

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 39

May 2023

## A Note From the President

In this last issue of our spring semester QNEWS I'd like to thank you for your overwhelming support both during my time as president and during my illness and recovery. Your kindness and good will confirmed many times over my decision to join Quest.

I'm proud of our organization for coming back strong from our Covid era sequestration and for rebuilding our sense of community, with new members joining in to help implement our ever expanding slate of courses.

All my best wishes for an enjoyable and fruitful summer that will prepare us all for the exciting work of the fall.

Best wishes,  
**Ruth Ward**

## Encores Schedule

by Arlynn Greenbaum

### Back By Popular Demand

The Encore 2023 committee — **Art Spar** (chair), **Andrea Irvine**, **Joyce Hinote** and **Arlynn Greenbaum** — are pleased to announce the schedule of the “best of Quest” for this summer. Thanks to all who voted for their favorite presentations. There is a wide range of classes from Plato to John Cleese to Ella

Fitzgerald. Some talks will be revised and updated so even if you saw them once, feel free to enjoy them again.

After Paul Golomb's presentation on NYC Neighborhoods on June 6, there will be a festive Open House. Members are encouraged to invite prospective members to get a taste of Quest this summer. Tuition is free and all are welcomed.

**June 6** **Paul Golomb**, *The New York City Grid*,  
New York City Neighborhoods

**June 8** **Mark Cardillo**, *Can Lifespans be Extended?* Aging

**June 13** **Ellie Schaffer**, *Ella Fitzgerald*,  
Black Womens's Voices

**June 15** **Sandy Kessler**, *Is Truth Knowable?*  
Revisiting Plato's Allegory of the Cave

**June 20** **Marian Friedmann**, *Winston Churchill &*  
*Dinner Diplomacy*, Foreign Affairs

**June 22** **Lynnel Garabedian**, *Dorothea Lange*,  
Artists and Their Work

**June 27** **Maureen Berman**, *Ralph Lauren*,  
Movers and Shakers

**June 29** **Jennifer Jolly**, *John Cleese*, Comedy Central

**July 4** **No Class**

**July 6** **Peter Dichter**, *Banned Classical Music*,  
Classical Music

**July 11** **Ellen Shapiro**, *Winslow Homer*, Artists and Their Work

**July 13** **Toni Dickenson**, *Frederick Olmstead*,  
Quester's Choice

**July 18** **Wayne Cotter & Steve Koenig**, *The Third Annual*  
*Salute to Songwriters*, Rock and Roots Albums

**July 20** **Roy Clary**, *Shakespeare's Bad Boys*, Great Plays

**July 25** **Richard Byrd**, *Jackson State*, Sixties

**July 27** **Andrew Epstein**, *Air Traffic Control*,  
Science and Scientists

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Adult Continuing Education: Maybe Yes, Maybe No

by Steve Rubin

Could the following conversations possibly have been overheard at the registration table for an adult continuing education program?

**Woman:** Can you tell me what I need to do to join the the geometry class?

**Registrar:** Yes, you have to form a line outside of Room 420.

**Man :** I'm here for the seminar on how to avoid swindles.

**Registrar:** Fine. That will be \$10.

**Man:** Here's my \$10. When do I get my first lesson?

**Registrar:** You just had it!

**Woman:** Excuse me. I'm here for the Alzheimer's group

**Registrar:** But the Alzheimer's group met yesterday.

**Woman:** Sorry I missed it.

**Registrar:** Don't be. You were here.

**Man:** I'm here for the seminar on identity theft.

**Registrar:** Fine, what's your name?

**Man:** Like I'm really gonna tell you.

**Woman:** What time does the lecture on Roman Classics begin?

**Registrar:** When the little hand is on the X and the big hand is on the V.

## Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The final Spring semester meeting of the Quest Book Club will take place on Wednesday, May 17, from 12:10–12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway. We'll be discussing *Klara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Set in an unspecified future, the novel is told from the point of view of an android, Klara, a solar-powered "AF" (Artificial Friend), who is chosen by Josie, a sickly child, to be her companion. Equally innocent and astute, Klara observes the world and the people around her. Her story — an intriguing take on how artificial intelligence might play a role in our future — is ultimately a poignant exploration of love, loyalty and loneliness. **Tamara Weinberg** will be presenting.

## Free Summer Trial

by Donna Ramer

Quest Lifelong Learning is offering a free Summer Trial Membership. We hope you will encourage your family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to take a taste of the peer learning and social activities Quest offers to whet their appetite to join us as a full member in the Fall.

The program started in mid-April and will run through the end of the Summer semester (Thursday, July 27, 2023). Trial Members will receive a temporary ID along with the Summer schedule.

Summer Trial Membership Enrollment is Easy: Let **Donna Ramer** know the name of the person and the first date they will attend. A member of the Membership Committee will be there to meet them, sign them up (they will have to complete a short enrollment form), and create their temporary ID.

As always, contact Donna (donnaramer1@gmail.com) if you have questions. And just a reminder: Every current Quest member is already set for the Summer; nothing for you to do but join us for what will, again, be a very engaging Summer program.

## City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo



### Happy Exit... NYC Transit April 2023

I have it on good authority... a tale told a child... of a child on his fifth birthday being celebrated with a clutch of cloud filled balloons... ever so many, ever so light. And such was his uncontainable joy that he ran out to show his friends... not knowing that the wind had other plans for him... little as he was and slight as Queen Anne's lace... he was borne skyward... treetopward... to come to rest on a high owl branch. And there he stayed for a child's hour or two... bewitched by this unexpected birthday treat... all seeing... all happy... Until returned feather drifting to earth.

## Weirdos and Role Models

by Wayne Cotter, Acting Quest President

In a recent op-ed piece entitled “Requiem for the Newsroom,” longtime *New York Times* contributor Maureen Dowd lamented the demise of the newsroom in the 21st Century. Even as Covid wanes, most reporters are apparently still cranking out stories from the sanctuary of their homes, often wearing nothing more than pajamas, slippers, and a threadbare bathrobe.

One Dowd colleague said “Newsrooms were a crackling gaggle of gossip, jokes, anxiety and oddball hilarious characters. Now we sit at home alone staring at our computers. What a drag.” What’s more, Zoom sessions have now supplanted in-person meetings at The Times and other major newspapers.

Another Dowd co-worker groused about that situation saying: “At the end of a Zoom call, nobody says, ‘Hey, do you want to get a drink?’ There’s just a click at the end of the meetings. Nothing dribbles out afterward, and you can really learn things from the little meetings after the meetings.”

Dowd’s piece prompted me to reflect on how fortunate I am to still learn and socialize face-to-face on a regular basis at Quest. Hybrid classes (which are here to stay at Quest) have been a godsend, especially for those members unable to travel. And Zoom meetings certainly offer a highly efficient way to accomplish tasks. But nothing, in my view, surpasses personal interaction.

Just last week, in the course of a casual conversation at Quest, I began discussing humor with another member and before long we were generating ideas that will fill at least one — if not two — open slots for my Comedy Central course this fall.

Had we not spoken in person, I would never have called or emailed this member nor would she have reached out to me. And later that day I was able to head out for a drink or two with a few Quest colleagues at a nearby watering hole. *Eat your heart out Maureen Dowd.*

It’s ironic that Dowd and others who remain in the workforce currently feel so isolated, while many of us retirees at Quest enjoy interacting with dozens of our colleagues three or four days a week.

Case in point — one of my sons continues to work five days a week out of his basement, seeing co-workers in person perhaps once or twice a month, while I am spending my retirement years commuting to 25 Broadway on a regular basis. Who says retirement leads to dreaded isolation?

This is all a roundabout way of conveying how grateful I am for discovering Quest and for the opportunities our organization has provided me over the years. As I enter my final month as Quest’s Acting President, I marvel at what Quest has accomplished... and what it continues to accomplish.

Dowd concludes her piece by quoting her friend Jane Mayer of *The New Yorker*: “There were weirdos in newsrooms, and fabulous role models occasionally, and the spirit of being part of a motley entourage. Now it’s just you and the little cursor on your screen.”

I shall conclude my piece by saying that I look forward to mixing it up with Quest’s motley crew of weirdos and role models for many, many years to come. *Long Live Quest.*

## Creative Corner

*(In Meditation, the suggestion is to focus on a specific topic as you close your eyes and breathe. One suggestion was “People That I Envy.”)*

### THE PEOPLE THAT I ENVY

by Betty Farber

The wives whose husbands are alive,  
The folks who suffered and survived.  
Hikers, skiers, climbers, walkers,  
And all New Yorkers.

Poets who make their readers cry  
Folks who easily say, “goodbye.”  
People who feel that life is fun.  
Anyone younger than 91.

## Comedy Central

by Wayne Cotter

Kevin “Dot Com” Brown was a recent guest speaker at Quest’s Comedy Central class. Kevin was featured on the “30 Rock” NBC television series during its entire seven-year run. Kevin is also currently enrolled in a Masters program at CCNY and serves as the Executive Chair of CCNY’s Graduate Student Council.



**“Sometimes You Will  
Never Know the Value  
Of a Moment Until  
It Becomes a Memory.”**

— Dr. Seuss

**Stop Worrying About  
Who is Right, and Focus On  
What is Right**



## Jackie Robinson Museum Tour

by Hedy Schulman

The CultureQuest group visited the Jackie Robinson Museum in SoHo. It was established in 2022 with a mission to “educate, inspire and challenge the general public around the values and aspirations embodied in its namesake.” The museum is about a lot more than baseball.

Jackie Robinson made history throughout his life... Dr. Martin Luther King said, “He was a legend and a symbol in his own time and challenged the dark skies of intolerance.”

While at UCLA, he won varsity letters in Baseball, Basketball, Football and Track. On April 15, 1947, Jackie became the first African American to play Major League Baseball in the modern era. This debut ended nearly 60 years of segregation in professional baseball.

During his professional career he received the Inaugural Rookie of the Year Award in 1947 and became the first Black ballplayer to be crowned the 1949 Most Valuable Player. No. 42 — Robinson’s number with the Brooklyn Dodgers — is permanently retired throughout Major League Baseball. In addition to being a renowned baseball player, he was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army and served as the first Black vice president of a major American corporation (Chock Full O’Nuts). After his death in 1972, he was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Bob Reiss**, a baseball devotee, noted that, “Although Jackie is universally remembered for his baseball prowess, the museum gives due attention to his prodigious contributions during the civil rights struggle. This lesser known aspect of his career should be made known to us all.” Jackie’s attributes are excellently displayed in the Museum through a state-of-the-art scale model of Ebbets Field and interactive media kiosks where visitors discover historic moments in baseball in Robinson’s time through video, image projections, and immersive audio.



## CultureQuest: American Museum of Natural History

by Renee Woloshin

Friday, April 21st was a beautiful spring day when a group of Questers visited the American Museum of Natural History.

First, we saw an IMAX movie about the large annual migration of animals across the Serengeti plains. Viewing the film on the giant IMAX screen, it felt as though we were on an African safari. At one point we came face-to-face with an imposing elephant and it seemed as if he could charge at us at any moment.

Next our two guides, Quest members **Marion Schultheis** and **Andrew Epstein** who are docents at the Museum, gave us a fascinating tour called “Tiny Treasures.” We saw and learned about small precious objects from all over the world which are in the Museum’s collection. For example, we saw the netsuke collection in the Hall of Japan, snuff bottles in the Hall of China, ivory carvings from Siberia, and gold artifacts from Central America.

After the tour some of the group enjoyed lunch at Gazala’s, an interesting Druze restaurant. We are grateful to Marion and Andrew who made our visit to the museum a wonderful experience.





## Adventures in Dining

by Frank Montaturo

I have a long personal attachment to our most recent Adventures in Dining setting. I am a member of Casa Galicia... a private Spanish social club... formerly located at Webster Hall in the East Village. It is now in Astoria... a neighborhood I am quite familiar with and one which our Adventurers are getting to know! I have been many times

for the monthly food fest the Casa offers for Seniors, and I very much wanted to share something of that experience with interested Quest members. Working with the organization's secretary we put together a lunch that included Galician and Spanish favorites. It was really too early an hour for a typical Spanish lunch (1:15)... and a weekday at that. We had

the place to ourselves... but created enough of a buzz nonetheless. Our single server, Omar, was beyond amazing. Happily, for this occasion we were able to include several bottles of wine within our budget but more was called for so... thanks to Sheryl and Andrea and Jill and anyone else I may have forgotten who participated in the cost.



Front Row: **Frank M, Sheryl H, Marilyn F, Marian F, Jill W**  
Back Row: **Arlene H, Faith A, Jennifer J, Andrea I, Terry H, Ellen S, George H**

Caldo Gallego: typical Galician soup of greens, chorizo, beans

Pulpo a la Gallega: octopus Galician style with oil and paprika



Gambas al Ajillo: shrimp sautéed with garlic and parsley



Tortilla de Patatas: spanish potato and egg omelette



Boquerones: fresh marinated anchovies



Paella: the "national" dish



Plato Campero: manchego cheese with two types of salchichón and jamón serrano (Spanish prosciutto)



Flan

## Who's Doing What

**Judith Weis** works ardently to improve and restore our coastal environments. Her latest successful project is making the news: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/21/nyregion/earth-day-new-york-estuary.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

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**Ellen Rittberg** traveled to Los Angeles to assist in her fifth grandchild's bris, held at the historic Wilshire Boulevard Temple, which was partly funded by the 20th century major movie studio moguls.



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**Ellen and Bob Gottfried** took a two week trip to Malta and Turkey from April 23 to May 5. Both countries are filled with beautiful sites, natural wonders, and rich history.

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**Linda Downs, Judy Weis, and Pete Weis** will be singing in a "crowd action" titled Search for Spring, with about 600 other adults and children, to address the environment on Saturday, May 13 at 3:00 pm at the Lincoln Center Plaza (rain date: May 14). They invite you to join them! <https://www.lincolncenter.org/series/lincoln-center-presents/search-for-spring-20>

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For **Pete and Judy Weis**, this spring was full of Gilbert & Sullivan. They went to productions of (rarely done) Utopia Ltd. and Pirates of Penzance, and Judy was onstage for "concert versions" of Iolanthe and Yeomen of the Guard. Judy sang Vaughan Williams' "A Sea

Symphony" at Carnegie Hall with the Choral Society of Grace Church, with some Questers in attendance. Pete and Judy will be singing some lesser-known works of Mozart and Michael Haydn with the Central City Chorus on May 21.

They also saw "Some Like it Hot" on Broadway, "L'Elisir d'Amore" and "Champion" at the Met, and Michael Tilson Thomas and Sir Andras Schiff conducting at the Philharmonic, and went to the new Gilder Wing of AMNH and were very impressed.

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To celebrate the approaching Spring, **Mary Beth Yakoubian** and husband, Dan Cox, spent a carefree couple of weeks in London and Paris. They wisely chose a hotel on London's Strand, right in the theater district, so were able to walk to a number of shows both sacred (Vivaldi's Four Seasons) and

profane (Bat Out of Hell: The Musical). Then the mandatory stop at Westminster Abbey to pay homage to Mr. Handel's monument, and a few days later at the Palais Garnier to wave to his statue there.

Mary Beth and Dan learned that Jardin du Luxembourg isn't the only garden in Paris. They happened across Square Boucicaut on their way to shopping at Bon Marché and took several photos of the unusual foliage and brilliantly colored flowers there.



## CultureQuest Tour by Bob Reiss



**C**elebrating Cinco de Mayo in a cemetery might sound discordant but that's what 38 intrepid Questers did on May 5. We took the "trolley" tour at Green-Wood Cemetery and marveled at the sheer beauty of the grounds, the significant chunk of American history that took place there, and the many famous personages interred. We saw magnificent mausoleums, wonderful statuary and just some peaceful resting places. Afterwards we enjoyed a great lunch at a Mexican restaurant in keeping with the holiday. And so, CultureQuest closed out a fine year with another spectacular event!



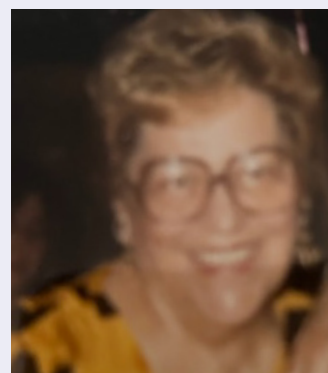
## Celebrating Our Mothers



Geneviève Adler  
mother of **Paul Adler**



Margaret Bynes Criswell  
mother of **Mary Ann Donnelly**



Frances Katz Graman  
mother of **Marilyn Graman**



Blanche Friedman  
mother of **Ruth Kovner**



Sunny Abramson  
mother of **Leslie Goldman**



Esther Sandra Fixman Kammerman  
mother of **Yona Rogozin**



Sylvia Coleman  
mother of **Bernice Schwartz**



Bertha Rosenberg Wilson  
mother of **Sheilah Serfaty**



Eleanor Fitch  
mother of **Joyce West**

We ♥ Barcelona

Here's a photo from Barcelona of **Penelope Pi-Sunyer**, her cousin Carmen who lives there, and **Ilene Winkler** in April. Penelope and her husband were visiting his family, and Ilene and her partner were in the city for a few days after a terrific Road Scholar tour of Southern Spain. They spent a few hours touring the old city and enjoying an outdoor lunch.



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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.

## Chocolate Crawl

by Hedy Schulman



On April 3, **Tamara Weinberg**, a new member, choreographed a Chocolate Crawl of the chocolate meccas in Soho as a follow-up to her Chocolate presentation in *Food: Beyond Just Calories*.

The tour began at Mah Ze Dahr on Greenwich Avenue, where we were given a few samples of their pastries and chocolates.

Next stop was Venchi Chocolate on Bleecker Street, where they offered beautifully packaged chocolates and an array of chocolates sold by the pound, but the big draw was a wide variety of scrumptious gelati.

Li-lac Chocolates, also on Bleecker Street, is the oldest Chocolate House that has preserved the heritage and traditions of old-school, hand-crafted chocolate for almost 100 years. They offer a Chocolate of the Month Club that ships fresh gourmet chocolates directly to one's home.

MarieBelle, on Broome Street, was the last and most breathtaking stop. Maribel Lieberman opened MarieBelle Soho in 2001, which also has a Cacao Bar offering coffee, chocolate and signature cakes. All the chocolates are handmade by chocolate artisans from the highest quality cacao resulting in a rich complex of flavors not commonly found in chocolate. The decor is Old World elegance with chandeliers and, best of all, they showered us with samples — no one resisted!

We ended our dream day at Kenn's Broome Street Bar where we had lunch and some imbibed drinks other than water! A very special thanks to Tamara for creating this amazing event.

**"Try to Be a Rainbow  
In Someone's Cloud."**

— Maya Angelou

**"Life Begins at The End  
Of Your Comfort Zone."**

— Neale Donald Walsch