

THE OBSERVER
February 22, 2022

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

Wow, how great to see 200 of you on Zoom at our General Membership Meeting on Friday! Read on for a recap and link to watch if you missed it live.

As mentioned in my remarks at the meeting, members who are attending in-person classes or HyFlex classes on campus have been invited to submit their vaccination documentation for a Cleared4 CUNY Access Pass to be able to come to the Graduate Center. At the same time, they have been provided instructions on how to get a Graduate Center student ID. If you are not taking classes this Spring that meet in person and you would like to use the library, please reach out to me and we can get you set up. Otherwise, we have had to phase the distribution of these documentation pieces based on our staff capacity in the office and on the public safety team. Thanks for understanding and you will soon get more information to get the proper passes for future campus access.

Coordinators – if you are a repeat coordinator, you may already be in the habit of marking absences in each session. If a participant misses two consecutive meetings without notifying you, please get in touch with our office so that we can check in with them. While we are still mostly remote, and in this pandemic together, we have these tools to look out for one another.

As a tech tip for those who have asked, there is a keyboard shortcut to make the “2” an exponent, or superscript in “LP-squared” (written as LP²).

On a Mac: Type “2” as normal, select it, press Shift-Command-Plus Sign (+) at the same time.

On a PC: Type “2” as normal, select it, press Ctrl, Shift, and the Plus sign (+) at the same time.

Looking forward to seeing more of you on campus in the coming weeks and hoping for additional gathering opportunities as we move through the Spring.

Take good care,
Mariel

Going to a Study Group on Campus? Current Requirements.

For those who are coming to campus for study groups this semester (HyFlex or in-person groups), please take note of a few important reminders:

- Masks are still required in all campus spaces regardless of vaccination status.
- Disregard any notice that your Cleared4 pass (or “Blue Pass”) is set to expire; the system will automatically renew passes on the expiration date. If for some reason it is not renewed and you lose your pass, please email Mariel directly to manually extend it.
- Your booster dose documentation must be uploaded into your Cleared4 profile by March 1. If your booster dose has not been uploaded, you will have received a message through the system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

LP² General Membership Meeting

Best GMM Ever, Even Without the Food and Drink

So said one of the many positive messages from members following the [Spring General Membership Meeting \(GMM\)](#) when 200 LP² members gathered for our fourth GMM on Zoom.

Two videos and a visual tour of our [website](#) for the 21st Century highlighted the program. One video featured member-mentors introducing ten new LP² members. In the second, first time coordinators shared their trials and triumphs of moving from an idea to a successful and rewarding study group. Following the visual tour of the new website, many members signed in to explore.

A trip down 1962 memory lane, the year IRP was founded, was a prelude to the announcement of plans for an in-person 60th anniversary celebration in the fall of

2022, assuming Covid stays in check. A survey with questions about preferences for venue and day of the week for the celebration will be coming soon.

Paul Butterfield, GC doctoral student and a recipient of an IER Fellowship, shared research from his dissertation, *A Better Approach to the Ethics of Humor*. From Paul, we learned how racial and ethnic slurs, even those intended as harmless jokes, can lead to long-term internalized prejudicial attitudes. *

The new fall issue of *Voices Online* was featured along with a slide show of the great photographs from this issue, ending the meeting with a celebration of our many talented members.

We thank the many members, on- and offscreen who contributed to the success of this meeting. If you missed the meeting, click [here](#) to see what one member described as "... the ingenuity not just of the meetings but of the amazing developments at LP²-- informative and entertaining. "

*Coincidentally, or maybe not so coincidentally, the February 17, 2022 edition of The New York Times carried a long article (also available as a podcast) titled *Is It Funny for the Jews?* examining how a Jewish cultural critic, with a sense of humor integral to his Jewish identity, deals with existential questions about comedy and its uses in these dark times.

Upcoming Curriculum Committee Workshops

Getting Hooked on Coordinating (From The Curriculum Committee)

It's a slippery slope.

You may not know how easy it is to get started on coordinating.

At first it may seem innocuous, just beginning by presenting one or a few sessions in a group class.



You may be tempted to try six weeks, maybe to split it with a friend. But without knowing quite how it happened, you could soon find yourself taking on a whole semester solo.

You should know that this could happen to you if you should dare to attend a coordinator development workshop.

There are two workshop choices this week, one for those already leading study groups and another for those intrepid souls who may be willing to give it a try if they can find a collaborator.

UPCOMING CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, February 22 @ 4PM: Bonus – Two workshops TODAY! (same day, same time, different links)

Speed Dating for Prospective Co-coordinators

Designed for those who would like to find someone sharing their interests who might like to cooperate in putting together a study group, this is a chance to see if you can locate a compatible collaborator. Maybe you'll find a match today at 4PM. Click on this link to join the meeting: [Speed Dating for Co-Coordiators](#)

or

How's it Going? for Current Coordinators

This will be an opportunity for both new and experienced coordinators to discuss how their current study groups are progressing and to share problem-solving strategies. Today at 4PM, we'll be getting together to talk about what's working, what isn't, and what to try next. Click on this link to join the meeting:

[How's it Going Workshop](#)

And for next week...

Tuesday, March 1 @ 4PM: Beyond Beginnings: Zeroing In on Research Resources

You've done the hard creative work, landed on a theme, and conceptualized your idea for a Study Group. Now, it's time to deepen your research, investigating available resources and methods for making your ideas accessible. Next week, we'll look at some library and research sources to enrich your topic's content. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop. To register, click on this link: [Beyond Beginnings Workshop](#)

Unmasking Bias



Nicole Javanna Johnson, Dismantling Systemic Oppression in the Theater Industry
THIS Thursday, February 24 @ 7-8:30PM

Nicole Javanna Johnson is Founder & Creative Director of the Harriet Tubman Effect Institute, a human resource center and institute of research and strategy for justice advocacy. Nicole is also Founder of Javanna Productions M.O.V.E (MOTIVATION OPPORTUNITY VISION ENTERTAINMENT), a non-profit arts and education company that provides community members with the resources and platforms necessary to address social issues creatively.

In Dismantling Systemic Oppression in the Theater Industry, Nicole will share her experience as a researcher and consultant in the theater industry, offering LP² members insight into the education, principles and rhythms of effective initiatives in Broadway and regional houses. Through case study and power point style presentations Nicole will share the ups and downs of her work, encouraging participants to consider how they are participating in institutional change in their own communities.



To register for this event, go to:
<https://bit.ly/3BihIWZ>

Fridays@1

Jesse Eisinger, Why Billionaires Don't Pay Taxes
Friday, March 4, 1PM

Investigative reporter **Jesse Eisinger** led a team at ProPublica that obtained a vast trove of IRS data on the tax returns of the nation's wealthiest people. 15 years of data show that billionaires like Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Warren Buffett pay little in income tax compared to their massive wealth – sometime nothing at all, undermining the cornerstone myth of the American tax system that everyone pays their fair share.. Jesse will talk about the implications of what their investigation discovered and also how they managed to obtain the information.

Jesse Eisinger is a senior editor and reporter at *ProPublica*. He is a Pulitzer Prize winner, former columnist for Wall Street Journal and author of *The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives*. To see Jesse discussing the *Propublica Report*, click here: [Bombshell Tax Report](#).

To register for the talk, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gLk2fH>

The “I’m not quite ready for prime time” LP² Member’s Guide to the Website: Ease Your Way into It

(*The Observer* is here to introduce you, step by step, to the LP² web site so that after just a few minutes, you, too, can **enjoy** the ease of finding what you need, fast and trouble-free.)

We know that for some members, just the thought of going on our website (learning to use yet **another** piece of **new technology**) provokes existential dread. **Relax; today, we won’t even log in**; we’ll approach it as if we were (not too bright) strangers looking at the website of some organization at the CUNY Graduate Center called LP² to see what it’s about. By the end of this lesson, though, you’ll be speeding around the public part of the website like a 15-year-old. That’s a promise. (Well, maybe a 30-year-old, but who’s counting?)

1. Open your browser and type in <https://www.lp2nyc.org/>.
2. Congratulations! You’ve reached the home page. (On some browsers, you might be directed first to the Zine home page, which has an unmissable link to the website.) Now, look at the menu across the top of the website home page. If you click on each category (or just hover your cursor over it) you’ll find many topics under each. Pick one or two you might use often and look for them. For our purposes, I’ll pick: (a) the LP²

calendar, (b) the current study group grid and, my personal favorite, (c) tech help. Play around (*i.e.*, hover or click) with the links in each category. **You can't get lost. You can't break anything.** The menu stays across the top of each page unless a link leads you to a pdf (printed page on black background). We'll deal with pdfs later. Meanwhile, let's get started with the calendar.

- a. Well, gee, the **calendar** isn't on the top menu. Try to find it. (OK; it's listed under Events and News.) Even if you had to search for it, as I did initially, it takes maybe 15 seconds to hover your cursor over each category to find it. I really think that's as hard as this part gets.
 - b. The next topic should be a (virtual) piece of cake. In the Study Group category, you can link directly to the **Spring 2022 study group grid**. Pick any study group and click on its title. Up comes the syllabus (a pdf on a black page) for that study group. When you're ready to leave any pdf (in this case, the syllabus of the study group), use the back arrow at the top, left corner of the pdf page. *Voilà*, you're back on the grid page with the menu across the top. Now, if instead of a title, you clicked a coordinator's name, you were directed to log in. Member personal information is private and we'll cover that next week.
 - c. Finally, we'll look for **Tech Help**. Can you find it without reading ahead? (It's one of the topics listed under Help.) You'll find lots of questions with answers even about logging in, creating a password and changing a password, but we'll cover that next week. Meanwhile, check out the answers to some of the questions you might have been embarrassed to "bother" someone about. (We could ask and answer those questions here because lots of people like us (in fact, us) have tested the site and asked those questions.
3. Lesson over! Play around a little while to build your confidence. Realize how much you have access to so easily. I'm so sure you'll get it that I invite you to send your problem to me (srauch@gc.cuny.edu). If I can't answer it, I'll direct it to the proper person to answer you. If you'd have more confidence in an answer directly from a **website-savvy** member, I totally get it. Go to website@lp2nyc.org. Finally, go to the top of your browser page to Bookmarks and bookmark the website page so next time you can go directly to Bookmarks or print this page and save the hard copy.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Dick Kossoff

Title: Bubbles



Dick says: I made a number of collages during the lockdown. This is one of them.

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. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

MEMBER FORUM

Attention Poets and Poetry Lovers: The Poetry Group is Restarting

TODAY, Tuesday, February 22 @ 2PM (live!)

Join us TODAY at 2:00PM to set a new agenda for the Poetry Group. We will be meeting at Carol Shoen's apartment. For details, members can find Carol's street address and phone number in the Member Directory on the Zine or on the website. Interested but couldn't or can't attend, call Carol.

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 Micky Josephs at 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.

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 and think would be interesting to members, send it to Micky at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.