



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

**THE OBSERVER**  
**March 8, 2021**

### **NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear all,

Next week we begin “Session II” of the six-week study groups and also mark the midway point of the term. Remember that Spring Break is March 27 to April 4. As we progress through the term, we are all anxious to know about what the next season will bring and when we can be together at The Graduate Center. We plan for Zoom-based study groups for summer session. The Graduate Center is working on plans for the fall with guidance from the University, following the science with the ever-evolving developments. Our team will of course keep you updated as building operations policies develop and have been approved.

In the meantime, I hope you are able to get your vaccines and enjoy (even slightly) more flexibility and integrate some semblance of routine. Spring is nearly here – we can stretch our legs and meet up for socially distanced walks with friends and classmates. And to fill out the days, we still have many programs and events offered online. Based on the expressed interest in the science talk by Professor William Harcourt-Smith, I have included talks at the Advanced Science Research Center in the listings at the end of this issue. We are always open to your feedback and ideas in new program and initiative development. Be in touch!

Yours,  
Mariel

**Our office contact information:**  
**[engagement@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:engagement@gc.cuny.edu)**  
**212-817-2474**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

### MORE ON COVID

#### **Reminder: Vaccine Assistance Project**

Members who wish to schedule Covid 19 vaccination appointments and have had problems...and might need some help:

We have a committee that is ready and willing to help:

- with making appointments
- with paperwork and
- with assisting in arranging transportation.

Contact Steve Kalinsky via e-mail at skalinsky@gc.cuny.edu. and please include your telephone number. A member of the committee will contact you and we will do our darndest to make an appointment.

LP<sup>2</sup> members who have already been vaccinated and wish to help members who are having problems getting vaccine appointments are needed and should also contact Steve.

**Vaccination Reminder:** If you haven't already, take a photo of your vaccination card. It's important documentation and easy to misplace or lose.

Susan Goldman has discovered a site called Turbovax, (<https://www.turbovox.info/>). That lists and allows you to make appointments at all the city- and state-run vaccination sites in the New York City area with openings.

#### **Reminder: Friday, March 26, 3PM**

The next Fridays@3, to be held **Friday, March 26, at 3PM**, features **Rap Artist Baba Brinkman: Rap Guide to Climate Change**, followed by audience-selected improvisation topics. For the full description, see the March 1, 2021 Observer. To register click [here](#).

#### **Reminder: Wednesday March 31, 2021, 2 PM (ET)**

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

Professor William Harcourt-Smith, PhD

Department of Anthropology, Lehman College

Professor Harcourt-Smith is a physical anthropologist whose work on bipedalism (walking on two legs) has been seminal to our understanding of evolutionary branch points that differentiate early humans (hominins) from other primates. Recently, he analyzed a set of fossil footprints in Tanzania estimated to be between 6,000 and 19,000 years old and believed to be made mostly by women and children, suggesting cooperative and sexually divided foraging behavior in early prehistoric humans.

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

### **Curriculum Committee Workshops: Reminders**

#### Completing A Study Group Proposal

The workshop COMPLETING A PROPOSAL, being held **today, 4-5:15PM**, will help you develop a successful proposal, find appropriate resources on your topic, organize a working syllabus and complete the Proposal Form RSVP to Linda Anstendig at [lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu).

A zoom invitation will be sent to you.

#### Library Resources Workshop: Recording and links

The Curriculum Committee's first Library Resources Workshop was led by Mason Brown, GC-CUNY Library's designated liaison with LP<sup>2</sup>. Mason structured the Workshop around easing LP<sup>2</sup>-members' difficulty with accessing Library resources remotely. The full Workshop was recorded for those who missed it or want to review it. **Meeting recording:**

[https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/rec/share/--Hk4y7rsqzT7zPbTd1UIMwG5EUzHFScMwHyOFF5owq\\_jsv-J9tgdzspUuYN6KF9.xFfa5f5KZwwkArs1 \[gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us\]](https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/rec/share/--Hk4y7rsqzT7zPbTd1UIMwG5EUzHFScMwHyOFF5owq_jsv-J9tgdzspUuYN6KF9.xFfa5f5KZwwkArs1 [gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us]) **Passcode: GQV.1#D8**

For the Library Resources Referenced in the Workshop, see the March 1 Observer on the zine.

Library Contact Information  
Mason Brown, MS MLS  
mbrown3@gc.cuny.edu  
Science Research Librarian  
CUNY Grad Center / ASRC / SLU

## Online Art Show

**From: Sara Lishinsky**  
**Title: Geralde's Portrait**



**Sara says:** I promised my friend Geralde that I would paint her portrait working from a photograph. I chose to do this image because I liked the impact caused by the directness of her expression.

**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**

**Nancy Small offers us a weekly series:  
A video view of the New York art scene**

**JOSEPH CORNELL: WORLDS IN A BOX**  
<https://youtu.be/T65K0ipTQHo>

In last week's video, Betye Saar discussed her first visit to an exhibit featuring assemblages and collages created by Joseph Cornell, and how his work inspired her to change the direction of her art.

Joseph Cornell (1904-1972), was born in Nyack, NY and lived a highly cultured upper-middle class life, until at the age of 13, everything changed. The death of his father left the family with limited resources, and his mother was forced to move with the children, Joseph, his two sisters and brother Robert (who had a severe form Cerebral Palsy) to an undistinguished area in Queens. Except for a few unhappy years when he was away at school, Cornell lived in the Utopia Parkway house until he died. Throughout his life, Joseph was devoted to Robert, and much of his art was made to amuse him.

Just as Saar's art was changed when she first saw Cornell's work, his art and life, was forever changed when, in 1931, he visited the Julien Levy Gallery and saw a series of paper collages made by the German surrealist Max Ernst. Cornell had long been a collector of old books, prints and various items of whimsy and fantasy that he found while working as a salesman in Manhattan. Inspired by Ernst's collage, Cornell decided to create his own, and in a few days he returned to the gallery with his first collages. Levy was so impressed, he included Cornell's pieces in the upcoming exhibit. That success gave Cornell entree to some of the great surrealist artists including, Marcel Duchamp.

As his artistic skills developed, Cornell began to create his signature assemblage shadow boxes, and in 1936, his work was included in MoMA's first exhibition of Surrealism with Dali, Duchamp, Picasso and others.

The video, produced by the BBC, and directed by Mark Stokes (who also directed *Revolutions of the Night: The Enigma of Henry Darger*), is kind of love-letter to the artist and features interviews with people who knew Cornell. Tony Curtis, a devotee of his work, reads from the diary that Cornell kept throughout his life. Susan Sontag, who only agreed to visit him in the company of her son, and James Rosenquist who describes visiting with Andy Warhol, Robert Indiana and being served Kool-Aid and cookies by Cornell's suspicious mother.

The last major exhibit of Cornell's work was in 2018 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, but many of his assemblages are on view at MoMA (Gallery 517) and at the Whitney (7th floor).

### **Ongoing LP<sup>2</sup> Events**

**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.

**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 e fleishman@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, 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**

### [Jacqueline Woodson: A Reading and Conversation](#)

Tuesday, March 9, 6:30PM (tomorrow)

[REGISTER ON ZOOM](#)

Join us for an evening with Jacqueline Woodson, award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* (winner of the National Book Award and a Newbery Honor), *Another Brooklyn*, and most recently, the *New York Times* bestseller, *Red at the Bone*. Woodson, a 2020 MacArthur “genius award” winner, will read from *Another Brooklyn* and join in a conversation about her work and life with Dána-Ain Davis, professor of anthropology and director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society at The Graduate Center and professor of urban studies at Queens College, CUNY.

*Presented with the Center for the Study of Women and Society. Co-sponsored with the Center for Humanities, the Feminist Press, the Gotham Center for NYC History, the Ph.D. Programs in Comparative Literature and English, the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC), The Graduate Center Library, the PublicsLab, and Women Writing Women's Lives.*

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

Seminar in Biochemistry, Biophysics & Biodesign: Susan Taylor, UC San Diego, Inst of Engineering in Medicine  
March 10 @ 12:00PM - 1:00PM  
Lessons Learned and New Frontiers in PKA Signaling

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**

Judy Siegel, who along with LP<sup>2</sup> member Joan Rosenbaum, was a colleague of Dr. Vivian B. Mann at The Jewish Museum in New York, was one of the organizers of this program in Dr. Mann's memory.

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

**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)

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. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Mann started initiatives to ensure that the rigorous study of Judaica would become part of the discourse of wider disciplines such as art history, history and Jewish studies. Building on her legacy, two distinguished scholars will each speak about a ceremonial object from the vantage point of their different disciplines, and then engage in a conversation with Magda Teter about the state of the field today and the possibilities for the future.

Laura Arnold Leibman, Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College

Maya Balakirsky Katz, Associate Professor of Jewish art at Bar-Ilan University

Magda Teter, Professor of History and the Shvilder Chair in Judaic Studies at Fordham University

**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.