

**THE OBSERVER
JULY 12, 2021**

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I hope you're staying cool. Today concludes summer session and more officially marks summer break!

Program member Barry Levine and his wife Shirley Levine, both medical doctors, gave an important talk to The Graduate Center community the other week, underscoring the importance of getting vaccinated to protect one's own health and to keep others safe. The Graduate Center and CUNY encourage everyone who can get vaccinated to do so to protect their own life and the lives of others, including families, friends, students, and colleagues. For more information about the science behind the vaccines and their efficacy, you can watch the Levines' presentation on [YouTube](#).

Last week, the CUNY Board of Trustees approved the University-wide student vaccination policy. [This policy](#), summarized below, allows for the safe return to in-person learning in the fall.

Upon a vaccine's approval by the FDA, students must be fully vaccinated or have been granted an exemption for religious or medical reasons to attend any class in-person in the fall 2021 semester, whether the class is wholly in-person or in hybrid format.

As of Wednesday, August 25, to enter a CUNY facility, *all* students, faculty, staff, and visitors must either be fully vaccinated, or else show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within the previous seven days. The Graduate Center, as with many CUNY campuses, will continue to have online course offerings in the fall term and staff will work a hybrid schedule (some days in the office and others remotely). As of now, physical distancing guidelines

will still be followed, and all events will be hosted virtually through December.

We are looking forward to more member-organized talks with Graduate Center faculty in the fall. In the meantime, consider offerings through GothamEd of the Gotham Center:

- Sister Strikers: NYC Women, Labor, and the Making of Early 20th Century U.S. Culture, starting August 2 for 6 sessions, 90 minutes each on Mondays and Thursdays, 6:30-8 PM. Learn more and register here: <https://sisterstrikers.eventbrite.com>
- The Long History of Terrorism in New York City, 2 sessions on Monday, August 16 and Thursday, August 19 from 6:30-8 PM. Learn more and register here: <https://terrorismnyc.eventbrite.com>

There will be additional issues of The Observer over the summer, but as a reminder, study groups commence on September 10. We are still planning for 2-3 study groups to be hybrid. Of the six possibilities, those that will have an in-person component will be announced in August once rooms are assigned by the Graduate Center Registrar.

Fall registration was done by lottery, as always. All members were given their first choice and most members were given their second choices as well. A lottery was run for the most in-demand study groups and were then closed. We initiated waitlists for study groups that did not have a lottery but were at capacity, so that if a member dropped the class, that seat could be available to another. Each member was given only one film class, per the registration instructions. Study groups have a higher enrollment in the fall due to fewer study groups being offered. In future terms, we expect that there will be a more even distribution when we are in-person and more members volunteer to coordinate. Our team knows how important robust and vibrant discourse is to the curriculum and to you as individuals. We look forward to the continuation in the fall and in the meantime, hope you find opportunities to connect with one another over your myriad interests and hobbies!

My best,
Mariel

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Notes from the June 23rd Advisory Board Meeting

Mariel's remarks about the GC reactivation plan are covered in her Note from the Director.

The first General Membership Meeting (GMM) of the Fall semester will be held on Friday, September 24, followed shortly, on October 1st, by the first Member Connect Town Hall Meeting. The Town Hall Meetings are a great place to get your questions answered, especially about the GC reactivation plan and its implications for our program. Each Town Hall group includes 18 – 20 long-term and recent LP² members and is led by an Advisory Board member who will also serve as a link between Town Hall group members and the Board throughout the year.

Denise Waxman has sent AB members parts of the new website for “field testing” -- the new LP² member Directory and a new feature, the member biography section, in which members can include background information about themselves. Design work on the site, nearing completion, is geared to providing easy use by members.

Official Minutes of each Advisory Board Meeting are posted on the Zine following approval by the Advisory Board

Observer Summer Schedule

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

Mondays, July 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.

Link to the Science Series Lecture

For those who missed the very entertaining and informative **Science Series: AN LP² VOYAGE TO THE COSMOS** talk by Dr. Charles Liu, here is the link to the recording:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UGChURColv9JZmLaQvize1_H8bQpuC5U/view?usp=sharing;

Pour at 4 Outdoors

Date: Wednesday, July 21st
Thursday, July 22nd (rain date)

Location: The Fountain, Lincoln Center

Time: 4PM

Host: Susan Rubens

Transportation:

***Train: #1**

***Bus: M-104, M-5, M-7, M-10, M-11.**

Questions or concerns:

Contact Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu
201-220-0555

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

Tuesday, July 13th, 2PM

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 are 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.

Monday, August 2nd, 2PM

Reflections On Life After Vaccines with Jan Adler

We all clearly wanted the vaccines but how we go about our living our lives now that they are here is not so clear. This workshop will be a chance to share your thoughts and strategies and hear what other are thinking. If you are interested contact Jan Adler at jadler@gc.cuny.edu and you will receive a Zoom invite the week before.

Thursday, August 5th, 2PM
China and the U.S. with Tom Hardy

The relationship between China and the US is currently and will continue to be one of the defining issues of the next 20-30 years. Trade, Taiwan, China's belief that the US faces inevitable decline, aggressive propaganda by China, distrust of China in the US and in the West—these are some of the issues facing the relationship.

Tom will send out a few articles and some questions ahead of time to frame our session. If you'd like to attend, please respond to Tom Hardy at thardy@gc.cuny.edu and feel free to raise some subjects for consideration. You'll receive a Zoom invite before the session.

Wednesday, August 11th, 1PM
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

Carol Groneman recommends the following for all those who enjoy singing in the shower (and elsewhere).

Do You Like to Sing? ENCORE CHORALE, the nation's largest choral organization for older adults, plans to practice and perform live again this fall. Join Carol Groneman and Mary Houts in singing a wide selection of traditional and contemporary four-part choral music. You don't have to audition and you can join even if you don't know how to read music. We have 15 weekly rehearsals with a professional conductor, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00, at Broadway Presbyterian Church (Broadway and 114th St.). All members will be expected to have been vaccinated. In December, we hold a free holiday concert that is open to the public. As some of you know, singing in a group is not only good for you, it's a lot of fun. Go to EncoreCreativity.org to register soon.

A heads up from **Barbara Marwell**:

The Legacy Interviews presented by the American Society on Aging comprise a webcast series featuring interviews with experts who have spent decades in the field of aging, health and social services

These conversations will delve into topics such as:

- How our healthcare, financial, social services and infrastructure systems can better support older adults and their caregivers;
- Ageism in the workplace, politics, media and popular culture;
- The opportunities and obligations of today's and tomorrow's elders;
- The individual, social and systemic dimensions of diversity and equity.

- July 21** **Larry Curley, MPA**, Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging and author of legislation to establish Title VI of the Older Americans Act
- July 28** **Kathy Greenlee, JD**, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging and former Senior Health Policy Advisor, Center for Practical Bioethics
- August 4** **Fernando Torres-Gil, PhD, MSW**, Director, UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging, and first U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging
- August 11** **E. Percil Stanford, PhD**, President of Folding Voice, Professor and Director Emeritus of the Department of Gerontology and The University Center on Aging at San Diego State University
- August 18** **Jeanette Takamura, PhD**, former Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Administration on Aging, first female Dean of Columbia University's School of Social Work
- August 25** **Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN**, President, John Hartford Foundation, and expert in geriatric nursing
- September 1** **Marc Freedman, MBA**, Founder/CEO, Encore.org
- September 8** **John Rowe, MD**, Professor of Health Policy and Aging, Columbia University, former Director, Division of Aging, Harvard Medical School

[Register](#)

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.