

## Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk Retires

**A**fter 12 years of dedicated service and leadership in bringing Rosenthal Library into the age of digital information access, Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk has retired. Professor Bonk began her Queens College career following 15 years at the State University at Albany Libraries, where she held a number of positions, including Assistant Director of Technical Services, Interim Director, and Assistant Director for User Services. Prior to SUNY/Albany, she served for nine years in collection development and serials management. At Northeastern University in Boston, she also taught library science courses. Professor Bonk holds a Masters of Arts in Library Science and American Studies from the University of Minnesota.

Here, *PageDown* Editor Lisa Flanzraich chats with Professor Bonk upon the occasion of her retirement.

**Q: You are warmly regarded by your faculty and staff. Can you tell us what your magic touch is?**

**A:** I noted the warmth among the staff when I first arrived here and I embraced it. Empathy is also a key ingredient in working with people, as well as a hands-on approach toward achieving a common goal. Another piece of it is building on the strengths, talents, and skills of my people so that they enjoy their work. It all goes back to motivational techniques.

**Q: What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishments?**

**A:** First, I must say that my accomplishments are built on the work of all my colleagues at the Library as well as the other units on campus. So what follows is not the "Imperial We."

We transformed ourselves into an electronic library from a print library. Our electronic journal subscriptions and databases have made many more resources

available than we could possibly have purchased in print. We brought wireless capability to the Library. We expanded and formalized our communications with users through our Web site and newsletter. We reached out into the community to make contacts for fundraising and have been very successful.

We transformed our role from deskbound collection building to one which emphasizes teaching. We intensified and expanded our instruction program, which now is only limited by the number of librarians available. I look forward to more faculty incorporating information literacy (IL) in their Gen. Ed. courses and for their majors so the concept of IL is seen through the lens of the discipline.

**Q: This is the Age of Google. Why do you believe that information literacy is so important?**

**A:** It's exciting and intimidating at the same time. The Google partnership with research libraries will make long-out-of-print books available again. However, at the June 2005 American Library Association Convention, Google's Adam Smith stated his company's mission—which is eerily the mission of libraries—as making the world of information available to the reader. That's why the instructional role of librarians both with faculty and students is so important. Information literacy includes critical thinking, critical reading, the ability to evaluate information and data of its sources, and its relationship to other texts. This is a teaching role, not a collection-building role, and provides a real challenge for libraries.

**Q: We participate in a consortium with all other CUNY libraries. Can you tell us more about that?**

**A:** This is one of the joys of working in CUNY. The CUNY librarians have a long tradition of close cooperation, built on both technology and collegiality—and



Sharon Bonk

limited staff and resources at each campus. Together, we are able to provide more for each and for all. The Council of Chief Librarians works cooperatively to bring economies of scale to CUNY libraries.

**Q: How do you envision the Queens College Archives?**

**A:** The College Archives could play an important role in instruction and in fostering alumni relationships if we had a full-time archivist. A recently awarded mini-grant funds a digitization feasibility project. Among our accomplishments are providing reference service and expanding the content and inventory control. Undergraduate courses in history and other areas could use the archives for research and would benefit the college in many ways. The archives could provide internships for students interested in public history and libraries, including GSLIS (Graduate School of Library and Information Studies) students.

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Lisa Flanzraich, Editor, with the Library Publications Committee:

Sharon Bonk, Rolf Swensen, Richard Wall (Chair), Izabella Taler

Contributors: Sharon Bonk, Alexandra de Luise, Lisa Flanzraich, Shoshana Kaufmann, Suzanna Simor, Rolf Swensen, Izabella Taler

Photos: Nancy Bareis

#### **PAGEUP**

We'd like to hear from our readers. Please address your suggestions or comments about **PAGEDOWN** to Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk at her Rosenthal Library Office. And watch for our next issue.

#### **Bonk Retires** *Continued from page 1*

##### **Q: What will you miss about Queens College?**

**A:** The college, including the library, has its own unique culture. I will miss the mixture of intellectual stimulation of the academic environment, the conversations and debates with faculty, and the presence of eager-to-learn students from all over the world. This is what has made the college so exciting for me. I believe that working in an academic environment is one of the most rewarding careers.

Also, I will miss my teaching in the GSLIS, where I also had the opportunity to educate the next generation of librarians as well as advise them on career choices and publishing. And, of course, I will miss all the personal and professional relationships that I have formed in 12 years at the college, within CUNY, and among academic and public librarians in the metropolitan area.

##### **Q: What are your plans for the future?**

**A:** I will still be professionally involved in librarianship as an adjunct and within the Advisory Committee of the New York State Library in Albany. I want to do volunteer work in upstate New York, where I have a home, for an environmental organization and contribute my management expertise to the group. I also plan to garden, travel, and hike.

I do not intend to sever relationships with friends here, but will have the time to explore NYC with them. Although I worry that I will have too much time on my hands, my friends reassure me: "Sharon—you will still be saying: 'There's never enough time.'"

## **QC STUDENTS CAN NOW BORROW AT QBPL**

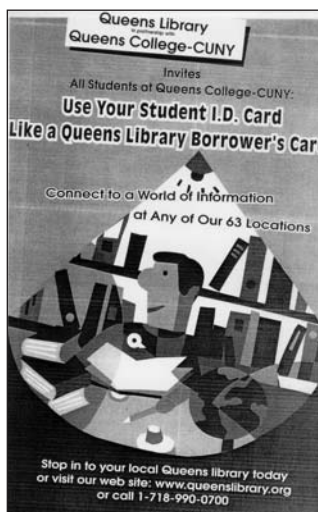
**T**hanks to a new partnership between Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL) and Queens College, our students now have borrowing privileges, regardless of whether they live outside New York City, New York State, or even the United States. All they need is a current Queens College student ID card. Students may go to any QBPL branch, register with their QC ID, and are then logged into the QBPL system. Their student ID is also a

QBPL library card. Thus, students can take advantage of all the programs, services, and materials offered at the QBPL, including accessing databases from home.

The Queens Borough Public Library has much to offer. Throughout the borough it has extensive Spanish-, Chinese-, Korean-, and Russian-language collections, among many others, that include newspapers, magazines, fiction, and nonfiction. At the International Resource Center located at the Main Library in Flushing, our students have access to a wide range of foreign-language resources on global issues. The unique Long Island Collection, located at the Central Library in Jamaica, is invaluable for research on local history and genealogy. The Black Heritage Reference Center, located at the Langston Hughes Community and Cultural Center in Corona, is renowned for its resources on black culture.

The library faculty and professional staff will also exchange ideas and tour reference facilities so that we can better understand the depth of the collections and make appropriate referrals. QBPL also offers staff development opportunities for our library faculty and staff.

*Lisa Flanzraich,  
Reference Librarian*



## **People in the News**

### *Access Services*

**Alida Marcu** joined Access Services as a full-time College Office Assistant in May 2005. Prior to this, she worked as a part-time College Assistant in the reserves processing unit. As a member of the Circulation/Reserves department, she processes reserve requests. In addition, she assists in supervising the collections management unit. Alida is enrolled in the college's Elementary and Early Childhood Education graduate program.

**Emma Traore** joined Access Services in August 2005. She worked in public libraries for several years as well as at Brooklyn College. Emma assists in managing the day-to-day functions of the Media Center. She intends to enroll in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and become a librarian.

### *Music Library*

**Carol Goldberg** transferred to the Music Library in July 2005 after working at the college for several years. As a College Office Assistant, she helps manage the day-to-day operations of the Music Library. Carol brings a wealth of experience to her new position.

### **Annette Lee Retires**



**Annette Lee**, College Office Assistant, has retired after almost 20 years of service to the college. She came to QC in 1985 and worked part-time in the Dean of Education's Office and

Educational Placement, where she helped students prepare their placement packets for teaching careers. In 1991 Annette became a full-time College Office Assistant and came to the Rosenthal Library. She began in the former Serials Division, assisting students in locating microforms and journals as well as aiding in the operation of the microforms center. In her most recent position in Bibliographic Access, she ensured that periodicals were checked in and records kept up-to-date in the on-line catalog and on the shelves. Annette plans to relax, travel, and enjoy her retirement. We will miss her very much.

*Lisa Flanzraich,  
Reference Librarian*

# DAVID COHEN: FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION HONOREE

Photo courtesy of American Library Association



David Cohen receives award from Carol Brey-Casiano, 2004-2005 ALA President

Our indefatigable David Cohen is the recipient of the American Library Association's 2005 Freedom to Read Roll of Honor Award. The Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) was founded in 1969 to promote and defend intellectual freedom and open access to literature for all people, especially in libraries. FTRF's President John W. Berry and Executive Director Judith F. Krug thanked David at the ALA convention in Chicago this past June, saluting him with these words:

"Thank you, David Cohen, for decades of work to ensure that the world of knowledge is available to all . . . for your belief in and support of the Freedom to Read Foundation from its inception in 1969 . . . for your involvement—locally and nationally—in a wealth of activities that support the First Amendment . . . for your landmark work for

multiculturalism in librarianship . . . for inspiring generations of librarians and students at Queens College and elsewhere. Your twin passions for justice and knowledge are as evident today as ever. Because of your untiring efforts, the Freedom to Read Foundation, American Library Association, and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution are stronger."

Last year, in celebration of David's 95th birthday, the ALA congratulated him with a proclamation for his lifetime achievement in multiculturalism and intellectual freedom. David has been a fighter and trailblazer on the First Amendment and freedom to read front for over eight decades. His many contributions to the library community include serving as co-founder and coordinator of ALA's Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable; co-founder of the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship; and charter member of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

In 1999 EMIERT created the David Cohen Multicultural Award, which "encourages and recognizes articles of significant new research and publications that increase understanding and promote multiculturalism in libraries in North America."

*Lisa Flanzraich  
Reference Librarian*

## HAL AND IDA GROSS ENDOW LINCOLN ERA MATERIALS



Hal and Ida Gross

The Library recently added Hal Gross to its list of generous friends. A charter member of the Lincoln Group of New York City and a collector of books on President Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Gross has acquired a library of Lincoln books, autographs, letters, and documents.

A few months ago, Mr. Gross offered over 600 books, journals, documents, and posters to the college. Since three-quarters of the titles are new to the library, the Lincoln Collection will greatly enrich the library holdings and provide an immeasurable addition to the research collections for students of the Lincoln presidency and American history. The Gross Collection, a circulating collection housed in alcove space 2 in the library's main reading room, is open to scholars

and students at Queens College.

Mr. Gross has also generously contributed the Hal and Ida Gross Endowment for Lincolniana and 19th-Century American Literature, which will also allow us to purchase volumes on mid-19th-century American history, particularly the Civil War.

Mr. Gross received a bachelor's degree at City College many years ago. After a long career as president of Allied Paper and Packaging-Bunzl USA, he returned to Queens College as a senior citizen student and spent many hours in Rosenthal Library. He majored in political science and got to know and appreciate the library faculty, who helped him pursue his education. Several years ago he received a second degree at the college.

The library inaugurated this wonderful new collection and expressed its gratitude to Hal Gross for his generosity and friendship on September 22, 2005.

*Shoshana Kaufmann  
Associate Librarian*



## Success for the English 110 Program

Library faculty and English 110 faculty have risen to a challenge by transforming a three-year pilot program into a permanent part of the English composition program. During this semester, two sessions of library instruction were given for 57 English 110 sections. These classes replaced the traditional, one-session library instruction program.

Carrie Hintz, Assistant Director of Composition, championed the program. In a letter to English 110 faculty, she observed that the program had "experienced a great deal of success" and asked for their cooperation by choosing one of three carefully defined topics: "Race in the United States," "Immigration and Emigration," and "Public Art and Public Memorials." By concentrating on these areas, library faculty have been able to offer many more English 110 classes, while English 110 instructors have been able to incorporate these concepts and the added sessions into their courses.

Retiring Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk, who has been a great supporter of this program, said that "Undergraduate students need to develop critical abilities to locate and evaluate information on their work in many Queens College courses. The library faculty welcome the opportunity to promote the foundation of this ability in English 110. It is our intent that students will build on this knowledge in subsequent courses."

*Rolf Swensen, Chair,  
Library HomePage Committee  
Alexandra de Luise, Coordinator,  
Instructional Services*

## Queens College Art Center Exhibitions for 2005-2006

Times flies. The Art Center has entered its eighteenth season in the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, presenting exhibitions 135–138. The new season brings a variety of media, including paintings, sculpture, works on paper, photographs, and glass art. We are pleased to be showing two artists (Roberta Crown and Ellen Mandelbaum) for the second time, each with a new body of work.



In *Wiggle & Wave: Paintings by Roberta Crown; Sculpture by Barbara Lubliner* (September 8–October 27), Crown's coloristic, powerful paintings dialogue with Lubliner's playful sculptures made of found metal. Each artist explores the tensions and resolutions, harmony and discord, and form and motion suggested by her subject. Crown, an alumna of Queens College (BA, MA 1970) who has exhibited throughout the United States and abroad and serves as Executive Coordinator of the Women in the Arts Foundation, focuses on color and form in a series of paintings inspired by the sea. Lubliner, known for her flexible postmodern approach to the figural tradition, is showing works in her

"Tickle Metal" series that all move, wiggle, or vibrate. While exploring metal's linear qualities, ability to activate space, and capacity to suggest form, the pieces as "metal amusements" invite participation and play.

*Mono.logue: Works on Paper by Seongmin Ahn* (November 3–December 23), co-sponsored by the Asian/American Center, presents this Korean-American artist's cerebral and shadowy drawings and paper weavings. With a strong sculptural presence, they transform space, suggest calm, and invite contemplation. Based on Buddhist meditation techniques of philosophical deliberation and ritual practice that Ahn employs in her struggle with chronic physical pain, and referring to the minimalist abstract idiom, they search for inner value. In silent peace, they reveal life's endurance and beauty.

In the spring, *How We Use Land: Photographs of Queens County by Paul Anthony Melhado* (February 8–March 30), will showcase black-and-white portraits of Queens locations by a local artist born in Jamaica, West Indies. Melhado's interest is "in the representation of landscape not as a place but as an object, a material we shape in ways that reflect our concerns." Documenting aspects of the American way of life projected onto the urban landscape of our borough, Melhado builds on the tradition of landscape photography as a uniquely American contribution to the history of art.

The season will culminate in *Light Listened: Art and Glass* by Ellen Mandelbaum



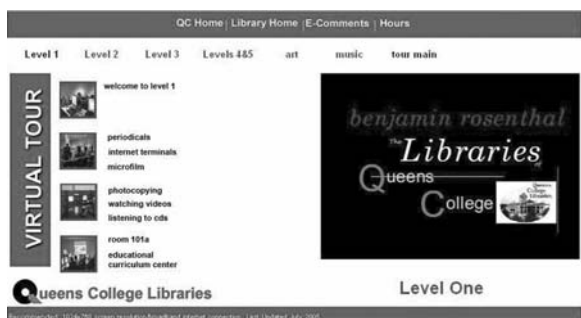
(April 6–July 31), allowing the recent work by America's foremost glass artist to be seen in the summer. Mandelbaum started as an expressive painter, but in the mid-1970s she discovered and fell in love with stained glass and began to work in this medium. Using her painterly mode of expression, line, color, and form, she creates distinctive free work in glass.

Each exhibition is accompanied by a gallery talk by the artist, some also by additional programs. For more information, please see the college calendar [www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/artcenter05\\_06.html](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/artcenter05_06.html), visit the Art Center Web site at [www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/art-center.html](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/art-center.html), or call 718-997-3770.

The Art Center is grateful to its sponsors and friends for their support.

Suzanna Simor  
Coordinator of Art and Music  
Library Services  
Director, Art Center

## VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE LIBRARY



The Library has launched a virtual tour of its facilities via its homepage. Students, staff, and the public can take the tour wherever and whenever they please, experiencing the library's many services and collections as if they were in the

building. In about 30 minutes, users can familiarize themselves with the major services of the Rosenthal and Music Libraries—as if they were on a physical tour—by either going methodically floor by floor or jumping around to a particular service, using links provided in the tour. With music, images, and sound, the virtual tour has become an instructional and promotional tool.

While the tour will play on older computers and earlier versions of Windows operating systems, a Windows XP or a Pentium 3 or above with a broadband In-

ternet connection is highly recommended for optimal playback of video segments off campus.

The virtual tour was created with a QC Center for Undergraduate Education grant. Departments who contributed generously were the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and Media Studies. We are thankful to the chairs of these departments for lending their equipment, lab facilities, and staff.

Let us know what you think!

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