

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 43

September 2023

A Note From the President

A new academic year is upon us after a Summer that has broken heat and wildfire records and Quest Summer Encores with record attendance.

While it's too soon to dust off our Fall jackets and long-sleeve shirts, it is time to mark our calendars for our Fall courses. Hats off to our numerous coordinators and presenters who are bringing us a baker's dozen of brand-new courses along with numerous long-term legacy ones and several others returning for a second semester.

Members of our **Tech Committee** were at 25 Broadway for hands-on training sessions with CWE tech gurus Robert Hernandez and Felix Piña now that installation of the new podiums (with updated

technology) is complete. Our thanks to **Victor Brener, Steven Chicoine, Susan Diehl, Paul Golomb, Sheryl Harawitz, Bob Reiss, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward, Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis, and Michael Wellner** for giving up a great August day for the benefit of the greater Quest good.

Quest Committees: Do you have a question about Quest's many committees? Feel free to contact committee chairs (see last page for a list), who also have been busy making sure their committees are ready to roll as the doors open on Tues, Sept 5.

Summer Fun & Connections: And, thanks to several Questers — **Susan Keohane, Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine, and Arlene Curinga** to name a

few — we kept our community connected with Q'XTRA and SoleMates trips to a wide variety of historical venues, from Teddy Roosevelt's birthplace to The Ukrainian Museum, Dumbo, Brighton Beach, and Flushing to tour the Old Quaker Meeting House. There also was an Elizabeth Gaskell discussion group and a viewing of the new movie Barbie at Regal Union Square theater followed by lunch in the new high-tech building on 14 Street and Irving Place.

And hold the date for our annual **Fall General Meeting**, which will be Wednesday, November 29. As always, there will be an update about our activities and a preview of Spring classes.

See you all soon.

Donna Ramer

New Members

Quest 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.



Erica Levitt



Judi Kunstier



Mildred Millard



Janice Nesson

Who's Doing What

Ellen Rittberg divided her time this Summer with her children and grandkids in Long Island's North Fork, Southampton and Sag Harbor. . . .

Arlene Hajinlian participated in the Chautauqua Institution's Fifth Annual Kazoo Chorale in late August. The group performed such favorites as Hey Jude and Oklahoma on the steps of the Chautauqua Library. Those years at Juilliard really paid off for Arlene!



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Maureen McLeod and **Judy Winn** went to the Chautauqua Institution on a Road Scholar trip at the end of July. In addition to attending lectures and concerts, they took a class in making handcrafted copper jewelry. They enjoyed the trip so much that they already registered for another week at Chautauqua next Summer. The photo was taken in the dining room at the Athenaeum Hotel, where they enjoyed three meals a day with other Road Scholarsp.



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Yona Rogosin and her partner Steve spent the better part of the summer working on the garden at their home in Upstate New York. They used native plants to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds — and it worked!



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Mark and Lois Cardillo, Dena Kerren, and Roy Clary celebrated

Mark's and Roy's August 20 birthday at the Cardillos' lovely home on Long Pond in the Berkshires. Festivities included a great brunch, a visit by the Cardillo family, and a violin concert by an Amherst faculty member playing Mark's favorite classical pieces. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all.

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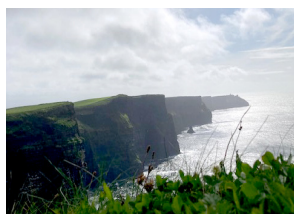
At the end of July, a group of Quest jazz fans got together for a jazz brunch at the Leopard at des Artistes on Central Park West. It was the first sunny and cool day after a long spell of rainy, hot weather.

Richard Byrd, Arlene Curinga, Mary Ann Donnelly, Rica Fujihira, Loretta Menger, Susan Keohane, Donna Ramer, Ellen Rittberg, Hedy Shulman, and Tamara Weinstein were seated in the Leopard's outdoor dining area, close to the guitarist and bassist. The music was sometimes drowned out due to the lively conversation, but they all enjoyed the delicious meal, the elegant service, and most of all the good company — so much so that they forgot all about posing for a group photo!

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Marva and **Michael Wellner** spent an interesting week driving thru upstate New York's Finger Lakes, to and from Niagara Falls. Somehow Michael's parents had never taken him to see the Falls, so it fell to Marva to correct that omission. The drive was quite pleasant; no traffic at all, although they thought the Falls are a bit of a disappointment. But they did get some interesting photos along the way.

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Kathy Cook had a great family vacation in Ireland and

Northern Ireland. They visited cities: Dublin, Belfast, and Derry; natural wonders: the Giants Causeway, Sliabh Liag, and the Cliffs of Moher; ancient neolithic burial grounds in Knowth; and cousins in the rural Counties of Cavan and Longford. The luck of the Irish was with them because, in the two weeks there, they had only one evening of rain.

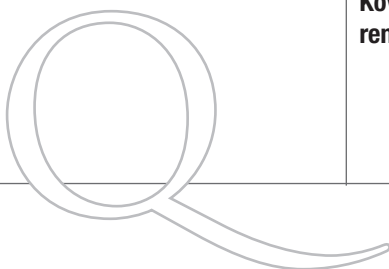
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Judy and **Pete Weis** spent much of the first half of August in Buxton England, site of the annual International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival, where the temperature was generally in the '60s. Judy spent most of every day in rehearsals with the Savoynet Performing Group, an international group, rehearsing G&S's "Ruddigore." While she was rehearsing, Pete, with a rental car and a local Brit who wasn't involved with the show for company, was sightseeing around the Peak District — Derbyshire. As part of a festival, each show was performed only once, in the Buxton Opera House. The day of the performance, Aug. 10, the set was moved in in the morning, a dress rehearsal in the afternoon, and the show in the evening. The following morning, Pete and Judy started their journey back to New York.

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Bobbie Gold had a lovely summer in the Berkshires with many family members visiting. Concerts at Tanglewood; theater at Shakespeare and Co. and Barrington Stage; visits to the Norman Rockwell and Clark Museums. The Clark had a particularly fantastic exhibit of Charles Munch. Another highlight was a delightful afternoon spent with Questers **Anita Hunter** and **Ruth Kovner**, and more recently with **Dena Kerren** and **Roy Clary**.

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A Pink-Tinted QXtra Adventure: Questers Embark on a 'Barbie Land' Trip

In a burst of vibrant pink, members of our adventurous group recently embarked on an enchanting journey to a world where imagination knows no bounds. Clad in shades of pink that would make even Barbie herself blush, we set off to the local cinema for a whimsical escapade like no other.

Our destination: the realm of 'Barbie,' where dreams and fantasies come to life. With containers of pink popcorn and refreshing pink Cosmos in hand, we settled into our seats. As the screen illuminated, we were greeted with a mesmerizing spectacle that paid homage to the classic *2001: Space Odyssey*.

The opening scenes transported us beyond the stars, setting the stage for the incredible Barbie Land Trip that awaited us.

And then, we were off — not on a typical space odyssey, but on a journey that transcended reality itself. Barbie Land unfolded before our eyes, a kaleidoscope of colors, wonders, and imagination. We marveled at the intricate details of the fantastical landscapes, each scene more captivating than the last. The film's creators had skillfully woven together elements of adventure, magic, and heartwarming tales, ensuring that our trip was one we would not soon forget.

As we immersed ourselves in the adventures of Barbie and her companions, we were reminded of the importance of embracing our inner child, letting our imaginations run free, and cherishing the bonds that bring us together. Our shared laughter, gasps of awe, and the occasional tear were a testament to the power of storytelling to unite us in a shared experience.

So, dear Questers, as we reflect on our whimsical cinematic adventure, let us continue to carry the spirit of Barbie Land with us. Let's keep the spark of imagination alive in our hearts and nurture the bonds that make our Quest community so extraordinary. Until our next escapade, may we always find joy in the journey, and may our lives be as vibrant and enchanting as the world we visited on that pink-hued day.



Quest Book Club

Quest Book Club meets 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:

September 13 *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver; presented by Hilda Feinstein

October 11 *So Long, See You Tomorrow* by William Maxwell; presented by Nan McNamara

November 29 *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams; presented by Arlynn Greenbaum.
**Note: this is a change of date to the fifth Wednesday in November.*

December 13 *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus; presented by Joan Vreeland

Fall Schedule of New Member Meetings

The New Members Committee have announced the Fall schedule of New Member meetings, from Noon to 12:50 PM:

Wednesday, **September 13**

Wednesday, **October 25**

Thursday, **November 30**

Wednesday, **December 13**

Susan Keohane and
Renee Woloshin, Co-chairs

Visiting Carolyn McGuire

by Sheryl Harawitz & Andrea Irvine



Recently, we had the pleasure of visiting our Quest friend, **Carolyn McGuire**, in Staten Island, and the journey was a breeze with the convenient Express bus service. Just a few steps from 25 Broadway, we hopped on the bus, and its first stop was the Esplanade, Carolyn's new home.

Seeing Carolyn again after so long was a real treat! We reminisced about old times over drinks and a delightful lunch. What caught our attention was her contemplation of returning to her "quest" this Fall.

Stay tuned for Carolyn's inspiring return journey.

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**The
Last Day
of This
Year
Will be
123123**

My Neighbor George

by Frieda Lipp

For a change New York City coming out of its hot spell had a beautiful summer day — the temperature comfortable, the clear air warmly brisk. As is my usual Sunday morning habit, I was approaching the farmers' market on Manhattan's west side, a huge collection of farmers presenting their wares all along Columbus Avenue and 77th Street, hugging the Museum of Natural History. I chanced upon my neighbor George sitting on a bench people watching the hustle bustle of New Yorkers walking their dogs, checking out the fruits, vegetables, breads and pastries — all fresh and abundantly displayed along the avenue. On this morning I joined him for a bit on his bench.

George is an actor, and in his former life spent years performing on Broadway in, among other pieces, *Phantom of the Opera*. And if I remember correctly, he made the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest playing performer on Broadway. He's a bit long in tooth these days, needs a cane to move about, and still a real charmer. We kibbited a bit, whereupon he asked me if I wanted to hear a poem. Well, George proceeded with a beautiful rendition of *The New Colossus*. When he'd finished I asked him how he'd come to have it memorized. He then told how back stage over the years in *Phantom*, while waiting to go on, he began memorizing poetry. He also began enlisting his children, family, and friends to memorize poetry for regular communal poetry performances. And so now, he's got several hundred that he personally keeps alive, regularly circulating them, reciting them, and sharing them with others. Here's the poem:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from
land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates
shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch,
whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and
her name
Mother of Exiles.
From her beacon hand
Glow world-wide welcome;
her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin
cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied
pomp!" cries she.
With silent lips, "Give me your tired,
your poor
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost
to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

• • •

Needless to say, this was a very special Sunday morning at the Farmers' Market.

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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.

SoleMates' Brooklyn Adventure

by Sheryl Harawitz



On a cloudy morning our adventurous SoleMates gathered behind the historic Brooklyn Borough Hall in the heart of Brooklyn, ready for yet another walking adventure led by **Sheryl Harawitz** and **Andrea Irvine**. And to celebrate 'life' we photographed ourselves with a newly married couple as they emerged from the Marriage Office.

We then strolled through Brooklyn Heights, where the streets held tales as ancient as time — brownstone façades rose like steadfast sentries guarding the memories within. These structures bore witness to generations and wore their age like badges of honor. Several members shared their own knowledge of the area — this building, a former brothel — that brownstone abandoned for 30 years due to a marriage dispute — a plaza renamed in honor of Emily Roebling, the woman who completed the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. Others remarked that the area was totally new to them.

Continuing on we zigzag down to the Squibb Bridge — even to check out the facilities and “Yes” the bathrooms are clean. At Brooklyn Bridge Park's entrance, we emerged into a serene oasis. Verdant landscapes stretched as far as the eye could see, offering respite from the City's hustle. However, the iconic bridges spanning the skyline were a constant reminder of the metropolis's nearness.

With group support plus mutual curiosity we indulged in a carousel ride. For a mere two-dollar entry fee we mounted the horses. As the 100 year old, hand-carved animals danced in circles we laughed in pure elation. Yet, even as they spun, the City's embrace remained palpable — its energy intertwined with our shared anxiety — would we ever be able to climb off the horse — we did but not easily!

Hunger drew us to the “TimeOut Building.” Each with our different food choices and wine we sat outside talking about what we had seen, discussing what our next adventure might be. Suddenly, raindrops began their dance — farewells were exchanged as we headed homeward — some by bus, others by ferry.

In the aftermath of this joyous adventure, we were left with more than memories. We carried the Essence of the City, the Spirit of Friendship, and the Beauty of a shared Brooklyn summer experience.

Adventures in Dining

by Frank Montaturo

Recently, it was that on a mild early August afternoon... we made our way out to Astoria... to lunch at Stamatis restaurant. It struck me that over the years we have never been to a Greek restaurant and this was one I was quite familiar with. I have come annually to enjoy Orthodox Easter here.

The meze came out with a fanfare and soon the table was covered with spinach pie, gigantes beans, fried smelts, Greek salad, grilled zucchini with garlic dip, large antipasto with platters of skordalia, taramasalata, tzatziki, and baba ganoush... and finally skewers of grilled chicken.

The restaurant treated us to servings of a popular Greek dessert... galaktoboureko... semolina custard baked in filo pastry.

Andrea and Sheryl treated the diners to carafes of red wine.

Till we eat again. Opa!!



From left: **Andrea Irvine, Jennifer Jolly, Marian Friedmann, Ellen Shapiro, Donna Ramer, Frank Montaturo, David Judlowitz, Loretta Menger, Sheryl Harawitz, Laura Lopez, Nina Dioletis.**



Tender
grilled
squid



Greek salad



Gigantes...
melt in your
mouth giant
butter beans

Quest Committee Listing

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City Wandering *by Frank Montaturo*

Harlem Meer Central Park/NYC August 2023

For years now there has been no place I would rather be on a summer Sunday afternoon than at the concerts on the Meer. There are now fewer than in years past... but they always bring joy as I watch people get up eagerly to dance. I always look around to see if I recognize faces from previous summers... perhaps others do the same... and think: Oh... there he is again... a bit older... but still here. There was a moment of silence for one well-known regular who had passed away earlier this summer. She would whirl and twirl in long flowing skirts... she always danced barefoot.



Ovations for Encores 2023 *by Arlynn Greenbaum*

Our Summer Encores program, which began on June 6 and ended on July 27, was a resounding success. The 15 classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings ran the gamut from Ella Fitzgerald and Ralph Lauren to Winston Churchill and Shakespeare. The diverse programming was representative of the wide range of offerings we have at Quest during the school year.

All but one of the classes were hybrid and we had a total of 561 people attending in person and 255 via Zoom. After **Paul Golomb's** class on June 6 on the New York City Grid, there was a festive Open House to attract prospective new members. Many attendees became summer members and were able to experience Quest in a relaxed Summer setting.

The Encores 2023 team, headed by **Art Spar**, included **Arlynn Greenbaum**, **Andrea Irvine** and **Joyce Hinote**. Going forward, Arlynn will head up Encores 2024 with Andrea and Joyce's invaluable help.

A big thank you to all the presenters, some of whom updated their material, to the tech team who made sure everything ran smoothly and to all who attended — new and old members alike.

As we begin a new semester, keep your antennae up for exceptional classes you think are worthy of being included in Encores 2024. And be sure to vote!