

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 44

October 2023

## A Note From the President

Over the summer, long-time member **Helen McMahon** was cleaning out files and gifted me with some of her findings: a stack of old QNews issues, which have made for very interesting reading on a very rainy day. But one column really spoke to me because of both its timeliness and timelessness.

In the Winter 2004 issue, then Quest President **Mel Shulman** expressed mixed feelings about Quest's tenth anniversary. To quote Mel: "Everything seems to be going well.... It's a perfect picture, except for one ever-growing cloud on the horizon. Where are the coordinators and presenters for the new courses that keep us viable? Without ... people to organize and make presentations, good course ideas are meaningless." I share Mel's appreciation that Quest is a well-run organization, we continue to offer

excellent courses, and more recently added and continually expand our Q'XTRA, Sole-Mates, and lunchtime programs. But I also share his concern about the need to bring to life good course ideas, your good ideas.

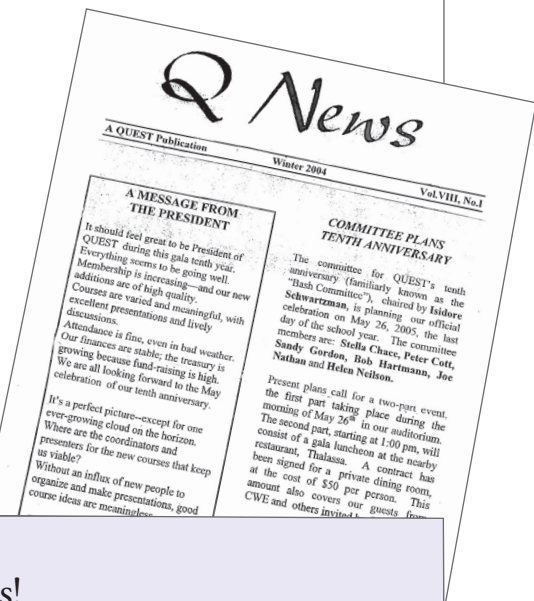
As an all-volunteer organization, the fuel that runs Quest is our members. The good news is that almost 60 percent of us do volunteer in one or more ways: on a committee, on Council, stepping up for special projects, as a course coordinator or presenter.

In the not-too-distant future, you will be asked to respond to a survey specifically to glean ideas for new courses. Let your imagination soar, be creative, and then let the Curriculum Committee know what interests you, what you think other Questers might like. Suggesting a course doesn't mean you own it but think about how you

just might step up to work with others to transform your good ideas into compelling courses. Mel would be proud and all of us appreciative.

See you all soon.

**Donna Ramer**



## QPal Program Is A Super Success!

We created the Q Pal initiative to integrate our newest members into our community by partnering them with active Questers. The new member is encouraged to call upon their new colleague in all baffling situations: to review our Quest Curriculum booklet (what's A vs. B week); to do a deep dive into how our community works, (what is Quest Community vs. Quest Business); or to simply walk into the lunchroom with a friend who will introduce them to other members. The lunchroom can be quite overwhelming to a newbie who knows no one at all.

We started the Q Pal program just one year ago with only five partnerships. After a few months, we held a meeting with all the new members of the team to learn if it was meeting our goals, and theirs. Most importantly, we wanted to hear their suggestions for

improving the initiative. We had a wonderful discussion and were able to adjust the program to respond to their feedback. By the end of May 2023, we had 16 working Q Pal groups. That's 16 new Questers participating actively in our community, and now able to comfortably take off on their own!

Today, only one month into the semester, we already have 14 active Q Pal partnerships... that's 28 Questers making connections. Our thanks to all the new members and their volunteer partners who have forged new relationships to enhance our warm and wonderful Quest community.

**Madeleine Brecher**  
Q Pal Administrator

## CultureQuest: Gilder Center Tour

by Renee Woloshin

On Friday, September 15th, a group of Quest members ventured to the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation, which is the new wing of the American Museum of Natural History. When we entered the imposing building, we found ourselves in a cavernous four-story atrium with skylights letting in the brilliant sunshine. Our wonderful guides, Quest members **Marion Schultheis** and **Andrew Epstein**, led us through the four floors of the center.

On the first floor we got up close and personal with all sorts of bugs in the Insectorium, including those found in New York City. We entered a lush tropical forest on the second floor, where we found thousands of colorful butterflies flying everywhere in the Butterfly Vivarium. On the third floor we explored “Invisible Worlds,” an immersive experience. We visited the center’s library on the fourth floor, which houses, among other things, the museum’s rare book collection.

After the tour a group of us enjoyed a delicious lunch at a French brasserie, Nice Matin. It was a truly delightful day.

## CultureQuest: Dead Man Walking

by Estelle Selzer

25 members of Quest were treated to a Working Dress Rehearsal of the Metropolitan Opera’s new production of “Dead Man Walking.” The tickets were compliments of the Metropolitan Opera’s Education Department. We all know how expensive these tickets would have been if we had had to pay for them.

The production was directed by Ivo van Hove, who is known for his “experimental” staging. The leads — Joyce DiDonato and Ryan McKinny — were fabulous, and many Questers commented on how much they liked the production. Many school children were in the audience and they were riveted to what was going on. It was great to see the next generation of opera aficionados.

Here are Questers seated during intermission.



## City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo

Foursquare  
Met Museum  
August 2023

There are places even at The Met where one can avoid the din and the rumble of the Van Gogh eager crowd and find a moment of Zen-like serenity... and such corners will be encountered by chance, but you will know that here you must linger. This is one such... but you will have to find it on your own.



They say every piece of chocolate  
you eat shortens your life by  
two minutes. I did the math.  
Seems I died in 1572.



## Who's Doing What

**Bob Reiss** is an expectant great grandfather.

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At dinner on the second day of Rosh Hashana, **Barbara Gelber's** grandson Jason repeated the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) which he had done earlier at Temple Sholom, Greenwich CT.



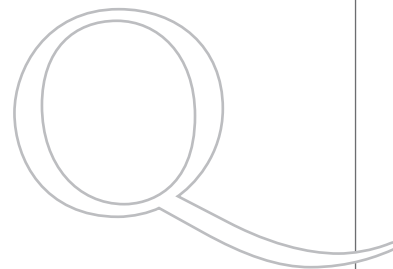
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**Ruth Kovner** (seated front right) and her family had a wonderful get together to welcome the Jewish New Year, although the venue had to be moved. The dinner was to be hosted by her nephew Michael and his wife Andrea. However, on the day they returned from a trip to the Amalfi Coast in Italy, he was diagnosed with Covid. Michael's sister Genie and her husband

Andrew came to the rescue and hosted the dinner for twenty-one people with one day's notice. Luckily most of the food had been prepared and guests came with fruit and desserts. The day was saved, and they happily wished each other a sweet New Year.

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## Ink & Drink

*by Sheryl Harawitz*

**A**fter naming our book group "Ink & Drink," we ended the Summer on a high note as we delved into the world of literature and libations. Our chosen book, "Wives and Daughters" by Elizabeth Gaskell, sparked engaging discussions that enriched our understanding of the complexities of human relationships and societal norms of that era.

As we sipped on our invigorating \$5 espresso martinis, the rich flavors of both the novel and our drinks seemed to blend seamlessly. The intricate characters and their intertwining lives provided us with ample topics to explore — from the challenges faced by the female protagonists to the subtle commentaries on class dynamics. Sharing our diverse perspectives added a layer of depth to our appreciation of Gaskell's work.

It's heartening to witness how our group continues to flourish. Our commitment to both literature and the art of mixology truly sets us apart — making "Ink & Drink" a unique and enriching experience — goodness knows where we're heading next!

### The Ink & Drink Group

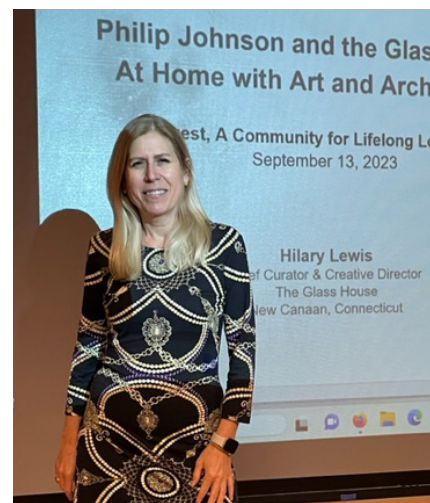


## Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series

*by Estelle Selzer*

**T**he Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series started off on September 13th with a wonderful presentation by Hilary Lewis, Chief Curator and Creative Director of the Glass House in New Canaan CT. The infamous Philip Johnson was the architect and designer of this minimalistic but beautiful house, and Hilary took us through the history of its creation and the life of its creator.

After the talk several Questers expressed a desire to visit The Glass House as a group. CultureQuest will investigate the feasibility of doing this, perhaps in the late Spring.



## 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.



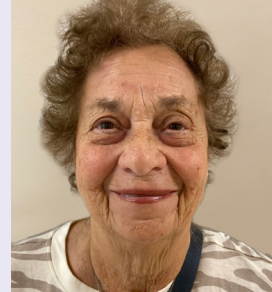
*Adrienne Sprouse*



*John Byrne*



*Barbara Suter*



*Lynn Harmon*



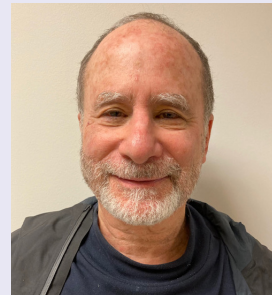
*Jamie Rower*



*Julia Hirsch*



*Simon Stock Kochavi*



*Bill Mindlin*



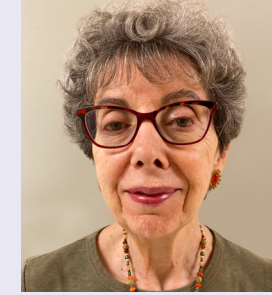
*Nancy Dobi*



*Emily Mines*



*Nancy Jones*



*Shirley Ranz*



*Hannah Scherer*



*Len Lavitt*



*Karen Reiter*



*Robert (Bob) Majeska*



## Sole Mates Head to Queens

by Andrea Irvine

Our community walking group — ‘Sole Mates’ — embarked on an exploration of the Long Island City section of Queens. Our journey began with a delightful breakfast at a Colombian Bakery and concluded with a late brunch at a charming French Bistro. In between these culinary adventures, we visited Socrates Park where we had the opportunity to meet the resident philosopher and explored the Isamu Noguchi Museum — a few departing to shop at Costco!

All in all, another totally enjoyable day and along the way, we had mini adventures/encounters with local folks. Stay ‘tuned’ for where next?



## Distinguished Guest Lecturer: Anna Quindlen

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author Anna Quindlen was interviewed by Distinguished Guest Lecturer lead coordinator **Arlynn Greenbaum** on September 27, 2023. More than 150 Questers in person and at home on Zoom enjoyed a fascinating afternoon.



## We Care!

The Quest Caring Committee is here for you if you need help for illness, bereavement, or isolation — or any other problem that our committee members can assist you with. We especially would like to hear from Questers who are unable to come to 25 Broadway in person. Our committee co-chairs are **Ilene Winkler** and **Gale Spitalnik**, members are **David Bernard**, **Sybil Cohen**, **Bobbie Gold**, **Gloria Peropat**, **Steve Rubin**, and **Michael Wellner**. Call or email any of us. All calls are confidential

## Q News Staff

*A Quest Publication*

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