

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 30

August 2022

A Note From the President

We hope you've had a joyful and productive Summer, time with family, friends, and the activities you most enjoy.

Our Quest Summer Encores program hosted by Andrea Irvine was a resounding success, supplemented by our afternoon and off-campus Q'XTRA cultural and gastronomic activities organized by our resourceful Sheryl Harawitz with the help of Donna Ramer.

We also hope you're looking forward to our first day back to class on Tuesday, September 6th, the day after Labor Day. Many members have already renewed their membership. If you have not yet done so, please make out your year's tuition check for \$550 to CCNY/CWE/QUEST. This covers the Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Summer Encores program 2023.

Send your check as soon as possible

to our Membership Chair, Donna Ramer at: Donna Ramer, 111 Third Avenue, Apt 11E, New York, NY 10003

If you have any questions about membership, Donna's email address is donnaramer1@gmail.com. Her phone number is 917-744-2669.

And remember to bring your Quest ID card on your first day back!

Meanwhile, you can connect to Quest's offerings and planned Fall Quest activities by going to the Quest website at questlifelong.org. The online Fall 2022 Quest catalogue is available for viewing on the website or at <https://www.quest-continuingednyc.org/course-catalog/>. Physical copies of the Quest catalogue will be available in the office from our first day back. Don't hesitate to share our catalogue with your friends and acquaintances who may be interested in joining

our organization.

As you know, Quest is a dynamic peer to peer learning community, always eager to embrace new members. To bolster our Fall membership, we will be reaching out to the CCNY Alumni Association by inviting their members to a week-long Open House at 25 Broadway so that they can observe and participate in our classes, as well as get to know our members during lunch. As a further incentive, we will be offering CCNY Alumni Association members a one time 10% discount.

Our exciting Fall lineup of in person, hybrid, and Zoom classes is below. If at all possible, plan to come in-person to enjoy the deep-seated sense of community that holds us together and makes it all worthwhile.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
– Ruth Ward

Fall 2022 Course Schedule: L=Live, H=Hybrid, Z=Zoom only

A Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:30-12:00	Classic Rock- H	Foreign Affairs- H	Hist of Germany- H	NYC Neighbhds- L
Lunch	Huck Finn- L	Oral Interp Poetry- H	Shakespeare- L	Aging- H
1:00-2:30	Contemp Poetry- H	Fabulous 50s- H	Indie Films- H	Water- H
	Comedy & Satire- L	Reading Edith Wharton- L	Folk Music- L	Short Stories- H
	Science & Scientists- L	Creative Writing- L		Acting Workshop- L
B Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10:30-12:00	British Culture- H	Artists & Work- H	Fasc Non-fiction- H	Across Universe- L
Lunch	Near East- L	Movers & Shakers- L	Socrates- L	Australia- L
1:00-2:30	Presenter's Showcase- H	Law & Order- H	Distinguished Lecturer- H	Creativity- L
	Great Plays- L	Black Women's Voices- L		Explor Philos/Great
		Contemp Opera- Z		Conversations- L
				Poets' Workshop- L

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

In Memoriam Evelyn Good *by Beverly Francus*

Quest has sadly lost one of its treasured founding members, Evelyn Good, adored wife of Russell, another Quest founder. Born 97 years ago, in New Jersey, Evelyn passed away after a brief illness. She was a nearly lifelong resident of the city, moving here after college, and loved all that the city has to offer. She was a “hippie” at heart, unfazed and undeterred by the typical barriers that confronted women of her era.

A “New Deal” Democrat to her core, Evelyn frequently volunteered to work for left-of-center candidates, such as Henry Wallace. She loved folk songs and their liberal message. Although not what many of us would call “religious,” at her funeral her family played Pete Seeger’s song “Turn, Turn, Turn,” which is based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

She was married to Russell for 62 years, and for decades they owned a home on Fire Island where she and Russell enjoyed beach time with their two sons, grandchildren, extended family members and friends.

Evelyn often said that the hardest part of growing old was the loss of her good friends. Many of us will miss her dearly, particularly having coffee with her in the mornings before class at Quest. She was a beautiful, funny, wise, and witty woman. Some of us often think of something she frequently said: “If I don’t talk to my friends who are ‘losing it,’ soon I’ll have no one to talk to.” We miss her already.



**If you think you are
too small to make a difference,
try sleeping with a mosquito.**
— Dalai Lama

Q’XTRA Summer Events: A Visit to the Skyscraper Museum *by Andrea Irvine*

Eleven Questers perused the narrative and models of skyscrapers from around the world in the compact space of NYC’s Skyscraper Museum following Quest’s on-site Summer Encore finale, “Jeff Bezos” presented by Beth Callender. On the short walk to the museum, Sheryl Harawitz narrated a tour of several of the sculptures that are part of the summer installation by The Battery Conservancy and NYC Parks, which includes Hebru Brantley’s 16-foot fiberglass structure, “The Great Debate,” and Tony Cragg’s “Resonating Bodies”. The installation will be on display in and around Battery Park for the next year.



Back row l-r: **Ellen Rittberg, Donna Ramer, Andrea Irvine, Eleanor Maurillo, Faith Aarons**
Front row l-r: **Ellen Shapiro, Ruth Ward, Cathy Cook, Laura Lopez, Nora Yood** (guest).
Photographer: **Sheryl Harawitz** is behind the camera.



“Resonating Bodies”
by Tony Cragg

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for the Quest Walking Group, beginning on Thursday September 15th and continuing every other week Thursdays, on B Week.

Coordinators: **Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine, Laura Lopez**
Quest Walks: Fresh Air, Outdoor Exercise and Serendipity



Quest Book Club

Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland**

The dates and reading selections for Fall 2022 are:

September 14: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

October 12: *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeleine Martin

November 9: *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

December 14: *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway

Umbrellas of Cherbourg

by Frank Montaturo

No... it's only Chinatown, New York City, and Catherine Deneuve is not hiding under one of the brollies! And what has attracted the avid attention of friend and passerby? Well... a card game, of course. Around the neighborhood in parks small and large there are to be found tables hosting usually older residents engaged in variety of board or card games... intently engaged... animatedly engaged at times...and maybe a hand goes up to shoo me off ... and I comply of course... if I am spotted. But I try not to be... my curiosity is always aroused. Great gamblers the Chinese are...time was when finding myself coming from dinner there in the evening I might see large buses loading passengers... some just off restaurant shifts... heading for an all-nighter at upstate casinos. I learn from the ever informative but not always accurate(?) Wikipedia that the record of gambling goes back in China some 4000 years... "and many modern games like lottery, pai gow, tien gow, fan tan and mahjong are thought to have originated in China." Well... who knew?



**Advice is what we ask for when we
already know the answer but wish we didn't.**

— Erica Jong, Novelist

Q'XTRA

by Sheryl Harawitz



Fifteen dedicated members braved 90+ heat, to engage in a dialogue with Colescott's imaginative paintings, at the New Museum. It was our seventh Q'XTRA: Staten Island, Potluck, Symposium, Museum of the American Indian, Hoboken, Skyscraper Museum, and the New Museum.

What's next is up to you. Send your suggestions and crazy ideas, and I'm sure we can figure out a way to make it happen. Or better yet, volunteer.

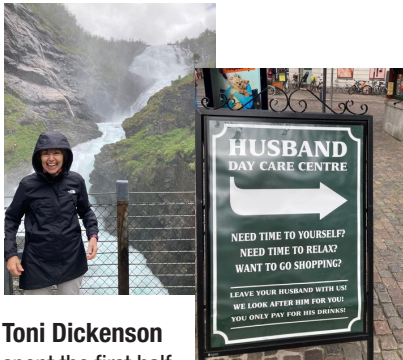
Questers Travel Back in Time

by Donna Ramer

From the creative minds of visual and performance artists, a Q'XTRA trip on a hot August day took sixteen Questers back in time to what the Jewish Museum on Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street refers to as a "pivotal period in the history of art and culture in New York City": 1962–1964. The exhibit features more than 150 works, all made or seen in NYC during this period by such artists as Diane Arbus, Merce Cunningham, Jim Dine, Boris Lurie, Louise Nevelson, Faith Ringgold, Larry Rivers and many more. It also included film clips and photo essays of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Of particular interest: the juke box that played — free-of-charge — many hits from the era. And, of course, lunch at Eli's Wine Bar followed.



Who's Doing What



Toni Dickenson spent the first half of July visiting the incredible mountains and cities of Scandinavia, where the temperature never exceeded 70°. She longs to go back! And here's a wonderful street sign in Copenhagen:

• • •

On a gorgeous, clear night at the end of July, **Madeleine** and George **Brecher** escaped over to Little Island's AMPH theater for a fun-filled evening. They had tickets for An Evening with Seth Meyers and Friends and what an escape it was. It was cooler on the Hudson, the sunset was perfect, the entire park was packed as was the theater. It was an outdoor event so no masks were requested, and the motorboats, sailboats, and ferries on the river were all lit up. And while Seth's friends weren't all that funny, he was in rare form and the audience howled. It was an awesome New York Summer Experience! They had such a great time, we bought tickets for mid-August for award-winning artist Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. The event will showcase a musical exploration of Afro Latin and Middle Eastern seafaring traditions. Why not consider attending an event at the AMPH before the Summer is over? And bring cushions if you go!



Judith and Pete Weis had a family trip to Acadia ME Maine in late July for their 60th Anniversary Dinner. In front are their kids, next are their spouses, and next the grandkids.



• • •

Arlynn Greenbaum and her boyfriend Bruce spent an idyllic week at a resort in Maine called Quisisana. Daytime activities include tennis, boating, hiking and just relaxing by the lake. The meals are delicious including fresh Maine lobster. All the kids that work there were drama or music majors and after dinner, they put on shows and concerts. It is a dream vacation.



• • •

Michael Wellner and his wife **Marva** had two very delightful nautical adventures right here in New York harbor, with a ride on the oldest (1930) wooden tug boat, the W.O. Decker, still operating, and the oldest (also wooden) fireboat John J Harvey (1931), now doing sightseeing tours, complete with operating water cannons! Good fun in both instances!



Creative Corner

DON'T LIKE THE SOUTH'S POLITICS? MOVE HERE AND VOTE!

Headline The NewYork Times
Opinion page July 20, 2022

MOVING ON
by Betty Farber

Although I'd love to raise my voice
For Truth, the South is not my choice.
But I may otherwise invest
My precious vote in the Midwest!

My family is pleased to lure me
To where they live, in Mid-Missouri.
(Homes in Kansas some will boast
And one or two on either coast.)

Included in the family mix
Are great-grandchildren, count all six!
Two are girls and four are boys
All bring the family many joys.

When young, we moved West uninvited
We soon found jobs and were delighted.
Missouri is not a foreign country.
They speak English, just like me.

While New York State is lots of fun
The pleasures fade at 91.
So it's time to call the moving van
And make Trump sorry that he ran.

My Midwest vote will keep us free
To safeguard our democracy!

**For those who understand,
no explanation is necessary;
for those who don't,
no explanation is possible.**

How I Spent My Summer

by Phil Gisser

While most Questors have been fighting the heat in New York, I have been comfortably ensconced in the guest quarters of Brandes House, my daughter's Frank Lloyd Wright home in Sammamish, WA, sitting on three plus acres of forested and landscaped land. Temps here usually peak in the 70s or low 80s. We've had a few days in the 90s, but that's not like the 90s in the City. Usually the hot temperatures last just a few hours in the afternoon, and nighttime temperatures dip into the 60s, or even the 50s. That's enough to keep the house cool all day, even without air conditioning. And we've had a few days that were downright cold. Spent one of those at the Giacometti exhibit in the Seattle Art Museum.

We've had a busy time, with family visiting and my daughter and her husband hosting an event, including dinner for 50, for the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. One more similar event coming up — a fund raiser, complete with tours of the house and property, for the Anti-Defamation League. After that, our time is our own.

Had a big surprise just before the Conservancy event when the architecture/design magazine, Dazeen, listed Brandes House as one of the eleven most influential buildings in the U.S. <https://www.dezeen.com/2022/07/28/america-most-influential-buildings-architects/>

Great to be living in a comfortable museum. Guest quarters are in the foreground of the photo.



In Memoriam

Stuart Eisler

by Phil Gisser

We remember the many years when Stu Eisler and his wife, Jan Fitzpatrick, were the heart of so many fascinating courses and presentations at Quest. We mourned Jan's passing a few years ago, and now we report with deep sorrow the passing of Stu, who died on August 4 at the age of 94.

A Brooklyn native, Stu served in the U.S. Army during WW II and went on to graduate from CCNY about 1948. Set on becoming a lawyer, he did it the hard way—six years of night courses at Brooklyn Law School while working full time.

He was admitted to the New York State bar and set up his law practice in 1954 in a shared office taking whatever small cases came his way. After a few years, he took on one particularly difficult lawsuit, with the odds of winning so low that it had already been turned down by a number of more experienced attorneys. It took a few more years of extraordinary effort (and no income), working against a well-funded opponent and a prestigious law firm, but he ended up winning — and he won big. With his reputation made, and with the self-recognition that his strength was in courtroom litigation, he went on to manage a highly active law practice for the next 35 years.

After retirement, Stu found new interests. He ran marathons and played tennis into his 80s. He studied and became expert in economics and international affairs. And he shared those newfound insights with Quest members in a number of memorable presentations.

He is survived by his sister, Ellen Buttermann, two nieces, Cindy and Pamela Morton, and two great nephews, as well as his late wife Jan's Son, Hugh Fitzpatrick and his family, all located in California. A memorial celebration of his life is planned for later this year; Quest

members will be invited to attend.



Happy Birthday, Shoshi

by Ruth Kovner

It was July 4th! And it was **Shoshana Kagan's** birthday.

Seven of us congregated at the Little Boating Lake Plaza in Central Park to commemorate this double event.

Shoshana, the birthday girl, brought Prosecco and stem glasses for all.

Ruth Kovner brought the hors d'oeuvres, while **Anita Hunter** provided the delicious chocolate cake and candles. In attendance were four more Questers, **Marian Friedmann**, **David Judlowitz**, **Guiliana Lopes**, and **Ellen Shapiro**

As the sun went down we lit the candles, burst into song with a "Happy Birthday to You" and to our surprise people at neighboring tables joined in. Much applause followed. Happy birthday to the U.S. and Shoshi Kagan.

Q News Staff

A Quest Publication

Editor-in-Chief

Barbara Gelber

Consulting Editors

Michael Wellner

Gale Spitalnik

Editor Emerita

Carolyn McGuire

Graphic Design

Robbie

Humor Contributor

Lowell Berman

25 Broadway

New York, NY 10004

212.925.6625 x229

questlifelong.org

Articles submitted to QNews

may be edited by the Staff.

The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter of the publication's contents.