

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 29

July 2022

A Note From the President

Hello Questers. Hopefully, you enjoyed a terrific July 4th weekend and have attended or are planning to attend the remaining hybrid and Zoom sessions of our Summer Encores Program. Kudos to the Summer Encores committee for a fine job of selecting a broad spectrum of outstanding talks that bear revisiting.

On July 12th, Marian Friedmann gave a hybrid presentation on Antisemitism in the Art World and on July 14th, Beth Callender gave a hybrid presentation on Jeff Bezos and the Rise of Amazon.

Because CWE will be doing deep cleaning and renovations at 25 Broadway after July 14th, our last four presentations will be offered on Zoom only. On Tuesday, July 19th Judy Weis will present on Water, and on Thursday, July 21st Ellen Gottfried will present on Too Many Girls, Not Enough Women. On Tuesday, July 26th Susan Diehl will present on From

the Gates of Heaven to the Gates of Hell, and on Thursday, July 28th Roy Clary will present on Henry V, War Words. We hope you'll tune into these four Zoom presentations from the comfort of your home.

Kudos, too, to our Q'EXTRA committee for treating us to seven live post-presentation events. On June 9th participants took the Staten Island Ferry to a delightful Japanese restaurant. On June 21st we walked to the National Museum of the American Indian, which featured the art work of Jeffrey Veregge. On June 23rd we watched a Quest auditorium screening of The Siamese Bond, an offering from the CWE Film Festival. On June 28th we held a potluck lunch in our cafeteria, followed by a symposium on the concept of Mattering. Furthermore, on June 30th we enjoyed an animated discussion of Nikole Hannah-Jones and the Case for Reparations. On July 7th Questers journeyed to Hoboken for lunch at a

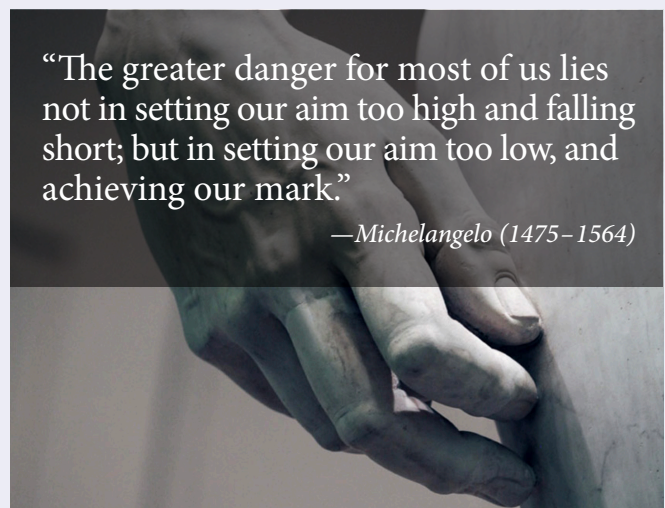
riverfront restaurant, and finally, on July 14th we paid a visit to the Skyscraper Museum on Battery Place.

Whew! August will be a month to relax and enjoy away from Quest, until the September 5th Labor Day holiday reminds us that our first day back to 25 Broadway will be on Tuesday, September 6th. September 6th is also the deadline for us to pay our 2022-2023 annual dues of \$550, which will include the Fall '22 semester, the Spring '23 semester, and '23 Summer Encores program.

We're proud of our Tech committee, which has enabled us to offer this illuminating variety of hybrid, in person, and Zoom courses.

Hope you continue to enjoy the toasty summer with family, friends, and fascinating activities. Take care and stay well.

Warm regards,
— Ruth Ward



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

CultureQuest: Jewish Harlem

by Hedy Shulman

Led by Prof. Jeffrey Gurock, the Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University, Quest members visited several church buildings, formerly synagogues, in the heart of Harlem.

Prof. Gurock took us on a walking tour of what was once the home of the second largest population of Jews in America. He discussed what made this area special in its heyday and how it declined, only to return today as a new Jewish area.

We met in front of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church on Malcolm X Blvd.

The striking neoclassical building, which features Ionic columns, was built in 1907 as Temple Israel, designed by Arnold Brunner, a German-Jewish architect from New York. In 1909, Temple Israel joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the national organization of Reform temples. It was one of the most prestigious synagogues in the city. Mount Olivet, an old and influential Black congregation in mid-Manhattan, acquired the building in 1925 when the church moved uptown to Harlem. Jewish stars are still visible above the columns.

This evolution of synagogue buildings becoming churches was a historical pattern in Harlem in the early part of the 20th century.

The movement of Jews from the Lower East Side of the city north to Harlem began in the 1870s and became more established in the early 1900s, after the introduction of the subway system in Manhattan.

Dr. Gurock, the author of *Jews of Harlem*, explained the complex forces that brought several generations of Central European, East European, and Sephardic Jews to settle in Harlem. He also described the enduring Jewish presence uptown after the neighborhood became largely African American, and how it declined — only to return today as a new Jewish area and home to both groups.



Quest members gather in front of The Salvation and Deliverance Church which was built in 1975. This building was once Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein's Institutional Synagogue. Rabbi Goldstein was a prominent rabbi who was president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA). Prof. Jeffrey Gurock, our tour leader, stands at the right.



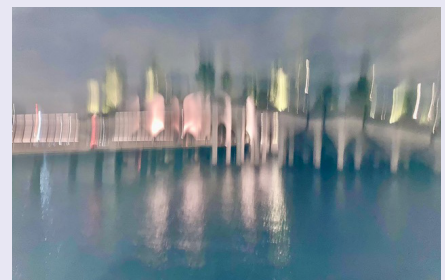
City Ramblings

by Frank Montaturo

Whistler did some ravishing oils and pastels and especially stunning portraits of Belle Epoque personalities and views of Venice... and called them Arrangement... Symphony ... Harmony in the predominating color(s). That famous portrait of his mother... he did not call it Whistler's Mother... was in fact titled Arrangement in Grey and Black number 1.

Here is my Harmony (#1!) of our city's newest park... a \$260 million homage (intentional?) to Venice built likewise on

pillings driven into the bed of the Hudson River but raised high enough to be safe from the acqua alta that often unsettles the harmonies of La Serenissima. It is all of 2.4 acres. That's a lot of cash per acre! So far it has proven to be wildly popular. And at nightfall... though it is not Venice... maybe even magical.



Homage to Whistler
Harmony in grey and pink and yellow
Little Island, New York, August 2021

Encores 2022
by Art Spar
Chair, Curriculum Committee

Summer school at Quest is called Encores, and this year we celebrate Encores 2022. Like many programs at Quest, it seems to happen magically, without any effort. This year I discovered how much effort it takes. **Andrea Irvine, Joyce Hinote, Arlynn Greenbaum** and I make up the Encores team. All year we ask Questers to tell us about exceptional classes. Joyce records each nomination you submit. Andrea, Arlynn and I award summer slots to a diversity of your nominees, from enlightening lectures to challenging discussions. This year several presenters created new materials to take us deeper into a subject. Your exceptional attendance numbers suggest Encores is enjoyed by many. Special appreciation goes to Andrea Irvine who comes early, moves furniture, prints fliers, and welcomes you when you arrive. It's the magic of Quest; made to look easy. Come and enjoy!



Do they have Fourth of July in England?
Of course. It's the day after July 3rd.

Do You Remember These Mnemonics?
by Steve Rubin

Mnemonics are aids that help us remember all sorts of facts we learned in school. Probably the most famous is "Thirty days has September, April, June, and November..." for remembering the number of days in each month.

Following are 10 more mnemonic aids. But do you remember what each stands for? Answers are below each mnemonic. As a further memory jogger, mnemonics are sorted by the school subject to which they most likely relate.

S C I E N C E

ROY G. BIV

Answer: The order of the colors of the rainbow: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet

MY VERY EDUCATED MOTHER JUST SERVED US NOODLES

(Hint: This mnemonic came about relatively recently.

You probably learned a variation of it in school.)

Answer: The order of the now-eight planets from nearest to farthest from the sun. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune.

M A T H

PLEASE EXCUSE MY DEAR AUNT SALLY.

Answer: The order in which math operations should be performed: Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, Subtraction,

I VALUE XYLOPHONES LIKE COWS DIG MILK.

Answer: The order of key Roman numerals from lowest to highest value: I, V, X, L, C, D, M

G E O G R A P H Y

SUPER MAN HELPS EVERY ONE.

Answer: The order of the five great lakes geographically from west to east: Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, Ontario

H I S T O R Y

ALL BOYS SHOULD COME HOME PLEASE.

Answer: Wives of Henry VIII in chronological order: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard, Katherine Parr (Spellings of first names vary by source.)

DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED/DIVORCED, BEHEADED, SURVIVED.

Answer: The fate of each of Henry VIII's wives.

F I N A N C E

WHEN JEFF LEFT HOME, JACK GOT FAT.

Answer: Portraits on the smallest seven U.S. paper currencies, in ascending values: Washington \$1, Jefferson \$2, Lincoln \$5, Hamilton \$10, Jackson \$20, Grant \$50, Franklin \$100.

M U S I C

EVERY GOOD BOY DOES FINE.

Answer: The notes on the lines of the treble clef (E, G, B, D, and F), in order from lowest to highest.

S H O P C L A S S

RIGHTY TIGHTY, LEFTY LOOSEY.

Answer: Directions for tightening or loosening a standard screw, a bolt, nut or light bulb: to the right (clockwise) to tighten; to the left (counter-clockwise) to loosen.

Who's Doing What



Pete and Judy Weis spent two weeks in May in Belgium and The Netherlands. They sent us a few out of a few hundred pictures for QNews, and reported, "We

were worried because few people besides us wore masks on the planes, but we were lucky and didn't get sick."

• • •

Diane Crothers sent some favorite photos of her recent trip to London and Paris. Standouts were Churchill's War Rooms, the Liberation of Paris Museum with an exhibit of women war photographers up to the present, a Gaudi exhibit, and a drawing of Phillis Wheatley's visit to the Tower of London in 1773, not to mention Anne Askew, the first woman to seek a divorce in the U.K., for which she ended up in the Tower.



On Monday morning June 20th, **Marva** and **Michael Wellner** embarked — along with "retired" Quest member **Bob Moore** and his wife (Mac), on a week-long holiday to the northern reaches of Michigan, including Mackinac island, the Upper Peninsula (home of the "Yoopies") and the Soo Canal and locks, connecting Lake Huron and Lake Superior. "We were blessed with picture-perfect weather, two easy flights (to Traverse City and back) with no cancelations and no delays, and lots of delightful sightseeing. Highlights included all the horse-drawn vehicles on Mackinac (no cars allowed); a 1,000-foot-long iron ore carrier on Lake Superior; taking a boat ride through the locks, and so much more. We stayed in an absolutely ideal 3-bedroom 2-bath Airbnb condo, just feet from Lake Huron, with its own pool and barbecue area. All in all a perfectly delightful summer holiday — but nothing I'd look forward to in the winter, when ice-breakers are needed on the lakes!"



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.

*A special "Thank You" to **Margaret Woodward** for her excellent contributions to the success of this past year's QNews. We shall miss you and your insights, input, and editorial skills.*

*And now, a hearty welcome to **Gale Spitalnik**, who has joined the QNews Committee. We look forward to your participation and perspective.*

*— **Barbara Gelber**, Editor-in-Chief*

Quest Book Club by Jan Goldstein

The Book Club will continue in the Fall with a wide cross-section of novels by both new and established authors, from this country and abroad, across a range of genres. The books chosen are not necessarily what you yourself might ordinarily pick up — think of it as a chance to discover something you didn't know you liked!

We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month from 12:10–12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway.

Here are the dates and reading selections for Fall 2022:

Sept. 14: **A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles

Oct. 12: **The Last Bookshop in London** by Madeline Martin

Nov. 9: **The Night Watchman** by Louise Erdrich

Dec. 14: **The Cellist of Sarajevo** by Steven Galloway

We hope you'll join us!

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

Summer Q'XTRA Continues to Entertain...

Following Ellie Schaffer's June 9th Irving Berlin presentation, fifteen Questers braved the waters of Upper New York Bay for the 25-minute, five-mile trip to Staten Island for a teppanyaki lunch at a Japanese steak house a short five-minute walk from the terminal. Teppanyaki is a post-World War II style of Japanese cuisine that uses an iron griddle to cook food. The word is derived from teppan, the metal plate on which it is cooked, and yaki, which means grilled, broiled, or pan-fried. A few un-named participants kicked it up a bit as the chefs tossed raw vegetables into their mouths then squirted warm saki straight from the carafe. After lunch the group retraced their steps and reboarded the ferry for the ride home.

Two weeks later, there were two Q'XTRA events on June 28 following Lois Klein's and Mary Ann Donnelly's two-for-the-price-of-one Literary Heroines encore.

The first was a potluck lunch for which several Questers brought savory dishes including shrimp cocktail, a variety of salads, (noodle, faro, and tossed), along with quiche, cheese, salami, egg salad, and guacamole. Sweets included fresh fruit, donuts, cookies, an apple galette and a blueberry pie. And, of course, there were bottles of red and white wine.

After lunch, seventeen fully sated Questers stayed for a discussion about two seminal ideas developed by philosopher and novelist Rebecca Goldstein: the "will to matter" and the concept of "mattering maps." The discussion was led by Ellie Schaffer, who had sent links and transcripts of two Goldstein lectures as pre-reads: "The Mattering Map: Religion, Humanism and Moral Progress" — which also touched on Plato and Spinoza, two crucial Goldstein influences — and excerpts from "Big Think Interview with Rebecca Goldstein."

The 75-minute round-table discussion fully engaged the group about the philosophical question of how each of us determines what really matters to us; how important it is to value what matters to others; whether it is important for each of us to feel we matter to others; and how our feelings about mattering are based on our core values, which are often undermined by self-criticism. There are two more Q'XTRA events before Summer Encores comes to an end but will resume with the Fall semester.



Questers Take on Hoboken *by Donna Ramer*

The penultimate Q'XTRA summer event took a group of adventurous Questers across state lines to Hoboken for lunch at a traditional local pub and a walk to the famous Hoboken Waterfront to gaze at the New York's west side skyline. This was a first for almost half of the 19 Questers making the trip: they had never ventured to the home of Ole Blue Eyes (a.k.a. Frank Sinatra) and the site of the iconic 1954 Academy Award-winning movie, *On the Waterfront*. (Earlier this year, several scenes for the movie *The Kill Room*, starring Samuel L. Jackson and Uma Thurman, were filmed at another famous Hoboken pub.)

Long-term member Helen McMahon summed it up: "Many thanks for the wonderful outing to Hoboken. A lifelong New Yorker and I'd never been there! The meal was great, the company terrific and the sightseeing was well worth the trip. Thanks for putting it together. I enjoyed it immensely!"

Once again, food, fun, and friendship (and a short PATH ride) helped strengthen Quest's commitment to our lifelong learning community.

Our Rockaways Adventure! *by Karen Levin*



What could be better than being on the water when it's 90 degrees in New York City?

Our fearless group of women (**Arlynn Greenbaum, Michele Mackey, Karen Levin and Madeleine Brecher**) ventured out on the East River via the New York ferry to the Rockaways. We left on the 11:15 am ferry from Wall Street and arrived about 12:10 pm. The weather was absolutely perfect!

It's about 12 miles from Manhattan to the Rockaways and we didn't have to sit in traffic. Lunch was at a delicious restaurant called The Wharf and we sat right on the bay! Next, we walked on the boardwalk and saw the beautiful ocean and beach.

As we left on the 3:15 pm ferry back home we said we can't wait to go back.