

THE OBSERVER
February 28, 2022

Editor: Susan Rauch

Associate. Editors: Micky Josephs
Ariana Caragliano
Contributing Editor: Irene Sax

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

Shock, concern, fear. As we watch the crisis in Ukraine unfold, it's hard to know what one can do on an individual level from afar. I'm sure you have seen several calls for boycotts of Russia and relief efforts for the people of Ukraine. I would add to this list a renewed compassion for each other, a reminder that we are all connected. My thoughts are with those who have personal ties with Ukraine, Russia, and the region.

A few reminders for the week:

- If you would like to add a 6-week study group to your schedule for the second half of the term, please use this form: <https://formfaca.de/sm/0wOnmyqJR>
- Please consider attending the supportive and informative workshops on different aspects of getting ready to coordinate a study group, organized by the Curriculum Committee for all members. Details enclosed!
- Join us for the kickoff Fridays@1 event this week with Jesse Eisinger on Why Billionaires Don't Pay Taxes. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3gLk2fH>
- On Wednesday from 3:30-4:30, I will host office hours for those who want to drop in and meet our new team member, Joanna Micek (read on for her bio) – or if you have any program-related questions! <https://gc-cuny->

edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUIqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09

And tomorrow we begin a new month. Spring is coming!

See you soon,
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

Joanna Micek Has Joined the Engagement Office – Welcome!



Joanna Micek has joined the Engagement Office as the new Administrative Coordinator. Joanna will facilitate LP² activities as well as work on other initiatives and projects of the Office. Prior to joining the Graduate Center, she worked as a freelance event planner for civic, arts, and cultural organizations in New York City, and in fundraising and grantmaking roles at other New York City not-for-profits.

She holds a BA in Metropolitan Studies from New York University and a MPA in Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy from the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, also at NYU.

Originally from Poland, Joanna immigrated to New York City in the early 1990s and has been a dedicated Brooklyn resident ever since. She enjoys volunteering with civic and environmental groups that are making New York City a better and more equitable place to live, work, and play. As a fan of continuous learning and personal development, Joanna is excited about collaborating with LP² members to strengthen and enhance our pioneering program. “

LP² members are really glad you’re here, Joanna, and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Upcoming Curriculum Committee Workshops

**FOMO and Coordinating
(from The Curriculum Committee)**

Have you ever been motivated by the Fear of Missing Out to take a chance on doing something you weren't sure you could pull off? It might be something that you've never really looked into but often thought might really be of interest if you put in the time and effort. Well, that's what coordinating is all about.

All you need is an initial idea, this intriguing thing that you've never gotten around to pursuing. Once you start to follow where it leads, it expands all by itself. You just need to follow the connections to other things that turn up, and pretty soon you have something you can share with others who are interested in exploring it too.

You can take the first step by attending this week's workshop on the resources available to research your topic.



(TOMORROW) 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. Tomorrow, we'll look at some library and research sources to enrich your topic's content. Click on this link to join the meeting: [Beyond Beginnings Workshop](#)

And for next week...

Tuesday MARCH 8 @ 4PM: Making it Happen

You've come up with a great idea. You've been thinking about the first few sessions a lot and you're ready to get started. But soon you will have to come up with a semester's worth of weekly lessons. It's time to think about long-term planning. You're invited to come next Tuesday, March 8, at 4 pm to talk about creating a syllabus. The Zoom link will be sent before the workshop. Be sure to hit "Submit" when you register. Click on this link to register: [Making it Happen](#)



Fridays@1

Jesse Eisinger, *Why Billionaires Don't Pay Taxes*
THIS 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>

Not quite ready for prime time” LP² Member’s Guide to the Website: Logging in to see the Directory and Faces.

Welcome to Lesson 2, where we’ll practice logging in and exploring the Member Directory and Faces. First, an important mistake I made in Lesson 1, where I said that the calendar wasn’t part of the menu of categories. Well, strictly speaking, that’s true, but if you click on the website link, www.lp2nyc.org, you’ll see that you don’t have to go to Events and News to find the calendar. Look at the dark blue header across the top. On the upper left-hand side, you’ll see there’s a direct link to the calendar. And that’s another marvelous thing about this website – there are many roads that lead to Rome, in this case the calendar, but almost everything you’re looking for. We’ll see that immediately.

How to Log in

A. To log in you need to decide on and set your personal password. (This makes the site more secure and helps keep everyone’s personal information safe. You can do this in more than one way (see above).

1. Visit [LP² login page](#) or click on the word **Login** at the top left of the blue bar at the top of any page on the site. (Note: If you are already logged in, you will not see the word Login.)
2. Click on **Forgot Password** to set (or reset) your password. There will be prompts that explain next steps. (You will enter your personal preferred email; this is the email that is in the Zine Directory. Then check your email for a new link to reset your password. This method makes sure that only YOU are able to reset your password. Just follow the prompts.)

If you need more detailed instructions, illustrated, easy-to-follow instructions were mailed to you. If you need another copy of these instructions AND/OR one-on-one help, email website@lp2nyc.org.

B. OKAY, YOU’RE IN! Now you have access to community information that so far have been blocked: Faces, Member Directory and Member Profiles.

1. So, under Community, let’s go to find **Member Faces**, a popular destination. As you can see, there are many ways to search to find a name for a face: narrow the search by gender, first or last name, or something that might be in their bio (college, borough, profession). Once you’ve found the name for the face of the member you’re interested in, when you click on their **name**, you’ll be directed to their profile, where you will find contact information and, in most cases, a short, informal “bio.” Using your browser’s back arrow will bring you back to faces. If you want to find

another member on Faces, click on **Reset**, which you will find just above the blue **search** icon.

2.If you remember the member's first or last name already, you can proceed directly to **Member Directory** (click on Community at the top of the page, click on Member Directory) where you can scroll down the page or use the helpful ways to speed your search. If you want more detailed information, clicking on a member's name will bring up the Member Profile. For another search, don't forget to click on Reset.

Lesson over! Look around each page to find where else it might lead you. Realize how much you have access to now. If you have a problem, check Tech Help or send an email to website@lp2nyc.org. It might be helpful to make a hard copy of this page and if you haven't already done so, bookmark the website on your browser.

Next week, member profiles and pictures.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Ken Witte

Title: Sculls on Lake Otsego



Ken says: I painted this picture from a photo of my wife and friend rowing on a foggy morning in Cooperstown.

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

Following a number of examples of members having had their emails hacked, **David Lerner**, LP²'s technical "Member for All Seasons" has sent us this helpful advice. I'd make a hard copy.

Protecting Yourself from Hackers, Fraud and Scams

Email from Someone You Know

If you get an email from a friend or acquaintance or LP² member that doesn't sound quite right or is very vague or generic (click this, try this) or asks for help or a favor, it's probably because they were hacked. DO NOT click links or reply to the email, call them on the phone at the number you know.

Computer Pop-ups

If something pops up on your computer telling you there's a problem and AOL or Microsoft or Apple or someone else wants to help you solve it, it's very likely FRAUD. Restart the computer without clicking anything in the alert. If you aren't able to restart the computer, unplug it for one minute. If the message is still there when you restart (or it comes back) you may have already been hacked, immediately get help from someone you trust. Not from anyone who suddenly offers help out of the blue, even Bill Gates himself. If you have a Mac, start by calling Apple tech support at their known phone number, (800) 275-2273.

Phone Calls

If someone calls and says they are from Amazon, Social Security, IRS, Walmart, Microsoft, Apple, *etc.*, or a bank or credit card company, it's a scammer. Those companies do NOT call customer about problems on orders or even possible fraud. They write or email or in some cases text. And be aware that you can NOT

trust the phone number displayed on a phone call or text — your phone may display a real company name or phone number. It might even look like your broker at Citibank calling. Let it go to voicemail, then if they leave a message that seems legitimate, don't click the message or phone number to call them, instead dial their real number that you already have in your address book or on your statement, or the number on the back of your credit card. Or login and check your order history on Amazon or Walmart.

Texts and Email Messages

You may get legitimate fraud alerts via text or email from companies that you already do business with, such as credit cards. But they could also be scammers. DO NOT click on any links in those messages. If it looks like a real message from your real credit card company asking if an order that you did just place is fraud, you can reply yes or no. But DO NOT click links or call back the number that texted you. Call the number on the back of your credit card or login to your Amazon or other account manually and check your order history. A link can look like apple.com and lead you to **fraudulenthacker.evilliveshere**.

Urgency, Gift Cards, SSN

If any person on the phone or via text or in email or on your computer wants you to login somewhere or give them access or enter your password to fix an urgent problem or send a gift card to someone or needs your social security number, it's a scam. People wanting gift cards are always scammers. Even if they say it's to help your granddaughter (can they even name her? Don't reveal her name.) DON'T GET SUCKED IN.

Good Info on Current Scams and What to Do if Scammed

Yes, sometimes the government is here to help you!
<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>

LP² Member **Sara Petit** has a show hanging at the Carter Burden Gallery.



Carter Burden Gallery

SARA PETITT ON THE WALL

Dates: Feb. 17th - March 16th , 2022

Tuesday to Friday 11-5

Saturday 11-6

548 West 28th Street

Rm. 534

New York, NY

Between 10th and 11th Ave

212-564-8405

Judy Goldman writes:

See Governors Island transformed into iconic NY Harbor destination

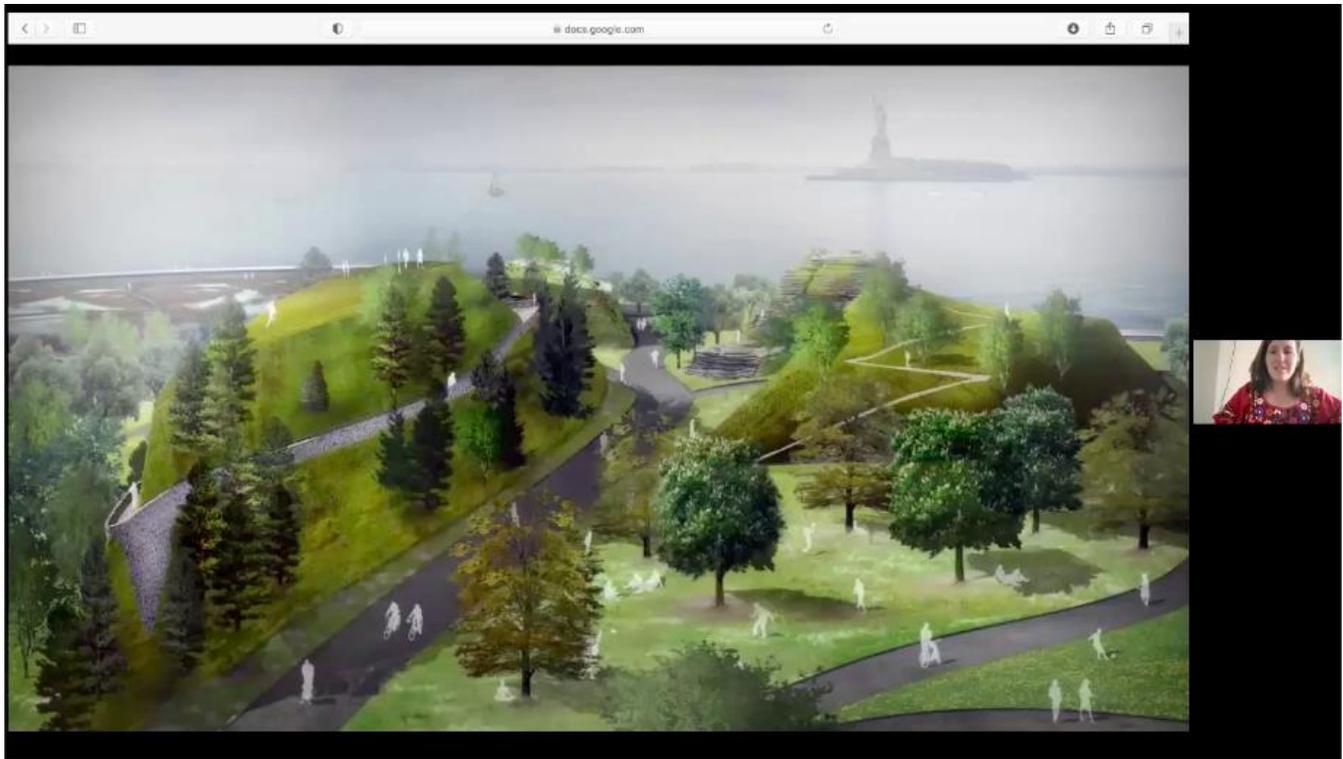
For our class on February 8, the New Yorker Profiles study group read the article *Play Ground* by Alexandra Lange, spotlighting the Dutch Landscape Architect Adriaan Geuze. His Rotterdam firm, West 8, recently transformed Governors

Island into a daily year-round park, family playground and outdoor art space. We were visited by Claire Agre who was Principal of West 8's NYC team. Claire lives in Baltimore and is now Principal and Cofounder of Unknown Studio Landscape Architecture & Urban Design LLC.

Here is a link to Claire Agre's captivating talk about architecture, infrastructure and ecologic landscape design in NY and in Holland:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CcNiiFDqDfyQN9rNE1M99CbqRPXw9SVY/view?usp=sharing>





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.

