NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear members,

I hope you enjoyed greeting friends and new members at Friday's Fall Fest. A big thank you to those who hosts, who organized it -- Susan Rubens and Laini Gerald, and the work of Lisa Cristal, Tom Ashley and Ariana Caraglio in creating graphics and publicizing it! What glorious weather we are having. (Photos of the events will follow in a separate issue of The Observer.)

Monday, October 11 is a holiday, so study groups will not meet. On Tuesday the 12th at 4PM, we have the Science Seminar Series with guest speaker Andy Reinmann, who will discuss climate change and changing forests. Please submit your questions with your RSVP and review the readings provided.

A reminder that Fall 2021 and Annual Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 invoices have been sent and payment is due by Friday, October 15. Be in touch should you need assistance with the new payment platform.

On October 18, we launch the new speaker series organized by the Diversity Committee with Professor Michelle Fine and a panel of esteemed scholar-activists, more information is enclosed. Also mark your calendar for the kickoff of Fridays@3 on October 22 with writer Christian Davenport who will present “the story of a group of billionaire entrepreneurs who are pouring their fortunes into the epic resurrection of the American space program,” as told in his book, Space Barons.

Lastly, the member handbook has been updated and can be found on the Zine (https://www.irpzine.org/lp%2bc2%2bb2-handbook/). It includes general program information and IRP history, as well as important operational details for easy reference.
Until soon,
Mariel

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS**

**Member Connect Town Halls:**  **Friday, October 15 @ 2PM**

After the success of last Spring’s Town Halls, the Advisory Board is continuing its initiative of small group meetings led by the 16 Board members (12 elected and 3 Committee Chairs, plus the Board Chair Emeritus), to provide these opportunities to meet informally, albeit virtually, to hear members’ concerns and suggestions and answer questions about Board projects.

You will be receiving an invitation shortly from the Board member leading your group. In the meantime, if you have a topic that you would like to see on the agenda in your group, send an e-mail to Barbara Marwell at bmarwell@gc.cuny.edu or Susan Rauch at srauch@gc.cuny.edu. (We will definitely be reporting on the latest from the Graduate Center on the plans for a full return to in-person learning.)

**LP² Speaker Series**

| Unmasking Bias: Stories and Strategies for Women Re-Entering Society from Mass Incarceration, with Dr. Michelle Fine.  
October 18, 7-8:30PM |
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<td>We are honored to have as the first in this LP² Speaker Series Dr. Michelle Fine. Dr. Fine is a Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies, and Urban Education at The Graduate Center and a founding member of the Public Science Project, which works to produce critical interventions for use in social policy. She is engaged in participatory</td>
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research projects that document, interrupt, and organize action against diverse social injustices. An avid advocate for those who have experienced injustice, she recognizes their brilliant insights about the nature, origin, and solutions to such problems by making them her co-researchers.

According to the Prison Policy Initiative, women make up 1 in 8 individuals released from state prisons every year, totaling 1.9 million women released from prisons and jails annually. Yet often the re-entry needs of these women are overlooked, despite being distinctly different needs from men. Such needs include treatment of past trauma, substance abuse disorders, escaping poverty, and meeting the needs of their children and their families. The Prisoner Reentry Institute report found that homelessness and the lack of stable housing as the largest problem facing women in New York City upon release, reporting that 80% of women at Rikers Island reported needing assistance to find housing upon release. According to a 2006 California study, over 70% of formerly incarcerated women had experienced homelessness and over 40% were currently homeless.

“Unmasking Bias: Stories and Strategies for Women Re-Entering Society from Mass Incarceration” spotlights these women and their stories as the key to change in this panel discussion that weaves personal narrative and community research on solidarity and social equity.

LP² Director, Mariel Villeré, will moderate a panel discussion with Dr Fine, joined by three of Dr. Fine’s research collaborators, policy analysts, and organizers: Kathy Boudin, Co-Director/Co-Founder of the Center for Justice at Columbia University, Judith Clark, recently released after 38 years in prison, and Cheryl Wilkins, co-founder and Associate Director of Columbia University’s Center for Justice and the Director of the Women Transcending Program.

RSVP here: https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VCw59hneSaa-g86aNXlvEg

(A link to one of Dr. Fine’s lectures is here.)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuXoKKxp6QM&t=710s)
“Our changing forests in a changing climate”  
by Andrew Reinmann, PhD  
October 12, 4-5:30PM

LP² member Bob Braff will moderate a conversation with Andrew Reinmann, PhD, who is a member of the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at Hunter College, an Assistant Professor in the Environmental Science Initiative and Co-Director of the Next Generation Environmental Sensor Facility. His research interests include forest and urban ecology, biogeochemistry, and global change biology. In our next Science Seminar, he will be helping us to better understand the effects of environmental change (e.g., climate change, urbanization, and land cover change) on carbon cycling.

Andrew suggests two readings prior to the talk:

(If you cannot open these links, the articles are reproduced in full at the end of the September 27 Observer, which are archived on the Zine here.
RSVP here: https://forms.gle/sLkLB4S23jUAwRMT6 [forms.gle]

UPCOMING CURRICULUM COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS

LET’S GET STARTED!
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.
RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu by Mon, Oct 4; Zoom invitation will follow.

HOW’S IT GOING?

**Wed, Oct 13, 3:45- 5PM on Zoom**

Current coordinators are invited to a Zoom session to discuss HOW’S IT GOING with your present Study Group—what’s working and what…not so much.

RSVP to Linda Anstendig at lanstendig@gc.cuny.edu, by Mon Oct 11; Zoom invitation will follow.

“MEETING” NEW MEMBERS

**Linda Rosengart**

Linda spent most of her working life as a businesswoman. She graduated from Baruch College with a BBA in business education and while home raising her children earned an MA. She decided though, rather than teaching, to take a job as a purchasing agent for a steel, aluminum and copper distributor. Some years later she left that job to start her own business selling nuts, bolts and screws of stainless steel, Monel® and more exotic alloys to manufacturers. After selling that business she was the bookkeeper/office manager in her daughter’s wholesale diamond business.

While working, she took New School courses at night (especially those taught by Herb Greenhut, who for many years coordinated wonderful study groups as a member of the IRP). Following her retirement, she has been taking courses at NYU SPS, continuing her interests in politics, history, government and literature. She enjoys singing in the Yiddish Philharmonic Chorus, reading detective stories (currently reading Elizabeth George mysteries, in order) and theater.

Linda’s personal e-mail is Rosie18@aol.com.
Anne Essenhigh

Although Anne received a baccalaureate degree in Canada and a master’s degree from Ohio State, she finds greater significance in her informal education in the five countries where she lived and the impact of the experience of learning new languages, meeting different people and adapting to new customs. Born during World War II in Western Ukraine, her family fled ahead of the “Red Army” and after a harrowing trip through Austria, crossed the Salsach River into the German “American Zone” and became officially “DPs.” Her family was then situated in Belgium, where her father found work in the mines and she observed how completely the war had obliterated all past social hierarchies, noting that one of the miners, as poverty-stricken as all the others, was a Russian Prince.

In Belgium, she learned she started learning French. and at the age of eight she served as the Ukrainian-French translator of immigration documents required for the family’s application to the USA and Canada for citizenship. Because she had caught tuberculosis in Germany, America turned the family down, but Canada accepted them and the family moved to French-speaking Montreal, where once again, immigrants experienced the harsh reality of earning a living as a janitor, seamstress, Sweeper or factory worker.

After her marriage, she moved to State College, PA, where her husband was on the faculty. Again she found herself surrounded by immigrants not only from Europe, escaping the Cold War, but also from India and South America, in a phenomenal sweep of 'brain drain" that attracted scientists, skilled laborers, artists, and inventors to the United States. Now a resident of New York City, she volunteers in the archives of the Ukrainian Museum, is a member of two book clubs and enjoys gardening at the Seward Park Co-operative Garden where she is responsible for a tree plot on Grand Street measuring 4X6 feet.

Anne’s personal e-mail is anniabynia@gmail.com.
Penny, although an excellent student, was not achieving in her large high school after her father’s premature death so she transferred to a smaller school, where she regained her motivation and graduated as valedictorian. Nevertheless, she was not encouraged to think of college, but guided, instead, to join the workforce. When the opportunity came to attend community college 8½ years later, she had a 5-year-old daughter. To attend full time, she quit her job and applied for public assistance. Being on assistance meant that she had to enroll in a terminal degree program that would lead to a job, not to a liberal arts degree. Her advisors nevertheless devised a way for her to take liberal arts courses that she could transfer to a bachelor’s degree program and directed her toward a special transfer program at Vassar College. After completing that program, she transferred to Mount Holyoke college and graduated as the English major she was “meant to be.”

She settled in academia, spending 6 years at LaGuardia Community College teaching and working with students from different countries and cultures, eventually leading Opportunity Programs and Transfer Services to help college students decide what they wanted to do with their lives, using her circuitous road to a career to show students that anything is possible. She went on to earn a master’s degree in Urban Affairs and doubling down in academia, she began a PhD program, which injuries she suffered in a bicycle accident prevented her from completing.

Now, thinking about what she wants the rest of her life to include, she is returning to what she loved as a child: reading, writing and learning about things that interest her for their intrinsic worth. She has created podcasts, including one that she is thinking of turning into a short film or animation. She has used the skills she acquired during an unpaid internship at a PBS affiliate to stage her own productions at her public access station. She has loved her travels, especially to Greece and Italy and looks forward to driving across the United States. She has been surprised by her love of mysteries and waits for the pandemic to be over so she can get back to
dancing - tango, swing and salsa in particular, any kind of dancing in general. She says she gives a great party!

Penny’s personal e-mail is bernettaparson@gmail.com.

**ONLINE ART SHOW**

**From:** Carol Sterling  
**Title:** Idlewild Island  
**Statement:** A watercolor of a favorite family vacation spot.
From: Michael Shapiro  
Title: Bird of paradise preparing to speak-Mexico  
(In last week’s Observer, Michael was misidentified.)

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.

MEMBER FORUM

From Carol Chamlin:

You are invited to help honor Jerry at a Memorial Service on Saturday October 16 at 1:00-3:00PM in Ceremonial Hall at The New York Society for Ethical Culture 2 W 64th St New York NY. Bring your joy over a life that was lived to the fullest. To help with preparations please let me know by October 9th if you plan to attend: jerryandcarole@icloud.com

From Susan Sabatino:

Dindga McCannon In Plain Sight September 8 – October 17, 2021 -- At the Fridman Gallery, 169 Bowery. “After over five decades of making art, and confronting the double bind of racism and sexism, she is having her first major solo show. Unfazed, she says, “I just kept making what was right for me.” (See full New York Times review here: /https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/10/arts/design/dindga-mccannon.html/)  
This is her first solo gallery show.
Susan says: “When I visited, midday during the week, it was quite empty and comfortable, covid-wise. The curation is wonderful, and the show includes a video and sound presentation of Black women singers and actresses. The quilts are hung from the ceiling for the most part, so viewers can access the content on both sides. I took it as a test of my knowledge of Black cultural history: How many of the women depicted in the video and on the sculpture it accompanies, could I name?”

**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@qc.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.