

**THE OBSERVER
JUNE 21, 2021**

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I'm just back from a week in Maine with friends. We stayed in a lakefront cabin in Searsport, not far from Belfast and enjoyed mile-long swims and paddling, a bit of antiquing, water coloring, and big family-style meals. It's so nice to be able to spend extended time with those I have been primarily communicating with via Zoom for over a year. I hope your summer likewise includes in-person visits with family and friends.

Thank you for submitting your requests for adds and drops for Fall 2021. The deadline for this first add/drop period is Friday, June 25 at this link: https://formfaca.de/sm/f9hP_Phmq. Study groups for which a waitlist has been started are indicated that way in the dropdown menu, which we update regularly. Study groups not included on the dropdown list are closed due to lotteries having been conducted. We will send later today a list of study groups that are still open, without a waitlist. The full grid is available here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rvREYsNN2Hx7biu_DXgJUCkcMpLUsWvj/view?usp=sharing.

As a reminder, the Graduate Center keeps a "summer Friday" schedule and so there may be a delayed response to messages sent on Fridays for the next seven weeks.

Take good care,
Mariel



Our office contact information:

engagement@gc.cuny.edu

212-817-2474

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Please Don't Ask to Audit!

If you have not been scheduled into a study group that you hoped to join in the Fall, please do not ask the coordinator to let you “sit in.” Although many of us experience some disappointments when we do not get every study group high on our lists, the registration process

Is designed to give equal access to all LP² members and to make participation equitable across study groups. Lotteries are held for study groups in high demand. Asking a coordinator to let you “sit in,” “outside of the registration process, privileges friends of the coordinator and members who are more assertive.

- No one may audit a study group so please don't ask the coordinator for permission.
- If you want to add or drop a study group, submit the request form.
- All changes must be processed through Engagement.

Observer Summer Schedule

During the Summer months, The Observer has a curtailed publication schedule:

Mondays, July 12, 26, August 9, 23.

If you have information to be published in the Observer from June through August, e-mail Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu by the Fridays before the Monday issues above.

Pour at 4 Outdoors

Date: Wednesday, June 23rd (Rain Date: Thursday, June 24th)

Location: Stuyvesant Square Park (2nd Ave., from 14th- 17th Sts.)

Time: 4PM

Meeting Location: Inside the park; corner of Rutherford Place @17th St., across from St. George's Church

Host: Bob Cohn

Transportation: Buses: 2nd and 3rd Aves.
#6 subway (Lexington Ave.)

Call for Break Activities between Summer and Fall Semesters

The Community Building Initiative seeks volunteers to lead activities during the break from July 13th to September 3rd. Just as with our earlier break activities, yours can meet once, twice or multiple times. Whether it's a book or movie discussion, a current events discussion, a travel adventure or art presentation or something else, your colleagues will appreciate your efforts. We also invite all current and past coordinators to offer a one session encore presentation selected from a prior study group. Tech help is available to set up and assist you run the Zoom session. You'll receive a Zoom link to send to participants. Contact Jane Case Einbender of the

Community Building Initiative to propose your activity at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu.

Tuesdays With Friends

The Tuesdays With Friends Committee is taking a preliminary look at a fall return of our popular afternoon gatherings. With many members fully vaccinated and regulations easing, we see a glimmer of normalcy. Although we're not quite ready to formalize an agenda we would like to identify members who might be interested in hosting an event in their indoor or outdoor space.

On three Tuesday afternoons each semester the Committee sponsors small-group get-togethers featuring talks presented and hosted by LP² members. As most of you know, what makes TWF events unique is that they take place in members' homes (from 3:30 – 6:00 P.M.) making each event a pleasant occasion for socializing.

And that's where we reach out to you. If your apartment can accommodate 18 to 20 guests, we will happily be there to set up refreshments, arrange chairs, and help clean up when the party is over. And we arrange for refreshments to be delivered to your door.

These are precious opportunities to learn, schmooze and feast together. You the hosts will have fun and our sincere gratitude for making the party possible.

If you think you would like to volunteer your home, or have any questions, please contact Carolyn Preiss at cpreiss@gc.cuny.edu

MORE ZOOM BREAK ACTIVITIES

2pm, Tues. July 13th — Note New Time Polling and Public Opinion with Carolyn Setlow and Ellen Sills-Levy

The news these days is filled with the results of public opinion polls on all kinds of topics. Discrediting polls has become a national pastime, especially around election seasons. And yet, for many of us, polls remain a black box. Does what the public thinks, even on critical public policy issues, really matter? What's the history of polling – and their accuracy? Can 1000 people really represent the entire nation? Why have they never interviewed

me? Are their questions biased? In short, can we trust the polls, or would we be better off without them? Carolyn Setlow and Ellen Sills-Levy, two veteran pollsters/market researchers, explore the reliability of polls and their role in our democracy, in an abbreviated version of their spring study group.

If you'd like to attend, e-mail Carolyn at csetlow@gc.cuny.edu and you will receive a Zoom invite before the session.

Mondays at 3PM: 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 second summer break. Participants will read stories aloud or just listen. We'll meet on Zoom. Sessions will last 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 if you would like to read aloud.

Thursday, July 29th, 2PM

Book Discussion with author Sabeeha Rehman & LP² member Shelley Peck

Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani to American Muslim

Sabeeha Rehman was born and raised in Pakistan and came to the U.S. in 1971. She will share and discuss her story, detailed in this, her first book, and her pursuit to define an American Muslim identity for herself, her children and grandchildren; as well as her transformation from a Pakistani Muslim to an American Muslim. Questions will be welcomed. Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to the session.

If you're interested, e-mail Shelley Peck at rpeck@gc.cuny.edu.

You'll receive a Zoom invite the week before.

1pm, Weds. Aug 11th

Book Discussion with Jane Case Einbender

***Eight Perfect Murders* by Peter Swanson**

A Kirkus Best Fiction Book of the year

"A devious whodunit" — *New York Times Book Review*

"Fiendishly clever catnip for any lover of classic crime fiction."

— *Seattle Times*

Join us on a nostalgic, clever journey referencing the greatest murder mysteries in crime fiction — from Agatha Christie’s *The A.B.C. Murders* to Patricia Highsmith’s *Strangers on a Train*.

(You must obtain the book and read it on your own.)

To participate, email Jane Case Einbender at jeinbender@gc.cuny.edu.

You’ll receive a Zoom invite the week before.

THE GREAT LP² READ

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

Wednesday, August 25th, 1PM

Join with us for our third Great LP² Read. Revisit the book about which *The New York Times* declared “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 at this date/time.

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 discussion.

MEMBER FORUM

7 Superfoods to Eat After 50

After a year and a half of languishing, a lot of us are looking for a superfood to restore us to our pre-pandemic selves. This article reminds of us of the foods containing the usual suspects: calcium, fiber, vitamins and antioxidants to protect us from aging brains, softening bones and the heartbreak of irregularity.

Any member who can provide one or more ways to curate a one-ounce snack of mixed nuts from the examples provided in the article will be mentioned in the next Member Forum, along with his/her creation(s).

<https://www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/info-2021/superfoods-for-adult-health.html>

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

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.

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