



LP² A Lifelong Peer Learning Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY

THE OBSERVER
February 16, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello members,

I hope you enjoyed the break to catch up or get ahead on reading, or something not at all LP²-related. Last week I enjoyed checking in with the new members at an orientation meeting and speaking with prospective new members at our first information session of the term.

On Thursday, the Executive Committee, Chair of the Diversity Committee and I met with Martin Ruck, Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion and Professor of Psychology and Urban Education at The Graduate Center. We continued our discussion on how LP² can align with The Graduate Center's goals and efforts to foster tolerance and a climate of inclusion. This will be a central topic at Friday's General Membership Meeting, which I hope you will register for using the link below. Please feel free to submit questions with your registration.

Remember to submit your add/drop requests via the form (linked below) by Friday, February 19.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday!

Best,
Mariel

Our office contact information:
engagement@gc.cuny.edu
212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

General Membership Meeting

Our spring General Membership Meeting is this Friday, February 19, at 2 PM. To register, [click here](#).

Last Week of Add/Drop

The current Add/Drop period ends this Friday, February 19 at 5PM. To change your current study groups please complete the add/drop form here: [Lifelong Peer Learning Program](#). All study groups with openings are included on that page. Direct questions to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

Fridays@3



February 26: **Historian and Filmmaker Professor Gretchen Sullivan Sorin:** "*Driving While Black*"

Dr. Sorin, the author of *Driving While Black: African-American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*, describes how the automobile fundamentally changed African-American life. Through much of our country's history, mobility was limited for African-Americans: first, by slavery, then, by racists who denied their Black countrymen the right to travel freely on trains and buses. *Driving While Black* reveals how the car allowed black families to evade many dangers but also exposed them to discrimination and deadly violence, and how that history still resonates.

Dr. Sorin will discuss her book and show clips of the 2020 documentary *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America*. (You may see the documentary, written and directed by Dr. Sorin with film-maker Ric Burns, streamed free by clicking [here](#).) To register for the event, click [here](#).

...and save these dates for future Fridays@3:

March 26 - Rapper and Improv artist Baba Brinkman: Climate Change and 'Other audience-selected Improv Topics'

April 23 - Queens College President Frank Wu: "Diversity and Democracy: What Would You Have Done During WWII?"

Curriculum Committee Study Group Workshops

Are you thinking about coordinating a study group? If so, have you let the Curriculum Committee know of your interest? The committee will assign one of its members to be your committee contact to help you develop your idea and submit a proposal. Send an email to Curriculum Committee Chair Jonathan Gaines at jgaines@gc.cuny.edu.

Thinking About Coordinating a Study Group but Want Assistance?

- Bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee's **LET'S GET STARTED** Workshop
- When – **Monday, Feb 22 from 4-5:15PM**
- We will work together to develop your ideas, suggest resources, answer your questions about the study group proposal process and even to help you to find a co-coordinator (if you want one).

RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gmail.com. Zoom invitations will be sent the days of the workshops.

...and save these dates for more workshops:

- How's It Going? (for current coordinators) - March 3, 4-5PM
- Need Some Help Completing Your Study Group Proposal? - March 8, 4-5:15PM
- Want to Learn Strategies for Enhancing Your Study Group Discussion? - April 21, 4-5:15PM

LP² is committed to creating and maintaining study groups that incorporate the values and cultures of our diverse community and that reflect its pluralism.

We encourage you to send us your ideas for study groups that would promote our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion *whether or not you would be interested in coordinating them*. Contact Jonathan Gaines at jgaines@gc.cuny.edu.

Research Resources (in our virtual world)

Thinking about doing research for a study group, or for your own interests, but not sure where to begin? You are all invited to attend the Curriculum Committee's first **Library Resources Workshop**.

When: **Tuesday, February 23, 3:45-5PM**

Led by Mason Brown, Advanced Science Research Center Librarian,
CUNY Grad Center

Session will include:

- Information available to access remotely and how to access it
- How to enhance your search tool skills and troubleshoot

RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gmail.com by February 22. You will receive a zoom invitation on February 23. If you have questions for Mason, please submit them in advance to Judith Siegel at jsiegel1@gc.cuny.edu.

More resources for research

The Graduate Center Mina Rees Library has several other specialized workshops open for registration: <https://library.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

And check the Zine.

The *Library Resources* tab on the Zine has information about databases available from the GC Open Access, Open Education Resources and also from the New York Public Library and other libraries.

All Things Covid

Barry Levine will continue updating the LP² community weekly on the latest news on the virus, the vaccines and related topics. Sessions will be held on February 19 at 3:30 PM following the General Membership Meeting and February 26 at 3 PM. To attend or submit a question in advance, contact Steve Kalinsky at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. Future sessions will be scheduled as warranted.

Online Art Show



From: Susan Winston
Title: Twilight in Manhattan

Susan says: I took the photograph during my walk around the reservoir and was enchanted by the lighting at dusk and the distant skyscrapers' reflections on the water. This peaceful image was a strong counterpoint to our current turbulent time.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers, Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu with a title and brief statement about how or where or why you made it, and your work will appear in the Online Art Show.

MEMBER FORUM

A complaining member exhorts us:

Rise up fellow complainers, let's be vulnerable together!

Have you been complaining more as the pandemic approaches one year? Do you feel guilty about burdening your family and friends with your complaints? Take heart. In this essay, philosophy professor Kathryn J, Norlock of Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., offers a defense of complaining. 'Complaining *well* is a complex skill, to be exercised more than never and less than excessively.' and "To observe the duty to complain, we need skills of complaining well. " To burnish your complaining skills, click [here](#).

More for Black History Month

Documentary: *Whitney Young, The Unsung Leader of Civil Rights*
(Sponsored by League of Women Voters of the City of New York)

February 16, 6-7:30PM, tonight

During the 1960s, Whitney Young was the head of the National Urban League, and like Martin Luther King, Jr., he fought for African-American rights. Through his connections with Fortune 500 CEOs, governors, senators and presidents, he was one of the few civil rights leaders able to access employment, education, housing and healthcare for minorities and those in need. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

And Another View of Black History Month

As an American historian, I view the onset of Black History month every year with some ambivalence. Of course, I recognize the important role that African-Americans have played from the very beginning of our country. However, I'm concerned that putting aside one month to honor Black History – like assigning one month for Women's History – suggests that the other 10 months of the year are really about the more important White, Male History. There are many articles – both popular and scholarly – that discuss this issue.

You might find the following one, from the Black-edited publication, *The Grio*, of interest. <https://thegrio.com/2010/02/02/the-pros-cons-of-black-history-month/>

Carol Groneman

Celebrating the Year of the Ox

February may be the shortest month of the year, but in addition to being Black History Month, it has a *lot* going for it: Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, the Super Bowl and the Chinese Lunar New Year. The year 2021 is the Year of the Ox, which began on February 12th, 2021 and lasts until January 31st, 2022. (The last year of the Ox was 2009 and we won't have another until 2033.) Covid put a crimp in Chinatown's normal New Year's festivities, but we can still celebrate. To see (in mouth-watering color) eight auspicious foods to eat as we welcome 4719 (the Year of the Ox), click [here](#). To satisfy more cultural cravings, see these related exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art:

[Celebrating the Year of the Ox](#)

January 30, 2021–January 17, 2022

[Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Up Close](#)

December 21, 2020–June 27, 2021

[Masters and Masterpieces: Chinese Art from the Florence and Herbert Irving Collection](#)

January 30, 2021–June 5, 2022.

Ongoing LP² Events

Pour at Four, hosted by Susan Rubens, meets from 4 to 5PM on Fridays in the 24-hour chat room <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>.

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.

TECH HELP: Zine, Email and Personal Computers

For access to Faces, the Directory, and the Calendar on the Zine (www.irpzine.org), the user ID is LPsquared; the password is Fall2020.

For email woes, please direct all inquiries to engagement@gc.cuny.edu.

If you need assistance with a personal computer or other device, check the Zine Tech Help tab or contact your PC manufacturer or software vendor. The Graduate Center Office of Information Technology (OIT) does not provide assistance with personal computers or mobile devices.

CUNY EVENTS

Gotham Ed: There is a 25% discount offered for any **GothamEd** class purchased in the month of February using the code "BlackHistory". The catalog of classes is here: <https://www.gothamcenter.org/gothamed/adults>

Economic Recovery for Whom?

February 17, 2021, 7:30PM [Register on Zoom](#) or [Watch Live on Youtube](#)

Magnificence, Mistresses, and Marie de Médicis' Dance of Maternity, 1602

February 18, 2021, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Register: [here](#):

Panel: "Gender on the International Bench"

February 19, 2021, 12:00PM-2:00PM

[Please click here to register to participate via Zoom.](#)

Hyper Education: Why Good Schools, Good Grades, and Good Behavior Are Not Enough

February 19, 2021, 3:00PM

Please [register online](#) to participate via Zoom.

Copland House Presents UNDERSCORED: John Musto's Sonata for Cello and Piano

February 22, 2021, 1:00PM-2:00PM

[Reserve Now](#)

See <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> for events this week.

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](#).

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center streams a wide variety of [free concerts, lectures and masterclasses](#).

Observer Submissions Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at srauch@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 that you think would be interesting to members, send it to Susan at srauch@gc.cuny.edu for inclusion in the Member Forum.

