

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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A Note From the President

The seventh-floor Auditorium was filling up with staff and students, their family members and friends along with four Quest members the evening of Wednesday, May 22nd when the evening's host, John Calagione, CWE Academic Coordinator/Advisor, opened the 2024 Awards & Scholarship Ceremony with a warm welcome to all.

John was followed by several other notables, including CWE Dean Dr. Juan Carolos Mercado, and CCNY Provost Dr. Tony Liss. But it was our own **Bob Hartmann** who won our hearts when he took the mic and spoke of the relationship between Quest and CWE.

Standing near a CWE *Never Stop Learning* banner, he told the audience that "We started with 90+ eager scholars and eventually grew under the sponsorship of CWE. Both of our institutes have the same philosophy: education never ceases, which is not necessarily the aim of a more traditional college education. And I have never seen an educational institution with a deeper sense of social responsibility than this

one at 25 Broadway. CWE and Quest have increasingly similar and close interactions as evidenced by the scholarships and prizes granted by Quest as an organization and by some of us as individuals."

In 1996, Bob, a founding member of Quest, was the first to act on his strong desire to repay what he considers a debt; not only in a financial way, but also in any



way he can help others achieve their goals. His RGH Scholarship will continue to help scholars far into future generations.

Michael Wellner and **Sandra Abramson**, followed Bob in funding scholarships, and **Elaine Martin** is just crossing the Ts and dotting the Is on her scholarship. As an organization, Quest annually funds four scholarships, including The Quest **Peter Cott** and **Kenneth Leedom** Memorial Scholarship.

And, of course, Quest has been the recipient of quite a number of bequests from former members, most recently **Stu** and **Jan Eisler**, as well as founding member **Eva Shatkin**.

So, as you spend this Summer frolicking in the surf, climbing a mountain, or wandering through some exotic city (as well as attending Summer Encores presentations, of course), think about whether you'd like to extend your legacy. It doesn't have to be a fortune or forever; just a gesture to pay it forward.

Donna Ramer



ENJOY SUMMER!

CultureQuest Walking Tour of the Sutton Neighborhood

by Maureen Berman

Though the day dawned cloudy, spirits were high as fifteen Quest members, many whom were visiting the area for the first time, toured the Sutton neighborhood. Drawing upon the presentation she made to the NYC and its Environs class, **Maureen Berman** began the outing with an overview of the history of the Sutton area, relating how it developed from open farmland in the 1700's to the busy neighborhood it is today.

The group then strolled through the Sutton Place Parks on a tour led by Merrill Perlman, a volunteer gardener with the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy. During her talk, Merrill pointed out the shrubs and plants that thrive in the parks and discussed the challenges of gardening in an urban setting. The Sutton Place Parks Conservancy, a non-profit volunteer organization, works closely with the NYC Parks Department to care for the parks and organize special events for the Sutton Community.

Following the garden tour, the Quest group moved through the neighborhood, stopping to view the beautiful private homes and apartment buildings that line Sutton Place, including Number One Sutton Place, completed in 1920 as the home of Mrs. William Vanderbilt and currently one of the last remaining private homes in

Manhattan. Next door to Number One is the private home that now serves as the residence of the United Nations Secretary General. The group also admired the stately homes on two quiet streets next to Sutton Place — Sutton Square and Riverview Terrace. At the end of Sutton Square lies the 58th Street Sutton Place Park where Woody Allen filmed the famous scene in *Manhattan* looking up to the 59th Street Bridge.

The highlight of the trip came after lunch with a visit to 17 Beekman Place, now the home of the Permanent Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United Nations, as well as other Consular offices. The townhouse was formerly the residence of Irving Berlin and his family, who bought the home in 1946 and lived in it until Berlin's death at age 101 in 1989.

Quest members were welcomed to the residence by Nicolas Pierre, Consular Officer in charge of Administration for all the Luxembourg facilities in New York City. He pointed out key features of the house, including the elevator that was in use when the Berlin family occupied the five-story townhouse. The Quest group exited the home to find the sun shining brightly.



Quest members assembling for the tour at the 57th Street entrance to the Sutton Place Parks are **Tamara Weinberg**, **Leslie Kraus**, and **Michael Wellner** (standing); **Liz Laube**, **Lauren Gee**, **Lynn Harmon**, and **Ellie Schaffer** (seated on the bench).



Merrill Perlman, a volunteer gardener with the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy introduces the Quest group to the plants and shrubs that thrive in Sutton Parks.



Nicolas Pierre of the Luxembourg Mission provided an overview of the history and current use of the former home of the Irving Berlin family. He was joined by **Lynn Harmon** and **Anita Hunter**, (seated on the couch), and **Arlynn Greenbaum** (standing).

Creative Corner

GOODBYE®

by Betty Farber

A childhood friend, of my same age —
We were happily engaged
In talking of our own life stories.
We were eager to explore these,
Ready and willing to see the ending
Without regret, without pretending.
When she left, I said, “Goodbye.”
She turned to me and begged, “Don’t die.”
“All right. I won’t,” was my willing lie.

It Is Never Too Late To Be What You Might Have Been.

— George Eliot

Acting Workshop

by Dena Kerren



On May 15, the Acting Workshop presented its annual year-end production (Potpourri II) to a full house. The production presented monologues and scenes from a variety of works including *The Belle of Amherst*, *The Critic’s Wife*, *Doubt*, *Working*, *Alice In Wonderland*, and *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*. The production was directed by **Roy Clary**, left, pictured with the cast: **Jennifer Jolly**, **Dorothy Kiara Lahm**, **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, **Yona Rogosin**, and **Sol Zalcgendler**.

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may be edited by the Staff.
The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter
of the publication’s contents.

Where Is He?



Can you find this island on your map? It’s one of several truly isolated islands northeast of the Falkland Islands. **Gary Friedland** took a 28-day luxe cruise, hanging out with the penguins, seals, whales, and a huge variety of birds.

Napoleon spent his final days on St. Helena Island, today the home of Jonathan (a Seychelles giant tortoise hatched c. 1832), the world’s oldest known living land creature, still alive at 192.

Who's Doing What

You never know who you'll meet in the lobby of the Philharmonic! And, yes, that is Christine Baranski with our friend **Shoshi Kagan**.

• • •



George & **Madeleine Brecher** spent five days at Roncolo 1888,

Emilia Romana, Italy over the Memorial Weekend at the "magnifico" wedding of their daughter Alison to new son-in-law Eric Bishof. What a celebration!

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City Ramblings *by Frank Montaturo*

**Chess Forum
Thompson Street
New York City
December 2021**

I haven't played chess in many years. I was not particularly good at the game. I think I bested my younger brother once or twice. The longtime Lebanese-American owner says that this is a place for smart people not smart phones. I have the latter; maybe it could help me improve my game and then I might find someone at the Forum on my level. Seniors need only pay \$1.00 an hour instead of \$5.00. A real bargain... it would take away the sting of losing, but if one is not smart it wouldn't matter anyway.



Creativity Day

As you may have seen, as part of the Summer Encores 2024 program, Creativity Day is scheduled for Thurs., July 11 at 10:30 am in the Auditorium.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Creativity Day, it is time for Quest members to share their creativity in the form of arts, crafts, performance, and poetry and prose readings.

We already have volunteers but there are still slots open so please let us know as soon as possible if you will be participating.

Mary Ann Donnelly will coordinate the performances — poetry, songs, skits, etc. And **Tamara Weinberg** will show slides of the art — paintings, jewelry, collages — which the artists will discuss.

Please submit your entries to Mary Anne at madonne1645@aol.com or to Tamara at tamara_weinberg@hotmail.com accordingly. Creativity Day also needs an audience so mark your calendars to attend this celebration of Quest creativity!



Summer Encores 2024

All classes are 10:30 am to 12 noon
See NWAQ every Friday for location and Zoom access

Tuesdays June 4 – July 23	Thursdays June 6 – July 25
June 4: Peter Dichter, <i>Classical Music in Pop Culture</i> , Classical Music	June 6: Sandy Kessler, <i>Tocqueville on Faith & Civic Virtue</i> , Philosophy
June 11: Marian Friedman, <i>How Windows Have Inspired Incredible Art</i> , Artists and Their Work	June 13: Steve Allen, <i>The History of Artificial Intelligence</i> , Artificial Intelligence
June 18: Bob Gottfried <i>Muhammad Ali</i> The Sixties	June 20: Wayne Cotter and Steve Koenig, <i>Fourth Annual Salute to Songwriters</i> , Rock & Roots Albums
June 25: Judy Hampson, <i>Women Spies in WWII</i> , Women Spies	June 27: Ellie Schaffer, <i>What Makes it Cole Porter?</i> , Quester's Choice
July 2: Howard Salik, <i>The Last Kings of Shanghai</i> , Quester's Choice	July 4: Holiday / Quest Closed
July 9: Emily Mines, <i>School Choice</i> , Upheaval in American Values	July 11: Creativity Day, <i>A Celebration of Members' Artistic Works</i>
July 16: Susan Diehl, <i>Who is Banksy?</i> , Artists and Their Work	July 18: Gordon Gilbert, <i>Transparent Architecture</i> , Quester's Choice
July 23: Elaine Martin, <i>Hurt People: Origins of Narcissism</i> , Quester's Choice	July 25: Paul Golomb, <i>The Subway</i> , New York City and Its Environs

Subway Safari

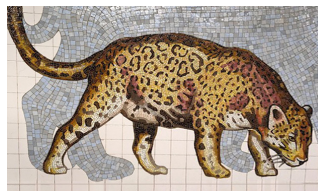
by Bob Reiss



On May 10, seventeen Questers took to the rails to view the largest art gallery in New York City, that is MTA's labyrinthine subway system. Traversing the West Side #1, 2, 3 and B, C lines, we saw works by Yoko Ono, and the late Faith Ringgold, along with some charming images by art students resident in the UWS.

Images of the animal kingdom at the 81st Street stop (American Museum of Natural History) were a highlight.

Bob Reiss served as tour guide but in most cases, the art spoke for itself. I think all on the tour will now pay more attention to this wonderful resource in our daily travels underground



End of Semester Luncheon

by Michael Wellner

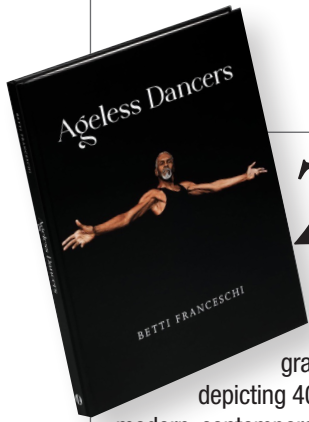
On Friday May 17th, 116 Quest members gathered for our annual end-of-the-semester luncheon, this time at a lovely restaurant *Osteria Sicily*, conveniently located in the theater district on West 46th Street. This was certainly one of our largest groups ever, and the venue turned out to be just perfect because we had two connected rooms exclusively for us — one of which was a delightful, covered outdoor patio. And the weather was ideal: nice and bright without too much burning sunshine. Great Italian food and wine. Wonderful

company. **Dean Mercado** and three of his CWE staff joined us for a delightful afternoon. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, as these pictures attest.

Now stay tuned for news about our upcoming December holiday party, and then a surprise is in store for our big 30th Anniversary a year from now!

Many thanks to our Special Events Committee, **Marian Friedmann, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, and Michael Wellner**, for all their fine work.

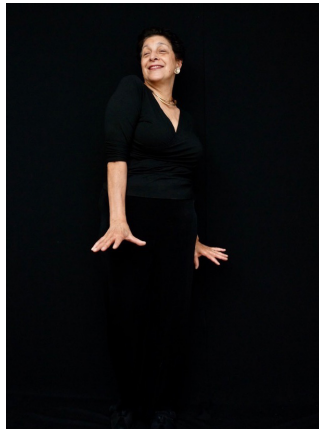




Ageless Dancers

Ze'eva Cohen is happy to share with you her delight of a recent publication titled *Ageless Dancers*, that includes two full-page photographs of her in dance movement. *Ageless Dancers*, published in April 2024, is a large and elegant volume of photographs by painter and sculptor Betti Franceschi, depicting 40 iconic dancers from the disciplines of ballet, modern, contemporary, tap, and musical theater. They range from 70's to 100 years of age.

With an introduction by painter and curator George Negroponte, *Ageless Dancers* is comprised of 70 photographs, capturing the grace, strength, and intelligence of each former dancer. The volume represents Franceschi's decades-long fascination with dancers and her study of bodies that speak.



Netherlands and Slave Trade

by Penelope Pi-Sunyer

Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis and Penelope Pi-Sunyer attended a two-day conference on Slavery in New Netherland and the Dutch Atlantic World in preparation for their new course on New York City History in the Fall. The first day was held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, an extensive resource of Black History, while the second day was held at the New-York Historical Society, an equally extensive resource of New York City's history.

We learned quickly that, while we knew that the Dutch were the first European settlers in New York, and that they brought and used slaves, we did not realize that they were also deeply engaged in the profitable Atlantic slave trade from Africa to the Caribbean and North and South America. The many scholars from both the Netherlands and the US shared their impressive research, digging into long hidden ship and town records to find accounts of trading companies, slave owners, and even individual women and men.

We left, feeling overwhelmed, but eager to bring together information for our first classes in the Fall.

Birdland

by Michael Wellner



On Monday evening, April 29th, five jazz loving Questers (and one friend) assembled at the world-famous Birdland Jazz Club for a performance by the very well-known, Grammy-winning, Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. Enjoying the drinks, food and most importantly the music — jazz from the 1920s and 30s — were **Wayne Cotter, Pam Gemelli, Ann Goerd, Stu Parker, Michael Wellner**, and a friend of Ann's. All agreed it was a fun evening — and plans are afoot for another jazz evening!