

LP² A Lifelong Peer Learning Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY

THE OBSERVER
February 1, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear all,

Just like that... we're back! Happy first week of study groups; I can already hear the buzzing of the Zoom hallways! I welcome you to join me for Director's Office Hours tomorrow between classes, from 11AM -12PM (link: <https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUJqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09>).

As sent via email and mentioned in last week's Observer, the add/drop period ends on Friday, February 19 at 5PM. We are processing the requests submitted in the form on a rolling basis and you will receive an email confirmation of your request. The list of available study groups to add is kept up to date on the form itself – both in the table format and in the dropdown menu. If a study group is not on that list, the seats are full and registration is closed. You can see the full description of the registration, add/drop, and other policies on the Zine under a new page labeled on the menu "LP² policies": <https://www.irpzine.org/advisory-board-guidelines/>

We are moving forward with several initiatives that have been in planning. A few members who were involved with Conversation Partners in the past will be volunteering with Baruch's program, Academic Intensive English (ESL) via Zoom this spring. Volunteers and I will continue to work with the Baruch program staff to develop one-to-one relationships between LP² volunteers with ESL students in the future. Along with about 20 LP² members, I participated in the orientation for the mindfulness workshops last week. It was wonderful to sit "together" as a community – something that was referenced several times throughout the session and that we value so much within LP² and seek out opportunities to reinforce.

Next week we have our first information session for Fall 2021 recruitment. I ask current members to think about resources and friends to share LP² so that membership in this program better reflects the city we live in and the City University of New York. You can direct potential members to register for the information sessions here: <https://lp2infosessions.eventbrite.com>

See enclosed for more details on the following exciting opportunities: Organized with a small group of LP² members, the workshop with GC Librarian Mason Brown is coming up on February 23, for which you can submit questions in advance. The Fridays@3 committee has put together a stellar lineup of talks this spring, the first on February 26. I look forward to seeing you at these events as well as the February 19 General Membership Meeting at 2PM—read on for details to register and submit questions in advance.

Stay well!
Mariel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars! Our spring General Membership Meeting will be on Friday, February 19, at 2PM. To register click on this [link](#).

Add/Drop Until February 19

The second Add/Drop period has started and will run through **Friday, February 19** at 5PM. The submissions are processed on a rolling basis: “first come, first served.” To make a change to your current study groups, please complete the add/drop form here: [Lifelong Peer Learning Program](#). All study groups available to add are included on that page, and you can refer to the [Study Group Grid](#) with linked syllabi. Direct any questions to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

Thanks for Calling!

Most of us are doing well but it's always nice to hear from someone who cares about you. A big thank you to the callers in our recent Community Building Initiative: Jan Adler, Bernie Belkin, Susan Belkin, Arlynn Brody, Myriam Bucatinsky, Bette Cohen, Lisa Cristal, Leslie Davis, Jay Fleishman, Elaine Gerald, Susan Goldman, Eileen Hanley, Susan Herman, Micky Josephs, Patti Kaplan, Ruth Kavesh, Michael Kessler, Laurie Leiner, Arlyne LeSchack, Marilyn Menack, Howard Miller, Lale Odekon, Kay Oppenheimer, Jane Osmer, Richard Resnik, Jennifer Ross, Susan Rubens, Barbara Salant, Istar Schwager, Rita Silverman, Nancy Small, Susan Smahl, Bruce Smith, Carol Sterling, Ettie Taichman, Elisabeth Waltuch, Susan Winston, Toni Young, Judith Zaborowski, and Iris Zevin for reaching out to the members of our community. Thanks also to Michael Hill for helping keep track of everything.

2nd Great LP² Read a Success

On January 27th more than 20 members gathered in two discussion groups to discuss Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Jane Case Einbender and Arlyne LeSchack each led a discussion group. Participants gave very positive feedback. We plan to organize more Great - LP² Reads in the future. Watch The Observer for announcements and join your colleagues for stimulating discussions and community.

HELP WANTED FOR NEW LP² WEBSITE!

We are looking for members with experience in WEB DESIGN, information architecture and/or visual design, to help us develop the website that will house a new, more user-friendly LP² Zine. Familiarity with the Wordpress platform is a plus. If you would like to help, contact Denise Waxman (dwaxman1@gc.cuny.edu).

Online Art Show



Robin Glasser-Sacknoff says:

I took this photograph looking down at the gondolier from above during one of my many trips to Venice.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers, Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact carolmillsom35@gmail.com with a title and brief statement about how or where or why you made it, and your work will appear in the Online Art Show.

TECH NOTES

Library Resources

Check out the new tab on the Zine: Library Resources, for information about databases available from the GC Open Access and Open Education Resources and also from the New York Public Library and other libraries

E-mail and Zine

For email woes, please direct all IT inquiries to engagement@gc.cuny.edu. Also note that the OIT (Office of Information Technology) at The Graduate Center does not provide assistance with personal computers or mobile

devices. If you need assistance with a personal computer, contact your PC manufacturer or your software vendor. For the Zine, the user ID to access protected areas of the Zine (www.irpzine.org) is LPsquared; the password is Fall2020. The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar.

Observer Schedule

Send items for the Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by 5PM on Friday. Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu

EVENTS

A Weekly Update on All Things Covid

Beginning this Friday, February 5 at 3PM, Barry Levine will be updating the LP² community weekly on the latest news on the virus, the vaccines and related topics. Barry and his wife, Shirley, are retired physicians and have been keeping close tabs on the Covid situation. Each session will include an opportunity to ask Barry specific questions in a forum to be moderated by Steve Kalinsky.

All sessions will be conducted via Zoom. If you would like to attend or submit a question in advance, please contact Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. Sessions will be held on February 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 3PM and will continue thereafter as warranted.

Fridays@3: Save the Dates

Fridays@3 is our speaker program open not only to members, but also to the academic community and the public at large. This semester's program will be presented on the following dates: February 26, March 26, and April 23.

Information on this semester's speakers will follow in subsequent issues of The Observer.

Where to Begin on Research

Thinking about doing research for planning a study group, or for your own interests, but not sure where to begin? You are all invited to attend the Curriculum Committee's first **Library Resources Workshop**.

When: **Tuesday, February 23, 3:45-5PM**

Led by Mason Brown, Advanced Science Research Center Librarian,
CUNY Grad Center

Session will include:

- What information is available to access remotely
- How to access the information from NYPL and CUNY Open Access
- How to enhance your search tool skills and troubleshoot
- What is E-Book Detective Service?
- Please RSVP to Linda Anstendig (lanstendig@gmail.com) by February 22.

You will receive a Zoom invitation on February 23. If you have questions for Mason that you would like addressed, please submit them in advance to Judith Siegel at jsiegel1@gc.cuny.edu.

Other Sources on Research

In addition to the library workshop designed for LP² members, the Graduate Center Mina Rees Library has several other specialized workshops open for registration: <https://library.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

Announcing GothamEd!

GothamEd presents online courses in New York City history, designed to serve audiences with a range of backgrounds and purposes — from those who are generally interested and looking for a compact introduction, to avid buffs in search of a much deeper dive.

The program offers a mixture of private lectures with discussion and more intimate, traditional semiweekly classes, exploring topics large and small. Explore the catalog of courses running March through May here: <https://www.gothamcenter.org/gothamed/adults>.

GothamEd is a project of the Gotham Center, which for more than 20 years has served as the leading academic institution of New York City history, dedicated to advancing both scholarly and public understanding of its rich and living past. The organization is sponsored by GC-CUNY.

Virtual Artsig

An important event for outsider art aficionados: The annual Art Outsider Art Show is online this year. Visit dealers and curated exhibits Jan. 29 to Feb. 7. Free. <https://www.outsiderartfair.com/new-york>

New member Mitzi Bender suggests interacting with glass artists via interviews and lectures at the Wheaton Arts Center. <https://www.wheatonarts.org/wheaton-conversations/>

Ongoing Events

Pour at Four hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM on Fridays in the 24-hour chat room <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>.

The Women's Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Email Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@gc.cuny.edu.

The Men's Group meets at 3:30PM on Wednesdays. Email Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

New Members

With the continuing pandemic, our new members are losing out on opportunities to meet us all in person, So, we invited them to tell us about their interests and backgrounds and what they most anticipate about membership in LP². The first three new members introduced themselves last week. Over the next few weeks, we will be printing more self-portraits in hopes that members will reach out to these newcomers to introduce themselves or to connect through common interests.

Marjorie Heins (Marge)



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I'm a retired lawyer and nonfiction writer (mostly about constitutional law, censorship, and art history). For most of my career, I worked at the ACLU, first in the Massachusetts office and later at the national office in New York. I'm currently a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where I give tours on

Impressionism/Post-Impressionism and the Art of the Ancient Near East (at least I did, before the pandemic began).

Training at the Met was a great way to learn about whole new areas of art and history, and I'm eager to broaden my continuing education with study groups at LP2. I find the emphasis on community very attractive and can't wait for our study groups and other events to be able meet in person. I also look forward to developing some study groups, either solo or with a partner – whether on some aspect of civil rights or civil liberties, or on something entirely different, historical or literary.

I was an English major way back when and I remain a lover of Shakespeare. I'm usually reading about five books at a time, some of them (haltingly) in French. I'm a fan of foreign films, theatre, classical music, long walks exploring New York, hikes in the woods, riding my bike, and swimming. I live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. I'm divorced and have two grown (now middle-aged) children, my son a confirmed bachelor who lives near Boston, and my daughter the mother of two little girls who live in France. I'd be delighted to meet others in LP2 for coffee, something stronger, or just rambles in the park.

Josephine Campbell Dobkin (Jo)

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I grew up in rural Scotland and came to the US in my early twenties, when I worked in merchandising and fashion editing. Subsequently, after meeting my late husband Paul and having my son, I changed direction and became director of the language program at the East Side Community Center, where I directed a staff of volunteers and taught English to members of the UN for seventeen years.

Then on to the next phase of my working life! I studied at Fordham College at Lincoln Center, graduating with a degree in Art History when I was 56. I was then hired by the Metropolitan Museum as a researcher in the Department of European Paintings. My first task was researching the Old Master paintings for the World War II Provenance Project. Over the fifteen years I was at the Met I also worked on many exhibitions, catalogues, and published two original research articles for the Met Journal.

Presently, I am very involved as the Almoner to the St. Andrew's Society of the State of New York, the oldest charitable organization in the state, which was founded in 1756 to help needy Scots. We assist people of Scottish heritage who are struggling with their lives and help them with monthly stipends and other forms of financial assistance. I was formerly on the Board of Managers and also served as Chairman of the Society.

My interests are opera, reading, and golf. I have one son, Matt, who is in management at the Met Opera. I still have a house in Litchfield County, CT and like to get there as often as possible where I enjoy walking and gardening. I live on the east 50s of Manhattan.

Muriel Binder (Mitzi)

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I have a BA in education from Hunter College and an MA from Hofstra U. I have had an eclectic working life. I spent several rewarding years as a grade school teacher and after leaving I continued on a part-time basis, working with homebound challenged children. I have always been interested in the arts studying at the Brooklyn Museum Art School and painting and sculpting from my home studio. I was involved with people who shared this common interest and we decided to open an art and craft gallery where we could exhibit and sell our own work and showcase local artists and craftspeople. Some years later, after my partners and I closed the gallery, I opened a craft store in Ocean Beach on Fire Island which included women's fashions. I operated the store for about 20 years. Since it was a seasonal business, I decided to open a retail store in NYC specializing in French design and featuring young American designers. During this time, I made many trips to Paris, Dusseldorf, Mexico City, and Positano. When I closed that store, I participated as a partner in a Real Estate Brokerage business selling development properties.

I live in SoHo with my husband Carl, who has been a member of IRP (LP²) for approximately 5 years. We have 2 grown children, one a lawyer with the EPA, the other a special reading teacher in the Seattle Public schools.

I was a docent at the Cooper Hewitt Museum and am currently a volunteer at the Museum of Arts and Design, active in organizing special events for docents and editing the docent newsletter, "Mad Docents About Town."

I enjoy traveling, concerts, theater and the movies. I have always enjoyed playing bridge and now during Covid I have been playing with greater frequency online.

I am interested in participating in the Art Sig program, in publishing The Observer and meeting new people.

MEMBER FORUM

A Covid Vaccination Site Gem!

David Grogan has shared the link to a website that aggregates data from clinics, pharmacies and other NYC locations that might have doses and appointments available. He says, “It will save [members] from having to monitor a gazillion sites on their own, which is a nightmare. The volunteers manning this operation are true heroes.” <https://nycvaccinelist.com/>

Note: If you have suggestions about sites or activities you think would be of interest to our members, or photos reflecting your views of what’s occurring around us, send them to Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu.

CUNY EVENTS

The next virtual program with Music from Copland House features Graduate Center professor and composer John Musto, **UNDERScoreD: Musto Cello & Piano Sonata**. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom details and reminders via email for the Monday, February 22 concert and discussion, from 1-2PM.

See <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> for events this week.

NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

El Museo del Barrio has published numerous [exhibition catalogues and brochures](#) to enjoy from home.

Jazz at Lincoln Center offering [free weekly online programs](#).

The Jewish Museum has made their [audio tours](#) available online.

MoMA is offering free online [courses and specializations](#).

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center streams a wide range of concerts, lectures and masterclasses. Free.
<https://www.chambermusicsociety.org/watch-and-listen/>