

LP² Lifelong Peer Learning Program

CU NY GRADUATE CENTER

THE OBSERVER April 23, 2024

Editors: Irene Sax, Ruth Mackaman

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Friday, April 26

GMM 1PM

Concourse Level, Grad Center

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear all,

If you are planning to participate in Summer study groups, the link to preview the Grid is enclosed [here](#)! Registration opens on April 29 and the first day of Summer study group meetings is May 28.

Save the date and keep your eye out in the Observer: we will start the Fall Grid preview on May 20 before Fall registration opens on June 3. **All primary**

communications about registration will be made through the Observer and on the www.lp2nyc.org website!

The admissions committee has successfully wrapped this semester's application cycle and 12 new members will start in the program in Fall 2024. An in-person orientation will kick off welcoming them on May 7!

This week is Spring Break for CUNY degree students and the Dining Commons at the Graduate Center will therefore be offering limited food services. Beverages and grab-and-go options will be maintained, including prepared sandwiches. You're welcome to use the space during regular hours and we will see hot food back in action next week.

As we wind down the semester, I want to thank everyone for your contributions to the program and our special peer learning community. I look forward to celebrating with you at the General Membership Meeting on Friday at 1pm.

Take care,
Mariel

ADVISORY BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations and Welcome to the Newly Elected Members of the LP² Advisory Board!

The Advisory Board Elections ended on Monday, April 22. The results were not available when we went to press but the [election results](#) will be posted on the website on April 23.

The new Advisory Board will officially take office on April 24 and elect the Executive Committee for the coming year. The Board will be introduced at the GMM on April 26.

BY THE WAY

On Wednesday, April 17, fourteen talented writers read poetry and prose from the most recent issue of Voices Online, the LP² literary magazine. This enjoyable Zoom event was hosted by Tom Ashley and organized by Charles Troob and Pat Fortunato. [Here's a link](#) to the video recording. Check it out!



Watch this space to learn about being part of the next issue of Voices as a contributor, a staff member, or maybe both. New members are particularly encouraged to join us. Voices Online can be accessed via the Publications menu on our web site, or at

AND BY THE WAY...

A member urges—and we, of course, agree—that you make sure that your Grad Center Email address is up to date. If you don't know how to do this, you can find the instructions [in this link](#). Go on, do it right now while we're nagging you!

RSVP NOW FOR THE APRIL 26 GMM

Our end-of-the-school year celebration--otherwise known as the GMM or General Membership-Meeting--will be held on Friday, April 26 from 1-4PM on the Concourse level of the Graduate Center. That's when we will introduce the new Board members and officers, say Thank You to the retiring Board members, share some of the accomplishments of LP²'s hard-working committees and outline next steps in the strategic planning process.

Your RSVP will help us to plan for the food and drinks. There will be salmon, fruit, macaroons, and possibly kosher wine for those observing the **Passover** dietary rules. (Wine is now back for everybody.) [RSVP here](#) to let us know if you plan to attend in person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Speed Mentoring Project

The first initiative of the Community Engagement Committee, in collaboration with the New York Edge (<https://newyorkedge.org/>), is a speed mentoring project on April 30 from 3:45 until 5.

The New York Edge format calls for a long table with one side lined with "mentors" who describe their career journey, and the other side lined with middle school, underserved youngsters, who ask questions of the mentor--and this all in 8 minutes, before students move on to the next mentor.



If you would like to participate please contact Committee co-chairs Linda Anstendig , lanstendig@gradcenter.cuny.edu or Mary-Joan Gerson, mjgerson@gradcenter.cuny.edu.

POUR AT FOUR

When: May 2 at 4PM

Where: Lounge, David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center

Why: Come and hang out with other members in a comfortable space.



CAN I GET THROUGH THIS? RESILIENCY AND THE GOLDEN YEARS



Presented by Deb Markow
May 7th, 5 – 6PM, on Zoom

Deb is an art historian with an abiding interest in cognitive awareness. Her observant nature has led her to seek an explanation for why some people can bend and sway in the winds of adversity while others seem to snap and break under pressure. She sought guidance from experts and would like to share what she has learned.

This is a reprise of a presentation offered in March 2024 through Tuesdays with Friends. When it was announced, more LP² members signed up than could be accommodated. The Tuesdays with Friends presentation was extraordinarily well-received, and Deb has graciously offered to give the talk again, this time on Zoom.

Zoom link: <https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/j/94593812439>

If you would like to receive a reminder along with the Zoom link on the morning

of the event, please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/4asNKjH>

Sponsored by the Our Stage of Life Committee



AN EVENING OF SONGS WITH THE MUSIC SIG

The final MUSIC SIG event of the season is **The Road Home**, an evening of songs that explore the many aspects of home: seeking a home, losing a home, even reaching for a heavenly home. The program, at 4PM on April 28, is by the Glass Menagerie Chorus at the Church of the Holy Apostles on West 28th Street. It will include compositions by composers Mark Patterson, Susan Brumfield, Abbie Bettinis and Rosephanye Powell. If you are interested, contact Mark Dichter at mdichter@gradcenter.cuny.edu. The cost is \$15 at the door.

On April 11, the SIG attended an amazing performance of **Eugene Onegin** given by the Heartbeat Opera Company. We had a zoom lecture with the conductor before the event and a wonderful Indian dinner to begin the evening. The performance was fabulous, and a good time was had by all.

TWF SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

The Tuesdays With Friends(TWF) Committee is seeking two new committee members. Several times a semester, TWF offers a presentation by an LP² member in another member's home for casual socialization and discussion. Committee members' responsibilities include recruiting and working with speakers to develop the presentations, marketing and managing the invitations, responses and communication surrounding the event, recruiting hosts, ordering and preparing refreshments, setting up and cleaning up the site. Skills needed include the ability to recruit and facility with email and Zoom. Excel /database skills are a plus. The ability to assist with physical set up by rearranging the meeting space, setting up chairs and transporting refreshments is essential.

New members encouraged to apply. If you are interested, please contact Eileen Hanley at ehanley@gradcenter.cuny.edu



OUR STAGE OF LIFE SIG – CALL FOR SUGGESTIONS

OSOL has sponsored talks on a range of topics this year, including hearing loss, aging alone, and preparing for care at the end of life. We will sponsor a final talk in May on resiliency. OSOL's talks have been well attended: Aging well is a topic of interest to LP² members.

We are now planning for next academic year, and we need help to keep the series going. We would be very happy to hear your suggestions for topics and/or speakers. If you've got ideas, or if you know someone who would be a good presenter, please leave a brief note [here](#) or contact Jan Blustein (chair) directly.

LUNCH



Etc. Eatery
from Jenny Ross

Etc., a vast space just a block away from the Grad Center, has something for everyone, all of it fresh and delicious and at a reasonable price. Their signs boast “**Everything Always!**” and their dishes range from South East Asian (pad thai, ramen noodle bowls, bento boxes) to Latin American (tacos, quesadillas) to North American (diner food). A hot buffet offers roasted vegetables, soups, and a build-your-own sandwich station. There are vegan, dairy free and gluten free options, a huge selection of packaged snacks and plenty of seating for large groups upstairs.



Bonus: if you like a cold beer with a hot lunch it is available:—provided, of course, that you can prove you’re over 21!

345 5th Avenue at 33rd Street

646 410 0288

Hours 6AM to 6PM

No reservations needed or possible

Noise level: manageable

Do you know a good place to have lunch near the Grad Center? If you do, send us a review, and we’ll run it in a future Observer.

MEET THE CHAIRS

Jay Fleishman: Men’s Group

You’re the head of the men’s group. Did you start it?

Not at all. I joined in 2009, and the men’s group began around 2000. At that time the men in IRP felt so outnumbered by the women that they felt they needed to band together. They also recognized that men weren’t good at talking about personal problems and that it might be easier to do so in a group with confidentiality.

Click here to [read more](#).



From Lucy Kirk:

Lucy writes that the Blue Hill Troupe, which has been putting on Gilbert and Sullivan operettas for 100 years (!), is presenting *HMS Pinafore* through April 27. Performances have started already, but there's still time to get tickets for this rollicking Victorian entertainment. Lucy is not just a member of the Troupe, but reports that as a chorus member she is on stage for the whole show!

Have you booked your passage aboard the HMS Pinafore yet?

*The Blue Hill Troupe's 100th Anniversary production of HMS Pinafore; or, The Lass That Loved a Sailor ships out on **April 19**, and you don't want to miss it. Just look at these lovely casts in their impeccable costumes and gorgeous hair and makeup! And this doesn't even showcase the stunning set, props, music, direction, and more. You'll just have to buy tickets to experience it all for yourself!*

And remember, every ticket sold supports our charity partner, Young People's Chorus of NYC.

[Click to buy tickets and learn more.](#)

Group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more! (20% off \$70 or \$90 tickets). For any questions or to purchase group tickets, please contact tickets@bht.org.

From John Becker:

Omnivorous culture consumer John Becker highly recommends the three-day festival of Buster Keaton films coming to the Quad Cinema at 34 W. 13th Street in Greenwich Village. The films are all good, he says, and two of them—*The General* and *Sherlock, Jr.*—are masterpieces that are best seen on a big screen.

<https://quadcinema.com/program/a-series-of-long-shots-buster-keaton>



More from John Becker:



Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of the book that was the basis for the film **Oppenheimer**, joined one of our study groups at LP² last week.

On April 16, John Becker's SG on American Prometheus was honored to have the participation of Mr. Bird, who spoke to them about his book, the movie, and the process behind each of these projects, answering many questions from the group. Mr. Bird seemed to enjoy the session, and was impressed that we would devote an entire semester to his book.

All this was a result of Barbara Marwell's suggestion that John contact the author, who is the Executive Director of the Leon Levy Center for Biography at CUNY. Kai Bird calls himself the "luckiest biographer in the world," and now John Becker believes that he is lucky to be the only coordinator in our history to have a Pulitzer Prize-winning author join a class devoted to his book.

ONLINE ART SHOW

Title: Kiki Smith's window
Photographer: Tom Ashley

Tom says: Artist Kiki Smith created this window for the restored Eldridge Street Synagogue.



CALL FOR BREAK ACTIVITIES

The Community Building Initiative (CBI) seeks volunteers to lead activities during the May 7-24, 2024 break. As did 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, be sure that members 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 a Zoom session, and you'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants.

To propose your activity, contact Jane Case Einbender of the CBI at jeinbender@gradcenter.cuny.edu

AISI OFFICE HOURS

A reminder that The Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation (AISI) is located in Room 8309 and is open Monday through Friday 9AM to 5PM. Questions from Advisory Board members, Committee chairs, or other activity leaders can be brought to Joanna or Mariel during their drop-in hours on Wednesdays, 1:00PM to 3:00PM, through May 8 for this semester.. Contact us: Email: lp2@gc.cuny.edu Phone 212-817-2474

LP² Help Desk volunteers can help with your day to day needs and will staff the Help Desk at midday, Tuesdays through Thursdays.

OBSERVER INFO

Current Observers are available on the website (p2nyc.org) all week from 5pm on the publication date.

Previous editions are kept on the website's [Observer Archive](#).

To display your creative work 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@lp2nyc.org. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.

The Observer welcomes member contributions. There used to be a Wednesday deadline for the following Monday; given online publishing, that has been pushed ahead to **Thursday at 6PM**. Send your contributions to isax@lp2nyc.org.

Reminder: For security purposes *The Observer* and the website do not publish personal information, including emails and phone numbers. We use gradcenter.cuny.edu addresses or request website addresses (@lp2nyc.org) to deliver email directly to your preferred email mailbox.

GRAD CENTER CAMPUS INFO

[ID Cards and Stickers](#)

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[Using Your Graduate Center Email Account](#)

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GRAD CENTER CAMPUS COVID-19 GUIDANCE

[COVID-19 CUNY GC Information as of May 23, 2023](#)

REMINDERS

Website Login

For security reasons, you must login to use the Website Directory.

[Website Login Information](#)

