

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

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A Note From the President

QUEST is vibrant, with over 200 members. Our robust schedule now includes a balance of hybrid and in-person courses, as well as a couple of Zoom-only courses. We are employing our CWE technical support person, Felix Piña, four days a week to assist our enthusiastic Quest tech team.

As you know, we are constantly on the lookout for new members. To attract CCNY and CWE alumni to Quest, we are hosting an Open House from October 24–27 so that potential members can sample our courses and activities. Alumni will be able to visit on one day or all four and choose from among more than a dozen morning and afternoon classes. Visitors are encouraged to bring their lunch and, between classes, spend time chatting with members in one of the lunchrooms or lounges. They are invited to hear our Distinguished Guest Speaker's

presentation at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 26, followed by our 2:30 pm wine and cheese party.

Just for CWE and CCNY alumni, Quest is offering a one-time 10% discount on its annual membership fee for those who join during the 2022–2023 academic year (Fall 2022–Spring 2023). You can read an article on Quest in the CCNY Alumni Beat Newsletter by clicking on <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=43725b8058&view=lg&permmsgid=msg-f:1745952063287567661>. Scroll down to the Quest article, which is under the purple rectangle advertising the CCNY Graduate School's virtual Open House (Monday–Friday, October 17–21).

As another way to attract new members, we are making this Summer's 2023 Encores Summer program free to potential new members, who, like seasoned Questers, will be welcome to invite a friend.

On another subject, we are pleased to announce that Council has approved Steve Allen as Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, whose volunteer members will consider the diverse interests and needs of Quest's entire population. The committee's goal will be to prepare a report that identifies our current and future strengths and vulnerabilities and provides recommendations to ensure Quest's long-term viability.

Our Fall General Meeting will be held as a hybrid on Wednesday, Nov 9 at 1:00 pm, so mark your calendar! Committee Chairs and Lead Coordinators of our new 2022–2023 courses will describe the workings of their groups, and Wayne Cotter will lead a discussion on our current Fall program at Quest.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Ruth Ward

Autumn in New York



Delia Ephron to Speak in the Spring

by Arlynn Greenbaum

The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that Delia Ephron will be our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on March 29, 2023. She will discuss her inspiring memoir, *Left On Tenth: A Second Chance At Life*.

Delia is a best-selling author, screenwriter, essayist and playwright. Her memoir is about losing her husband of 32 years, then falling madly in love, and then getting diagnosed with leukemia – the same disease that killed her sister Nora seven years earlier. She survived and writes movingly about starting over at 72 and believing in miracles!



CultureQuest Visit to Mount Vernon

by Maureen Berman

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, one of only eight structures built before 1800 still standing in Manhattan, drew 20 Quest members for a visit on September 30, 2022. The Quest group was among the first to visit the Museum since its recent reopening after a two-year Covid shutdown.

Walking through the Museum's eight restored rooms showcasing period furnishings, Quest members were transported back in time to the heyday of the hotel — the years 1826 to 1833 — when hotel visitors spent their day in the country socializing, eating a fine meal, and enjoying a variety of leisure activities. The tour included an introduction to the hotel's kitchen equipped with the latest conveniences of the day, the Ladies' Parlor, where female guests spent a pleasant afternoon chatting, sewing, and listening to live music performances, and the Tavern, where men enjoyed the company of other male visitors drinking, playing cards, and trading news of the day.

Quest members especially enjoyed seeing the dining table set with elegant fine china and fine cut glassware and representations of the delicacies guests enjoyed for their midday meal, including turtle stew and oysters.

At the end of the visit, Quest members strolled in the elegant garden (where the group photo was taken) designed by well-known landscape architect Alice Irey, who also created gardens for the New York and Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. The CultureQuest tour ended with a luncheon where participants got to meet other Quest members and share their reflections of the morning's tour.

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden is currently open for visits by appointment and plans to open for regular visits soon. (212) 838-6878



Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people.

Around Town

by Frank Montaturo

**October afternoon
Newtown Creek, NY 2011**

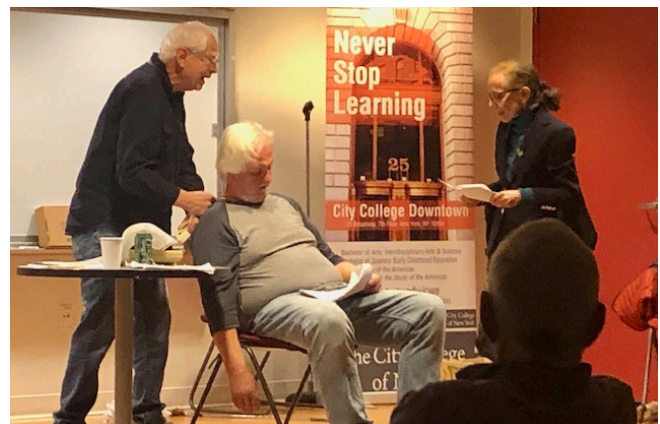
What a treat for the eye... an automobile graveyard. The American sculptor, John Chamberlain, owes his fame today to his vigorous works of crushed and welded automobile parts. He would have had a field day in this cemetery. Perhaps in fact he found materials here... requesting that white car to be pulled out and then the red certainly and the blue not to be left behind... and then he set to it. When I first encountered one of his sculptures I honestly didn't know what to make of it; I am not sure today if I know "what to make of it," but the rusted colors and ravaged jagged edges twisted and twisting and so territorial in their space demand respect and admiration.



True West

by Wayne Cotter

In early October, **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward, John Spiegel, and John Davis** performed True West by Sam Shepherd as part of Quest's Great Plays course. In the climactic final scene, Austin (Roy Clary) chokes his brother Lee (Wayne Cotter) with a phone cord as their mother (Ruth Ward) looks on in horror. (Photo by Ellie Schaffer)



Living with Books

This unidentified photo and **Frank Montaturo's** suggestion prompted our inviting all Questers to participate in Living with Books.

You most likely have an abundance of ink-on-paper books. You may also have limited space common in many New York City dwellings.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to submit a photo and brief description of how, where, and why you stash your books as you do at home.

Are you up to the challenge? Please send your submission to gelberbarbara@earthlink.net Thank you.



Chautauqua, Here We Come *by Ruth Kovner*

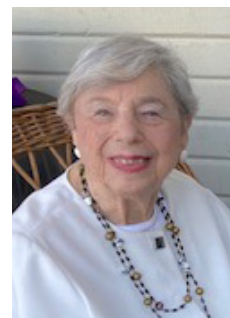
It was week eight of the Chautauqua summer Session. The theme was New Profiles in Courage. **Betty Farber** and I arrived on a Sunday to check in. Two days earlier one of the guest speakers, Salman Rushdie, was attacked on stage. Happily he survived; however, he was grievously injured. More security was added and every effort was made to keep things normal. But there was tension in the air.

Betty and I survived.

We were kept on the go from morning until night attending classes and after dinner there were concerts to attend. During the day we watched some interesting interviews. The first was with Misty Copeland, born in Kansas to a single Black mother raising six children on her own. Misty's odyssey from that beginning to becoming the first Black Prima Ballerina of a major ballet company was inspiring. Darren Walker, president of the Ford Foundation, also Black, interviewed her.

Jamie Raskin, Congressman from Maryland and head of the January 6th Committee inspired us as he told of his son who had recently committed suicide. Raskin wrote a book describing his talented son, and how he was dealing with this tragedy. He was heartbroken and it showed. He is a really good speaker and the feeling was he has a real future in politics.

The presentations were so interesting and varied. I even learned how to make a chollah. For those of you who have not been to Chautauqua I highly recommend it. It is a precious place, a turn-of-the-century (19th to 20th) literary village that is reminiscent of Brigadoon. It was a busy and fulfilling week and is highly recommended.



A Tour of the West Point Military Academy — Just A Boat Ride Away

by Steve Rubin

On Friday, October 7, my wife Anna and I, cruised the Hudson for a tour of West Point. We boarded the Seastreak Ferry at the foot of Wall Street, shortly before 9:00 am.

Open seating allows for a comfortable ride in the main cabin, with periodic time spent on the outdoor upper deck during a very comfortable three-hour ride. During the entire cruise a professional narrator comments on the history and geography of New York City, the Palisades, and the Hudson Valley with its noteworthy landmarks and beautiful fall foliage. En route all passengers are served a light lunch (sandwich, side salad and cookie), included in the fare.

Upon arrival at the West Point pier, the group is met by a bus, driver and guide for a 2.5 hour hop-on, hop-off tour focusing on the history of the 220-year-old academy, that is both a working military post as well as a college. Stops include the visitors' center, museum, chapel, and football field. Then, shortly before 3:30 pm, it's back to the pier to begin the trip home.



All in all, it proved to be a very educational, relaxing, and enjoyable day. Details, including costs, can be found at Seastreak Ferry's website: <https://seastreak.com/daytrips-and-getaways/fall-foliage-cruises>.

Perhaps the Travel Committee should schedule a Quest trip for the fall of '23!

Hail And Farewell

Quest welcomes these new members who have joined since September:
Karen Cullen
Donna Greco
Ellen Waldman

Look for red lanyards at 25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest.

We send our sincere condolences to **Sybil Cohen-Glazer** on the death of her son and of her sister.

**You cannot do a kindness
too soon for you never know
how soon it will be too late.**

Bursting with 'Sole Mates'

by Laura Lopez

The last Thursday of September offered a gorgeous backdrop for the second outing of 'Sole Mates' this Fall. A group of some 15 Questers took advantage of the sunny summery day to enjoy the splendid shore and skyline of southwestern Manhattan and New Jersey. In our sandals and walking shoes we strolled through the cityscape, among the trees, greens and flowers, taking photos and watching a bride in wedding gown and the groom pose for photos outdoors. We stopped for refreshments at a restaurant with outdoor tables and shared stories before gradually drifting homeward. How blessed we were! Only in the City, and only at Quest...



Guest Lecturer

by Estelle Selzer

On September 28th Questers were treated to an engaging conversation between Howard Wolfson (former deputy mayor to Michael Bloomberg and press secretary to Hilary Clinton) and Gary Ginsburg (author of *First Friends*). Mr. Ginsburg recounted several anecdotes about our commanders-in-chief and the friends on whom they relied while in office.

**They said,
"Smile, be happy,
it could be worse."
So, I smiled, I was happy,
it got worse.**

My Quest to Talk Socrates

by Madeleine Brecher

They say if you want to connect with your grandkids, you must find interests in common. My 19-year-old grandson is a sophomore at Tulane, majoring in Philosophy. If there was ever a subject that gave me agita, it was Philosophy! A few weeks ago, I sent him a text. "Afternoon J- Miss you. Love, Gram." Twenty-four hours later, his response, "hey gram I love you too believe it or not and I miss you very much. I'm in history of ancient philosophy now but I'd love to talk with you about Socrates when I'm back home, if you know about him."

That was *the* longest text communication we've had since he went off to university.

I answered his text. "I'd better start going to Quest's Socrates class. I know something about him but clearly not enough to talk to you."

That was our last chat about Socrates but today, a week later, I changed my dentist appointment to one o'clock so I could attend Socrates class in the morning. I have a long way to go but who wouldn't do the same to take their grandson to lunch over Thanksgiving to talk Socrates?

Who's Doing What

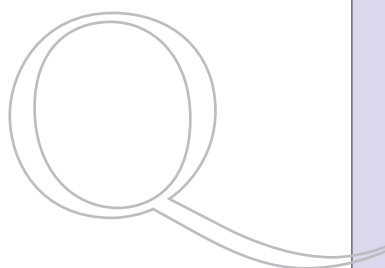
Three of **Ellen Rittberg's** poems were published in a poetry publication called *Home Planet News*.

• • •

Ellen Rittberg and our resident Irving Berlin expert, **Ellie Schaffer**, attended The York Theatre's Irving Berlin review. Great light fun.

• • •

Lois and Mark Cardillo celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on the beautiful Nougatine patio at Columbus Circle, toasting to good health (with a delicious Willamette Cabernet)!



Angels fly because they take themselves lightly.

— G.K. Chesterton

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