the epitome of the friendly, coolheaded, and knowledgeable firefighter I've experienced over my years here in Philadelphia, and I really wanted to give him a hug once the transfer was complete. Alas (as we both lamented), we are huggers, but not now. The elbow bump had to suffice. And so, finally, the supplies were delivered. "Finally," I say, although only a week had passed since Anisha hatched the plan. It was a week that felt like an eternity.

**Anne Downey, Head of Conservation**



**Above Right** PPE ready for delivery. Photo by Anne Downey. **Above** Willman Spawn Conservation Intern Joanna Hurd spent only two weeks at the APS before COVID-19 sent all staff home, but in that time she examined and documented 13 rolled certificates from the Kane Family Papers, helped Assistant Conservator Anisha Gupta line an oversized map, and began sharing her extensive research on the pH and conductivity of bathing solutions. Photo by Renée Wolcott.

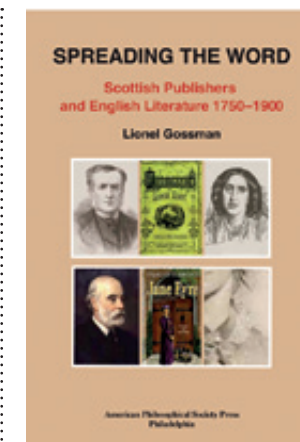
## From the Publications Department

THE PRODUCTION OF APS PRESS publications has continued despite the restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The APS offices closed in early March, and our work moved to a work-from-home status. Outside vendors also worked from home, so work was able to proceed. Although production and printing initially were delayed until printers reopened, normal operations have now resumed.

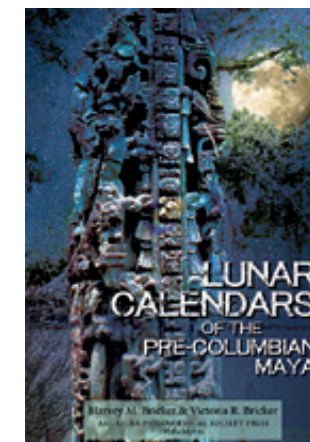
Recent issues of the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* can be found on the Current Publications section of the APS website. Print copies of the journal mail to subscribers and scholarly institutions and are available to Members upon request. *Proceedings*, Volume 163, Number 3 includes an article by David S. Tatel (APS 2007), "Separation of Powers and Statutory Interpretation: A Battle Hidden in Plain Sight," which won the 2020 Henry Allen Moe Prize.

Three APS Members have authored recent *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* books. Claudio Vita-Finzi (APS 1997), Madelyn Leopold, and Penelope Vita-Finzi collaborated to edit *A Life for Water: A Memoir*, a selection of informal essays by Luna Bergere Leopold (APS 1972) written over the course of his long career. Victoria R. Bricker (APS 2002) finished *Lunar Calendars of the Pre-Columbian Maya*, the work she and her late husband, Harvey M. Bricker, worked on after the printing of *Astronomy in the Maya Codices (Memoirs, Volume 265, 2011)*. Lionel Gossman (APS 1996), who has published several other works with the Society, wrote *Spreading the Word: Scottish Publishers and English Literature 1750–1900*. A fourth APS Member publication, scheduled to print in early 2021, is *Benjamin Franklin, Swimmer: An Illustrated History* by Sarah B. Pomeroy (APS 2014).

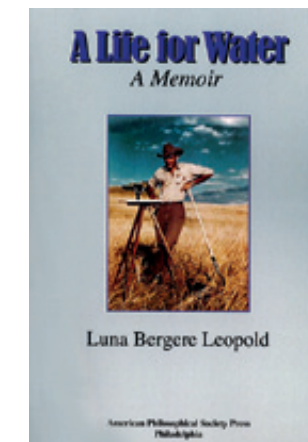
Other APS-related publications that will print within the next year are collections of papers from conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by the Society. These upcoming books include *The Art of Revolutions*; *The Spirit of Inquiry in the Age of Jefferson*; *The Past, Present, and Future of Libraries*; and *The Power of Maps, The Politics of Borders*. Papers from additional conferences are scheduled to be reviewed and discussed by the Committee on Publications. Additional



*Spreading the Word: Scottish Publishers and English Literature 1750–1900* by Lionel Gossman.



*Lunar Calendars of the Pre-Columbian Maya* by Harvey M. Bricker and Victoria R. Bricker.



*A Life for Water: A Memoir* by Luna Bergere Leopold, edited by Claudio Vita-Finzi, Madelyn Leopold, and Penelope Vita-Finzi.

recent *Transactions* publications include *Season of Conspiracy: Calvin, the French Reformed Churches, and Protestant Plotting in the Reign of Francis II (1559–60)* by Philip Benedict; *Biblioteca Angelica ms. 1551 and the Origins of Ethnohistorical Illustration of Asia and the Americas around 1600 in Rome* by Barbara C. Anderson; and *John Milton's Roman Sojourns, 1638–1639: Neo-Latin Self-Fashioning* by Estelle Haan.

*Proceedings* journals and *Transactions* monographs are archived through JSTOR, the online scholarly library. The site contains material from the time Benjamin Franklin printed the first *Transactions* in 1771 and is a valuable resource for researchers and scholars. The *2019 Yearbook* is on the Members Only website. Print copies of the yearbook, as well as print copies of the *2019 Member Directory*, were mailed to the APS in July once APS offices reopened.

*Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Future of Learned Academies* printed as part of our Special Publications series. Copies of the book were mailed to conference participants and sponsors. This work follows last year's publications, Patrick Spero's (APS 2019) *The Other Presidency: Thomas Jefferson and the American Philosophical Society* and John Van Horne's (APS 2005) *Two Chips Off the Same Block: Benjamin Franklin's Library Company and Philosophical Society and the Saga of Their 275-Year Relationship*.

Please note that manuscripts may be submitted electronically or in print. Com-

mittee on Publications meetings have continued virtually, and, as always, we encourage submissions in all scholarly disciplines. **Mary McDonald, Director of Publications**

### ❖ Proceedings Print Issues ❖

The Publications Department mails print copies of the *Proceedings* journal to American Philosophical Society Members upon request. If you are a new Member of the Society, or if you are a Member not currently on the mailing list and wish to be, please contact the Publications Department (mmcdonald@amphilsoc.org or aswety@amphilsoc.org) to have your name added to the Member mailing list. There is no cost.

### ❖ We Are Accepting Manuscripts! ❖

The APS Press accepts scholarly manuscripts of virtually any length for the *Proceedings* journal and the longer monograph series of publications, including *Transactions* and *Lightning Rod Press*. Members are invited to submit their manuscripts for possible publication and to encourage their colleagues to send their manuscripts to the Society for consideration. All manuscripts sent to the Publications office are sent out for review, read by the Committee on Publications, and fully discussed at a Committee meeting before any publication decision is made.



Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow Launches

## Colonial Virginia Portraits Project

THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA PORTRAITS project launched this year and is available at [www.colonialvirginiaportraits.org](http://www.colonialvirginiaportraits.org). Developed in collaboration with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, *Colonial Virginia Portraits* is an open-access, interactive database of oil portraits with a documented history in Virginia or featuring colonial Virginia subjects painted before ca. 1776. All extant portraits of which I am aware are included

in the database, as well as portraits that are presumed lost but are documented in archival sources.

Museums, historic sites, archives, and private owners have generously provided more than 350 images to use on the site. Users are able to browse through portraiture

Unknown artist, *Maria Taylor Byrd (Mrs. William Byrd II, 1698–1771)*, probably 1724–1726. The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

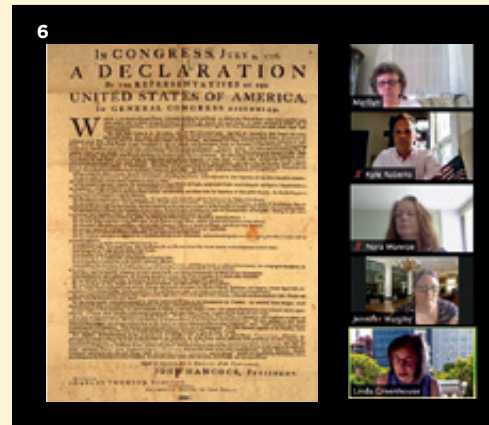
based on family surnames, artist, decade of creation, historic locations associated with the painting, and attributes of the portrait (e.g., size of canvas, props, gender of the subject, etc.). Most of the subjects are colonists, though some portraits feature family, friends, and officials from England or elsewhere. My research into individual portraits resulted in several new sitter identifications and artist attributions, which are included in the database.

Most of the database was compiled when I was researching for my dissertation on the social functions of portraiture in colonial Virginia. The field of American art history has largely ignored the early South, and very little scholarship exists on colonial Virginia portraiture. I was interested in understanding trends in portraiture over time, particularly in relationship to the development of a plantation society, and began collecting all references to colonial Virginia portraits. By the time I defended my dissertation in 2018, I had about 500 individual portraits in a personal database. These portraits spanned 150 years of colonial history and allowed me to discuss the construction of kinship, gender, race, social status, and political ideologies through portraiture, as well as better understand both transatlantic and local cultural exchange. The Omohundro Institute provided a platform and programmers who could develop the website. I spent most of 2019 preparing the data, obtaining permission to reproduce images, and working with developers to design the site.

Since the project launched in February 2020, I have been able to add several new entries to the database. A few of these I discovered on my own as I continued my research. In other cases, individuals reached out to generously share portraits from their private collections or smaller historic sites. I plan to continue adding new entries as I find them, as well as updating existing entries as I uncover new information. The digital format of *Colonial Virginia Portraits* has made it easier to visualize relationships between portraits and see trends in portraiture over time. Hopefully, the site will bring more attention to early southern art and assist and inspire other researchers who are interested in early American visual and material culture.

**Janine Yorimoto Boldt,**  
2018–2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow

# Seen at the Society



**1** Speakers Thomas E. Shenk (APS 2015), John M. Barry, Peter Palese, Stacey Schultz-Cherry, and Jeffery K. Taubenberger during *The Next Influenza Pandemic* symposium panel at the APS November 2019 Meeting. Photo by Kelly & Massa.

**2** 2019 Jonathan E. Rhoads Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Medicine winner Mina Jahan Bissell (APS 2007) and her guests at the APS November 2019 Meeting. Photo by Kelly & Massa.

**3** APS G/FTED (Grantees & Fellows Together Encouraging Discovery) Fall 2019 salon at The Grolier Club of New York, featuring APS G/FTED alumna Barbara A. Shailor. L-R: William DeJong-Lambert, Cynthia Tobar, and James Wilson. Photo by Alexis Anderson.

**4** APS G/FTED alumni enjoying a salon evening at The Grolier Club. L-R: Margaret Samu, Susan Lukesh, and Laura Duvall. Photo by Alexis Anderson.

**5** In early spring, Diana L. Kormos-Buchwald hosted an APS G/FTED gathering at the Einstein Papers Project on Caltech's campus. L-R: APS G/FTED salon speakers Diana L. Kormos-Buchwald and Jed Z. Buchwald (APS 2011) with Frances H. Arnold (APS 2018). Photo by Alexis Anderson.

**6** APS President Linda Greenhouse gave the Society's annual reading of the Declaration of Independence, followed by a reading of Tracy K. Smith's poem "Declaration." Screenshot by Kyle Roberts.

**7** APS Executive Officer Robert M. Hauser and APS G/FTED alumni David Silverman, Christopher Bilodeau, and Ephraim Isaac at a November 2019 APS salon supper. Photo by Alexis Anderson.



# MEMBERS ELECTED IN 2020

## Class 1: Mathematical and Physical Sciences

**Ernest J. Moniz**, Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physics and Engineering Systems Emeritus, Special Advisor to the President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; CEO, Energy Futures Initiative; Co-Chair and CEO, Nuclear Threat Initiative; Former U.S. Secretary of Energy

**James M. Moran**, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory; Donald H. Menzel Professor of Astrophysics Emeritus, Harvard University

**Sidney Nagel**, Stein-Freiler Distinguished Service Professor, James Franck Institute, Enrico Fermi Institute; Department of Physics, University of Chicago

**Monica Olvera de la Cruz**, Lawyer Taylor Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Director of the Center for Computation and Theory of Soft Materials, Deputy-director of the Center for Bio-Inspired Energy Science, Northwestern University

**Eva Tardos**, Jacob Gould Schurman Professor of Computer Science, Cornell University

## Class 2: Biological Sciences

**Jeanne Altmann**, Eugene Higgins Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Emerita, Princeton University

**Scott Vernon Edwards**, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Curator of Ornithology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

**David Ginsburg**, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; James V. Neel Distinguished University Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine, Human Genetics, and Pediatrics, Life Sciences Institute, University of Michigan

**Carl H. June**, Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Director, Center for Cellular Immunotherapies, Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

**Venki Ramakrishnan**, Group Leader, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge; President, The Royal Society, London

## Class 3: Social Sciences

**Mahzarin R. Banaji**, Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics, Department of Psychology, Senior Advisor to Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University; External Faculty, Santa Fe Institute

**Joyce Chaplin**, James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Harvard University

**Alondra Nelson**, President, Social Science Research Council; Harold F. Linder Chair, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study

**James C. Scott**, Sterling Professor of Political Science, Professor of Anthropology, Professor of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University

**Alan Taylor**, Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair in American History, University of Virginia

## Class 4: Humanities

**Caroline Astrid Bruzelius**, Anne Murnick Cogan Professor Emerita of Art and Art History, Duke University

**Angela N. H. Creager**, Thomas M. Siebel Professor in the History of Science, Princeton University

**Catherine Gallagher**, Ida May and William J. Eggers, Jr. Professor Emerita, University of California, Berkeley

**David Tracy**, Andrew Thomas Greeley and Grace McNichols Greeley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Catholic Studies, Professor Emeritus of Theology and the Philosophy of Religions, University of Chicago Divinity School and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought

**David Wellbery**, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on German Literature and Culture, Leroy T. and Margaret Deffenbaugh Carlson University Professor, Germanic Studies, John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

## Class 5: The Arts, Professions, and Leaders in Public and Private Affairs

**Elizabeth Alexander**, Essayist, Poet; President, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

**Marin Alsop**, Music Director, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Chief Conductor, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Ravinia Festival; Director, Graduate Conducting Studies, Peabody Institute, Johns Hopkins University; Conductor of Honor, São Paulo Symphony

**Louise Henry Bryson**, Chair Emerita, Founder, Getty Conservation Council, J. Paul Getty Trust

**Lonnie Bunch III**, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution

**Carla Hayden**, Librarian, Library of Congress

**Goodwin Liu**, Associate Justice, California Supreme Court

**David W. Oxtoby**, President, American Academy of Arts and Sciences; President Emeritus, Pomona College

**André Watts**, Pianist; Jack I. and Dora B. Hamlin Endowed Chair in Music, Distinguished Professor of Music, Indiana University



*Rantchewaime (Female Flying Pigeon)*. Color lithograph of a portrait painted by Charles Bird King, Ioway (Iowa) woman, wife of Mahaskah (White Cloud), 1837. APS.

## International Members

**Lia Addadi**, Professor, Department of Structural Biology, Dorothy and Patrick Gorman Professorial Chair, Weizmann Institute of Science

**Maribel Fierro**, Research Professor, Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean (ILC), CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas)

**Eva Schlottheuber**, Professor of Medieval History, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, President of the German Historical Association

**John James Skehel**, Emeritus Scientist, UK National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR); Emeritus Scientist, Francis Crick Institute

**Ewine van Dishoeck**, Professor of Molecular Astrophysics, Leiden Observatory, University of Leiden; External Scientific Member, Max Planck Institute Extraterrestrial Physics; Scientific Director, NOVA

**Robert Tony Watson**, Former Professor and Director, Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia

# 2020

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

Paul Alivisatos was awarded the American Chemical Society's 2021 Priestley Medal. • Danielle Allen received the 2020 John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity from the Library of Congress. • Frances Arnold was named to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences by Pope Francis. • Ruzena Bajcsy received the 2020 National Center for Women & Information Technology Pioneer in Tech Award. • Kamaljit Bawa received the 2019 UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation on behalf of the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, which he founded. • Gordon Baym was awarded the American Physical Society's 2021 Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research. • Mina Bissell received the 2020 Canada Gairdner International Award. • Nicholas Canny was awarded the Royal Irish Academy's Cunningham Medal. • Anne Case was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Vinton Cerf was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Jonathan Culler was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Anne Cutler was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Jean Dalibard was elected an international member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Peter B. Dervan was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. • Rita Dove received the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal from Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. • Catherine Dulac was awarded a 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. • Cynthia Dwork was awarded the Richard W. Hamming Medal from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. • Kerry Emanuel received the BBVA Foundation's Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the Climate Change category. • Kerry Emanuel was elected a Royal Society foreign member. • Sandra Faber was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal. • Sir Alan Fersht was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society. • Harvey Fineberg was named chair of the Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. • Elaine Fuchs received the 2020 Canada Gairdner International Award. • Howard Gardner received the 2020 Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award from the American Educational Research Association. • Fabiola Gianotti was appointed to her second 5-year term as head of CERN. • Ruth Bader Ginsburg received the National Constitution Center's Liberty Medal. • Laurie Glimcher was named to the Stand Up To Cancer Scientific Advisory Committee. • Jane Goodall was awarded the 2020 Tang Prize in Sustainable Development. • Corey Goodman received the 2020 Gruber Neuroscience Prize. • Annette Gordon-Reed was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Thomas

Jefferson Foundation at Monticello. • Annette Gordon-Reed was named a University Professor, Harvard University's highest faculty honor. • The Society for Classical Studies has created the Erich S. Gruen Prize to honor Erich S. Gruen. • Jennifer Higdon received a 2020 Classical Grammy Award in the Best Contemporary Classical Composition category. • A recording of Jennifer Higdon's *Percussion Concerto* was inducted into the National Recording Registry. • Eric Horvitz was appointed Microsoft's first ever Chief Scientific Officer. • Walter Isaacson received the Nashville Public Library Literary Award. • Shirley Ann Jackson received the 2019 Joseph A. Burton Forum Award. • Kathleen Hall Jamieson was awarded the National Academy of Sciences' 2020 Public Welfare Medal. • Kathleen Hall Jamieson was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Carl June was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. • Peter Katzenstein received the 26th Johann Skyette Prize in Political Science. • Linda Kerber was named the American Council of Learned Societies' Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecturer for 2020. • Philip Kitcher was awarded the 2019 Nicholas Rescher Medal for Systematic Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. • The Harvard Graduate School of Education has created an endowed professorship named in honor of Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot. • Richard Meserve received the 2019 Eisenhower Medal from the American Nuclear Society. • Robert J. Miller was named the Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. • Gülru Necipoğlu was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Susan Neiman received the 2019 Volkmar and Margret Sander Prize from Deutsches Haus at New York University. • Stuart Orkin was awarded the King Faisal Prize in Medicine. • Stuart Orkin was awarded the 2020 Harrington Prize for Innovation in Medicine. • Tim Palmer was elected an international member of the National Academy of Sciences. • James Peebles was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. • Fernando Pereira was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. • Thomas Piketty was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Mary Robinson was elected an honorary fellow of the British Academy. • The National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy are naming a new observatory after Vera C. Rubin. • James C. Scott received the Social Science Research Council's 2020 Albert O. Hirschman Prize. • David Shulman was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Kathryn Sikkink was elected a fellow of the British Academy. • Ruth Simmons was appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Houston Branch board of directors. • Sonia Sotomayor was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law. • Marc Tessier-Lavigne received the 2020 Gruber Neuroscience Prize. • The American Meteorological Society has created the new Warren Washington Research and Leadership Medal in honor of Warren M. Washington. • Warren M. Washington received the 2020 Nierenberg Prize for Science in the Public Interest. • Steven Weinberg was awarded the 2020 Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. • Patricia Wright was named the Herrnstein Family Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology at Stony Brook University.

# APS Resolution

Sent to Congressional Leaders,  
Proposing the Introduction of a National Defense Education Act  
for the 21st Century

To the Leaders of Congress:

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many deficiencies in the preparedness of our country for dealing with a world-wide disaster. The nation's medical, public health, and emergency infrastructure was unprepared for the many and multilevel challenges. While we can point to many contributing factors, in this letter we wish to speak from the American Philosophical Society's history—particularly the commitment of our founder, Benjamin Franklin, to the promotion of “useful knowledge.”

The effort to curb the spread of this disease has confronted Americans with drastic, life-altering changes in individual and collective behavior. While based on the best available medical and scientific expertise, these changes have been difficult for many to understand and accept, leaving the nation vulnerable to misleading and erroneous information. Rather than the deliberative, logical and analytical thinking that the country urgently needs, we find a disturbing skepticism toward evidence-based policy-making; a reluctance to accept and apply scientific knowledge; and a lack of familiarity with the relevant lessons of history, including long-past and more recent pandemics.

We therefore ask you to consider a bold initiative to re-energize education in this country as an essential part of the recovery from our current national emergency. This effort draws inspiration from the National Defense Education Act of 1958, a successful legislative initiative to support education in response to a clear international challenge.

WHEREAS, Factual evidence and fact-based decisions are the foundation of the nation's strength and growth, and whereas, the promotion of education emphasizing the natural and social sciences, analytical thinking, and fact-based decision-making is essential for the nation's welfare, it is

RESOLVED, That Congress enact a “National Defense Education Act for the 21st Century” to support at all levels the education of America's youth in science, history, analytical thinking, and the primacy of facts as the foundation of the nation's future health, general well-being, and security.

Linda Greenhouse,  
President  
For the Council of the  
American Philosophical Society



# AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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## November 2019 Awards

Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History: **Sarah E. Igo**, in recognition of her book *The Known Citizen: A History of Privacy in Modern America*.

Karl Spencer Lashley Award: **Wolfram Schultz**, in recognition of his discovery of reward-predicting signals carried by dopamine cells in the midbrain and their critical role in reinforcement learning.

Patrick Suppes Prize in Philosophy of Science: **Peter Godfrey-Smith**, in recognition of his book *Other Minds: The Octopus and the Evolution of Intelligent Life*.

Thomas Jefferson Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Social Sciences: **Jane Goodall** (APS 1988), in recognition of her pathbreaking, decades-long research on chimpanzees in Tanzania; her long-term efforts to understand and illuminate the behavior of chimpanzees, including the nature of their family life, emotions, tool use, aggression, and utilization of their environment; and her ongoing commitment to protect these primates. This significant work has been universally acknowledged and rightfully celebrated.



APS President Linda Greenhouse holds the Barzun Prize certificate, between Michael Wood (APS 2004) and Barzun Prize winner Sarah E. Igo. • Linda Greenhouse holds the Lashley Award certificate, between Lashley Award winner Wolfram Schultz and John Dowling (APS 1992). • Linda Greenhouse holds the Suppes Prize certificate, between Philip Kitcher (APS 2018) and Suppes Prize winner Peter Godfrey-Smith.

## A Word about the Penrose Association

A planned gift offers a way for you to establish a lasting legacy at the American Philosophical Society through a substantial contribution that may not be possible during your lifetime. The Society gratefully recognizes those who have named us as a beneficiary in their wills, made us the beneficiary of a retirement account or insurance policy, or established a charitable trust or annuity as members of the Richard A. F. Penrose, Jr., Association. For more information about planned giving options and tax benefits, and to discuss how you would like your gift to be used, please contact Linda Jacobs at 215-440-3434 or [ljacobs@amphilsoc.org](mailto:ljacobs@amphilsoc.org).



Detail from *Monarch butterfly (colored) with caterpillar*, Titian Ramsay Peale (1799-1885), [1833]. Lithograph. APS.

## Upcoming Meetings of the American Philosophical Society

\*Wednesday evening-Friday afternoon : Thursday-Saturday : Thursday-Saturday  
November 11-13, 2020 : April 22-24, 2021 : November 11-13, 2021

\*The Society's November 2020 Meeting will be held virtually. For information regarding required pre-registration for these sessions, please contact [westcott@amphilsoc.org](mailto:westcott@amphilsoc.org).

The APS Library & Museum's APS at Home program provides activities and crafts for homes and classrooms. Along with other art, history, science, and interdisciplinary activities and experiments, the Education Department created coloring sheets with images from our Digital Library, including this one. You can find them at <https://www.amphilsoc.org/aps-at-home>.