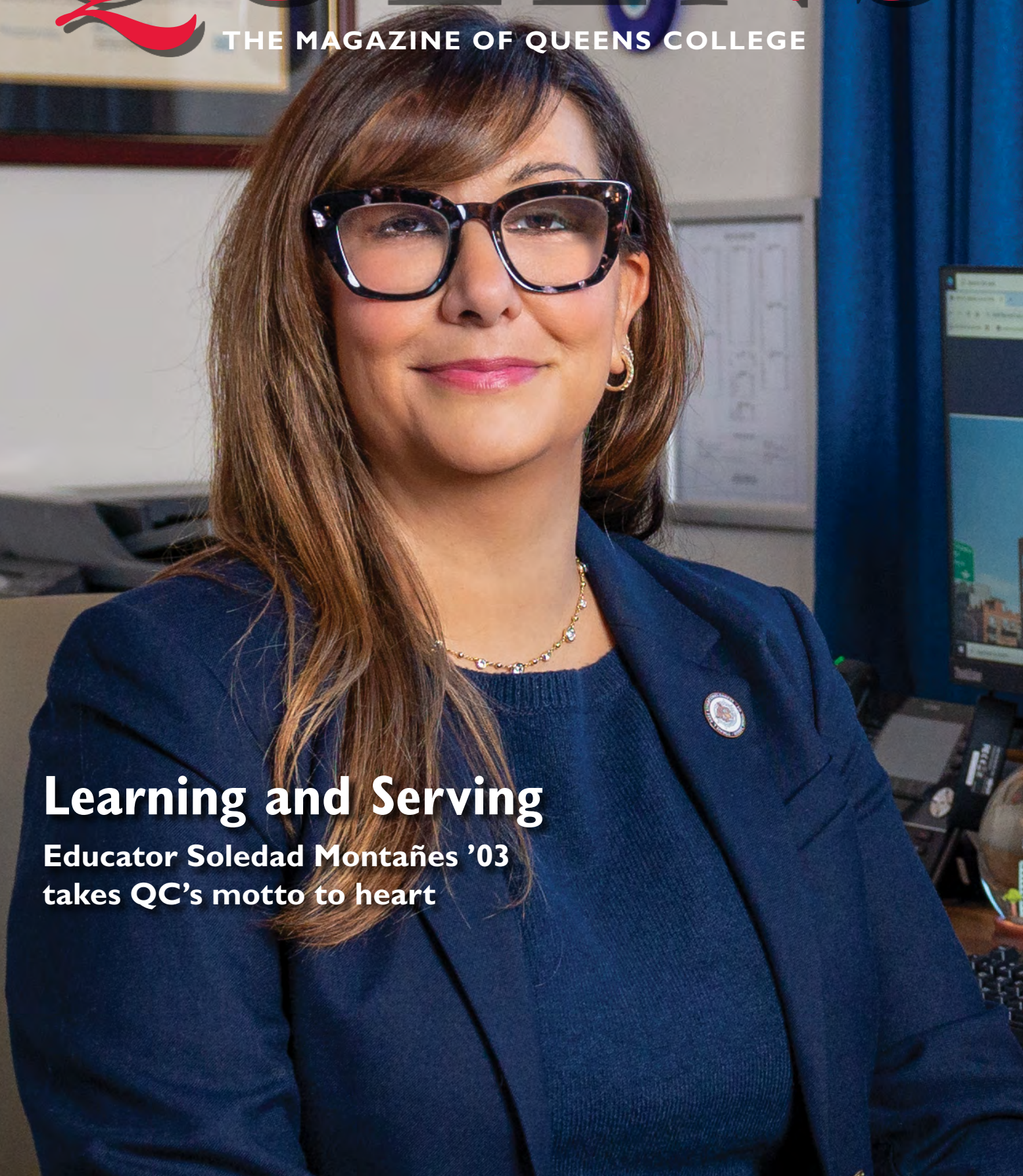


SPRING 2026, VOL. XXVIII, NO. 1

QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE



Learning and Serving

Educator Soledad Montañes '03
takes QC's motto to heart



Commemorative Gifts: A Living Legacy

Commemorative gifts provide a meaningful way to leave your mark at Queens College. They are a thoughtful way to recognize a graduate, pay tribute to a beloved professor, or remember someone special.

To purchase your commemorative gift, please visit <https://bit.ly/qccommemorative>.



Bricks will be placed in designated areas on the Queens College campus. They can be created in your name or to honor a classmate, professor, club, houseplan member, etc.



Tree Plaque: Choose a living tribute to help beautify the 80-acre college landscape. A bronze plaque will be placed at the base of your tree.



Kupferberg Center Seating Plaque will be placed on the armrest of one seat in either the 475-seat Goldstein Theatre or the 2,140-seat Colden Auditorium.



Faculty Carrel Plaque will be displayed outside a study room in the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, providing a unique naming opportunity. Honor a legacy by having a study space named after you or a loved one.

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From the President



The Queens College community takes enormous pride in the college's motto, *Discimus et serviamus*—We learn so that we may serve. In this issue of *Queens* magazine, the cover package (page 18) explores the origins of that motto and shows how some alumni and students fulfill it. Soledad Montañes '03 launched an innovative middle school; teacher Maggie Goodman MSEd '17 donated a kidney to a colleague, Thomas Coveney MSEd '05; and Rockaway resident Andréanna Seymore MA '05 created an effective water-safety campaign. Meanwhile, a series of QC interns

have been compiling research on people buried at Mount Hebron Cemetery, rescuing them from obscurity.

In this issue, you'll also find two articles about the generosity of alumni whom we are proud to claim, and vice versa, though their pursuits took them elsewhere. Mehran Soroudi, who worked in the automotive industry and then real estate, met his late wife at QC. Forever grateful, he reached out to the college to make a donation in her name and his; the third-floor study area of Rosenthal Library has been named the Freda and Mehran Soroudi Commons. For the details, see *Giving Back*, page 30.

Carol Montparker, a concert pianist, former editor at *Clavier* magazine, and watercolorist, has such fond memories of QC that she turned over her archive to the college's Music Library. As reported on page 28, the collection includes recordings of interviews she conducted with internationally celebrated pianists.

There's no end to what determined alumni can achieve. Ghanaian immigrant Akosua Dufie '21, MA '23 came to Queens College through the Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) Program. After holding two internships at NASA, she became an operations engineer for the space agency's Quesst (Quiet Supersonic Technology) mission. You can read about her on page 9.

At an age when most people are slowing down, Paul Cooper '68 trains three times a week on squats, bench press, and deadlifts in pursuit of world records in weightlifting. Cooper sticks to this routine while undergoing daily chemotherapy for a rare blood cancer. His story appears on page 32.

What's your story? How did Queens College change your life? We'd love to hear from you. Email us your news at qmag@qc.cuny.edu.

Sincerely,

FRANK H. WU
President Frank H. Wu

Cover: At MS Q419 in East Elmhurst, founding principal Soledad Montañes '03 makes a point of offering the wide-ranging programming available in schools that serve more affluent neighborhoods.

Cover photo by Andy Poon

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Commencement 2025

More than 4,000 graduates were recognized during QC's 101st commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 29, on the campus quadrangle. Journalists Brent Staples and Errol Louis were also recognized. Pulitzer Prize-winner Staples received an honorary doctorate; Emmy Award-winner Louis received the President's Medal, the school's highest administrative honor, and delivered the commencement address. Sofia Mitts, who graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Honors in the Social Sciences, was the student speaker.



(L to r) Errol Louis, President Frank H. Wu and Brent Staples

Queens Honors Dr. King

Despite miserable weather on Sunday, January 19, 2025, more than 1100 people turned out for the college's annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, co-hosted by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. New York Urban League CEO and President Arva Rice received the Queens College Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award and delivered a keynote. The program included a performance by the Branford Marsalis Quartet—Marsalis's first appearance anywhere in Queens!

Queens Borough President Richards reprised his role as co-host for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on Sunday, January 18, 2026. QC's Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award was presented to activist and Emmy-winning broadcast journalist Carol Jenkins, founder of the CUNY TV program "Black America," who gave the keynote. The musical segment showcased the Tyreek McDole Quintet performing repertoire rooted in Black American music.



Two Faculty Members Win Guggenheims

Karen Strassler (Anthropology) and John Yao MA '07 (Aaron Copland School of Music) were awarded prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships in 2025. They are among the 198 individuals who, after a rigorous process and peer review, were selected from a pool of almost 3,500 applicants from the United States and Canada.

Structured as unrestricted grants, Guggenheim Fellowships give recipients the time and freedom to focus on meaningful projects and pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award," said Strassler, "and grateful to my CUNY colleagues and students who inspire me every day. I will be researching how people with breast cancer use images to document their experiences, advocate for themselves and others, and change the ways that we as a society see this devastating disease."

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be named a Guggenheim Fellow in the field of music composition," said Yao, a jazz trombonist. His fellowship will enable him to work on *Let's Make Some Noise*, which he describes as "an immersive, interactive music experience, where the audience participates in the musicmaking in conjunction with my big band, called John Yao & His 17-Piece Instrument."

Karen Strassler and John Yao



Kessler Program Receives \$1.1 Million Grant Renewal

The Kessler Scholars Program at Queens College won a four-year, \$1.1 million grant renewal award from the Kessler Scholars Collaborative in August 2025.

The college joined the collaborative in 2020, rolling out its model of intensive, cohort-based support for first-generation, limited-income students. The model has been highly successful at QC, achieving a better-than 90 percent engagement and retention rate for participants, whose four-year graduation rate is more than double the national average for first-generation students.

QC is among the Kessler Collaborative's 15 campus partners, which operate alongside the University of Michigan, where the program was inaugurated. Based on their positive results to date, all the partners were regranted, sharing equally in a \$16.5 million investment from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Wilpon Family Foundation.

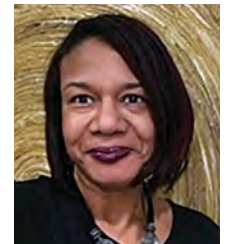
KESSLER
SCHOLARS

ASALH Honors Natanya Duncan

Africana Studies Director Natanya Duncan received the Mary McLeod Bethune Service Award from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) at its 110th conference in Atlanta in September 2025. The Bethune Award commemorates the first woman president of ASALH; it is presented annually to a member of the organization whose career has been highlighted with service to education, African American history, and the community.

"I joined ASALH as a graduate student in 2003, and I have not missed an ASALH conference since," said Duncan. "ASALH is life for me. All I know about the academy, I learned from the scholars, activists, and general membership of ASALH, which is not an exclusively academic organization. It has a lay membership with branches throughout the United States and the Bahamas."

ASALH is the founder of Black History Month and produces *The Black History Bulletin*, the longest-running curricular periodical dedicated to Black History.



Recognizing Excellence

Outstanding students were honored at QC's annual Academic Excellence Award Ceremony on the evening of October 28, 2025. More than 2,400 students earned distinctions as Dean's List Scholars, Provost Scholars, and Presidential Scholars during the previous academic year. Queens College Foundation Member Harris M. Horowitz '78, formerly managing director-global head of tax and tax policy and innovation leader at BlackRock Inc.—the world's largest asset manager—gave a memorable keynote. "I still believe that college, and even further education, is critically important and more than worthwhile," he assured the audience.



How To Train Your Dragon Boat Team

The Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival has been an annual Queens tradition since 1990, attracting teams of paddlers to Flushing Meadows Corona Park to vie against each other in Meadow Lake. CUNY had never participated. That changed last year. Under the leadership of coaches Adrian Peters and Hemwatie Seusarran (Office of Public Safety) and team manager Liza Marquez (External and Governmental Relations), the CUNY Knight Dragons—drawn primarily from the QC community—spent nearly three months training, first at the college pool and then on the lake. Their efforts paid off on August 9–10, 2025, when the Knight Dragons made an impressive debut in multiple divisions. They placed second in the regular mixed race and third, by a hundredth of a second, in the Educational Invitational, facing teams from four other schools. The women’s team won the women’s race and backed by Spectrum, the women’s Sponsors Invitational.

Displaying the plaque for their second-place finish are (l to r) CUNY Dragon Knights Russell Gomes, Sabrina Castro, Yaci Castro, Michelle Gomez, Adrian Peters, and Miguel Bismonte.



Gertz Hall Reopens



(L to r) Sima Gerber (Linguistics and Communication Disorders); Michael Newman (Linguistics and Communication Disorders); CUNY Vice Chancellor of Facilities Planning, Construction and Management Mohamed Attalla; President Frank H. Wu; Patricia McCaul (Linguistics and Communication Disorders); Dormitory Authority of the State of New York President and CEO Robert Rodriguez; Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; New York City Council Member James Gennaro

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, New York State Dormitory Authority President Robert D. Rodriguez, New York City Councilmember James Gennaro, and CUNY Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Planning and Management Mohamed Attalla joined faculty, student and alumni speakers in cutting the ribbon for the reopening of the renovated Gertz Hall on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Gertz houses the college’s Speech Language Hearing Center, which prepares graduate students to become speech language pathologists and provides clinical services to community members with communication disorders. Among other improvements, the renovations created additional space and treatment rooms, enabling the center to remain a nationally recognized, competitive, and highly sought-after facility.

Poetic Conversation

Arthur Sze, in September 2025 named the nation’s 25th Poet Laureate for 2025–2026 by the Library of Congress, opened his tenure at Queens College: He gave a free public reading, “Words Bridging Worlds: On Poetry and Translation,” on campus Monday, December 8. The son of immigrants raised in Queens and on Long Island, he chose this venue because of the college’s diversity. CUNY Distinguished Professor Kimiko Hahn—a long-term member of QC’s English department who was named the New York State Poet in June 2025—discussed literary translation with Sze after his reading. The event is believed to be the first time poets with national and state distinctions appeared together at a CUNY college.

Arthur Sze and Kimiko Hahn



Louis Armstrong House Museum Gains New Designation

The Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) is among five institutions—one in each borough—that were added to New York City’s Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) on September 30, 2025. The CIG now comprises 39 privately managed cultural organizations that operate on city-owned property and provide public programming; members of the group receive substantial subsidies and capital investments.

LAHM celebrated its new status on December 8, 2025, at a gathering addressed by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo. Attendees also heard from Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, District Attorney Melinda Katz, New York State Assembly Member Larinda Hooks, former Assembly Member Jeffrion “Jeff” Aubry, LAHM Board of Trustees Chair Jay Hershenson, LAHM Executive Director Regina Bain, President Frank H. Wu, and of course, a combo of musicians associated with the museum.

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo at the mic



New Dean Means Business

Carmen Cotei, formerly associate dean at the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford, assumed office in January 2026 as the inaugural dean of the Queens College School of Business. Her title, Ally Bridge Dean of Business, is supported in part by an endowment from Frank Fan Yu ’94, founding CEO and CIO of the Ally Bridge Group.

Cotei holds a BA in finance from Bucharest University of Economic Studies and a PhD in financial economics from the University of New Orleans. A member of the Barney School of Business faculty since 2004, she has also served as program director,

department chair, and interim dean. Among her achievements, she led the development and launch of new academic programs, including the MBA-STEM program and an undergraduate program in fintech. Her efforts contributed to high retention rates and the establishment of external partnerships that provided students with experiential learning opportunities.



Prime Opportunity for Campus

Queens College is showcased in season 15 of “The College Tour,” now streaming on Amazon Prime Video—the first CUNY school to be so featured. The award-winning series introduces viewers to colleges and universities around the world through student narratives, offering an intimate portrayal of campus life to help young adults make informed decisions about higher education. The stars of the QC episode, filmed on campus in spring 2025 and presented by reality television star Desi Williams, are 10 students who share their experience with academics and campus life, including housing, sports, and activities.



Formal Occasion

A Hispanic rite of passage was the subject of *Quinceañera: Dress and Memory in Latine Culture*, presented by the Godwin-Ternbach Museum from September 25 to December 18, 2025. The lavish show, featuring gowns and accessories sourced from local pan-Latine communities, was inspired by a QC student's essay about her own quinceañera, a celebration that marks the honoree's transition to adulthood. As part of the exhibition, opened in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month, Fashion and Design Program students handmade fabric flowers that were displayed throughout the space. The show was covered by WPIX, WABC, CUNY TV, and other outlets.



(L to r) "Here and Now" host Sandra Bookman and producer Tracey R. Bagley

Recorded Here, Then

A special episode of WABC's "Here and Now"—the longest-running African American public affairs show in the country, hosted by Sandra Bookman—was taped live at LeFrak Concert Hall on November 13, 2025, before an appreciative audience. The special, "Legends & Future Leaders of Queens," highlighted celebrated inventor Lewis Latimer, jazz icon Louis Armstrong, and ambitious local high school students, among others.

Providing Food and Clothing to Students

With help from the community, the Knights Table Food Pantry and Armory was able to support thousands of needy Queens College and CUNY students in 2025. University-wide, QC placed sixth in funds raised on Tuesday, December 2, 2025—Giving Tuesday. These donations were matched by the Queens College Foundation and earmarked for the pantry. Supplementing those efforts, State Assembly Member Sam Berger arranged delivery of packaged foods on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

(L to r) James Vacca, Ricky Malone, Teshawn Wheatley, Brian Briglia, Sheno Callender, Kelvin Gonzelez, and Arianna Livreri



Hosting Artists on Campus

The Thomas Chen Family/Crystal Window Endowment has been enriching the campus by supporting artist residencies.

Leekyung Kang, QC's inaugural Thomas Chen Family Crystal Windows artist in residence, presented her work in *Entombed in Static*, mounted in the student gallery of Klapper Hall in February 2025. The show featured paintings, print, and an installation, all inspired by Buddhist ideas about the universe.

Jian Yang, the second Chen artist in residence, set up *Theater State* in the Queens College Art Center on the sixth floor of Rosenthal Library in May 2025. The installation explored the connection between power and performance.

Leekyung Kang and Jian Yang



The Sky Is Not the Limit

Akosua Dufie '21, MA '23 Takes Flight with NASA's Supersonic Mission

By John Scarinci

Akosua Dufie '21, MA '23, is helping NASA revolutionize the future of the airline industry. Dufie serves as an operations engineer for NASA's Quesst (Quiet Supersonic Technology) mission, working on NASA's X-59 aircraft, which is equipped with technology designed to reduce the sound of a sonic boom.

Whenever a plane breaks the sound barrier, a loud sonic boom is produced with a force so intense it can damage glass and even buildings. Although supersonic technology has been around for decades, it has not been viable for commercial flights due to its noise output. With Dufie's help, NASA is trying to change that.

The Quesst mission is divided into three phases. The first is aircraft development, which includes the design, fabrication, and initial test of the aircraft. In phase two, NASA will conduct acoustic validation flights to verify if the aircraft produces low sonic thumps as designed. In the final phase, NASA will fly over various communities to collect data on how the sound is perceived. The goal is to make supersonic jets available for commercial use in the future. With this technology, commercial airlines could fly from New York to London in just three hours.

Dufie works at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center located inside Edwards Air Force Base in California. She is heavily involved in phase two, putting flight test plans into place and working in the control room during test missions. On the ground, she's organizing crews to service the ground recording system microphones that record the acoustics. Additionally, she serves as a flight test engineer and flies in the back seat of the F-15 aircraft that will probe through the shockwaves of the X-59.

"If I'm not in the field or in the Mission Control Room, I'm in the back seat with the pilot collecting data," Dufie explained.

Born in Ghana, Dufie moved to Brooklyn with her family when she was 11 years old. Despite the challenges of being in a new country, Dufie thrived in school and was the salutatorian of her graduating class at the Clara Barton High School for Health Professions.

Queens College recognized her promise. Dufie was contacted by the college's Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) Program, which supports students who are academically capable but face educational and/or financial

“At NASA, I love the opportunities—where else would I get to fly military fighter jets like the F-15s and F-18 regularly?”

challenges, providing them with comprehensive resources to succeed in college. Dufie started at QC in the summer after high school to complete SEEK’s required Summer Bridge Program. She initially majored in economics in hopes of being a financial analyst and then added pure mathematics as a double major due to her love for the subject. She found the support from SEEK invaluable.

“I had amazing professors. The SEEK program has its own cohort of professors up until a certain level, so I took those classes. SEEK professors care a lot more,” noted Dufie. “They really embedded in your head how to study better, how to learn better, how to really absorb what is being taught to you, and good practices. The SEEK Summer Bridge Program really prepared me to get a jump start as a freshman.”

One of those amazing professors was Anisha Clarke (Mathematics). Clarke took Dufie under her wing and helped her thrive in math.

“She just made me love math. The way she taught it, I understood it,” Dufie explained. “I’ve always loved math growing up, but I also understood that whoever teaches it carries a lot of weight into how you’re going to experience the subject.”

Clarke also encouraged Dufie to apply for an internship at NASA. When Dufie was looking at internships, she had never even given NASA a thought. She had mostly been looking for financial analyst internships, with no success.

“I said to Professor Clarke, ‘If the banks don’t want me, what makes you think NASA is going to open my application?’” Dufie recalled. “That was my thought process at the time, but the worst thing you can hear is ‘no.’ Let someone else say no to you. Don’t sell yourself short.”

To Dufie’s surprise, after applying for a 2020 NASA summer internship and going to an interview, she was offered the position. She accepted a three-month internship as an operations engineer on the Quesst mission, working with the emergencies that were being designed into the X-59 simulator. She later completed a second internship as a systems engineer in the fall of 2020, where she worked to ensure the logical and systematic conversion of stakeholder requests into requirements needed for verification.

Clarke’s help didn’t stop with the NASA internship. When Dufie was preparing to graduate in Spring 2023, she noticed that a class she needed to complete her master’s degree had been canceled. Clarke worked with the program director to re-open the class for Dufie and about 10 other students who needed the class for graduation.

Dufie earned her master’s degree in May 2023 from Queens College. She wasn’t thinking about pursuing a career at NASA at the time. She was working as a supplemental instructor/teaching assistant for the SEEK department.

But NASA came calling again and offered Dufie a full-time position to work in California on the Quesst mission beginning in the



Akosua Dufie gets ready to board a F/A-18 Hornet for NASA.

summer of 2023. Dufie was enjoying teaching and was unsure of what to do, but Professor Clarke gave her some good advice once again.

“She pushed me to go to NASA and said, you know, you can always come back to teaching,” Dufie said. “Had I never met Professor Clarke, I probably would have never been in this position. My life would have probably been something different.”

Dufie has now been at NASA for two years and appreciates the incredible opportunity.

“At NASA, I love the opportunities—I mean, where else would I get to fly military fighter jets like the F-15s and F-18 regularly? Also, people really want to see you do well. It’s comparable to the energy I felt at Queens College, especially in the SEEK program. Everyone wants to help you open doors and see you do well. I 100% have faith that it is Queens College SEEK that got me to where I am because they’re the ones who guided me to the path I’m on now. In this entire journey, God has been and continues to be my rock.”

Reading the Room

Through carefully chosen texts and constructive dialogue, Pages of Hope promotes understanding among students from different religious backgrounds

By Leslie Jay

International conflicts have a long reach, particularly at a college named for, and serving, “the World’s Borough.” Fortunately, the diversity of Queens College also makes it an ideal place to explore competing narratives in a thoughtful manner. That’s the objective of Pages of Hope, a noncredit bridge-building program launched in fall 2024 with the support of the late Harry Braunstein ’71, founder of commercial and real estate law firm Braunstein Turkish LLP. (His obituary is published on page 12.)

As the name implies, Pages of Hope is a student reading group that tackles select works by Israeli and Palestinian authors. Participants meet four times during the semester. At the first three dates, they discuss the books in sessions led by facilitators. In the fourth session, students make presentations to a small gathering of QC administrators, faculty, and other guests. Because of the sensitivity of the subject matter, the group operates within a circle of trust that preserves students’ anonymity.

To date, three cohorts have completed the program, which is open to all students in good academic standing. “To apply, students fill out a short soft application that asks for their name, CUNY ID number, and how they found out about the program, and write a brief statement on why they want to participate,” says Judy Krinitz (Academic Advising), who co-founded Pages of Hope with Sara Kahan (Institutional Advancement) and is one of its facilitators. “They also must have at least a 2.0 GPA and be in good standing with the college. I go to Hillel and Muslim Students Association events to recruit students. I’ve reached out to several professors, and they also try to push the program to their students.”

The books, which the students receive for free, are *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* by American-Israeli journalist Yossi Klein Halevi; *The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine* by peace advocate Yousef Bashir; and *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine* by Palestinian historian Sami Adwan and Israeli historians Dan Bar-On and Eyal Naveh, co-founders of Peace Research in the Middle East (PRIME).

“I chose the books,” says Krinitz. “Halevi writes to a generic Palestinian across the border fence from his home in Jerusalem. Approximately 12 Palestinians wrote back to him, one being Yousef Bashir. We then read Bashir’s narrative about growing up in Gaza and how he learned from his family to always look for the path to peace. Our last book, *Side by Side*, was written by Israeli and Palestinian academics. The same events are depicted through both lenses. On the left side of the page is the Israeli narrative and on the right side is the Palestinian narrative.” In addition, students



Pages of Hope team members (l to r) Judith Krinitz, Arnold Franklin (History/Jewish Studies), Sara Kahan, and Francesca Girod

Inset: books read in the program



are given a folder with several “articles of hope” and a list of supplemental readings.

Grappling with this material can be challenging for all involved, observes Krinitz’s fellow facilitator, Francesca Girod (Counseling Services). “Facilitators must hold space for students as they struggle with and churn different perspectives—gleaned from the reading materials and from listening to each other—that they have not been exposed to. Respect, affection, and meaningful reflection often come about when members agree to share what they have learned and how that struggle feels when it might be incongruent with what they have been taught. A past student shared that she learned ‘There can be two truths.’ This was a point of mutual understanding for her.

“I see the reward of my participation in this initiative when students sit together, break bread, and support each other as they discuss how the readings move them . . . they can maintain their beliefs and values while experiencing empathy for another’s pain, strife, conviction, or experience.”

In these pages, we celebrate the lives and achievement of members of the Queens College community who passed away.

Carol Levy Balassa '59

Carol Levy Balassa, long-term staffer at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, died in May 2025 at the age of 87. Balassa earned a BA from Queens College, a master's degree from Yale University in international relations, and after moving to Washington, DC, with her husband, a doctorate in international relations from Johns Hopkins University. Beginning in 1980, Balassa enjoyed a diverse career in the Office of the United States Trade Representative, where she led numerous trade negotiations, focusing on services issues, including motion pictures and telecommunications. After her retirement in 2007, she became a senior fellow at Vanderbilt University's Curb Center.

Gustav Eric Bauer '57

Gustav Eric Bauer, a longtime University of Minnesota faculty member, died in January 2025. He was 90. Bauer—known by his middle name—headed west after graduating from QC, earning a doctorate in anatomy at U Minnesota. Remaining there for the rest of his career, he taught anatomy and histology at the university's medical and dental schools for more than 50 years. In addition, he conducted research at his home institution and at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. A recreational sailor and fisherman, Bauer loved the water. His other outlet was music; a violinist, he played chamber music and was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis, the city's oldest community orchestra.

Andrew Beveridge

Andrew Beveridge, professor emeritus of sociology, died in April 2025. He was 79. Beveridge held a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's and a doctorate in sociology, all from Yale. After teaching at Columbia from 1973 to 1981, he joined the sociology faculty of QC and the CUNY Graduate Center. During his 39-year CUNY career, he served as department chair, led the Applied Social Research Program, and helped found the Institute for Demographic Research. Celebrated for his understanding of New York and U.S. demographic patterns and trends, Beveridge had tremendous impact beyond his field. As president of the Yonkers Board of Education in the late 1980s, he helped manage the court-ordered desegregation of the city's school system. The following decade, he and software engineer Ahmed Lacevic created Social Explorer, which evolved into a website that visualized U.S. Census data over time and space. Beveridge was a longtime consultant to the *New York Times*. Other clients included Time Warner Cable of New York, the Newspaper Association of America, law firms, and such nonprofit organizations as the Open Housing Center of New York City and Westchester Legal Services.

Barry Blechman '63

Nuclear power expert and think tank founder Barry Blechman died in June 2025. Working his way through college, Blechman achieved such success as a Fuller Brush salesman that he was told he could eventually become a manager, with perks that included a Cadillac. Nonetheless, upon graduating with a degree in political science, he moved to Washington, DC. He earned a PhD in international relations at Georgetown University and, in positions at the Pentagon

and the Center for Naval Analysis, built computerized simulations of warfare. Blechman went on to head the Defense Analysis Project at the Brookings Institution, serve as assistant director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for President Jimmy Carter, and work for several think tanks before founding his own consulting firm, DFI International, in the 1980s. He subsequently co-founded the nonprofit Henry L. Stimson Center, which focuses on security and other global issues. An expert on the defense budget, the importance of the armed forces in supporting the nation's foreign policy, and on nuclear policy, Blechman wrote or edited more than 20 books and 200 articles. His op-eds on defense policy ran in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and other publications.

Harry Braunstein '71

Harry Braunstein, founder of commercial and real estate law firm Braunstein Turkish LLP, passed away in November 2025. After graduating from Queens College with a degree in political science, Braunstein received a JD from Brooklyn Law School. He was part of Wall Street law firm Herzfeld & Rubin, P.C. for over twenty years, becoming head of its real estate group. Then he established his own practice, serving not only as an attorney but also as a business and real estate principal. At QC, he established the Jean & Murray Braunstein Scholarship Fund, which awards need-based scholarships, and supported the angel investor program and the Knights Table Food Pantry. Most recently, he supported the founding of Pages of Hope for Peace in the Middle East, launched through the Center for Jewish Studies in 2023. The program facilitates peaceful dialogue and understanding among students of different religious backgrounds; participants read and discuss writings by Israelis and Palestinians. (To learn more about Pages of Hope, see page 11.)

Stephen Buchauer '66

High school teacher-turned-pastor Stephen Buchauer died in July 2025. He was 81. A biology major and education minor at QC, Buchauer taught science in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, before spending 27 years at Averill Park High School in New York. He retired from the classroom in 2008. Then he trained as an associate pastor in the lay ministry program at Berkshire Community Church and took courses online at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. In his second career, Buchauer took on pastoral duties at multiple Massachusetts houses of worship: South Egremont Congregational Church, White Oaks Congregational Church, Hancock Baptist Church, and a variety of fill-in ministries. From 2013 to 2020 he was the pastor at Morningside Baptist Church and served on the Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations.

Jeffrey Carr '60

Jeffrey Carr, the first doctor in Putnam and Westchester Counties to participate in and develop what would become the Westchester-Putnam Hospice Program, passed away in December 2024. He was 86. A Brooklyn-born alumnus of Erasmus Hall High School, Carr crossed the borough border to study at QC, where he pledged

Tau Delta Phi. After earning his MD degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine, he came back to Brooklyn for his internship and residency in Maimonides Hospital. Subsequently he served in Vietnam with the United States Army Medical Corps, which awarded him the Combat Medical Badge. Honorably discharged in 1968, Carr moved to Mahopac and opened a private practice in internal medicine. An attending physician at Putnam Hospital, he held numerous leadership roles, including medical director of Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services and the Carmel Narcotics Guidance Council and president of the Putnam County Medical Society. Upon retiring from private practice, he became the medical director at Putnam Ridge Nursing Home and then at Daytop Village.

William Clark

William Clark, emeritus professor of art history at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center, passed away in April 2025. He was 85. Clark joined the QC faculty in 1967, three years before he completed his PhD in medieval art and architecture at Columbia University. A founding member of the Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art, he wrote four books, published widely, and regularly presented papers at conferences. Clark enjoyed collaborating with other scholars to combine complementary areas of expertise. He teamed up with engineering scholar Robert Mark to explore Gothic structural innovations in articles that appeared in *The Art Bulletin* and *Scientific American* and were discussed on an episode of PBS's "Nova." With Joel Herschman of Fordham University, he curated an exhibition on France's Mission Héliographique, a photographic survey of historical monuments that was conducted in 1851; the show formally inaugurated the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. Clark continued to research and publish into his late 70s and taught full time until 2020.

James Como BA '67, MA '70

James Como, professor emeritus of rhetoric and public communication at York College, died in November 2025. He was 79. A native New Yorker and product of New York institutions, he graduated from Long Island City High School two years early and went on to earn an MA in public and group communication from QC, an MA in medieval English literature from Fordham University, and a PhD in language, literature and communication from Columbia University. In 1968, when he joined the York faculty, he was about four years older than his first students, whom he regaled with boxing metaphors; as a former Golden Glove champion, he remained fond of the "sweet science." To fellow academics, he was known as an eminent scholar of C.S. Lewis—author of books on Christianity and faith, as well as the Narnia series for children—and founding member of the New York C.S. Lewis Society.

Ida Masone Comparin '52

Ida Masone Comparin passed away in January 2025 at the age of 96. The first in her family to go to college, Comparin earned not only a bachelor's degree from QC but also an MLS from Columbia University. Her career included two years as a special services librarian in Japan and positions as a reference librarian at Purdue University, co-director of Montgomery Regional Library, and acting director of Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. Upon retiring from Montgomery-Floyd in 1994, she served the library as a volunteer.

Noelle Crumlish '06

Noelle Crumlish, who in her Queens College career worked at the Murphy Institute, Academic Advisement, and most recently, the Office of Veteran and Military Support Services, passed away in July 2025. She was 61. While studying history at QC, she was part of a group that researched the names and biographies of Queens College students who served and died in World War II; they are honored at a memorial on campus.

Rosemary Deen

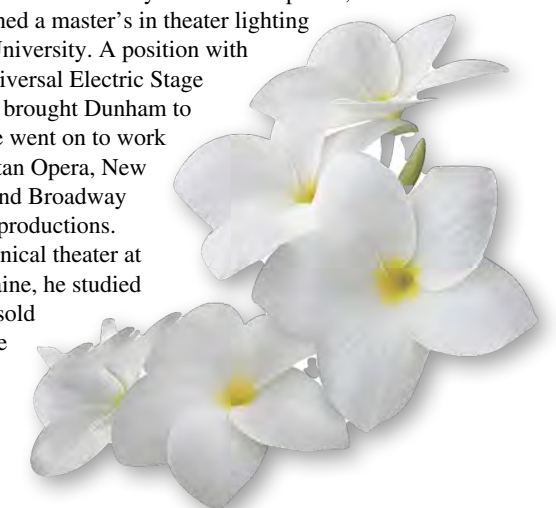
Rosemary Deen, a longtime member of QC's English faculty, passed away in September 2025, about two months short of her hundredth birthday. Deen earned a bachelor's degree from Aquinas College and an MA in English literature from the University of Michigan and completed coursework for a doctorate at the University of Chicago, where she met her husband, late Blake scholar and QC professor Leonard Deen. In collaboration with her English department colleague, poet Marie Ponsot, Deen published two instructional books: *Beat Not the Poor Desk* and *The Common Sense: What to Write, How to Write It, and Why*. She also released an essay collection, *Naming the Light: A Week of Years*, and for more than four decades was the poetry editor of *Commonweal*, stepping down in 2019. After the Deens retired to their summer home in Stone Ridge, New York, Rosemary Deen served on the board of the Stone Ridge Public Library and led a poetry reading group there.

Harriett Gromb Dekker '64

Harriett Gromb Dekker, a teacher turned HR consultant, passed away in October 2025. She was 83. An early childhood education major at QC who subsequently earned a master's in educational psychology from New York University, she was a teacher and administrative director for organizations supporting children and adults with special needs. In the late 1980s, she studied psychology and graphology at the New School for Social Research, receiving certification in graphology. Entering a second career, Dekker founded and ran a human resources consultancy specializing in personnel selection, retiring in 2004.

Richard Dunham

Lighting designer and former Queens College faculty member Richard Dunham died in June 2025 at the age of 83. Dunham's love of theater was whetted during his childhood in Hanover, New Hampshire, where his family was involved in local productions. He majored in theater at the University of New Hampshire, served in the army, and then earned a master's in theater lighting design at Indiana University. A position with Kliegl Brothers Universal Electric Stage Lighting Company brought Dunham to New York City. He went on to work with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, and Broadway and off-Broadway productions. He also taught technical theater at QC. Retiring to Maine, he studied woodworking and sold distinctive lamps he crafted in his home studio in Appleton.



Raymond Franklin

Economics Professor Emeritus Raymond Franklin passed away in June 2025. He was 104. After three semesters at the University of Michigan, Franklin hitchhiked to Seattle, where he worked on the Boeing assembly line. Returning eventually to his native Detroit, he enrolled at Wayne State University. He completed a BA in sociology and an MA in economics while employed in the auto industry and playing an active role in organized labor. Next, he earned a doctorate at University of California, Berkeley. After teaching at Vassar and City College, Franklin joined the QC faculty. He co-founded and ran the Monday Lunch, an informal faculty seminar on political and social topics of the day, often with guest speakers, that took place throughout the 1980s. In 1990, he became the founding director of the college's Michael Harrington Center for Social Justice, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. He published his last book, *The Changing Shape of History from the New Deal to the Conviction of Trump*, in September 2024.

Michael Friedman '69

Michael Friedman, Suppes Professor of Philosophy of Science at Stanford University, died in March 2025, shortly before his 78th birthday. A philosophy major at QC, Friedman earned his doctorate at Princeton University. Prior to Stanford, he taught at Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, University of Illinois, Indiana University, and University of California, Berkeley. Friedman was acclaimed for his work in the philosophy of science; his first book, *Foundations of Space-Time Theories: Relativistic Physics and the Philosophy of Science*, won the Franklin J. Machette Foundation Book Prize from the American Philosophical Association and the Lakatos Award from the London School of Economics.

Leon Graubard '52

Leon Graubard, an economics professor who had a second career as a lawyer, died in September 2025. He was 94. Shortly after graduating from QC as an economics major, Graubard joined the U.S. Army. He did a two-year tour in Korea and was awarded the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars. Demobbed, he did graduate work at Columbia University, the London School of Economics, and Brown University, where he earned his doctorate. He went on to teach economics at Boston University, Brown, Northeastern, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Retired from academia, Graubard enrolled in Northeastern University School of Law at the age of 70. Upon earning his JD and passing the Massachusetts Bar, he joined the Boston Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project, which serves low-income families and individuals.

Roy Louis Haje '66

Conservation biologist Roy Louis Haje died in February 2025 at the age of 79. A Queens native who was only 16 when he received his diploma from Andrew Jackson High School, Haje majored in biology at QC. Upon graduation, he was drafted into the Marines and stationed at Camp Lejeune

in Beaufort, South Carolina; he returned to New York at the end of his service. While working for the state's Department of Environmental Conservation as a conservation biologist and permit agent, Haje completed a master's in marine science from C.W. Post, Long Island University, and a master's in environmental science from Stony Brook University. In 1980 he went into business for himself, launching Southampton-based En-Consultants, focusing on coastal environmental planning, permit acquisitions, and project management of development and restoration projects across Long Island. Retiring 31 years later, he transferred En-Consultants to his associates and took up bicycle repair, giving away the bikes he fixed.

Edward Helmke '56

Edward Helmke, a lawyer who specialized in real estate, died in December 2024 at the age of 95. Upon graduating from Stuyvesant High School, Helmke enrolled at QC, taking night classes so he could work during the day. He subsequently earned a JD at St. John's University School of Law and a master's in taxation law from New York University. He held positions at Talcott, RCA, NBC, and finally at General Electric, where he was director of real estate, managing commercial holdings—a job that sent him all over the world.

Harold Robert Hogstrom '49

Harold Robert Hogstrom, emeritus professor of communication and theatre at the College of New Jersey, passed away in September 2025, six days after his hundredth birthday. An Eagle Scout and New York City native, Hogstrom saw World War II action as a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division; his battalion was the first to land in Japan on VJ Day. After graduating from QC, he earned his doctorate at Syracuse University. He spent most of his academic career—33 years—at the College of New Jersey. He directed more than 100 plays and designed and built stage sets for many others. Retiring to Asheville, North Carolina, Hogstrom put his construction skills to use as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and kept teaching at the College for Seniors at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Nick Jordan

Philosophy Professor Emeritus James N. Jordan, known always as Nick, died in March 2025. He was 86. Born in Houston, Jordan was raised and educated in Texas; he earned his BA and PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He taught briefly at Southwest Missouri State University and for four years at the University of South Dakota before joining QC's philosophy department in 1970. Upon receiving tenure five years later, Jordan was drafted as chair. In 1982, he became dean of the Division of Social Sciences; stepping down in 1987, he resumed his position as philosophy chair, holding it for another six years. He subsequently became director of the MA in Liberal Studies, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 2019. As active in his neighborhood as he was on campus, Jordan is remembered for his enthusiastic participation in block association events.

Mitchell Kahn

Singer, pianist, and band leader Mitchell Kahn, a QC alumnus, passed away in January 2025. He was 71. Trained in classical and jazz piano, orchestration, and voice, Kahn enjoyed a diversified career. A member of the Yiddish Artists & Friends Actors Club and

the Yiddish Theatrical Alliance, he was also devoted to the Great American Songbook. Kahn's resume included performances at the Rainbow Room, Sardi's, Tavern on the Green, and the Copacabana, and on many syndicated radio and television programs.

Stephen Karetzky '67

Stephen Karetzky, who taught library and information sciences at colleges on both U.S. coasts, died in September 2025. He was 79. After graduating from QC, where he studied history and social sciences, Karetzky completed a master's and doctorate in library and information services at the Columbia University School of Library Service. He subsequently earned a master's in history/humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Karetzky held faculty positions at colleges in upstate New York, Haifa University, San Jose State University, and Felician University in Lodi, New Jersey, serving as Felician's library director for more than twenty years. He also wrote widely, publishing books on the Middle East and librarianship.

Yaakov Kirschen '60

"Dry Bones" cartoonist Yaakov Kirschen passed away in April 2025; he was 87. After graduating from QC, Kirschen sold cartoons to *Cracked Magazine* and *Playboy*. Moving to Israel in 1971, he changed his name from Jerry to Yaakov, and two years later began drawing "Dry Bones." Published in the *Jerusalem Post* for 50 years and subsequently in the Jewish News Syndicate, the daily strip had an international following for its pointed commentary. The title, Kirschen told *New Jersey Jewish News*, referenced Ezekiel's vision of a valley of dry bones. Kirschen was a member of both the U.S. National Cartoonists Society and the Israeli Cartoonists Society. Widely admired in his adopted country, he was awarded the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize in 2014. The honor recognizes English-speaking *olim*—people who immigrate to Israel—for their contribution to the country's culture.

Shirley Klein

Longtime Queens College friend and supporter Shirley Klein passed away in April 2025. She was 98. With her husband, she established the Klein Rare Book Restoration Fund and the Edwin and Shirley L. Klein Endowment Fund. To commemorate both of them, the Klein family recently set up an endowment fund, the Shirley and Edwin Klein Family Fellowship, which will support graduate students working in Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library's Special Collections and Archives.

Philip Klubes '56

Philip Klubes, former professor of pharmacology at The George Washington University School of Medicine, died in December 2025 at the age of 90. A chemistry major at Queens College, Klubes went to the University of Minnesota for his PhD in biochemistry and then completed a post-doc at Harvard University Medical School. He taught at George Washington and conducted research on cancer chemotherapy from 1965 until his retirement in 1999, and is credited as author or co-author of dozens of peer-reviewed articles. After taking up fishing in graduate school, he pursued the sport with family and friends; his favorite location was in Nags Head, North Carolina.

Michael Kowal '53

Michael Kowal, associate professor of English emeritus, passed away in March 2025. A former Fulbright scholar, he created the Max Kowalski Scholarship in honor of his uncle, a composer who fled Germany in 1939 and spent the rest of his life in England. Kowal was also a generous supporter of the Aaron Copland School of Music, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, and the QC Retirees Scholarship Fund.

Charles Lloyd

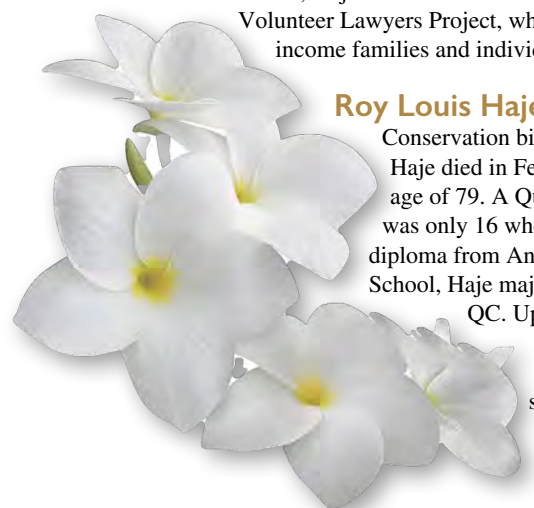
Charles Lloyd, long-time SEEK staffer and executive officer of the Office of Student Advocacy and Appeals, passed away in July 2025. Lloyd joined Queens College in 1969 as a SEEK counselor and advisor. He went on to establish and chair the SEEK Academic Scholastic Standing Committee, which monitored students' academic progress. In light of the committee's success in helping SEEK students stay on track for graduation, QC rolled out the program across campus in 1996 as the Queens College Undergraduate Scholastic Standards Committee, subsequently renamed the Office of Student Advocacy and Appeals. Lloyd was appointed its director and retired as its executive officer in 2018. He is remembered for his commitment to the college and to its students.

Marion Dorothy London '62

Clinical psychologist Marion Dorothy London died in July 2025, a few days short of her 85th birthday. The daughter of Czechoslovakian refugees who fled the Nazis, London was born in England and immigrated to New York with her family. A history major at QC, she taught the subject in New York public and private schools. Moving to Massachusetts and switching gears, she earned a master's in school counseling and, while raising two young children and working as a counselor, with a doctorate in clinical psychology, London co-founded the Women's Health Clinic in New Bedford, created and conducted peer-counseling services for the underserved, produced women's liberation conferences, and set up the peer-counseling program at her children's high school. In retirement, she relocated to Davis, California, to be near her children and grandchildren, reserving summers for Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. A dedicated gardener, she volunteered at Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls and the Davis Arboretum.

Roberta Luttrell '72

Roberta Luttrell, professor emerita of English at Nassau Community College (NCC), passed away in August 2025. She was 90. Luttrell, who earned her doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center, taught English composition, poetry, and other subjects at NCC for 33 years. She was so committed to helping students develop literacy that she offered free tutoring in remedial courses and ESL and learned basic American Sign Language to work with the hearing impaired. Practicing what she taught, Luttrell wrote poetry, short stories, and magazine articles, and co-authored a drama with a colleague. She retired from NCC in 2010.



QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

William Muraskin

Urban Studies Professor Emeritus William Muraskin died in October 2025. He was 81. In childhood deemed a slow learner, Muraskin defied that classification by graduating Phi Beta Kappa from University of California, Berkeley, two years early. Upon earning a master's degree from Columbia and a PhD in history from UC Berkeley, he returned to Queens—he had grown up in Jamaica Estates—and joined the Queens College faculty. He would teach here for 48 years, chairing his department for six years and subsequently serving as assistant chair for graduate studies. Although his dissertation focused on Black American society, Muraskin pivoted to international health policy and related topics, winning multiple grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program. He wrote eight books, six of them based on his field work. His research led him to challenge the value of global efforts against certain diseases, such as polio, which causes many fewer deaths than measles.

James Allen Owre '66

James Allen Owre, an educator who shifted into community and international development, died in April 2025, a few weeks short of his 89th birthday. Upon graduating from Flushing High School, Owre enlisted in the Marines. When his tour was up, he enrolled at QC, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in history. Teaching first on Long Island and then moving with his family to Vermont, he grew involved in community projects. He left a position at Blue Mountain Union School to devote himself to the creation of a community arts center, now known as Catamount Arts, in St. Johnsbury. Accompanied by his wife, Owre went on to spend 14 years working around the world in post-civil war community reintegration, providing technical assistance to newly elected democratic parliaments in Croatia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. Retiring to North Carolina in 2011, he returned to Vermont during the summer.

Felice Picano '64

Novelist, memoirist, poet, and playwright Felice Picano died in February 2025 at the age of 81. An English major who graduated from QC at 20, Picano began crafting fiction, nonfiction, and reviews while holding a day job at a bookstore. He ventured into gay topics with his fourth novel, *The Lure*, a thriller picked up by Book of the Month Club. Eager to help other gay authors get into print, Picano founded Sea Horse Press and a few years later, co-founded Gay Presses of New York, releasing dozens of titles. Extraordinarily prolific, he had more than 30 books to his own credit and contributed regularly to the *Los Angeles Times*, *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Herald-Examiner*, *Story Magazine*, *Christopher Street Magazine*, *Out*, *The Advocate*, and *Out Traveler*.

Michelle Pinto '75

Michelle Pinto, director of media relations for Northwell Health for nearly 30 years, passed away in February 2025. She was 71. Daughter of an Air Force officer, Pinto lived on a series of North American military bases until her family moved for good to Queens. She majored in English and drama at QC and upon graduating, wrote for local newspapers. The contacts Pinto made in journalism served her well once she segued into public relations. She is credited with

highlighting significant medical advancements. Notably, during the pandemic, she generated coverage for the first person outside a clinical trial to receive the COVID-19 vaccine—Sandra Lindsay, Northwell nurse and vice president of public health advocacy.

William C. Rorick

Assistant Professor Emeritus William C. Rorick, a man of many talents, passed away in January 2025. Rorick earned his first bachelor's degree, in business, from Ohio Wesleyan University. He subsequently completed a BM in music history and literature at the University of Utah, a master's in the same subjects at Northwestern University, and an MLIS at Pratt Institute—a CV that in 1974 won him placement in the Queens College Music Library. He served as a reference librarian, instructor, and assistant professor and found time to pick up one more degree, an MA in musicology, from New York University. Upon his retirement in 1996, Rorick studied art, painting portraits of famous composers and historical figures. He left many of those works to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum in conjunction with a \$2 million bequest to the Music Library, which has been renamed in his honor.

Allen Rosenbaum '58

Princeton University Art Museum Director Allen Rosenbaum, a board member of and donor to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM), died in August 2025. He was 88. After graduating from QC, where he studied under GTM co-founder Francis Gray Godwin, Rosenbaum earned a master's in art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. He held positions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the School of Fine Arts at the University of California-Irvine, and the former Shickman Gallery in New York before joining the staff of the Princeton museum in 1974. Six years later, he became its director, a job he held until 1999. Rosenbaum is recalled for adding to the institution's holdings in Italian art and supporting the acquisition of ancient pottery, sculpture, and textiles. He also increased staffing and expanded the museum itself. Devoted to QC, he served on the GTM board for more than 25 years.

Peter Rothholz '50

Peter Rothholz, founder of an eponymous public relations firm that counted the governments of Barbados, Italy, and New Zealand among its clientele, died in December 2024. He was 95. Rothholz wasn't even ten in 1938, when he and his father left Germany for England. Seven years later, Rothholz sailed to New York on a Cunard liner. Enrolling at QC, he majored in history and dreamed of joining the United States Foreign Service, but he did not meet State Department citizenship and age requirements. Instead, after graduation and Army service, he earned an MBA from New York University and held jobs with a tour operator and KLM Airlines. Then he launched a public relations company specializing in tourism and economic development. Rothholz moved in elevated circles. President William Clinton appointed him to the board of the U.S. Council on Aging. When President Ronald Reagan took a goodwill tour through the English-speaking Caribbean, Rothholz was asked to be the liaison between the Barbadian press and Larry Speakes, Reagan's press secretary. Closer to home, Rothholz taught in QC's Business and Liberal Arts program and served as president of the Queens College Foundation. After shuttering his business,

he signed up with the International Executive Service Corps, a volunteer organization which worked with the United States Agency for International Development to provide expertise and guidance to private industry. Assignments took him to the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In 2013, he moved to Santa Monica, California, where he was active as a freelance writer and as a lay leader in his synagogue.

Margaret Elenis Siklas '11, MEd '14

Margaret Elenis Siklas, who ran a company and raised money for women with cancer while fighting the disease herself, passed away in March 2025. She was 34. Siklas studied special education at QC and taught it at William Cullen Bryant High School, which promoted her to dean. Cancer changed her trajectory. A married mother of a toddler at her diagnosis, she adopted a rigorously healthful diet and prescribed herself high doses of vitamins. Her cancer went into remission. In 2020, Siklas and her sister founded Oh My Goodness Kids, offering classes and open play periods for children and an on-site café that serves food and beverages made without dairy, gluten, or refined sugar. That same year, while Siklas was pregnant with her second child, her cancer returned at stage 4, forcing her to deliver her baby early. Nonetheless, she opened a second Oh My Goodness Kids location. In April 2024 she hosted a fundraiser for women with cancer, telling *Newsday*, "I chose to pursue a path where I know I'm doing something for the future."

Harvard Sitkoff '61

Harvard Sitkoff, professor emeritus of modern American history at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), died in January 2025. He was 85. Upon graduating from QC, Sitkoff continued his education at Columbia University, earning his doctorate in 1975. He joined the UNH faculty the following year. Specializing in civil rights history, he wrote widely acclaimed books, including *The Struggle for Black Equality*, *King: Pilgrimage to the Mountaintop*, *A New Deal for Blacks*, and *Fifty Years Later: The New Deal Evaluated*. He created the Harvard Sitkoff Civil Rights Award, presented each year to a graduating QC senior who has maintained high academic standards and exhibited special interest in furthering the cause of civil rights.

Barbara Strongin-Friedlander '57

Barbara Strongin-Friedlander, who held leadership roles in multiple New York area nonprofits, died in May 2025 at the age of 90. Settled in Long Island with her family, Strongin-Friedlander immersed herself in causes that mattered to her. She was the field executive for the Greater New York Girl Scout Council, Queens, from 1967 to 1971 and thereafter spent seven years as the education director of the Suffolk County Girl Scout Council. Next, she served eight years as executive director of Planned Parenthood of Suffolk County (the precursor of Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic). In addition, she was a founding member of Suffolk County Voluntary Action Center, founding treasurer of the Suffolk Network on Adolescent Pregnancy, and served as a consultant for other organizations, including the Long Island Association for AIDS Care.

Rolf Swensen

Longterm campus librarian Rolf Swensen passed away in March 2025. Swensen held a BA from Lawrence University, an MLS from Columbia University, an Archival Certificate from Western

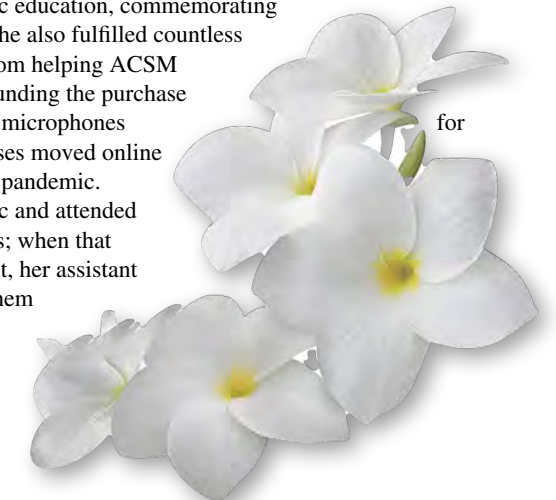
Washington University, and a PhD in United States History from the University of Oregon. He served as university archivist at Oregon State University and chief archivist at the National Archives in Papua New Guinea before joining Queens College in 1990 as a social sciences librarian, a position he would hold for nearly 30 years. He co-created a course in historic research and from 2013 to 2015, he served as acting chief librarian. A scholar of U.S. religious history, specifically that of Christian Science, he received three fellowships from the Mary Baker Eddy Library and published a dozen or more articles on the history of Christian Science. In retirement he packaged nine of his articles as well as recent insights into "*And O'er Earth's Troubled, Angry Sea*": *The History of Christian Science in the United States*, released by Routledge in May 2025.

Toby Talbot '49

Toby Talbot, a film aficionada who with her husband ran art-house cinemas on the Upper Westside for nearly 60 years, died in September 2025. She was 96. Talbot met her husband, Dan, as she was going to a movie theater. He was a book editor; she was an editor and translator. They had been planning to open a bookstore when on impulse they leased their first theater from her sister's accountant, naming it the New Yorker. The Talbots went on to establish other locations, some running concurrently, and opened a distribution company, New Yorker Films, that from 1965 to 2009 handled more than 1,000 movies. A Spanish major at QC, Talbot taught the subject at East Rockaway High School on Long Island, led classes on Spanish literature at Columbia University and New York University, served as education editor of the Spanish-language newspaper *El Diario Nueva York*, and translated Argentine journalist Jacobo Timerman's *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*—an account of his arrest and torture by the junta—into English. Under her own byline, she wrote multiple books. Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, the Talbots' last theater, closed in January 2018 when the couple couldn't renew their lease.

Avonelle "Bunny" Walker

Avonelle "Bunny" Walker, philanthropist and widow of Music Professor David Walker '52, died in May 2025. She was 94. A generous supporter of the Aaron Copland School of Music (ACSM), Walker worked with her dear friend Drora Pershing '55, an ACSM faculty member who passed away in 2020, to establish the Maynard/Walker Fund for the upkeep of the organ in LeFrak Concert Hall. Walker created several scholarships, especially for music education, commemorating her late husband. She also fulfilled countless special requests, from helping ACSM acquire pianos to funding the purchase of headphones and microphones for students when classes moved online during the COVID pandemic. Walker loved music and attended concerts on campus; when that became too difficult, her assistant helped her watch them on YouTube or livestream them.



Discimus ut serviamus

Alumni and students uphold the Queens College motto

A Romanian immigrant who thrived in his new homeland, completing his doctorate before he was 25, Paul Klapper was an educational visionary. Upon his appointment as Queens College founding president, he told the *New York Times*, “We must build not another college but a new college, an institution whose identity stems from its distinctive aim and its distinctive staff. We must build more than a college for young people; we must develop a great cultural center for the Borough of Queens.” In keeping with that mission, Klapper gave the school a Latin motto, *Discimus ut serviamus*, “We learn so that we may serve.”

That motto continues to motivate the Queens College community. In the next eight pages, we report on four alumni. One founded MS 419Q, an innovative middle school in an under-resourced Queens neighborhood; another, a teacher at IS 73, donated a kidney to a colleague, unaware that both of them graduated from QC; the fourth created a water safety campaign to reduce drownings at New York City beaches. The final article in this package covers an internship program that engages students to research the lives of people buried at Mount Hebron Cemetery.



QUEENS COLLEGE

Guiding Principal

Under the leadership of Soledad Montañes '03, MS Q419 offers an enhanced curriculum despite limited resources



For students in East Elmhurst, Queens, every day at MS Q419 starts with joyful affirmations of community and resolve. This thriving school, located within walking distance of Citi Field and two homeless shelters, is the brainchild and remarkable achievement of Soledad Montañes '03, its principal. MS Q419 lies within District 24, which encompasses Corona, Elmhurst, Glendale, Long Island City, Maspeth, Middle Village, and Ridgewood—a diverse, historically under-resourced area that suffers from overcrowding in many schools. In 2021, when then-District 24 Superintendent Madeline Chan gave Montañes the chance to develop a new middle school in a largely Latino neighborhood of immigrant and working-class families, she jumped at it. She had a vision of providing a first-class public education steeped in arts, academics, mindfulness, and fellowship among teachers and learners.

Montañes brought a host of personal and professional credentials to the task, starting with the fact that she herself is an immigrant; resilience and identity matter to her. A native of Montevideo, Uruguay, she came to the United States at 3 months old because she had been born with a rare eye condition that could not be treated in her home country: blepharophimosis (BPES), a disabling genetic mutation that paralyzes the eyelids. Her mother identified it correctly, but was dismissed as simply suffering from

postpartum depression; she persevered until she was able to secure a medical visa to the United States. Montañes underwent fifteen operations to correct it, the last one when she was 24.

"My mother would send me to school with stitches and buy me the quirkiest eyeglasses possible. She made me own that I was the luckiest girl on Planet Earth," she recalls. "I'm in textbooks," she adds. "At first, I didn't want to share. It's an intimate part of who I was before I even became an educator. But my mother said, 'You have to acknowledge it. That's the strength that you have within you that keeps you moving forward in life.'" Now Montañes makes a point of making herself available to others born with BPES.

It was 9/11 that propelled her toward a career in education. "As an immigrant growing up in New York City, I wanted to achieve the American dream, and when we thought about the American dream we thought about corporate America and working your way up the corporate ladder," she remembers. As a recent graduate of Newtown High School in Elmhurst, she was taking night classes and working as a receptionist at American Express in the World Trade Center when the planes hit. "That changed my entire view on who I wanted to be," she says. "I perhaps experienced post-traumatic stress and didn't even realize it at the time. I still think of my experiences walking home from the city on 9/11 and not knowing what the future was going to look like for anyone."

When Montañes returned to work, she saw long-time employees get laid off, many nearing retirement. "That specific moment made me realize I wanted to do something more impactful with my life," she remembers; she quit her job and traveled to Thailand for a month to think things over. A job at an after-school program convinced her to pursue education.

She earned a BA in English and secondary education at QC, then went on to complete an MS in science, education, and special education at Touro College in New York City and an MA in education, leadership, and administration at the College of Saint Rose in Albany. She holds certificates in numerous specializations and is certified in therapeutic crisis intervention for schools (TCIS), trauma-responsive educational practices (TREP), and yoga and mindfulness. Finally, she is certified in Yale anchors of emotional intelligence—a component of RULER, an influential social and emotional learning program of Yale's Emotional Intelligence Institute that helps students "identify how one is feeling, label it, and regulate it so that they can be the best versions of themselves," says Montañes.

She also had years of experience as a teacher and administrator in diverse, multilingual city schools. From 2006 to 2016 she taught at IS061, Leonardo da Vinci Intermediate School, in Corona, with outside appointments teaching English language arts and ESL (English as a Second Language). From 2016 until 2021, she was middle-school assistant principal at PS/IS 226, Alfred De B. Mason, part of District 21 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn—a position that involved a wide remit, from curriculum, clubs, and innovative programming

to everyday management of the school, staff committees, and professional development. She had just joined a program on Advanced Leadership for Aspiring Principals (ALPAP) when she was recruited by Superintendent Chan, who remembered her from an administrative internship some years previously.

However, the opportunity offered by the city came with an enormous challenge. Hired in January 2022 as a project director, Montañes explains, "I had six months—six months literally—to prepare to open up a brand new middle school in District 24 and to do everything from the ground up: every memo, every system, process, hiring, crowdsourcing, meeting with the community, developing a consensus on what the vision of the school would be, understanding what the needs of the community were. It was boots on the ground."

Montañes thinks that having roots in the area helped her meet these challenges. "Having a real understanding of the community was a key factor. I had been a teacher in District 24 and I grew up in District 24; my parents still live in District 24, my sister Victoria Montañes '00 teaches in District 24, my sister-in-law is a pathologist in District 24. I have strong ties to this district, and I had a strong pulse of what the community's needs were. Despite the fact that I was then an assistant principal in Brooklyn, I was still living in Queens. That was an advantage that kept me grounded throughout this entire process."

Against the odds, Montañes opened MS Q419 that fall as its founding principal, having successfully fundraised, worked with elected officials, parents and local stakeholders, and unions, and hired teachers in the midst of a teacher shortage. "I walked into my building on August 29 and we didn't even have computers, papers—it was bare bones. We had furniture, yes, but that was it," she recalls. "I was welcoming my staff September 5, and September 7 the students were coming. You just had to make it work."

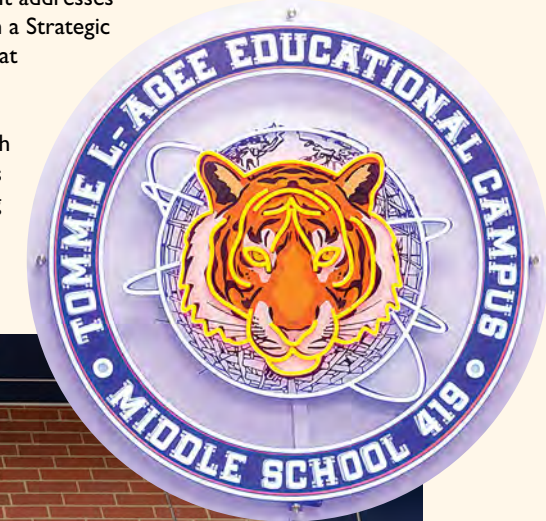
In fact, Montañes soon was bringing in grants and partners who helped take the school far past its limited initial budget. Most strikingly, she has been able to offer students an enhanced

curriculum and teachers meaningful opportunities for a voice in the school and professional development. She has achieved all this in a district with many opportunity gaps and educational challenges. The student body at MS Q419 includes a large number of English-language learners and students with disabilities, children in temporary housing, asylum seekers, and others with diverse issues, such as interrupted education and reading below grade level.

The school moniker, "Home of the Brave Tigers," was created by Montañes, who was inspired by the school's founding in 2022, the Year of the Tiger. "I really wanted to celebrate inclusivity and diversity as well as this notion of being brave. Life is hard and life will challenge you, but ultimately your bravery is what will propel you forward and give you the sense that you can overcome the adversities that you are faced with. Knowing my community, knowing the challenges and the trauma our students carry, I wanted it to resonate with their narrative just as much as my own," she says. "I was also thinking in two languages as I was developing the idea of being brave, bright, adaptable, virtuous, and empowered."

That vision of empowering students underlies the curriculum and programs. "Holistic education is something I hold dear to my heart," says Montañes. "You want to be able to provide students access to being able to regulate their emotions and also develop strong skillsets so that they can deal with the conflicts and the trauma and the issues that may arise, as well as celebrate their successes in ways that will make them feel proud."

Academically, the curriculum supports students' inquiry- and research-based learning. It addresses traditional needs through a Strategic Reading Program, aimed at ensuring that all students read at or above grade level, and a Strategic Math Program that, she says, is "designed to build strong analytical and numeracy



foundations so students remain competitive in a global economy.” Similarly, MS Q419 seeks to expand students’ future opportunity structures by offering language programs in Spanish and Mandarin, with a pathway toward the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. In addition, the school offers a lively visual and performing arts program, aligning with her strong commitment to “ensuring that creativity and cultural voice are central to learning.”

Perhaps most strikingly, Montañes has negotiated many grants and partnerships across the curriculum, extending what the school would be able to offer on its own. After-school partnerships with the Louis Armstrong House Museum and the Godwin-Ternbach Museum support instruction in the arts (see *QView* #146, February 15, 2023). In the past year, she has added a partnership with Brain Power Wellness, pivoting toward what she calls “a neuroscience-based direction grounded in neuroplasticity, brain development, and emotional regulation.”

These and other partnerships that contribute to the school’s success are introduced with care. “You don’t want it to be a revolving door,” says Montañes. “You want to believe in the partners that you develop and establish strong relationships with them so that they become part of the school’s narrative. I don’t want it to be just a one-off experience. If I brought them in, I want to believe that we have a mutual understanding of the important work that we’re going to be co-creating.”

A signature innovation is the use of mindfulness and wellness techniques. MS Q419 is one of more than 280 sites participating in PROSE (Progressive Redesign Opportunity School for Excellence) <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/programs/prose>, a program that encourages administrators and faculty to collaborate on innovations they believe will help students achieve. At MS Q419

that includes an advisory curriculum that “supports students in understanding how their brains learn, grow, and strengthen over time,” says Montañes. Each day begins with Brave Mornings: small groups meet with their advisors, including for guided self-reflection. Once a week the students have Tiger Time, which uses RULER techniques to strengthen critical thinking, perseverance, and social and emotional competency. The health and physical education curriculum also fosters wellness. “It’s a multilayered, hand-selected and-crafted design,” says Montañes. “We’re doing a mixed methodology of research-based strategies that fit our school needs.”

These efforts pay off in happy children, centered and ready to learn. “Our students come in; they have morning wellness, they have different activities that they can do between sports, Zumba, library, open access for enrichment. Warm breakfast in the cafeteria, and activities in the schoolyard, all focusing again on wellness—getting our students to the right mindset prior to beginning their academic day.”

The challenges of urban schooling and tight budgets have not prevented Montañes from aiming high for her students. “I want them to understand that they are global citizens and that they have the ability to pursue their heart’s dreams and desires because they live in the greatest city of all—New York City. Now that they have this opportunity, what are they going to do with it? It’s easy to conform and follow everyone else, but when you single yourself out, you stand out. You understand that you have to have tiger stripes that are distinct to yourself. You’re proud of who you are; you have a strong sense of self and voice. They will then be able to navigate high school and all the complexities that brings.”

– Jacquelyn Southern

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Queens College Graduates Forge Bond through Lifesaving Kidney Donation

When middle school teacher Thomas Coveney MEd '05 was in desperate need of a kidney transplant, he received a life-saving donation from a co-worker and fellow Queens College graduate, Maggie Goodman MEd '17.

For more than ten years, Thomas battled a kidney disease called focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSG), which is characterized by scarring of the glomeruli, the filtering units of the kidneys. After medication and treatment were no longer effective, he needed a kidney transplant or faced going on dialysis for the foreseeable future.

He found an angel in the form of his co-worker.

Maggie, a sixth-grade math teacher, and Thomas, an eighth-grade social studies teacher, are colleagues at I.S. 73 in Maspeth. But since they worked in different departments at a big school, they didn’t know each other very well. Their relationship primarily consisted of cordial greetings in passing and being friends on Facebook. Yet a fateful social media post changed their lives, and their relationship, forever.

In November 2024, Thomas’s mother posted a message on Facebook pleading for help in finding her son a matching kidney. She tagged her son’s Facebook account in the post, which caused the message to also pop up on Maggie’s feed. The post said that anyone who was interested in becoming a kidney donor could set up an appointment with Northwell Health to see if they were a match. After reading the message, Maggie felt compelled to help.

“My whole life, I’ve always kind of felt like I wanted to donate something, whether it be bone marrow or an organ, if possible,” she explained. “It just was kind of a bucket list item for me. The opportunity came along. It felt like the right time, right place—everything sort of lined up. And I just thought it would be cool to help if I could. It was really just as simple as that.”

The process of determining that Maggie was a match took about two months, and during that time, Thomas had no idea that she had gone through the testing process. In January 2025, she received word that she was a match.

The next day, she decided to give him the good news in a humorous and creative way. While getting ready for homeroom, she came up to Thomas, dropped a bag of kidney beans on the table and said to him, “take my kidney.”

“I asked her if she was insane, and we hugged,” joked Thomas. “I probably said no like four times and then said yes.”

From there, the process moved very quickly. Just two weeks later, on February 10, both were in surgery for the transplant.

The surgery was a resounding success. Maggie went back to work just two weeks later, and Thomas returned to work in about two-and-a-half months. The pain from the surgery was short-lived,

according to Thomas, but he had to stay home longer because he was immunocompromised after the surgery. He returned to the classroom in May to finish out the 2024–25 school year.

“I feel great. I haven’t been sick at all. I have to walk up six flights of stairs to my classroom, and I have no issues,” noted Thomas. “I’m not as thirsty as I used to be and I have more energy. It’s great!”

For those considering a kidney donation but are hesitant to undergo the procedure, Maggie offered some reassuring details.

“What a lot of people don’t realize about kidney donation, at least nowadays, the technology has gotten so improved that it was all laparoscopic for me, meaning they didn’t really have to open me up fully. They just made a one-inch incision below my belly button, and were able to do everything out of there, which I don’t really understand how but it’s kind of wild.”

But the two share more than a kidney and the same workplace. They both earned their master’s degree in education from Queens College. Thomas received his MEd in 2005 and Maggie obtained her MEd in 2017. (Ironically, they were not aware they were both QC alums until being contacted for this story!) And their attendance at Queens helped set them down a path to the life-saving transplant years later.

“Queens was good option for me. A lot of people recommended it and said it was a quality education for a cheaper price than some other schools,” explained Maggie. “So it all worked out, and I ended up loving Queens College. It opened me up to the public school system, which I didn’t have a lot of experience with at the time. Queens got me more comfortable with that.”

“Queens had a good reputation for teachers. And I lived on Long Island, and I could drive there, and I needed to do something that was going to go relatively fast so I could start teaching, because I didn’t do my undergrad in education,” said Thomas of his decision to go to Queens. “I wouldn’t have a teaching career without Queens College.”

Maggie and Thomas are now more than just colleagues who say hello in passing. They have become close friends, visiting each other’s classroom and getting together often for lunch. Even their moms have bonded through the experience and connect regularly.

“Our family has really bonded, and we definitely are staying in touch, which is nice,” added Maggie. “It’s been a big change. Our relationship went from zero to one hundred.”

– John Scarinci



Maggie Goodman and Thomas Coveney



Current Messaging

Andréanna Seymore '05 Promotes Water Safety Education

With climate change seeing episodes of extreme summer heat becoming more intense and more frequent, New York City dwellers are increasingly flocking to city beaches. Yet for some, the waters that bring relief also bring the threat of drowning when dangerous rip currents are present.

This is particularly true for youth in some of the city's most underserved neighborhoods, who may be lacking the swimming skills and knowledge to cope with rip currents. But beginning Memorial Day 2025, a first-of-its-kind in the city large-scale water safety and rip current awareness campaign—created by a graduate of Queens College's Urban Studies program and funded by the Artemis Rising Foundation—was working to help spare them from tragedy.

Andréanna Seymore (MA '05) is media-advocacy director for the Brooklyn-based nonprofit, The Rising Tide Effect. With eye-catching graphics created by Queens native Mary Hawkins, the informative message boards created for its Water Wise initiative's RESPECT THE RIP campaign have been seen on MTA buses, Liveboards in subway stations, NYC Ferries, LinkNYC kiosks, before movie showings by Rooftop Films, on community screens in underserved neighborhoods, and, of course, on social media.

With accompanying images of a girl caught in a rip current, the message boards instruct:

RELAX Stay calm. Don't panic. Control your breath.

RAISE Wave to shore. Signal for help.

RIDE Go with the flow & float. Never swim against the current.

An accompanying URL, RisingTideEffect.io, and QR code take people to a webpage with more detailed information about rip currents and where startling statistics document the urgent need for this life-saving public safety education (PSE) message: 2024 had record high drownings at New York City beaches; 95 percent of all drownings are preventable; New York City has 520 miles of coastline; 79 percent of children in families earning under \$50,000 a year risk drowning. People can also sign up there for swimming lessons or make a donation to The Rising Tide Effect to advance its programs.

For Seymore, the idea of learning to be acclimated in the water holds meaning on both personal and professional levels.

Explaining how in 2023 she first became involved with The Rising Tide Effect, the Rockaway resident says, "I came onboard because basically I was trying to find swim lessons for my son, and they were giving free lessons at the Rockaway Hotel."

However, the lessons, she discovered, weren't available to her son because they were meant only for kids who couldn't afford swimming lessons.

So, Seymore approached Kaitlin Krause, a former Division I swimmer and the founder of The Rising Tide Effect, which was providing the free lessons. Seymore told Krause that she'd heard that a recent Rising Tide presentation at a local school hadn't gone well, because the kids weren't engaged. "But I have an idea," she said.



Andréanna Seymore (left) and The Rising Tide Effect founder Kaitlin Krause (rear) on location with film crew.

Seymore, as it happens, is co-creator and executive producer of the popular Netflix docuseries "MerPeople," which chronicles the lives of the fascinating and diverse people who perform as mermaids and mermen at aquariums and underwater shows, such as the legendary mermaids who for six decades have performed at Weeki Wachee Springs in Florida.

Seymore offered, "Why don't I have one of the mermaids from the TV show come and do a water safety lesson at the Rockaway Hotel. Krause said, 'That sounds great!'" The event, says Seymore, was a great success.

She went on to begin documenting Krause's pioneering efforts to bring about greater inclusivity and accessibility to water safety education for the city's youth. The work included lobbying with city and state agencies. Last summer, Seymore was filming Krause on the boardwalk at Beach 91st Street in the Rockaways holding up a sign showing passersby what a rip current was. It occurred to them both that there simply had to be a more compelling way to reach more people with this message. They brainstormed what became the RESPECT THE RIP campaign.

While gaining traction from government agencies for The Rising Tide Effect's efforts has been challenging, Seymore singles out three elected officials for their support: New York City Council Member Shekar Krishnan, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and State Assembly Member Stacey Pheffer Amato, herself a Rockaway native. Pheffer Amato saw to it that Krause was appointed to the New York State Temporary Commission to Prevent Childhood Drowning, established in December 2021 by a bill she co-sponsored with State Senator Timothy M. Kennedy. The commission is charged with evaluating and creating programs to educate children and caregivers about water safety protocols.

A 1997 graduate of The School of Visual Arts, Seymore brings considerable experience putting images before the public eye to her media-advocacy role, including as a photographer who has done work for *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time Magazine*, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Fortune*, *O*, *Wired*, McGraw Hill, Getty Images, and others. Her photos have appeared in numerous exhibitions, and she has taught photography at New York Film Academy, Suffolk Community College, and Brookhaven Technical Center. She was also an associate photo editor for *Psychology Today*.

Seymore points out that in New York City, there is a great lack of fairness in the availability of public pools where people can learn to swim. She cites a recent Pratt University study that correlates the significant disparity between the available square footage of city pool space and the number of swimmers. (Think very little to very large.)

In 2023, New York City Council Member Selvena N. Brooks-Powers developed a city map highlighting the lack of public pool access throughout 32 districts, particularly in underserved communities. The map showed that 18 New York City districts have no public pool access.

"That's why swimming in New York is a for-profit industry," says Seymore. "People who can afford to swim are able to swim. People who can't afford to swim? Well, you've got to wait in line and there's a long list. The accessibility isn't really there."

Seymore is currently at work filming a documentary that highlights how there are more drownings at city beaches among youth from districts with limited pool access or no pools at all. "And they just happen to be the most underserved communities in New York City," she says.

By the middle of the summer, Seymore says, the city would typically have seen as many as five youth drownings. In 2025, during the Memorial Day to July 7 period in which funding permitted the campaign to run, there were none. "I would like to think it's because of these PSEs," she says.

But on the evening of July 25, as Seymore was filming Krause preparing to conduct a water safety demonstration at Beach 17th Street in Far Rockaway, a man was suddenly seen to be in distress in the nearby water and soon disappeared. The body of the 23-year-old African immigrant was found a week later.

"The irony is, I was there to give a water safety talk. I was literally setting up my handouts when I saw the firetrucks charging down the boardwalk," Krause told *The Gothamist*. "All the locals know that's a treacherous spot. At the top it looks calm, but under it's moving."

The Rising Tide campaign is not Seymore's first foray into using art in public service. At Queens College, she was the recipient of the Herbert Bienstock Research Award for her work on the LAMP (Literacy and Mathematics through Photography) program. Funded by a Kellogg Foundation grant received by Seymore's then-instructor Lillian Moncada-Davidson (SEYS, emerita), the program sprang from another "I have an idea" moment.

Trying to engage Latin American students at nearby John Bowne High School in education, Moncada-Davidson was unhappy with the results she was getting

Eye-catching messages displayed before movie showings by Rooftop Films and on MTA buses were among the ways utilized by The Rising Tide Effect in its RESPECT THE RIP campaign.

by taking them to cultural attractions in the city. Seymore suggested using photography as a means of engaging their interest. The final piece, which was displayed in galleries, involved using individual portraits of the students over which were superimposed words they had written about the challenges they encountered in their lives.

"It was a really powerful piece," say Seymore, who following graduation accompanied Moncada-Davidson to her home country, El Salvador, to do a similar program in San Salvador.

Seymore describes herself as an "activist producer," which explains her decision to come to Queens College after graduating from The School of Visual Arts. She was looking for a way to combine her art with her highly developed social consciousness. "I picked Queens College because it's known for its activism work. It's known for bringing the ball down the court. Coming from a very elite private school where it's all about you, you, you as an artist, it was now about the common good, and society. Why, I learned about unions for the first time!"

In a recent email, Seymore reports that moving forward into the new year finds the Rising Tide Effect navigating troubling fiscal currents as, like so many public programs that significantly depend on government dollars, it has lost its funding.

Intensely engaged in writing grant applications, Seymore explains that their current focus is simply on keeping the organization operational: "While we remain hopeful for a renewed push around a public safety education water-safety campaign in 2026, resources are currently very limited. On a positive note, the artwork and campaign materials are fully developed and ready to launch. We are eager to partner again with LinkNYC, the NYC Ferry, and any other agencies willing to donate ad space to help amplify this life-saving message."

In terms of direct community engagement, she notes she will be working with P.S. 317 and local Rockaway artists to collaborate with 3rd and 4th grade students on a beach-safety art initiative. "The goal is to display the children's artwork at beach entry points, turning safety messaging into a visible, community-driven experience," she says. "This would be a multi-agency effort, ideally involving the Queens Borough president's office, City Council, and local State Assembly representatives."

"At this stage, we have strong community support in Rockaway; what we need now is funding to cover art supplies, artist-educators, and installation costs along the boardwalk fencing."

— Bob Suter



Enduring Stories

QC interns are documenting the achievements and culture of people buried in Mount Hebron Cemetery

A cross-section of New York's Jewish community is laid to rest in Mount Hebron Cemetery <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/>, including the notable (hotelier Asher Selig Grossinger; Yiddish theatrical legend Boris Thomashefsky), the notorious (mobsters Louis Buchalter and Nathan Caplan, alternatively spelled Kaplan), and the heroic (veterans who served with U.S. forces in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and subsequent conflicts). Preserving their stories for future generations is the goal of the Legacy Project, which publishes detailed accounts about people interred in Mount Hebron, the largest Jewish cemetery in Queens.

Queens College interns have been part of this project since it started in 2019; for some, participation is more than academic. "Three of the interns began their internship because they have family buried here," notes Adam Ginsberg, president of the Cedar Grove Cemetery Association. (Mount Hebron opened in 1909 as the Jewish section of nondenominational Cedar Grove and now occupies 215 of the institutions' combined 240 acres; funerals are still taking place at both cemeteries.)

Interns are welcome to walk the grounds, but their physical presence isn't essential. "It's mostly remote work," explains Ginsberg. "We've had interns spend hours with our records." They also trawl through obituaries, online and QC library resources and, for information about military service, the National Archives. Completed presentations are posted to the cemetery's website and social media and credited to the students, who receive a stipend and can qualify for academic credit.



Andrew Amstutz

"Mount Hebron has been a fantastic partner for Queens College," says Andrew Amstutz (History), coordinator of his department's internship programs. "Students get to do their own self-directed research. It's translated into digital presentation and becomes part of their professional portfolio . . . The topics they explore are deeply local and global at the same time."

Initially, the Legacy Project focused on veterans. Mount Hebron's first intern, history major Hannah Berman '20, found this experience transformative. "I have learned what it truly means to sacrifice, and have discovered stories of great personal valor, strength, and survival in some cases," she wrote in an essay <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/legacy/stories/view/?id=18> posted to Mount Hebron's website.

"It is especially sobering to come across the records and stories of young soldiers who never made it home, who died overseas while fighting for their country, and in the case of WWII veterans, for the Jewish people. When I come across soldiers who

were killed at 18, 19, 20 years old, merely kids themselves, I am reminded of how much we owe to them, and am determined to ensure that they, and all veterans, are remembered and honored for their service." After earning a master's in archives and public history from New York University, Berman joined History Associates Incorporated <https://www.historyassociates.com/> as a research historian.

As a student in QC's dual master's program in library science and history, Chloe Baker '18, MLS/MA '21, also researched veterans buried at Mount Hebron. "There were a lot of starts and stops and dead ends," she recalls. "For World War I and World War II, there are no automated systems." Much of the material was handwritten and therefore hard to decipher.

"There are direct ties to my family," says Baker, who after graduating from QC became a librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library in Bensonhurst. "Sharing these stories was important to me. But I don't think they hold appeal only for Jewish people. Struggle, overcoming obstacles, and reverence for tradition have wider appeal."

To date, the Legacy Project has confirmed the identity of more than 2,200 Jewish veterans buried at Mount Hebron; a significant number of them fell in the line of duty. Collaborating with General Theodorick Panton of the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) program at John Bowne High School, students place American flags on service members' graves on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

But the Legacy Project isn't limited to veterans' stories. With support from the Legacy Foundation at Mount Hebron Cemetery and Cedar Grove Cemetery <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/legacy/#>, established in 2023, "the project has expanded to include everyone there," says Ginsberg. "Interns have researched immigration, Holocaust survivors, stars of the Yiddish theater, politicians, and more."

"We encourage students to look at our website and social media and find their own topics," adds Legacy Foundation Director Deirdre Poulos. "They study what they choose." Then they share their findings in their preferred medium, such as blogs, audio tours, interactive timelines, and slide shows. "It's very cutting edge," continues Poulos. "The interns are wonderful, and they're doing wonderfully after they graduate."

Brandon Castro '23 majored in history and political science, but he's passionate about music and has accumulated "lots of vinyls and 1920s radio discs," he reports. He researched musicians buried at Mount Hebron. "Some were very well known and influential in the Yiddish music scene. It was interesting to find out about people I'd never heard of before. I found links to sound clips, which was very cool."

Castro used some of those clips in an eight-stop audio tour <https://mounthebrontours.story.app/1/tour/7217> he wrote and narrated, commemorating artists such as klezmer clarinetist and bandleader Naftule Brandwein and long-term New York Philharmonic cellist Martin Ormandy, brother of conductor Eugene Ormandy. "They were in their prime over 100 years ago and we're still talking about them," he observes. A map accompanying the tour shows where each musician is buried, for those who want to pay their respects in person. After his internship, Castro was a community services liaison with the New York City Department of Small Business Services and ran for a seat in the New York State Assembly. Currently, he is doing political strategy and campaign management and encouraging others to get involved in civic engagement.

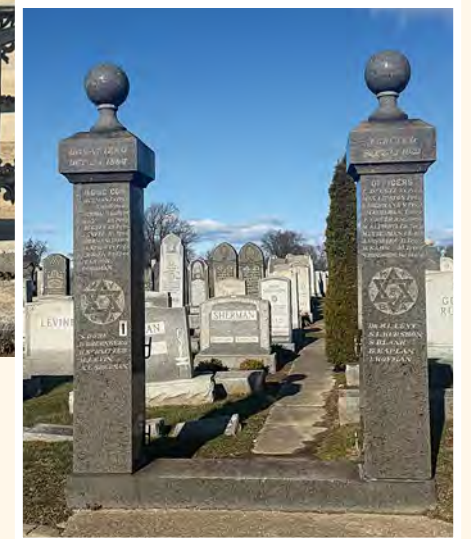
In addition to documenting individuals, the project highlights *Landsmannschaften*—mutual aid societies set up by European Jewish immigrants from the same town or region—and fraternal associations. Many of these organizations provided death benefits to members, covering funeral costs and even supporting bereaved families through the first seven days of mourning. To enable *landsmen* to be buried near each other, societies purchased cemetery sections, marking entrances with distinctive gates. "About 1200 burial societies were active at Mount Hebron," says Poulos. "Close to 600 are still active." (Burial societies and their locations are listed at <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/societies/>.)

History graduate student Olivia Scanlon '24, MA '25 researched multiple *Landsmannschaften*, connecting them to their respective Central and Eastern Europe communities, some of them centuries old. Most of these Jewish centers were obliterated in the Holocaust. A few are commemorated at Mount Hebron by memorials <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/legacy/stories/view/?id=36> erected by burial societies and the Yiddish Theatrical Alliance.

Scanlon regarded her Mount Hebron blogs as "writing stories how people would want them to be told. What I research is verified . . . For most of the towns I've come across, the only proof of the community is in a cemetery. Monuments provide solid proof." In a sense, her internship was an exercise in advocating for underrepresented communities, "recognizing how the law is necessary to safeguard against societal grievances," she says. To continue that work, she is attending Touro Law (Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center).

The work of the Legacy Project continues, too. Together, Mount Hebron and Cedar Grove Cemetery serve as the final resting place of over 270,000 people, which means that a lot of stories remain untold. "I am grateful to our students for unearthing stories that might otherwise have been forgotten," says Ginsberg. "Their dedication not only honors those laid to rest in our cemeteries, but also creates a bridge to the future, ensuring that these legacies continue to teach, inspire, and guide the generations to come."

Effective next spring, the Queens College Service Corps internship program, an Experiential Education initiative, will partner with the Legacy Project. Mount Hebron will host up to five interns: social media and marketing assistants to help grow awareness of the cemetery's work through strategic online engagement, creative content, and compelling outreach, and a data mining



The Yiddish Theatrical Alliance and Kurlander Young Friends are among the organizations that set up burial sections in Mount Hebron.

and digital research intern who will uncover historic newspaper articles and digital records on individuals buried in the cemetery, including veterans and Holocaust survivors. "We hope to expand the partnership in the future and find other opportunities for QC students to engage with Mount Hebron," says Experiential Education Director Cristina Di Meo.

The public can also participate in the Legacy Project. To offer information about veterans, survivors of pogroms or the Holocaust, or loved ones buried at the cemetery, go to <https://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/legacy/> and click on the links under Submit Stories; send an email to info@thecemeteries.com; or call 718-939-9405.

— Leslie Jay

Woman of Note

After a career in music and writing, Carol Montparker donated her archive to her alma mater

By Leslie Jay

When alumna Carol Montparker, a concert pianist and writer, offered to give her CD collection to the Queens College Music Library, substitute music librarian Alex Crowley '21 MLIS fielded the voicemail. "At that time, we weren't taking CD donations," recalls Crowley. "I asked her what kind of CDs she had, thinking I could direct her to a place that takes them."

Turns out that Montparker had a different kind of content in mind. As a longtime senior editor for *Clavier* magazine, she had interviewed and profiled many of the world's best-known pianists, such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Arthur Rubinstein, Andre Watts, and comic musician Victor Borge, who tried to rewrite her article. Those conversations were preserved on a few dozen cassettes, with some digitized on CDs.

Crowley accepted the cassettes and CDs happily. "These have a different kind of value," he says. "They create avenues for musicology students." He expects that the recordings will inspire potential projects, foster deeper research, and personalize cultural history. "These are original materials that we can hold in perpetuity," he adds. "We can hear the musicians' voices and cadence . . . Some of these people mentored Montparker."

A Steinway artist, Brooklyn-born Montparker found her calling early. "My mother told me that I toddled over to my grandfather's upright piano and started picking out tunes when I was three," she says. "My mother taught me how to read music at an early age. By age five I was with a neighborhood piano teacher, who within

a year took me to her piano teacher, Harold Henry. He was scary to me; he had a glass eye and a big dog. I had to take the subway to get there. I studied with him for a little while."

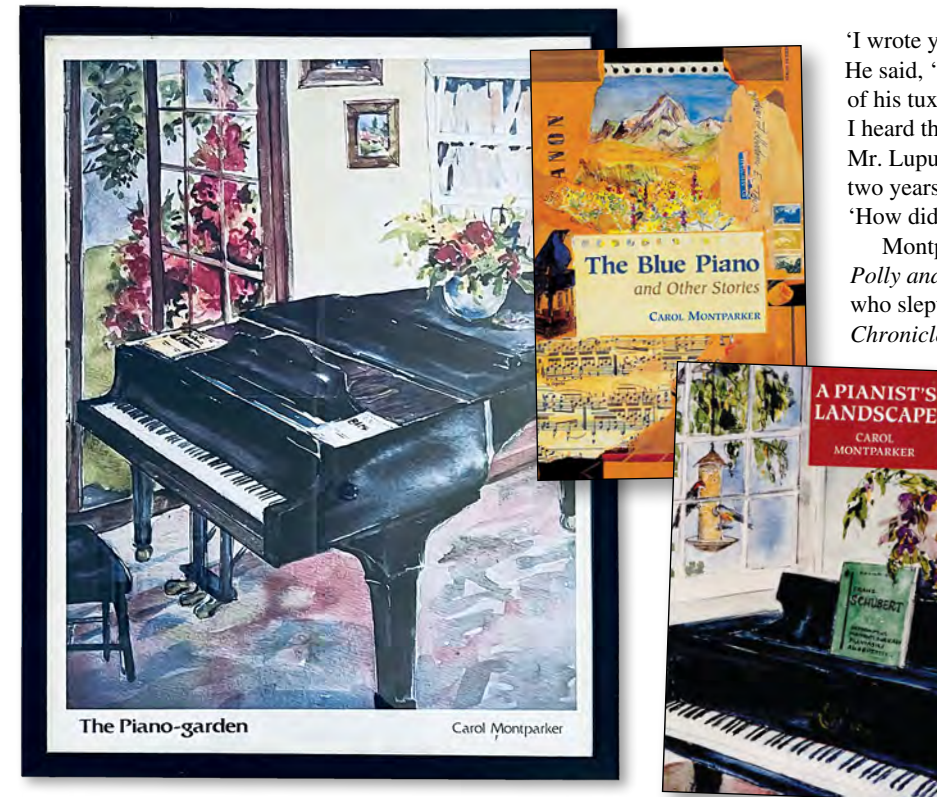
When Montparker was 12, her father, who with his brother ran a wholesale business in TV and radio parts, and her mother, a homemaker, relocated the family to Forest Hills, Queens. "My mother had read about Leopold Mittmann, an émigré pianist who had fled the Nazis and lived there," explains Montparker. "I could walk to my lessons." She considers Mittmann the most influential person in her life—someone who not only nurtured her talent but also took her to museums. Otherwise, unlike many prodigies, she had an ordinary upbringing. "I went to public schools," she continues. "I had other interests." While she played a concerto with the Forest Hills High School orchestra, she was also a member of the debating society and the student government.

For college, she stayed close to home. "I got a scholarship to Barnard, but it did not include board, and my dad didn't want me on the train to what he considered a bad neighborhood," she says, adding that "Queens had a better music department than Barnard."

Montparker enjoyed her time at QC. "I had wonderful professors and wonderful courses," she says. "I loved contemporary civilization and philosophy." She left without graduating to get married; by age 23 she was the mother of a son and a daughter who, remarkably, amused themselves with blocks under the piano while she practiced. (Her son became a concert cellist and professor of chamber music. Her daughter, a designer and painter, could have made a career with the flute but chose the visual arts.)

Montparker decided to give a New York recital. Commonly, performers or their patrons rent a venue, pay for technical staff and ushers, and print programs and tickets, among other costs. "It's an expensive proposition," she observes. "I put it off when my children were quite young." They had reached school age when fate intervened. "I met a woman while standing on a freezing street. We shared a cab and became close friends. She was extremely generous to me. She sponsored that first recital in New York. In those days, the *New York Times* came to debut recitals. I was delighted to read the fine review they gave me."

Carol Montparker's archive includes recorded interviews she conducted with celebrated pianists, and CDs from her Composer's Landscape project, a series of programs exploring the work of a single composer.



The Music Library set up a display highlighting Montparker's art and books; she created the cover illustrations.

That recital launched Montparker's literary career, too. "I wrote my first book, *The Anatomy of a New York Recital: A Chronicle*, which started as a diary about the joys and stresses of playing in New York," she says. "I got hundreds of letters, some of which led to subsequent invitations from pianists performing at Carnegie Recital Hall."

After her marriage ended, editorial work became a lifeline, supplementing her earnings from teaching piano privately and performing. "When I got divorced, I told the publisher of that book, 'I need a job.' . . . He had several periodical publications, one of which was *Clavier* magazine, the most widely read and finest keyboard magazine. He said, 'Come to Chicago one week a month and take stuff home to edit.' I lived in Huntington, New York. I did this for 15 years. I got to interview almost every famous artist I wanted to talk to. Those conversations were converted into cover stories. In some cases, they led to wonderful friendships and coachings for myself before big concerts . . . Everything got recycled. Their wit and wisdom went into my articles, were passed down to my students, and are the stuff of the recordings that I have just given over to Queens College."

One of her biggest coups was snagging an interview with Romanian pianist Radu Lupu. "He was a genius and a wonderful man," says Montparker. "He had refused to do interviews. I wrote him a letter, telling him I'm a 'serious pianist' and would let him review what I wrote before publication." A few days later, at his concert in New York, she followed up in person. "I told him,

'I wrote you a note. Would you kindly read it later?' He said, 'of course,' putting it in the very sweaty pocket of his tuxedo. The very next morning, the phone rang and I heard the word, 'Okay.' I asked incredulously, 'Is this Mr. Lupu?' He said, 'Who should it be?' Within the next two years, I had three interviews with him. I asked him, 'How did I get so lucky?' and he said, 'I trust you.'"

Montparker has written eight books in different genres. *Polly and the Piano* is a children's story about her dog, who slept under the piano. *A Pianist's Homecoming: Chronicle II*: a sequel to *The Anatomy of a New York*

Debut Recital, documents her preparation for a solo in Weill Recital Hall 35 years after she made her debut at the same location, then known as Carnegie Recital Hall. A watercolorist since childhood, she designed the covers of some of her books and painted on the road, producing illustrated travel diaries. One was published as *A Pianist's Journal in Venice*.

"Before I went to Venice, I'd made up my mind not to be a pianist there," she comments. "But every fourth door in Venice is a church—I'd see a harpsichord—and I'd go into a church and start to play. I can write anywhere. Playing the piano requires a lot of physical energy and extreme focus. Painting

for me is relaxing and intuitive."

Montparker still performs today, albeit on a smaller stage. "I've been giving musicales at home," she reports. "Every few months, I play 'seriously' for people who want to hear music. Everything in my past is the way I would have wanted it. I don't want to be younger. I play when I feel the absolute urge to do so . . . Throughout my creative life, I feel I had everything. Most women artists have to make choices. I raised two wonderful children. Nothing is more enjoyable than playing chamber music with them. I played publicly when I could and when I wanted to. I never wanted to live out of a suitcase in Gopher Prairie, Idaho."

The Carol Montparker Papers collection https://qcarchives.libraryhost.com/resources/carol_montparker_papers is part of a joint project between the Queens College Music Library and Special Collections and Archives <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/library/archives/>. The finding aid was created by graduate student archivist Myra Rodriguez Campolo, who is enrolled in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/academics/gslis/> and is a college assistant at the Music Library. The archival collection comprises CDs, clippings, and concert programs of past performances; the cassette tapes, consisting of the bulk of the collection, are being digitized. The Music Library is currently displaying her book publications, CDs, and posters including one watercolor poster titled *The Piano-garden*.

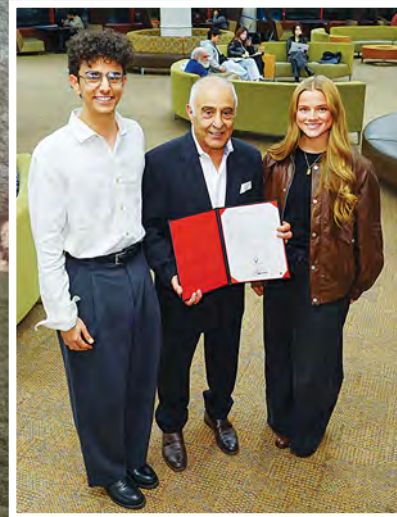
Campolo conducted oral history interviews with Montparker through a separate joint project between the Music Library and Queens Memory <https://www.queenslibrary.org/programs-activities/arts-culture/queens-memory-project>, a community archiving initiative. These interviews are available in partnership with Queens Public Library on its [Aviary Platform](https://www.queenslibrary.org/programs-activities/aviary-platform).



A Legacy of Love at Queens College



Happy together, Mehran and Freda Soroudi (née Weissman) in their QC student days.



Right: Mehran Soroudi is flanked by Ziv Nachshon and Scarlet Adams, students who will benefit from scholarships provided by his gift to QC.

This is a love story.

It's a love story of a sort that has happened many times over the decades at Queens College: Two young people meet, they enjoy each other's company, they fall in love, and eventually they marry. The thing that makes this a quintessentially Queens College love story is that the two people involved came from very different cultures.

Mehran Soroudi was a 24-year-old Muslim immigrant from Iran who had arrived in the United States in 1964. In 1965 he met Freda Weissman, a 17-year-old Jewish girl from Laurelton, at one of the dances then held weekly on the QC campus. He was enrolled as an English language learner. Language was her forte: She would graduate in 1969 as a French major and her mastery of that language and Spanish led to employment as a guide at the United Nations.

Different languages and different cultures proved no obstacle: Mehran and Freda fell in love and married in 1968, living initially in a small apartment in Woodside. For a time while still in school, both worked at a Longchamps restaurant—she as a cashier and he as a waiter.

Mehran left QC after a year to study engineering at Queensborough Community College before moving on to Laguardia Community College where he received a business degree. A 20-year career in the automotive industry followed before he dramatically switched gears, beginning a career in real estate from which he prospered. Receiving her Master's

Degree in French Literature from New York University, Freda blossomed as a public school teacher at schools in the outer boroughs, often helping students from poor families.

The Soroudis had a daughter and son with whom they traveled frequently, allowing them to experience their mother's lifelong interest in other cultures. They also had three granddaughters. When Freda passed in December 2023, Mehran began thinking about ways he might honor her memory. That eventually led him back to where they had originally met, Queens College.

Recently speaking to host Roger Clark on NY1's "Weekends On 1" program, Mehran explained, "As you know, my wife passed away on December '23. I always was going to do something for her because I like to do charity . . . So, when I saw that program, I said, 'What about me? I should do that.'"

That program was an earlier broadcast of "Weekends On 1" which featured QC alumnus Bob Jacobs '70 speaking with Clark about the endowed fund he had created with his Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity brothers to fund scholarships for students experiencing financial hardship. (Despite the fact that the fraternity is no longer active on campus, many of the frat brothers have remained in close touch.) Jacobs noted he was inspired by reading in November 2018 a news story about former Mayor Michael Bloomberg creating a scholarship assistance program at his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, to assure that no accepted student would be prevented from attending for lack of funds.

Mehran told Clark that seeing the Jacobs interview motivated him to reach out to Queens College. He was put in touch with the Office of Institutional Advancement's Sara Kahan to whom he explained he wished to make a donation in the names of his late wife and himself. Kahan invited him to return to campus and walk the grounds with her, which, of course, triggered memories. After, they agreed that a permanent naming in the library would be meaningful.

"I say, 'That's a good memory,'" Mehran told Clark. "That's a good memory to keep her name—at least in Queens College. That's where we met, that's where we've been, that's where we all had fun. Queens College was a most interesting place for us, when I look back. So, that was the target, to give the donation to Queens College."

His children Sasha and Marissa; Freda's sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Alan Polen (who also met at Queens College); and extended family members and friends were in attendance at the dedication

ceremony in Rosenthal in October, when Mehran cut a red ribbon. Beneath the curvature of large windows that illuminate the third-floor study area, large gold letters proclaimed the space as The Freda and Mehran Soroudi Commons.

Reflecting on the very generous gift to the college—which will support initiatives for student success, career readiness, faculty research, and other areas of need—Kahan observes, "We are deeply grateful to Mehran Soroudi, whose spirit of generosity inspired him to give back to Queens College because of its transformational impact on his life. His gift in support of the college's greatest needs will be critically important and helpful, serving students and faculty across the college. We are very proud that Mehran and Freda will have a permanent legacy at Queens College, which marked the gateway to a better life together."

Right: As Mehran Soroudi cuts the red ribbon, looking on him are (l to r) Vice President for Institutional Advancement Laurie Dorf, Director of Leadership Giving Sara Kahan, Sasha Soroudi, Alan Polen, Marissa Soroudi, Judy Polen, and QC President Frank H. Wu. Below: Mehran Soroudi addresses those in attendance below the large gold letters proclaiming The Freda and Mehran Soroudi Commons.

One must surely make the connection that someday among the many students who will pass beneath the names of Freda and Mehran Soroudi will again be two students from vastly different cultures who meet, fall in love, and go on to make a better life together.

—Bob Suter



Lifting Above His Weight

Defying Age and Illness, Paul Cooper '68 Powers His Way into the Record Books

By John Scarinci



Photo Credit: Newsday/Alejandra Villa Loarca

Paul Cooper, front center.

While battling cancer and a heart condition, Paul Cooper '68 isn't slowing down—he's setting world records.

With his lift of 165.3 pounds, Cooper established a new world record in the bench press for men over 75 years old in the 114-pound weight class, according to openpowerlifting.org. While setting a world record is impressive in any instance, it is even more notable given the numerous health challenges Cooper has faced.

Seven years ago, Cooper was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkins lymphoma. In 2025, his cancer morphed into a rare variant called Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia, a blood cancer that affects antibody-producing cells. The cancer has caused Cooper

substantial breathing problems. He has also battled heart issues, having his aortic valve surgically replaced back in 2003 and another valve replacement 20 years later. In 2024, he had a heart monitor implanted, then added a pacemaker in 2025.

But none of this has stopped him from chasing world records. He trains three times a week on squats, bench press, and deadlifts all while taking chemotherapy drugs daily.

Pushing his physical limits is nothing new. Cooper spent many years running marathons and ultramarathons, with his last marathon coming at the young age of 70. But his breathing problems caused by the cancer make it too difficult to continue running. However, weightlifting is easier to manage because he can take long rests in between sets, especially during competitions when he's required to do only one rep at a time.

Cooper's journey to a world record began 11 years ago when he came across an article in *Newsday* about three weightlifters in their 70s who competed in an organization called Revolution Powerlifting Syndicate (RPS), which sanctions powerlifting meets by age and bodyweight.

"I looked up the records for my age and bodyweight, and it seemed that with more training I could set a record, but I was too busy with work and family to train," Cooper recalled. "When I

retired in 2023, I looked up RPS and trained for about a month, and entered a meet in New Jersey, where, to my surprise I set the NJ all-time bench press record for men over 75 years old and under 132 pounds."

From there, Cooper was motivated to break more records. He hopes to set additional records in the future, even as cancer treatment makes it hard to maintain his weight.

"I'd like to gain some weight and compete in the 132 lb. class," Cooper added. "My goal is to set the world record for bench press [in that weight class], place second all-time for squats, and break the world deadlifting record."

Cooper feels he is not far off from reaching those goals.

"The all-time deadlifting record is now 297 pounds; I have done 285 in training."

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, Cooper enrolled at QC in 1963 and majored in physics. But it was his physical education classes that would go on to shape his life the most, in more ways than one.

"I took weightlifting and found to my surprise I was good at it," said Cooper. "For my second PE class, I took scuba diving and I loved it; it became my *raison d'être*."

Cooper graduated in 1968 and in 1970, he was hired at QC as a part-time lecturer in Health and Physical Education, teaching scuba. It was there he met his wife, Linda, who was taking a sailing class Queens offered at Meadow Lake.

After graduation, Paul and Linda moved to the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands where they lived for about seven years and ran a dive shop, and later a home construction business. Eventually, they returned to New York and Paul got another job at Queens College as a university engineer, managing building construction and renovation projects. He eventually moved to Suffolk Community College, where he spent the last 23 years of his career as executive director of facilities.

Linda got her PhD and returned to Queens College as well, teaching at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies before retiring as a professor *emerita*. Paul and Linda have four daughters and eight grandchildren.

Cooper hopes his story can inspire other senior citizens to pursue strength training.

"I recommend strength training for everyone, especially older people," he added. "The physical and mental benefits are enormous."

Before weightlifting, Cooper was on heavy doses of medication for high blood pressure. Since then, his blood pressure has returned to normal levels, and his heart rhythm has improved. He also says he sleeps better and is generally happier and less stressed.

"I have a lot of the normal age-related frailties," explained Cooper. "But instead of getting worse this past year, they've been getting better. I attribute that to exercise."



Welcome on Board

Two alumni join the Queens College Foundation

The Queens College Foundation is happy to announce its newest board members, Vilma A. Joseph '89 and Horatio W. Yeung '73.



DR. JOSEPH, who majored in biology, is a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She completed her medical training, anesthesiology residency, and Master of Public Health degrees at Johns Hopkins University. Her areas of interest include patient safety, medical liability, health equity, and political advocacy; she has worked at the state and national level on these issues. She is the past president of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists as well as the Bronx County Medical Society. As an editorial member and reviewer of several internationally reputed journals, Dr. Joseph has developed affiliations around the world. Bringing her talents to her alma mater, she has served on the QC Science Advisory Board since 2023 and supports the Angel Investor program.



DR. YEUNG majored in chemistry at QC, then moved to the Midwest and graduated with a PhD in chemistry from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He met his wife, Miriam Leong '72, at QC. In his long diagnostic testing career, he worked in a community hospital, in an academic hospital system like Mount Sinai in New York City, and in reference laboratories such as SmithKline and Quest Diagnostics. While he is a board-certified toxicologist, he spent the latter part of his career in the management of large, for-profit, automated, state-of-the-art laboratory businesses. Corporate moves took the Yeung family to Denver, Tampa, Miami, Long Island, Chicago, and now Connecticut. Having retired from full-time work, Dr. Yeung continues to consult for private companies,

including start-ups. He served in the Army Reserve for 30 years and mentored high school seniors for college entrance. Since the Yeungs were nurtured at Queens College, they created an annual scholarship to assist graduating QC seniors with serious financial needs. The Yeungs also support the Angel Investor Program and as members of the 1937 Society, are in the process of incorporating QC into their estate plans.

Professionals campus

Each academic year, the Office of Institutional Advancement brings Queens College students, alumni, and friends together through a special lecture series called *Professionals on Campus*.

Our distinguished speakers are experts in their fields as well as role models for career success. Most of them got their start at Queens College. *Professionals on Campus* gives students the opportunity to learn from and interact with alumni and friends of the college representing multiple industries and sectors.

We are proud to recognize the exceptional participants for the 2024–2025 academic year.

Jennifer Bisram '04, Reporter and Anchor, CBS News
Dr. Elliot Jacobs '66, Plastic Surgeon, Sanctuary Plastic Surgery

Zach Latos '16, Chief Executive Director, FlyMeOut
Joe Levy '91, Chief Executive Officer, Sophos Ltd.

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

1953: Irene Butter, a child Holocaust survivor, educator, peace activist, and author, is the recipient of the 2025 Anne Frank Award for Human Dignity and Tolerance, which is presented to an American who has demonstrated a commitment to confronting intolerance, antisemitism, racism, or discrimination while upholding freedom and equal rights to promote an open, pluralistic, and democratic society. **1964: Rabbi Roy Furman** published his book, *Torah Wrestling*, which invites readers into a deep, personal engagement with the Torah's most challenging stories. Furman challenges traditional interpretations of the texts while remaining firmly rooted in Jewish tradition. **1965: Lynne Friedman** (MS '74) had her paintings and drawings on display at The Wired Art Gallery in High Falls, New York last August. Her show was titled "Where the Earth Breathes" and featured landscape art of Provence and Umbria. **1966: Meryl Ain** published a book of short stories called *Remember to Eat and Other Stories*, a collection of tales that follow a Jewish family from pre-WWII to the not-so-distant future with poignant, funny glimpses into their life and community. **Peter Drew** has written two symphonies which were recently performed at major concert venues. Peter Drew's Symphony No. 1, "Reminiscence" debuted at the Boulder Symphony on March 29–30, 2025. Reminiscence was also performed at Carnegie Hall on July 10, as was the debut of Symphony No. 2, "Touch of Noir"... **Gary Lawson** was unanimously elected to serve as the Chairman of the Board of the Tribute to Valor Foundation, an educational nonprofit which helps students understand, engage with, and incorporate into their daily lives and future careers the core values of the Medal of Honor. **1971: Jane Zalben** published the children's book *Beni's Tiny Tales: Around the Year in Jewish Holidays*. Chronicling a full year of Jewish festivities—from Rosh Hashanah through Shavuot and everything in between—the book includes homespun family stories, origin notes, craft activities, songs, and recipes for each holiday. **1973: Philip Berry** published his book, *Being Better Than You Believed: 8 Steps to*

Ultimate Success, a self-development and leadership guide. He is president of Philip Berry Associates, LLC, a consulting firm focused on executive coaching, leadership development, innovation, and organizational effectiveness. **1974: Howard Sovronsky** was appointed by Connecticut governor Ned Lamont as the inaugural behavioral health advocate. Sovronsky oversees the Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, which helps Connecticut residents access mental health and behavioral health care resources, supports behavioral health providers with receiving timely payments from health insurance carriers, and advocates for greater access to behavioral health care and resources... **Marlene Wiedenbaum** had a solo exhibit of her pastel paintings on display at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center Gallery last May. The exhibit was titled "Roaming the Ridge: Pastel Horizons"... **Theodora Zavala** had her artwork exhibited at the East Meadow Public Library in October. Her oil paintings include still life, portraits, and landscapes. **1976: Joseph T. Hoban** published a middle grade book entitled *Joy and the Menagerie*, which tells the story of a global adventure of bears, a bunny, a puppy, and a working mom. **1977: Stephen A. Chidylo** has retired from the clinical practice of plastic and reconstructive surgery. He practiced in Monmouth County, New Jersey for over 30 years... **Marc Sokol** published two books recently: *Negotiation: Creating Agreements in Business and Life* and *Strategic Workforce Planning: Best Practices and Emerging Directions*. He also completed his term as president of the Society of Consulting Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Association... **Susan Zahalsky** has been enjoying a second career as the profiles editor of *Mensa World Journal*, writing a regular column in *American Mensa Bulletin* and contributing to *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. **1978: Donna Orender** was named the commissioner of UpShot, a new women's basketball developmental league. The league will begin play in May 2026. Orender has previously served as president of the WNBA and senior vice president of the PGA Tour.

1979: Rose Kacherian Rybak, author of works published in *Plays Magazine*—a source of plays appropriate for elementary school, middle school, and high school students—has at age 96 sold one more: *Whale Ahoy*. As reported in a story in the *Armenian Weekly*, Liz Preston, *Plays Magazine* editor, called *Whale Ahoy* "quite entertaining, with a good message and wonderful information about these beautiful, yet vulnerable mammals." **1980: Jesse Levy** recently made two albums of original songs played on a ukulele titled *12 The Hard Way* and *Where We Gotta Go*. The songs can be found on Apple Music... **Mary Jane Surrago**, assistant secretary for the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) Board of Directors, was the recipient of the 2025 R.B. Irwin Award. The Irwin Award is the highest honor given by NIB to a professional in the NIB community who has devoted his or her career to creating and improving employment for people who are blind, low vision, or visually impaired, or to a volunteer who has demonstrated exceptional and longstanding service and commitment to NIB's mission. **1981: Evan Ginzburg** published the book *Wrestling Rings, Blackboards and Movie Sets*. Ginzburg tells stories about his life covering professional wrestling and serving as an associate producer on the Academy Award-nominated film, *The Wrestler*. **1982: Brian M. Posner** was named to the Board of Directors at Stran & Company, Inc., a leading provider of outsourced marketing solutions specializing in promotional products and loyalty incentives. **1985: Ellen Glickman** was a featured speaker at the National Academy of Kinesiology Higher Education Conference in January where she addressed the dangers of social media on our health and relationships. **1987: Julio Delgado** was appointed the executive account director at Diamond Assets. In this role, Delgado partners with schools to maximize the value of their technology through sustainable asset management and life cycle solutions. **1988: Norm Roberts**, longtime college basketball coach, announced his retirement at the end of the 2024–25 season. Roberts spent six seasons as the

head coach at St. John's University and was the assistant coach at the University of Kansas since 2012, where he led the Jayhawks to the 2022 National Championship... **Leah Schanke** published her debut picture book, *Freedom at Dawn: Robert Smalls's Voyage Out of Slavery*. This historical fiction picture book for ages 4–8 tells the true story of Robert Smalls' brave plan to sail his family to freedom. **1989: Paul Campisi** was hired as director of commercial credit delivery at United Federal Credit Union. Campisi is responsible for building and maintaining credit quality within the commercial loan portfolio, consistent with organizational, strategic, and financial objectives... **Eileen Fredericks** has been named the director of human resources at Variety Child Learning Center, a leading nonprofit organization that provides specialized educational services to children and their families. **1991: Mojgan Cohanim Lancman** was recently elected president of the Sephardic Heritage Alliance, a Great Neck-based organization that serves the Persian community statewide. She has been a longtime board member of the organization... **Rory Lancman**, a former member of the New York City Council, was appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul to the board of directors of the Nassau Health Care Corporation (NHCC) Board of Directors. Hochul said his appointment will help us to "usher in a new era of stronger oversight, enhanced accountability, and renewed focus on patient care at Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC), Nassau County's only public hospital." **1992: Yanna Darilis** was named as a 2025 Top Doctor of the Year by International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) in Lifestyle and Wellness. She was officially honored in Las Vegas on December 13, 2025 at the IAOTP Gala. **1994: Jeff Braverman** was honored at the Melave Malka Gala, recognizing his 30 years of service as director of Camp Neshar at Congregation Keter Torah in Teaneck, NJ. **1995: Jacqueline Marrast-Simpson** was hired to the legal team at Hanford Mission Integration Solutions, which serves as the central service integrator for the



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QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

U.S. Department of Energy's ongoing cleanup mission at the Hanford Site in southeast Washington... **Dana Reinecke** was appointed by the Development Disability Institute as the director of Behavioral Health Services for its programs under the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Reinecke brings over 30 years of dedicated service to individuals with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities to the new position. **1996: Sarah Hofstetter**, President of Profitero, Ltd., was named to the board of directors at Kenvue Inc., the world's largest pure-play consumer health company by revenue. Her brand-building and digital marketing expertise will bring valuable insight to the board of directors. **1998: Elisha Kobre** has joined the law firm, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP in their governmental practice. Kobre is a former federal prosecutor who represents corporations, executives, and financial institutions in criminal investigations, regulatory proceedings, and complex civil litigation... **Jeb Patton** performed with vocalist Anaïs Reno at the October 5 Jersey Jazz LIVE! concert at the Madison (NJ) Community Arts Center. Patton played the piano alongside Reno. **2000: Peter S. Giakoumis** launched Galactic Beat, a multimedia sci-fi franchise spanning novels, comics, games, and a planned TV series. The project follows a widowed father and his daughter drawn into an alien world and is inspired by his love of classic sci-fi. **2001: Frank Battaglia** was hired as an assistant coach for the Hofstra University baseball team. Battaglia was the former head coach of the Queens College baseball team from 2002–2009. **Caroline G. Boehm** has joined Herrick Feinstein LLP as counsel. She has a depth of experience advising clients on trademark and copyright matters. **2002: Zhou "Jojo" Chen** was presented with a citation by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards on Memorial Day in recognition of her service to the country and the Queens College community. Chen served in the U.S. Navy from 2004 to 2011. She is currently in the Navy reserves and

works at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, providing support and resources to military veterans in need. **2003: Scott Battaglia** was featured in an article in *The Tablet*, a weekly newspaper that covers the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. Battaglia has served as the music director for eight different Catholic churches, most recently at the Our Lady of Angels church in Bay Ridge. **2004: Camille Rivera** was honored with the Distinguished Alum Award from the Queens College Political Science Department. In a career of public service, Rivera has committed to advocating for workers' rights, Latino rights, and the less fortunate... **Matthew Snyder**, an archivist at the New York Public Library, received the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) 2024 Fredric M. Miller Finding Aid Award for the Alvin Lucier papers, a collection held by the Music Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. **2005: Jonathan Howe (MA)**, a pianist, performed with soprano Carol Smith at the Southampton Cultural Center last August, which included works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Paderewski, Carpenter, and Bortkiewicz... **Andréanna Seymore (MA)** has recently launched New York City's first-of-its-kind large-scale water safety and rip current awareness campaign—an initiative focused on saving lives and bringing education to underserved communities across the city. As media advocacy director for the nonprofit, The Rising Tide Effect, she has been a driving force behind the public service campaign... **Sung Jin Yun** was named Chief Marketing Officer at Michael Saunders and Co., a real estate brokerage located in Sarasota, Florida. **2006: Kevin Deacon** was appointed as the new superintendent of curriculum and instruction at Cranford Public Schools. He plans to implement forward-thinking academic practices and create programs that drive student achievement. **2007: Tejas Desai** published his latest novel titled *Bad Americans: Part I*. Set after the Covid lockdown, the story follows 12 people from all backgrounds as they are invited to stay in a reclusive billionaire's

mansion in the Hamptons. *Bad Americans* is his fifth published book... **John Yao (MA)** was named a 2025 Guggenheim Fellow in the field of music composition. Each fellow receives a monetary stipend to pursue independent work at the highest level under "the freest possible conditions." Yao, a trombonist, composer, and arranger, is a faculty member in the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College. **2008: Jason Abdale** published a novel set in ancient Egypt entitled *Servant of a Living God*. This novel won the 2025 Global Book Award in the category of Ancient Historic Fiction... **Cortney Farrell (MSEd)** was appointed as the director of special education for Glen Cove School District. Farrell is also an adjunct professor at Queens College... **Abe Kohn** was appointed as vice president of construction at Parkview Financial. In this role, Kohn manages construction progress on loans, leads risk assessments, and monitors project performance... **Michael Webb**, a real estate, economic development, and commercial finance and banking attorney, was promoted to partner at the law firm Farrell Fritz. **2009: Edwin B. Maxwell** has been named the chief librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library. Maxwell was promoted after previously serving as director of neighborhood services. **2010: Arvinder Kaur (MS '11)** joined Cohn Reznick LLP leading advisory, assurance, and tax firms as partner, effective February 1, 2025... **Max Schlesinger** recently joined OCLI Vision as staff ophthalmologist, specializing in medical and surgical procedures of retinal diseases... **Kimberly Probert Grad (MLS)** has been chosen to help select America's top children's picture book after being selected to serve as a member of the 2026 Randolph Caldecott Award Selection Committee. The committee chooses the most distinguished American picture book for children, in English, from those published in the past year. Grad is the director of the Abbot Public Library in Marblehead, Massachusetts. **2012: Rajiv Mohabir** was the 2025–2026 Walton Visiting Writer in Translation and Translation at the University of

Arkansas. Mohabir is the author of five acclaimed poetry collections and the winner of multiple literary awards. He gave a free public reading on the Fayetteville campus on October 16. **2013: Melanie Bencosme** has joined *The New York Times* as a video journalist on *Reporter Video*; the video team produces and edits short-form videos for the home page and social media, reporting on news, features, enterprise, and investigative projects. **2014: Danielle DaSilva** joined the KLKN news team in Nebraska as a media journalist. It is her first full-time position in broadcast news. **2016: Seth Busching** was appointed to the newly created role of director of school counseling and student wellness at Rye City School District. He will be responsible for overseeing the District's 12 school counselors. **2019: Khaleel Anderson** was appointed chair of the Banking in Underserved Communities Subcommittee and the Food, Farm, and Nutrition Policy Task Force. His tasks include addressing food insecurity in marginalized communities and agricultural policy. The youngest Black assembly member in New York State history, the Rockaway native was elected for his first term in November 2020 to serve District 31... **Germine A. Casanova** was recently named Board Trustee at Variety Learning Center, an organization dedicated to providing early intervention and early education... **Ruth Konigsberg (MLS)** has been named the new director of the Chilmark Free Public Library in Massachusetts. She was previously the young adult librarian at Pelham Public Library in New York, was the founding editor of *Time's* digital opinions section, and held editor positions at several large publications. **2020: Alexis Adrien** was part of the 2025 fall class of hires at Kennedys Law Firm, a global firm that provides services in a wide range of sectors... **Allegra Kuney (MA)** won four episodes of *Jeopardy* recently, taking home over \$95,000 in winnings and qualifying for the Tournament of Champions... **Junichiro Mataga**, a jazz pianist, composer, and arranger, won the Lennon Award in the Jazz category of the 2024 John Lennon Songwriting

Contest with his original composition, "Escher's Staircase." This prestigious contest, open to songwriters worldwide, is internationally recognized for its rigorous judging process. **2022: Audrey Blackmore** was named to *Forbes'* 30 under 30 list in the media category. As a video producer at Boardroom, a media venture cofounded by Kevin Durant and Rich Kleiman, Blackmore directs cover stories on notable WNBA and NBA. Her work has led to more than 200 million monthly impressions and 23 million monthly views across the platform's nearly 3 million followers. **2023: Erica J. Fletcher** has found success as an opera singer, performing at venues throughout the region, including full-scale productions and in smaller settings such as churches, museums, and community spaces. The soprano sings every summer at the Oyster Bay Music Festival and spent two seasons with Opera North in New Hampshire, a unique company that stages operas under a circus tent... **Hui-Chen Yeh ("Christine")** is a member of the Chinese Taipei women's ice hockey team. She represents her home country by competing in International Ice Hockey Federation events such as the Olympic qualifications, World Cup Championships, and the Asian Winter Games. **2024: Javier Madrazo**, a guitarist/composer/arranger who plays jazz, Brazilian, groove, pop, and R&B has released two critically-acclaimed albums, *Interior*—released in 2021—and *Caminos*, which debuted in 2022... **Leo Pinto**, a former QC soccer player, was signed by American Soccer Club New York of the National Premier Soccer League. Pinto, a midfielder, is described by his coach as having "terrific vision and an advanced understanding of the game"... **Aaron Yi** was inducted into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame in a ceremony hosted by State Senator John Liu. Yi is a U.S. Army veteran and has taught IT to students with disabilities.

IN MEMORIAM

During the past year, the college community has learned of the loss of some of its valued members. They will be missed and warmly remembered by their friends and colleagues.

Class of 1941
Anthony Schiavone

Class of 1942
Martin Markowitz

Class of 1943
Charlotte Chambers Marshall

Class of 1945
Dorothy Fischer Anderson
Winifred Schreiner Clark
Eugenie Jackson Mendis

Class of 1946
Estelle Gershman Fruchtman
Daphne Solá

Class of 1947
Nina Pancaldo

Class of 1948
Lydia Galante Albamonte
Vera Fox/Mattlin Jiji
Dorothy Tafler Meyer
Kathryn McDonald Prendergast

Class of 1949
Frances Borsellino
Judith Markowitz Gutman
Harold Hogstrom
Murray Jaffe
Claire Levine/Miller Kadet
Donald Mills
Toby Tolpen Talbot

Class of 1950
Yvette Davis Benjamin
Dorothy Pilc Burck
Phyllis Deutsch Daen
Selma Rosenblum Dressler
Eleanor Hilbig Heimstaedt
Annette Lopes Rauscher
Peter Rothholz
Janice Blainey Spahn

Class of 1951
Pearl Gottlieb Markowitz
Alfred Skolnick
Philip Smith

Class of 1952
Roger Brickner
Ida Masone Comparin
Leon Graubard
Dorothy Davis Kalsen
Loretta Kamber Peavey
Allen Siegel
Lila Braunstein Singer
Cynthia Cudrin Weisbard

Class of 1953
Michael Kowal
Balbina Feldman Useffoff

Class of 1954
Leon Cohen
Richard Gabriel
Saul Hilfer
Irma Radest Rosenfeld
Helen Levinson Thursh
Rita Smith Trachtenberg

Class of 1955
Doris W. Bach Beckhard
Victoria Michaels D'Alessio
Gerald Gosselin
Harriet Jasper
Carol Bender Nussbaum
Albert Roberts
Bert Romberg
John Shaffer
Barbara Fink Solomon
Doris Landar Swartz
Phyllis Ort Wachtel

Class of 1956
Warren Hamilton
Edward Helmke
Patricia Walker Smith Kelly
Gloria Cervone Lamb
Jean Marie Driscoll Nock
Ralph Orth

Class of 1957
Vincent Algeri
Gustav Bauer
Joyce Kauff Bohnenberger
Lillian Twarosch Frisch
Elliot Levine
Allan Lyons
Alexander Michalenok Mason
Arlene Goldsmith Sharlat
Barbara Strongin-Friedlander

Class of 1958
Virginia Fremer Freedgood
Lydia Sidikman Rosen
Allen Rosenbaum
Charles Settgast

Class of 1959
Carol Levy Balassa
Anna Reichert Hersom
Eugene Kennedy
Judith Reis Wallace

Class of 1960
Jean Bartelt
Jeffrey Carr
Phyllis Papier Goodfriend
Yaakov Kirschen
Karl Kregor

Class of 1961
John Holmes
Klaus Jander
Martin Kosman
Mary Duff Mauck
Harvard Sitkoff
Alice Fritsch Stollman

Class of 1962
Betsey Schaap Cutler
Arthur Fuchs
David Kemp
Marion Kolbert London
Ann Murphy Peterson
Alfred Sils

Class of 1963
Joseph Baglio
Barry Blechman
Eda Harris-Hastick
Kathleen Zerrenner Maloney

Class of 1964
Barbara Becker Breslow
Harriett Gromb Dekker
Barry Frank
Sally Silver Goldgeier
Theodore Hochuli
Terrence O'Keefe
Felice Picano
Lillian Ecker Safran
Phyllis Surdin Schleifer
Gail Friedman Simon

Class of 1965
Tommy Ebe
Paul Gillert

Class of 1966
Roslyn Banks Arkin
Carol Newman Brier
Gino Del Tin
Lorraine Robinson Farley
Roy Haje
James Owre
Stewart Venit

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

Class of 1967

Marilyn Comiter Adani
Gloria Fleischman Friedman
Ronald Friedman
Kerry Johnson
Ewald Karbner
Stephen Karetzky
Olga Shkutzko Miller
Elizabeth McCue Orlando
Susan Jassem Winston

Class of 1968

Louise Durkin Gilhooly
Morris Hoffman
Carole Soroca Nadel

Class of 1969

John Dattner
Michael Friedman
Alanna Siegfried Graboyes
Joseph Mayer
Hugh Meier

Class of 1970

Richard Aurisano
James Kelly
Robert Sarnoff
William Schmitt
David Vartian
Jane Geibel Wilson-Morton

Class of 1971

Harry Braunstein
Joya Celiberti Barrett
Marion Koshar
Virginia Picarelli McDermott
Irene Sinowitz Novick
Elaine Chimel Sekreta
Leonard Spina

Class of 1973

Shamus Eileen Dwyer
Catherine Sweeney Graham
Paul McDonough

Class of 1974

Kenneth Einbinder
Janet Gonzales Gasper

Class of 1975

Walter Hawkins
Terrence Lahiff
Roberta Kramer Luttrell
Susan McEachern Motta
Pamela Perkins
Michelle Schneider Pinto
Elene Brown Powder-Schoeps
Debra Goldenberg Rusoff

Class of 1976

Lisa Greenfield
Dorothy Kennedy
Gary Lash
Betty Leong
Yvette Spiekermann St. Jacques

Class of 1977

Bennet Gallina
Donna Ladenheim Rose

Class of 1978

Ora Geiringer
Patricia Falcon Terlecki

Class of 1979

Salvatore Mannino
June Ruszkowski

Class of 1981

Dorothy Werckmann Frein

Class of 1983

John Bernardone

Class of 1984

Louise Greenwald Polner
Mildred Torcasso-Capel

Class of 1985

Golde Kantor

Class of 1986

Marjorie Wasser Isobe

Class of 1987

Jessica Fitzpatrick
Virginia Scarpato

Class of 1988

Ellen Frederico Cascardi

Class of 1992

Marie McQuade

Class of 1993

Dolores DiStefano

Class of 1994

Helen Tuccillo

Class of 2000

Linda Bernet

Class of 2006

Noelle Crumlish

Class of 2009

Suzette Rivera

Class of 2010

Joseph Ballew

Class of 2011

Margaret Elenis Siklas

Class of 2018

Jennifer Brosnan

Friends of Queens College

Milton Bloch
Jennifer Carter
Rosemary Deen
Shirley Klein
Nita Lowey
Eileen Burke Lucas
William Muraskin
Vincent Riso
Mercedes Salvador
Isabel Schwartz
Avonelle Stevenson Walker

Faculty/Staff

Andrew Beveridge
Elaine Chapline Burns
Michael Dohan
Raymond Franklin
James Jordan
Charles Lloyd
Brian Percival
William Rorick
Rolf Swensen

Unknown Graduation Year

Stephen Buchauer
Richard Byndas
Edie Cowan
Theresa Cassidy Callahan
Sandra Gordon Gagliano
Laura Dembrowski Harckham
Carole Seaward Mitchell
Robin Sommer
Gustavo Villota
Roberta Willard

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Tell us where you are, what you are doing, what you remember most about your college years, and enclose a photo.

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Queens, NY 11367-1597
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SAVE THE DATE

Queens College's 35th Gala

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

The success of our 34th Gala set the stage for another year of meaningful celebration at Queens College. We remain deeply appreciative of the extraordinary evening we shared together. This year, we were proud to honor three distinguished alumni—Jamie H. Klein '79, Kenneth E. Newman '67, and Howard J. Rose '77—whose achievements and commitment exemplify the very best of Queens College.

The evening was graciously led by our emcee, Gail A. Marquis '80, and brought to life through dynamic performances by our talented students, faculty, and alumni, with a standout performance by alumnus Christian Mark Gibbs '14.

We look forward to gathering again and are thrilled to invite you to Queens College's 35th Gala on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 583 Park Avenue. We anticipate another unforgettable evening in celebration of our community and its continued impact.

