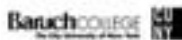


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History buffs, Qns. needs you

BY LANA BORTOLOTT
Special to amNewYork

THEY KNOW GOTHAM

Ron Schweiger
Brooklyn borough historian

Secret weapon: An arsenal of about 3,000 slides of vintage photos and postcards. He devotes one-third of his basement to Brooklyn Dodgers memorabilia.



Lloyd Ultan
Bronx borough historian

Fast facts: The U.S. Capitol dome was manufactured in an ironworks in the Bronx. Puffed wheat and puffed rice cereals were developed at the New York Botanical Garden.



Michael Miscione
Manhattan borough historian

Proudest moment: Getting a park named for 19th-century urban planner Andrew H. Green and "lesser triumphs like discovering the origin of the speed bump."



Thomas Matteo
Staten Island borough historian

Words of wisdom to the new kid: "Don't worry about being the big dog on the block — just worry about reaching out to as many people as possible."



Wanted: person with encyclopedic history knowledge, a penchant for esoterica and a little bit of showmanship. Also must live in Queens and work for free.

It's not a typical job description, but it's not your typical job: The borough of Queens seeks a new historian.

The official requirements for the job are more formal: New York state law requires appointed historians to promote and preserve their respective borough's legacy.

But it doesn't hurt to have a mental attic packed with historical miscellany and a camera-ready character. Media appearances, ranging from local TV and national broadcasts to documentaries, are part of the gig.

Each historian serves at the pleasure of the borough president and communicates a borough's unique histories however they see fit — through walking tours and lectures, or in publications. Queens' most recent historian, the retired Stanley Cogan, acknowledged sites of architectural significance through the Queensmark program and coordinated public symposia.

amNY's dream picks

- Kevin Walsh, author and webmaster of Forgotten New York
- Barry Lewis, architectural historian, author and media figure
- Queens Crap blogger, identity unknown, but active and outspoken community evangelist

"We expect [the new appointee] to continue that legacy and will look for someone who can outreach to all of the community and bring people together," said Borough President Helen M. Marshall.

GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

- Application deadline: May 5
- Send cover letter and resume to resumes@queensbp.org.
- A committee will tabulate scores, interview candidates and recommend them to the borough president.



The Unisphere is one of Queens' iconic symbols. (GETTY)

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