

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 40

June 2023

## Encores Schedule

by Arlynn Greenbaum

### Back By Popular Demand

**T**he 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*, The Sixties

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

## Renew Membership

**T**he new deadline for renewing your Quest membership is **Friday, August 18, 2023** so the committee will have time to process checks and update the contact list before our first class in September.

Renewing your membership is easy: either drop off your \$550 check while you’re at Quest for a Summer Encore class, or mail it

to Quest Lifelong Learning, 25 Broadway, 7th Floor, NY NY 10007. Checks should be made payable to Quest Lifelong Learning and you will receive a confirmation. And, yes, committee members will be picking up checks during August.

Questions: Contact Membership Committee chair **Donna Ramer**.

## A Note From the President

**T**he Summer is off to a great start with our free trial membership (22 Summer members as of May 30) and June 6th Open House. The event was a collaborative effort, so our thanks to **Beth Callender, Lois Cardillo, Arlynn Greenbaum, Martha Drezin, and Mary Ann Donnelly** who spearheaded this event. More than 30 prospective members RSVP'd and another 25 requested information about Quest, thanks to the ad created by Beth. Keep your eyes open for the next issue of QNews, which will feature a photo essay of the day. Of course, we couldn't have a summer

program if it weren't for the hard work of the Encores Committee. Thank you, **Art Spar** (Encores chair), **Arlynn Greebaum, Andrea Irving, Joyce Hinote**, and our presenters for a great lineup of classes. And one last note: check out our summer NWAQ issues for some Summer Q'XTRA activities thanks to **Susan Keohane, Harriet Dubroff, and Arlene Curinga**.

On a personal note, June 1st was my first official day as president of Quest and I truly am honored to follow in the footsteps of the many members who have guided the organization over almost three decades. My

thanks to Ruth Ward and Wayne Cotter for their guidance and support as we move into our 2023-2024 year.

Also, a warm welcome to new Council members **Ilene Winkler** and **Paul Golomb**, who join **Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward** (*ex-officio*), **Peter Fleishman, Karen Levin, Larry Shapiro, and Judy Winn**, as well as **Mary Ann Donnelly** and **Nan McNamara**, who were elected to their second terms.

It really does take a village, and our village is Quest.

Best wishes,  
**Donna Ramer**

### Carolyn McGuire *by Andrea Irvine*

**I** recently visited Carolyn McGuire and she asked me to send warmest greetings to all her friends at Quest and to let you know that she is happily settled in at The Esplanade on Staten Island. For anyone wishing to visit, there is an express bus #SIM4C from Rector Street, a block from Quest; three stops later, you're dropped off almost in front of her building. Carolyn was pleased to receive *QNews* every month, as well as the *QReview 2023*, which I brought for her.



### New Members

**Q**uest welcomes new members **Lee Nelson** and **Steve Nelson**. Look for red lanyards, indicating a new member, at 25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest



**It's a Shame Nothing is Built in  
The United States Anymore.  
I Just Bought a Television and It Said  
"Built in Antenna".  
I Don't Even Know Where That Is.**

## Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The Quest Book Club looks forward to continuing in the Fall. We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month\* from 12:10-12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway. Here are the dates and reading selections for Fall 2023:

- Sept 13** *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver; presented by **Hilda Feinstein**
- Oct 11** *So Long, See You Tomorrow* by William Maxwell; presented by **Nan McNamara**
- Nov 15** *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams; presented by **Arlynn Greenbaum**. \*Note - this is the third Wednesday in November.
- Dec 13** *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus; presented by **Joan Vreeland**

## The "Play-In"

by Andrea Irvine

On Sunday afternoon, May 21, a few of us gathered at St Paul & St Andrew Church on West 86th Street, to listen to an all six Bach Brandenburg Concertos "Play-In," organized by **Arlene Hajinlian** and Associated Chamber Music Players.

More than 70 musicians and conductor Ben Grow celebrated National Chamber Music Month and Worldwide Chamber Music Weekend — for the joy and love of playing — with no rehearsal. Over \$1180 was raised to support the Church's Monday program that helps newly arrived migrants.

Arlene played viola in most, except for Concerto #5, where she tickled the ivories for the solo keyboard part. It was a beautiful, musical afternoon enjoyed by all!



## Quest Election Results

by Bob Gottfried

As Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee I am writing to inform you of the results of the election.

**Donna Ramer** is our new President. The four newly elected Council members are **Mary Ann Donnelly**, **Nan McNamara**, **Paul Golomb**, and **Ilene Winkler**. 76 percent of our members voted.

I want to thank all the candidates for agreeing to run for office. I once again want to thank the members of the NEC for their excellent work: **Arlene Curinga**, **Andrea Irvine**, **Jennifer Jolly** and **Judy Winn**.

## Q News Staff

*A Quest Publication*

*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Barbara Gelber**

*Consulting Editors*  
**Michael Wellner**  
**Gale Spitalnik**

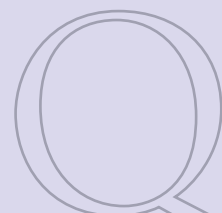
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Articles submitted to QNews may be edited by the Staff. The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter of the publication's contents.





## Hundreds of Years of Art in Six Days

by Steve Rubin

**Q**uester **Steve Rubin** reports that he and his lovely wife Anna thoroughly enjoyed their recent trip to Philadelphia for Road Scholar's "World of Art" adventure. The jam-packed itinerary included visits to the:

- Rodin Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of his sculptures outside of Paris;
- Barnes Foundation, a private collection with numerous artworks by Cezanne, Matisse, and Picasso;
- Philadelphia Museum of Art, with more than 227,000 works of art spanning many eras dating back to the first century;
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the first U.S. art school, which features the works of Peale, Stuart and Cassatt;
- Grounds for Sculpture (Hamilton, NJ), with its incredibly life-like sculptures, many based on famous paintings;
- Brandywine River Museum of Art, including the studio and gallery of Andrew Wyeth;
- Magic Gardens (part of a bus/walking tour celebrating Philadelphia's many wall art murals); and
- Reading Terminal Market, a super-duper dining and shopping extravaganza made up of some 75 booths.

If that weren't enough, the scholars were feted one night by a very convincing Ben Franklin interpreter in period costume and accouterments. On another day, a local history professor and author related stories of the William Penn family and of the state's founding. Lastly, several of the scholars took a side trip to The Franklin Institute, which currently is hosting an elaborate exhibition marking the Disney Company's 100th anniversary.

Steve and Anna summed up their trip as: this was our fourth Road Scholar adventure; as always, so much to see, so much to learn about, and so many new friendships made.



## Creative Corner

### Flowers in Paris

by Betty Farber

After the day when Paris  
Was doomed to bury the dead,  
Thousands of flowers perfumed the air  
To remember those who died  
In that beautiful city.  
A small boy and his father  
Stand near the memorial,  
The French boy asks,  
"Will the bad guys  
With the guns come back?"  
The father answers,  
"But see, we are safe  
We have flowers!"  
The child, "Will the flowers protect us?"  
The father, "Yes. The flowers and I  
Will keep you safe."  
*May that be the way of the world.*

THE NUMBER OF  
HOLES IN THIS  
SIGN IS THE  
NUMBER THAT CAN  
BE SHOT BY AN  
ASSAULT RIFLE  
IN THE TIME IT TAKES  
TO READ THIS

## Book Chats

by Sheryl Harawitz

**K**athy Cook led our recent Book Chats Meeting, where we had an engaging discussion about our favorite books. During the session, several members recommended some fantastic reads, and we thought it would be helpful to compile them for easy reference. Here are the books that were highly recommended by our Questers:

- *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* by Beverly Gage
- *Spain in Our Hearts* by Adam Hochschild
- *The Woman in the Purple Skirt* by Nasuko Imamura
- *Breasts and Eggs* by Mieko Kawakami
- *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe
- *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larson
- *Tokyo Ueno Station* by Yu Miri
- *Runaway* by Alice Munro
- *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata
- *The Magician* by Colm Toibin
- *There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job* by Kikuko Tsumura
- *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams
- *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara

## Congratulations

by Donna Ramer

**C**ongratulations to **Peter Dichter** for securing a front-page profile of Quest in the Tribeca Tribune:

<http://www.tribecatrib.com/content/it-fills-my-mind-fitness-brain-downtown-place-called-quest>

Reporter/publisher April Koral (and her husband/photographer) spent more than a day at Quest interviewing several members and attending a few classes.

Peter, thanks for all your time and effort; they really paid off!

## Quest Supports CWE Students With Scholarships

by Donna Ramer

**F**our Quest members were honored to participate in CCNY's CWE annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 24th.

Among the 21 scholarships awarded to 17 different students were two Quest Peter Cott and Ken Leedom Memorial Scholarships and three Quest Scholarships presented by Quest president **Donna Ramer**; and three sponsored by Quest members: the **Michael Wellner** ("Captain Mike") Scholarship; the **Robert Hartmann** Scholarship; and the Angeline T. (Terry) DeFiore and **Arlene Sandra Abramson** Scholarship, presented by Michael, Bob, and Sandra, respectively.

Other guest speakers included CCNY president Dr. Vincent Boudreau, CCNY Provost Dr. Tony Liss, and CWE Dean Dr. Juan Carlos Mercado, all of whom also applauded the recipients for their high academic and personal achievements, overcoming personal and financial hurdles to continue their education, and their goals to make an impact on the cultural and social vitality of NYC.

## City Wandering

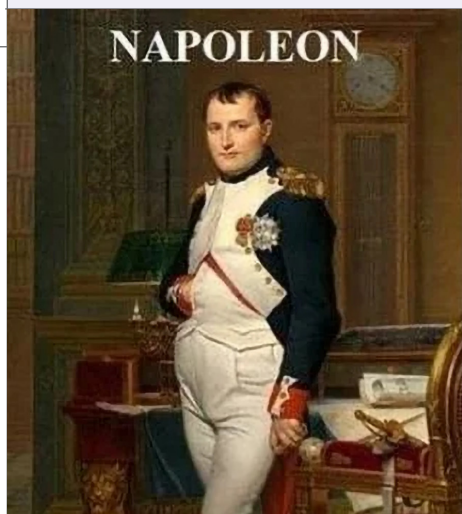
by Frank Montaturo

**Bare buck**  
**Times Square, NYC**  
**April 2023**

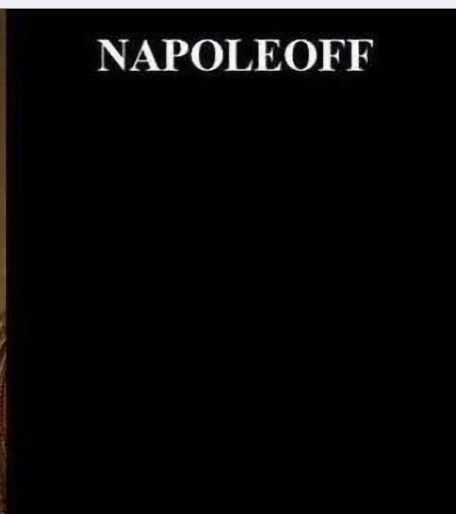
**H**is name is "Robert John Burck an American street performer, singer, songwriter, and occasional actor." I have rarely coincided with him but recently was fortunate enough to spot his singular uniform as he finished posing for a photo. He is fifty-two years old. He looks good, but I did not have a full frontal view. The arrow points to the underground lot where he corrals his horse. He strode with confidence. That afternoon was a chilly 57 degrees.



**NAPOLEON**



**NAPOLEOFF**





## Who's Doing What



**Rica Fujihita** shared with us a tall rose bush in her sunny Brooklyn Heights neighborhood, where everything seems to be flowering.

• • •

**Larry Shapiro's** plans for Summer travels: a high school reunion in Massachusetts, a wedding in Vermont, and in the category of things that used to be easier, a hiking trip in the Colorado Rockies.

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One of **Ellen Rittberg's** children took her to Miami for a pre-

Mother's Day jaunt to catch the Knicks play the Miami Heat. There were few people wearing NYC Knicks paraphernalia. We lost.

• • •

**Steve Koenig's** poem "Feet" will appear in CCNY's Poetry In Performance #51.

• • •



**Pete and Judy Weis** Have been very busy. Grand-daughter

Jessie graduated Barnard. Here she is surrounded by loving grandparents.

Pete and Judy have been to an opera (La Boheme — first time back for Amore Opera), show (Oliver at City Center), Philharmonic concert — Dudamel conducting Mahler's 9th (which they had to leave early to sing their own Mozart/Michael Hayden concert), sang with about 600 others, a concert outdoors in Lincoln Center, and a Justin Peck Ballet at Lincoln Center.

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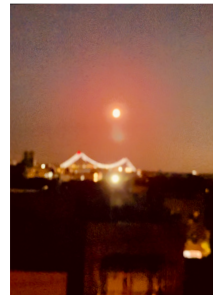
A few Questers kicked off the month of June with a Mets game at CitiField. The Mets, with a 4-2 victory, completed a three-game sweep



of their long-time rivals, the Philadelphia Phillies. Pictured

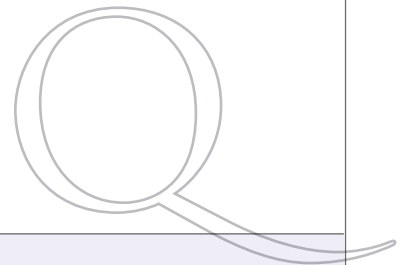
are (from left: **Bob Reiss, John Davis, Mary Ann Donnelly, Wayne Cotter, and Roy Clary**).

• • •



**Liesje ten**

**Houten** caught the spectacular Strawberry Moon from her rooftop at 4:00 AM. The full moon was perfect!



## Guest Lecturer Laura Pedersen

by Karen Levin

**L**aura Pedersen was our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on May 3. She is an author, playwright, humorist and storyteller and was the youngest person to have a seat on the American Stock Exchange at age 20. Her first book, *Play Money*, was written about that experience, and became a bestseller. At age 25, Laura was the youngest columnist for *The New York Times*. Her previous essay collection, *A Theory of Everything Else*, was a semifinalist for the Thurber Prize, the nation's highest recognition for humor writing.

Laura greeted Quest members with some wonderful stories about her days working on Wall Street as well as some local stories about growing up in Buffalo, New York and also the current writers' strike.



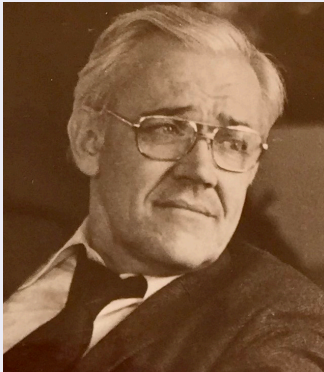
Her talk, "*What's Your Story?*" was inspired by cave drawings. She suggested that stories have been with us since humans first walked the Earth. A powerful story can do many things, such as help us make sense of our world or shed light on a dire situation. On the downside, a well-told story can overwhelm the facts at hand. She posed several situations that addressed how stories unite and divide us.

Laura delighted Quest members with her stories about writing for several well-known comedians such as Stephen Colbert, Jerry Seinfeld, and Joan Rivers.

At the end of her talk, members posed many interesting questions and comments.

The talk was recorded; if you couldn't attend, feel free to watch on our website.

## Celebrating Our Fathers



Edward Martin  
father of **Elaine Martin**



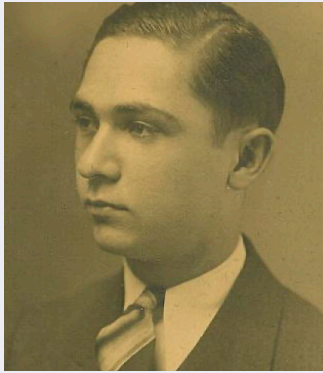
Maxwell Graman  
father of **Marilyn Graman**



Nathan Pober  
father of **Ellen Rittberg**



Leonard Fitch  
father of **Joyce West**



Benjamin Epstein  
father of **Andrew Epstein**



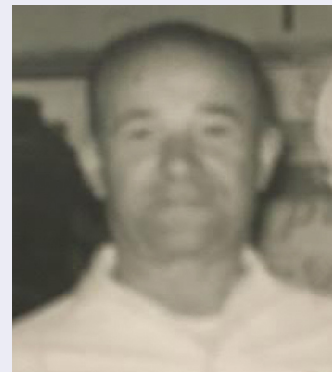
Martin Parlo  
Father of **Joan Vreeland**



Lou Kaplan  
Father of **Barbara Gelber**



Frederick De Casperis  
Father of **Patricia Geehr**



Samuel Green  
father of **Vivian Oliver**



## Year-end Luncheon

*by Michael Wellner*

As we all know, planning events that are weather dependent can be a bit tricky, but the weather gods were certainly smiling on us on Friday, May 19th, when over a hundred Quest members and a few very special invited guests gathered at Arte Cafe, on the West Side, for our semi-annual end-of-the-semester luncheon. We were so fortunate to dine on a semi-enclosed patio, under mild temperatures and sunny skies.

As you can see from the pictures below, everyone had a won-

derful time: the food was delicious, the service was good, and the wine flowed freely, from the minute we arrived until dessert was served. All in all it was a big success — so much so that we are contemplating a return to one of their indoor rooms in December! Stay tuned!

And, of course, a very special thanks goes to our special events committee: **Marian Friedmann, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, and Michael Wellner.** Well done!



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS



## Year-end Luncheon *continued*



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS