Greetings, all!

What beautiful weather we have to usher in the new school year. Welcome back to members who have been with us in prior years and a very warm welcome to those who are joining us for the first time. I look forward to having more occasions to chat with you online and in person as we slowly increase on-campus activities.

In preparation for study groups, we have been working on a major initiative shared by the Diversity Committee, Curriculum Committee, Advisory Board Executive Committee, and two talented facilitators, Rita Silverman and Terry Hamilton. Nearly all fall coordinators participated in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Roundtables over the past few weeks that build upon the program’s commitment and prompt new ways of thinking while providing tools to navigate conversations that may elicit unintentionally hurtful comments. I want to thank the organizers of this meaningful project and all who have participated from the first pilot to the coordinators who engaged in the conversations. To those coordinators: please do give your feedback in the survey if you haven’t already.

A reminder for all members – the add/drop period ends on September 23. The add/drop form can be found here and the full Fall 2021 Study Group Grid is here.

I have also been working with members and the IT staff at the Graduate Center to get Hyflex classes up and running. We are looking forward to launch with Ireland on Film tomorrow, when some members will be on campus and others will participate remotely. I want to remind you that there is a very useful resource created by your peers on the Tech Stuff website here.

You should expect to receive an invoice for the LP² membership in the coming days. The Lifelong Peer Learning Program membership fee is $1,135 for the
2021-2022 academic year (Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 if you make one payment for both terms) or $715 for a single semester (Fall 2021 ONLY).

We would like to inform you that we are no longer using the Eventbrite.com payment platform to collect credit card payments. A link to pay securely using the new processing system will be included on your invoice. The storefront works like any other online website where you can add a product to your shopping cart and then easily checkout. **You will find detailed instructions at the end of this issue, as well as on your invoice, on how to make an online payment.**

There are several dates to save in the following pages. Remember that you can always check the Zine calendar for all LP² events.

Email engagement@gc.cuny.edu if you need a reminder for the credentials on password-protected sections of the website.

Have a great first week of study groups! I'll see you soon!

Mariel

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

**WELCOME BACK!!**

**FALL SEMESTER Study Group Start Dates:**
*Friday* study groups started September 10th.
*Monday* study groups start September 13th.
*Tuesday* study groups start September 14th.

Because CUNY is closed on September 15th and 16th for the Jewish Holiday of Yom Kippur, *Wednesday and Thursday study groups start next week:*

*Wednesday – September 22nd*
*Thursday – September 23rd*
A Greeting from Advisory Board Chair Barbara Marwell

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I am delighted to welcome you back to LP² for the 2021-22 academic year. We begin the school year mostly on Zoom, with two intrepid coordinators and a group of study group members participating in the Hyflex system, where some people are in the classroom and some are on Zoom. Howie Menikoff, Ireland on Film, and John Becker, Family in Fiction, are our Hyflex pioneers. We wish them good luck and we’re cheering them on.

We had anticipated more hybrid study groups, but with the rise of the Delta variant, many members and coordinators opted for caution. We are hopeful that when "spring is here" we will finally be able to enjoy being with our fellow LP² members in the classrooms at the Graduate Center.

Although the LP² Advisory Board and Executive Committee have been in summer mode, meeting on reduced schedules, we have kept a busy pace, dealing with the many issues that came up during the summer.

As the Board’s liaison to technology, Bruce Smith has been working with Denise Waxman to develop the new LP² website. Denise and Bruce hope to introduce the website at the GMM. (Fear not! We will hold workshops to familiarize you with the workings of the website.) As part of the project, Bruce worked with all committee chairs, SIG leaders and members holding non-committee positions to create an up-to-date, easy-to-navigate committee section on the site.

Michael Kessler was elected as Advisory Board Secretary and member of the Executive Committee (replacing Barry Bryer, who resigned as Secretary due to prior commitments, but remains on the Board). Michael’s hard work is greatly appreciated as there was a lot to accomplish. To start...

Mark Your Calendars for Some Important Dates:

General Membership Meeting (GMM): **Friday, September 24 @2PM**

Fall Fest (see description below): **Friday, October 1 @ 2PM**
Rain Date: Friday, October 8

Member Connect Town Halls: **Friday, October 15 @ 2PM**
On a personal note, as we begin a new school year, my memory takes me on a bit of a nostalgia trip through first days of school past. Do you remember those times when you were asked to write an essay “What I Did on My Summer Vacation?” Here’s my 2021 version.

I spent my summer vacation in Madison, WI, which, as many of you know, was home for 40 years before I retired to New York. It was a summer of long-term friends, familiar places and 6 Democrats who have announced for the primary to run against Senator Ron Johnson, whom The Atlantic calls the Democrat’s No. 1 target in 2022. I swam almost every day, ending the summer with a mile-long swim. The cherry tomato plant on my balcony has produced a bountiful crop. I’ve been harvesting 12-15 tomatoes a day for the last month and will leave a still-producing plant with my neighbor.

I’m looking forward to my fall study groups and I know all of you are as well. Stay safe, stay well and let’s have a great year!

Barbara

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Fall Fest

Back in July, before Delta was the word on everyone’s lips, our fantasies included an in-person GMM followed by an eagerly awaited post-meeting reception. First Presbyterian Church, which had hosted our GMMs during our transition from the New School to the GC, was not renting. Other venues, including the roof of the new Mid-Manhattan Library were either unavailable or much too expensive. Central Park seemed like a great idea until we learned that for a large gathering, we had to hire caterers at a cost well in excess of our budget. Prospect Park was a little less pricey, but still out of our financial league.

But we didn’t give up: Now, Susan Rubens, who organized Pours at 4 Outdoors in several neighborhoods this summer, and Laini Gerald are planning the LP² October 1st Fall Fest Outdoors -- gatherings in neighborhoods around the city. We need your help! If you can organize a gathering for 15-25 LP² members in a park near you, or in a backyard if you have one, contact Susan at srubens@gc.cuny.edu or Laini at lgerald@gc.cuny.edu. Let’s make this happen!
LP² Fall Fest
Looking for Volunteers to Host

Part 2 of the General Membership Meeting (GMM): THE RECEPTION
OCTOBER 1 AT 2:00PM (Rain Date October 8)

We have always been a community both inside and outside the classroom. Just because the GMM is on Zoom doesn’t mean we have to forego the after-meeting reception.

- Let’s celebrate the kick off of a new semester with IN-PERSON outdoor gatherings around the city.

- Volunteers needed to host an event in your neighborhood in a nearby park, back yard, roof deck, plaza, neighborhood garden

- It’s easy to host! Offer a location in your neighborhood and be there on October 1st at 2PM to welcome members.

- Contact- Susan Rubens at srubens@gc.CUNY.edu or Laini Gerald at Lgerald@gc.CUNY.edu for information on how to host.

Don’t let Covid conquer LP²’s sense of community.

Let's get together --members old and new -- to make this event a reality.
IN CONVERSATION WITH LP² DIRECTOR, MARIEL VILLERÉ

We all feel the alienation of not being able to sit down and talk with our fellow members. We feel even more estranged from the GC-CUNY people we’ve never met. Who is Mariel Villeré? How did she become our Director? What are her plans for LP²? Contributing Editor, Irene Sax, sat down (virtually) with Mariel to explore these questions. For the link to their conversation, click here.

In future weeks, we will converse with, and introduce you to, the women comprising the office we know as Engagement, as well as other people important to our community. Stay tuned.

DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLES FOR COORDINATORS

In preparation for the fall semester, Rita Silverman and Terry Hamilton created and led three excellent small-group Diversity Roundtables for Fall Coordinators. At the Roundtables, coordinators shared strategies for responding to difficult or uncomfortable classroom situations where comments by members may be seen as insensitive or offensive by others. We are committed to maintaining the safe, secure and respectful environment we all expect at LP². Immediate feedback from the Roundtables was positive. We are currently collecting additional feedback through surveys of the coordinators.

THINKING ABOUT COORDINATING A STUDY GROUP BUT WANT ASSISTANCE?

Bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee’s LET’S GET STARTED Workshop Monday, Oct 4, 3:45-5PM, or Wednesday, Oct 6, 3:45-5PM on Zoom.

- Whether you have just the germ of an idea or one that is almost fully developed, this workshop is for you.

- We will work together to support the development of your ideas, suggest resources, help you to find a co-coordinator (if you want one) and answer your questions about the study group proposal process.
POSSIBLE ART SIG EVENT
Saturday, Oct. 16
Visit to the Yayoi Kusama Exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden

We can’t offer you guided tours in museums or galleries yet, but we would like to schedule a trip to the New York Botanical Garden where work by Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama, is currently featured. Before we make any arrangements, we want to know how many would be interested. The group rate for a comprehensive ticket which provides entry to indoor and outdoor exhibits is $30. The ticket also includes a self-guided tour map and access to the tram. Not included is admission to Kusama’s famous Infinity Room. That ticket is $10 and can be obtained at the Garden. The comprehensive ticket is timed entry. Please note --There are no refunds for inclement weather. Many of the Kusama exhibits are indoors so even if it rains, there is much to see. Round-trip train fare is $9.50. We are proposing an 11:30 departure. We will make lunch reservations; a snack bar is also available.

The Kusama exhibit has received favorable reviews both in the press and from our colleagues who have seen it. For more information, see https://www.nybg.org/event/kusama/. For the NY Times review, see https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/09/arts/design/yayoi-kusama-botanical-garden-review.html.

If you are seriously interested, email Dick Kossoff at chemkos@aol.com. Your reply does not obligate you to purchase a ticket. If we receive at least 20 positive replies, we will make the necessary arrangements. For questions: Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu.

GETTING TO KNOW THE LP² COMMITTEES

Because many of our members have joined since we have had a campus meeting place, many aspects of LP² are flying under the radar. But, in fact, LP² could not run without its committees and the work of devoted committee members. Participating on a committee is an important way to contribute to LP².

We’re all aware of the Curriculum Committee, and in fact most new members want to join it immediately, not realizing how many hours its
members put in and that you must have coordinated before joining. Also, we all know the Admissions and Orientation Committees. Over the next few months, we'll focus on a particular committee in each issue, describing how it works, who its members are, what its goals are, how they are accomplished and how you apply for membership.

When the new website is online, it will contain complete, updated information on all committees and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). More on that when we introduce the website. Meanwhile, today, we will introduce the Admissions Committee.

Focus on Admissions:

Chair, Laini Gerald

Co-Chair, Phyllis Holloway

Members: Dolores Walker, Micky Josephs, Mark Scher, Kathy Dieter, Susan Smahl, Jerry Vogel, Ken Witty, James Gould, Bernie Belkin, Barbara Salant, Jenny Ross, Carolyn Preiss, Howie Menikoff, Arlyne LeSchack

We’ve all been there: attended an Information Session, completed an application, been interviewed by a team from the Admissions Committee
and waited for the letter welcoming us to join LP². In charge of this process is the Admissions Committee, which is the gateway to LP². The committee’s goal is to bring into LP² a diverse group of people at our special stage of life, who are energized to engage in ongoing learning, to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise, and to be part of our vibrant community of learners.

Committee members organize and participate in the Information Sessions, review applications and, in teams, meet the applicants for an interview during which they evaluate the applicants and review the qualities of LP² - a voluntary organization that runs on the energy and work of its members. - in committees, building community, and, of course ---coordinating. Laini and Phyllis say that introducing LP² to potential members of our program is a real pleasure.

Admissions Committee members must have been a member of LP² for at least two years. Committee terms run from two years to a maximum of four years. New members are selected annually by the committee chair and co-chair in consultation with committee members, the LP² Director and the Advisory Board Executive Committee liaison. Notice of openings on the committee are announced in The Observer and applications for Committee membership will be on the Website.

“MEETING” NEW MEMBERS

As the new school year begins, we welcome 12 new members to our learning community. We will be running their bios here in The Observer over the next several weeks. When you meet them in study groups and Member Connect Town Halls be sure to say “hi” in the chat time before events start.
Here are the first three bios.

Alec Rill

Alec was born in Mexico City to Lithuanian parents who immigrated to Mexico to escape Jewish persecution. At 18, he moved to Israel where he learned Hebrew, earned a degree in Industrial Engineering and an MBA and worked in the computer field. His company sent him to open a branch in NYC, where he remained, eventually obtaining a master’s degree in Public Health (MPH) from Columbia University.

He joined the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where he worked on various projects related to disaster preparedness and response, including the Ebola, Zika and measles outbreaks as well as ensuring the city’s readiness to biological terrorists’ attacks such as anthrax, until his retirement in 2019.

Alec has been an avid photographer since childhood focusing on street photography and traveling the world with his photographer wife capturing the lives of different cultures. He is currently an active member of the Soho Photo Gallery. Alec’s other hobbies include dancing Argentine tango, attending international Film Festivals, reading fiction as well as science books mainly on physics, psychology, biology and mathematics. A lifelong avid runner, Alec used to run the NYC marathon every year. He is a new member of the LP² program and looks forward to joining our study groups.

His personal e-mail address is alecrill@gmail.com.

Harriet DuBroff

Harriet has always been interested in mentoring individuals, especially helping students realize their full potential. She received her higher education at CUNY, first her BA at Brooklyn College and then her MA in education at Hunter College. Beginning her career as an elementary school teacher, she worked her way up to Adult Education Supervisor. Most recently she was
Outreach Coordinator at CUNY and Mentoring Program Supervisor at Touro College.

Her hobbies include travel, reading, aquatic sports, amateur theater and restaurant criticism.

Her personal e-mail address is harrietmaw@yahoo.com.

Raymond (Ray) Horton

Ray retired in 2020 as the Frank R. Lautenberg Emeritus Professor of Ethics and Corporate Governance at Columbia University Graduate School of Business, after 50 years of teaching there. While at Columbia, he founded what is now known as the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise, developed new courses in the fields of social enterprise and modern political economy, and in 2020 received the President's Award for Outstanding Teaching.

In addition to teaching, he was active in New York City municipal affairs, serving as Executive Director of the Temporary Commission on City Finances during the New York City fiscal crisis and from 1980 to 1998 as Director of Research and President of the Citizens’ Budget Commission. He also has served on the boards of non-profit organizations. He is a sports fan and has enjoyed traveling extensively in the U.S. and abroad.

His personal e-mail is rdh3@columbia.edu.

ONLINE ART SHOW
From: Ken Witte
Title: Long Pond, Mt. Desert, Maine
Calling All Painters, Sculptors, Photographers, Block Printers, Ceramicists and Textile Artists!

Display the creative work you have been doing this summer in the Online Art Show. Send a photograph of your work with a title and a brief statement about it to Carol Millsom at cmillsom@gc.cuny.edu. Art works appear in The Observer in the order in which they are received.
Third Great LP² Read a Success

Jane Case Einbender, who facilitated the discussion of George Orwell’s *Nineteen Eight-Four* and its current resonance, reports that the 20 members gathered (on Zoom) on August 25th for the third Great LP² Read gave very positive feedback. She is planning more “Reads” for the future. Watch this space.

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.
A step-by-step instruction on how to submit an online payment by credit card using Nelnet:

NelNet accepts the following types of credit/debit cards:

Refer to your invoice for a direct link to the payment page. Once you click on the link you will be directed to the main LP2 Membership payment page.

You will have an option to choose to pay for the Annual Membership (includes Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) or to pay for a single semester (Fall 2021 ONLY). Select the type of payment you would like to make and click "ADD TO CART".
Enter the following information:
- First and Last Name;
- Preferred Email Address;

After the required information has been entered click “ADD TO CART”.

Once you add the item to your cart, a green band will float down on the top of your screen with a link to the shopping cart or clicking at the top right corner.
Review the shopping cart, confirm your total, and if everything is correct, check the agreement and click”CHECKOUT”. 
It will bring you to this page:

You can make a payment as:
- a GUEST (additional registration is not required);
- a REGISTERED customer (you have to create an account first and then submit a payment)

We recommend that you choose “CHECKOUT AS GUEST”. Registering is not necessary but may be convenient for future payments.

Enter the billing information and click “UPDATE”, choose the Credit Card as a payment method and click on the “CONFIRM YOUR PURCHASE”.

Give it 3-5 seconds to process the billing information. DO NOT refresh the page! Enter credit/debit information and click: “Submit payment for $x”.
You will receive a receipt to the email address you provided from “GC CUNY ACE Programs Store <engagement@gc.cuny.edu>” within the next 3-5 minutes. If you cannot locate the receipt in your main inbox, make sure to check the SPAM/JUNK folder.

Be in touch with us at engagement@gc.cuny.edu if you have any questions.