

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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## A Note From the President

**W**hile our Summer Encores committee and presenters as well as our Q'XTRA team have been busy educating and entertaining us, Council has been working behind the scenes to put in place a few new course guidelines and a new budget.

Highlights of the June Council meeting include unanimously approving:

- the budget for our Academic Year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024);
- committee chairs and Council-committee liaisons;
- new guidelines for at-home presentations; and

- suspending recording courses with the exception of the Guest Lecturer series.

Details of these and other initiatives are in the minutes Karen Levin, secretary, sent the week of June 26.

We've also put in place our first "Subscriber" program to keep people interested in Quest but not yet ready to join apprised of activities and courses. To opt in, visitors to the Quest website can click on "join our mailing list."

In other news, we see quite a few yellow lanyards around Quest, which are worn by our summer trial members, several of whom are ready to swap the yellow for red

and become full members.

And don't forget to renew your membership: send a \$550 check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning to Quest, 25 Broadway, 7th floor, NY NY 10004. Members of the Membership Committee are picking up and depositing the checks and will send you a confirmation. Reminder: Deadline to renew is August 15, 2023.

Whether you're at Quest, joining us via Zoom, or off to some exotic place, enjoy the summer.

Best wishes,  
**Donna Ramer**

## Encores Schedule

by Arlynn Greenbaum

<b>July 4</b>	<b>No Class</b>
<b>July 6</b>	<b>Peter Dichter</b> , <i>Banned Classical Music</i> , Classical Music
<b>July 11</b>	<b>Ellen Shapiro</b> , <i>Winslow Homer</i> , Artists and Their Work
<b>July 13</b>	<b>Toni Dickenson</b> , <i>Frederick Olmstead</i> , Quester's Choice
<b>July 18</b>	<b>Wayne Cotter &amp; Steve Koenig</b> , <i>The Third Annual Salute to Songwriters</i> , Rock and Roots Albums
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Roy Clary</b> , <i>Shakespeare's Bad Boys</i> , Great Plays
<b>July 25</b>	<b>Richard Byrd</b> , <i>Jackson State</i> , The Sixties
<b>July 27</b>	<b>Andrew Epstein</b> , <i>Air Traffic Control</i> , Science and Scientists

## Opening Day of Encores

by Sandy Gordon

**I**f the standard for perfection is a 10, those involved with planning and effectuating the opening of the Summer Session and the welcoming of prospective members achieved 100!



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Word Riddles and Trivia to Test if You're a True Logophile

by Dictionary.com

If you're anything like us, you love words with peculiar properties and quizzical quirks. We mean the kind of words that make for great brain teasers that you can pull out at parties, at the dinner table, or wherever else you want to impress and perplex the other word lovers in your life.

We've compiled some of our favorite word riddles and trivia questions to test your lexical knowledge.

### Word Riddles

These word-based questions are all about double or hidden meanings.

1. What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
2. What gets wetter as it dries?
3. What can you break by doing nothing at all?
4. What disappears the moment you say its name?
5. What can be cracked, made, told, and played?
6. What gets bigger the more you remove from it?
7. What belongs to you but is used more by other people?

### Word Trivia

These questions are all about words with special qualities that make them unique from others.

8. What word retains the same pronunciation even after you take away four of its five letters?
9. Which two English words are spelled with all of the vowels (including y) appearing only once and in alphabetical order?
10. What is the longest word in English with only one vowel (not including y)?
11. What is the longest word in English that doesn't use the vowels a, e, i, o, or u?
12. What word meaning "having five syllables" is an example of an autological word—meaning a word that describes itself?
13. What eight-letter word and nine-letter word both begin and end with h-e?
14. What solitary five-letter word keeps the same meaning when you remove its first letter, and then again when you remove the first letter of the remaining word?
15. What, when thrown out of a window, leaves a grieving wife, but when dropped in the middle of a door might just save a life?
16. What heavy seven-letter word can you remove one letter from to get the number 80, but remove two letters from to get the number 8?
17. What seven-letter word would you spell if you started with a two-letter word for a male person, added another letter to form a word for a female person, added another letter to form a word for a great person, and added three more letters to form a word for a great woman?

answers on page 5

## As Bestas

by Donna Ramer

### Award-winning film, "As Bestas," Screened at Quest

More than 30 members and guests took advantage of the free screening of "As Bestas" ("The Beasts") in the auditorium at Quest on Tuesday, June 20. The award-winning movie was part of The Americas Film Festival of New York, of which Quest is a sponsor.

The Spanish-French thriller, hailed among the 10 best-rated films by critics at Cannes 2022, was inspired by a 2010 true story of a middle-class hippy idealist Dutch couple who attempted to settle in the Spanish village of Santoalla in Galicia's remote "wild west" and fell out badly with their neighbors over their gentrification plans, a row that escalated into a nightmare.

In the movie version, the Dutch couple is French and they settle in the Galician countryside. Xenophobia, a key issue, escalated hostility between neighbors and fueled the conflict over a wind-farm project to the point of no return.

Before the movie started, CWE professor Anna Maria Hernandez, PhD, set the stage by explaining that this is a movie about relationships and love: between brothers, spouses, parents, and children, as well as humans, animals, nature, and money. Afterward, Dr. Hernandez led a discussion and was provocative in saying that there were no villains and no victims, despite a murder, adding that "there are many meanings and interpretations of this movie."

As of this writing, "As Bestas" is not streaming on U.S. services.

**At His Best, Man Is  
The Noblest of Animals;  
Separated From Law and Justice,  
He is the Worst.**



## Sole Mates: Brighton Beach

by Judy Hampson

**O**n Wednesday, June 7, twenty-two *Sole Mates* gathered for lunch at the *Tatiana Grill* in Brighton Beach. It was one of the days when winds blew Canadian wildfire fumes down to New York, but as we arrived the sky was clear, and the air freshened by the waves in the bay.

Tatiana is a Russian restaurant that serves a four-course lunch menu that includes fresh fish and red or green borscht soup. It was lovely to get together and gaze out over the boardwalk and beach as we enjoyed a variety of salads and stimulating conversation.

As we prepared to go our separate ways the sky began to turn orange and the now familiar scent of smoke began to tinge the air. Undaunted, some of us walked along the boardwalk to Coney Island, whilst others explored the numerous stalls and shops along the street behind the restaurant.

Many thanks to **Sheryl Harawitz** and **Andrea Irvine** for organizing this event and giving us another opportunity to explore a part of the City together. And stay tuned for a mid-July *Sole Mates* walk in Flushing, Queens.



## Creative Corner

### COMPUTER BLUES

by Betty Farber

After visiting twins who grow cuter  
and cuter,  
I come home to the messages on  
my computer.  
Looking for news, returning  
from travel,  
I'm panning for gold, and just  
finding gravel:  
Promotions, investments, increasing  
your wealth,  
Exercise programs for physical health,  
Opera, theater, concerts and dance  
I delete at random, with hardly  
a glance.  
Disappointed with emails,  
I continue deleting.  
What's this one? "Dear Grandma,"  
I then keep on reading.  
No increase of riches, but it can be told  
With this email message, I now have  
struck gold.

## New Members

**Q**uest welcomes new members this month. Look for their red lanyards, indicating a new

member, at 25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest.



Marilyn Ostrow



Anna Shuster



Zandra Cooper

## Condolences

**W**e extend our condolences to **Carolyn McGuire**, long-time member, Quest Travel Coordinator, and Editor Emerita of QNews, on the death of her beloved husband, Pete, who participated in many Quest Travels, including this one to Galway.



Carolyn and Pete at far right

## Who's Doing What

**Ellen Rittberg** couldn't resist sharing this photo of **Ze'eva Cohen**, **Laura Lopez**, and potential member (Ellen's friend) **Hong Maio** breaking into dance at today's Open House. Kudos to all the organizers and members who participated. What a rousing success!



• • •

**Ruth Kovner** celebrated her 94th birthday at Robert at Columbus Circle with **Anita Hunter**, **Phil Gisser**, **Joyce West**, and other non-Quest friends on May 28th, 2023. They were gifted a very expensive bottle of champagne when the maître d' found out how old they all were, especially **Phil** who is 98!



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**Michael** and **Marva Wellner** spent two weeks in early June touring Idaho, Washington (State) and Oregon, tracing, in part, the route taken by Lewis & Clark in the early 19th century as they attempted to find an inland water route to the Pacific. Many highlights, including three days in Coeur d'Alene (Idaho), with its beautiful 22-mile long Lake; seven days aboard the American Empress riverboat and three days in Portland, Oregon, with more homeless people than one can count who are living on the street in elaborate encampments. Quick summary: they learned a lot!



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**Howard Einbinder** has been taking some lovely photos: Manhattan Night Scene.

• • •

**Andrea Irvine** attended one of The Americas

Film Festival of New York events sponsored by CCNY and QUEST. The evening was generously hosted by the Argentinian Consulate on West 56th. Afterwards at a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres she talked with Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and his assistant Carlos Aguasaco.



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**Pete** and **Judy Weis** attended granddaughter Violet's Bat Mitzvah. Judy was part of the Sierra Club delegation to Capitol Hill Ocean Week (just after the family event), where they heard the latest about climate change and the ocean, and lobbied Senators and Representatives on marine related issues.



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**Lynnel Garabedian** was in California at the high school graduation of her grandson, Zachary.



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What could be better than spending 10 days touring Italy's greatest three cities — Rome, Florence, and Venice? In early June, **Ellie Schaffer** (on the left) took her first Road Scholar trip to Italy. The art, the architecture, the history — Road Scholar lecturers and guides provided fascinating insights into everywhere they went and everything they saw — and ate! Che bel paese!



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**Arlynn Greenbaum** went on a fascinating 6-day Road Scholar tour at the end of June, which included the Gullfoss Waterfall in Iceland.



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**Madeleine Brecher** (in hat) attended a lovely luncheon at Lafayette Café and Bakery for the women in her family who were celebrating major milestones this June. Her sister Judy turned 80 (first row, arms crossed), and Madeleine's two granddaughters graduated from high school and will be off to college in the Fall (Alexa, first row, left side and Eden, first row, right side). Another sister, two daughters, two nieces, and Madeleine sang their praises.



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**Yona Rogosin** and **Panny Mitchell** coordinators for the upcoming Fall course "The World of Theater," attended the play "The Doctor" at the Park Avenue Armory. Although it is not perfect, they highly recommend it if you like high drama. The NYTimes agrees.

## City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo

**Honk before crossing  
Jersey City  
May 2023**

**N**ot an every day occurrence. Cars slowed; people gawked... phones came out... snapshots... videos and the flock goose-stepping unconcerned to a welcoming expanse of green lawn... with its promise of insects earthworms and grass shoots. In their wake... enchantment and smiles.



## Word Riddles and Trivia

Answers  
from page 2

### Word Riddles

1. a coat of paint
2. a towel
3. a promise
4. silence
5. a joke
6. a hole
7. your name

### Word Trivia

8. queue (When you take away four of its letters, you're left with the letter q.)
9. facetiously and abstemiously
10. strengths
11. rhythms
12. pentasyllabic (Other examples of autological words are adjectival, unhyphenated, pronounceable, and seventeen-lettered).
13. headache and heartache
14. alone (Remove the a to get lone, then remove the l to get one!)
15. the letter n (Remove it from window, and you get widow. Add it to door and get donor.)
16. weighty
17. heroine (The first two letters are he, the first three letters are her, and the first four letters are hero.)

## Inspiration

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.  
— *Albert Schweitzer*

Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going.  
— *Sam Levinson*

The best way to predict the future is to create it.  
— *Peter Drucker*

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.  
— *Mark Twain*

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.  
— *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Opportunities don't happen. You create them.  
— *Chris Grosser*

Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.  
— *John D. Rockefeller*

Believe you can and you're halfway there.  
— *Theodore Roosevelt*

The harder I work, the luckier I get.  
— *Samuel Goldwyn*

The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.  
— *Vidal Sassoon*

Success is not the absence of failure; it's the persistence through failure.  
— *Aisha Tyler*

Success is not in what you have, but who you are.  
— *Bo Bennett*

The fortune you seek is in another cookie.

## Easy as 1 - 2 - 3

**P**lease renew your membership; it's easy as **1 - 2 - 3**.

1. Make your \$550 check payable to Quest Lifelong Learning.
2. Mail it to Quest, 25 Broadway, 7th floor, New York, NY 10004.
3. Get ready to enjoy a full year of Quest, expanding your life with wonderful peer presentations, fascinating discussion groups, workshops, distinguished guest speakers, CultureQuest excursions, dining adventures, déjeuner, almuerzo, pranzo, travel opportunities, and so much more.

**Renewal deadline is August 15, 2023.**

## Coffee Crew

**W**hat a great way to volunteer! The Coffee Crew needs you! Coffee Committee co-chair, **Pam Gemelli**, right, and **Andrea Irvine**, left, prepare coffee for the morning rush. To join, contact Pam Gemelli at: [palma.gemelli1@gmail.com](mailto:palma.gemelli1@gmail.com)



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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.

## Quest's Open House Triumph

*by Ellen Pober Rittberg*



**I**n what was an institutional first, Quest held a large-scale Open House for prospective new members on June 6. Gauging from the enthusiastic responses of many of the 110 attendees, it was a rousing success — 19 of the 33 prospective members who attended signed up to be summer members. Still others who had recently signed up for the free summer program came, eager to attend an Encore presentation and socialize.

The idea for an Open House after the first Encore presentation on June 6 arose from a brainstorming session. "What can we do to increase our membership post-Covid?" asked President and Membership Chair **Donna Ramer**.

A steering committee was formed to mastermind the event — **Beth Callender**, **Arlynn Greenbaum** and **Martha Drezin** from Marketing; **Donna Ramer** and **Mary Ann Donnelly** from Membership; and **Lois Cardillo**, Chair of the Social Committee.

Offering free summer classes seemed like a good way to start. Council approved a budget to have a festive Open House on June 6. "We felt the day would give potential members a sense of our unique peer learning in an environment of camaraderie and companionship," Donna explained.

Marketing ran ads promoting the event in neighborhood newspapers and online, and members were encouraged to invite friends who wanted to learn more about Quest.

The morning began with David Bernard greeting each guest at the door. Coffee and pastries were provided by Pam Gemelli and her team. The group then went into the auditorium to enjoy Paul Golomb's fascinating presentation on the history of New York City's grid plan.

A large and varied buffet of delicious dishes from Eataly followed thanks to the hard work of party-planner extraordinaire Lois Cardillo. The festivities were enhanced by keyboard player Dennis Kugappi who inspired some attendees to get up and dance. A considerable number of Quest members too numerous to mention helped with setting up the food and orienting prospective members.

Members and guests alike were impressed. "There aren't enough good words to describe my day at Quest. It filled my heart and thoughts," said Marian Lewis, a prospective member.

"I'm going to join," said another visitor, "My only problem is how do I fit everything into my already-busy schedule?"

"Such wonderful people. I feel very welcome and the class was very educational," commented Hong Maio.

"The atmosphere at Quest is so friendly and warm," Alka Gupta concluded.

By event's end, several first-time visitors said they were going to join Quest. Others said they would come again and might very well join by summer's end. The goal of the Open House was to attract potential new members and get the word out about Quest. Mission accomplished!