

Q NEWS Q DIGITAL

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A Note From the President: Quest's Comeback Year

Greetings to all as we enter the final six weeks of Quest's "comeback year." I call it our comeback year because you can almost feel the energy at Quest these days. Attendance at 25 Broadway is approaching pre-Covid levels for many classes, the lunchroom is frequently packed, and dozens of new members are bringing enthusiasm and new ideas to Quest. Members are also spreading the word about Quest to their friends and family.

This is not happening by accident. It's the result of the hard work and creativity of so many dedicated volunteers. Our membership gains are due in no small part to initiatives by the Membership Committee, chaired by **Donna Ramer**, and the Marketing Communications Committee, chaired by **Beth Callender** and **Peter Dichter**.

In addition, the Curriculum Committee, chaired by **Sheryl Harawitz**, has introduced exciting new courses while working with lead coordinators to revitalize many of our favorite long-running courses.

Since I co-chair the Tech Committee with **Bob Reiss** and **Michael Wellner** (filling in for **Ruth Ward**), I know how hard tech committee members work to enhance the classroom experience, both for those at 25 Broadway and those at home.

And let's not forget Quest's Council that has, in my view, shown a remarkable unity of vision since we returned to 25 Broadway in the fall of 2021.

For those dozens of volunteers that I left out, trust me – *you are appreciated!* We'll talk more about your contributions at our General Meeting on Wednesday, April 26.

Also, Quest will hold its annual election in

early May. In these next few weeks, please carefully consider the issues and candidates. You'll learn more about the candidates as the month unfolds (and in these pages). Remember, your informed vote is crucial to the future of Quest.

I would also like to say that working so closely with Ruth when I served as Vice President allowed for a smooth transition when I became Quest's Acting President last fall. Since then, I have been fortunate for the advice and counsel of **Donna Ramer** who I appointed Acting Vice President shortly after I became Acting President.

Lastly, it has been wonderful for me and others at Quest to see **Ruth Ward** back at 25 Broadway and attending classes. Her resiliency and resolve are truly extraordinary.

Best wishes,

Wayne Cotter, Acting Quest President

Fall 2023 Distinguished Guest Lecturers

Sept 13 **Hilary Lewis** on Philip Johnson and the *Glass House*.

Sept 27 **Anna Quindlen**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.

Oct 11 **Jeremy Denk**, pianist and author of *Every Good Boy Does Fine*.

Oct 25 **Lizzie Gottlieb**, director of the documentary *Turn Every Page*.

Nov 8 **Jesse Green**, author of *Shy* and *New York Times* theatre critic.

Dec 13 **Grace Cho**, author of *Tastes Like War*.



Recent Quest Memorial Service

by Michael Wellner

On Wednesday, March 29th, Quest held a memorial service (in the auditorium) to remember those among us who had passed away in the last three years — since the onset of the Covid pandemic. Sixteen individual Quest members shared their fond memories of **Steve Baker, Stuart Eisler, Evelyn Good, Al Gordon, Marty Helpern, Trudy Owett, Rita Post, Rick Salter, and Caroline Thompson**. During their time at Quest, all had made significant contributions to our wonderful community, and each will be missed by all who remember them so fondly.



Steve Baker



Stu Eisler



Evelyn Good



Al Gordon



Marty Helpern



Trudy Owitt



Rita Post



Rick Salter



Caroline Thompson

Guest Lecturer:
Roya Hakakian
by Arlynn Greenbaum

Roya Hakakian with her books after her fascinating talk on March 15 about Iran's complicated past, present and future. About 75 Questers in person and on Zoom enjoyed her insider's account. For security reasons, the recording of her presentation will not be on our website.



Guest Speaker:
Delia Ephron
by Arlynn Greenbaum

Bestselling author, screenwriter, essayist and playwright Delia Ephron was our Kenneth Leedom/ Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on March 29. Over 100 Questers enjoyed her stories about her life and inspiring recent memoir, *Left On Tenth: A Second Chance at Life*. The talk was recorded for those who may have missed it.



International Women's Day 2023

by Hedy Shulman

International Women's Day is powered by the collective efforts of all to achieve its goal of helping to make a positive difference for women. Quest celebrated this important day in a variety of creative and meaningful ways.

Betty Farber, the poet laureate of Quest, read her poem, "Inspiration" and lifted our spirits with her eloquent language. **Frank Montaturo**, Quest's renaissance man, offered music written by women and featured the first opera written by a woman, Francesca Caccini in 1587. **Sheryl Harawitz** was at the podium and called on the enthusiastic gathering to name the muses they admired and made an impact on their lives. Hands kept popping up as participants spoke of the muses who influenced them.

"I hope this will become an annual celebration," **Arlynn Greenbaum** said. "My hat's off to whoever came up with this idea."

"It is great to celebrate International Women's Day as a community," said **Paul Adler**. "I also like the idea of posting names of accomplished women on stickies on the white boards in the lunchroom."

Tamara Weinberg, a fairly new member, said, "Glad to have some men show up and be supportive."

"I enjoyed meeting women I didn't know before," **Ze'eva Cohen** said. "And, I was happy that a few men also joined."

This session was followed by a fine selection of wines, Sicilian pizza and other treats organized by **Lois Cardillo** and **Marcia Friedland**.

Quest members will remember International Women's Day with satisfaction and smiles.



Ms. Blu by Hedy Shulman



On an overcast Sunday afternoon, Quest members were transported to a serene and joyous universe at the Zinc Jazz Bar as they were soothed by the luscious melodies of Audra Berger, better known in the jazz world as Ms. Blu.

“Blu is for you,” she told her mesmerized audience. “I have a good feeling I never had before.” Accompanied by the talented pianist Jeff Levine, Ms. Blu, dressed in a sparkling blue dress, sang a series of jazz standards including, “Still Crazy After All These Years,” “A Rainy Night in Georgia,” and “Let the Good Times Roll,” and she encouraged the audience to join her.

A prolific singer and songwriter, Ms. Blu puts storytelling to music and has been in show business for more than 60 years. She used to open for the icon, Marvin Gaye. Ms. Blu dyed her hair blue in 1999 when she turned 50, before it was fashionable to make such bold moves.

“I’m an ‘Ol’ School Musician,’ which means that whether I’m singing the blues, soul or jazz, my music is a relationship with my audience. For me, performing isn’t just getting up there and doing something people enjoy. It’s a deep connection that I believe serves us all. My music is my love,” Ms. Blu stated passionately.

Her sentiments genuinely resonated with her audience. “Ms. Blu’s performance was vitally alive: her excellent phrasing, impeccable timing, and powerful voice reached both the depths of despair and the height of joy,” said **Ellen Shapiro**. “Proud of her age, 72, she both sang and spoke of knowledge hard-won.”

Ms. Blu echoed these sentiments when she lovingly sang the standard, “Leave Your Worries on the Doorstep, Life Can Be Sweet on the Sunny Side of the Street.”

“Our afternoon at the Zinc Jazz Club was a relaxing, fun event,” said **Lynnel Garabedian**. “I particularly liked Ms. Blu’s warm, casual style. She wove her personal stories into her performance, engaged the audience, and charmed us with humor.”

Sheryl Harawitz, a longtime friend of Ms. Blu’s, would like to encourage Quest members to give thought to creating spontaneous events outside of the weekday Quest schedule. “These kinds of experiences help us build community and enhance the fabric of our social life.”

The Dinky to the WAWA by Karen Levin

On March 10, a group of Questers travelled all the way to Princeton, New Jersey to see a wonderful exhibit about Toni Morrison. **Tamara Weinberg** did a fabulous job coordinating this trip in conjunction with the Quest course on Toni Morrison.

Toni Morrison taught at Princeton University for 17 years and left the “Toni Morrison Papers” to the University. The collection is comprised of 400 boxes that included manuscripts, correspondence, notes, personal calendars and more.

Our adventure started on New Jersey Transit to Princeton Junction where we took the “Dinky” train to the WAWA on Princeton’s campus. Then we switched to the “Tiger Transit” bus and walked to the Firestone Library to see “Toni Morrison: Sites of Memory” which focuses on her creative process. The actual exhibit is about 75 objects, most of which have never been publicly displayed before. There is an excellent documentary (about 2 hours long!) where she talks about her life and her own creative writing style. It was a pleasure listening to her speak.

There is a separate exhibit about her children’s books as well as an exhibit by artist Alison Saar at a gallery near the library. Her work addresses race, gender, culture, spirituality and humanity through sculpture and painting.

Since there was so much to see, some of us plan to return before it closes June 4, 2023.



Culture Quest Virtual Tour

by Lois Klein

Highlights of the Metropolitan Museum



We had a full roster for our highlights tour. Our remarkable docent, Alexandra Bonfante-Warren, showed our group nine photos of a art work from one of the diverse collections of the Museum. The grouping included a

terracotta wine bowl from 240 BCE, a beautifully decorated Buddha statue, an architectural prayer niche from the Islamic culture, a 19th century painting by David, and a contemporary painting by James Washington Marshall. Alexandra described each object's origin, history, and its importance. She asked Quest participants for comments and questions. She was patient, and encouraging us to give our opinions.

The hour passed too quickly. At the conclusion, our attention and curiosity were heightened and I, for one, wished for more.

This tour is due for another visit.

Anna Quindlen to Speak at Quest in the Fall

by Arlynn Greenbaum

The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Anna Quindlen will be our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on September 27, 2023.

We all fondly remember Quindlen's columns for the *New York Times*, which were collected in *Living Out Loud* and *Thinking Out Loud*. Her *Newsweek* columns were collected in *Loud and Clear*.

Quindlen is the author of nine novels including *Object Lessons*, *One True Thing*, *Black and Blue*, *Rise and Shine*, *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* and *Alternate Side*.

Her memoir, *Lots of Candles*, *Plenty of Cake*, published in 2012, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her book *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* has sold more than a million copies.

Her most recent books are *Nanaville: Adventures in Grandparenting* and *Write For Your Life*, a call to pick up a pen and find yourself.



City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo

Accordianist NYC Subway January 2023

The Piaf song from the '40s tells of a prostitute who falls in love with an accordionist and his music... especially the dance called the java. He leaves for the war. She dreams of his return and the life they will live together. *Très Piaf...* that.

On this day there was no prostitute in sight...



Hawk Nest

by Larry Shapiro

Larry Shapiro has called to our attention that the photograph with his *Hawk Nest* piece in *March QNews* is not the one he submitted. We sincerely regret the error. Following is the article with Larry's photograph.

Almost to the day, February has brought a return of the hawks who built a nest last year on my neighbors' fire escape and raised two fledglings until they all departed in June. This year's nest is about finished.



Who's Doing What



Roy Clary and Frieda Lipp taking bows following their individual and superb performances at Great Plays. Bravo!

• • •

Madeline Brecher, Diane Crothers, Bobbie Gold, Nan McNamara, Tamara Weinberg, and Ilene Winkler dined at Virgil's BBQ and then attended an inspiring 50th anniversary concert by Sweet Honey in the Rock at Town Hall on March 24th. We organized the outing after a presentation on Sweet Honey by **Barbara Barnes** in December for Black Women's Voices. Wonderful time had by all.

• • •

Anthony Bourdain Said:

Eat at a local restaurant tonight. Get the cream sauce. Have a cold pint at 4 o'clock in a mostly empty bar. Go somewhere you've never been. Listen to someone you think may have nothing in common with you. Order the steak rare. Eat an oyster. Have a negroni. Have two. Be open to a world where you may not understand or agree with the person next to you, but have a drink with them anyways. Eat slowly. Tip your server. Check in on your friends. Check in on yourself. Enjoy the ride.



Creative Corner

MEMORIES OF MARJORIE PRIME

by Betty Farber

Some years ago
I fell in love with a play
Called "Marjorie Prime"
About artificial intelligence.

Because of the way
The years have piled up,
Marjorie has a sense of loss
So she shares her memories
With a hologram
Who looks exactly like
Her husband when young.
He remembers all,
Helping her to become more human.

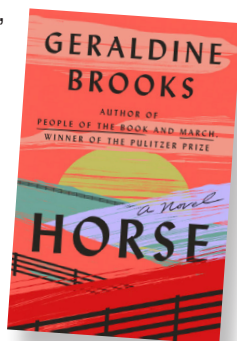
Quest Book Club by Jan Goldstein

The next meeting of the Quest Book Club will take place on Wednesday, April 12, from 12:10–12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway.

We'll be discussing the novel *Horse* by Pulitzer Prize winner Geraldine Brooks. From disparate elements — a discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the true story of the greatest racehorse in American history — Brooks masterfully weaves a compelling story of art, love and our unfinished reckoning with racism. **Joan Vreeland** will be presenting.

Our final meeting of the Spring semester will be on May 10, when we'll be discussing *Clara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, presented by **Tamara Weinberg**.

We hope you'll join us!



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A Quest Publication

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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.

To hold onto my memories,
Instead of a hologram,
I talk to my daughters
Who remind me of the past
What they said
What I did
How we felt when it happened.

As a daughter myself
I listened to stories
Of my mother's childhood
In the Ukraine.
I passed her tales onward
To children and grandchildren
So they will remember her.

In shared memories, we live forever.

**Stop Worrying About
Who is Right, And Focus on
What is Right.**

Quest Elections

As the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee and pursuant to the Quest bylaws, I am writing to provide you with the names of the candidates for Quest President and Council.

The candidates for President are:

Donna Ramer & Bob Reiss

The candidates for Quest Council are:

Mary Ann Donnelly, Paul Golomb, Joyce Hinote, Nan McNamara, Estelle Selzer, and Ilene Winkler

The four candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected for a two year term on Quest Council.

The candidates' bios will be placed on both Quest's bulletin board at 25 Broadway and the members' page of our website.

Candidate forums will be held from 12:05 to 12:50 pm in room 15-17. The Council candidates forums will be held on Monday, May 8 and Wednesday, May 10, with all candidates appearing on both days.

The forum for candidates for President will take place on Tuesday, May 9.

The forums will be able to be accessed from home via Zoom and will be recorded.

The election will be held from May 11-13, and will be conducted solely via electronic ballots. The results of the election will be announced on Monday May 15 via Quest-Business.

Bob Gottfried, Chair NEC

Candidates for President



Donna K. Ramer

My road to Quest started in Queens, where I was born, grew up and launched my career in communications as a reporter for my hometown paper, *The Bayside Times*, at the age of 15. As an adult, and after several years living in other states and countries, I returned to New York City and recently celebrated 46

years in my Union Square apartment.

I joined Quest in 2018 and quickly became involved. My first semester, I jumped in to help others by filling the gap while Quest's admin position was vacant and, very quickly, become acquainted with numerous members as well as our governance. In my second semester, I began to present and, during the lock-down, I was active on Zoom by presenting and leading discussions. Returning to Quest, I was involved in creating on-site activities as well as ways to engage members unable to return.

Currently, I sit on the council and am Acting Vice President; I chair the Membership Committee; I am editor of Prose for *QReview* and contribute to *QNews* fairly regularly; and I am a member of the Curriculum Committee. I also lead or co-lead the Creative Writing workshop, Symposium, and Toni Morrison courses. Other classes I have led or co-coordinated include Mythology, British Empire and British Culture.

Professionally, I am an award-winning communications specialist with an expertise in strategic planning, crisis and reputation management, and communications training. I have contributed to several books, professional publications, and Congressional set-aside programs. I have volunteered and held a number of board positions, and have a long history mentoring others.

I felt at home from my first day at Quest and a camaraderie with other members. My interest in being president is simple: I believe Quest has so much to offer and I want to continue to lend my expertise to maintain the integrity of Quest as we reach out to a wider audience and more actively engage Questers, at home *and* at 25 Broadway.



Bob Reiss

Question: Why do I want to be President of Quest? Because I love this organization and I want it to achieve the lofty goals envisioned by its founders.

Question: Why do I think I'm qualified for the job? Quest member for 14 years; have given 175 presentations; founded Culture-

Quest; co-founder Technology committee; initiated Zoom classes during pandemic; coordinated Artists and their Work (4 years); coordinated History of Architecture (4 years); contributed to every issue of *QReview* since 2009; edited *QNews*; managed 100 engineers and technicians for transportation consulting firm; served as President, Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore.

Question: What is my vision for Quest? From our by-laws: *Quest is a self-governing, adult oriented, peer-learning community, offering courses designed and delivered by its members as active participants in a shared educational and social environment*. I am responsible for inserting the underlined words in the most recent revision of our by-laws as I recognized the importance of social opportunities for our members. However, I believe that first and foremost, we are an educational enterprise and should strive for academic excellence.

I also believe that we should integrate on and off-campus members into one community. We should advance a culture where each of these groups has equal status and benefits of membership. We should maximize accessibility to classes for all our members, whether they be off-campus or at 25 Broadway. The goal should be delivery of our classes to the maximum number of members, regardless of where they are physically located.

Question: What is the first thing I will do if I am elected? Ask for a recount. Seriously, with Council's concurrence, I will appoint an Ombudsperson to act as advocate for our members who prefer to participate via Zoom. If the appointee so desires, she will form an ad hoc committee to identify specific needs of on-line attendees and bring those needs to Council's attention.

Candidates for Council



Mary Ann Donnelly

I have been a member of Quest for so long (over 13 years) that I find my previous work life a distant memory. For the record, I retired from the New York Department of Insurance as claims manager. Prior to that I taught reading at a New Jersey middle school. As a teacher, I was a member of

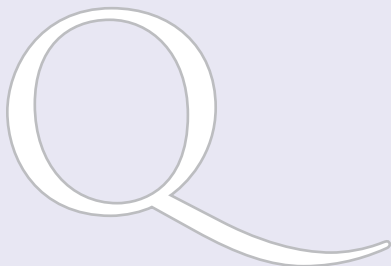
the union where I served in various ways including serving on the public relations, grievance, and election committees

As I planned retirement, I knew it would include taking a class or two and Quest seemed to fit the bill and it has.

I began my Quest career slowly by being a strong participant in classes and finally taking the big step to a full presentation. I also began volunteering for committees like the Curriculum Committee, the Emergency Response Team and the Election Committee and eventually became a lead and co-coordinator for various courses. I joined the Actors Workshop and lived my dream of being on stage. I also joined the Poets Workshop and began writing poetry and contributing my poems to the *QReview* eventually becoming poetry editor and the co-coordinator of Creativity Day each year.

Through my many years at Quest I have been able to observe how it works as an organization. Through my involvement in committees, courses and Quest's outside activities, I have had the opportunity to hear the thoughts and opinions of many members.

I was elected to the Council in 2021 and I believe my experiences helped me to be a contributing member, especially in these extraordinary times. I recently joined the Membership Committee and explaining Quest to prospective members has renewed my awe of the organization. I tell new members that Quest offers intellectual stimulation as well as social interaction. My goal as a council member is to see that Quest continues to grow but also that it maintains its unique qualities.



Paul Golomb

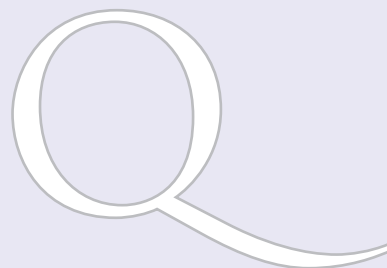
It is an honor to be invited for consideration to be on the Quest Council. Since joining Quest in the Fall 2018, shortly after returning to the City from the Hudson Valley, I have had the opportunity to develop and present four different courses: on Hebrew and Christian Scripture, the Talmud and the

Neighborhoods of New York. I have also served on Curriculum, Membership, Diversity and Caring Community Committees, and was on last year's Nominating Committee. Quest is now an important part of my life.

I am familiar with a number of learning initiatives, but nothing quite like Quest. It is a true peer learning center where members take on all the responsibilities of teaching and/or leading the courses. It is a remarkably open structure in which one need not and does not obligate oneself to a single course over a semester. It is also remarkably dynamic, with changes and decisions constantly being made, thus defying the imposition of any oversight structure.

So, what does a leadership role in Quest entail? I think I have a sense of it after a forty-year career as a rabbi. In that role, it was my task to bring expertise, not simply in areas of religious sources and practices (the easy part), but in responsiveness, active listening, and in finding the spiritual place where we could all be growing together. The trick was always to be open to disagreement but never have it descend into acrimony. I personally derive much satisfaction from my scholarship, but particularly cherish my success in maintaining *menshlichkeit*.

Ask me about my college days, and I will tell you that I learned a great deal, and some of it was even in the classroom. I find the same to be true at Quest. The give-and-take in the courses is a pleasure, and yet more of Quest takes place in the halls and lunchrooms, where we have the opportunity to become a community.



Candidates for Council



Joyce Hinote

I grew up in a small town in Michigan and attended the University of Michigan, graduating with a BA in Political Science. After college I moved to New York City and knew within three days this is where I wanted to live.

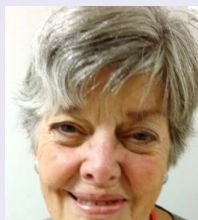
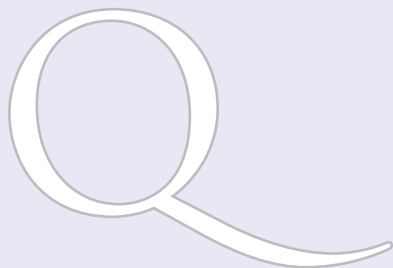
I immediately got a job as a programmer and during the next 40 years I programmed, performed systems analysis and designed applications for many major corporations.

I formed my own consulting company in the mid 1980s to provide technology services to clients. I was very good at both communicating with the business experts and translating business requirements into technology designs. This required making compromises due to budgetary, business requirements and technology limitations.

As a member of Quest for the past ten years I have co-coordinated a course on the Second Wave of the Women's movement; proposed, setup and maintain our Quest Community Group; have given several presentations; was a member of the membership committee; am a member of the summer Encores committee and lead coordinator of Oral Interpretation of poetry.

When we returned to Quest in the fall of 2021 I was concerned about whether Quest would be able to return to the wonderful pre-pandemic Quest that I loved. It has taken a tremendous amount of effort on the part of our technology committee in particular but also the participation of so many Quest members to get where we are today. Membership is up, class participation is up and the sense of community has returned. I am happy.

Quest is going through changes exacerbated by the Covid lockdown. There are issues causing conflict that need to be addressed in productive ways. Most problems / issues are solvable but involve compromise to get to an acceptable solution. One of the issues I would like to address is how to integrate "at home" members into our classes in a way that sustains or even increases community feeling. I also want to encourage co-operation and compromise amongst all our members.



Nan McNamara

Although I treasure my Chicago childhood, I am a New Yorker at heart and to the core.

The most important part of my 55 years here, of course, is that this is where we raised our children — in spite of the fact, that, and I know I've told a number of you this story — that my sweet midwestern

father-in-law said, when my husband called to tell him we were moving to Greenwich Village where he would be teaching at NYU, "...is New York City any place to raise children?"

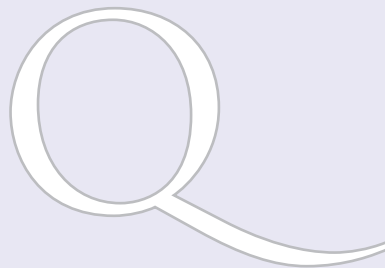
It is, of course, and we did. During those early years I volunteered at my children's coop nursery school — which the children of two other Quest members attended. I also continued graduate work.

Before we knew it the kids were in school full time, and I was an administrator, first at NYU's Dental School, and then for two dozen years plus years until I retired, the dean of admissions at NYU School of Law. One aspect of that experience particularly relevant to Quest, is that I served on several committees and on the Board of Directors of the Law School Admissions Council.

As the years passed and the kids, as they will, grew up and went to college, I became involved in other volunteer work, both as a volunteer and on several non profit organizations; boards or councils of non profit organizations.

It was incredibly fortuitous that I found and joined Quest in 2015. I served on its Long Range Planning Committee my first year. I then co-chaired the Nominating and Elections Committee, which I chaired the following year. I served on and then chaired the Membership Committee, and two years ago was honored to be nominated for the Council.

It has been an "interesting" two Covid years. I have been so impressed, even when we don't agree on particular issues, by the Council's commitment to maintaining, supporting, building on that which we value the most. We will face challenges, but whatever they are I will be guided by building on those values — our wonderful community, and the amazing opportunity to learn from each other.



Candidates for Council



Estelle Selzer

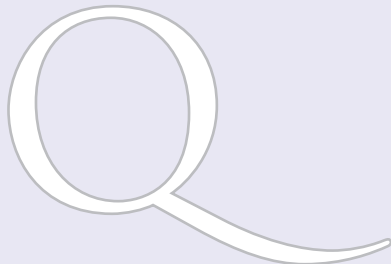
I am a born and bred New Yorker who grew up in the Bronx. I graduated from Lehman College (CUNY) with a BA in Education/English, but there were no teaching jobs to be found. So I went into the publishing field working for a small publisher. There I learned everything

about magazine production (remember the days of hot type?). I retired in May 2016 from Remedy Health Media where I was Production Director.

I first learned about Quest from Pam Mahl, a former Quester. I spent a day in the summer of 2016 attending class and decided this was the place for me, both educationally and socially. I have been actively involved on the Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee and CultureQuest. A considerable amount of work goes into making these events happen. Some of the speakers I have found for us are Jamie Bernstein, Ivan Schwartz, Nina Krushcheva, Joshua Greene, Georgina Pazcoguin, Peter Gelb, and most recently Andrew Meier.

When I interviewed Peter Gelb, General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera on Zoom during COVID, I asked him if we could take him up on his offer to host us for a dress rehearsal at the Metropolitan Opera House. Peter helped arrange for us to see La Boheme in November 2021, and most recently Norma in February 2023. All these tickets were complimentary and Questers loved both operas. These were just two of the CultureQuest events I made happen. I have arranged tours at the New York Historical Society, the Eldridge Street Museum and an online tour of Winterthur in Delaware.

I love the arts and in my “spare” time I attend as many ballet, theater, and music events as possible. It would be an honor to serve as a council member.



Ilene Winkler

I grew up in Providence (Mom was from Brooklyn) and attended Bryn Mawr College, majoring in history, and becoming active in the peace and civil rights movements, a commitment that has guided my life since then. After graduation I moved to New York.

I was one of the first women hired into the

skilled “men’s” jobs after AT&T was forced to open these jobs to women and minorities in the early ‘70s. I worked for New York Telephone for 28 years on computerized telecommunications equipment and was a union shop steward and member of the union’s women’s committee. After 9/11 I worked in downtown Manhattan on the restoration of phone service, which classifies me as a first responder, and retired at the end of that year. Now I am the secretary of my union local’s retiree chapter.

After retirement I enrolled in an interdisciplinary MA program at New York University, focusing on social history. I also volunteered for SHARE, a women’s cancer support organization, since I had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000. In 2003 I began working at SHARE, eventually becoming the Breast Cancer Program Director. I supervised the helpline and support groups and trained volunteers, so I have administrative experience. I retired from SHARE in 2012.

At Quest I was able to draw on my computer background to join the Technology Committee and run zoom classes during the pandemic. I have given presentations in several courses, became a coordinator of Reading Black Lives and then the Lead Coordinator and a presenter for Black Women’s Voices. Preparing for and presenting all these talks has been a joy, in a way I hadn’t expected at this age, and I’m grateful to Quest for the opportunity. I also belong to the Hearing Committee and I want to ensure that all Quest members, at 25 Broadway and at home, are able to participate fully and that we continue to pursue diversity and inclusion in our membership and our curriculum.

