

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 50

April 2024

## A Note From the President

**A**pril showers bring May flowers so what's bloomin' at Quest this Spring?

Well, I've had a peek at what's coming up in the Fall and there are some very interesting new courses and lots of our long-running favorites returning thanks to the hard work of the Curriculum Committee. Members of the Scheduling Committee are working to accommodate special needs of coordinators as they complete the chess board of courses. The Special Events Committee is busy putting together the menu and tables for our end of year luncheon on Friday, May 17. The Membership Committee is taking a bit of a breather now that we're only three away from cap as of this writing, which means Marketing and Communications has been able to significantly reduce our promotional activities.

But wait, there's more!!! NEC is crossing

the Ts and dotting the Is for our week-long meet-the-candidates forum. Our Social Committee is looking for more opportunities to decorate the halls and feed us, while the Coffee Committee is keeping us alert with many, many carafes of coffee and morning treats. The Caring Committee is reaching out to our members who need some help, and the Travel Committee is looking for opportunities for domestic and international educational travel. If we have a few minutes, we can read the poems and prose and view the art of the many members who contributed to this year's QReview, hot off the press and available in the office. QNews continues to keep us in the know with its many columns and articles about members' past and present activities.

And, of course, our Tech Committee is keeping at-home members involved, presentations moving forward with just a click,

and training anyone interested in learning how to create PowerPoint slides to bring to life their presentations. Thirty-one members attended at least one of the multi-week trainings coordinated by **Tamara Weinberg**, and a smaller group soldiered on through all three so far. **Ruth Ward, Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner, Pete Weis, and Wayne Cotter** have all provided individual assistance during the class sessions, and **Marian Friedmann** and Ruth have been working one-on-one with a couple of Quest members who needed more support.

We Questers are busy and giving of our time on committees, trainings, connecting with new members, creating presentations, socializing, even walking. How fortunate are we that we have this abundance of riches.

**Donna Ramer**

## Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series

*by Estelle Selzer*



**O**n Wednesday, March 13th, Brooke Kroeger, author of *Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism* spoke to Questers. She was the perfect speaker for Women's History Month!

## Quest Goes Green

*by Gale Spitalnik*

**G**reen and white cupcakes, shamrocks, green grapes, green Oreos, and more were enjoyed by Questers, many wearing the color green.



## Quest Council Elections

The Nominating and Elections Committee (NEC) is pleased to announce candidates and the positions they are running for:  
 Vice President: **Bob Gottfried**  
 Treasurer: **Peter Fleischman** (Incumbent)  
 Secretary: **Karen Cullen**  
 Member at Large: **David Bartash**  
 Member at Large: **Roy Clary**  
 Member at Large: **Vince Grosso**  
 Member at Large: **Laura Lopez**  
 Member at Large : **Tamara Weinberg**  
 Member at Large: **Judy Winn** (Incumbent)  
 Quest's Council is its governing and policy-making body. The Quest community elects

its members, and the Council's goal is to serve the community.  
 The Council is comprised of eleven members, including four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer), seven Members-at-Large, and the immediate Past President, who serves *ex officio*.  
 Currently, we have six positions that need to be filled. Three officer candidates (Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) are running unopposed, while six Member at Large candidates will compete for three open positions.  
 Voting will occur electronically from Friday, April 19, to Sunday, April 21, 2024. New

Council members will be announced on Monday, April 22, 2024, and their term of office will begin on June 1, 2024.  
 We hope to see you at the Candidates Forum the week of April 15, as follows: If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any member of the NEC.  
**The Nominating and Elections Committee**  
**Howard Salik** (Chair)  
**Paul Adler**  
**Maureen Berman**  
**Wayne Cotter**  
**Leslie Goldman**

### Meet the Candidates Week

### Bob Gottfried Vice President

Quest will be holding candidate forums the week of April 15–18 during which Quest members can hear brief statements from the candidates and pose questions. The hybrid sessions will be held in Room 15–17 during the noon hour and will be recorded. Below are the dates each candidate will be speaking (and the order of speakers):

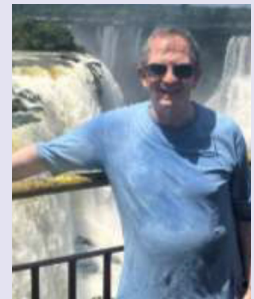
**Monday April 15**  
 Candidate Office  
**Peter Fleischman** (*incumbent*) Treasurer  
**Roy Clary** Member-at-Large  
**Judy Winn** (*incumbent*) Member-at-Large  
**Tamara Weinberg** Member-at-Large

**Tuesday April 16**  
 Candidate Office  
**Bob Gottfried** Vice President  
**Laura Lopez** Member-at-Large  
**Vincent Grosso** Member-at-Large  
**David Bartash** Member-at-Large

**Wednesday April 17**  
 Candidate Office  
**Karen Cullen** Secretary  
**Tamara Weinberg** Member-at-Large  
**Judy Winn** (*incumbent*) Member-at-Large  
**Roy Clary** Member-at-Large

**Thursday April 18**  
 Candidate Office  
**David Bartash** Member-at-Large  
**Vincent Grosso** Member-at-Large  
**Laura Lopez** Member-at-Large

I have been a member of Quest since the fall of 2014. At that time, I was still working with my son David in our immigration law practice, so I could only attend Quest classes part of the day. My career as an Immigration lawyer spanned almost 40 years in New York City. On my very first day at Quest, I presented on US Immigration at a Noontime Knowledge class.



I want to be Vice-President of Quest, so I can support Donna and the rest of the Council in their efforts to make Quest the best life-long learning organization it can be. It is very important for Quest to have a Vice-President capable of stepping in for the President, in case of illness or injury of the President. I qualify for that role having served as Vice-President of Quest from 2016 to 2017, and President of Quest from 2017-2021. Since leaving the Council, I have been an active member of the Curriculum, Scheduling, and Special Events Committees. I have also been the lead coordinator of Foreign Affairs, Folk Music and Mellow Rock, and Questers Choice courses. I have made numerous presentations in a wide variety of courses since 2015.

Peter Fleischman  
Treasurer  
(Incumbent)

I was born in Manhattan to immigrant parents who escaped the Nazis. We moved to New Rochelle when I was three, and I lived there until I went to college.

I developed an early interest in math and science and maintained that interest through high school and beyond. I was accepted at MIT where I studied mathematics and computer science. Upon graduating, I started a job with a tech company, and I went to business school at night at NYU where I received my MBA.

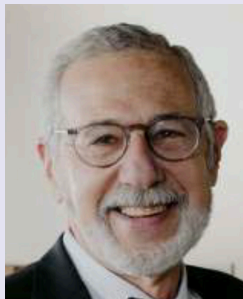
I started my career in information technology as a programmer and never strayed too far from technology as I worked for firms that served technology, financial and healthcare clients. My job titles included project manager, sales manager, general manager, VP, and chief operating officer. I approached every job with a quantitative “bent”, but also with a human approach that I learned from my management roles and from my wife, who is a psychologist.

As a Quest member, I have enjoyed the variety of courses offered, and enjoyed teaching as well. For the past two years, I have served as Treasurer. I’ve provided Council with accurate information about our income and expenses as well as the performance of our investments. Among my accomplishments are:

- Streamlined the process by which we deposit tuition checks. It now takes a few days to do what used to take weeks or months.
- We used to have to ask CWE for money to use for our expenses, and that often took weeks and didn’t always result in our receiving the money we requested. We now have a process by which we receive these funds on a regular basis.
- I have created reports that provide a monthly comparison of income and expenses to budget.
- Our investments are now exclusively in U.S. Treasuries, which provide more liquidity than CDs. Our interest income now makes a significant contribution to Quest’s finances. In addition, I have created a treasury “ladder” which will provide Quest with greater interest income for a year or more after interest rates decline.

I was asked by several Council members to run for Treasurer again, and am doing so in order to maintain the improvements I’ve already made, and to continue to improve the information provided to Council and membership.

I’ve gotten a lot from my membership in Quest and look forward to continuing to give back to Quest as Treasurer.



Karen Cullen  
Secretary

I still remember when I moved to the Village in 1980 after graduating from law school. I snagged a great studio apartment at 10 Downing Street. It was a bit worn and roach infested, but otherwise looked just like Mary’s apartment from the Mary Tyler Moore show. I worked downtown, basically lived at the office, and survived on cigarettes, Scotch rocks, and Chinese take-out. Hot damn—I loved it.



Forty-three years later I am still in the Village, although I eventually moved up to 9th St. And though I used to think I would work till my nineties, I retired in July 2022 and, following a lead from someone in my bridge club, gave Quest a call. Thank God. And thank God for those red lanyards that identify newbies. Everyone, and I mean everyone, was friendly, welcoming, encouraging, and supportive. You all made me feel so wanted.

And though I’ve reluctantly traded in my red lanyard for a purple one, Quest continues to give me what I need in retirement—a community of women and men who love to learn and—icing on the cake—love to hang out, eat, and chat, occasionally with drinks. What’s not to love?

So far, my participation in Quest has included coordinating and presenting in the History of Medicine course, presenting a class on the Constitutional Convention, and co-presenting a class on Marijuana with Susan Keohane and Shipwrecks with Tamara Weinberg. Coming up, in the May 6 Lunchtime Activities slot, look for me and Vince Grosso as we “broadcast” the latest news in the world of sports!

Now that I have my feet wet on the presenting side, I would like to help on the admin side of Quest and so am running for the Council position of Secretary. I think I have the experience to be a good Secretary and Council member. In addition to serving on a couple of charity boards, I served on the board of my coop for five years, the last two as President, and on the board of a private resort community in the Poconos for three years. Also, as general counsel to a federal savings bank in the late 1990s and a small broker-dealer in the early 2000s, I have counseled boards and executives and overseen the corporate secretary function.

More generally, as a council member, I hope to serve the Quest community by helping to further Quest’s goal of offering high quality peer-to-peer learning in a community devoted to education and fellowship.

## David Bartash Member-at-Large

I am a retired pharmaceutical and biotechnology analyst. As such, I spent over 40 years advising a variety of investors, bankers and companies on the merits of putting money to work in new and existing, leading edge health care products. For the first 20 years, I was employed by several major Wall Street firms; for the next 20, I functioned as a consultant to a variety of smaller players.



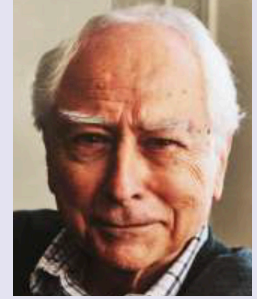
During my working career, I served on several Boards of Directors. The most enjoyable of these (and the one I am most proud of), was the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI). DDI is a high-quality provider of educational, residential and medical services to over 1,500 children and adults with profound autism. I served for 15 years, first as a board member and then Chairman of this wonderful organization. Coming from a Wall Street background, it was such a joy to work with people whose sole interest was making life better for this severely impacted population. (Full Disclosure — my non-verbal son is a long-term resident at DDI.)

I joined Quest eight years ago. I currently serving as a co-coordinator and a member of the audit committee. I have made a number of presentations, the most recent of which were on the China Belt and Road Initiative and on the history of New York's ticker tape parades.

Too many years ago, I studied history and received my BA from the University of Pennsylvania and MA from Bryn Mawr College. I continue to be an avid reader of history and just about anything else that I find interesting. It goes without saying that I love Quest. It has become an integral part of my life, as have my fellow Quest members

## Roy Clary Member-at-Large

Although born in Winnipeg, Canada, I grew up in three different Ohio cities and graduated from The Ohio State University. After earning an MFA degree from the Goodman Theater School of the Art Institute of Chicago, I began my acting career with the Seattle Repertory Theater in 1964. Subsequently, I acted coast-to-coast in plays ranging from Shakespeare to Neil Simon. I have appeared



in film, television, and TV commercials. I have also directed summer stock and University productions. Married in 1964, my wife and I raised two children. In the late 70s, I entered the non-profit world and ultimately directed fund-raising efforts at the USO, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Calvary Hospital. At Calvary, I also directed the efforts of a volunteer fund-raising Board of Directors.

Upon retirement from Calvary in 2006, a friend who was a member of Quest, recommended it to me. At that time, Quest was located on Hudson Street and had about 100 members. I joined and was glad I did. Quest offered the exact program I was seeking: excellent learning programs in a warm communal environment.

As a member of Quest, I have served on Council, chaired both the Membership and the Nominating and Election Committees. I am a big fan of peer-learning and currently serve as lead coordinator for Shakespeare, Great Plays, and the Acting Workshop. I have directed the Workshop's past four year-end productions. I was a Coordinator of Dante's Inferno and of a Folk Music class. Shortly after joining Quest, I served on a Planning Committee focused on increasing membership. Recently I served as a Q Pal. I have also made numerous presentations and was delighted to present my original play: "Shakespeare's Bad Boys" during last summer's Encore Series.

I would suspect that all of us were at one time busy working at our careers with little or no time to pursue outside interests. Upon retirement, we were fortunate to discover Quest. Its wide variety of courses offer something for everyone. I am proud to be a member of such a special educational and social organization. Given my experience in the workplace and at Quest, I would be privileged to once again serve on Council in order to help Quest maintain its excellence and provide insight for its future growth.



## Vincent Grosso Member-at-Large

I was born and raised in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and attended Pace University — where I received a BBA in Finance and Psychology and an MBA in Accounting. I spent two years on active duty with the US Navy, stationed at a top-secret base in Oregon.

After discharge I returned to New York where I held a number of jobs. First, I became a licensed stockbroker with Merrill Lynch. Then I worked as an auditor for the US General Accounting Office. During most of my career I was the owner of a business in Greenpoint that manufactured bronze and aluminum castings. The business employed 65 workers. I also owned and managed residential and commercial buildings in Brooklyn. My wife and I raised our family in Brooklyn Heights where I continue to live. Upon retirement, I volunteered for SCORE, the section of the US Small Business Administration that helps potential and emerging small businesses. For 10 years I mentored people regarding starting or improving a small business.

I learned about Quest from Jan and Stuart Eisler who spoke highly of the organization. Since I joined Quest three years ago, I have found it to be a unique collaborative organization. I understand it couldn't exist without volunteers, so I serve on the Emergency Response Committee and the New Members Committee. I've had the pleasure of acting in several plays. I am a co-coordinator for Quester's Choice, Comedy Central, and Cinema Quest.

I really feel fortunate that I found Quest. The classes are interesting; the people I've met are terrific; and the organization is keeping me active and engaged. I will give 100% of my effort to this organization, whatever tasks I take on.

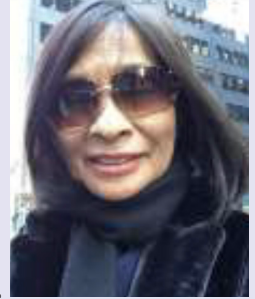


## Laura Lopez Member-at-Large

I was introduced to Quest by Ruth Ward, whom I met at a French meet-up in Manhattan. It was a connection that has since enriched my life in ways I couldn't have imagined. I joined Quest in 2019. It gave me my first experience with PowerPoint. As lead coordinator for a class on the Nobel awards, I delivered my first talk at Quest on the Nobel Peace Prize. I also coordinated a class called *A Week in Paris*.

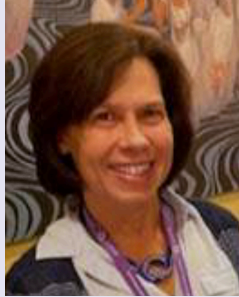
I have given talks on Bob Dylan, voter suppression, and America's contribution to movies of the '50s. As a regular at the French noontime class, I deliver some of my talks in French. One of my first volunteer efforts was to produce the bi-weekly Next Week at Quest (NWAQ) schedule. I also served on the Scheduling Committee and chaired the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Born to a Filipino family, I spent my childhood in Forest Hills, then finished high school at the American School of Paris. I was awarded a BA in Foreign Service from a college in Manila and later received an MBA from Baruch.

Yet I have lived most of my life in New York City. My work life started at UNICEF, from where I travelled to many countries over two years to promote the International Year of the Child (1979). Then I worked in microfinance at a NY nonprofit that works to increase income in poor countries by partnering with local organizations. I later served as program manager and grant writer at another nonprofit that uses bridging leadership to combat poverty and social injustice.



## Tamara Weinberg Member-at-Large

Perhaps you've seen me running around with a mic or tinkering at a podium as part of the Quest Technology Committee. I'm one of the newer members— not yet two years, but Quest has become a large and wonderful part of my life. I immersed myself and understood from Day 1 that the more you put into Quest, the more you benefit.



After hearing many Quest members lament that they'd love to make presentations but don't feel comfortable with PowerPoint, I created a 4-week 'bootcamp', with multiple sessions so no one gets left behind. We're all about inclusion! My other Quest involvement:

- QPal (twice) because I benefited from having a QPal
- Membership Committee, to share my enthusiasm for Quest
- Recently joined the Scheduling Committee
- Co-coordinator for the Toni Morrison course, created and was lead coordinator for a course about Mexico, and presented in those courses as well as in the Cinema, Foods and Water courses
- Co-coordinator of Women Spies
- Helped maintain a lending library in Room 27
- Arranged a field trip to view Toni Morrison's papers and a related art exhibit in Princeton
- Led a culinary tour of chocolate stores, and I recently organized a vegan lunch in Chinatown

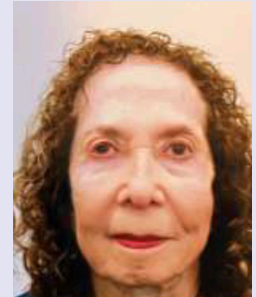
As to my Life Before Quest (LBQ), I was born in Bayside, grew up in Oyster Bay and moved to the UES after attending Swarthmore College. I worked as a systems analyst at Morgan Stanley and then earned my MBA. I next joined a nascent management consulting firm in Greenwich, leaving to become a fulltime mom. Seeking a parent-friendly career after my divorce, I obtained an M.A. in Educational Technology with Library Media Specialist certification, an excellent fit with my computer skills and love of reading. I had a fulfilling 16-year career teaching computer and research skills and building library collections and spaces — until the pandemic hit.

In 2022, I discovered Quest and knew from the moment that I joined, the organization and I were a perfect fit. I appreciate and frequently participate in social opportunities at Quest, including CultureQuest, Solemates and Q'xtra events, enjoying getting to know Questers in different settings.

Being around such friendly, intelligent, and engaged folks — some even thirty years my senior — is incredibly inspirational. I understand the ethos of Quest and hope, if I am chosen for Council, I can further help shape and grow Quest and maintain its vibrancy and intellectual and social offerings

## Judy Winn Member-at-Large *(Incumbent)*

I am originally from Philadelphia. I earned a bachelor's degree from Temple University, got married and had two children. When my children were in pre-school, I went back to Temple and earned a master's degree and a PhD in Educational Psychology. I then began a 35-year career working in community college education.



My first job was as a Professor of Education and Psychology at Community College of Philadelphia, where I became the Director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Service Careers. I moved on to become the Vice President and Dean of the College at Burlington County College in New Jersey. After nine years in New Jersey, I moved to Texas and served as President of Northwest College, which is part of the Houston Community College System. My next job was President of Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, a position I held for 12 years until I retired in 2007. Bergen Community College enrolls approximately 14,000 students in college credit courses each year and about 8000 students a year in non-credit continuing education courses. In my last year as President, I oversaw a \$100 million dollar budget, 700 full-time employees and 400 part-time employees.

After I retired, I moved to Brooklyn Heights to be closer to family and I became a member of Quest eight years ago. I made presentations in a number of courses and served on the Curriculum Committee for four years. I have been lead coordinator of Poets' Workshop since the Spring of 2020. I am completing my first two-year term on Quest Council. I believe my extensive administrative experience has been of benefit to the Council and I would like to continue as a Council member-at-large for another two years.

My most rewarding retirement activity has been serving as a volunteer for resettling refugees in New York City. The team with which I work has resettled three young men from Afghanistan. These men were brought to NYC through HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and assigned to my volunteer group. Our job is to get them housing, jobs, phone plans, subway cards, medical care and everything else they need. They are all now working and need less financial assistance from us, but continue to rely on us in managing daily living challenges.

## Creative Corner

### CHILDHOOD FANTASY®

by Betty Farber

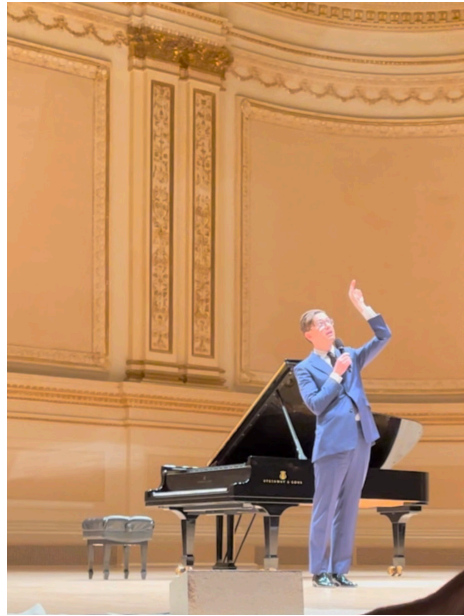
Floating out of the Brooklyn Public Library,  
A rainbow of fairy tales in my backpack,  
A book opened in front of me, I drift  
Down East 13th Street.

Tangled forests grow on the Brooklyn streets  
Hiding castles where sleeping maidens lie.  
As I cross Avenue O, trumpets sound,  
“Long live the queen!”

Ogres pursue me up the stairs  
Until with a golden key I unlock the door  
And find a haven on the couch  
Where I can read happily ever after.

## Vikigur Ólafsson at Carnegie Hall

by Shoshana Kagan



On February 8, at Carnegie Hall, I had the privilege to listen to Bach Goldberg Variations played by the amazing pianist Vikigur Ólafsson. After the grueling struggle and pleasure of playing an 80-minute tour de force, he spoke and said, “I came here three times a week, for ten dollars a ticket, sitting way up there — so I thank you guys tonight. Thank you to my old home city, New York City.”

It was a highlight of the classical concert season. Thank you to **Arlene Hajinlian** who gave an excellent Quest presentation on the Goldberg Variations.

## Encores 2024

by Joyce Hinote

We are well into our Spring term and there have already been several memorable classes. Please vote for your favorite(s) by sending us the information below and clicking on the link. We need as many votes as possible to plan our Summer 2024 Encores Program. Thanks for your help!.

### Please tell us the following:

- What was the course?
- What was the subject?
- Who was the presenter?
- What was the date?

Please click on the link below to e-mail your vote:

[questencores2024@googlegroups.com](mailto:questencores2024@googlegroups.com)

**“There Is No Trick  
To Being A Humorist  
When You Have  
The Whole Government  
Working For You.”**

– Will Rogers

## Tales From the Table

Recently, at a full table in the Quest lunchroom, I happened to mention that **Frank Montaturo** was enjoying a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. That was enough to set off a tablefull of peanut-butter stories. Everybody had one and was excited to share it, which led me to conclude that “peanut butter” would be a perfect prompt for the Creative Writing Workshop, of which I’m a coordinator.

—Helen Saffran

## How I Spent My Winter Vacation

by Richard Elrauch

During my winter vacation I sat in my reading chair and read. At times I shifted my weight in a subtle fashion, first twisting left six degrees, then right, moving a tad forward, a bit back. Occasionally I straightened from a slump. I always followed up by reacquiring the former shape, that which exactly corresponds to my well established spinal curvature.

At appropriate moments marking my regular afternoon cognitive decline, a state invariably associated with perceptual jumbling of the written word, I effected a positional transition from seated to supine and traveled to The Land of Nod.

These voyages were truly fantastical, characterized by instances of transubstantiation, corporeal flight without the aid of wings, shape and time shifting, compelling drama, scenes of nearly tactile gender specific sensuality, and disorientation in three dimensions accompanied by anxiety and dread.

Surprisingly, I have returned intact, no doubt incentivized by the prospect of the pleasure of rejoining my fellow lifelong Questers engaged in the act of Questing as long as life allows.



## CultureQuest: Jewish Museum

by Dena Kerren



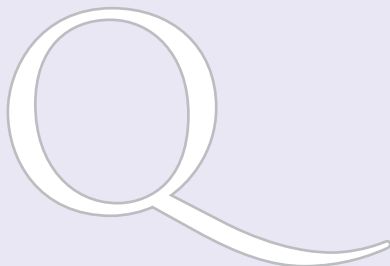
In case you missed it, on March 15th, Molly Wohlforth, our educator for the hour, took us on a virtual tour through the life and works of Marta Minujin.

Rocking the Art World at 80, Marta is finally getting her due at her first exhibit at the Jewish Museum.

*Arte! Arte! Arte!* includes nearly 100 works organized to reflect Marta's bold experimentation over six decades into all phases of the artist's career.

Curator Darsie Alexander spearheaded the exhibit, which pays tribute to recognizing the works of people that are at the end of their careers while also focusing on younger artists.

The exhibition charts Minujin's influential career in Buenos Aires as well as time spent in Paris from 1960–63 where she became friends with Jean Tinguely, Robert Rauschenberg, Christo, and other new realist artists. In New York, she forged a friendship with Andy Warhol. Through a range of pioneering, mattress-based soft sculptures, large-scale paintings, psychedelic drawings and performances, and vintage film footage, the artist's ephemeral works — happenings, participatory installations, and monumental public art — are her way of thinking about art and its enjoyment, but also about human behavior. Since 1980 she has continued to perform events drawing on massive public participation much like Christo's 2005 fabric gates winding 23 miles through Central Park. We all remember the thrill of walking under those orange colored gates.



## Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo



This is a fresh pasta place that had/had been around a very long time... since I was in college and living near Arthur Avenue. We never bought fresh pasta... or maybe we did... the ravioli... the manicotti... we had at the holidays... where did they come from? Maybe here. When I last visited the area in 2019 it was still in existence... nothing had changed... much... since the grandparents of the then (still?) handsome salt and pepper haired “pastaio” founded the place. He emerged from the back carrying a tray of just made fettuccine. One can easily fall for a handsome guy who makes pasta every day.

## CultureQuest: La Rondine

by Estelle Selzer

On Friday March 22nd a large group of Questers attended a Working Dress Rehearsal of the Puccini opera *La Rondine*. The tickets were compliments of the Metropolitan Opera and we had fabulous seats in the orchestra. The production was wonderful with lavish sets. A real treat was seeing the famous soprano Angel Blue in the title role of Magda.



Questers during intermission.



## 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.



Andrew Bata



Bob Belfort



Maria Mendonca



Lynn Vairo



Henriette (Henny) Warren

### On the Go: Quest Travel

by Michael Wellner



#### Calling All Quest Travelers:

As we are sure that you know, the overall travel scene is heating up again, after a Covid-induced lull. Right now lots of tours are selling out, well in advance of their actual departure dates.

And so, with that in mind, we have two ideas for trips next January (2025!), when Quest is on its Winter break. One is to Cuba, and the other is to the American South, for a Civil Rights focused week-long experience. Both are Road Scholar trips, and we actually are very fortunate to have Quest members who traveled just recently on each of these trips (**Terri** and **George Hicks** to Cuba, and **Toni Dickenson** on the Civil Rights trip). And they were all super-pleased!

Please watch the bulletin board at Quest for information about a couple of lunchtime sessions in which Terri, George, and Toni will be available to show some pictures and answer any questions that you may have.

And, as always, please feel free to reach out to any of us with any questions you may have, even at this early date.

**Quest Travel Committee: Toni Dickenson, Leslie Goldman, Karen Levin, Stan Lieblein, and Michael Wellner.** Your vote counts.

### Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

Don't miss the last two Spring sessions of the Quest Book Club. The dates and selections are:

**April 10:** *Stoner*, by John Williams; presented by **Madeleine Brecher**.

**May 15:** *Grey Bees*, by Andrey Kurkov; presented by **Linda Downs**.

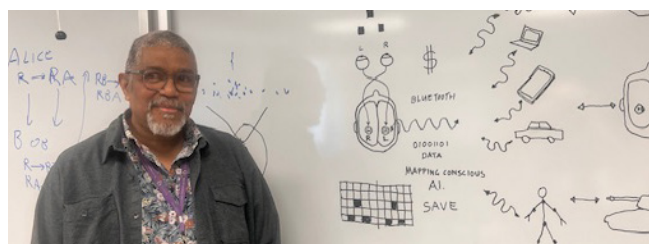
**Is there a book you love that you'd like to introduce to others?**

The Book Club is looking ahead to the Fall semester and developing our reading list. Each month a different person leads the discussion of that meeting's book, and we're looking for people to present books that meant something to them. It's a great way to try your hand at presenting for a single session. Let us know either in person at the April or May meetings, or by emailing any one of the group's co-coordinators, **Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, or Joan Vreeland**.

### Science Clubhouse

by Steve Allen

At the March 11th Science Clubhouse course, **Gil Santiago** did a presentation on Elon Musk's Neuralink. His art work for the whiteboard was such a beautiful combination of science and art, we want to show it to everyone.





# CultureQuest: Our Glorious Underground Art Museum

by Bob Reiss

March 1 saw 24 intrepid Questers explore art in the New York City subways. Following tour leader, **Bob Reiss**, the group stopped at more than a dozen stations on the west side. They viewed works by both art world luminaries like Sol Lewitt, Faith Ringgold, Yoko Ono, and William Wegman, as well as



Bob Majeska pointing out some jazz greats depicted on *Minton's Playhouse* at 116th Street.

under-recognized artists including students from the upper west side. The three-hour tour gave Questers a taste of MTA's amazing visual smorgasbord that we often take for granted and pass by, rushing to our next destination.



Viewing original faience plaques at 59th Street.



Enjoying Faith Ringgold's *Flying Home* at 125th Street.



Viewing original faience plaques at 59th Street.



Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg, Gale Spitalnik, Helen McMahon discussing the finer points.

## CultureQuest Committee

by Madeleine Brecher

**K**udos to **Bob Reiss**. The CultureQuest Committee wishes to thank Bob for the extraordinary time and effort he spent putting this complicated MTA tour together. His organizational skills, the route diagram, the informative handouts on the artists, and his expert leadership underground... deserve this special recognition. We are grateful too to the four excellent Captains: **Gale Spitalnik, Karen Levin, Marian Friedmann, and Tamara Weinberg.**

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*Due to popular demand, CultureQuest has added a second subway art tour to its schedule. It will take place on May 10, 2024. Watch NWAQ for details.*



## Who's Doing What



**Debbi Honorof** and husband spent two wonderful weeks in Arizona (Tucson and Sedona). They hiked nearly every day, spent time with friends and family, and spent a fun day in Bisbee, an old mining town that is built into the side of a mountain.

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**Judith Weis** went to lots of Zoom meetings, lots of

concerts all over town, and sang in a "staged reading" of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*.

Can you spot her with a wig on in the opening scene?

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In early March, World of Theatre course coordinators **Yona Rogosin** and **Mary Ann Donnelly** had the good fortune to see the play "Ibsen's Ghost" by the very talented Charles Busch at the Off Broadway venue 59 East 59 Street Theater. Clever and witty with wonderful actors, the production provided an afternoon of humorous entertainment and a welcome escape from the rain. Also in the audience were Questers **Andrea Levine, Frieda Lipp, Leslie Goldman, Marilyn Weiss** and **Gale Spitalnik**. The play runs through April 14.

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**Madeleine** and **George Brecher** spent a glorious week in Tamarindo, Costa Rica with friends we met on an OAT trip to Panama 14 years ago. We have



managed to travel together several times though we live on opposite coasts... one special month on another OAT vacation to Sri Lanka and Southern India. This time, it was all about relaxing in a lovely spot on the Pacific where it was in the mid 90s with wonderful breezes 24/7.

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**Ellen Rittberg** took one of her grandchildren to Color Factory which she describes as over-priced, but something that all the kids seem to know about and want to go to. (However, she cautions that anybody who is at all ambulation-challenged might not want to wade through the sea of blue plastic balls. It's not the wisest activity to engage in.) The venue can be experienced in as little as forty five minutes.



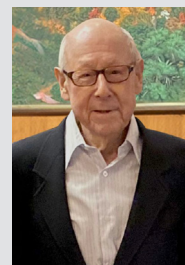
## Quest Remembers

by Michael Wellner

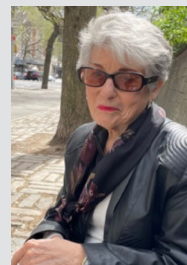
On Thursday afternoon, March 27th, nearly a hundred Quest members gathered in the auditorium to honor and remember four recently departed and beloved friends, **Marcia Friedland, Phil Gisser, Bobbie Gold, and Eva Shatkin**. Nearly a dozen speakers recounted lots of personal stories, as well as the many contributions these members made to Quest over so many years. We will all surely miss them every day.



Marcia Friedland



Phil Gisser



Bobbie Gold



Eva Shatkin

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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.

## Love Letters

by Dena Kerren



**Frieda Lipp** and **Roy Clary** gave us a heart-warming performance of *Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney.