

THE OBSERVER

May 2, 2022

Editor: Susan Rauch

Associate Editors: Micky Josephs

Ariana Caragliano

Contributing Editor: Irene Sax

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Thanks to all who joined us on Friday for the General Membership Meeting. I hope you found the breakout room conversations to be generative. The Advisory Board and I will continue to consider your ideas and questions for program operations and policy. If you missed the GMM, you can watch the [recording here](#).

In the coming days, we will send a membership participation survey to members who joined the program from Spring 2017 through Spring 2021. This is an opportunity to reflect on your experience in LP² and how the Advisory Board, committees, and GC staff can best support you. The review process was in place for many years when IRP had a director but has been on hiatus due to staffing and change in institutional home. If you receive the survey, it is important that you complete it and return it to our office by Monday, May 16. I will stay in touch to follow up. While we are playing “catch up” this year by sending to multiple classes, moving forward, the survey will be sent annually to members after their first year.

We ended a successful spring season of Fridays@1 on April 22, if you missed this past Fridays@1 with Dr. Ellen Zweibel you can [see her talk here](#).

Thank you for your well wishes as I enter the last months of pregnancy. In my absence, Joanna Micek will be the main point of contact for LP². Ariana will continue her work as an editor of the Observer and with Fridays@1 and the Diversity Committee on their event series. Monben Mayon will continue to offer administrative and operational support on a part-time basis. Questions and general emails should be directed to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

Registration for Summer classes will open this week – keep an eye out for an email with the link to register. We will open Fall registration in early June in sync with the Graduate Center’s classroom assignment cycle.

Thank you to our dedicated Advisory Board, committees, coordinators, and staff for a great semester despite inherent challenges. It's been great to have a livelier campus and I look forward to seeing more of you in person in the future!

Have a wonderful summer.

My best,

Mariel

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

NOTE: In addition to coming to the building and using the library, you can use your Graduate Center student ID card to access Museums across the city at a discounted rate and take advantage of other student discounts.

How to request your Graduate Center student photo ID card:

- Email security@gc.cuny.edu from your Graduate Center email address. Put "ID Card" as the subject.
- The email body must contain your name, your program (LP²) and your mailing address.
- Attach a "passport type headshot" JPEG picture taken within the past six months.

To access campus, you must be fully vaccinated and have a Cleared4 pass for validation. In anticipation of the Fall semester, we would like to get all members in the system over the summer if they are not already pass holders. We will send instructions via email to those who need to register.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coming Soon to a Computer Near You: Summer and Fall Grids

In the Director's Note above, Mariel announces that registration for Summer study groups will open this week. There will be an email containing the Summer Grid – **ALL STUDY GROUPS ON ZOOM** – and registration materials.

As announced at the GMM, the Fall Grid and Fall Registration will be available in early June. The June date aligns LP² with the Graduate Center's registration process.

In developing the Fall grid, the Curriculum Committee (CC) has provided a mix of modalities – study groups on-campus, on Zoom and on HyFlex. The Director and Board are very much aware of the range of needs among our members. These have guided the CC in developing the grid, and the Advisory Board and Director in planning for the future.

The Director and Board value our LP² *community* and our planning takes into consideration the needs of *all* our friends and colleagues. The Town Halls at the recent GMM reflected the Board's commitment to listen to members' ideas

and concerns. The Board will be reviewing the comments and suggestions from the Town Halls at our meeting on May 3. If you have any further comments, please send them to the Board member who led your Town Hall. As LP² members, we must come together to best determine how to thrive in this changing environment.



IER – The Institute for Education in Retirement, Inc. cordially invites you to be its GUEST at the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the IRP/ LP²

Location: Indoor-Outdoor Space (tba)

Required: RSVP reply and have Cleared4 Pass



“Rain Date” Prelude to *Tuesday With Friends*

25 joyful LP² members gathered on April 19 for a tease revival of the *Tuesday With Friends* (TWF) program. This gathering hosted by Barbara Marwell, featured

Terry Perlin’s provocative talk – “The Perennial Moral Dilemma of Lying”. Following the talk and a lively Q&A, members, wine and refreshments in hand, caught up with old friends and met new friends in one of the largest in-person social gatherings of LP² since the pandemic. (In the interest of safety, all attendees were asked to “COVID test” prior to attending.) Participants felt that “[i]t was a great success and wonderful to see so many of us in the flesh” and described “[a] spectacular afternoon seeing friends face to face after 2 years. What a pleasure!”

So... why didn't you have a chance to sign up for this TWF? This get-together, planned in conjunction with preparation for the upcoming 60th anniversary celebration, drew on guest lists from the cancelled events of 2020. *Tuesday With Friends* is hoping to be back in full operation in the fall, so look for announcements of future programs.

Carolyn Preiss, Ruth Clapper and Lesley Herrmann have served on the TWF Committee for many years and are ready to “pass the torch”. Nancy Small and Eva Vogel remain on the committee and look forward to working with new committee members in planning and delivering this popular LP² community activity. See the TWF Committee description [here](#). If you are interested in

joining, please contact Carolyn Preiss for more information.
cpreiss@gc.cuny.edu

PhotoSIG Field Trip

Venue: Studio of Beowulf Sheehan
Address: 64 East 3rd Street, 2nd Floor

Transportation:

Subway: F to 2nd Ave.

Bus: M15 (via 2nd Ave.) to E. 3rd St.

Tuesday, May 3, 2 sessions @ 10AM & 11AM

If you have questions, contact Alec Rill at arill@gc.cuny.edu

Science Seminar Series

Eleanore T. Wurtzel, Vitamin A Deficiency, Synthetic Biology and the Coming Green Revolution

Monday May 9, 2022 @ 4PM



The world population is expected to increase by as many as 3 billion come 2050. The question is how to feed those growing numbers. For reasons having to do with climate change, the shrinkage of arable lands and a host of other confounding elements, traditional agriculture won't cut it. A major part of the solution is expected to lie with

synthetic biology, a relatively new-to-the-scene multidisciplinary pursuit aimed at substantially increasing plant productivity in an environmentally sustainable fashion. Among those at the forefront of that effort is Dr. Eleanore Wurtzel, Professor of Biology at CUNY's Lehman College and the CUNY Graduate Center Biochemistry and Biology Programs, whose research centers on crop-enhancement strategies designed to combat Vitamin A deficiency, the underlying cause of blindness and increased mortality, currently affecting 250 million children world-wide.

Dr. Wurtzel has a PhD in molecular biology from Stony Brook University and has undertaken postdoctoral fellowships in plant biology at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. She is a Fellow of the American Society of Plant Biologists and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

This Webinar event is open to LP² members only. For more information, contact Lorne Taichman at ltaichman@gc.cuny.edu

[Register Here](#)

Update Your Profile! A Workshop on Making Yourself Findable

Wednesday May 11 & June 15 | 3:00-3:30PM | Zoom



What do you read? What are your interests? Where do you live? LP² members want to know! Make yourself findable and make new friends. Learn how to update your Profile Photo, Cover Photo, Bio, Interests, Skills, Neighborhood, Contact info and more in the new LP² Member Directory. In this half-hour Zoom Workshop Denise Waxman will give a full tour of the new Member Directory, show you how you can search in ways you couldn't do before, find out more about members you have met in Study Groups and other

ways to contact them others. Most important you can learn how to make yourself more findable by updating your photo and sharing what you want others to know about you. There will be an opportunity to get your questions answered and one-on-one help. You might even learn another computer trick or two.

Write Denise Waxman at dwaxman1@lp2nyc.org to sign up.

The Abraham Accords: A New Development in the Middle East **Thursday, May 19, 4:00 pm**

[Zoom webinar](#)



Bill Siegel, an LP² member, has invited Benjamin Rogers, the American Jewish Committee Director of Middle East Initiatives, to discuss the impact of the Abraham Accords on the future of Middle East engagement. Signed in the Fall of 2020, the Abraham Accords are a series of diplomatic agreements between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco.

The conversation will explore how these normalization agreements emerged, their impact on Israeli-Palestinian relations, and their long-term effects throughout the region.

Bill is a retired attorney and longtime member of the American Jewish Committee's National and New York board of governors and a member of the AJC International Affairs steering committee

Benjamin Rogers is the Director for Middle East and North Africa Initiatives with the American Jewish Committee's Department of Policy and Diplomatic Affairs. In this capacity, he supports AJC's diplomatic outreach, policymaking, and Middle East advocacy.

Rogers has held positions at the Israel Policy Forum, Moshe Dayan Center for Middle East and African Studies, United Nations Development Programme and Capitol Hill. He holds an M.A. from Tel Aviv University in public policy and Israeli politics and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in political anthropology and archeology.

Register Here for This Conversation

ArtSIG Event

Back by Popular Demand: ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR

Architect and LP² member **Patrick Siconolfi**

Will repeat his tour down Broadway
Wednesday, May 18 @ 2:00PM

Meet: Broadway at 32nd
End with a glass of wine near the Flatiron Building

RSVP to: Dick Kossoff at
dkossoff@lp2nyc.org

Questions: Patrick Siconolfi at
psiconolfi@lp2nyc.org

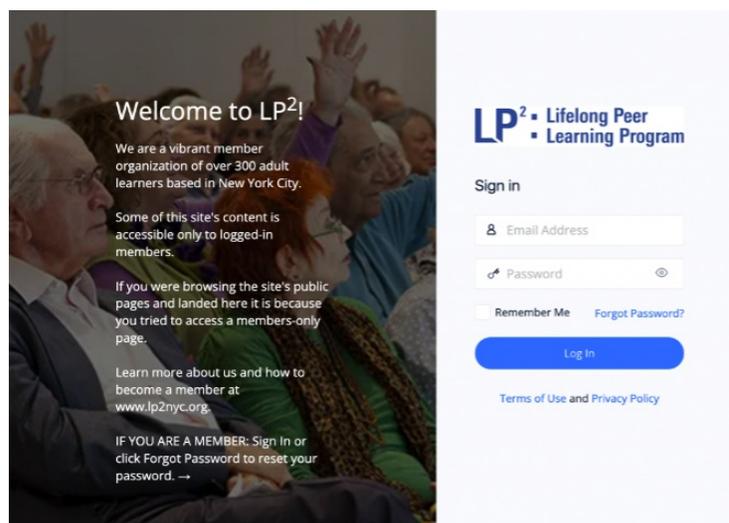


LP² Website Basics: How to Login, Bookmark, and Use It!

June 2 | 3:00PM | Zoom

After May 13 the Zine will be retired; not accessible; gone; history. If you want to check the Member Directory and Faces on the new LP2nyc.org website you've got to take

the plunge! Learn how to create and save a new personal password for the site, how to come up with a secure and easy-to-remember password, how to reset it yourself if you forget it, how to bookmark the site (or make it a favorite) so you can get to it with a single click, how to get help 24/7 if you forget any of



this. All that in a ½ hour, small-group workshop. There will be an opportunity to get your questions answered and one-on-one help. If there is time we will tour a few pages that you might find most useful and answer other site-related questions.

Write [Denise Waxman](mailto:Denise.Waxman) at dwxman1@lp2nyc.org to sign up.

BREAK ACTIVITIES

***Go Set a Watchman, Mockingbird, the search for Atticus Finch* with Arlynn Brody and Steve Kalinsky Tuesdays at 4PM: May 10, 17, 24**

We'll spend most of our time examining Harper Lee's second and final published novel, *Go Set a Watchman*, which somewhat mirrors the *To Kill a Mockingbird* story but is updated by 20+ years. Published in 2015, it is Harper Lee's last published novel and is set *before* "Mockingbird" and presents a very different view of the "Atticus Finch" that we all know and appreciate. We look at race relations in the American South in the 1930s to 1950s.

Required reading: *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee.

Optional reading: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Atticus Finch, The Biography* by Joseph Crespino.

To sign up email Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu.

You'll receive a Zoom invite before the first session.

Monday Afternoons *En Plein Air* with Carol Borelli

LIVE: Gardens in NYC

Mondays from 2PM to 4PM:

May 16 and May 23

Bring your materials and spend a Monday afternoon or two, sketching or painting in one of NYC's beautiful gardens. Our locations will be determined by the size of the group.

If you're interested, contact Carol Borelli at cborelli@gc.cuny.edu

Stories Aloud with Sharon Girard

Mondays at 3PM: July 18, August 1, 15, and 29

Welcome to the pleasures of stories read aloud by volunteers from our group. The stories are emailed in advance. During pauses, we enjoy general comments and questions, not to mention one-liners and insights wise and dumb. Readers change from session to session - giving an opportunity to read to all who wish to do so.

Each Monday, we'll Zoom for about an hour and a half. This summer, we're considering stories by Grace Paley, Felisberto Hernández, Kate Chopin, Zora Neale Hurston, Deborah Eisenberg, Nikolai Gogol, Nicole Krauss, Eudora Welty, Italo Calvino. We welcome your suggestions.

Please email Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the Zoom link; also, indicate if you would like to be a reader.

Call for Break Activities between Semesters

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during either or both of the two breaks from May 16 - 27 and July 12 - August 31.

Your activity can meet once or multiple times. Whether it's a book or movie or current events discussion, a travel adventure, art presentation, an encore from a prior study group or something different, LP² members will appreciate your efforts. Tech help is available to set up and assist you run the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants. To propose your activity, contact Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu.

ONLINE ART SHOW

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: **Susan Rauch**

Title: **I Hop on Pop**



Susan says: I think my favorite thing about this photo is the head of the little guy peeking out from the upper left-hand corner.

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.

MISSING LINKS DIRECTORY

[Graduate Center Password Reset](#)

[GC Portal](#)

[LP² Library Contact \(Mason Brown\)](#)

[LP² Member Website](#)

- [Member Directory](#)
- [Faces](#)
- [Library and Online Resource page](#)
- [LP² and GC Help](#)
- [Tech Help](#)

Linkedin Learning (formerly known as Lynda)

- [LinkedIn learning at NYPL](#) and [Get a NYPL Library Card](#)
- [LinkedIn Learning at BPL](#) and [Get a BPL Library Card](#)
- [LinkedIn Learning at QPL](#) and [Get a QPL Library Card](#)

What links would you like to see included? You don't have to know the actual link, just what you'd like to be able to link to without cleaning out your desk to find the paper you wrote it down on.

Send your requests and suggestions to Micky Josephs at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu or Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu.

MEMBER FORUM

Phyllis Holloway suggests this summer novel:

***The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffries.**

Jacqueline Woodson calls it "Sweeping, brilliant and beautiful."

From Carol Groneman

If you are interested in learning how to sight read music, consider taking this class. **Carol** has been part of the choral group, led by Bernadette Hoke, a professional choral conductor and pianist, and will be taking the course.

MUSIC SIGHT READING CLASS

4 weeks, 1 hour and 15-minute classes

Wednesdays @ 1PM

May 18, 25

June 1, 8

Cost: \$40 for 4 weeks

Location: OPEN JAR STUDIOS

48th and Broadway

For more information and registration please contact Bernadette Hoke at bhoke88@gmail.com



Another musical opportunity from Carol Groneman:

LP² members are invited to the **Encore Spring Concert**, featuring hymns and spirituals as well as Broadway show tunes.

Date/Time: Saturday, May 7 at 3PM

**Location: Broadway Presbyterian Church
601 W. 114 St.**

If you'd like to attend, please email Carol at cgroneman@gc.cuny.edu

REMINDERS

GC-CUNY Campus Covid Protocols

For those who are coming to campus:

- **Masks are no longer required in all campus spaces**
- **The rest of the Covid-19 policies remain in place** If you do not have a **Cleared4 Pass**, email engagement@gc.cuny.edu a week before your intended visit. **Cleared4 Pass** (or "Blue Pass") system automatically renews passes on their expiration date, If you lose your pass, email engagement@gc.cuny.edu to manually extend it.
- **Bring GC-CUNY ID or other official ID.**

Additional Campus Operations Info: Reporting positive cases and contact tracing:

- If you are feeling sick, DO NOT come to class.
- If you come into close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes total, even if in segments) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please be sure to wear a close-fitting mask around others and test at least five days after exposure (regardless of symptoms). You do not need to stay home *unless* you develop symptoms.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, do not come to class and isolate for 5 days before testing. Take precautions until day 10 including wearing a well-fitting mask when around others. Please email me at mwillere@gc.cuny.edu so that I can manage contact tracing while maintaining your privacy and give further guidance per CUNY's policy, following CDC guidance.
- Unfortunately, the COVID-19 testing centers on CUNY campuses are not available for use by LP² members at this time. I will update you if this changes. NYC offers free COVID-19 testing and all New Yorkers can receive a free COVID-19 virus PCR test. Diagnostic

tests are available through NYC [COVID Express sites](#) or through other public and private sites (search via the [COVID-19 Test Site Finder](#)). Further information on free testing can be accessed by calling 311 or the [NYC Health and Hospitals website](#).

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.

Schedule for submitting articles for The Observer and Website

Members wishing to submit information for publication in The Observer or listing on the Website have a **new deadline: the Wednesday before the Monday publication date**. In addition, we urge you to send us your material as early as possible so that it can be entered onto the LP² calendar, which is managed by the Graduate Center. If you have an event to publicize, please notify Micky Joseph at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu **at least one month in advance** to ensure that the event receives maximum publicity.

Online Art Show Submissions: Send Online Art Show entries and suggestions for tours to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Member Forum Submissions: 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 Josephs at mjosephs@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.