CURRICULUM QUEST

QUEST is a New York City Based **Community for Lifelong Learning**

Founded in 1995 by a small group of active retirees, Quest operates in the Bowling Green facilities of the City College of New York (CCNY.) Our mission is to provide an intellectually challenging program for mature adults who want to continue to learn, exchange ideas, meet new friends, and develop new interests in a peer-learning environment.

Today we are a vital part of the CCNY family, with more than 200 members. We design our own curriculum, publish an annual literary and art magazine, *Q Review*, and self-administer about forty advanced-level peer-taught courses each semester. Subjects range from literature and history to science, politics, current affairs, philosophy and the arts. We also feature a Distinguished Guest Lecture Series that brings prominent people in a wide variety of disciplines to discuss their careers and life experiences. In this stimulating, participatory community, there are no attendance requirements, no exams, no grades, and very little homework. People of all backgrounds are welcome to teach and to learn.

QUEST is administered by a memberelected eleven-member Council. All work is carried out by our member-volunteers. and by one administrative employee. Our

success is wholly dependent on the voluntary participation of our members in many different areas, including the selection and development of the curriculum, and a wide array of administrative functions. No matter how members choose to participate, all find that QUEST provides a rewarding experience that enriches both their intellectual and social lives.

Our membership includes retired and semi-retired editors, musicians, teachers, lawyers, college professors, doctors, dentists, engineers, reporters, actors, librarians, psychologists, artists, business people and more.

There are three semesters each year: Fall (September through December), Spring (February through May), and a June & July summer session. Except in the summer, when classes are held from 10:30 - Noon Tuesdays and Thursdays only, we meet Monday through Thursday for morning (10:30 AM - 12:00 noon) and afternoon (1:00-2:30 PM) sessions. Most courses run for at least two semesters, and many continue for several years. There is a modest annual fee which covers all expenses. We encourage prospective members and guests to spend a day with us and see firsthand what an enriching lifelong learning opportunity awaits. To schedule a visit, please call or e-mail for an appointment.



CITY COLLEGE of NEW YORK

Center for Worker Education, Bowling Green Campus, 25 Broadway, 7th floor, New York, NY 10004 Phone: 212.925.6625 ext.229 • Email: Quest@ccny.cuny.edu • Web: www.questlifelong.org

A Community Fall 2015 for Lifelong Learning, Inc. 5666666E

FALL 2015 CALENDAR						
Week Starting	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
September 7	No Class Labor Day	А	А	A		
September 14	No Class Rosh Hashanah	В	В	В		
September 21	А	А	No Class Yom Kippur	A		
September 28	В	В	В	В		
October 5	A	А	А	A		
October 12	No Class Columbus Day	В	В	В		
October 19	А	А	А	A		
October 26	В	В	В	В		
November 2	А	А	А	A		
November 9	В	В	General Meeting	В		
November 16	A	А	А	A		
November 23	В	В	No Class Thanksgiving	No Class Thanksgiving		
November 30	А	А	А	A		
December 7	В	В	*	**		

* Thursday afternoon classes will be held on Wednesday afternoon.

** Morning classes only. Noon holiday party.

Α	FALL 2015 SCHEDULE					
1 L Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Great Books	Foreign Affairs	Ancient Greece	Mind and Brain		
	Long 19th Century	Jane Austen	Supreme Court	Point of View		
	Classic Rock Albums		Contemporary Opera	Acting Workshop		
Lunch						
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Great Plays	Art in History	Architecture	The Brothers Karamazov		
	Presenter's Showcase	Science & Math	Shakespeare	Economics & Society		
Т	Life Drawing	Writer's Workshop		Poets' Workshop		
B_{week}	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
Morning 10:30 – 12:00	Awesome America	Artists & Their Work	American Roots Music	Contemporary Short Stories		
	Oral Interp. of Poetry	The Big Picture	lbsen	Movers & Shakers		
Lunch						
Afternoon 1:00 – 2:30	Appreciating Contem. Poetry	Performing Arts	Guest Speakers	Film Today (12:45)		
	Fascinating Non-Fiction	What is Wrong with America?		Philosophical Conjectures		
		Acting Workshop				

COURSES BY CATEGORY

FALL 2015 COURSES

ART

- Artists & Their Work

- Art in History NEW
- Life Drawing

DRAMA

- Acting Workshop
- Great Plays
- Shakespeare
- Ibsen & Modern American Playwrights NFW

GOVERNMENT & WORLD AFFAIRS

- The Big Picture
- Foreign Affairs
- Point of View
- The Supreme Court
- What Is Wrong with America? NEW

HISTORY & CULTURE

- Ancient Greece
- Awesome America
- Explorations in Architecture
- The Great Books: An Introduction
- The Long 19th Century NFW
- Movers & Shakers
- Three Philosophical Conjectures **NEW**

LITERATURE

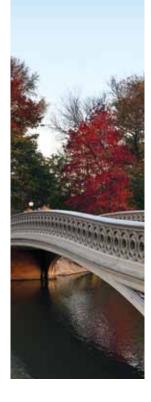
- Appreciating **Contemporary Poetry**
- Contemporary Short Stories
- Fascinating Non-Fiction - Jane Austen NEW
- The Brothers Karamazov
- NFW
- Oral Interpretation of Poetry **NEW**
- Poets' Workshop - Writers' Workshop

MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

- American Roots Music NEW
- Classic Rock Albums NEW
- Contemporary Opera – Film Todav
- The Performing Arts NFW

SCIENCE, MATH & TECHNOLOGY

- Economics & Society NEW
- Mind & Brain NFW
- Science & Math for Everyone



SPECIAL SELECTIONS

- Guest Lecture Series
- Noontime French
- Noontime Knowledge
- Museum Tours
- Presenter's Showcase

A 21ST CENTURY LOOK **AT JANE AUSTEN NEW COURSE**

Coordinators: June Zaccone. Betty Farber, Jennifer Jolly

We'll study Jane Austen through the lens of contemporary scholarship to bring present concerns to the discussion of her work. The class will read and discuss two novels - Pride and Preiudice and Emma. Each novel will be analyzed for three sessions, both in the context of her own day and recently developed theories. We'll include some material about her life and times and show excerpts from videos of these novels.

A WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

ACTING WORKSHOP

Lead Coordinator: Marilyn Rosen Coordinator: Panny King

The acting classes will focus on developing acting technique through the use of acting exercises. We will work on concentration, observation, and character development utilizing selected monologues. You will find the process thought provoking, stimulating, and fun. Beginners are always welcome!

A WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

ART IN HISTORY NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Joan Diamond Coordinator: Ellen Shapiro

How do we talk about art? It is formed by many factors: immediate circumstances, historical precedents, culture and context, individual and personal aims, the economic demands of a market, and private taste. Through discussions, this course will examine the influence of these on the visual arts.

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC **NEW COURSE**

Lead Coordinator: Wavne Cotter Coordinators: Mary Ann Donnelly, Penelope Pi-Sunver, Jane Pittson-Chianese

America is a melting pot, and so is its music. This course encompasses a number of musical genres, including folk, blues, gospel, country, and jazz. We will examine this country's rich musical heritage by focusing on the cultural impact of key artists and styles. Sessions will explore the influence of uniquely American musical forms — as well as influences from other parts of the world. The goal is to learn more about our music... and ourselves.

B WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2015 COURSES

APPRECIATING CONTEMPORARY POETRY

Lead Coordinator: Joe Nathan Coordinators: Stan Raffes, Eva Shatkin

From close reading and discussion of the work of contemporary poets, we uncover a new world of enjoyment. Class members choose poems to present and lead the discussion.

B WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

ANCIENT GREECE: CRUCIBLE OF CIVILIZATION

Lead Coordinator: Doreen De Martini Coordinators: David Lewis, Art Spar

More than 3,000 years ago, the Greeks began to forge a culture and civilization that transcended time and left its mark on the world to this day. This course will delve into the ways in which the ancient Greeks developed governments, the arts, philosophy, science, medicine and more through the centuries, and how their legacy continues to influence us. Through lectures, dramatizations, and readings, participants will share the achievements, failures and glories of this unparalleled empire.

A WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

ARTISTS & THEIR WORK

Lead Coordinator: Sandy Gordon Coordinator: Bob Reiss

Art is the visual language of culture and society, and artists are the scribes. Using lecture and visual presentation, we will examine the life and works of selected artists in the context of their historical period. In the fall, we will focus on *The High Art of the Low Countries: Netherlands and Belgium.*

B WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

AWESOME AMERICA: FROM"A" TO "W"

Lead Coordinator: Harriet Finkelstein Coordinator: Marian Friedmann

This four-year course will illuminate the history, demography, economy, geography, politics, education, artists, sports, heroes and villains of all states from Alabama to Wyoming. We will also study how inter-state events affected the nation.

B WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

THE BIG PICTURE: CONTEMPORARY NON-FICTION ARTICLES

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Caroline Thompson

In spite of the sound bite and Twitter message, the long-form non-fiction article is thriving in *The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Harper's, The New York Review of Books* and other print and online formats. For each session, two timely articles are selected for the class to read in advance, and lively discussions are then led by volunteer class members. Articles typically focus on issues such as health, politics, the military, aging, and technology.

B WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Joe Nathan Coordinator: John Hood

Freud called it "the most magnificent novel ever written." Virginia Woolf said that Dostoevsky, "alone among writers has the power of reconstructing those most swift and complicated states of mind." Few novels can stand up to close reading. This one does. It is brilliantly written and leads the reader to confront some of life's most difficult problems.

A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Steve Koenig Coordinator: Joan Briller

Each session will focus on one album by a band or solo artist and be enriched by related tracks from the band's career or works by others which shed light on the album. Discussion will cover performer histories, musical styles, historical contexts, and critical reactions. Our definition of "rock" will be inclusive, containing branches of reggae, soul, folk, and country. Some artists we might present include The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Laura Nyro, David Bowie, and Joni Mitchell.

A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

CONTEMPORARY OPERA

Lead Coordinator: Steven Koenig Coordinator: Joan Briller

At each session, we view a different opera and engage in a lively discussion of the text, staging and medium. This semester may include Kurt Weill's *Lost In The Stars*, Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Krasa's Terezin camp children's opera *Brundibar*, Nielsen's *Maskarade* as well as jazz, computer and rock opera. We will compare productions and correlate them with historical and cultural events.

A WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES

Lead Coordinator: Nancy Richardson Coordinators: Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

At each session, two class members present stories from *The O. Henry Prize Stories, 2013 edition*, and stories selected by coordinators or suggested by class members. The presenters give background information on the author and story, then draw on the class for discussion.

B Week/ Thurs/ 10:30 am to noon.

FALL 2015 COURSES

ECONOMICS & SOCIETY NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Phil Gisser Coordinators: Marion Schultheis, Bob Moore

Societal structure is a huge jigsaw puzzle with multiple interconnecting pieces. Economics and finance play a key role in it. We probe the key pieces and interconnections inside that puzzle — more conceptually than numerically. The overall picture will come into focus so we can move toward solving the challenges facing society. We'll look at issues such as climate change, globalization, income inequality, immigration, population growth and aging, the energy revolution, and how developments in financial markets impact us.

A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE

Lead Coordinator: David Lewis Coordinators: Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

We continue to explore the field of architecture by focusing on architecture's impact on society. Our scope includes urban planning, utopian communities, real estate development, affordable housing, "green" architecture, and visionary architectural firms.

A WEEK / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FASCINATING NON-FICTION

Lead Coordinator: Harriet Finkelstein Coordinators: Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss

At each session, the presenter will tell you about a book you always wanted to read or about a book you never heard of but will be glad that you now have. Among this semester's books are: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch; *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* by Jill Lepore; *The Greater Journey* — *Americans in Paris* by David McCullough; *The Guns of August* by Barbara Tuchman; *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway. *No Advanced Reading Required.*

B WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FILM TODAY

Lead Coordinator: Beverly Wasserman Coordinators: John Hood, Howard Salik

Film Today is a discussion class. Coordinators gather information on six interesting films either currently playing or soon to be released. The trailers are shown at the beginning of each class. We then choose four of the films and ask for volunteers to give us a five minute introduction to each film at the following session, focusing on plot, acting, and direction.

B WEEK / THUR / 12:45pm to 2:30pm

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Lead Coordinator: Howard Salik Coordinator: Sandra Southwell

In this course we investigate and discuss world-wide issues. The presenter selects a critical international topic based on an article published in *The Journal* of Foreign Affairs, The Atlantic, The Economist, or any other reliable source that includes essential issues related to foreign affairs. The presentation reviews and evaluates the material (not necessarily agreeing with the article but giving reasons for disagreement, if that is the case). The last thirty minutes of the class are dedicated to questions, class discussions or debate relative to the presentation.

A WEEK / TUES / 10:30am to 12:00pm

GREAT BOOKS: AN INTRODUCTION

Lead Coordinator: Eva Shatkin Coordinators: June Dwyer, Ellen Shapiro

We continue with the Fifth Series of the Great Books Reading & Discussion Program, Volume 2. We begin with Hume: *Of Personal Identity*. Readings are done at home, and class discussion is led by the coordinators.

A WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

GREAT PLAYS

Lead Coordinator: Beverly Francus Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Helen Neilson

Leading American and European plays are presented. Each session begins with a brief biography of the playwright followed by a reading of the play in an edited form. At the end of the reading, there is a class discussion of the drama's relevance to our lives.

A WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

GUEST LECTURE SERIES

Lead Coordinator: Sandy Gordon Coordinator: Bob Reiss

The bi-monthly QUEST Distinguished Guest Lecture Series, Wednesdays at 1:00pm, enhances the QUEST program by inviting recognized experts in their fields to present varied subjects. Past presentations have included discussions of global policy and political science, science, anthropology, literature, theater arts, social science, and music.

B WEEK / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FALL 2015 COURSES

IBSEN & MODERN AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Hal Cantor Coordinators: Myra Nissen, Bob Reiss

This is an experimental workshop for those who like to see, read and act in plays. Henrik Ibsen has been called the Father of Modern Drama. We study three of his social dramas and trace their influence on modern American playwrights who dealt with similar themes: Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill and Wendy Wasserstein. Class sessions will combine lecture, short scenes enacted by volunteers and discussion. Short biographies and scenes from the American playwrights will be presented and directed by class members.

B WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

LIFE DRAWING

Lead Coordinator: Carole Abrahams, Coordinators: Margaret Di Piazza, Donna Rubens

This is a hands-on drawing class with professional live models. No experience needed. Bring drawing materials pencils, charcoal, hard pastels, Conte crayons, pens — and a drawing pad. Not sure this is for you? We will supply your first day's equipment.

A WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Caroline Thompson Coordinators: Sandra Southwell, Steve Allen

The "long 19th century" refers to the vears between 1789 and 1914. British historian Eric Hobsbawm called this period "the greatest transformation in human history since men invented agriculture, writing, the city, and the state." This period experienced a transition to modernity from an overwhelmingly rural and autocratic society. It began with the idealism of the French Revolution and the power of the Industrial Revolution only to culminate in the chaos of World War I. We will discuss the revolutions and the unifications of Italy and Germany, as well as the spread of industrialism, nationalism, and empire building in Europe toward the end of the century. We will examine the influence of key players such as Napoleon, Metternich, Bismarck, and Marx, and the changes in culture, science, and social institutions that evolved along with economic and political change.

A WEEK/MON/10:30am to 12:00pm

MIND & BRAIN NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinator: Jan Eisler

Humans have always been curious about the mind. Today, science is illuminating fresh ways of understanding consciousness, intelligence, machine learning, the senses, sleep and dreaming. Game theory and decision theory are giving us new ways to see how humans sift through choices to reach decisions. Class participants will gain familiarity with cutting-edge research for a clearer picture of their own intellectual capacities and will learn more about the many ways humans use their brains to maximize opportunity in life, as well as to make better decisions in such spheres as politics, law, medicine, business, and love.

A WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Lead Coordinator: Caroline Thompson Coordinator: Richard Salter

We will examine the lives and accomplishments of the outstanding, and sometimes unexpected, personalities whose ideas and actions have had a lasting influence on our society, whether for good or evil. Previous subjects have included Richard Feynman, Beethoven, Ghengis Khan, Emma Goldman, Jackie Robinson, and Peter the Great.

B WEEK / THUR / 10:30am to 12:00pm

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Art Spar Coordinators: Roy Clary, Mary Ann Donnelly

In a fun, creative, supportive environment, poetry will come alive as participants read aloud and interpret poems by three great 19th Century American poets: Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Edgar Allan Poe. Study topics will include meter, rhyme, alliteration and other prosodic elements that influence a poem's "sound meaning." Finally, we will experientially journey back in time to visit the poets and their worlds.

B WEEK / MON / 10:30am to 12:00pm

FALL 2015 COURSES

THE PERFORMING ARTS – GRAND OPERA, BALLET, AND FILM NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Frieda Lipp Coordinators: Steve Allen, Anne Moses

This course will alternate its focus between Grand Opera, Ballet, and Film. For Grand Opera and Ballet, we will visually explore the history, specific eras, composers, choreographers, directors, dancers, singers, comparable production concepts of the same ballet or opera, plus showing complete works. For Film, we will look at contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and excerpts from longer films.

B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

POETS' WORKSHOP

Lead Coordinator: Helen Neilson Coordinator: Trudy Owett

The focus is on reading aloud and sharing your own poems in a supportive environment where you'll get detailed feedback. You are encouraged to experiment, to explore language, and to address all aspects of the craft in order to develop your own distinctive style and voice. *This class begins a half-hour early, at 12:30pm.*

A WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

POINT OF VIEW

Lead Coordinator: Bob Hartmann Coordinators: Irwin Greenberg, Barbara Gordon

This is an interactive discussion class in which both the coordinators and class members bring in short opinion pieces — editorials, op-ed articles, reviews, etc. A vote is taken on which pieces to discuss that day and individuals argue their views.

A WEEK / THU R/ 10:30am to 12:00pm

PRESENTER'S SHOWCASE

Lead coordinator: Palma Mahl Coordinators: Steve Allen, Bob Moore

Quest members have a wide diversity of interests and experiences. Each session is a chance to encounter something new. As a presenter, you will have free rein to develop a subject otherwise not covered in the curriculum. As an audience member, you may find a fresh interest or learn more about a topic you always wondered about.

A WEEK / MON / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS FOR EVERYONE

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinators: David Robinson, Burt Saltzberg, Judy Weis

This course approaches science and math as liberal arts that can enrich everyone's life. We report on many fields including biology, psychology, and physics, and examine groundbreaking research, as well as exciting applications. We strive hard to communicate these topics at a level that all can understand, without sacrificing the extraordinary beauty that science explores.

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

SHAKESPEARE

Lead Coordinator: Roy Clary Coordinators: Stan Raffes, Sondra Lipton Sahlman

The class will read aloud and discuss *The Merchant of Venice*. In this play, Shakespeare confronts issues of race and religious hatred and grapples with themes of law and logic, justice and mercy by introducing the haunting figure of Shylock, the Jewish "outsider," into a world of privilege and romance.

A WEEK / WED / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

THREE PHILOSOPHICAL Conjectures New Course

Lead Coordinator: Hy Gold Coordinator: Stan Lieblein

We will examine three questions that have been addressed by philosophers: (1) Is there a God? (2) What is the nature of reality? (3) How do we acquire knowledge? For each question, we will study the writings of philosophers from ancient Greece up to modern times, to investigate how each philosopher dealt with the issue, to learn how philosophers work, and to see whether their work can help us manage our lives. A total of about thirty philosophers will be considered.

B WEEK / THUR / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

FALL 2015 COURSES

SUPREME COURT: DECISIONS & ISSUES

Lead Coordinator: Michael Wellner Coordinators: David Judlowitz, Richard Salter

Each day brings us a new set of legal issues confronting our country and our legal system. Many of them end up before the Supreme Court; others do not. But all are issues that this course will review, analyze, and discuss.

A WEEK / WED / 10:30am to 12:00pm

WHAT IS WRONG WITH AMERICA? NEW COURSE

Lead Coordinator: Bob Moore Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Phil Gisser

They say that introspection is good for the soul. Do we have problems in America? You read every day of healthcare, injustice, inequality, infrastructure, educational, financial, and political issues. Are our problems real? How bad are things? How do we compare with the rest of the world? Are we meeting the ideals upon which this great country was founded? In each class a presenter will briefly examine an issue and then lead a class discussion. We'll conclude on an optimistic note with some possible solutions.

B WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

WRITERS' WORKSHOP

Lead Coordinator: Hilda Feinstein Coordinators: Donna Rubens, Sheryl Harawitz

Creative writing class welcomes all genres, from prose to poetry, from script writing to fiction, even op-eds. Time is also devoted to spontaneous writing exercises and discussion of artistic approaches and styles. Come and share your writing and ideas. As Stephen King so aptly says: "The scariest moment is always just before you start."

A WEEK / TUES / 1:00pm to 2:30pm

SOMETHING EXTRA

NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

Lead Coordinator: Steve Allen Coordinators: Palma Mahl, Bob Moore

Noontime Knowledge sessions are scheduled during the lunch hour, usually on Tuesdays. While many topics are about pressing issues in current affairs, cultural or historical topics are also welcome. Quest members can suggest a topic, volunteer to lead a discussion, or suggest a guest speaker who would fit into the Noontime Knowledge format.

VARIOUS / TUES / 12:00pm

NOONTIME FRENCH

Stella Gold, Yvonne Kress

If you speak some French, join us at lunchtime. We try to discuss current events, movies, and other subjects in French. We also read and translate current French articles or more classic short stories.

A WEEK / MON / 12:00pm

FRIDAY MUSEUM TOURS

Joan Briller, Pam Gemelli, Yvonne Kress, Bob Moore

Inspired by the success of last year's visits to "under the radar" museums, we plan to offer two more docent-led visits this semester. We will vary the experience each time focusing on different disciplines. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Quest bulletin board. Lunch together after the tour is optional, and it's always at a restaurant an easy walk from the museum.