

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

**THE OBSERVER**  
**March 15, 2021**

### **NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Hello LP<sup>2</sup>,

Happy Daylight Savings Time! I hope you enjoyed the beautiful weekend and are feeling optimistic about Spring as the evenings elongate.

I have Director's Office Hours on Tuesday at 11AM (tomorrow). Please drop in for a hello! The Zoom link is immediately below this Note.

Our next Fridays@3 program is coming up next week on March 26. Please register for Baba Brinkman's performance and talk using the link immediately following this Note. It is certain to be memorable as he will perform science talks and also improvise with your input and prompts.

Spring Break is the following week: Monday, March 29 through Sunday, April 4 and no study groups will meet. On Wednesday that week, we will have the first LP<sup>2</sup> Science talk by Dr. William Harcourt-Smith. If you haven't registered, the link is included under Reminders, p.3 of this issue.

Now up on the Zine is a consolidated LP<sup>2</sup> Library Resource Guide: <https://www.irpzine.org/sample-page/library-resources/>, including the recorded video of the recent workshop with librarian Mason Brown. I hope this guide is helpful for your research and preparation for coordinating study groups. Please continue to work on your study group proposals and submit them by the deadline (for Summer session, by April 7; for Fall session, by April 15).

Take good care and stay vigilant.

Yours,  
Mariel

**Director's Office Hours:**

<https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/j/87450295130?pwd=Q3FMMUlqeWQzYVFUU1hhMmQzaWdpZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5029 5130

Passcode: 383634

**Register for Fridays@3, Baba Brinkman on March 26:** [https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_XoP7J\\_vJR-ureK6swjxP4Q](https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XoP7J_vJR-ureK6swjxP4Q)

**Our office contact information:**

[engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)

212-817-2474

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

**Closed Captions Available on Zoom**

Are you having trouble hearing on Zoom? LP<sup>2</sup> coordinators may now enable closed captions so you can follow the discussion.

Look for "Live Transcript" in your Zoom control bar. If you don't see it, it might be under "More..." at the right end of the control bar. If it's not there, ask the coordinator to enable closed captions.

To turn closed captions on:

- Click on "Live Transcript"
- Click on "Show Subtitle"

To turn closed captions off:

- Click on "Live Transcript"
- Click on "Hide Subtitle"

N.B. iPad users only: The last captions may remain on your screen after turning off closed captions, so don't select "Show Subtitles" if you don't want them.

**Photographer Alert!**

The New LP<sup>2</sup> Website Needs Your Pics!

The Website Committee is seeking good-quality photos for the new LP<sup>2</sup> and IER websites.

We are looking for People Pics involving LP<sup>2</sup> activities:

- Coordinators and members in Study Groups
- Casual Member Groups
- Speakers and Audiences at General Membership Meetings, Fridays at One, *etc.*
- First Deskers at the ready
- Committee Meetings
- Member Art on Display
- Members engaged in Art, Travel, Photography, Theatre SIG activities

What do we mean by good quality? Well lit, focused, and reasonably high resolution. Photo credits will be provided for each photo, if you wish. A link to the photographer's website may be possible.

Please e-mail Denise Waxman at [dwaxman1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:dwaxman1@gc.cuny.edu) for more info and to get a link to upload your photos to a shared drive online.

## REMINDERS

The next Fridays@3, to be held Friday, March 26, at 3PM, features Rap Artist Baba Brinkman: Rap Guide to Climate Change. (For the full description, see the March 8, 2021 Observer.) To register, click [here](#).

*This Biped of Broadway: How We Came to Walk on Two Legs and Why It Matters*

Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 2 PM (ET)

Professor William Harcourt-Smith, PhD, Department of Anthropology, Lehman College (For the full description, see the March 1, 2021 Observer.)

To receive Zoom meeting details, please register here: <https://forms.gle/BE5M86tkoQBtt9Qz6>

## ONLINE ART SHOW

**From:** Michael Shapiro

**Title:** Tide Out -- Moon Rising on Long Island Sound



Michael says: I took the photograph while on my daily walk along the seashore in Westbrook, CT. The sun was setting, and the moon was rising.

Attention Water Colorists, Sculptors, Block Printers, Photographers, Painters, Collagists and Needleworkers! Contact [cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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**

### Older is Happier

Michael Hill writes: This article in the New York Times is of particular interest to LP<sup>2</sup> members given the generally positive attitudes found in our spring and fall 2020 surveys.

### *Why Older People Managed to Stay Happier Through the Pandemic*

New surveys over the last year show that the ability to cope improves with age.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/12/health/covid-pandemic-happiness-age.html?smid=em-share> [nytimes.com]

### Could LP<sup>2</sup> Friendships Have Something to Do with That?

Barbara Marwell has sent this link to a review of a book on friendships, which are important contributors to mental and physical health. Staying in touch with friends, during this period of COVID has been particularly challenging.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/feb/21/friends-by-robin-dunbar-review-how-important-are-your-pals>

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Nancy Small continues her series:  
[A video view of the New York art scene](#)

## NIKI DE SAINT PHALLE - THE STORY OF A FREE WOMAN

<https://youtu.be/tZnQijyAsgU>

**Niki de Saint Phalle (1930–2002)**, was born into one of the oldest families in France. They were wealthy, aristocratic, strict Catholics and had connections to Joan of Arc. Saint Phalle was one of a very few female artists, of her time, noted for creating monumental sculptures. She was also devoted to addressing social issues, including racial equality, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's rights. Her interdisciplinary approach included assemblage, performance art, architectural projects, sculpture gardens, books, prints, films, theater sets, clothing and jewelry. The income from her wildly popular perfume, in a visually stunning bottle, was used to support her greatest art project, Tarot Garden.

When she arrived in New York from Paris, Saint Phalle attended the Convent School of the Sacred Heart, and then the Brearley School, where she met the granddaughter of Pierre Matisse, who became her life-long friend. Although she was expelled for painting fig leaves on school statues, she later wrote about Brearley, "It was there that I became a feminist. They inculcated in us that women can and must accomplish great things."

In some ways, her life seemed to be charmed: she modeled for Vogue, and at 19 married the novelist, Harry Matthews, had her first child at 21, her second soon after... but then, at 23 she had a nervous breakdown. In her autobiography, *Mon Secret*, published when she was in her 60s, Saint Phalle disclosed that her father sexually abused her from the time that she was 11 years old, and that both of her siblings committed suicide.

Although she never attended art school, she was always inspired by and created art. After visiting Antonio Gaudi's (1852-1926), Parc Guell in Barcelona, she imagined building her own outdoor public art museum. With land donated by the Agnelli family, and years of planning and construction, Tarot Garden, opened in Tuscany in 1998. It is still a popular attraction.

Most of her early art was quite audacious. Then, in her mid-30s she created the *Nanas* — big, joyful, women, in bright colors, emblazoned with bold patterns and symbols. They were full of life, and resembled revved-up sculptures by Lachaise, Maillol or Rodin.

In the video, we follow as Saint Phalle's life and art experience major transformations. At first, we see a woman who seemed to want to destroy the institutions of church and family, but eventually evolved into an artist who created jubilant works for the world to enjoy.

"It is my destiny to make a place where people can come and be happy: a garden of joy." Niki de Saint Phalle

Niki de Saint Phalle: Structures for Life

MoMA PS1, Queens

On view now, until August 1

## **ONGOING LP<sup>2</sup> EVENTS**

NOTE: All Things Covid, hosted by Barry Levine and Steve Kalinsky, will continue, but rather than weekly, sessions will be held every three weeks until the end of the semester (absent a need for an earlier update). The next session will be held on **Friday, March 19** at 3PM.

NOTE: Pour at Four, hosted by Susan Rubens, will be taking a break starting on Friday, March 26th as Susan considers a redesign of The Pour. As more of us receive the vaccine and the warmer weather makes an entrance, Susan is considering an alternative social plan. Getting together outdoors in different neighborhoods is a possible consideration. Details to follow soon.

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

### **TECH HELP: Zine, E-mail and Personal Computers**

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

For e-mail woes, please direct all inquiries to [engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto: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**

Graduate Center Professor Julie Suk delivered a talk on March 5, presented by the CUNY Asian American/ Asian Research Institute, on her new book: [We the Women: The Unstoppable Mothers of the Equal Rights Amendment](#). [Watch the video online!](#)

For New York City History Fans:

**HUNTER**  
The City University of New York



**ROOSEVELT HOUSE**  
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE  
AT HUNTER COLLEGE

**PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR A NEW ONLINE PUBLIC PROGRAM VIA ZOOM**

**Roosevelt House is Pleased to Present**

**THOMAS DYJA**

**In conversation with Professor Joseph P. Viteritti on the new book**

***New York, New York, New York:  
Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation***



**THOMAS DYJA & JOSEPH P. VITERITTI**

**Tuesday, March 23  
Live program begins at 6 PM EDT  
Join via Zoom**

**[Click here to RSVP \[community.hunter.cuny.edu\]](https://community.hunter.cuny.edu)**

**Those who RSVP will receive a reminder to join shortly before  
the program begins.**

**You can order a copy of *New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation* with an autographed bookplate exclusively from Shakespeare & Co. by clicking [here \[community.hunter.cuny.edu\]](http://community.hunter.cuny.edu).**

**All Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC) events are virtual. Please see [individual listings](#) for further details.**

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Ivelin Georgiev,  
Vanderbilt University  
March 17 @ 12:00PM - 1:00PM  
Antibody discovery using LIBRA-seq

Building an Interdisciplinary Science Culture: Beyond Reductionism  
March 19 @ 10:00AM - 11:00AM

Tools of Engagement Workshop: Simple Steps to Becoming a Science Thought Leader

March 19 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This event is part of Communicating Your Science, a series of talks and workshops aimed at helping STEM professionals publish and communicate their research.

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Kresten Lindorff-Larsen,  
Univ of Copenhagen

March 24 @ 12:00PM - 1:00PM

Biophysical experiments and biomolecular simulations: A perfect match?

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

## NON-CUNY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Jewish Ceremonial Art: Continuing the Conversation  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 12PM (noon).

(LP<sup>2</sup> Member Judy Siegel is one of the organizers of this program.)

Jewish ceremonial objects have been studied and collected for nearly 150 years. In the past few decades, however, their importance in understanding social, historic and aesthetic issues in a variety of cultural contexts has begun to increase. This program is dedicated to the memory of Vivian B. Mann, a long-time Judaica curator at The Jewish Museum in New York and head of the graduate program in Jewish Art and Visual Culture at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

### Virtual event via Zoom Webinar

Register: [https://www.fordham.edu/info/24992/jewish\\_studies\\_events](https://www.fordham.edu/info/24992/jewish_studies_events)  
[\[fordham.edu\]](https://www.fordham.edu/info/24992/jewish_studies_events)

**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).

**Member Forum** 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 at [srauch@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:srauch@gc.cuny.edu) for inclusion in the Member Forum.

