



LP<sup>2</sup> A Lifelong Peer Learning Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY

**THE OBSERVER**  
**February 8, 2021**

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear members,

Hope you enjoyed and/or endured the snowstorm, even from the comfort of home. It was great to see you last week whether you dropped in for Director's Office Hours or were kind enough to welcome me to sit in on the Unfortunately Necessary Documentaries study group, or at Advisory Board or Curriculum Committee meetings.

I'm glad to see and hear new activities percolating, from preliminary planning for science activities to the COVID updates forum. Brian Peterson and I are pleased to have LP<sup>2</sup> members Harold Berkowitz, Advisory Board Chair Emeritus, as well as Barry Levine, M.D., as part of the Graduate Center COVID Reactivation Committee, which continues its work this semester. This committee is made up of about 50 staff, faculty, and student representatives from across the Graduate Center who meet monthly to share information about their particular segment of the GC community and give feedback to guide amendments to the plan and the return to in-person activities on campus.

I look forward to seeing you at the General Membership Meeting on February 19. Thank you to those who have already registered. We are sharing a new link below to make it easier to register and submit questions in advance through a Google Form. If you have already registered using the previous Eventbrite link, thank you! and not to worry. You do not need to register again – you, and your questions, are on the list!

As a reminder, and as posted on the Zine calendar (<https://www.irpzine.org/irp-calendar/>), we honor the holidays on Friday, February 12 and Monday, February 15. Study groups will not meet; enjoy the long weekend!

See you soon,

Marisel

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

### **General Membership Meeting**

Have you marked your calendar yet? Our spring General Membership Meeting will be on Friday, February 19, at 2 PM. To register, [click here](#).

### **Add/Drop Until February 19**

The current Add/Drop period is running through **Friday, February 19** at 5PM. Submissions are processed on a “first come, first served” basis. 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, and you can refer to the [Study Group Grid](#) with linked syllabi. Direct any questions to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu).

### **If You’re Going to Miss Class**

Please notify your study group coordinator ahead of time if you know you’ll be absent so that your coordinator doesn’t delay the start of class waiting (in vain) for your arrival. (And these days, unexplained absences can make your fellow members anxious about your health and welfare!)

### **Fridays@3**

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

Dr. Gretchen Sullivan Sorin is Director and Distinguished Professor of the Cooperstown Graduate Program at SUNY Oneonta. She has more than thirty years’ experience as a museum consultant.

Dr. Sorin is the author of ***Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights***. This acclaimed historian describes how the automobile fundamentally changed African American life. Through much of our country’s history, mobility has been limited for African Americans: first, by slavery; then, in the 20th Century, by the racism of some whites who denied their black countrymen the right to travel freely on trains and buses.

*Driving While Black* reveals how the car—the ultimate symbol of independence and possibility—allowed black families to evade the many dangers presented by an entrenched racist society but also exposed them to discrimination and deadly violence, and how that history resonates today. Interweaving stories of her own family history, Gretchen Sorin opens up an entirely new view onto one of the most important issues of our time. Dr. Sorin will discuss her book and show clips of the 2020 documentary ***Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America***. This documentary, written and directed by Dr. Sorin and film maker **Ric Burns**, premiered in the Glimmerglass Filmdays Festival.

(This movie may be streamed for free through this link:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/driving-while-black-race-space-and-mobility-in-america-achvfr/> It is also available on PBS On Demand on a Smart TV, Roku, Google Stick, etc.)

Dr. Sorin's other books include *Touring Historic Harlem, Four Walks in Northern Manhattan* with architectural historian Andrew Dolkart, *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art* and *Case Studies in Cultural Entrepreneurship: How to Create Relevant and Sustainable Institutions*.

**...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?"

## **Offerings of Interest during Black History Month**

### Theater and Television

February is Black History Month, and theater lovers can celebrate even in quarantine. An internet connection and a click of the mouse lets us experience the work of African-American playwrights, directors and actors while staying safe at home.

Start with August Wilson, among the greatest playwrights of the 20<sup>th</sup> century according to LP<sup>2</sup> member Dolores Walker, who gave a study group

on Black playwrights in 2017. Netflix's version of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* won raves for Chadwick Boseman's performance as an edgy young trumpeter, while *Fences*, available on Amazon, stars Denzel Washington and Viola Davis in the roles that won them both Oscar nominations and Davis an Academy Award.

Don't miss *One Night in Miami*, now streaming on Amazon. It's a fictional account of a night in 1964 when four young friends--Cassius Clay, Malcolm X, Jim Brown and Sam Cook (played by Leslie Odom Jr. of *Hamilton*)—hung out in a motel room and talked about their roles as young Black men. Some LP<sup>2</sup> members may recall that, soon afterwards, Cassius Clay became Mohammed Ali and refused to be drafted for Vietnam.

Members of Bruce Smith's Theater SIG have enrolled in theatrical streaming services such as Broadway HD and Digital Theatre, which show videos of live productions. This semester SIG members will be watching *Hamlet* with an all-Black cast as well as *Pass Over*, which Smith says is about Black life on the street "in a sort of 'Waiting for Godot' take-off." Broadway HD has a section devoted to Black History Month, said Smith, featuring *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* with Audra MacDonald, *Porgy and Bess*, and *Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Lady*.

Don't forget the always timely PBS. This month Channels 13 and 21 will re-air shows on theater people like Maya Angelou and Lorraine Hansberry as well as the documentaries *The Black Church: This is Our Song*, hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, and *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America* (see Fridays@3 for February 26, above). This last is also available on Prime Video. Masterpiece is currently running "The Long Song" a fascinating account of the end of slavery in Jamaica. Those who missed the first episode can catch up on the PBS site, [thirteen.org](http://thirteen.org) [[thirteen.org](http://thirteen.org)].

Maybe it's not as good as being in a real audience with real actors, but for theater buffs it's good enough.

*Irene Sax*

## Dance

### Alvin Ailey: *Revelations* and Other Works

Six decades after its premiere, Alvin Ailey's choreographic masterpiece, *Revelations*, shines more brightly than ever. The soulful piece draws on African-American spirituals, gospel songs, and holy blues and pays homage to African-American cultural heritage, which Ailey considered one of America's richest treasures—"sometimes sorrowful, sometimes jubilant, but always hopeful."

To watch *Revelations* and other performances and talks highlighting Black History Month that Lincoln Center at Home is streaming, click [here](#).

City Center: Dance performances in honor of Black History Month: [https://www.nycitycenter.org/pdps/2020-2021/black-history-month/?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=FY21BlackHistoryMonth&utm\\_term=IntroEmail&utm\\_content=v](https://www.nycitycenter.org/pdps/2020-2021/black-history-month/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FY21BlackHistoryMonth&utm_term=IntroEmail&utm_content=v)

### **Curriculum Committee Call for Study Groups**

*The Spring semester got off to a rousing start with 309 members registered for a total of over 800 individual enrollments — an average of 2.5 per registered member. 61 members are coordinating or co-coordinating. This level of commitment is the strength of LP<sup>2</sup>.*

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](mailto:jgaines@gc.cuny.edu).

The strength of LP<sup>2</sup> and its curriculum depend upon members coordinating study groups. Thanks to the many members who regularly coordinate and to our many first-time coordinators, we've been able to regularly offer 34-36 study groups during the fall and spring terms, as well as a selection of study groups during a summer term. Each term, though, is a separate challenge, which is why we are also reaching out here as well as in our virtual study groups. If you are interested in coordinating and have an idea

for a study group, please let us know by contacting Jonathan Gaines at [jgaines@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jgaines@gc.cuny.edu).

We urge members who don't have experience coordinating or who want help developing a study group idea or writing a proposal to look for the Curriculum Committee's announcements for its *Let's Get Started* and *Developing a Proposal* workshops. (See below)

### **THINKING ABOUT COORDINATING A STUDY GROUP BUT WANT ASSISTANCE?**

- Bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee's **LET'S GET STARTED** Workshop
- The dates are **Monday Feb 22 or Wednesday Feb 24 from 4-5:15PM**
- Whether you have just the germ of an idea or one that is almost fully developed, this workshop is for you.
- We will work together to support the development of your ideas, suggest resources, help you to find a co-coordinator (if you want one) and answer your questions about the Study Group proposal process.

RSVP to Linda Anstendig at [lanstendig@gmail.com](mailto:lanstendig@gmail.com)

A zoom invitation will be sent the days of the workshops.

#### **...and save these dates:**

- March 3, 4-5PM – How's It Going? (for current coordinators)
- March 8, March 10, 4-5:15PM – Need Some Help Completing Your Study Group Proposal?
- April 21, 4-5:15PM – Want to Learn Strategies for Enhancing Your Study Group Discussion?

#### **HELP WANTED FOR NEW LP<sup>2</sup> WEBSITE !**

We are looking for members with experience in WEB DESIGN to help us develop the website that will house a new, more user-friendly LP<sup>2</sup> Zine. Familiarity with the Wordpress platform is a plus. If you would like to help, contact Denise Waxman at [dwxman1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dwxman1@gc.cuny.edu).

## **LIBRARY RESOURCES**

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:

- What information is available to access remotely
- How to access the information from NYPL and CUNY Open Access
- How to enhance your search tool skills and troubleshoot
- What is E-Book Detective Service?
- Please RSVP to Linda Anstendig at [lanstendig@gmail.com](mailto:lanstendig@gmail.com) by February 22. You will receive a Zoom invitation on February 23. If you have questions for Mason that you would like addressed, please submit them in advance to Judith Siegel at [jsiegel1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jsiegel1@gc.cuny.edu).

### **Other Sources for Research**

In addition to the library workshop designed for LP<sup>2</sup> members, the Graduate Center Mina Rees Library has several other specialized workshops open for registration: <https://library.gc.cuny.edu/events/>

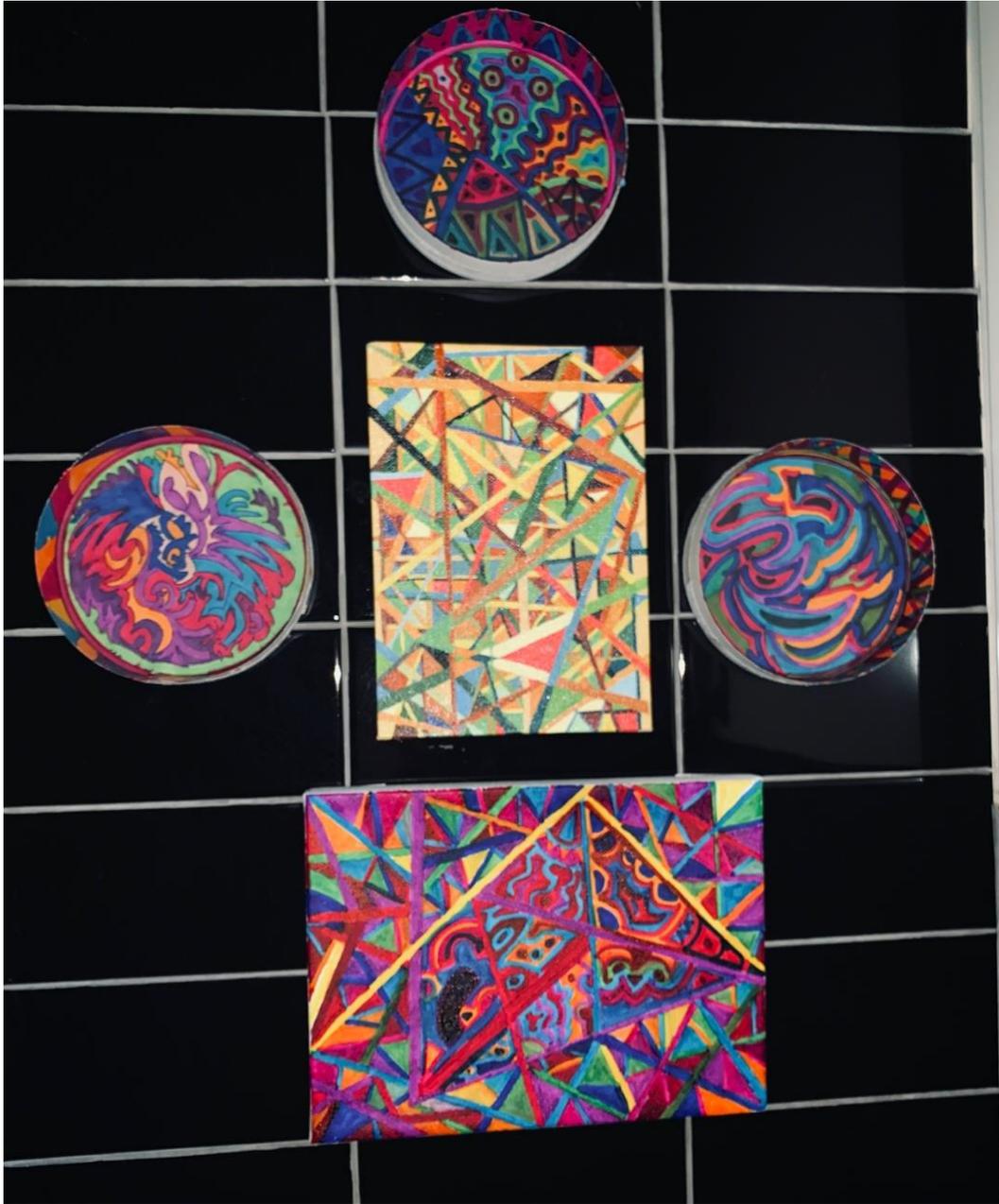
### **And don't forget the Zine.**

Check out the new tab on the Zine, **Library Resources**, for information about databases available from the GC Open Access and Open Education Resources and also from the New York Public Library and other libraries

## Online Art Show

From: Susan Rubens

Title: Corona Art



Susan says:

The pandemic has inspired me to explore new and different ways of expressing myself.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers,  
Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact  
carolmillsom35@gmail.com 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.

## All Things Covid

Barry Levine will continue updating the LP<sup>2</sup> community weekly on the latest news on the virus, the vaccines and related topics. Barry and his wife, Shirley, are retired physicians and have been keeping close tabs on the Covid situation. Each session includes an opportunity to ask Barry specific questions in a forum moderated by Steve Kalinsky.

All sessions will be conducted via Zoom. If you would like to attend or submit a question in advance, please contact Steve at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. Sessions will be held on February 12 and 26 at 3 PM and on February 19 at 3:30 PM following the General Membership Meeting. Sessions will continue thereafter as warranted.

## TECH NOTES

### E-mail, Zine, Personal Computers

For email, woes, please direct all IT inquiries to engagement@gc.cuny.edu. Note that the OIT (Office of Information Technology) at The Graduate Center does not provide assistance with personal computers or mobile devices. If you need assistance with a personal computer, **check the Zine**

**Tech Help** tab, contact your PC manufacturer or your software vendor. For the Zine ([www.irpzine.org](http://www.irpzine.org)), the user ID for access to protected areas (Members, Faces, and Calendar) is LPsquared; the password is Fall2020.

## **So, You Want to Type LP<sup>2</sup>?**

Some of you asked how to type LP<sup>2</sup>. Here are quick and easy “hacks.”  
**In Word**, look [here](#) on page 7 of the Observer.

**For GC email**, look to last symbol on the task bar (a double inverted chevron or a petty officer's second- class stripes) and click. Among the dropdown symbols there's the exponent symbol.

### On your iPhone

Go to **Settings**. Click on **General**. Then choose **Keyboard**.  
Click on **Text Replacement**. When you touch **+Phrase, Shortcut** will appear. Enter LP<sup>2</sup> (copied from this TECH NOTE) in **Phrase**. Enter LP in **Shortcut**.

Voilà! Whenever you type LP, your phone will give you the choice of LP or LP<sup>2</sup>.

## **MEMBER FORUM**

### **Philip Roth Event: February 8 Tonight**

**Julian Wolpert** has forwarded this announcement of this event being presented by HUNTER @ HOME tonight at 6PM. Steven Zipperstein will discuss with Leah Garret the life of Philip Roth and Zipperstein's journey on beginning Roth's biography.

Based on extensive archival research, interviews with close friends and others and conversations with Roth himself over several years. Followed by live Q&A.

To RSVP, click here: <https://community.hunter.cuny.edu/hunterhome-steven-zipperstein-reg-form-?srctid=1&erid=13811518&trid=76e9d46c-c877-4047-86e2-ca54c156a900>

## From John Becker: After the Storm



## NEW MEMBERS

With the continuing pandemic, our new members are losing out on opportunities to meet the membership in person. To offset this handicap, we invited our new members to submit a statement of their interests, background and hopes in joining LP<sup>2</sup>. It is our hope that members will reach out to these newcomers either to introduce themselves or to connect on topics of common interests.



**Myron (Mike) Blumenfeld**  
mike@myroniblumefeld.com  
917-873-1421

I joined LP<sup>2</sup> because I recently lost my wife of 36 years and am looking for ways to meet interesting people and

to continue my lifelong quest to keep learning and to keep stimulated. I learned of it from a friend (Carol Sterling) who is already a member. I was intrigued by the peer-to-peer learning aspect of LP<sup>2</sup> because I chair a Not-For-Profit organization, Workshop in Business Opportunities ([wibo.org](http://wibo.org)), which uses this same format with great success.

I spent 28 years of my life working for other people; first as a Vice President of 3 different retail chains and then as a Retail Consultant for what is now Ernst & Young. I started my own consulting business in 1981, shortly after my first wife was diagnosed with cancer, and continue practicing to this day. I started as a specialist in retail consulting but after spending 8 months away from home over a 2-year period with the largest retailer in Indonesia, I changed my business from Global Retail Consulting to Entrepreneurial Consulting in Metro NY. I started volunteering my professional services to Not-For-Profit (NFP) organizations in 1984 and to NYU in the 1993. The NFP work gives me a chance to help people in underserved communities of New York to gain access to the knowledge, networks and capital they need but find it very hard to obtain. My work with NYU puts me together with much larger scale businesses (e.g., Pinterest came out of our program). My 20+ years with NYU have earned me the title of Entrepreneur in Residence there and the Workshop in Business Opportunities is expanding our program to other cities around the US.

I used to be an avid Tennis Bum but had to give it up 4 years ago after shoulder surgery. I like to take walks along the East River and around the city when the weather permits. I love the music of the 30's, 40's and 50's. I try to keep up with current events and love meeting people and sharing experiences. I love to travel and have visited a fair number of countries over the years but there are still more I'd love to see. I'm primarily interested in people rather than places so will spend what time I have left visiting people I know and love around the world. I love animals, particularly dogs and have experienced the love of several of them over the years. I live on the upper east side of NY. I've been blessed with the love of two wonderful women. I have two sons, a stepson and stepdaughter, 3 daughters-in-law, 6 grandsons and a granddaughter in our combined family. They are my greatest legacy.



**Sara Lishinsky**

saratruly@gmail.com

347-413-0170

After graduating from college, I spent the summer traveling around Europe with a friend and visited Mallorca, where I had lived as a child with my family for 2 years. My father was a WPA artist who had turned to more expressive painting and took the two years off so he might dedicate himself exclusively to his art. Spain offered inexpensive living and Mallorca had an artist's community. As a recent college grad, I stayed in the Hotel California, right across the street from where we had lived in Mallorca 15 years earlier. There I met my future husband, a medical student studying in Granada.

We married the next year and I moved to Spain. He was doing a residency in Psychiatry and after having 2 children, I began studying Psychology. When I graduated, I worked in the Psychiatric Pavilion of Clinical Hospital of the University of Granada and specialized in projective test techniques (Rorschach and the like). I also taught this to the resident psychiatrists. While in Spain, I was also doing translations and acting as an interpreter for various professional entities.

When I returned to NY, now with 3 children, I began working as a Spanish teacher in a high school in Brooklyn. I also went back to school for a Masters in Spanish Literature. I taught this and Advanced Spanish Language to the Advanced Placement students, and Native Language Arts, to our native speakers. I continued doing translations and interpreting throughout the years. I had a very happy experience as a teacher, and it afforded me the ability to be home with my children when they were out of school. I returned to Spain with them at least twice a year. They are now grown, all are married, all are in New York (for the moment) and I have one grandchild.

On the side, I spent time drawing and painting and dancing. I have danced all my life- first ballet, then jazz and now, swing and zydeco. In painting, I have developed into a portrait artist.

Upon retirement, I moved to Manhattan (Lower East Side) and became a docent in The Morgan Library and Museum. It was such a natural path to follow after so many years of teaching. I think that LP<sup>2</sup> offers something similar to the museum: learning, researching, imparting information and socializing with colleagues-- just my cup of tea.

I look forward to getting to know many of you in the coming months.

## CUNY EVENTS

The next virtual program with Music from Copland House features Graduate Center professor and composer John Musto, **UNDERScoreD: Musto Cello & Piano Sonata**. [Register here](#) to receive the Zoom details and reminders via email for the Monday, February 22 concert and discussion, from 1-2PM.

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 range of concerts, lectures and masterclasses. Free.

<https://www.chambermusicsociety.org/watch-and-listen/>

## Ongoing 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. Email Arlyne LeSchack at [aleschack@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aleschack@gc.cuny.edu).

**The Men's Group** meets at 3:30PM on Wednesdays. Email Jay Fleishman at [efleishman@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:efleishman@gc.cuny.edu).

### **OBSERVER SUBMISSIONS**

Send items for the next week's Observer to Susan Rauch at [srauch@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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](mailto:cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu).

**Note:** If you have something to share with the LP<sup>2</sup> 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 ([srauch@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:srauch@gc.cuny.edu)) for inclusion in the Member Forum.

