

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

The Observer, November 16, 2020

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I know we are all developing creative solutions to stay active and engaged over the winter season, whether through braving the cold (with lots of layers!) or planning new activities at home. I am hoping to be able to extend the season for walks and visits with friends in parks within reasonable cycling distance and also embarking on a non-credit class myself! The resilience of LP² members continues to inspire me and there are already intersession activities taking form –see the listings of opportunities enclosed. I hope you will join your peers in new lines of inquiry and discussion, or suggest one of your own.

Thank you to the Advisory Board election coordinators, to all of the candidates, and to all who voted! It's been a pleasure to get to know and work with the current Advisory Board and develop relationships particularly with the outgoing Executive Committee, with whom I worked closely in planning the program's relationship with The Graduate Center. We will usher in a new Board next term and I look forward to working with you in this next chapter.

You should have received what I hope was a clarifying message from our office about your GC email account last week. Read on for those instructions included as an appendix to this issue of the Observer. Please be in touch (engagement@gc.cuny.edu) should you have further questions about your email as you will need to access your account for Spring registration.

The Curriculum Committee and I expect to open registration next week for a great lineup of Spring study groups. We will direct this information to your Graduate Center email address, and once live, all relevant information and links will be included in the Observer as well as the Zine. If you have been on a leave of absence over the Fall 2020 term and plan to enroll for Spring 2021, we will send you an invoice for a single term (\$715) when we receive your registration form. Thank you to the Curriculum Committee for all of their dedicated work in seeking proposals, working with coordinators to further develop and refine plans, and creating the course schedule.

Wishing you and your loved ones the best for Thanksgiving as it is an important time to reflect on 2020 and to acknowledge the challenges while making room for gratitude.

Stay well!

Marisel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advisory Board Election

From the Election Committee: The results are in! Congratulations to all those who stepped up to take on this responsibility. The unusually strong slate of candidates is a tribute to the membership's commitment to the health of LP² and a guarantee of the thoughtful leadership we can expect as we solidify our relationship with our new home at the Graduate Center. We wish every success to the new board that will take over on January 1st.

Thanks to committee members—Susan Rauch, Colette Siegel, Arlene Spiller, and Michelle Harris—for overseeing this process under unusual circumstances, and to the 191 members who cast their ballots.

Here are the new board members. Their terms were assigned according to their preferences and the number of votes they received.

TERM	NAME
3 YR. 21-24	
	Jan Adler
	Barbara Marwell
	Michael Kessler New Member Rep 2017
	Bruce Smith
2 YR. 21-23	
	Colette Siegel
	Susan Rauch
	Barry Bryer
	Micky Josephs
1 YR. 21-22	
	Richard Resnik
	Eileen Hanley
	Randy Ross
	Lesley Herrmann

GMM: Mark Calendar and Note Agenda Item

Tuesday, December 15th at 3PM

At this meeting we will discuss the amendments to our Guidelines recommended by the Advisory Board. These Guidelines would govern LP² operations and relationships with the Graduate Center over the coming years. A summary of the amendments together with the amended Guidelines themselves are available [here](#) on the Zine.

Within two weeks after the meeting, members will be asked to vote on the amendments by secret ballot and an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the ballots cast will be required for adoption.

Plan to discuss this important issue—and others—and also see the new Advisory Board and your old and new friends. Bring your own refreshments!

IER Forms Two Committees

From the Board of Directors of the Institute for Education in Retirement (IER): The Board of the IER, the LP² fund-raising arm, has formed two new committees: Finance and Investment. The Finance Committee comprises: Richard Bing, Judy Monson, Micky Josephs, Bernard Belkin and Colette Siegel. The Investment Committee comprises: Susan Heide, Maury Harris, Eric Roper, Charles Bronfeld and Colette Siegel.

The Finance Committee will develop and maintain the organization's budgeting and financial planning, monitor internal controls and prepare financial reports. The Investment Committee will recommend to the board a qualified investment advisor, who will recommend for board approval the best investment strategy for IER's assets. The committee will monitor the advisor's performance and investments in line with the IER's Investment objectives, risk tolerance, and reporting.

EVENTS

LP² Special Event

Monday, November 30th at 4PM
Georgi Velikov Panayotov,
Bulgarian ambassador to the US
Rescue of all Jews in Bulgaria
during WWII

The Bulgarians rescued all of the 48,000 Jews living in Bulgaria during World War II. (Although Bulgaria allowed the Germans to deport about 11,000 Jews in Bulgarian-occupied Macedonia and part of Romania.) Only Bulgaria and Albania ended the war with more Jews than before the war. Ambassador Georgi Velikov Panayotov will speak about the rescue and what it is like to be a UN ambassador here in New York.

LP² member Bill Siegel is a diplomatic outreach team leader for the American Jewish Committee and has arranged this talk. Register via Eventbrite [here](#).

Please share this Eventbrite registration page with your friends and family.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES December 22nd-January 29th

Reading Stories Aloud

Monday, January 4th, 11th, 18th &
25th at 3PM

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to the pleasures of reading aloud. Stories are emailed to you in advance, but preparation is unnecessary. A panel of readers reads the story aloud - sprinkling its reading with interjections, questions, one-liners, insights wise and dumb and short digressions. During pauses, the entire group joins in for comments and questions. The panel changes from session to session - giving all who wish to read the opportunity to do so.

We're considering stories by Elif Batuman, Shirley Jackson, Italo Calvino, Anita Desai, Deborah Eisenberg, Gogol, Jamaica Kincaid, Nicole Krauss, Herman Melville, Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, Grace Paley, Zadie Smith, as well as revisiting some of our favorite authors such as Raymond Carver and Flannery O'Connor. Email Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the Zoom link. Please indicate if you would like to be on a panel.

China & the US: What Lies Ahead? with Tom Hardy

Thursday, January 7th at 1PM

This is a second follow-up to Tom's study group. We speculate on the composition of President Biden's cabinet, the relationship between the new administration and China. Former class members will automatically be signed up to receive a Zoom invite. Others who wish to participate should email Tom Hardy at thardy@gc.cuny.edu.

Impressionism in the Met: A Guided Tour with Carolyn Grossner

Thursday, January 14th at 1PM

The Met has the finest collection of Impressionist art outside of Paris. We will take an hour tour (repeated from this past summer's course) of some of the greatest examples of Impressionist art including works that led to the movement as well as works of post-Impressionism. This is intended simply to be a relaxing lunch-hour talk about beautiful paintings with no Q&A afterwards. Please join me at this [link](#).

The Great LP² Read

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid

Wednesday, January 27th at 1PM

Join us for our second Great LP² Read. Our book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and a *New York Times* bestseller. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize one or more Zoom discussion groups during the break. If interested, email Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu, obtain the book and start reading. You'll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

Comedy Writing Workshop

From Robert Chan: Interested in participating in a comedy writing workshop over winter break? If I receive positive responses, I'll set up a Zoom meeting to discuss procedure, mechanics etc. My initial thought is for participants to write a short piece of comic writing prior to each meeting for us to share and discuss. We could also post and discuss examples of comic writing. Anyone with a funny sense of humor (no need for it be a humorous one) is invited.

I would appreciate any suggestions or guidance. If you are interested or offended, please contact me at rchan@gc.cuny.edu or call me at 646-678-0320 and leave a voicemail. (I usually don't pick up for fear of creditors, scams and car insurance sales pitches).

Theatre in Performance SIG – Encore

The Theatre in Performance SIG offered this summer will be revived during the winter break and then continue through the spring semester. Coordinated by Bruce Smith, the SIG meets every other week to discuss recordings of live play productions available for streaming. The initial plays will be chosen from Digital Theatre, a British streaming service that has a variety of critically acclaimed productions for £9.99 (approximately \$13)/month. The SIG will start during the first week of January; members can start participating then. (Since this activity will continue, members can also join at the start of the spring semester.) The SIG is open to all LP2 members. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Bruce at bsmith2@gc.cuny.edu.

You will then receive more detailed information. Note: Both past SIG participants and new ones should respond to Bruce via email ASAP.

Calls for More Break Activities

Armchair Traveler Discussion Leaders

We're looking for a volunteer(s) to lead virtual travel adventures. We'll pack our imaginary bags and come along with you and our colleagues to discuss international destinations we'd love to visit or revisit. We'll share memorable experiences and travel strategies that will enrich our future adventures. Tech help is available to set up and help you run the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants. To volunteer to lead our "tour group," contact Jan Adler at adlerjan@gc.cuny.edu of the Community Building Initiative.

Book Discussion Leaders

Do you have a book (fiction or nonfiction) that you have enjoyed? Are you willing to lead a one-session discussion on this book during the winter break? If yes, contact Jan Adler at adlerjan@gc.cuny.edu.

We'll announce the session in the Observer, and participants will sign up with you, obtain the book and read it on their own before the session. Tech help is available to set up and assist you in running the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

Other Ideas?

The Community Building Initiative is looking for more volunteers to lead activities during the break. Your activity can meet once, twice or multiple times. Fall coordinators can offer a one-session favorite "encore" presentation. Please submit your activity to Jan Adler at jadler@gc.cuny.edu

REMINDERS

Microbiologist Next for Fridays@3 December 4

Join us for Fridays@3 with Martin J. Blaser, M.D. speaking about 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. He is Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome at Rutgers University, Director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, and Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council for Combatting Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB).

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 Discussion

Wednesday, November 18th, 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 17th; Zoom invitation will follow. lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu

Conversation on a Vaccine

Thursday, November 19th 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 or to ask a question, email Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu.

Ongoing:

Pour at Four hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM Fridays in the 24-hour chat room <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.

Observer Schedule

The Observer will not appear on Monday, November 23rd, Thanksgiving week. Our last Observer for this semester will be on Monday, December 21st. We will resume regular publication on Monday, January 25th. We will publish during the winter break only when we have some news to communicate. Send your entries to Leslie Davis by Friday at 5PM. Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours 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

ONLINE ART SHOW

From Lucy Kirk

Title: A village in the Cotswolds



Lucy says: I love painting villages in the English countryside. It is my way of visiting one of my favorite places on earth.

ArtSig Suggests Virtual Tours

Poster House: Panel discussion on the Future of Museums
November 17 from 7 to 8:30PM.

For information, see <https://posterhouse.org/event/the-future-of-museums/>. Intended for a college audience, the panel will discuss issues of concern to all museum goers.

If you missed the ArtSig tour of the beautiful Alphonse Mucha exhibition at Poster House, see it and other past exhibitions online [here](#).

MEMBER FORUM

From Voter Registration

Project: Although the presidential and most down-ballot elections have been decided, there are still two important elections that will take place in early January—the runoffs for both Senate seats in Georgia. The nonpartisan New Georgia Project is a group we suggest you investigate, if you are considering contributing time and/or money. For details on a variety of volunteer opportunities for the Georgia runoffs [click here](#).

From Carole Chamlin: I'm on the program committee for the NY League of Women Voters, which is offering a talk by Professor David S. Cohen of Drexel University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law on the implications of the Supreme Court's new conservative majority for American law in the coming decades. Professor Cohen, author of *Living in the Crosshairs: The Untold Stories of Anti-Abortion Terrorism*, is currently on the board of the Women's Law Project and the Abortion Care Network.

The free talk will be from 5:30 to 7PM on Tuesday, November 17th. Here is a [link to register](#).

CUNY EVENTS: UPCOMING & CONTINUING

[The Sense of Brown: The Life and Work of José Muñoz](#)

Monday, November 16th, 6:30 PM

[Juan L. Rodriguez: "Linguistic Intimacies among the Venezuelan Diaspora in Chile"](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 4:00 PM

[Linguistics Colloquium: Laura Spinu, Assistant Professor, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 4:15 PM

[The Difference Aesthetics Makes](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 4:30 PM

[The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate in a Cairo Synagogue](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 5:00 PM

[London, Venice, Ferrara: Mothers and Daughters in Early Italian Accounts of the Anglican Schism](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 6:00 PM

[Peniel E. Joseph on MLK and Malcolm X, with David Levering Lewis](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 6:00 PM

[How Activist New Yorkers Ignited a Movement for Food Justice](#)

Thursday, November 19th, 6:30 PM

[Cognitive Science Speaker Series: Jorge Morales](#)

Friday, November 20th, 1:00 PM

[Communicating Your Science Series: Best-Practices for Youth Science Engagement](#)

Friday, November 20th, 2:00 PM

[Sociolinguistics Lunch: Soubeika Bahri \(University of Colorado, Denver\)](#)

Friday, November 20th, 2:00 PM

[Immigration Seminar Series: Jean Beaman](#)

Friday, November 20th, 3:00 PM

[Boys Remade: Sexing Blackness in the Early Modern Mediterranean and English Imagination](#)

Friday, November 20th, 4:00 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](#)

APPENDIX

HOW TO RESET YOUR GC PASSWORD

Dear LP² members,

We are writing to you to let you know that you may have received an email from the IT department indicating that your password is expiring and needs to be reset. Please note at this is a default message from IT that prompts users to reset their passwords every 180 days to maintain account security.

You are able to use the self-service password reset system (<https://passwordreset.gc.cuny.edu/>) **if we have your date of birth information on file**. If we do not have that on file, we have sent a separate email to your address with instructions on how to submit it.

You should have received an email from **Graduate Center Automated Email** <do-not-reply@gc.cuny.edu> with the **Subject: Graduate Center Password Reset** welcoming you that the self-service password reset system is ready.

You can also reset your password using the Outlook Web App.

1. Navigate to [Outlook Web Access](#) and log in with your current GC email credentials
2. Click on the gear icon (upper right corner) – see screenshot below
4. Click on “**Change password**”
5. Enter the current password, and a new password; screenshot below (Note the password complexity requirements below)

For GC passwords, the following rules apply:

1. Must not contain dictionary words, names, phone numbers or other easily searchable information.
2. Must not contain all or part of the user's account name.
3. Must be at least 8 to 15 characters in length.
4. Must contain characters from three of the following four categories:
 - English upper-case characters (A-Z)
 - English lower-case characters (a-z)
 - Base 10 digits (0 -9)
 - Non-alphanumeric (For example :!, \$#, %)

Thank you and please be in touch with engagement@gc.cuny.edu should you need further assistance.

