

**THE OBSERVER
MAY 24, 2021**

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello members,

We look forward to the summer term with those who are participating this year. Study groups start on Tuesday, June 1 and run through July 12.

Our office will be processing registrations for fall over the coming weeks, and you will hear from us with your schedules and rosters via email. We will also keep you posted as the fall plans take shape. I expect that we will have confirmation in August about rooms for the hybrid study groups, at which point we will know how many people can be in the classrooms based on seats and with that, survey those registered to determine who will be remote and who will be in person. Members who are interested in coming into the building for their study group (on a volunteer basis) will be there for class only. They will indicate this preference before the term begins with the expectation that they continue in the in-person modality for the full semester. If they change their mind at some point during the semester, they can participate remotely for the remainder of the term. It is our expectation that a member who prefers to be remote continues in the remote modality for the full semester. The exact hyflex* technology setup is being determined by the University (for all 25 CUNY campuses including The Graduate Center). Again, we are expecting to run two or three study groups in this hybrid/hyflex modality and will

plan carefully with the coordinators and tech team to ensure a positive experience for all.

While The Graduate Center's library is not yet open for broad circulation, I want to share with you a few details about expanded access to print materials through a new Grab and Go for Researchers program at The New York Public Library.

Researchers can request print materials for pickup at the Schomburg, Performing Arts, and Schwartzman buildings. All members of the Graduate Center community are eligible to borrow materials through this program using your Graduate Center email address when you fill out the request forms. Details are available on the NYPL website

here: <https://www.nypl.org/research/grab-and-go-for-researchers>.

Please reach out to our liaison, Mason Brown, mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu, or to me (mwillere@gc.cuny.edu) if you have questions about the program and we will do our best to find answers.

Please note that CUNY is closed on Monday, May 31; for Memorial Day, Friday, June 18 for the Juneteenth holiday; as well as on Monday, July 5. We will be operating with a four-day workweek from June 21 through August 13 – the office will be closed on the Fridays of those weeks.

Have a wonderful summer!

My best,

Marisel

*The **hybrid flexible, or hyflex**, course format is a teaching method that **combines face-to-face (F2F) and online learning**. Each class session and learning activity is offered simultaneously online and in-person.

Our office contact information:

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Summer Study Group Change Information

For those of you that registered for summer study groups and need to make a change, you may do so with [this form](#) until the deadline, Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Observer Summer Schedule

During the Summer months, The Observer has a curtailed publication schedule:

Mondays, June 7, 21

July 12, 26

August 9, 23.

If you have information to be published in the Observer from June through August, e-mail Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by the Fridays before the Monday issues above.

Call for Break Activities between Summer and Fall Semesters

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during the break from July 13th to September 3rd. Just as with our earlier break activities, yours can meet once, twice or multiple times. Whether it's a book or movie discussion, a current events discussion, a travel adventure or art presentation or something else, your colleagues will appreciate your efforts. We also invite all current and past coordinators to offer a one session encore presentation selected from a prior study group. Tech help is available to set up and assist you run the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

Contact Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu to propose your activity.

Science Series: AN LP² VOYAGE TO THE COSMOS

A talk by Dr. Charles Liu

Wednesday, June 16, 3PM

Dr. Charles Liu, a professor of physics and astronomy at the College of Staten Island and a faculty member at the Graduate Center, will be joining us on June 16 at 3PM for our second Science Seminar Series Talk on "AN LP² VOYAGE TO THE COSMOS."

Dr. Liu is also on the staff of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, where he helped design and develop the exhibits and scientific content of the Rose Center for Earth and Space. During this time, with co-authors Neil deGrasse Tyson and Robert W. Irion, Liu wrote "One Universe: At Home In The Cosmos (2000)", for which Tyson, Irion, and Liu were awarded the 2001 Science Writing Award (scientist category) of the American Institute of Physics. In 2019, he was named a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society.

Our own astrophysicist, John Gillespie, will interview Dr. Liu for 20-30 min. and then we will open it up for questions. As in the case of our first Science Talk with a CUNY faculty member, this event is limited to LP² members.

Here is the Registration

link: <https://forms.gle/mnbH4XUbbG9tf3nj8>

POUR AT 4 OUTDOORS (2 EVENTS)

Date: TODAY!! Monday, May 24th (Rain Date: Tuesday, May 25th)

Location: Soldiers & Sailors Monument (W.89th St and Riverside Dr.)

Time: 4:00PM

Meeting Location: Large terrace on the north side of the Monument

Host: Carol Borelli

Transportation:

#1 subway to W. 86th St. It's a short walk west to Riverside Park.
Bus #5 to the W.89th St and Riverside Drive stop. Cross the street.

If you have any questions or concerns, reach Carol at (917) 291-1618.

AND

Date: Wednesday, June 23rd (Rain Date: Thursday, June 24th)

Location: Stuyvesant Square Park (2ndAve., from 14th – 17th Sts.)

Time: 4PM

Meeting Location: Inside the park; corner of Rutherford Place @17th St., across from St. George's Church

Host: Bob Cohn

Transportation: Buses: 2nd and 3rd Aves.
#6 subway (Lexington Ave.)

Frequent Coordinators Recognized

LP² periodically recognizes the extraordinary contribution made by members who have coordinated numerous study groups over many semesters. This year, LP² issued certificates of recognition to these members who coordinated at least 15 study groups since 2011 and who were not previously recognized: Sophie Balcoff, Steven Cole, Jane Case Einbender, Nicole Gartner, John Gillespie, Joan Glick, Peter Goldman, Marcia Hearst, Miriam Lawrence, Arlyne LeSchack, Robert Sholiton and Charles Troob. (**Sophie Balcoff** and **Arlyne LeSchack** were inadvertently omitted from the list of those honored at the recent GMM.)

MORE ZOOM BREAK ACTIVITIES

TOMORROW!! Tuesday, May 25th, 1PM

Film discussion with Robert Sholiton

Tickled: A Quirky Investigative Documentary

When a New Zealand journalist specializing in the weird and the bizarre comes across an online video of “competitive endurance tickling,” he decides to write an article about this subculture that is little-known except to its devoted internet followers. However, he immediately runs into a wall of resistance that raises his suspicions and leads him to embark on an investigation that takes him across the US from LA to the Midwest to Florida to Garden City, NY. His discoveries become ever more surprising and even sinister. Manohla Dargis of the NY Times named it a Critic’s Pick. Watch it on Amazon Prime before the discussion. Send an e-mail to

rsholiton@gc.cuny.edu and you’ll receive a Zoom invite before the session.

Tuesday, July 13th, 11AM

Polling and Public Opinion

with Carolyn Setlow and Ellen Sills-Levy

The news these days is filled with the results of public opinion polls on all kinds of topics. Discrediting polls has become a national pastime, especially around election seasons. And yet, for many of us, polls remain a black box. Does what the public thinks, even on critical public policy issues, really matter? What's the history of polling – and its accuracy? Can 1000 people really represent the entire nation? Why have they never interviewed me? Are their questions biased? In short, can we trust the polls, or would we be better off without them? Carolyn Setlow and Ellen Sills-Levy, two veteran pollsters/market researchers, explore the reliability of polls and their role in our democracy, in an abbreviated version of their spring study group. If you'd like to attend, e-mail Carolyn at csetlow@gc.cuny.edu and you will receive a Zoom invite before the session.

Thursday, July 29th, 2PM

Book Discussion with author Sabeeha Rehman & LP² member Shelley Peck

Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani to American Muslim

Sabeeha Rehman was born and raised in Pakistan and came to the U.S. in 1971. She will share and discuss her story, detailed in this, her first book, and her pursuit to define an American Muslim identity for herself, her children and grandchildren; as well as her transformation from a Pakistani Muslim to an American Muslim. Questions will be welcomed. Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to the session.

If you're interested, e-mail Shelley Peck at rpeck@gc.cuny.edu. You'll receive a Zoom invite the week before.

Mondays at 3PM: July (19, 26) and Aug (9, 16) More Stories Aloud with Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to More Stories Aloud

during the second summer break. Participants will read stories aloud or just listen. We'll meet on Zoom. Sessions will last about an hour and a half. Stories are sent in advance by e-mail. The fun and emphasis are in our live reading as well as brief discussion. E-mail Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the Zoom link. Please indicate if you would like to read aloud.

THE GREAT LP² READ

***Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell**

Wednesday, August 25th, 1PM

Join with us for our third Great LP² Read. Revisit the book about which *The New York Times* declared “Why ‘1984’ Is a 2017 Must-Read.” It shot to No. 1 on Amazon’s best seller list in early 2017. We’ll explore why the book has found a large readership in this “post-truth” era, how the dystopia Orwell described suddenly feels all too familiar and consider how we react to reading it today compared to when we originally read it.

Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize one or more Zoom discussion groups at this date/time.

To participate, e-mail Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu. Obtain the book and read on your own. You’ll receive a Zoom invite the week before the discussion.

REMINDERS

One Week Until May 31 Deadline for Submission to LP² Voices Online

The deadline for submission to LP² Voices Online (May 31) is approaching. We are hoping for a wide and rich set of submissions, one that reflects the many talents of our community.

This is your opportunity to share your creative work with your colleagues. Look over the prose or poetry you’ve written, or the

photos you've taken. Find something you like and send it in! The next issue of Voices should be ready by the time we return in September. A copy of the guidelines for submission are on the last page of the April 5 Observer [here](#).

MEMBER FORUM

Does the multitude of candidates for the upcoming NYC primary election set your head reeling? Perhaps primary election debates will help you narrow your focus. As we've learned, local elections are crucially important. Like last year, you can get your absentee ballot from your local election board and you do not have to state any reason for not voting in person.

Ettie Taichman, an organizer of the IRP/LP² Voter Registration Project, has forwarded this schedule of NYC primary debates from the League of Women Voters.

2021 Debate Schedule

— Primary Election Debates Election Day June 22 —		
Mayoral Republican	Wednesday, May 26 7 pm - 8 pm	Spectrum News NY1
Mayoral Democratic	Wednesday, June 2 7 pm - 9 pm	WABC-TV with the LWVNYC
Mayoral Republican "Leading Contenders"	Sunday, June 6 (Time TBD)	WABC - TV with the LWVNYC
Comptroller Democratic	Thursday, June 10 7 pm - 8 pm	Spectrum News NY1

Mayoral Democratic "Leading Contenders"	Wednesday, June 16 7 pm - 8 pm	WNBC-TV
Comptroller Democratic "Leading Contenders"	Sunday, June 20 9:30 am - 10:30 am	WNBC-TV
— General Election Debates Election Day November 2 —		
Mayoral	Wednesday, October 20 7 pm - 8 pm	WNBC-TV
Mayoral "Leading Contenders"	Tuesday, October 26 7 pm - 8 pm	WABC-TV with the LWVNYC

Looking for some new ways to have fun this summer?

Encore Creativity for Older Adults is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing an excellent, accessible, and sustainable artistic environment for adults over 55 years of age *at any level*, who seek music arts education and performance opportunities under a professional artist. Carol Groneman, Mary Houts and Lucy Kirk have all been members of Encore and enjoy singing their hearts out!

Encore "University" summer session, being held on Zoom, offers 4 weeks of online singing and learning (July 12 – August 5). For more information and to download the catalog or to register, go to Encorecreativity.org or call (301) 261-5747.

(The registration period has been extended to June 1.)

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

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

The Men's Group meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

Stitch Away Stress meets at 4PM Tuesdays. Members share skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Contact Michelle Harris at mharris@gc.cuny.edu

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's 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.

Member Forum If you have something to share with the LP² community, e.g., a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you've discovered that you think would be interesting to members, send it to Susan at srauch@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.

