

LP²: Lifelong Peer Learning Program at Graduate Center, CUNY
The Observer, November 2, 2020

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Happy Election Day week. I hope all have voted early or are equipped with a plan to vote tomorrow in this historic election year. Through conversations over the past several months, I know so many of you have volunteered to get out the vote – thank you for being so engaged! We may all be on the edge of our seats this week as the votes are tallied, but I hope our study groups and social activities prove to be a place to process all of the incoming news, or as a reprieve from the deluge.

Last week's Fridays@3 talk by Kathleen Hall Jamieson was certainly timely! Thank you to the organizing committee for their brilliant curation and to those who joined. Please complete the survey that will be sent out to registrants so that we can continue to improve our virtual programs. We recorded the program and will post it online once closed captioned. Please save the date for the next Fridays@3 talk by Martin J. Blaser on December 4 at 3 PM, who will speak about the role of bacteria in human disease including pandemics and other public health challenges. As always, we have unlimited capacity, so please share [the invitation](#) with friends and family and encourage them to register and attend. I enjoyed chatting with members in last week's Director's Office Hours – a good time to bring any questions you have or just chat and catch up.

We will be issuing invoices for Fall 2020-Spring 2021 payment via email this week. Please keep an eye out and make your payment by credit card or check per the instructions on the invoice itself. If you have any questions, please email engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

Read on for information about the *next* election this month – LP² Advisory Board elections. There is also an update below about the amendments to the Advisory Board Guidelines, which was a project of the Transition Board, composed of both Graduate Center and IRP/LP² members over the past few months. I hope you will review and attend the special meeting, to be scheduled and announced.

Take good care,
Mariel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two More Running for Board

We have two additional candidates to choose from in electing 12 members to the Advisory Board – Micky Josephs and Susan Sabatino. That brings the total number of candidates to 21. They are: Colette Siegel, Eileen Hanley, Michael Kessler, Randy Ross, Barbara Marwell, Lesley Herrmann, Sheila O’Connell, Jan Adler, Barry Bryer, Arlyne LeSchack, Bruce Smith, Richard Resnik, Steve Kalinsky, Judith Monson, Shelley Peck, Aileen Gitelson, Susanne Yellin, Susan Rauch, Joy Schulman, Micky Josephs and Susan Sabatino.

Here are the pictures and statements of the two added candidates. All pictures and statements are posted on the Zine.

You can find them by clicking this [link](#).



MICKY JOSEPHS

“My many years at the Mayor’s Office of Management and Budget supervising the interaction between the City’s 59 community boards and 15 city agencies which deliver local services prepared me to be

an Advisory Board member. Coordinating the logistics and content of meetings throughout the five boroughs while working with many disparate actors to assure the collegial exchange of views and information provided an excellent foundation for the Advisory Board membership. Being a parent, grandparent and former teacher doesn't hurt either.

I've so enjoyed being a member of the IRP (LP²) and want to continue contributing to this amazing organization. I am currently a member of the Advisory Board, member of the Admissions Committee, chair of the Finance Committee, coordinator in the Memoirs class and mentor to new members. I enthusiastically participate in the Theater Sig, museum visits through the Art Sig, the Women's Group and Fridays@3. The combination of interesting (and interested) smart people plus fascinating courses make the IRP experience so special."



SUSAN SABATINO

"I became a high school teacher at the age of 40, having spent the previous 20 years as an actress and costume designer (my own business). I am now supervising student teachers for Brooklyn College. During my last 17 years as a high school teacher in a performing arts school, I was senior advisor. As such, I ran student elections, the prom, created a Student Store, organized graduation and the Social Justice assembly, which I and another colleague initiated. So, "I've looked at life from both sides now," as part of the working class and middle class.

I have been a dedicated member of the Diversity Committee from the time I joined the IRP. I am a member of Our Stage of Life, and the Women's Group. I currently teach *Brecht: Politics and Art*, and am working on *Race: Complex Conversations – Becoming Part of*

the Solution with others from the Diversity Committee for the spring.

I'm very excited by our new affiliation with the Graduate Center, which shares and values our commitment to increasing diversity in the LP², and is actively and tangibly working with us to that end."

Election Process

The election will take place electronically during the week of November 9-13. Your ballot will come to your GC email from "LP² Advisory Board" on Monday, November 9. It will invite you to vote in the LP² Advisory Board election with instructions on how to cast your vote. You can be assured that your returned ballot is secret. The results will be published in the Observer on November 16. If you do not get your ballot, please email Susan Rauch, srauch@gc.cuny.edu or Michelle Harris mharris@gc.cuny.edu.

Amendments to the LP² Guidelines

On October 27, 2020, the IRP/GC Transition Board voted unanimously to present some amendments to our Guidelines to the IRP Advisory Board, which voted unanimously to approve the amendments and recommend them to the full membership.

(The Transition Board was established by the interim senior vice president of administration and finance and the dean for academic initiatives and strategic innovation of the Graduate Center; its members came from the IRP and the GC.) The amendments reflect both our integration into the Graduate Center and some recent developments in our operations, goals, and governance.

Here is a summary of the recommended amendments.

Throughout the Guidelines the name of the organization has been changed to LP²: Lifelong Peer Learning Program, and the parent organization has been changed from The New School to The Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

The **Statement of Purpose** now includes the recruitment of a diverse membership.

Section II: The Guidelines provide for a separate summer fee ensuring that they reflect actual practice. The Guidelines also now provide for a separate fee for those allowed to take one study group a semester. Both provisions are at the discretion of the director. This formalizes the waiver of the requirement to take two study groups a semester.

The IRP/GC Transition Board recommended this provision with the express intention of attracting both members of underrepresented groups who may be ambivalent about joining LP² and also potential members who may not be fully retired.

A review of a member's performance by the Director was changed from required to permitted.

Section III: Requirements to become members of the Advisory Board were changed. There is no longer a distinction between "at large" and "coordinator" representatives. All representatives are "at large." All twelve elected members still must have been members for at least one year and now one seat is reserved for a member of less than three years, to ensure that newer members have a voice on the board.

The years that the Vice Chair of the board may serve were reduced from five to four years and the years for the Chair were reduced from six to five years.

The Admissions and Curriculum Committees will continue to appoint one voting member of the board and now the Diversity Committee will also appoint a member, replacing the Development Committee representative.

Meeting requirements for the Advisory Board were changed from once a month to bi-weekly during each semester.

Section VIII: Terms for committee members and chairs have been reduced: four years for members and five years for chairs.

Section IX: GMMs are to be held once a semester instead of once a year. The amended Guidelines together with a summary of the changes are available on the Zine through this [link](#).

Next Steps:

The Executive Committee will schedule a special meeting of members with representatives of the Transition and Advisory Boards to discuss the amendments. Notice of the special meeting will be emailed to all members.

Members will vote on the amendments by secret electronic ballot. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the ballots cast is required for adoption of the amendments.

Microbiologist, Dr. Blaser Speaks at Fridays@3



Join us for Fridays@3 with Martin J. Blaser, M.D.: *How a perturbed microbiome fuels modern epidemics.*

Dr. Blaser's talk will concentrate on his groundbreaking work: the relationship of the human microbiome with health and diseases including asthma, obesity, diabetes, and cancer.

In 2015 Dr. Blaser was included in the Time Magazine list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Dr. Blaser holds the Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome at Rutgers University, and serves as the Director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine.

He is the Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council for Combatting Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB).

For more than 20 years Dr. Blaser has been actively studying the human microbiome, the bacteria that live inside the human body, which is the subject of his book, *Missing Microbes, How the over-use of antibiotics is fueling our modern plagues*, now published in 20 languages.

As always, members of LP² are welcome to invite friends and family to join us for this talk. The Graduate Center will reach out to its large network, and we expect to have a large and enthusiastic audience. Here is the [link to register](#) for the talk.

Strategies for Study Group Discussions

Wednesday, November 18, 3:45-5pm, You are invited to attend *The Art and Science of Leading a Discussion on Zoom*.

The Curriculum Committee encourages new AND experienced coordinators to attend to share ideas and learn new ones. RSVP to Linda Anstendig by Tuesday, November 17; Zoom invitation will follow.

lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu

Call for Activities in Winter Break

The Community Building Initiative is looking for volunteers to lead activities during the break from December 22 to January 29. Just as in our earlier break, your activity can meet once, twice or multiple times. We also invite fall coordinators to offer a one-session favorite “encore” presentation selected from their fall study groups. Please submit your activity to Jan Adler at jadler@gc.cuny.edu

Needed: A New Observer Editor

From Leslie Davis: After 12 years of editing the Observer, I am planning to turn it over to someone else during the spring term.

To ensure a smooth transition, I would like to know if any of you are interested in the job. A formal application process won't happen until the new Advisory Board takes over, but I would like to identify people with the right skills who are willing to put them to work.

Obviously, some experience in writing and/or editing is fairly crucial, but there are more aspects to the job than simply handling copy.

The job entails receiving items – text and pictures – each week from members, contacting members to clarify details when necessary, organizing the items into a draft and then editing the draft before starting to work with Ariana to prepare the final version. It also involves understanding what members want and need to know, seeking the best ways to present the information, and prioritizing the various activities and interests.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility, even if you're not sure you're qualified, please send me an e-mail, and I will arrange a conversation. (The email given last week was incorrect.) Thanks!

Leslie Davis,

ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu

Observer Schedule

Please submit your items to Leslie Davis at ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in Monday's issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week. Online Art Show entries should go to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Changes to Zine

Please note there is a new User ID and Password for the secured portions of the Zine. User ID: LPsquared PW: Fall2020. The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar. The Zine address is still www.IRPZine.org

Tech Advice

Advice from Harold and Michelle for entering the superscript for our new name LP².

On computer or laptop: When you open Word, look to the top left for the symbol x^2 . If you want to type LP², type the number 2, highlight it, click on the x^2 , and voila: your 2 becomes ². Very easy. To resume typing, click the x^2 again.

On iPhone: Go to "settings," "general," "keyboard," "text replacement". Then touch "+" and phrase and shortcut will show. Enter LP² in phrase (copy it from this email), and Enter LP in shortcut. So now whenever you type LP your phone will give you a choice LP or LP². That should work. Good Luck.

On GC mail: Find the x^2 to the right of the screen (you may have to click on the inverted double chevron – two stacked "v"s), type the number 2, highlight it, and click on the x^2 to get the superscript. To resume typing, click the x^2 again.

ONLINE ART SHOW



From Nancy Small: I have always been fascinated by photos that show the world from a different point of view. Last summer, while walking in the garden at DIA Beacon, I looked up and saw what I think of as Heaven's Hedge.

Artsig Suggests Virtual Tours

Until we can again offer actual tours of museums and galleries, we will suggest virtual ones you might enjoy.

See the entire collection of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas online <https://collection.crystalbridges.org/collections>.

Several artworks can also be seen in virtual reality <https://crystalbridges.org/vr/>.

The museum loans American art to other institutions. Those that can be borrowed are shown with descriptive paragraphs. <https://collection.artbridgesfoundation.org/>.

Nancy Small recommends the hour-long BBC production, "History of Art in Three Colors: Blue." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OTngEHvq8Q&>.

To complement that video, watch the Nassau County Museum's current exhibition, Blue. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIOObNeDb6w&feature=youtu.be&t=1>

EVENTS

Conversation on a Vaccine

Thursday, November 19 at 4PM.
Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky will lead a discussion on *Waiting for the Vaccine: Until Then? Update on the New Normal*.

To attend, email Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu for a Zoom invite. And, if you have a question, please send it to Steve.

Ongoing

Pour at Four hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM Fridays for an end-of-the-week gathering in the 24-hour chat room at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/irpte/chstuff> Want to co-host? Contact Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu

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

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

CUNY EVENTS: UPCOMING & ONGOING

[Bankers and Empire: How Wall Street Colonized the Caribbean](#)

Monday, November 2, 6:30 PM
[Fall 2020 Seminar in Applied Economics: Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith](#)

Tuesday, November 3, 11:45 AM

["How Patterns of Intonation Convey Identity and Meaning within South Asian Immigrant Communities"](#)

Thursday, November 5, 4:00 PM

[Ayala Fader on Jewish Doubt in the Digital Age](#)

Thursday, November 5, 6:00 PM

[Scientific Discovery: The Revolution in Cell Biology](#)

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 PM
[Chromosomes, Condensates, and Transcriptional Control](#)

Friday, November 6, 10:00 AM

[Sociolinguistics Lunch: Erica Saldívar García \(New York University\)](#)

Friday, November 6, 2:00 PM

[New People, New Places: The Changing Landscape of International Migration in the United States](#)

Friday, November 6, 4:30 PM

[Book Launch: Agrarian Puerto Rico: Reconsidering Rural Economy and Society, 1899–1940](#)

Friday, November 6, 4:30 PM

[Creative Inquiry: Collaborative Seeing - Adapting Photo-Voice](#)

Monday, November 9, 10:00 AM

[Music from Copland House](#)

Monday, November 9, 1:00 PM

[Shamrocks and Shackles: Irish Women's Prison Writing during the Civil Rights Movement, 1960s-1990s](#)

Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 PM

More events are listed here:

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GCEvents/Calendar>

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](#).

The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering from artist talks to art history courses, webinars and creative projects for everyone, see what's coming up [here](#). Explore exhibitions online [here](#).

BRIC Rotunda Gallery is offering free Media Education Courses. More information [here](#)