

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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November 2023

## A Note From the President

**W**ith Halloween behind us, Election Day and Thanksgiving just around the corner, we're also nearing the end of our Fall semester and holiday luncheon before we head out for an seven-week winter break.

As always, I am grateful that Quest is such a well-oiled machine thanks to all of you, especially those of you who volunteer: long-term members and some very new ones. So just a quick thanks to just a few of our many committee members.

- Social Committee chair **Gale Spitalnik** and new member **Lauren Gee** worked with their committee members to bring us a great Halloween Spook-tacular and are now planning our after party following the November 27 general membership meeting.

- **Frank Montaturo** continues to tempt us with tantalizing menus from exotic restaurants.

- **Karen Levin** and **Michael Wellner** have resurrected our travel program with three great options.

- Our monthly New Member meetings are having record attendance thanks to co-chairs **Susan Keohane** and **Renee Woloshin** who, along with committee members **Marian Friedmann** and **Vince Grosso**, are reaching out to our dozens of new members, who are learning to navigate what, early on, seems to be a maze of corridors on the 7th floor of 25 Broadway.
- And, of course, our deepest thanks for the long list of long-term and new members on our Tech Committee.

And let's not forget that we have a new

administrative assistant, **Raquel Rivera**, who has stepped up to take on numerous tasks, has worked with Felix and Wayne on the nuances of each classroom's tech needs, and even submitted a list of potential courses in response to the recent survey from Curriculum. If you haven't met her, please stop by the office any Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am through 2:00 pm.

So while we're still not sure whether to put on a sweater or wear our favorite short-sleeve shirt with this crazy weather, we do know that Quest continues to be the place to be.

See you all soon.  
**Donna Ramer**

## Spring 2024 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

**A**rlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, and Bob Reiss are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers, for Spring semester. We welcome your suggestions for next Fall.

<b>February 14</b>	Gordon Chang, author of <i>China Shakes The World</i> .
<b>February 28</b>	Gail Papp, author of <i>Public/Private: My Life with Joe Papp at The Public Theater</i> .
<b>March 13</b>	Brooke Kroeger, author of <i>Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism</i> .
<b>March 27</b>	Simon Winchester, author <i>Knowing What We Know</i> . Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker
<b>April 10</b>	Ed Baig on The Future Has Arrived: Older Adults and AI.

## Save the Date

**O**ur end-of-semester luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 15th at Arte Cafe, 107 West 73rd Street, New York, NY.

**"Autumn is a Second Spring When Every Leaf Is a Flower."**

– Albert Camus

## Guest Lecturer: Jeremy Denk

by Estelle Selzer

On Wednesday, October 11th Questers were treated to not only a talk by classical pianist Jeremy Denk, but also a mini concert. Jeremy played some passages to demonstrate certain sections of his memoir *Every Good Boy Does Fine*. There were many comments after from Questers on how much they enjoyed the presentation and how lucky we were to be able to get him based on his busy concert schedule.



## CultureQuest: Tour of the Insectorium at AMNH



*Oops. We omitted this photo of the CultureQuest tour of the Insectorium at American Museum of Natural History on September 15.*

## Going Places

### AN UPDATE ON OUR QUEST TRAVEL PROGRAM

We are delighted to tell you that we have received the first few bookings for the three Road Scholar programs featured in our last email. These include:

- The opening week at Chautauqua, featuring Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize winning author and scholar, June 23–29. (Road Scholar Program No. 20581)
- A week visiting the French Canadian cities of Montréal and Québec, July 2–8. (Road Scholar Program No. 22250)
- And finally, for all our theater lovers, five days at the wonderful Shaw Festival in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, in Ontario, August 12–16. (Road Scholar Program No. 10396)

If you have any interest in joining one (or more!) of these trips, we urge you to place your booking with Road Scholar as soon as possible. Space typically fills up very quickly. And only a small deposit is needed to hold your reservation.

And — for those looking to get away this Winter, Road Scholar is offering a very interesting trip to Panama, January 26–31, 2024. (Road Scholar Program #9901). Here are the details:

**Grit and Glory: Exposing the Panama Canal.** The Spanish thought about it. The French drew plans for it. In the end, though, it took a revolution, technology, money, determination, and grit to complete the Panama Canal. On this unique journey, traverse the canal by boat and learn about the epic struggle to carve a nautical shortcut from one ocean to another. Learn about the canal's construction and its impact on world history, commerce, and medicine. Price is just \$2099 per person for a double, and \$450 more for a single.

Again, if you are interested this Summer, please call Road Scholar directly, at 1-877-426-8056.

And — as they say — “now for something extra” — we are looking into possibly arranging a Quest-only trip to Puglia, on the Adriatic Coast of Italy, in May or June of 2024. Many of us will remember that before Covid-19 upended all of our lives, we had over twenty people booked on a May 2020 tour of this beautiful and special region of Italy. If you think you might be interested this summer, or even later (in 2025), please just drop any one of us a quick email and just say “I’m interested.”

Finally, don’t forget to let us know when you make a reservation for any of these trips. Thank you.

And, as always, may all your travels be safe and rewarding!

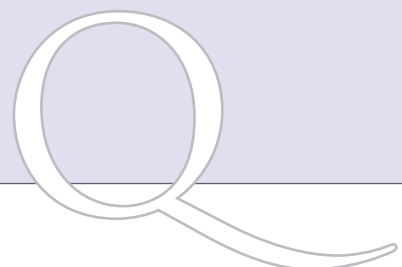
**Toni Dickenson** (dickenson327@gmail.com)

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**Leslie Goldman** (lesliemaureen@msn.com)

**Michael Wellner** (captmike46@aol.com)





## Who's Doing What



**Joan Vreeland** and her husband Jim took a Viking Adriatic

cruise in October. Kotor (Montenegro) was especially beautiful.

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**Judith and Pete Weis** traveled in early October to Lisbon, the Azores, & Madeira. They enjoyed the Belém tower in Lisbon and a beautiful lake in São Miguel, the largest of the Azores. Marvelous trip!



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**Helen Saffran** joined **Joyce Hinote** for a week at her apartment in Paris. They had adventures in culture, cuisine, cemeteries, and exploring the streets and neighborhoods

of Paris. This photo was taken at the Musée du Luxembourg.

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**Ellie Schaffer** spent a whirlwind eight days in London's East End,



West End and all around the town. She saw three plays, including MacBeth at the Globe and two musicals, and visited many museums. Her one trip out of town was to Bletchley Park, where British Intelligence cracked the Nazi codes during WWII. From Shakespeare to Alan Turing — it's time to go back for more!

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In mid-September, **Rica Fujihita** went with her sister, who resides



in Honolulu, on a rock 'n' roll pilgrimage of sorts to the U.K. In London, they attended a concert based on the music of the "Mod" 60s band, the Small Faces, and also strolled down Carnaby Street, the band's old stomping grounds, where they found the plaque dedicated to them. A highlight of the London leg of the trip was a visit to the National Portrait Gallery to catch Paul McCartney's exhibition featuring photographs from the 1963-64 Beatles tour. The photos were surprisingly good, capturing the zeitgeist of the times. Finally, they made their way up to Dunfermline, the ancient capital of Scotland, and hometown of the '80s Scottish rock group, Big Country. Rica's sister draped a Hawaiian lei made out of thistle, Scotland's national flower, over a bench in Pittencrieff Park dedicated to Big Country's late lead singer, Stuart Adamson. Other fans had left flowers there as well. Mission accomplished!

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**Arlynn Greenbaum** was hiking in Utah in early October. She went to the Red Mountain Spa with seven girlfriends from high school. They were celebrating being 75 years young this year.

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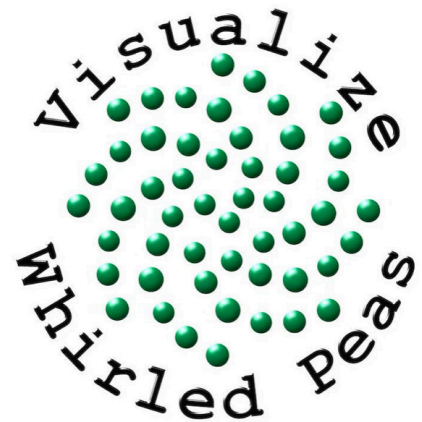
**Mark and Lois Cardillo** celebrated their 52nd Anniversary sailing on board American 2.0



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## Guest Speaker: Lizzie Gottlieb

**Arlynn Greenbaum** in conversation with guest speaker Lizzie Gottlieb on October 25, 2023. Lizzie gave insights into the seven-year process of making her critically-acclaimed documentary, *Turn Every Page: The Adventures of Robert Caro and Robert Gottlieb*.



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## Q Pals



QPals **Karen Millard** and **Bobbie Gold** enjoying each other's company.



QPals **Jane Flynn** and **Arlynn Greenbaum** attending the Jeremy Denk guest lecture



QPals **Tamara Weinberg** and **Emily Mines**



QPals **Gloria Peropat** and **Lauren Gee**



Quest's own Golden Girls: QPals **Leslie Goldman** and **June Goldberg**



QPals **Jill Altman** and **Hannah Scherer**

## Welcome Raquel Rivera

**Raquel Rivera** is very excited to be the new administrative assistant at Quest. She is currently attending City College of New York at the Center for Worker Education. During her time at CUNY, Raquel made the dean's list and experienced many amazing classes. She learned about the role at Quest through CUNY, and was very eager to join. Raquel is deeply enthusiastic about lifelong learning and firmly believes in the immense value of ongoing education. She previously worked in Tech and Retail in both a creative and administrative capacity.

Born and raised in Manhattan, Raquel lives on the Upper West Side, loves being in the city, and cannot imagine living anywhere else. She is also certain that the best bagel in the world is from Absolute Bagels.

Raquel is thrilled to be a part of Quest Lifelong Learning.

She is in-office from Monday–Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00pm, so please stop by and say hi. She'd like to get to know all of you better!



## Simon Winchester to Speak at Quest in the Spring

by Arlynn Greenbaum

The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that bestselling author Simon Winchester will be our Kenneth Leedom/ Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on March 27, 2024.

Winchester will discuss his latest book, *Knowing What We Know: The Transmission of Knowledge: From Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic*, which was published in April, 2023. It was called “erudite and entertaining” by the New York Times.

His first book, published in 1998,



was *The Professor and the Madman* about the making of the Oxford English Dictionary. It was a major bestseller.

Many other fascinating books followed including *The Map That Changed the World*, *The Perfectionists*, *Krakatoa*, *The Man Who Loved China*, and *A Crack in the Edge of the World*.

In 2006, Winchester was awarded an Order of the British Empire for his service to journalism and literature. We look forward to his presentation.

## Sole Mates



**“My Favorite Color Is November.”**

– Unknown



## CultureQuest: Whitney Museum

by Madeleine Brecher

**S**purred on by last Friday's CultureQuest zoom tour of the current Whitney double feature, *Ruth Asawa Through Line and Henry Taylor: B-Side*, I ran off to the museum on Saturday morning to view the exhibitions. I wanted to be sure to remember all that our extraordinary docent Linda Sweet had revealed to us during her deep dive into the two artists. In truth, I hadn't been particularly attracted to either exhibition, but after 90 minutes listening to Linda, I was enthusiastic.

I started on the fifth floor of the Whitney with Henry Taylor. The large-scale paintings hit you immediately as you get off the elevator. Most of the Taylor paintings were unnamed but Linda's vivid descriptions made all the difference as I moved through the galleries of this huge show. The room devoted to the Black Panther Party was mesmerizing: a 2007 painting of co-founder Huey Newton in his characteristic black beret, followed by the room-size installation of mannequins dressed as Black Panther Party members, followed by 15 photographs of recent black men and boys murdered in America. Gut-wrenching. Many of Taylor's artworks depicting family and friends addressing the struggles with racism they experienced. He is quoted as saying in an interview that "things that he has endured, he didn't think his son would have to endure."

Ruth Asawa's work captivated me even though I had listened to an earlier talk for Whitney members online but truly wasn't drawn to her drawings. Linda Sweet spent longer than she anticipated showing us Asawa's art, and I couldn't wait to see it in person. People in the galleries were studying her lines, her drawings, her wire-crochet technique upclose. I was hooked! I particularly loved her "Hanging Six-Lobed Complex Interlocking Continuous Form within a Form with two Interior Spheres," a real mouthful! And of course, my absolute favorite, the interlocking lines of a blanket with her infant son revealed through the exciting work.

Linda Sweet's lecture and my subsequent visit to the Whitney were examples of how CultureQuest has educated me to the magic of the NY culture scene. Our sincere thanks to committee member **Linda Downs** for setting up this tour with her dear friend, Linda Sweet!



## New Member



Christine Kramer

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