

**THE OBSERVER**  
**December 21, 2020**

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear members,

I know most of us are anxious to close 2020 and look ahead to 2021, or the year of vaccinations, recovery, and restoration of public life. Despite all of the challenges and disappointments – both monumental and mundane – we have forged a genuine and meaningful partnership this year in making LP<sup>2</sup> a program of The Graduate Center. This is something to celebrate. Over 320 people are registered for study groups in the spring, 21 of whom are new members recently matched with mentors and getting to know one another through social gatherings organized by the Orientation Committee. In this week's issue, please find their photos and short biographies as you will see them in the winter intersession activities and of course study groups next term. Introduce yourself, find something in common, and maybe even meet up if you find that you're neighbors (or within walking distance). The full winter calendar is enclosed as well, so please check things out, get in touch with the organizers, and stay connected through the season.

Thanks to all 200 of you who attended the General Membership Meeting last week. We sent out a brief recap by way of reference links, a couple of which are also included below. You will notice as you read on that you will be sent a ballot via email to vote on the amended Guidelines.

As you are likely aware, today is winter solstice, the turning point towards longer days and shorter nights. Maybe you are celebrating with a meditation at home, or tuning into the livestream at Stonehenge, or something else, or nothing at all. In any case, I send you light and wish you joy and wonder for the new year. I hope to see you on Zoom before the start of spring term, but if not, shortly after resuming study group sessions.

Take good care, stay vigilant and resilient,

Mariel

## **HELPFUL LINKS**

Librarian Mason Brown is our point person at Mina Rees Library at The Graduate Center, and he can work with members to navigate Open Educational Resources/Open Access Materials and resources available through the NYPL, an extensive list of which is now on the Zine <https://www.irpzine.org/sample-page/library-resources/>. You can reach out to Mason at [mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu).

If you are interested in auditing CUNY undergraduate classes, read more here under “G. SENIOR CITIZEN ATTENDANCE AT CUNY” <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/university-tuition-fee-manual/x-special-programs-and-situations/> and you can use this directory to search classes by campus, semester, subject matter, and format (online): <https://globalsearch.cuny.edu/CFGGlobalSearchTool/search.jsp> before reaching out to a specific college about auditing the class you are interested in.

You can direct prospective members to [www.gc.cuny.edu/LP2](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/LP2) and the Join Us page where they can input their contact information to receive updates about applying. The first information session will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021.

### **Letter from the President on Wednesday, December 16, 2020:**

Dear Graduate Center community,

As we approach the end of the year, we want to update you on The Graduate Center’s progress toward achieving the diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism goals that were laid out this [past spring](#).

These include infusing our work with greater awareness of intolerance and injustice; convening safe spaces for dialogue and action; and evaluating our policies to ensure that they align with stated [diversity and equity goals](#).

To achieve these goals, we established three working groups consisting of members of the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and others in our community. The three groups met throughout the fall to develop strategies and actions. They presented their recommendations to the senior staff last week and led a very positive and rich discussion.

Some of the recommendations will be enacted in the coming spring semester. Others will serve to catalyze broader discussion and may require additional planning and resources to implement. We look forward to sharing the recommendations with The Graduate Center community early in the new year, and then to mapping the next steps for implementation.

An important first step in this process is understanding the current climate. We invite you to read the report, "[Views and Perspectives on Diversity and Inclusion: Voices of Students, Faculty, and Staff](#)," which was recently produced by the Diversity and Inclusion Study Working Group on behalf of the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. This report presents the results of a 2018 qualitative study that engaged 46 faculty, students, and staff in focus groups and interviews. The study revealed that despite stated intentions of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, continued and increased effort will be needed to carry these out through our everyday practices, including teaching, recruitment, student support, and overall administration.

Many programs, departments, and centers are already engaged in this important work. They have established committees, policies, and priorities regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism. One of the next steps will be to inventory these efforts and create mechanisms for sharing effective approaches and actions.

We are deeply grateful to all who have generously invested time, creativity, and energy into ensuring that The Graduate Center sets the standard for anti-racism, and for creating an inclusive community in which everyone feels a sense of belonging. Important, frank conversations and hard work lie ahead, but we are committed to achieving ambitious and vital goals.

With best wishes,

Robin L. Garrell  
President

Martin D. Ruck  
Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion  
Professor of Psychology and Urban Education

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Vote on LP<sup>2</sup> Advisory Board Guidelines This Week**

Members will receive e-mails from Election Runner in their GC-CUNY mailboxes this week with instructions for voting on the proposed amendments to the Guidelines. You will be casting one yes or no vote for the entire amended Guidelines. You may vote at any time starting at 8AM Wednesday, [December 23](#), and ending at 8AM Wednesday, [December 30](#). The proposed amendments are in a PDF attachment to the ballot and are available on the Zine through this [link](#).

If there are any problems, contact [srauch@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:srauch@gc.cuny.edu) or [oplaskon@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:oplaskon@gc.cuny.edu).

### **Observer Schedule**

This is the last regular issue of the Observer until Monday, January 25. We may publish during the break if there is important news to communicate.

Continue to send your entries to Leslie Davis by Friday at 5PM at [ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu). Online Art Show entries and suggestions for virtual tours should go to Carol Millsom at [cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu).

## **Profiles of New Members**

Joining LP<sup>2</sup> in the Spring semester are 21 new members who will bring a wealth of experience and a surge of new energy to our community. To start getting to know them, see their photos accompanied by brief bios starting on page 16 below. Thanks to the new members for providing the information to the editors and Olena, and to Jerry Vogel for help with the photos.

## **Winter Break Activities**

Thanks to the Community Building Committee headed by Jan Adler and Jane Case Einbender, we have a full schedule of activities during the winter break.

Check out the calendar and descriptions of the activities starting on page 10 below. Save the calendar!

## **Community Outreach**

We will be having our third round of outreach calls to check in with people just to say hi and see how everyone is doing. There will not be a survey at the end of this round as we think we have a good sense of how we are doing as a whole from the previous two rounds of calls.

If you would prefer not to be called let Arlyne Le Schack know. You can contact her at arlyneleschack@gmail.com.

The callers have found the experience very rewarding, and we are looking for more volunteers.

You don't have to be a veteran of the program to do the calls; newer members are invited to participate. If you are interested, please let Arlyne know.

## **Get in Touch**

Are you my LP<sup>2</sup> Neighbor? Did you know that you can sort the LP<sup>2</sup> Directory on the Zine by zip code? You can find members who live within walking distance and meet for a chat, a walk, or a socially distanced coffee.

It could be someone you have seen only on a Zoom grid or someone you have not yet seen or met; perhaps a new member who would appreciate the contact. If you are willing to extend and/or receive an invitation through email or telephone from an LP<sup>2</sup> member, let Carol Borelli or Susan Sabatino know and they will send you the Zine zip code list for your neighborhoods.

Please write LP neighbors in the subject line of your email. Carol: [cborelli@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:cborelli@gc.cuny.edu) and Susan: [ssabatino@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ssabatino@gc.cuny.edu).

### **Men Wanted!**

LP<sup>2</sup> is actively working to improve both the diversity of our membership and the sensitivity of current members to diversity issues.

The Diversity Committee, which is spearheading the effort, itself needs more diversity. Currently, only two men are active members. The perspective of men is crucial to the committee's effectiveness so if you want to help LP<sup>2</sup> make progress as a welcoming and sensitive environment, contact Doris Wallace at [wallacedoris233@gmail.com](mailto:wallacedoris233@gmail.com). We need you!

### **Mindfulness Volunteers Wanted**

David Grogan is looking for members who would like to participate in a progressive series of six weekly two-hour mindfulness training workshops during the spring. No prior meditation experience is necessary, just a genuine commitment to develop a regular practice.

If you would like to take part in a preliminary orientation session during the break, email David at [dgrogan@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dgrogan@gc.cuny.edu).

### **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 as well.

#### **Reminders**

For email, please direct all IT inquiries to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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 Zine, the user ID to access protected areas of the Zine ([www.irpzine.org](http://www.irpzine.org)) is LPsquared; the Password is Fall2020. The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar.

## ONLINE ART SHOW

**Jonathan Gaines** Reminding Us  
Spring is Coming  
Title: Goose in Tulips



Jonathan says: This picture was taken at Bronxville Lake during my daily walk.

## 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](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).

**The Men's Group** meets at 3:30PM on Wednesdays. Email Jay Fleishman at [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu).

## MEMBER FORUM

**From Harold Berkowitz:** On Sunday a panel advising the CDC recommended that people aged 75 and older be next in line to receive the coronavirus vaccine along with about 30 million "frontline essential workers," such as emergency responders and teachers. The CDC is expected to make its own recommendations shortly, but the actual priorities will be established by the individual states.

**From Susan Sabatino:** It may be possible for seniors to skip the line for Covid tests at some locations of City MD. Call ahead and inquire. Here's a link to the location finder: <https://www.citymd.com/urgent-care-locations>.

**From Harold Berkowitz:**  
Title: The city and a fog bank



### From Kathy Dieter:

Double-click on this video to see what Santa is up to:



**Rosalie Frost's** exhibit *After...the Big Bang* is being shown from December 4 - 27 at the recently reopened Soho Photo Gallery, 15 White St. (212) 226-8571. The gallery is open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1 to 6PM. The website is [www.sohophoto.com](http://www.sohophoto.com).

### CUNY EVENT

**January 5, 2021 at 6:00 PM**  
**Peter Baker & Susan Glasser on James Baker, with Kai Bird**  
<http://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/Calendar/Detail?id=58732>

### CUNY RESOURCES

**Tsedale Melaku**, author of [\*You Don't Look Like a Lawyer: Black Women and Systemic Gendered Racism\*](#) and alumna of The Graduate Center, CUNY, where she is currently a postdoctoral fellow, joins The Thought Project podcast to discuss race, gender, and racism within American institutions, including universities. Listen here:

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=58420>

Anti-Racism at The Graduate Center: **Martin D. Ruck** on The Thought Project:

[https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=58487&utm\\_source=gcsite&utm\\_medium=news&utm\\_campaign=hpfeature](https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=58487&utm_source=gcsite&utm_medium=news&utm_campaign=hpfeature)

### 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](#)

## WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES: CALENDAR

<b>WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
<p><u>December 28</u> @4:30PM Comedy Workshop FULL -- Chan</p>	<p><u>December 29</u> @ 2PM Tuesdays at Two -- Kalinsky, Otey, Levine, Harris</p>	<p><u>December 30</u> @ 2PM Reflections - -Adler  @3:30PM Men's Group --Fleishman</p>	<p><u>December 31</u> @3:45PM Women's Group --LeSchack</p>	<p><u>January 1</u> @4PM Pour at Four --Rubens</p>
<p><u>January 4</u> @1PM Leave the World Behind -- Smahl  @3PM Stories Aloud --Girard, Schiffman  @4:30PM Comedy Workshop FULL -- Chan</p>	<p><u>January 5</u> @10AM Stitch Away Stress -- Harris, Herman.  @1PM Theatre SIG FULL -- Smith  @2PM Tuesdays at Two -- Kalinsky, Otey, Levine, Harris</p>	<p><u>January 6</u> @1PM Theatre SIG FULL -- Smith  @3:30PM Men's Group --Fleishman</p>	<p><u>January 7</u> @1PM China &amp; the U.S. --Hardy  @3:45PM Women's Group --LeSchack</p>	<p><u>January 8</u> @1PM Shtisel -- Herman, Ross  @4PM Pour at Four --Rubens</p>
<p><u>January 11</u> @ 1PM Armchair Traveler: Dive Trips --Sabatino  @3PM Stories -- Girard, Schiffman  @4:30PM Comedy Writing Workshop FULL --Chan</p>	<p><u>January 12</u> @2PM Tuesdays at Two --Kalinsky, Otey, Levine, Harris</p>	<p><u>January 13</u> @1PM The City &amp; The City --Einbender  @3:30PM Men's Group --Fleishman</p>	<p><u>January 14</u> @1PM Met Guided Tour -- Grossner  @3:45PM Women's Group --LeSchack</p>	<p><u>January 15</u> @1PM Shtisel -- Herman, Ross  @4PM Pour at Four --Rubens</p>
<p><u>January 18</u> @1PM FDR and the New Deal --Meyers  @3PM Stories Aloud --Girard, Schiffman  @4:30PM Comedy Writing Workshop FULL --Chan</p>	<p><u>January 19</u> @1PM Theatre SIG FULL -- Smith  @2PM Tuesdays at Two --Kalinsky, Otey, Levine, Harris</p>	<p><u>January 20</u> @1PM Theatre SIG FULL -- Smith  @3:30PM Men's Group --Fleishman</p>	<p><u>January 21</u> @1PM The Girl with the Louding Voice -- Brody  @3:45 Women's Group --LeSchack</p>	<p><u>January 22</u> @1PM Shtisel -- Hermann, Ross  @4PM Pour at Four --Rubens</p>
<p><u>January 25</u> @3PM Stories Aloud --Girard, Schiffman</p>	<p><u>January 26</u> @2PM Tuesdays at Two --Kalinsky, Otey, Levine, Harris</p>	<p><u>January 27</u> @1PM The Great LP<sup>2</sup> Read -- Einbender  @3:30PM Men's Group --Fleishman</p>	<p><u>January 28</u> @2PM Reflections -- Adler  @3:45 Women's Group --LeSchack</p>	<p><u>January 29</u> @1PM Shtisel -- Hermann, Ross  @4PM Pour at Four --Rubens</p>

## **WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES: DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Comic Writing Workshop Robert Chan Mondays at 4:30PM FULL**

It could be argued that, in these dark times, laughter, creativity and wit supply the only light. But, of course, anything can be argued. If you like to write and have a sense of humor that you enjoy inflicting on others, you'll have the opportunity to have fun doing so in a small group of the similarly deranged and perhaps also improve your skills. Email [rchan@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rchan@gc.cuny.edu)

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

As (slightly more than) half the nation celebrates the election of Joe Biden and (slightly less than) half is dubious about the result, LP<sup>2</sup> weighs in. We look at the issues (economy, health care, media, polarization), seek historical context, and humbly attempt to predict the future. Basically, we try to make sense of it all. For a Zoom invite, contact Steve Kalinsky at [skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu). Whatever your political views, please join us; the discussion will be better if it includes diverse views.

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

Now that we have completed almost a year of Zooming, share your thoughts and feelings about how the remote experience has affected your communal and private life and also about the strategies you have developed to survive or even thrive. Contact Jan Adler at [jadler@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jadler@gc.cuny.edu), and specify the date you prefer; you will receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**Book Discussion with Susan Smahl**  
***Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam**  
**Monday, January 4, 1PM**

A finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for fiction and a New York Times best seller, this extremely engaging and quick moving short novel is about a NYC family on vacation when a major disaster/blackout occurs. It addresses relationships, race, socio-economics, politics, etc. as it slips from normal vacation activities to dystopia. Email Susan Smahl [ssmahl@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ssmahl@gc.cuny.edu), obtain the book and start reading now on your own. You'll receive a Zoom invite the week before.

**Reading Stories Aloud**  
**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, among many others, Elif Batumen, Italo Calvino, Anita Desai, Deborah Eisenberg, Jamaica Kincaid, Zadie Smith, as well as revisiting some of our favorites such as Raymond Carver and Flannery O'Connor. Email Sharon at [sgirard@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:sgirard@gc.cuny.edu) for the Zoom link and please indicate if you would like to be on a panel.

**Stitch Away Stress**  
**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.

**Theatre in Performance SIG Encore**  
**Bruce Smith FULL**

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

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

Another 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](mailto:thardy@gc.cuny.edu).

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

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

**The Armchair Traveler: Dive Trips**  
**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 adventures on land and underwater, in the Philippines, Pacific Rim Micronesia, the Caribbean, the Black Sea, Cairo, Petra, and other exotic places. Email Susan at [ssabatino@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ssabatino@gc.cuny.edu) and you'll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

**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](mailto: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.

**Impressionism in the Met: A Guided Tour**  
**Carolyn Grossner**  
**Thursday, January 14, 1PM**

The Met has the finest collection of Impressionist art outside Paris. We will take an hour-long 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.

**FDR and the New Deal**  
**Marietta Meyers**  
**Monday, January 18, 1PM**

We revisit the challengers, programs, court-packing battle and the New Deal's ongoing impact. What can we learn from this history, and what is the role of government during stressful times? Does the approach of the New Deal have validity today? Email Marietta Meyers [mmeyers1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mmeyers1@gc.cuny.edu). You will receive a Zoom invitation and reading material the week before.

**Book Discussion with ArylInn 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 for an education. Through her voice in this beautifully written book, we learn of trafficking, equality, women's rights, women as mentors, friendship, hope and motherhood. Email Arlynn at [abrody1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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.

**The Great LP<sup>2</sup> Read**  
***The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 1PM**

Join us for our second Great LP<sup>2</sup> Read. Our book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and also a New York Times bestseller. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize one or more discussion groups. Email Jane Case Einbender at [jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu), obtain the book and start reading. You'll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

## PROFILES OF NEW MEMBERS



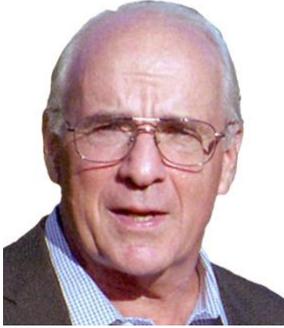
**MURIEL (MITZI) BINDER.** Was a real estate broker. Has been a jewelry designer and a collage artist and had a studio showcasing local artists and crafts people. Was a docent at Cooper Hewitt and currently volunteers at the Museum of Arts and Design. Had stores in the city and on Fire Island. The city store specialized in French fashion and young American designers. Is the wife of LP<sup>2</sup> member Carl Binder.



**MIKE BLUMENFELD.** Wharton School, U. of Pa., BS; NYU, MBA. Founded a retail and management consultant firm, helping companies start up and grow profitably. Volunteers with two nonprofits in the field that help people in underserved communities and as a coach/advisor/mentor at NYU. Has traveled to 46 countries.



**PEGGY BLUMENTHAL.** Has worked for more than 30 years at the Institute of International Education, which implements Fulbright Fellowships and other programs. Majored in modern Chinese history and has lived in Hawaii, Taiwan and China. Chairs the Japan Center for International Exchange-USA. Is an avid traveler and enjoys learning about other cultures.



**ARTHUR BRATONE.** Cornell, civil engineering degree. Later in life MA Columbia. Operated a family construction equipment business with his brother and formed a partnership with a Saudi Arabian family that did business in the Middle East for 25 years. Was on the board of the American U. of Paris. With his wife, opened a French bistro, Bistro Rollin, in Pelham, selling it in 2016. In 2007 started annual series of 10-week courses that met in his home.



**CHUCK BRECHER.** CUNY Graduate Center, PhD in political science. Has been the research director of the Citizens Budget Commission since 1982 and was a professor of public and health administration at NYU. Has taught in London and Paris and directed a partnership between NYU and the Ministry of Health in Albania. Enjoys travel photography.



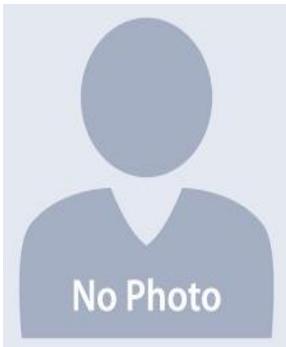
**ROGER M. DEITZ.** Attorney/Mediator. Still actively engaged in dispute resolution throughout the United States and abroad. Former director Seeds of Peace, Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Institute, Ethical Culture- Fieldston Schools. Former Senior Trial Counsel, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, visiting Associate Professor of Law SUNY Buffalo Law School: Securities Regulation and Aviation Law. Interests: FDR, WSC, the women and men who were part of their story, Maine, Ireland, Holland, Portman Square, the sky above Israel, the stigma of depression and addiction. Fieldston School, Brown Univ., Cornell Law School, Harvard Law School PIL.



**JO DOBKIN.** Was a researcher in the Department of European Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum, working on the World War II provenance project. Directed the English language program at the Eastside International Community Center, teaching English as a second language to diplomats. Was raised in rural Scotland and came to New York as an adult. Enjoys golf, reading and opera.



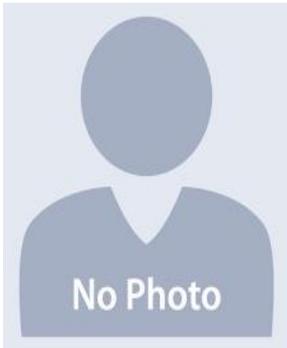
**GERALDINE FABRIKANT.** Was a reporter for many years at the New York Times and at other publications including Business Week, Town and Country and Minerva, covering finance, the arts and travel. Before becoming a journalist, worked as an editor in the film industry. Has been on the board of the Committee to Protect Journalists and the Levy Foundation to aid students at City College.



**EVA FINKEL.** Worked as a psychologist and therapist in NYC. Came to the United States from Venezuela for university studies. Holds a master's degree in Spanish and Latin American literature and a doctorate in psychology. Has studied art, drama, acting, film, and dance. Volunteers as a docent for international groups at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



**FRAN FREEDMAN.** Brandeis U.; Columbia U. School of Social Work. Was deputy commissioner of the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs, senior vice president of Lighthouse International and director of Health Promotion Services for the NYC Department for the Aging. Has served on boards of many volunteer organizations including several at Columbia U., VISIONS and the Riverdale Mental Health Association.



**JEANNE HARDY-SLOAN.** Was a manager/technical services at McKinsey and Co. for many years. Is interested in Middle East and Central Asian art and archaeology and has participated in archaeological digs in those areas. Is a research volunteer in the department of Islamic art at the Metropolitan Museum. Has studied in Spain and lived in France. Has been studying Arabic.



**MAUREEN HATCH.** Manhattanville College, BA; Columbia U., MPH, PhD in epidemiology. Was a senior staff scientist at the Chernobyl Research Unit at the National Cancer Institute, NIH. Has taught at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Columbia. Was involved with horses for many years in the Washington area and volunteered for the Washington Ballet and the Women's National Democratic Club.



**MARGE HEINS.** Was a lawyer for the ACLU in Massachusetts and at the national office and was a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School. Concentrated on censorship and First Amendment issues and wrote two books on those subjects. Is a docent at the Metropolitan Museum. Has studied French and belongs to two book groups. Has traveled extensively.



**STEVE KAUFMAN.** Has practiced radiology 45 years in private office and hospital settings. Was chief medical officer on a destroyer tender during the Vietnam War. Is a member of the Lotos Club and participated in the Columbia U. Lifelong Learners program. Is interested in History and International Relations, music, science, literature and art.



**HOWARD LEVI.** Columbia U., BA, MA (History), JD. Practiced law (commercial litigation) for 38 years, including at law firm he founded. Serves on Steering Committee of Board of Visitors of Columbia's History Dept. Co-founded reading group that discusses *New York Review of Books* articles. Has taken courses at CUNY Graduate Center. Speaks Spanish, writes creative nonfiction, and has traveled extensively (including Africa and India).



**SARA LISHINSKY.** Brooklyn College, BA, MA in Spanish Literature. Lived in Spain for 15 years and became a clinical psychologist, then returned to New York and taught Spanish in the public schools for many years. Started an aerobic dance class in Granada. Is a portrait artist, a docent at the Morgan Library and Museum, and a swing dancer.



**SUSAN SAIDENBERG.** Vassar, BA; Columbia, MA; Bank Street College, MS. Was a museum educator, managing exhibitions and public programs for the New York Public Library and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Taught at Queensborough Community College and NYU. Participated in the Grandmothers for a Brighter Future voting campaign.



**SEFI SHLISSELBERG.** Former President, Board Member and Founder of Women in Sovereign Entities, a nonprofit to promote women's leadership in the global public finance sector. Global Financial Services career (JP Morgan Chase, Moody's) culminating with Deutsche Bank (Director of Strategy and New Business Development). Early career in the computer industry. Dabble in painting, drawing, ceramics. Avid knitter.



**FRANCINE WALKER.** Holds degrees from Belgian and French institutions and The New School. Was a junior partner at McKinsey & Co. Is a docent at the Metropolitan Museum, giving tours in English and French. Was a member of the board of Paul Smith College for 15 years. Is the wife of new member Peter Walker.



**PETER WALKER.** Was a senior partner at McKinsey & Co., leading the New York office and serving on the board of directors. Focused on serving insurance companies in China, making more than 80 trips there. Helped Tom Hardy lead an IRP study group on U.S.-China relations. Is a trustee of the China Institute and former board member of Alvin Ailey and Network for Teaching *Entrepreneurship*. Is the husband of new member Francine Walker.



**JERRY WEBMAN.** U. of Chicago; Yale, PhD in political science. Became a financial analyst and was chief economist at Oppenheimer Funds. Chairs the board of NJ LEEP, a Newark-based college access program and is an “explainer” at the New-York Historical Society. Serves on investment committees for Charity Navigator and the Community Service Committee. Is interested in global history as well as the visual arts.