

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 33

November 2022

A Note From the President

Our Fall semester has been humming along with many of our over 200 members regularly attending our in-person, hybrid, and Zoom courses.

Our Distinguished Guest Speaker on October 26th was Letty Cottin Pogrebin, co-founder of *Ms. Magazine*, a nationally acclaimed writer and activist, who introduced *Shanda, a Memoir of Shame and Secrecy*. Her book tells the story of three generations of intense 20th-century Jews for whom the desire to fit in and the fear of public humiliation either drove their aspirations or crushed their spirit. Her interview by Karen Levin as well as her following talk were intriguing, and several Quest members purchased her book.

The post-speaker reception, accompanied by prosecco and chocolate, was well attended. Thanks for this event go to our social committee chairs Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland.

Special events chair Michael Wellner invited us to our holiday luncheon, which will be held on Friday, December 16th from noon to 3 pm at the Lavo Restaurant at 39 East 58th Street. You are welcome to bring as many guests as you like. If you have not yet brought or mailed in your \$60 check, please do so as soon as possible.

Our biannual General Meeting of Wednesday, November 9th was held live in the auditorium and on Zoom via the auditorium link. We presented our Council officers and members, as well as

the chairs, co-chairs, and members of our varied committees, including the newly formed ad hoc long-range planning committee. The lead coordinators of our new Spring 2023 courses whetted our appetite for the upcoming semester by explaining what their courses would be about. After reminding us of the history of our current hybrid experience, tech committee co-chair Wayne Cotter fielded audience questions and comments.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who attended the General Meeting, either live or on Zoom. And please do come to the holiday luncheon. We're eager, as always, to celebrate our sense of community.

Warm regards,
Ruth Ward

CultureQuest: AMNH by Susan Keohane

On Wednesday, October 12, I was among a group of lucky people who were invited to a tour at the American Museum of Natural History. The tour was given by Quest member **Marion Schultheis**, who is a docent at the Museum, and we were there to try out a new audio technology designed to enable people on a tour to hear the guide very clearly in the Museum's busy and often noisy environment.

The tour focused on the highlights of the Museum. Marion took us to visit the two newly-renovated halls: the Northwest Coast and Hall of Gems and Minerals. In addition we got to see the blue whale and learn some fascinating facts about it. We also saw the 1300 year-old sequoia tree and learned about biodiversity. During her talk Marion told us about the fascinating history of the Museum, the founding by the Roosevelt family and anthropological work of Franz Boaz.



The tour provided us with a great deal of information about an exciting place to visit. We all agreed that the tour was excellent and the new audio technology greatly enhanced our enjoyment of it.

Meet Our Guest Lecturer Committee

by Gale Spitalnik

Every other Wednesday at Quest, the Auditorium is filled with Questers awaiting an interesting speaker as part of our Quest Distinguished Lecture Series. Some of our past guest speakers have been Jane Brody, Al Franken, Roz Chast, Gary Ginsburg, Fran Lebowitz, Colum McCann, and more.

Committee Chair **Arlynn Greenbaum**, with an extensive background in publishing and running a Speakers Bureau for authors, joined Quest in 2016 and counts 59 guest lecturers since she took over this committee in 2017.

Also serving is **Karen Levin** (2018), who is presently secretary of the Council in her second two-year term. She lives in the Gramercy area and enjoys researching and connecting with people of interest for future guests lectures.

Estelle Selzer (2016) is an avid reader and bridge player. She enthusiastically investigates and contacts agents of possible speakers.

After retiring as an engineer, **Bob Reiss** joined Quest in 2009 to learn more about Art. He led an architecture class that ran for several years, and has made over 100 Quest presentations. Bob has researched and booked several of our lecturers. He also provides tech support.

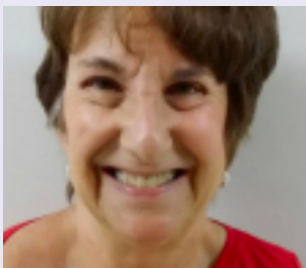
We are all grateful to this wonderful team for enhancing our Quest Experience.



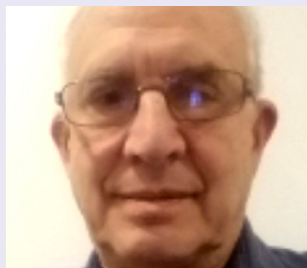
Arlynn Greenbaum



Karen Levin



Estelle Selzer



Bob Reiss

Wednesday, November 23
is Fibonacci Day
1.1.2.3.....

What Makes 100%?

What does it mean to give *more* than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been to those meetings where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 103%? What makes up 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But ,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

And,

B-U-L-L-S-H-I-T

$2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%$

And, look how far ass kissing will take you.

A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G

$1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118\%$

So, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Bullshit and Ass Kissing that will put you over the top.

Now you know why politicians are where they are!

Qextra: Sole Mates

A lovely walk along the river, followed by a cold drink.



Cowgirl for a Day *by Karen Levin*



In September, I embarked on a 16-day trip to Buenos Aires and Patagonia which includes Southern Argentina and Southern Chile. We saw various birds, guanacos (similar to llamas), penguins, and other wildlife that Patagonia is known for. The highlight was spotting a live puma asleep on some rocks. It had no idea we were taking photographs from the bus!

Our group visited Los Glaciares Nacional Park and experienced the most famous glacier in South America, the Perito Moreno Glacier. In Chile, we saw Pia Glacier and sailed the Tierra del Fuego archipelago. We even climbed to the top of Cape Horn, 1400 feet above sea level, a major accomplishment for me!

Pingo Salvaje Ranch, a huge "estancia" with cattle, sheep and horses was next on our list. One highlight that I won't forget is riding on a horse named Russa. She was supposed to be calm but we had our moments. Fortunately, several gauchos were with us to supervise. As a reward, we had a lamb barbecue.

Argentines love their desserts and there were many sweets with all of our meals, including dulce de leche.

It was a fabulous trip and extremely memorable!

Unleashing Our Creativity Through Collage *by Beth Callender*



Some of us weren't so sure we had creativity to unleash, but we joined **Yona Rogosin's** Collage Class to give it a try. We'd seen Yona's work in *Q Review* and at Creativity Day and hoped she could inspire us. Before we knew it, Yona had won us over with her knowledge and enthusiasm for collage, and under her expert guidance we were amazed at what we were able to produce with just paper, scissors and glue. See if you can guess which Questers created these collages; their names are at the bottom.

This was the third class in our Creative Workshop course; in the first, coordinators **Mary Ann Donnelly** and **Beth Callender** gave tips on how to unleash our creativity and in the second, **Ellen Shapiro** mesmerized us with her storytelling talents. Coming up are Meditation Yoga: **Margaret Woodward**; Drawing: **Ellen Rittberg**; Jewelry: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**; and Dance/Movement: **Ze'eva Cohen**. Stop by on Thursday, B week at 1:00, and prepare to be amazed at what you can do!

Collage creators:

Top l to r: Tamara Weinberg; Estelle Selzer; MaryAnn Donnelly.

Bottom l to r: Gloria Peropat; Beth Callender; Ellen Rittberg.

Living With Books *by Frank Montaturo*

It was never this way, of course. The chest was used for a cup of tea, for dessert, for drinks and nibbles, but then the books started getting out of hand. And now they are rampant... and drinks are two feet higher.



Prosecco and Chocolate

by Andrea Irvine

October 25th we gathered at 25 Broadway for Prosecco and Chocolate — how great was that! The very best combination — especially when you add in our members' ability to enjoy each other and have fun. The wine kept pouring, the chocolate never ran out — all thanks to our amazing Social Committee led by Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland.

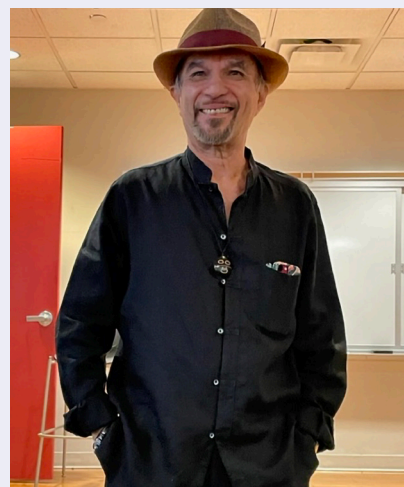


Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland

Guest Lecturer: José Angel Figueroa

by Arlynn Greenbaum

Our distinguished guest speaker on October 12 was poet, author, and teacher, José Angel Figueroa, who entertained us with his story and poetry about moving from Puerto Rico to "Noo Jork."



Guest Lecturer: Letty Cottin Pogrebin

by Karen Levin

Letty Cottin Pogrebin, was our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on October 26th. She was interviewed by Karen Levin about her new book, *Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy*. A founding editor of Ms. Magazine, Letty also spoke about her career in publishing and working as a feminist in the early days.



CultureQuest: Brooklyn Navy Yard

by Lois Klein

It was a beautiful Friday morning, on October 14th, when 20 Questers met at the Wall Street Pier 11 Ferry Terminal. Andrew, our guide from Turnstile Tours, was waiting there to hand us tickets to board the ferry for a 12-minute ride to the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Yard is on 300 acres of Brooklyn waterfront. It was established as a Naval ship building site in 1801, and was active in the Civil War, World War I, and very importantly in World War II.

Today, it is no longer a government site. It operates as an independent, one-of-a-kind ecosystem with over 400 diverse businesses and over 11,000 employees. The different sectors of



the Yard include food, industrial manufacturing, security, transportation, engineering design, a movie studio, and so much more.

In Building 77, a bright new Russ and Daughters central baking facility is housed. Russ and Daughters is one of the first American companies to use daughters in their brand name rather than sons.

In Building 92, there is a museum which tracks the Yard's historic past.

All would agree that the day was great, but our tour guide, Andrew Gustafson, with his amazing fund of knowledge and his calm, generous demeanor, made the tour extremely special.

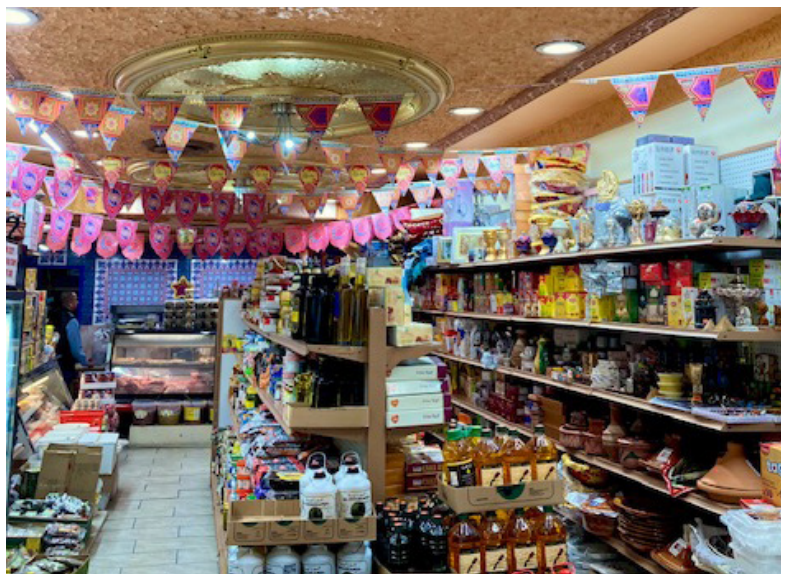
City Wanderings

by Montaturo

Grocery + Steinway Street, Astoria New York

So it was while walking around this Egyptian stretch of Astoria recently... hookah parlors, halal butchers, bakeries and pastry shops, and restaurants... that I decided to treat myself to a pound of baby lamb chops... halal chops... and so entered and headed to the rear. The store stacked a broad range of products familiar to a Middle-Eastern kitchen... which I expected. But what did surprise me was the ceiling... retrofitted from a former nightclub? A narrow banqueting hall? An upscale café? A bingo joint? When I asked the manager if any of my assumptions was spot on... he impassively replied... No... this is how it was and is.

But perhaps after hours a disco ball drops and shoppers dance maniacally amidst the olive oil and clay tagines. I will return one day and check out the other grocery emporia and award a secret prize to the best ceiling.



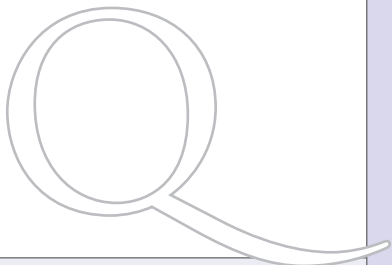
An Overview of a Foreign Affairs Presentation

by Laura Lopez

The United Nations, governments, and grassroots women's organizations are working behind the scenes to empower women and promote gender equality. The main UN body behind this effort is the UN Commission on the Status of Women, formed in 1947. Landmark conferences in Mexico City (1975), Nairobi (1985), and Beijing (1995) engaged tens of thousands of global women's civil society organizations to educate and empower women in their communities.

Milestones towards progress include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1979. In the United States, where conservative leadership in Congress never brought CEDAW up for a vote, 40 cities and towns passed laws locally that protect the rights of women and girls through the Cities for CEDAW initiative. After decades of advocacy by civil society, UN Women was formed in 2010 to accelerate progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since the Beijing women's conference, the world has become far more conservative. Even where progress has been made, rights are receding. Global realities, including lack of political will, the COVID pandemic, and high unemployment hamper progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in many countries. In an increasingly inter-dependent world, more progress is achieved when the United Nations is engaged in meeting the challenges facing women. Let us hope that, on this issue, we will continue to see success.



The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory. Just one byte and everything crashed!

Adventures In Dining

by Frank Montaturo

October 21 – The restaurant is Dar Yemma, a Moroccan place in Astoria.

So... it finally happened. We made it to Astoria, having had to cancel our August lunch because of the heat. This stretch of Steinway Street is host to a galaxy of Middle Eastern hookah parlors, restaurants, halal butchers/grocers, and pastry shops. The area might have been new to a number of Quest members... but hopefully enticing enough for some to consider a junket out here on their own to pick up some baklava or smoke a water pipe.



Marian Friedmann, Toni Dickenson, Ellen Shapiro, Arlene Hajlinian, Shoshi Kagan, Donna Basile, David Judlowitz, and Loretta Menger.



Andrea pours the mint tea.



Marian Friedmann, Jill Abel and Frank Montaturo.



Chicken tagine



Lamb tagine with prunes and apricots



Lamb borek



Couscous

Who's Doing What

Dena Kerren and **Roy Clary** were up in Windham playing golf and enjoying the beautiful fall foliage.



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Questers **Ruth Kovner** and **Anita Hunter** visited Christie's to view the pre-sale exhibit of the Paul G. Allen Collection, including early Hoppers, a breathtaking Hockney, and a glorious pink springtime canvas by Van Gogh. It was Ruth's cane that got them in without having to wait hours on line! A memorable day in New York!



Some people feel the rain;
others just get wet.

I USED TO JUST
CRASTINATE BUT I GOT
SO GOOD I WENT PRO



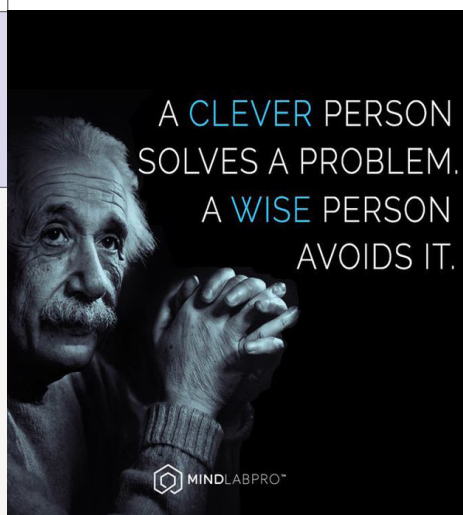
Roy Clary, Dena Kerren, Arlynn Greenbaum and **Gordon Gilbert** enjoyed a beautiful Catskills sunset on the evening of November 5th. During their visit, they enjoyed a concert at Bethel Woods, the site of Woodstock.

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Bob Reiss and son, David, at the New York City Marathon.



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It does not matter
how slowly you go so long as
you do not stop.

— Confucius

Hail and Farewell

Quest welcomes these new members who have joined since our last issue:

Jill Abel **Tracey Lee**
Marilyn Fish **Maureen McLeod**
Sharon Katz **Elise Ran**

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

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A Quest Publication

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