



# Lifelong Peer Learning Program

THE OBSERVER  
NOVEMBER 8, 2021

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

The curriculum committee and other organizing committees are gearing up for the spring term. If you have a study group proposal in motion, this is a gentle reminder that the deadline to submit is in a couple of days, on November 10.

Also, for your calendar, the spring term begins Monday, January 31, and concludes May 13, 2022. It is also listed on this page:

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Provost-s-Office/In-Progress-New-Office-of-Academic-Initiatives-and-Strategic-Innovation/Lifelong-Peer-Learning-Program/About-Us>

Please be sure to join us for the fireside chat with Fridays@3 co-chairs Lesley Herrmann and Ruth Mackaman and distinguished speaker Clint Smith, a #1 New York Times bestselling author. (For more, see below.) We feel very lucky to be able to include him in our series this Fall. Register here for the link to join the virtual event: [https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aciL5N\\_MQ2eDPnQetHUfFA](https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aciL5N_MQ2eDPnQetHUfFA)

I will have office hours again this week on Wednesday, 4-5 pm. Bring your questions and ideas here:

<https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUIqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5029 5130

Passcode: 383634

I look forward to seeing you soon!

My best,  
Mariel

Did you miss Unmasking Bias talk with Michelle Fine? [See it here.](#)

**Our office contact information:**  
**[engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)**  
**212-817-2474**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

**Fridays@3**

**Clint Smith, *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America***  
by Clint Smith

**Friday, November 12, 3PM**



**#1 New York Times Bestseller**

**Clint Smith, *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America***

**“Enthralling and engaging” —*Boston Globe***

**“An eminently readable, thought-provoking volume” —*Washington Post***

**“Sketches an impressive and deeply affecting human cartography of America’s historical conscience...an extraordinary contribution to the way we understand ourselves.” —*New York Times Book Review***

**“The detail and depth of the storytelling is vivid and visceral, making history present and real...Smith deftly connects the past, hiding in plain sight, with today’s lingering effects.” —*NPR***

**“An essential consideration of how America’s past informs its present.” —*Publishers Weekly***

Clint Smith is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*. He is the author of the narrative nonfiction book, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America*, which was a #1 New York Times Bestseller, and the poetry collection *Counting Descent*, which won the 2017 Literary Award for Best Poetry Book from the Black Caucus of the American Library

Association and was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. He has received fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New America, the Emerson Collective, the Art For Justice Fund, Cave Canem, and the National Science Foundation. His essays, poems, and scholarly writing have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Paris Review*, *the Harvard Educational Review* and elsewhere.

The program will be a fireside chat moderated by Ruth Mackaman and Lesley Herrmann, co-chairs of Fridays@3. If you have questions you would like Clint to answer, please send them to Lesley at [lesleyherrmann8@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyherrmann8@gmail.com) and Ruth at [rmackaman@gmail.com](mailto:rmackaman@gmail.com).

You will also be able to post questions in the Zoom Q+A in the webinar. To register to attend, click [here](#) and you will receive a Zoom invitation.

Check out Clint Smith's TEDtalk [here](#).

And if you missed Christian Davenport: *The Space Barons: Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and the Quest to Colonize the Cosmos* on October 22 here's the [link to the recording](#):

## **UPCOMING CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WORKSHOP**

**Want To Learn Strategies for Enhancing Your Study Group Discussions?  
Wednesday, Nov 17, 3:45-5PM**

New AND experienced coordinators are invited to attend *The Art and Science of Leading A Discussion on Zoom*. For a Zoom invitation, RSVP to Linda Anstendig at [lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu) by Mon, Nov 16;

## **Call for Break Activities between Winter and Spring Semesters**

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during the break from January 3rd to January 28th. 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 in running the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

Contact Jane Case Einbender at [jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu) to propose your activity.

## ONLINE ART SHOW

**From: Jonathan Gaines**

**Title: Alex Da Corte's Sculpture on the Met's Roof**



**Jonathan says:** I took this photo during our first visit to a museum in over a year. It expresses our joy.

Calling All Painters, Sculptors, Photographers, Block Printers, Ceramicists  
and Textile Artists!

Display the creative work you have been doing this summer in the Online Art Show. Send a photograph of your work with a title and a brief statement about it to Carol Millsom at [cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu). Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

## **MEMBER FORUM**

From Barbara Marwell:

As we begin to plan for a gradual return to in-person study groups, some members may be experiencing concerns. In the October 17<sup>th</sup> print edition of the NYTimes, some readers reflected on how they coped with returning to a social life.

### **“Slowly Started Easing My Way Back”**

#### One or Two People at a Time

I have slowly started easing my way back into social settings by starting out with one or two people at a time. Even with a small setting I feel exhausted when I get home, both mentally and physically, as if I was putting on a façade the whole time I was out.. Now, I just see it as building up my social stamina again. It’s getting better, slowly but surely! Plus, the help of a therapist works very well too.

#### Gave Myself a Day Off

I give myself one guilt-free day off each weekend, where I don’t feel bad telling people I’m busy. I just stay home. I read, cook and watch the latest from the “Bachelor” franchise.

#### Slowed Down

The old staples are still helpful – mindfulness and meditation, slowing down and journaling. But the biggest help to me is to be direct with people:” I’m having a bumpy landing into in-person work and socializing again. “Oftentimes I hear people corroborate me. It’s really nice to be able to

share how you're feeling with new people and hear them say: "Yeah, me too."

If you have ideas to share in the Member Forum on strategies for "coming back," send them to Micky Josephs at [mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu).

## **ONGOING LP<sup>2</sup> EVENTS**

*The Women's Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Contact Arlyne LeSchack at [aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).*

*The Men's Group meets at 3:45PM on Wednesdays. Contact Jay Fleishman at [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mharris@gc.cuny.edu).*

**Observer Submissions** Send items for the next week's Observer to Micky Josephs at [mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mjosephs@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](mailto:cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu).

**Member Forum** If you have something to share with the LP<sup>2</sup> community, e.g., a photo, an article, a book or a web site that you've discovered and think would be interesting to members, send it to Micky at [mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu) for inclusion in the Member Forum.