

**THE OBSERVER
MAY 10, 2021**

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear all,

Thank you to those who attended the General Membership Meeting on Friday afternoon – and for your positive feedback! Videos and photos will be added to the list of things to carry forward from Zoom life into in-person presenting, working, and learning. For those who missed it (or who want to relive it!) we recorded the meeting and it can be watched [HERE](#) (insert link).

Another reminder that registration for summer session (June 1- July 12) closes today at 5PM. All summer study groups will be held on Zoom and the fees are \$125 for one study group and \$200 for two or three study groups. The Summer Grid [is here](#) and Registration [form here](#).

Fall registration is open until May 14 (this Friday) for current members. The Fall Grid is [here](#): and the Registration form [here](#): We will inform you about which study groups will have an in-person option as soon as we have secured the classrooms with the Registrar. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we take these next steps.

While this is the last regular issue of The Observer for the semester, please keep a look out for special editions with updates. In addition to summer study groups, some programming is ongoing including the newly minted Science Series (read on for details) and workshops for coordinators. The Advisory Board and I are continuing the development of a new workshop for coordinators to provide strategies towards implementation of the program's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion with the mission of fostering an environment of trust and respect while bringing to light, and more closely examining, how words and actions affect a climate of inclusion for all.

I hope you'll stay in touch over the summer. Enjoy the break!
Mariel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

GMM Recording Now Available

Those of us who were unable to tune into last Friday's GMM apparently missed a unique audio-visual treat, created by Advisory Board Chair Barbara Marwell and Engagement's computer whiz Olena Plaskon, with videos produced by Michael Kessler (Remembering) and Ruth Mackaman, Curriculum Committee Incoming Chair, and videographer and editor Rich Goldman, son of LP² member Judy Goldman (Patti Smith and Interviews with Coordinators). If you want to view it (or re-view it), please follow [this link](#).

Science Seminar Series Talk: AN LP² VOYAGE TO THE COSMOS **A talk by Dr. Charles Liu** **Wednesday, June 16, 3PM**

Dr. Charles Liu, a professor of physics and astronomy at the College of Staten Island and a faculty member at the Graduate Center, will be joining us on June 16 at 3PM for our second Science Seminar Series Talk on "AN LP² VOYAGE TO THE COSMOS." Our own astrophysicist, John Gillespie, will interview Dr. Liu for 20-30 min. and then we will open it up for questions.

Dr. Liu is also on the staff of the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, where he helped design and develop the exhibits and scientific content of the Rose Center for Earth and Space. During this time, with co-authors Neil deGrasse Tyson and Robert W. Irion, Liu wrote "One Universe: At Home In The Cosmos (2000)", for which Tyson, Irion, and Liu were awarded the 2001 Science Writing Award (scientist category) of the American Institute of Physics. In 2019, he was named a Fellow of the American Astronomical Society.

As was the case with our first Science Talk with a CUNY faculty member, this event will be limited to LP² members.

Here is the [Registration link](#)

The Observer – Paring down for the Summer

While we were lacking a Director, a campus, a stable affiliation and then were marooned in the midst of a pandemic and communicating over Zoom, The Observer served as our lifeline and published regularly through last Summer.

Now that our community is in a happier situation, this Summer The Observer will come out semi-monthly, publishing announcements of get-togethers (e.g., Pour at 4 Outdoors) and Zoom break activities as well as messages from the Director and/or the Advisory Board. The next issue of The Observer will appear in two weeks, on May 24th.

POUR AT 4 OUTDOORS (2 EVENTS)

Date: Friday, May 14th

Location: Brooklyn (Dumbo/Brooklyn Bridge Park)

Time: 4:30 - 5:00

Meeting Location: Montague St./ Court St.

Several benches are available in front of the Supreme Court building and fountain.

Myriam Bucatinsky will lead a 15-minute walk to Dumbo/Brooklyn Bridge Park, where you can have a drink and/or dine *al fresco*. Lots of wonderful options. (Note: If you want to stay for dinner in Dumbo, you may need a reservation.)

Transportation:

Subway: #2,3,4 - to Borough Hall

R train - to Court St.

A, C, F trains - to Jay St. Metrotech

Contact Myriam with any questions, either at mbucatinsky@gc.cuny.edu or (347-563-1861)

We always cancel for rain!

AND

Date: Monday, May 24th (Rain Date: Tuesday, May 25th)

Location: Soldiers & Sailors Monument (W.89th St. and Riverside Dr.)

Time: 4:00PM

Meeting Location: Large terrace on the north side of the Monument

Host: Carol Borelli

Transportation: #1 subway to W. 86th St. It's a short walk west to Riverside Park.

Bus #5 to the W.89th St. and Riverside Dr. stop. Cross the street.

If you have any questions or concerns, reach Carol at (917) 291-1618.

ZOOM BREAK ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays from 2PM to 3PM.: May 12, 19, and 26.

More *Shtisel* with Jenny Ross and Susie Herman

This discussion group is full and closed.

Mondays at 3PM: May (17, 24), July (19, 26) and Aug (9, 16)

More Stories Aloud with Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman

Sharon Girard and Helene Schiffman invite you to More Stories Aloud during the two summer breaks. Participants will read stories aloud or just listen. We'll meet on Zoom. Sessions will last for about an hour and a half. Stories are sent in advance by e-mail.

The fun and emphasis are in our live reading as well as brief discussion. E-mail Sharon at sgirard@gc.cuny.edu for the Zoom link. Please indicate whether you would like to read aloud.

Monday, May 24th, 1:00PM.

Book discussion with Joy Schulman

***A Short History of Reconstruction* by Eric Foner**

This book discussion has been canceled.

Tuesday, May 25th 1PM

Film discussion with Robert Sholiton

Tickled: A Quirky Investigative Documentary

When a New Zealand journalist specializing in the weird and the bizarre comes across an online video of “competitive endurance tickling,” he decides to write an article about this subculture that is little-known except to its devoted internet followers. However, he immediately runs into a wall of resistance that raises his suspicions and leads him to embark on an investigation that takes him across the US from LA to the Midwest to Florida to Garden City, NY. His discoveries become ever more surprising and even sinister. Manohla Dargis of the NY Times named it a Critic’s Pick. Watch it on Amazon Prime before the discussion. Send an e-mail to rsholiton@gc.cuny.edu and you’ll receive a Zoom invite before the session.

Wednesday, August 25th, 1PM

The Great LP² Read

***Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell**

Join with us for our third Great LP² Read. Revisit the book about which *The New York Times* wrote “Why ‘1984’ Is a 2017 Must-Read.” It shot to No. 1 on Amazon’s best seller list in early 2017. We’ll explore why the book has found a large readership in this “post-truth” era, how the dystopia Orwell described suddenly feels all too familiar and consider how we react to reading it today compared to when we originally read it.

Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize one or more Zoom discussion groups. To participate, e-mail Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu, obtain the book and read on your own. You’ll receive a Zoom invite the week before the session.

REMINDERS

Summer Registration ends today. Fall Registration ends this Friday, May 14th. See links in Director’s Note.

ONLINE ART SHOW

From: Sue Yellin

Title: Spring

Ice-Dyed Fabric
22" x 32".



Sue says: During this pandemic, I've continued dyeing and printing fabric, something I've been doing for many years. This piece was created using a technique known as "ice dyeing," which results in completely unanticipated images.

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

Voting

Bob Sholiton notes that the June 22nd primaries are rapidly approaching and provides us with a site that explains ranked voting, absentee voting and much more.

<http://voting.nyc>

How the N-Word Became Unsayable

Carol Groneman believes this opinion piece from The New York Times is worth close reading and discussing. The author, linguist John McWhorter, analyzes the etymology of how and why words, including the "n-word," become "unsayable." The evolution of the slur's use — and the taboo around it — tells a story about what our culture values.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/30/opinion/john-mcwhorter-n-word-unsayable.html?smid=em-share> [nytimes.com]

Does Life Begin at 80?

Barbara Marwell says that you may not agree with his politics, some of which emerge in this column, but George Will's meditation on turning 80 can resonate with those of us in the 9th decade and those who we hope will join us.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-turning-80-teaches-me/2021/05/06/a2aa7e38-ae83-11eb-b476-c3b287e52a01_story.html

Member Handbook

Jane Case Einbender writes: I was just perusing the Zine and saw the excellent Member Handbook and quite a few improvements in other categories. Members should be made aware that the Handbook is up and

those who worked on it should be given credit. And I definitely recommend a link to the Handbook be published in the next Observer.

OK, Jane, here's the link: <https://www.irpzine.org/lp%20b2-handbook/>.

The Handbook is the work of Director Mariel Villeré. members of the Advisory Board assisted in the editing. The Zine is produced (and improved) by Harold Berkowitz.

ONGOING LP² EVENTS

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

CUNY EVENTS

For upcoming CUNY GC events, click here: <https://gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/Calendar> and for events across the University, click here: <https://events.cuny.edu/>.

HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY SUMMER, LP²!!

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.

