

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

THE OBSERVER
December 7, 2020

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear all,

As the semester wanes, I hope you consider the ever-growing list of intersession activities to stay engaged through the winter. Last week concluded the impressive Fridays@3 series of Fall talks and videos of all events this semester will soon be made available. Next week we have the General Membership Meeting that you should register for and submit your questions to be addressed via Eventbrite (linked later in this issue). We are also looking forward to Spring and you will receive your schedules and coordinator's rosters before the end of this term. I am working with committees on new initiatives and events for the Spring as we continue to navigate and exploit this virtual format.

Director's Office Hours are tomorrow, Tuesday December 8 from 12-1pm here:

<https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/j/99430239337?pwd=YkpHWmQyNyt0amJMYUdKWENIMTNRUT09>

I look forward to chatting with you.

Best,

Mariel

TECH NOTES

Zoom

- If you received an email about your Graduate Center (GC) Zoom license expiring, do not despair! This message was sent inadvertently and LP² members are an exception, so GC licenses will be maintained for you without any disruption. All coordinators, committee chairs, and Advisory Board members (current and newly elected) should have a license.
- If you are coordinating or newly elected to the AB you should have received an invitation to activate your zoom license. Please do so now.

Email

- [How do I setup an iPhone phone with a GC email account](#)
- [How do I setup an Android phone with a GC email account](#)

Help

- 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, please contact your PC manufacturer or your software vendor.

Zine

- As a reminder, the user ID and password to access protected areas of the Zine (www.irpzine.org) are NOT the same as your Graduate Center email/username and password. The user ID for the protected areas of the Zine is Lpsquared; the Password is Fall2020. The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder, General Membership Meeting: Guidelines Amendments Tuesday, December 15, 3PM

At this GMM 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 and the complete amended Guidelines themselves are available on the Zine. [CLICK HERE](#)

Please register [HERE](#) to receive Zoom details. ALSO NOTE: The registration form includes the space for you to submit your questions for the GMM in advance.

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

Observer Schedule

The last Observer for this semester will be on Monday, December 21. Regular publication will resume on Monday, January 25. The Observer may appear during the break when there is news to communicate. Send your entries to Leslie Davis by Friday at 5PM at ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu. Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours should go to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES

New

Reflections on Virtual Life With Jan Adler Wednesday, December 30 or Thursday, January 28, 2PM

We will soon have completed almost a year of Zooming. Here is an opportunity to share thoughts and feelings about how this remote experience has affected your communal and private life and also about the strategies you have developed to survive and even thrive over the past months. Contact Jan Adler at jadler@gc.cuny.edu, specify the date you prefer; you receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**The Armchair Traveler
Dive Trips with Susan Sabatino
Monday, January 11, 1PM**

Pack your imaginary bags and come along with Susan, who has logged over 500 dives, as she revisits memorable scuba diving adventures, both on land and underwater, in the Philippines, Pacific Rim Micronesia, the Caribbean, the Black Sea, Cairo and other exotic places. Email Susan at ssabatino@gc.cuny.edu and you'll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

Previously Announced

**Trump Set to Leave on January 20. Now What?
With Steve Kalinsky, Sara Otey,
Barry Levine and Maury Harris
Tuesdays at Two, from
December 22 through January 28.**

As (slightly more than) half the nation celebrates the election of Joe Biden as the next President and (slightly less than) half is dubious about the result, LP² weighs in. America heads into 2021 facing major health and economic crises, a media revolution, and a politically polarized population.

We look at the issues, seek historical context, and humbly attempt to predict the future; basically we try to make sense of it all. For a Zoom invite, please contact Steve Kalinsky at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. Whatever your political views, please join us; the discussion will be better if it includes diverse views.

**Stitch Away Stress
With Michelle Harris and Susan Herman
Tuesday, January 5, 10AM**

Join us for a remote knit/crochet/spin/weave/sew/stitch group. Share your skills and enjoy the meditative benefits of handwork. Depending on interest, we will set up several sessions during winter break. Email Michelle at mharris@gc.cuny.edu or Susan at sherman1@gc.cuny.edu for a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**Shtisel – the Netflix series
With Susan Herman and Jenny
Ross
Friday, January 8, 15, 22 & 29,
1PM**

Watch all 24 episodes of the award-winning Israeli TV show that focuses on an ultraorthodox Jewish family living in Jerusalem. Each episode lasts 45 minutes. We will meet on four Fridays and discuss six episodes each time. Email Susan sherman1@gc.cuny.edu to receive a Zoom invite.

**Book Discussion with Jane
Case Einbender
The City & The City by China
Mieville
Wednesday, January 13, 1PM**

“If Philip K. Dick and Raymond Chandler’s love child were raised by Franz Kafka, the writing that emerged might resemble [this] ...novel”—Los Angeles Times. Part detective mystery, part dystopian tale, the novel illuminates fundamental and unsettling questions about culture and governance. Email Jane at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu, obtain the book, and start reading now on your own. You’ll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**Book Discussion with Arylenn
Brody
The Girl with the Louding Voice
by Abi Dare’
Thursday, January 21, 1PM**

Trafficked by her father, a 14-year-old Nigerian girl lives with the hope of getting an education. Through her voice in this beautifully written book, we learn of trafficking, education equality, women’s rights, women as mentors, friendship, hope and motherhood. Email Arlynn at abrody1@gc.cuny.edu, obtain the book, and start reading now on your own. You’ll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**Reading Stories Aloud
With Sharon Girard and Helene
Schiffman
Monday, January 4, 11, 18 & 25,
3PM**

Welcome 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 Batumen, 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 and please indicate if you would like to be on a panel.

China & the US: What Lies Ahead
With Tom Hardy
Thursday, January 7, 1PM

This is a second follow-up to Tom's study group. We speculate on the composition of President Biden's cabinet and on 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 14, 1PM

The Met has the finest collection of Impressionist art outside Paris. We will take an hour tour (repeated from this past summer's course) of some of the greatest examples of Impressionism, including works that led to the movement and those of post-Impressionism. It will be a relaxing lunch-hour talk about beautiful paintings with no Q&A afterwards. Please join me at this [link](#) on January 14.

The Great LP² Read
The Reluctant Fundamentalist
by Mohsin Hamid
Wednesday, January 27, 1PM

Join us for our second Great LP² Read. Our book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and was also a New York Times bestseller. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize one or more Zoom discussion groups during the break. 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 With Robert Chan

From Robert: 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 With Bruce Smith

The Theatre in Performance SIG offered this summer will be revived during the winter break and then continue through the spring semester.

Open to all members, it will meet 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.) Email Bruce at bsmith2@gc.cuny.edu to receive more detailed information. Note: Both past SIG participants and new ones should send this email ASAP.

CALL FOR MORE BREAK ACTIVITIES

Armchair Traveler Discussion Leaders

We're looking for volunteer(s) to lead virtual travel adventures. We'll pack our imaginary bags and come along with you to discuss international destinations we'd love to visit or revisit, sharing memorable experiences and travel strategies. Tech help is available to set up and run the session. To volunteer, email Jan Adler at adlerjan@gc.cuny.edu.

Book Discussion Leaders

Do you have a book (fiction or nonfiction) that you have enjoyed? Are you willing to lead a one-session discussion during the 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 discussion. Tech help is available to set up and run the session.

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.

ONLINE ART SHOW

Mary Padilla: Elephant



Mary says: I carved the elephant by following the grain in a piece of Malaysian driftwood, a process that contributes to the abstractness of the piece.

ArtSig Suggests Virtual Tours

Neue Galerie offers tours of its recent exhibitions and a sampling of its collection of Austrian and German art.

<https://www.neuegalerie.org/>

NY State Senator Liz Krueger's office collected virtual experiences in art, music, and dance in New York and other cities of the world. <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2020/liz-krueger/online-resources-arts-and-culture>. Print copy available on request.

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/irpte/chstuff>.

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.

MEMBER FORUM

Judith Meyerowitz sends the following message in tribute to Reuven Opher.

I was in Reuven's cosmology study group on Monday mornings, and I am in his partner Sarah's poetry group, which he attended. I share one way to express joy and loss.

For Reuven,

It was 9:30 in the morning
when what did appear?
A magical desk and eight
strangely named
reindeer

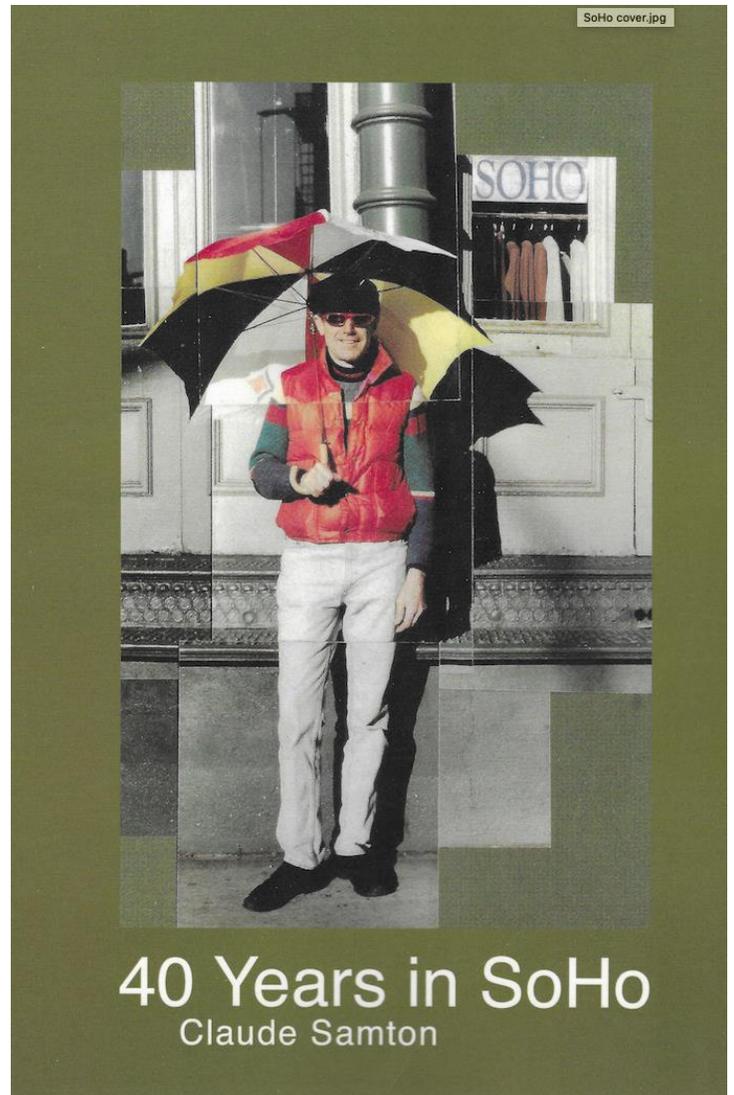
A man with a twinkle invited us
aboard
Then a handful of stardust was
thrown
We rose up through distances and
formulas
By his heart known
Past black holes and dark matter
we flew with a wonder
While brightly wrapped stars with
holographic shine whizzed by
Close enough to the sun
to awaken our minds

Now Newton and Einstein,
Schwarzschild and Bohr
On Heisenberg and Hawking,
Chandrasekhar and one more

He led us expertly from daylight to
night
Holding onto his Columbia cap
real tight
Moonlight captured us in his Ursa
Major embrace
A berakah on his lips as higher we
raced

Claude Samton recently published his 11th book on the Amazon Books site.

40 Years in SoHo is an illustrated book of stories of Claude's experiences living and working in SoHo. It begins with Finding the Loft and includes chapters on Swimming in SoHo, Shopping Then and Now, SoHo Wildlife, and ends with Trump SoHo.



From Bernie Belkin: Midday in Central Park. The long dark winter begins.



CUNY EVENTS: UPCOMING & CONTINUING

Graduate Center Events

Trivia Night!

Tuesday, December 8, 8:00 - 9:00PM

The Gotham Center is teaming up with the [Museum](#) of the City of New York for a night of virtual fun and learning. Put your knowledge of New York City history to the test in a night of competitive fun!

[CIRCL: Magdalena Markowska \(Computational Linguistics/Phonology/Morphology / Field Work\)](#)

Tuesday, December 8, 6:00PM

[Philosophy Colloquium: Lucy Allais](#)

Wednesday, December 9, 4:15PM

See <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> for more events this week including a philosophy colloquium, linguistics colloquium, immigration seminar series, and a lecture on *Argonautica* organized by the program in classics.

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](#)

