

THE COMPARATIVE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
INVITES YOU TO

The Literature and Human Rights Lecture Series

Rosenthal Library, President's Conference Room #2 | 12:15–1:30 pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

“The American Civil Rights Movement: Freedom Summer 1964 and Beyond”

Speaker: Mark Levy



Mark Levy, Queens College class of 1964, participated in Freedom Summer, a movement of Civil Rights workers involving both black Mississippians and college students from the North, who worked to register black citizens who had been intimidated, harassed,

and prohibited from voting for decades. Levy also taught in Freedom Schools— free schools that were set up to meet the needs of students who were being denied an education because of segregation. Returning to Queens College, Mark taught in the SEEK program from 1968–73. He is the author of numerous articles on the subject of civil rights and education. A life-long activist and a committed teacher, he has continued to lecture about Freedom Summer both here in the U.S. and in Europe in order to remind us that “the movement for justice is not over” and that it is “about ordinary people, working together, doing extraordinary things.”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

“Protest: From Civil Rights to the Peace Movement to 2019”

Speaker: Wally Rosenthal



Wally Rosenthal is a lifelong activist for social and economic justice beginning with his participations in the 1960s movement for civil rights and against the U.S. imperialist war in Vietnam, and continuing to today. As a Queens College student, Rosenthal joined the

Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). He also joined Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) with which he was active in protesting the recruiting of QC students by companies that were part of the Vietnam War economy. He participated in the protest against the denial of tenure to an assistant professor of English named Sheila Delaney, which is commemorated in the exhibit “Student Unrest at 50” that can be seen in Rosenthal Library (no relation). After dropping out of QC in 1969 to figure out which direction his activism should take, he worked for 31 years as a postal clerk and was an active member of the American Postal Workers Union. He did return to QC to finish his BA. Since 2011, he has taught remedial math in the CUNY Start program at Queensborough Community College. At his talk, he will also sing songs of protest learned during his life as an activist.

Sponsored by the Department of Comparative Literature and
the Dean of Arts and Humanities.

