

LP²: Lifelong Peer Learning Program at Graduate Center, CUNY

The Observer, November 9, 2020

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I hope you found ways to enjoy the sun and warmth this weekend. Now, you've acted on your civic duty to vote in the presidential election and it is time to cast your ballot for the next LP² Advisory Board. You should have received instructions on Friday stating that you will receive your ballot to your Graduate Center email address and voting is open as of today at 9am until 5pm on November 13. Read on for more!

You should have received an invoice last week for annual fees. Please submit payment via credit card or check by December 4.

The Transition Board has wrapped up its work in a formal capacity, though we have identified areas that require continued thought and organization including 1) integration with The Graduate Center student and faculty community on an ongoing basis and 2) setting goals for increasing diversity and representation in membership as well as through curriculum development. Some of the members of that board will remain involved in shaping program priorities and plans around these or other areas in working groups.

Looking toward Spring, study group proposals are due this week on the 11th to the Curriculum Committee and with recommendations from the Admissions Committee, our office will send decision letters to the first round of applicants this week so that new members can get a head start with their mentors and registration.

I met with members of the Diversity Committee last week to discuss new programming ideas and other standalone events have started to percolate as we continue to seek new ways to engage new and existing members through the remote format. There are several listed in the enclosed issue as well as calls for ideas. If you have not yet, mark your calendars and [register](#) for the next Fridays@3 talk by Martin J. Blaser on December 4 at 3pm, rounding out the Fall series with a discussion on the connection between the bacteria in our bodies and public health conditions.

Join me tomorrow over lunch (12-1pm) for [Director's Office Hours](#) to say hello!

Be well,

Maribel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vote This Week for Advisory Board

Election Week for the LP² Advisory Board begins at 9AM on Monday, November 9 and continues until 5PM on Friday, November 13. You will receive your ballot in your GC email. If you have not yet set up your GC account, here is the link with instructions:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B2xS0J78bSs9RAKKWUXO_KnXE71MEp9r/view If you need help, please contact Olena Plaskon at the GC at Oplaskon@gc.cuny.edu or Denise Waxman at dwaxman@gc.cuny.edu

You can be assured that your returned ballot is secret. The results will be published in the Observer on November 16th. If you do not get your ballot, please email Susan Rauch, srauch@gc.cuny.edu or Michelle Harris mharris@gc.cuny.edu.

There are 21 candidates running for 12 seats on the board. They are: Colette Siegel, Eileen Hanley, Michael Kessler, Randy Ross, Barbara Marwell, Lesley Herrmann, Sheila O'Connell, Jan Adler, Barry Bryer, Arlyne LeSchack, Bruce Smith, Richard Resnik, Steve Kalinsky, Judith Monson, Shelley Peck, Aileen Gitelson, Susanne Yellin, Susan Rauch, Joy Schulman, Micky Josephs and Susan Sabatino.

Their pictures and statements are posted on the Zine. You can find them by clicking this link.

<https://www.irpzine.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CANDIDATE-BIOSV7-4.pdf>

Your vote is important in shaping the future of LP². VOTE!

Activities During the Winter Break (December 22-January 29)

Theatre in Performance SIG – Encore

The Theatre in Performance SIG offered this summer will be revived during the winter break and then continue through the spring semester. Coordinated by Bruce Smith, the SIG meets every other week to discuss recordings of live play productions available for streaming. The initial plays will be chosen from Digital Theatre, a British streaming service that has a variety of critically acclaimed productions for £9.99 (approximately \$13)/month.

The SIG will start during the first week of January; members can start participating then. (Since this activity will continue, members can also join at the start of the spring semester.) The SIG is open to all LP² members. If you are interested in participating, please

send an email to Bruce at bsmith2@gc.cuny.edu. You will then receive more detailed information. Note: Both past SIG participants and new ones should respond to Bruce via email ASAP.

Comedy Writing Workshop

From Robert Chan: Interested in participating in a comedy writing workshop over winter break? If I receive positive responses, I'll set up a Zoom meeting to discuss procedure, mechanics etc. My initial thought is for participants to write a short piece of comic writing prior to each meeting for us to share and discuss. We could also post and discuss examples of comic writing. Anyone with a funny sense of humor (no need for it be a humorous one) is invited. I would appreciate any suggestions or guidance.

If you are interested or offended, please contact me at rchan@gc.cuny.edu or call me at 646-678-0320 and leave a voicemail. (I usually don't pick up for fear of creditors, scams and car insurance sales pitches.

Call for Book Discussion Leaders

Do you have a book (fiction or nonfiction) that you have enjoyed?

Are you willing to lead a one-session discussion on this book during the winter break? If yes, contact Jan Adler of the Community Building Initiative at adlerjan@gc.cuny.edu.

We'll announce the session in the Observer, and participants will sign up with you, obtain the book and read it on their own before the session. 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.

Call for More Activities in Winter Break

The Community Building Initiative is looking for volunteers to lead activities during the break. Just as in our earlier break, your activity can meet once, twice or multiple times. We also invite fall coordinators to offer a one-session favorite "encore" presentation selected from their fall study groups. Please submit your activity to Jan Adler at jadler@gc.cuny.edu

Microbiologist Next for Fridays@3, December 4



Join us for Fridays@3 with Martin J. Blaser, M.D.: *How a perturbed microbiome fuels modern epidemics.*

Dr. Blaser's talk will concentrate on his groundbreaking work: the relationship of the human microbiome with health and diseases including asthma, obesity, diabetes, and cancer.

In 2015 Dr. Blaser was included in the Time Magazine list of the 100 most influential people in the world. Dr. Blaser holds the Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome at Rutgers University, and serves as the Director of the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine.

He is the Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council for Combatting Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB).

As always, members of LP² are welcome to invite friends and family to join us for this talk. The Graduate Center will reach out to its large network, and we expect to have a large and enthusiastic audience. Here is the [link to register](#) for the talk.

Strategies for Study Group Discussion

Wednesday, November 18, 3:45-5PM.

You are invited to attend The Art and Science of Leading a Discussion on Zoom. The Curriculum Committee encourages new and experienced coordinators to attend to share ideas and learn new ones. RSVP to Linda Anstendig by Tuesday, November 17; Zoom invitation will follow. lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu

Needed: A New Observer Editor

From Leslie Davis: After 12 years of editing the Observer, I am planning to turn it over to someone else during the spring term. To ensure a smooth transition, I would like to know if any of you are interested in the job. A formal application process won't happen until the new Advisory Board takes over, but I would like to identify people with the right skills who are willing to put them to work.

Obviously, some experience in writing and/or editing is fairly crucial, but there are more aspects to the job than simply handling copy. The job entails receiving items – text and pictures – each week from members, contacting members to clarify details when necessary, organizing the items into a draft and then editing the draft before starting to work with Ariana to prepare the final version. It also involves understanding what members want and need to know, seeking the best ways to present the information, and prioritizing the various activities and interests.

If you are interested in exploring the possibility, even if you're not sure you're qualified, please send me an e-mail, and I will arrange a conversation. Thanks! Leslie Davis, ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu

Observer Schedule

The Observer will not appear on Monday, November 23, Thanksgiving week. Our last Observer for this semester will be on Monday December 21. We will resume regular publication on Monday January 25. We will publish during the winter break only when we have some news to communicate.

As always during our regular schedule, please submit your items to Leslie Davis at ldavis1@gc.cuny.edu by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in Monday's issue. Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week. Online Art Show entries should go to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

Changes to Zine

Please note there is a new User ID and Password for the secured portions of the Zine. User ID: LPsquared; PW: Fall2020. The secured portions are Members, Faces, and Calendar. The Zine address is still www.IRPZine.org

Tech Advice

How to enter the superscript for our new name LP²:

On computer or laptop: When you open Word, look to the top left for the symbol x^2 . If you want to type LP², type the number 2, highlight it, click on the x^2 , and voila: your 2 becomes ². Very easy. To resume typing, click the x^2 again.

On iPhone: Go to "settings," "general," "keyboard," "text replacement". Then touch "+" and phrase and shortcut will show. Enter LP² in phrase (copy it from

this email), and Enter LP in shortcut. So now whenever you type LP your phone will give you a choice LP or LP². That should work. Good Luck.

On GC mail: Find the x^2 to the right of the screen (you may have to click on the inverted double chevron – two stacked "v"s), type the number 2, highlight it, and click on the x^2 to get the superscript. To resume typing, click the x^2 again.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From Marianne Nelson: Fern Vase



Marianne says: This is an example of Victorian decoupage. To do it, I glued a paper napkin onto a glass vase and coated it with polyurethane. Then I sanded it and applied a second coat. My inspiration was my garden.

Artsig Suggests Virtual Tours and Lectures

Explore the Museum of the World, a collaboration between the British Museum and Google Art and Culture Lab. Objects from the museum are mapped on a timeline to facilitate comparisons across time, continents, and culture. Curators offer information about individual objects by print and audio.

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>

The Walker Art Center's first US exhibition of contemporary German artist, Michaela Eichwald, opens November 14. The show's curator discusses the artist's work on the museum's website through 5/16.

<https://walkerart.org/calendar/2020/virtual-exhibition-talk-laura-hoptman-on-michaela-eichwald>

EVENTS

Advances in Civilization: Imperial China

Thursday, November 12 at 4PM

Moya Duffy will lead a discussion on the role of the Scholar-Official in Imperial China and how the role illustrates the vast differences between Western and Chinese Civilization, which ultimately clashed in the 19th. Century. For

an invite, please email Steve Kalinsky at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu

Conversation on a Vaccine

Thursday, November 19 at 4PM

Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky will lead a discussion on Waiting for the Vaccine: Until Then? Update on the New Normal. To attend or to ask a question, email Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu.

Ongoing

Pour at Four hosted by Susan Rubens meets from 4 to 5PM Fridays in the 24-hour chat room <https://sites.google.com/view/irpte/chstuff>. Want to co-host? Contact Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu.

The Women's Group meets at 3:45PM on Thursdays. Email Arlyne LeSchack at aleschack@gc.cuny.edu.

The Men's Group meets every Wednesday at 3:30PM. Email Jay Fleishman at efleishman@gc.cuny.edu.

CUNY EVENTS: UPCOMING & ONGOING

Music from Copland House

Monday, November 9, 1:00 PM

The brash and brilliant *Sextet for Clarinet, String Quartet, and Piano* by Emmy Award-winning composer and Graduate Center professor **John Musto** “very well might rouse you from your listening seat” (*Gramophone* magazine). Musto's music seamlessly links the gestures and groove of the vernacular with the vibrant framework and vocabulary of concert music.

The Sextet is a big, rollicking work filled with intricate string discourse, dazzling piano writing, and a stand-out, swashbuckling role for the clarinet. It runs the gamut from raucous and irrepressible to serene and decorous, embracing jazzy riffs, klezmer wails, Yiddish folk music, and sophisticated compositional forms and techniques. Includes a pre-performance discussion, and live, post-performance Q&A among composer, performers, and viewers.

Shamrocks and Shackles: Irish Women’s Prison Writing during the Civil Rights Movement, 1960s-1990s

Tuesday, November 10, 6:00 PM

Trans & Gender Diverse Voices in LIS

Wednesday, November 11th at 1:00pm

Co-editors of the forthcoming “Trans and Gender Diverse Voices in LIS” by Litwin Books – Kalani Adolpho, Stephen G. Krueger, and Krista McCracken – will discuss their research.

We’ll discuss the importance of gender diversity and transgender voices within the field of Library and Information Science (LIS), as well as the impetus for [this project. \[litwinbooks.com\]](#) [Click here to sign up! \[gc-cuny.zoom.us\]](#)

[Mason Brown, "The Research Lab as Satellite Library"](#)

Monday, November 16 at 1:00pm

Mason Brown (Science Librarian at The Graduate Center) will share from his research and experiences supporting the scientific community as a liaison to the [ASRC \(Advanced Science Research Center\)](#). His recent paper, "The Research Lab as Satellite Library" (Sept. 2020), posits the various ways that librarianship can be entwined with scientific research practices, as well as creative outreach methods to students/faculty.

Mason will be in conversation with Emily Drabinski, Interim Chief Librarian at the Mina Rees Library, and there will be ample time for audience questions. We look forward to seeing you there! [Click here to sign up!](#)

More events are listed here: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GCEvents/Calendar>

NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

El Museo del Barrio has published numerous [exhibition catalogues and brochures](#) to enjoy from home.

Jazz at Lincoln Center offering [free weekly online programs](#).

The Jewish Museum has made their [audio tours](#) available online.

MoMA is offering free online [courses and specializations](#).

The Whitney Museum of American Art is offering from artist talks to art history courses, webinars and creative projects for everyone, see what's coming up [here](#). Explore exhibitions online [here](#).

BRIC Rotunda Gallery is offering free Media Education Courses. More information [here](#)