

## A Note From the President

**W**ith the ghostly glow of Halloween behind us, our fall semester is beginning to wane. The good news is that we still have several weeks of classes and on-site events to keep us tuning in and showing up, so mark your calendars.

**November 20, 1:00–3:00 p.m.** General Business Meeting and Reception: As required by our Bylaws, each semester we hold a state-of-the-union meeting to update members and give everyone an opportunity to ask questions about Quest operations. A highlight of this hybrid meeting is an introduction to new courses that launch the following semester. A reception in the lounge across from the auditorium follows immediately at 2:30 thanks to our

Social Committee: **Gail Spitalnik** (chair), **Harriet Dubroff**, **Lauren Gee**, **Pam Gemelli**, **Lois Klein**, and **Marilyn Weiss**.

**November 25–28** Thanksgiving Break: 25 Broadway is closed and there are no Zoom classes as we take this week off for our fall break. Classes resume Monday, December 2, which is an A Week.

**December 12:** The last day of fall 2024 classes. We return after seven weeks to a new year and several new classes on Monday, February 3, 2025.

**December 13:** Our holiday luncheon; check your email in a few weeks for details from **Michael Wellner** and the Special Events Committee.

Also this November (dates to come), you'll have an opportunity to review and vote

on updates to our Bylaws. As required, a committee is convened every three years to review and update the Bylaws as appropriate. You will receive a copy in plenty of time to review before two hybrid Q&A lunchtime meetings (on-site and Zoom) and then an electronic vote. While it seems like an easy gig, it's very time consuming (and thought provoking) so our thanks to this year's committee: **Wayne Cotter** (committee chair), **Steve Allen**, **Mary Ann Donnelly**, **Bob Gottfried** (Quest VP & Parliamentarian), and **Lynn Vairo**.

So while the temperatures are dropping outside, there's lots to keep us warm as a member of Quest.

**Donna Ramer**

## Where is Diego Garcia? *by Arlynn Greenbaum*

**O**n October 23, our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Lecturer Simon Winchester entertained us with a story about his discovery of Diego Garcia, a remote military outpost in the Indian Ocean. His latest book is *Knowing What We Know*. You never know what you'll learn about at Quest!



## Guest Speaker Adam Nagourney *by Estelle Selzer*

**O**n Wednesday, October 9th, Adam Nagourney, author of *The Times: How the Newspaper of Record Survived Scandal, Scorn, and the Transformation of American Journalism*, was interviewed by Estelle Selzer. We learned many interesting things about four decades of our daily newspaper. While the interview was recorded, only the audio can be heard on Quest's website.



## Quest Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

**D**on't miss the last two fall sessions of the Quest Book Club. The dates and selections are:

**November 16:** *Kindred* by Octavia Butler; presented by **Susannah Falk Lewis** (Note: change of date; this is the first Wednesday in November)

**December 11:** *Kunstlers in Paradise* by Cathleen Schine; presented by **Debbi Honorof**.

**Is there a book you love that you'd like to introduce to others?** The Book Club is looking ahead to the spring 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 November or December meetings, or by emailing any one of the group's co-coordinators, **Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis or Joan Vreeland**.

## Thank You, QPal Partners

by Madeleine Brecher

**T**hank you to the following Questers for volunteering in our QPal Initiative  
**Jill Altman, David Bartash, Leslie Goldman, Arlynn Greenbaum, Lois Klein, Donna Ramer, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis**



## Everything You Have Is Yours

**Z**e'eva Cohen has a small role in the upcoming independent 90-minute film, *Everything You Have Is Yours*. One of the scenes was recorded during her presentation at Quest on the Jews of Yemen.

The film will premiere during the DOC NYC Film Festival on November 15th at 9:45 PM at the Village East by Angelika at 181 Second Avenue (12th Street). Quest members can get a discount when buying tickets online with the password: **DOCNYC\_PTNRDISC\_24**

Link to Buy Tickets:

<https://www.docnyc.net/film/everything-you-have-is-yours/>

Please see the two-minute trailer to the film, which will give you a sense of what the film is about:

<https://vimeo.com/1008264572>

**Synopsis of the film:** NYC-based choreographer Hadar Ahuvia interrogates the roots of the Israeli folk dances she grew up dancing with her mother in the US. Facing romanticized stories about her grandparents, settlers in Palestine in the 1930s, she begins a personal endeavor to confront the founding mythologies and transgressions of Zionism. A web of artistic portraits emerges as Jewish, Israeli, and Palestinian dancers living in New York City question what is inherited and what we embody to carry forward.



## Ramblings Far Afield

by Frank Montaturo

### September 2024 Vienna, Austria

**V**ienna's 10th "Bezirk"... the 150 year old Favoriten district... is the city's most populated... most culturally diverse... with many residents from Turkey and the Balkans. It is lively. It is traditionally working class. Change has come and has not gone unnoticed.

We were fortunate enough to spend a month there recently. And so... in a neighborhood saturated with kebab shops... with full-on table service Turkish restaurants... cafes and pastry shops... an Irish pub does not pass unnoticed. I never did try it, however. What would be the point? This early morning drinker (it was 11:24 according to my camera) also did not go unnoticed. I did wonder. In the midst of change... perhaps unsettling change for some... what can one cling to?

A teddy bear brings reassurance that all will be well.





# CCNY-CWE-QUEST Scholarship Reception At the National Arts Club

by Michael Wellner and Elaine Martin

**I**t was standing room only at the recent reception at the National Arts Club, sponsored by CCNY/CWE honoring Quest's scholarship program for CWE students.

The all-star cast at the podium featured CCNY President Vince Boudreau, CCNY VP Dee Dee Mozeleski, and CWE Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, along with event organizers **Michael Wellner** and **Elaine Martin**. And our special thanks go to **Roy Clary**, a member of the National Arts Club, who was able to secure this special venue for this event.

Dee Dee Mozeleski, head of the City College Fund, opened the evening by thanking all the Quest members who so generously support several CCNY students, and briefly introducing each of the scholarship winners who were present.

The highlight of the event (not to mention the fine wine and superb hors d'oeuvres) was hearing directly from a few of the recipients of scholarships funded by Quest, and the personal scholarships established by individual Quest Members **Bob Hartmann**, **Sandra Abramson**, and **Michael Wellner**. Each student shared

their very personal stories, but the common thread was how important our scholarship funds have been to helping them complete their programs and secure their degrees.

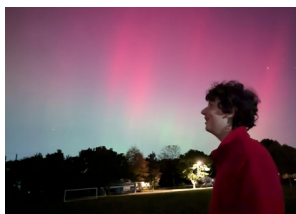
The culmination of this wonderful afternoon were President Boudreau's remarks, in which he talked at some length about the impact that City College has had, since its founding in 1847, as an institution serving those who could not afford the costs of traditional colleges and universities. In case after case, families cited their first member who was able to attend college — thanks to CCNY's free tuition policy — and the impact which that had not only on the students themselves, *but on all subsequent generations of that family as well*. Indeed, that is the very essence of CCNY. And Quest's support of that effort is so appreciated by him, and by everyone at the college. We really do make a difference!

Finally: if you think that you might be interested in setting up a personal scholarship for a CWE or CCNY student please contact Michael or Elaine. You really do have the ability to change a City College student's life!



## Who's Doing What

On October 10th, **Shoshi Kagan** and her grandson were amazed by the aurora borealis (Northern Lights) in Barrington, Rhode Island.



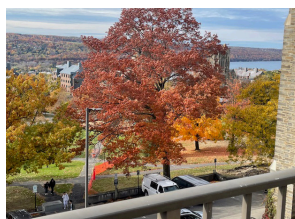
• • •

**Sybil Cohen** celebrated her twenty-fifth year as a volunteer at the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center at the annual luncheon at the Westhampton Country Club. She has been attending New York City theater previews and opening performances

at the invitation of her son, Adam, and co-producers.

• • •

**Judy Weis** went up to Cornell — her Alma Mater — to give a seminar, and spent a nostalgic afternoon wandering around campus and taking photos before getting on the Inter-Campus bus back to New York City. Had a wonderful time! Photo: "Far above Cayuga's Waters..."



## Creative Corner

### REHEARSAL®

by Betty Farber

In my meditation session  
Our teacher revealed  
That monks try to simulate dying  
To understand how it would feel  
To endure this ultimate experience.  
I have tried to replicate their endeavors  
In my leather chair in a deep sleep.  
I failed. I could not pretend to die  
Or even imagine Heaven.

But when I was in a crowded cafe  
Attached to an off-Broadway theater  
With music screaming in my ears  
And people squeezed like lemons,  
Talking at the top of their lungs  
It was like a hint of Hell.  
Then doors opened for me  
And the usher took my ticket.  
Finally, I was able to enter  
The Heavenly peace of the theater.

**"We May Have All Come  
On Different Ships,  
But We're All In  
The Same Boat Now."**  
— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## 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.



Mara Conan



Mary Elizabeth Pendl

## Q News Staff

*A Quest Publication*

*Editor-in-Chief*  
**Barbara Gelber**

*Consulting Editors*  
**Michael Wellner**  
**Gale Spitalnik**

*Editor Emerita*  
**Carolyn McGuire**

*Graphic Design*  
**Robbii**

25 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
212.925.6625 x229  
questlifelong.org

Articles submitted to QNews  
may be edited by the Staff.  
The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter  
of the publication's contents.

