



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

THE OBSERVER
February 22, 2021

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hi all,

Thank you to the 200 of you who joined the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on Friday last week! We appreciate your participation and questions.

Dean Brian A. Peterson gave a brief update on the COVID Reactivation Planning. LP² members are represented on the campus committee and therefore contributing to the Fall 2021 semester planning. We will keep communications open as we get more information from CUNY Central and make amendments to the plan put in place in 2020. The links shared by Brian during the meeting can be found below.

As announced at the meeting, Member Connect will foster better communication between LP² members and the Advisory Board through small group “town hall” meetings. Read on for more about this initiative.

We also introduced the new LP² Member Handbook, a one-stop reference, described below.

This issue of the Observer has more information about library access. As discussed at the GMM, nondegree students do not have remote access to Graduate Center library databases and we are working with the librarians to meet your needs in other ways, including through the NYPL. The Graduate Center librarian Mason Brown is available for your questions and tomorrow he is leading a workshop, organized by the curriculum committee and specifically geared to our members. There is still time to register and send in advance those questions that you would like to have addressed during the workshop. See details in the LIBRARY INSERT. We will record

the session for those who are unable to attend and we plan to offer this workshop again in the future.

Stay well,
Mariel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

One Summer Session in 2021

On the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, the Board approved the plan for a single summer session in 2021, with the option to add a second session if needed. Last summer, because members were mostly house-bound because of Covid-19, we offered two summer sessions. With many of our members being vaccinated and more likely to venture away from home this summer, the need for two summer sessions has decreased. Following the usual schedule, the summer session will run for 6 weeks, beginning after Memorial Day.

New LP² Member Handbook

For easy reference, the handbook pulls together important program and operation information, contact information, more about the Graduate Center and other resources. It can be found [here](#) on the Zine.

Member Connect

A new initiative by the Advisory Board, to develop closer connections between members and the Board and increase the transparency of Board activities, was announced at the General Membership Meeting. Each Board member will have a group of 18-20 “constituents” who will meet in at least one town hall each semester for suggestions, questions and information sharing about LP². Members are also encouraged to contact their Board member “representative” if they have specific questions or concerns about LP².

The 12 elected Board members plus Chair emeritus, Harold Berkowitz, and the 3 committee-chair members of the Advisory Board: Barry Cooper, Admissions; Jonathan Gaines, Curriculum and Doris Wallace, Diversity, will be implementing this outreach initiative. Members will receive an e-mail from their assigned Board member within the next few weeks. Town halls are planned to take place before Spring Break.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At the General Membership Meeting on February 19, Doris Wallace, Chair of the Diversity Committee presented the Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion below. A primary purpose is to address the use of language in study groups, and, in fact, in all LP² venues. The importance of the Commitment was reaffirmed by Barbara Marwell, on behalf of the Advisory Board, and by Director Mariel Villeré.

LP² A Lifelong Peer Learning Program Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

LP² is a multicultural secular organization whose membership is dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning and fellowship. In our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, we agree to respect the rights and sensibilities of all members.

LP²'s goal is to expand diversity, which includes gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, politics, culture, socio-economic status and disability.

We have adopted this Commitment to ensure these goals. We seek a community and culture that is respectful, open, curious and thoughtful. We challenge ourselves to continue learning within a supportive and dynamic environment.

- We will confront overt and implied bias, exclusion and prejudice if and when they occur.
- We treat all members respectfully and acknowledge their equal rights and intellect.
- We avoid stereotyping and coded language.

- While we may study past or present usage, we do not use derogatory terms or slurs to describe or refer to any group or person.
- We respect our membership's diversity and avoid comments that presume all members share the same religion or culture.

As members of LP², we agree to support and practice these principles.

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](#).

Helpful Pandemic Reading

- It's Not Just You. A Lot of Us Are Hitting A Pandemic Wall Right Now. By Julia Ries, Huff Post: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/coronavirus-pandemic-wall-mental-health_I_601b3c9dc5b6c0af54d09ccb
- A Dismal Spring Awaits Unless We Slow the Spread of Covid-19. By Ezekiel J. Emanuel, Rick Bright and Céline Gounder, NYTimes: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/17/opinion/covid-19-precautions.html>

Curriculum Committee Call for Study Groups

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.

We are 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 at jgaines@gc.cuny.edu.

Curriculum Committee Study Group Workshops

How's it Going?

Current coordinators are invited to discuss **HOW IT'S GOING** with your present Study Group--what's working and what...not so much. The date is **March 3, 4-5:00PM**. Come and share insights and techniques with your colleagues. These meetings have proven very helpful!

RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu.
A zoom invitation will be sent on the day of the workshop.

Need Some Help Completing Your Study Group Proposal?

The Curriculum Committee will offer a workshop on **COMPLETING A PROPOSAL**.

The date is **Mon, March 8 4-5:15PM**.

If you are thinking about submitting a study group proposal for next semester or for the future, join us to learn more about:

- Developing a successful proposal
- Finding appropriate resources on your topic
- Organizing a working syllabus
- Completing the Proposal Form

Experienced coordinators will be there to answer your questions and to share their techniques for developing a proposal, We encourage those of you who are at a later stage of proposal development to attend one of these workshops. RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu. A zoom invitation will be sent on the days of the workshops

...and don't forget about:

Thinking About Coordinating a Study Group but Want Assistance?

- When – **Monday, Feb 22 from 4-5:15PM**
- RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu. Zoom invitations will be sent the days of the workshops.

LP² and the GC-CUNY Library (up close and virtual)

With the simultaneous arrival at the CUNY Graduate Center of LP² and Covid-19, members attempting to do research were hit by a “double whammy.” Our usual sources sometimes seeming unavailable, most of us made do with what we had.

The Library Insert in this issue of The Observer consolidates all the resources available to us, on- and off-line, including the Curriculum Committee's first Library Resources Workshop, specialized workshops offered by The Grad Center Mina Rees Library and NYPL resources available to us as CUNY Grad Center affiliates, which we are by virtue of our LP² membership

Whether or not you're planning to do research anytime soon, you can clip and save the Insert as a place to start when you're ready to begin.

LIBRARY INSERT

Library Resources (in our virtual world): The Workshop

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.

NYPL Services for Graduate Center Affiliates* Spring 2021

[Apply for a Digital NYPL Library Card](#)

Online You'll need a library card to access NYPL's e- resources and remote services. If you don't already have one, you may apply for a digital library card by filling out this [online form](#).

[Remote Access to Collections and Services](#)

A handy list of resources and services available at NYPL. Connect to subscription databases that complement and augment the Graduate Center's resources, find academic e-books, borrow and download popular e-books and e-audiobooks, access NYPL's vast digitized collections and archives portal, find graduate test preparation materials, and browse research guides.

[Virtual Research Consultations](#)

Book a virtual consultation with a librarian from one of the following research centers while the physical spaces are closed:

- *[Stephen A. Schwarzman Building](#)
- *[Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#)
- *[The NYPL for the Performing Arts](#)
- *[Business Center at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library](#)

[Research Books by Mail](#)

A service being offered during the closure of the research libraries' physical spaces that provides select items by mail to eligible borrowers. Use your GC email address to [request items](#).

[How to Access NYPL's Digital Resources](#)

24/7 Manage your online account, access e-books and e-audiobooks, search digital collections, access magazines and newspapers, stream music, learn a new language, take online courses, and explore career resources. Link to community support resources and remote learning resources for kids, teens, and educators. Also available [en español](#).

[Special Collections Scan & Deliver](#)

Researchers may request scans of up to 25 pages from NYPL's manuscript, archive, prints and photograph collections for delivery in 6-8 weeks.

Use the Graduate Center's [Interlibrary Loan Services](#) to request non-special collections materials from NYPL or any other library.

[Grab-and-Go Service for Circulating Books](#)

A socially distanced checkout service that allows patrons to pick up and return requested items at selected NYPL branches.

[Research at NYPL Email Updates](#)

Subscribe to receive information about NYPL's research collections, services, and programs via email.

[FAQs on Reopening Physical Locations at NYPL](#) Up-to-date information on NYPL's available services and gradual reopening.

[Ask NYPL](#)

NYPL's virtual reference and support desk may be reached by email, chat, or phone. You may also reach out to ref@gc.cuny.edu or via [live chat](#) to consult a GC Librarian anytime.

NOTE:

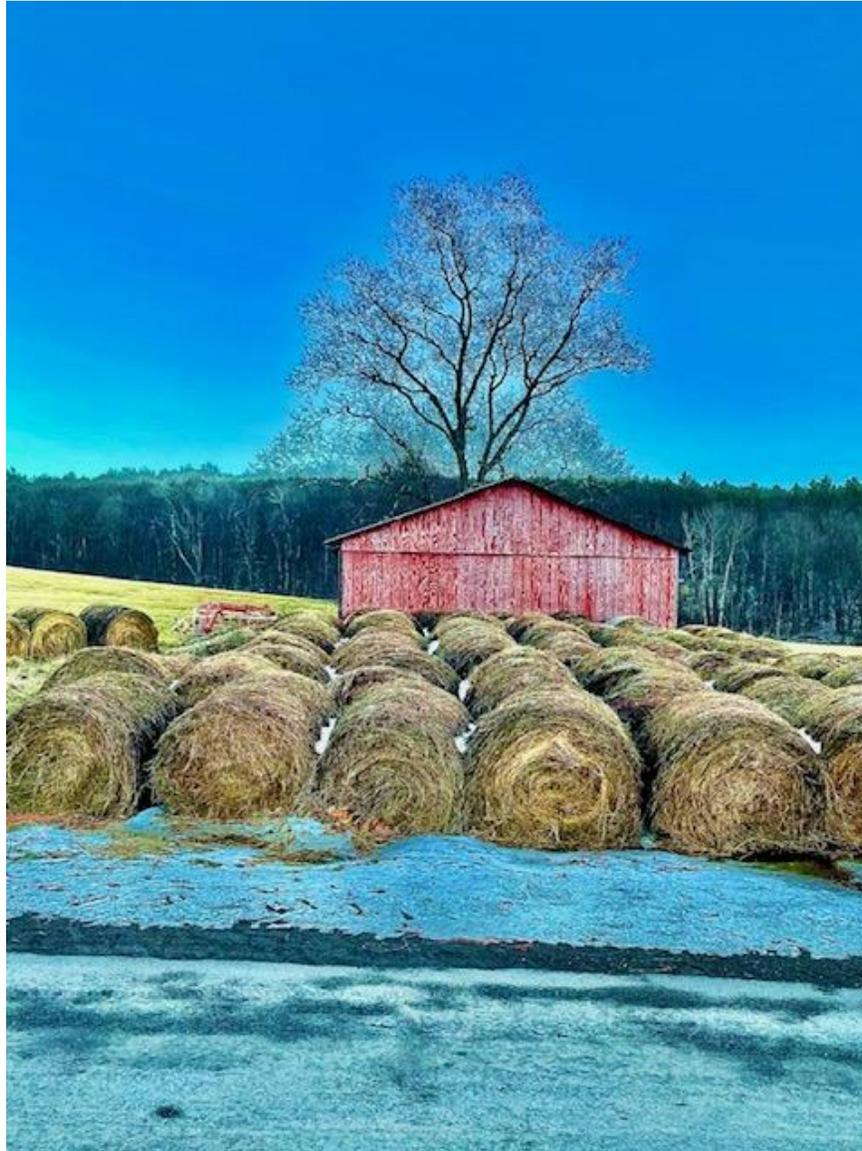
LP² member Richard Resnik, after consulting a NYPL librarian, has this tip for accessing JSTOR via NYPL: When logging in with your NYPL account barcode to [the JSTOR database](#), **do not include the spaces that are printed on your NYPL card.**

At the bottom of [this page](#), you will find additional access points to the listed **Newspaper Databases** and on the right bottom of that page: "[New Directions for Adult & Continuing Education](#)".

Online Art Show

From: Nancy Small

Title: Hudson Valley Thanksgiving



Nancy says: I shivered in the cold, damp air. Still, I had to stop and admire the simple beauty created by an unknown farmer in silent partnership with nature. Behind the tree, a barely visible white cloud created a backdrop that was only noticed when I saw the photo.

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

Nancy Small offers us a weekly series:

A video view of the New York art scene

[VIDEO - Goya, Crazy Like a Genius](#)

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's newly opened exhibit, *Goya's Graphic Imagination*, features more than 100 aquatint prints, drawings and etchings by one of the greatest of all Spanish artists, Francisco Goya (1746-1828). Among the works included in the exhibit are works from the "Disasters of War," which is considered to be the greatest series of anti-war art ever made. Also on display are etchings and drawings from *Los Caprichos* (The Caprices), a group of satirical and fantasy prints and etchings, that condemn the folly and foolishness notorious in the Spanish society of Goya's day. The exhibit is open until May 2.

For an in-depth look at Goya's life, and the full range of his art, [here](#) is a link to the video, *Goya, Crazy Like a Genius*, featuring the renowned art critic, Robert Hughes (1938-2012). In 2003, when his book, *Goya*, was published, New York Times reviewer, Michiko Kakutani described it as "dazzling" saying that it "jolts the reader into a visceral appreciation of Goya's art." Based on the book's success, the BBC commissioned Hughes to produce this video.

Carol Sterling says: I am pleased to announce that on Thursday, February 25 at 6:30PM, I will be participating in a 60-minute Elton John- and *Lion King*-themed musical retelling of the story of the Jewish holiday of Purim. This is the 15th year I have been in the show; alas, this year we're doing it virtually. It will be streamed [here](#) and on the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Facebook and YouTube pages. It will be available for viewing for a year! To see a preview that spotlights some highlights, click [here](#). Enjoy!

Jack Zevin announces publication of his new book, *Suspicious History: Questioning the Bases of Historical Evidence*. It will be released by the publisher, Rowman and Littlefield, this March or April. The book provides teachers and students of history and social sciences with ideas for critical thinking about documentation, images and historical writing.

Ongoing LP² Events

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 26 at 3 PM and in the future as warranted. To attend or submit a question in advance, contact Steve Kalinsky at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu.

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

Music from Copland House features Graduate Center professor and composer John Musto, UNDERSCORED: Musto Cello & Piano Sonata. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom details.
Monday, February 22 concert and discussion, from 1-2PM.

CITY OF SCIENCE, Truth and Lies: Covering COVID-19

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 PM. [Register here.](#)

Oppression and Resistance in America's World War II Concentration Camps, Gary Y. Okihiro
February 24th, 2021, 12PM to 1:30PM. [Register here.](#)

Black Language and Music with Tara Betts, Sequoia Maner, and Tony Bolden
Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00PM. [Register here..](#)

The Last Poets: Abiodun Oyewole, Umar bin Hassan, and Felipe Luciano
Monday, February 22nd, 7:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Reading & Conversation, Tyechimba Jess
February 23rd, 7:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Haunting Refrains: Sampling Practice in Black Poetry and Music with Harmony Holiday and Hanif Abdurraqib
Wednesday, February 24th, 6:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Black Cuir Revolutions: Reflections on Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, and the Bronx (part of the Audre Lorde "Great Read" at Lehman College)
Thursday, February 24th, 4:00PM. [Register here.](#)

Poems as Songs that 'Send' Us: 'Black Language & Music' in Kevin Young's *African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song*
Friday, February 26th, 7:30PM. [Register here.](#)

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>

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.

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

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

Lincoln Center at Home offers over 300 free events that span music, dance and theater. To explore, click

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.