

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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## A Note From the President

**G**reetings! Quest is entering the holiday season in good form. Our finances continue to be robust and our active membership level steady with over 200 current Questers in attendance.

We've wrapped up our fall semester with some terrific presentations and an upcoming Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 16th from noon to 3:00 pm at the elegant Lavo Restaurant at 39 East 58th Street. Over 100 people have signed up for a subsidized \$60 each. You are welcome to bring as many guests as you like at that same rate. If you would still like to invite a guest and have not yet brought or mailed in a \$60 check

for them, now is the time. Please do come to the holiday luncheon, as it is a wonderful way to celebrate our sense of community.

As you know, in addition to our heritage courses, the Curriculum Committee has planned a number of exciting new courses for the spring 2023 semester, which will start on Monday, February 6th at 10:30 am. They will include Classic Movies, Elizabeth Gaskell, Invisible Man, A Week in Paris, Almuerzo español, Classical Music, Food: Beyond Just Calories, Questers' Choice, Science Clubhouse, The Sixties, Theater/Opera Talkback, Toni Morrison, and Upheaval in American Values. What an intriguing variety of classes to anticipate!

This spring we are planning to have 20 hybrids per week, which is two more than we had this past fall. The complete, colorful spring catalog, including hybrid designations, is now available both virtually online and in hard copy form in the office.

The Long-Range planning committee is continuing the vital work of visualizing the short and long-term future of Quest.

Meanwhile, let's make our personal plans for a happy holiday season with family, friends, and plenty of time to refresh.

Warm regards,  
**Ruth Ward**

## Spring 2023 Distinguished Guest Lecturers

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

February 15 **Georgina Pazcoguín**, *The Rogue Ballerina*.

March 1 **Andrew Meier**, author of *Morgenthau*.

March 15 **Roya Hakakian** discussing What's Next for Iran?

March 29 **Delia Ephron**, author of *Left On Tenth*.  
**Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott** Memorial Speaker

May 3 **Laura Pedersen** on What's Your Story?

## Guest Lecturer Ivan Schwartz *by Estelle Selzer*



**I**t was a dreary, wet day, but dedicated Questers showed up on November 30th to hear Ivan Schwartz, founder of Studio EIS, speak about many of the incredible bronze statues his company has produced over his 50 year career. We are familiar with several, including JFK in DC, and Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln in front of our own New-York Historical Society.

The talk was recorded; if you couldn't attend, feel free to watch on our website. Also, check out the company's website, [studioeis.com](http://studioeis.com)

## Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Teetering on the Brink  
Suburban Bookshop  
New York, July 2022

Yes, that is the owner. His rent must be very low. Perhaps he owns the lease. I am sure the shop is much loved and no one in her right mind would think of suggesting that he bring order to the chaos. I stood on the threshold... marveling... actually astounded... fearful really to enter his realm. "Could I see that volume of Longfellow's poems... there two thirds down the stack?" I didn't dare. Is he covered for injuries caused by a high-shelved dictionary of the Finnish language beaming a bibliophile? This does give a new frisson to the idea of browsing. I wonder if he sleeps in the back of the shop? Upstairs perhaps? I hope he is there in the unlikely event that I return.



## Quest Mourns the Passing of Caroline Thompson

On December 10th, Quest lost a treasured member of our family, Caroline Thompson. All who knew her will remember fondly her boundless energy, generous spirit, and insatiable curiosity about people and the world. To her close friends and family, she was a pillar of strength and integrity, who led a full and active life. She was devoted to her husband, her children, and grandchildren, and her friends. She dedicated herself to learning, to her Quest family, and to music: from singing to working on her latest piano or recorder piece. She took great joy from bicycling, theater, golf, reading and adventurous world travel.

There will be a memorial service and a celebration of her life early in the new year. Details will follow. She will be sorely missed. Condolences to Steve Allen, her husband and long-time Quest member.



## CultureQuest: International Center of Photography

by Dena Kerren

*Close Enough* is a title inspired by Cornell Capa's quote, "If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough."

Started in 1974 by Cornell Capa, International Center of Photography was set up by photographers for photographers. Its mission is to preserve the works of independent photojournalists and politically-minded images that can educate and change the world. ICP is currently the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture.

Cornell Capa (nè Cornell Friedmann), escaped from the increasingly anti-Semitic climate of Hungary to pursue a career in photojournalism. Capa became a resident photographer at *Life Magazine*, covering over three hundred assignments. His most well-known photo essays included subjects such as Adlai Stevenson's presidential campaign.

"*Close Enough: New Perspectives from 12 Women Photographers of Magnum*" presents

pivotal projects in the careers of 12 contemporary women photographers of Magnum Photos, the pioneering photography collective.

Each of the photographers narrates their creative journey, providing vantage points into the extraordinary relationships they created within global situations, communities, and individual subjects. One photographer explores the experiences of young Islamic women in Turkey; another photographer, her long-term collaboration with rural Argentine cousins as they evolve from childhood to adulthood; while "*A Room of Their Own*" captures the story of women who sought refuge from domestic violence in the Midlands, UK.

The vulnerability of each photographer helps establish a deep connection to the audience, and brings visibility to the invisible tension of politics, norms, and the violent unspoken. Each photographer adds further depth to the idea of womanhood as a deeply intimate and shared experience.



## Who's Doing What



**Bob Reiss** and granddaughter Juliette were at the Guggenheim to enjoy the Alex Katz exhibit.

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**Steve Koenig** will have four poems published this Winter, one in the 2022 annual *Brownstone Poets Anthology*, and three in *Sensations Magazine* 35th Anniversary Issue: Art.

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**Steven Chicoine** attended a New York Philharmonic donor rehearsal at the start of November. It was his first visit to the new David Geffen Hall (which he insists on calling Philharmonic Hall). He reports it is striking visually and, at a concert this past week, the orchestra sounded better than ever.



**Ellen** and **Bob Gottfried** spent two wonderful weeks touring Israel in November. This was their fourth trip, so they went to places which are off the usual path for travelers, including a dozen national parks. The parks feature archeological ruins which can date back to several thousand years before the common era, and in many of them there are multiple layers of civilizations, bringing the sites current through the sixth century.

They were within several feet of the borders Israel shares with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and felt completely safe everywhere they went. If you have never been to Israel, Ellen suggests you visit in the spring or fall when the weather is comfortable.

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**Gale Spitalnik** took her family on a wildlife encounter at the Bronx Zoo. They entered the zoo and took a Zuber to meet four female giraffes. They were given a bucket full of apples, carrots, and lettuce, and fed



the giraffes up close and personal. They had 30 minutes to visit, and took the Zuber to exit the zoo. Everyone loved the experience. Book it online on Bronx Zoo site.

## Quest Fiber Arts

by Ilene Winkler

**Ilene Winkler** and **Estelle Selzer**, members of the Quest Fiber Arts group, joined New Yorkers welcoming Latin American refugees by making scarves and hats for a project called Knots of Love through the Educational Alliance on the Lower East Side. Pictured are some of our donations. **Michele Mackey** also helped by facilitating a large donation from a friend's knitting group. If you are a knitter, crocheter or crafter we welcome you to join us, [questfiberarts@googlegroups.com](mailto:questfiberarts@googlegroups.com).



## Book Talk

by Sheryl Harawitz

On November 28, Book Talk met and the class recommended the following books.

Happy Reading:

*Horse*: Geraldine Brooks

*Disgrace*: J.M. Coetzee

*Skin*: Sergio del Molino

*Trust*: Hernan Diaz

*The Promise*: Damon Galgut

*Lessons in Chemistry*:  
Bonnie Garmus

*Uncommon Type*: Tom Hanks

*The Women I Think About at Night*:  
Mia Kankimäki

*History*: Elsa Morante

*The Marriage Portrait*:  
Maggie O'Farrell

*Mad Honey*: Jodi Picoult and  
Jennifer Finney Boylan

*Normal People*: Sally Rooney

*The Island of Missing Trees*:  
Elif Shafak

*The Magician*: Colm Tóibín

*Woman of Rome: A Life of Elsa Morante*:  
Lily Tuck

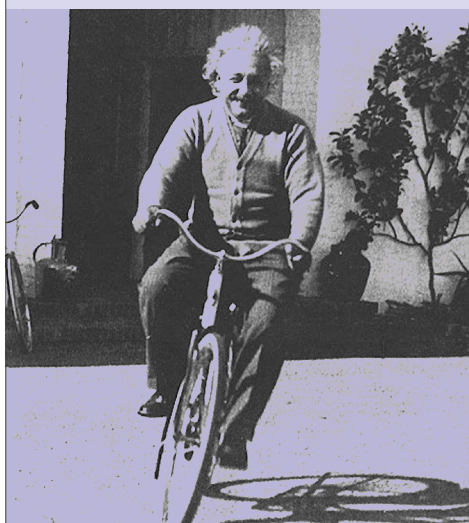
*Juliet in August*: Dianne Warren

*Mouth to Mouth*: Antoine Wilson

Thank you to new member **Kathy Cook**, who came up with the idea of Book Chats and organized the lunchtime session. That is the concept behind Lunchtime Activities: a place to try out new ideas.



**Life is like riding a bicycle.  
To keep your balance,  
you must keep moving.**  
– Albert Einstein



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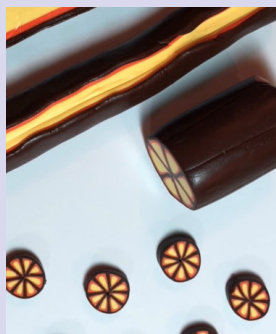
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Articles submitted to QNews  
may be edited by the Staff.  
The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter  
of the publication's contents.

**Politicians are like sperm.  
One in a million turns out  
to be a human being.**

## Creativity Workshop: Jewelry-Making class *by Beth Callender*

**Y**ou've probably admired the beautiful necklaces worn by **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, but might not have known that she makes them all herself. We were lucky to have Mary Beth share her secrets with us at the December 1st Creativity Workshop, where we learned that creating masterpieces from oven-bake clay requires



*Preparing the clay*



*Completed necklace*

a whole lot of rolling, slicing, dicing, and time! I completed this necklace at home thanks to Mary Beth's expert instruction and it was exciting to see it emerge from my toaster oven.



*Left to Right: Kathy Cook, Hedy Shulman, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Mary Ann Donnelly, Mary Beth Yakoubian, Verica Neumann*

## Quite a Wonderful Thanksgiving *by Ruth Kovner*

**T**his was a really happy Thanksgiving since my granddaughter and her husband welcomed a baby boy to the family. At Thanksgiving he was one month old. It's been a long time since there's been a birth on my side of the family. Oliver is my first great grandson. And we all had the chance to hold him. The family is spread out across the country. Some came from California, Michigan, New York and Massachusetts in addition to Tennessee.

We rented two large houses to accommodate all of us. It was a glorious week catching up and also enjoying all the traditional foods.

We had two young boys with us and would you believe they do not like turkey. I, on the other hand, look forward all year to this meal with all the fixings. Who doesn't like sweet potato, creamed corn, cranberry sauce, cranberry bread, pumpkin pie, key lime pie and the 22 pound turkey? Liam and Max prefer ham. Thus we had it all. Oh well... The table groaned. And we had turkey for a couple of days. We also had one pizza night and one taco night. For some of us the scale was not very kind. But it was really quite a Thanksgiving!



## CultureQuest Programs Spring 2023

The CultureQuest Committee — **Madeleine Brecher, Bob Reiss, Linda Downs, Renee Woloshin, Dena Kerren, Estelle Selzer, Hedy Shulman, and Lois Klein** — are pleased to offer the following programs this Spring.

**February 17:** Guggenheim Museum: Alex Katz “Gathering”  
Exhibit Tour  
Zoom

**February 24:** Metropolitan Opera: Norma  
In-Person

**March 3:** New-York Historical Society: “I’ll Have What She’s Having: The Jewish Deli” Tour  
In-Person

**March 17:** Museum Tour  
Zoom — *To be confirmed*

**March 31:** Jackie Robinson Museum: Tour  
In-Person

**April 21:** American Museum of Natural History:  
New Gilder Center Insectorium &  
Vivarium Tour  
In-Person

**May 5:** Greenwood Cemetery Private Trolley Tour  
In-Person

## My Library *by Harriet Finkelstein*



I don’t remember precisely how old I was when I got my first library card but I would guesstimate I was about seven. Our library was about two blocks away on Eastern Parkway, corner of Schenectady Avenue in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. I didn’t know it then but this library was one of the original Andrew Carnegie libraries that were built in the early twentieth century due to the largess of the financier. It is still standing though a Google Images photo of its current modern interior is a far cry from the library of my childhood. The building was located on what was for me, the “other” side of Eastern Parkway, a grand, wide boulevard. My mother gave me permission to go there only if I would promise to ask a grown-up to “cross me” to the other side of the street. When that ritual came to an end, I really don’t recall. But I do remember so well my frequent visits to the “children’s room” and the exact corner where the fairy tales lay waiting and then my abandonment of the make-believe stories for what seemed oh-so-real stories of the Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew. I was thirteen when we moved from Crown Heights but I remember my encounters with so many wondrous books like it was yesterday.

## Abstraction in African-American Painting *by Bob Reiss*

On December 2, CultureQuest featured a Zoom tour of Abstraction in African-American painting with docent Dr. Deborah Goldberg. The talk explored some of the pioneer African-American artists who ventured into abstraction from the 1940s to the present. We looked at painters from Abstract Expressionism and the Washington Color School to more contemporary artists who work in mixed media and add social or conceptual concerns to their work. Artists included were Ed Clark, Sam Gilliam, and Alma Thomas, all who have received increased attention in recent years. Some of the artists discussed are in the permanent collection galleries of MoMA, the Met, the Brooklyn Museum, The Whitney Museum of American Art, and in the current Jewish Museum exhibition.

