

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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March 2022

## A Note From the President

**H**ello Questers. I hope you're doing well as our 230 plus membership enjoys our mid-semester activities — with or without masks. Following the new CUNY guidelines, Council voted to make mask wearing in the classroom optional. Those who wish to continue wearing their mask are, of course, more than welcome to do so.

Our complimentary Quest on-site luncheon was, overall, a great success. On Thursday, March 10th, the 40 people who signed up enjoyed renewed camaraderie during a delicious catered lunch from Le Pain Quotidien.

The rest of our Spring schedule is filled to the brim with important activities.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 29th at 2:00 PM, when we will hold our hybrid General Meeting both at 25 Broadway and on Zoom.

As to our May elections, our officer candidates will include current Vice-President Wayne Cotter, current Secretary Karen Levin, and new Treasurer candidate Peter Fleischman. Our Council-at-Large candidates will include current Council members David Bernard and Arlynn Greenbaum, as well as new candidates Larry Shapiro, Judith Winn, and Renee Woloshin.

Save the dates from May 2nd to May 4th, when the candidates will be giving hybrid lunchtime presentations to introduce themselves and answer members'

questions. The voting, entirely via email, will take place the following week.

On a lighter note, our Spring 2022 year-end luncheon has been planned for Friday, May 13th from noon to 3 PM, at the elegant Lavo Restaurant at 58th Street and Madison Avenue. Details will follow.

And ...this summer our 15 hybrid Encores sessions will take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 AM to noon from June 7th to July 18th in the Auditorium. There will be no presentation on Tuesday, July 5 because of the July Fourth holiday. Meanwhile, let's relish the present, pausing to enjoy each other's company and the approaching warmth of Spring.

— Ruth Ward

## Fall 2022 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

**Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, and Bob Reiss** are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers for Fall 2022 semester. Several of these speakers were recommended by Quest members. Please feel free to give us your suggestions for next Spring.

**September 14:** **Al Franken**, former U.S. Senator and political pundit. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.

**September 28:** **Gary Ginsberg**, author of *First Friends* (of Presidents).

**October 12:** **Jose Angel Figueroa** on *The Blood of the Poet*.

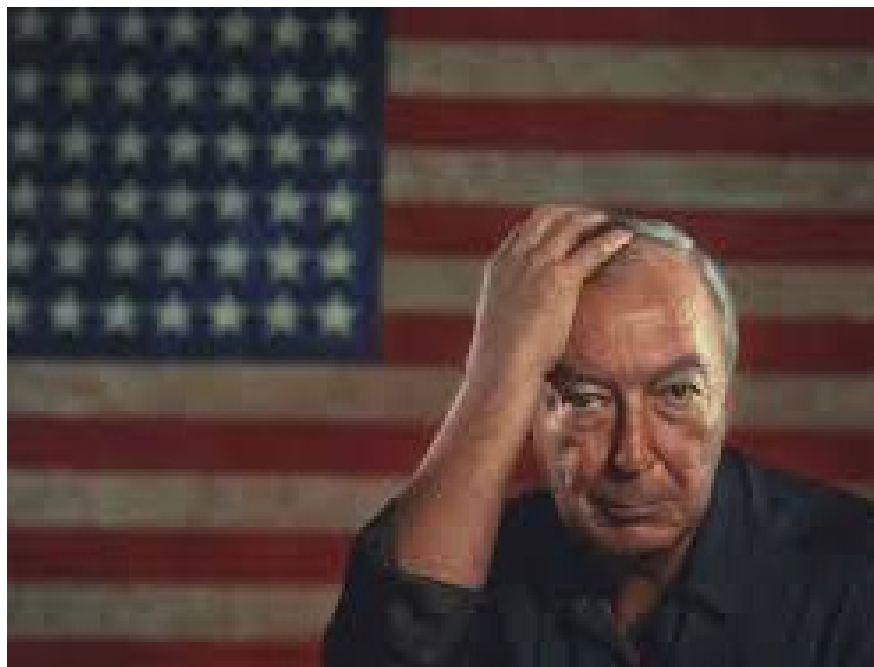
**October 26:** **Letty Cottin Pogrebin**, author of *Shanda: A Memoir*.

**November 30:** **Ivan Schwartz** on Bringing History to Life in Sculpture.

**December 14:** **Kermit Roosevelt III**, author of *The Nation That Never Was*.

## CultureQuest: Virtual Tour of the Jasper Johns Exhibition at the Whitney

by Linda Downs



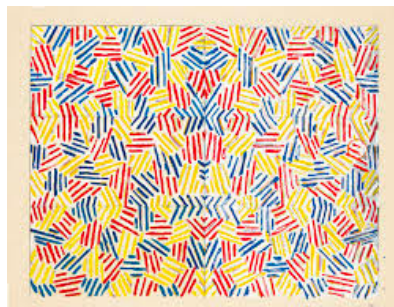
Jasper Johns in front of his painting of the American flag

On Friday, February 25th, Whitney Museum Docent Linda Sweet gave an outstanding presentation on the work of contemporary artist Jasper Johns. Johns, who is 91 years old, has generally remained silent about the intent of his work and has been considered a kind of artistic hermit, working and reworking familiar images from everyday life.

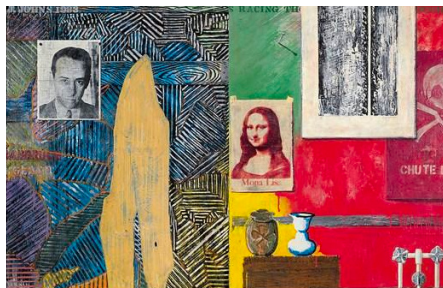
A double retrospective on view at the Whitney Museum and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, brought together hundreds of his paintings, sculptures and drawings providing the opportunity to explore recurring images that have emotional and aesthetic meaning.

Linda Sweet did a remarkable job of discussing his early work as a Pop artist, showing his paintings of the American flag, paint cans, maps, targets and numbers. She then unlocked the personal imagery of his later works that deal with mortality, spirituality and intimacy. From Sweet's perspective, Johns is of the same stature as Picasso in his breadth of invention and craftsmanship.

Several Questers stated before this presentation that Johns's work was a mystery to them. They just didn't get it. Linda definitely changed their minds with her wealth of information and enthusiasm for this important artist of our time. If you missed the tour on February 25th, there is a video of it on the Quest website,



Corpus and Mirror, 1974



Racing Thoughts, 1989  
(View of his bathroom from his tub!)

## Creative Corner

### WHY CARRY A CANE?

by Betty Farber

Perhaps it may seem foolish to explain  
The many clever uses for a cane.  
I do not find your ignorance appalling  
If you believe it's just to keep from falling.  
And traveling on the subway it's so neat  
That males and females offer you a seat.

What OTHER things can canes be  
useful for?  
For thrusting though an elevator door  
Instead of holding open with your arm  
So that your arm will never come to harm.

You're on a bus and waiting for your stop.  
How can you pull the wire near the top?  
Glance at the ceiling. Take a measured  
look.

Then use your cane just as you would a  
hook.

If you behave as I have just suggested  
You'll see the sign light up now: STOP  
REQUESTED.

Essential in all weathers is my cane  
It keeps me safe from snow and wind  
and rain  
Avoiding slippery stuff that I might step  
on—

On dark nights I could use it as a weapon!

**One Minute You Are  
Young and Cool,  
Maybe Even a  
Little Dangerous,  
and the Next Minute  
You Are Reading  
Amazon Reviews  
for Birdseed.**

## Quest Mourns the Passing of Wally Butler

Quest mourns the loss of long-time member **Wally Butler**, who passed away recently at the very respectable age of 99! He was close to many of us at Quest, but particularly to Lillian Scheinblum, who is kind enough to share her remembrances. She recalls: "I first met Wally and his wife on Fire Island, where we both had summer homes. We all lived in Ocean Bay Park, they in a most interesting house located almost directly on the waterfront. We and our spouses soon developed a friendship. Eventually each of our spouses passed away, and I became his frequent ride to the ferry. He often referred to me as his 'NY taxi driver.'"

"Wally was an avid basketball player in his youth, and took long walks for exercise nearly every day. He served in the Army during World War II, where he was assigned to work in a hospital. When he was long gone from the Army, he found himself at NYU Medical Center where he had both of his bad knees replaced on the same day! Never one to complain, Wally was always prepared to 'share a glass' with one of his many friends."



"I was accepted at Quest at his invitation. We often shared presentations; he could not type so I would transcribe as he dictated."

Wally will be missed by all his Quest friends.

## A Novel Idea — Lunch In The Lunchroom!

On the cusp of Spring, with the unmentionable pandemic waning, a team of thoughtful Quest members came up with a charming and uplifting idea. Led by Social Committee Chair **Lois Cardillo**, a team of volunteers including **Pam Gemelli**, **Marion Schultheis**, **Andrea Irvine**, **Joyce Hinote**, and **Ellie Shaffer** organized an in-house, complimentary luncheon for Quest members.

And what a luncheon it was! Catered by Le Pain Quotidien, the menu offered an array of baguette sandwiches, bowls of colorful salads, tempting pastries for dessert, and choices of delicious wines to enhance the experience even further.

"I got to interact personally with members I've known for the past two years only on paper and via Zoom," said Michael Russo. "The moderate group size was a great idea and the lunch was delightful."

Our president, Ruth Ward, summed it up. "The lunchroom was packed and the joy of the camaraderie was palpable. Thanks again to our Social Committee Chair and our volunteers for helping us to revitalize our Quest community." Lois added, "I'm very appreciative of the help the volunteers provided. I could not have pulled it off without their help."

Now, watch your emails for details on our next in-house lunch in April, as well as for the return of our traditional end-of-the-academic-year luncheon at a lovely New York City restaurant!



Above: Questers having lunch  
Left: Marion Schultheis, Lois Cardillo, and Mark Cardillo

## "Life is Either a Daring Adventure or Nothing at All."

— Helen Keller

## "Correction Does Much, But Encouragement Does More."

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

## Games We Played *by Anita Hunter*

A long time ago, when I was newly married, we had an apartment on North Brother Island, an island in the East River reachable only by a short ferry ride from East 138th Street in the Bronx. My husband, as a WWII veteran attending a school of higher education, qualified for an apartment.

On warm summer weekend evenings, this highly educated population of GI Bill vets and their young wives would gather on the lawn surrounding the buildings. Originally a hospital where the infamous Typhoid Mary had been isolated, they had then been reconfigured into apartments.

We would play "Statues" and "Ringevio Coca Cola" and raucous laughter would ring out over the water as night fell.



## Meet Some New Members



**Phyllis Nichols**, who is recently widowed, is a retired medical and geriatric social worker. Her interest in social work was piqued when she worked at Harvard Medical School in the Family and Children's Health program. She is a political junkie and well versed in history, music, the arts and, of course, aging and dementia.

She was born in Glens Falls, NY and has lived in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Washington DC, Florida, Manhattan, and currently Brooklyn. Although many people retire to Florida, that was not their reality. They moved to Florida in 2001 as she thought it would be better for her late husband. However, while working in home care, she saw her clients' health decline due to isolation and being homebound. They did not want that to happen to them so in 2016, they returned to Brooklyn to enjoy living in a metropolitan area. They delighted in not being dependent on their car and having ready access to cultural activities.

She added: "I started collecting art when I moved to Manhattan. We liked to be surrounded by art. It adds a beautiful dimension to life and living. Every room and hallway in my coop is filled with art, except the bathroom."

Her internet search, fueled by her curiosity and interest in increasing her knowledge, led her to Quest. Phyllis has a good sense of humor and a vast knowledge of aging. She's the go-to person for her coop helping them with systems negotiations and health care advocacy. Her passions are reading, collecting art, music and being kind.



**Andrew Epstein**, raised in Morris Township, NJ, has lived, among other places, in Long Beach, NY, for twenty years, and the last fifteen years on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

He retired from his air traffic control career in 2006.

Since 1999, he has spent almost 10,000 hours volunteering at the American Museum of Natural History. Some of the departments there he has worked for are Education, Library, Exhibition, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Invertebrate Zoology. Primarily, though, he works with the public as Tour Guide, Earth & Space Explainer, Fossil Explainer, Biodiversity Explainer, explainer in special exhibits; and, mostly since the pandemic, an information desk volunteer.

Two of his fellow tour guides, Quest members Vickie Costa and Marion Schultheis, both suggested he might like to join them here. He's happy he agreed. Everyone has been very welcoming and the two classes he sat in on were worthwhile.

Andrew loves to learn about almost everything. At Quest, he hopes to add to that learning, make new friends, and maybe share a little of what he's managed to pick up over the years.

He claims that the highlight of his museum career was giving an impromptu tour for the real Batman, Adam West.

## Lunchtime Discussion on Presentations

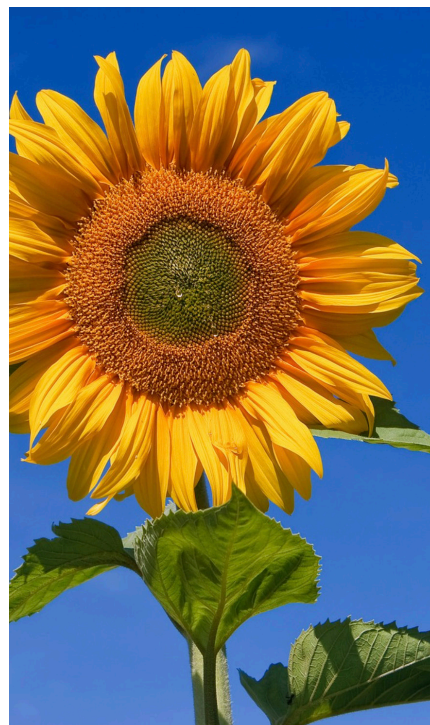
*by Sheryl Harawitz, Vice Chair, Curriculum Committee*

**T**he first open forum to identify Questers' personal barriers to presenting, as well as personal styles, and different types of presentations, was held Wednesday, February 16, 2022 in room 15-17.

More than two dozen members attended and shared their presentation experiences at Quest, tips for engaging attendees in discussions during class, and best practices for facilitating Q&A.

The Curriculum Committee has a commitment to provide support to any member who needs help developing a course concept, identifying co-coordinators and presenters, or has other presentation concerns.

The next forum will be to brainstorm ideas for Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 classes. All Questers are invited.



## The Next Step

**T**he *Next Step*, written by Ruth Ward in 2019, was presented by an A-list Quest cast before a very appreciative audience at 25 Broadway on March 7th.

For those who did not attend, the video is available at [https://youtu.be/xGjKf9N\\_SPI](https://youtu.be/xGjKf9N_SPI)

Here are a few reviews. We hope you are inspired to watch again ... or for the first time!

*It was marvelous. Congratulations to the whole cast!*

— **Deborah Yaffe**

*I just watched the video of The Next Step. The 'up close and personal' video was delightful, and the cast superb ... This is a process we have all experienced until we finally arrived at Quest.*

— **Sandy Gordon**

*The Next Step is a delightful tribute to Quest, and the actors brought it to life for an enjoyable time. Encore!*

— **Mary Buchwald**

*Missed being with you and truly appreciate the video. Thanks.*

— **Sybil Cohen**



From Left: Vincent Grosso, Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward, Frank Montaturo, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp. Missing...Gloria Peropat

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*A Quest Publication*

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### Beatles Lunchtime Sing Along

*by Andrea Irvine & Sheryl Harawitz*

**T**he words of the Beatles' song aptly describe what happened in room 15–17 on Thursday, March 3, when we had our first 'sing along' with **Arlene Hajinlian**, who amazed us with her playing from the Beatles Songbook.

*What would you think if I sang out of tune?*

*Would you stand up and walk out on me?*

We did not walk — we sang louder and more confidently out of tune — as the minutes ticked away more came to listen as Arlene, a very confident sight reader, with almost no experience with sing alongs, played on. Arlene said "I definitely had a good time with the Beatles and my Quest friends and was able to manage quite well with songs I did not know."

*Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends*

*Mm, I get high with a little help from my friends*

A room full of friends singing and Arlene playing gave us a terrific High.

*How do I feel by the end of the day?*

By 1:00 pm — there were smiles and warm feelings. This is what Quest is about — being with friends, singing along or speaking out in a class, and at the end of the day feeling good.

*Are you sad because you're on your own?*

You are not on your own — at Quest you have friends waiting for you in the classes and at lunchtime.

Join us — Monday to Thursday 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

## Nonagenarian Celebrities

by Steve Rubin

A recent internet article presented the profiles of a number of celebrities aged 90 to 99. I've developed those profiles into a quiz. Can you identify the following nonagenarian celebrities from the clues given below?

1. This actor "wood" twice wed the same actress, but later gave his "hart" to another.
2. For a time, this actress's most notable TV character lived in a bottle.
3. This comedian starred in two eponymous series. He is known for his button-down mind.
4. An American actor, perhaps best known for his connection.
5. He sang with Chita Rivera on Broadway, and danced with penguins on the big screen.
6. She made and sold meat pies on Fleet Street, and solved mysteries in a New England coast town.
7. He produced and starred in dozens of films, often as a lawman. In one film, he famously asked a suspect about luck.
8. Years after serving in the Underground, this sniper had a long career as a counselor for intimate affairs.
9. Movie and TV writer and producer who based a bigoted leading character on his own father.
10. This actress made her film debut in Alfred's avian adventure.

### Answers:

1. Robert Wagner, 93, of TV's *Hart to Hart*.
2. Barbara Eden, 90, of *I Dream of Jeannie*.
3. Bob Newhart, 92, of *The Bob Newhart Show* and *Newhart*.
4. Gene Hackman, 92, of *The French Connection*.
5. Dick Van Dyke, 96, of *Bye, Bye, Birdie* and *Mary Poppins*.
6. Dame Angela Lansbury, 96, of Broadway's *Sweeney Todd* and TV's *Murder, She Wrote*.
7. Clint Eastwood, 91, of *Dirty Harry*.
8. Dr. Ruth Westheimer, 93, of the Haganah Zionist military defense underground, and *Sexually Speaking* fame.
9. Norman Lear, 99, of *All in the Family*.
10. Tippi Hedren, 92, of Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

## City Ramblings

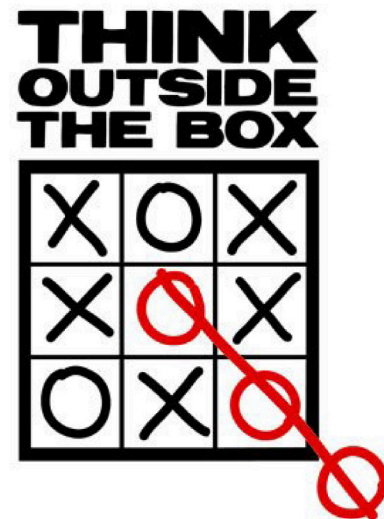
by Frank Montaturo



Swan Lake? No ... flocking seagulls, resting ducks, Central Park Reservoir, February 2022.

There were also geese in a great gaggle ... and elsewhere on a large ice floe ... apparently an avian privy ... an enormous quantity of caca d'oie ... each contribution distanced seemingly intentionally from its neighbor's deposit. And not a winged critter in attendance. Happily this view was unsullied ... the buildings along Fifth Avenue ... frozen in the waters beneath webbed feet.

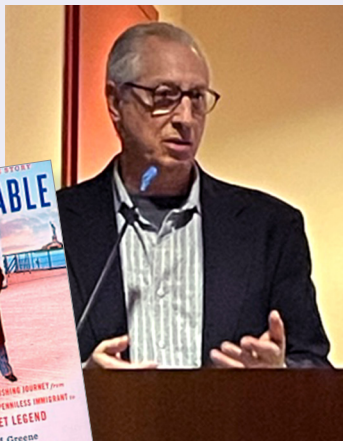
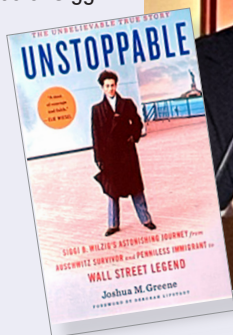
**Some Call It Multi-Tasking.  
I Call it Doing Something Else While  
I Try to Remember What I Was Doing  
in the First Place.**





## Distinguished Guest Lecturers *by Estelle Selzer*

The Spring Semester started off with three very different but interesting guest speakers. Joshua Greene is the author of *Unstoppable*. On February 9, through the use of slides (many disturbing) and a short video of Sigi Wilzig, Joshua retold the amazing story of the life of a Holocaust survivor who came to the states and became a Wall Street Legend.



The second speaker via Zoom was Joseph Bertolozzi, composer and creator of Bridge and Tower Music. Joseph has made music on the Mid Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie, NY and the Eiffel Tower in Paris. On February 23, he explained the process and journey he took to create the music and played some of each piece. His next project is to play live at the Olympics in Paris in 2024. How about a Quest trip to hear him play?



Over 100 Questers (live and on Zoom) enjoyed the wit and wisdom of Jane Brody on March 9. She was our Kenneth Leedom/ Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker for Spring term.

## Happy Spring

After two years of uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 virus, we can now say two things with certainty: 1) Spring is here, and 2) we are resuming our traditional end-of-the-(academic)- year luncheon. So, please mark your calendars for: Friday, May 13th (no, we are not superstitious!) at Lavo Restaurant, located at 39 East 58th Street, just a few steps east of Madison Avenue, beginning at 12:00 Noon.

There will be a 45 minute "cocktail hour," featuring complimentary red and white wine (you can buy other drinks at the bar if you wish), before we are seated for a three-course lunch: appetizer salad, choice of main course, and dessert. The cost will be \$60 per person.

We will arrange for table seating in advance, and ask for main course selections as well as payment, shortly. But for now, we just need to know how many will be attending. So, please email

**Bob Gottfried** (bob@gottfried.net) and **Michael Wellner** (captmike46@aol.com) if you are planning to join us. The opportunity to invite guests will depend solely on how many Quest members will be joining us.

On behalf of the entire committee (**Marian Friedmann, Leslie Goldman, Bob Hartmann, Michael Wellner and Bob Gottfried**), we look forward to seeing everyone at Lavo! *Happy Spring!*

**I Made a Huge  
To Do List for Today.  
I Just Can't Figure Out  
Who's Going to Do It.**

