

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

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A Note From the President

The image of the wings of Icarus melting when he flies too close to the sun is not far from my mind when the thermometer dances around the red one-hundred mark. But his impulsiveness and youthful defiance as well as the tragic consequences of his ignoring balance and wisdom, are juxtaposed with about forty very engaged

Questers sitting in the cool, dim seventh floor auditorium, soaking up not the rays but the artistry of the Dutch masters on three large screens.

This is Sumer Encores. Two months of beating the heat and thunderstorms to catch up on more than a dozen classes.

Today, **Tamara Weinberg** was our tutor and **Victor Brener** our technical expert. With

more classes still to come, a variety of members will take the mic and still others will keep at-home members tuned in.

So while some of us will clasp bottles of cold water and others cups of hot coffee, let's give a round of applause and our thanks to our presenters and technical team.

Donna Ramer

Creativity Day *by Arlynn Greenbaum*



Some 70 Questers were amused, amazed, and entertained on June 26 at Creativity Day, part of the Summer Encores program. The program started with **Ellie Schaffer** and **June Jacobson's** musical parodies, and ended with **Gil Santiago's** Sea Shanties. In between there was art, poetry, jewelry, dance, photography, and even a demonstration of how to make eggplant parmigiana.

In addition to Ellie, June, and Gil, the participants included **Ze'eva Cohen, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso, Jennifer Jolly, David Judlowitz, Steve Koenig, Helen McMahon, Shirley Ranz, Yona Rogosin, Linda Rothstein, Helen Saffran, Ellen Shapiro, Bob Shick, Paulanne Simmons, Ruth Ward, and Mary Beth Yakoubian.**

The event was organized by **Andrea Irvine, Mary Ann Donnelly, and Tamara Weinberg.** Andrea and the Social Committee provided chilled Rosé and sweets after to celebrate the special day.

Quester's Choice *by Mary Beth Yakoubian*

The Fall 2025 presenters for Quester's Choice had a sumptuous lunch at Capital Grille on June 10th: **Babette Ceccotti, Ron Kolber, Carole Kolber, Carole Blane, Toni Dickenson, Debbi Honorof, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian.** Absent: **Sandra Abramson, Bob Gottfried.**



Summer Encores Off to a Rousing Start

by Arlynn Greenbaum, Andrea Irvine, and Joyce Hinote



Over 80 Questers and prospective members showed up for the first Summer Encore presentation on June 3—**Steve Allen's** popular “*Secret Life of the American Musical*.” Following the program, the Social Committee arranged a casual lunch which was enjoyed by all.

WiFi at Quest

by Marion Schultheis



Several Quest members over the years have requested WiFi. Thanks to George and several others, we now have it.

Mr. Jefferson's Women



On June 17, **Roy Clary** performed a dramatic monologue written by **Bob Reiss** entitled *Mr. Jefferson's Women*. The play explored several of Jefferson's relationships, his marriage to Martha Wayles, his unconsummated fling with Maria Cosway, and notably, his long-term relationship with his slave, Sally Hemmings. The Quest audience got an in-depth understanding of his relationship with Hemmings in the context of the mores and customs of the Virginia gentry of that era. Several Questers commented that the play is worthy of an off (well maybe off-off) Broadway production.

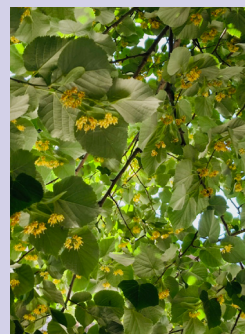
City Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Berlin's 16th century Unter den Linden is one of Europe's great tree lined promenades. The tree also has a presence here in our city... the 2015-2016 NY StreetTree Census estimated 4.7% of the total 666,134. This lush beauty is one of five wrapping around our corner. Its June blossoming is much anticipated. As I leave home in the early days of the month... I look up... I sniff the air... Over the next days and weeks the fragrance concentrates grace and strength in the tightly clustered yellow blooms. On occasion the scent enters stealthily through our open windows on the fifth floor.

Some years back I decided I would harvest the flowers and the elongated pale green leaves to which they cling. I filled a small shopping bag. The infusion helps with anxiety, insomnia and respiratory issues. A city horticulturalist advised against brewing them.

I mentioned my disappointment to a Viennese friend. Some months later close to Christmas a dented tin arrived. On opening it I found and inhaled the still faint perfume... I brewed a cup of the Vienna Woods.



Who's Doing What

Carole Blane, Ellie Schaffer, and Debbi Honorof visited the Presby Iris Gardens in Montclair, New Jersey.



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A mere hour flight, and **Sandy Gordon**, the guest of her five grandchildren, enjoyed Montréal, akin to walking in Paris, with excellent museums, and superb cuisine. A surprise was that the signature dish of Montréal, smoked meats, were actually Jewish delicatessen fare — and better than New York!



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In May, **Yona Rogosin** and her daughter Nila Rosen went to

the groundbreaking National Museum of Women in the Arts and saw three terrific exhibits including the iconic Guerilla Girls Making Trouble posters. The museum is a must see when you are in the Capital.

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Arlynn Greenbaum (third from left) in front of the Apache Dancer on Museum Hill in Santa Fe with her Road Scholar group. She was on a fascinating trip June 15–20 dealing with New Mexico's Converso and Crypto-Jews. The final day was spent in Taos at a Pueblo village.

In addition to seeing the sights, **Pete and Judy Weis** learned many new skills in Japan: learning paper crafts and how to write their names in Japanese.



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(Clockwise) **Estelle Selzer, Madeleine Brecher, Karen Levin and Arlynn Greenbaum** on the steps of Louis Armstrong's house in Corona, Queens on June 6 after a fascinating docent tour. His beloved home was the inspiration for his hit song, "What a Wonderful World." The group also enjoyed the Armstrong Museum across the street and a Dominican lunch.



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Lynnel Garabedian, Anita Hunter, and Madeleine Brecher braved clouds and rain to join the No Kings protest on June 14 which they found inspiring and fun.



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On June 4th, **Joan Vreeland**, her husband Jim, and her sister Carol visited the Botanical Gardens to see the Van Gogh exhibit. After viewing most of the special exhibit inside the Conservatory and on the grounds, they decided to take a tram ride (since it was so hot). Lo and behold, who was on the tram line right in front of us — **Arlynn Greenbaum** and her friend!

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Surprise Theater Opportunity!

by Karen Levin

On May 28, a dreary rainy day, a group of Questers had a wonderful theater outing and saw "Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes" at the Minetta Lane theater.

One of the hottest tickets to get, Hugh Jackman and Ella Beatty star in this excellent drama about an affair between a middle-aged professor and his young student.



Jon (played by Hugh Jackman pictured) is a writer and literature professor. Annie (played by Ella Beatty), is his 19 year-old student, a major fan of his work. See it before it closes!

Q Review

Only 123 days left until deadline. The editors want your creativity. Send prose to **Donna Ramer** donnaramer1@gmail.com Poetry goes to **Judy Hampson** judyahampson@gmail.com Write or speak to **Paul Adler** adlerworks@verizon.net to learn how to submit your art.

The Very Existence of Libraries Affords the Best Evidence That We May Yet Have Hope for the Future of Man.

— T.S. Eliot, Nobel Laureate

You Have to Train Your Mind As Much as Your Body.

— Venus Williams

Jack Whitten: The Messenger at MOMA

by Madeleine Brecher

CultureQuest's final tour for the 2024-25 year was nothing short of glorious. Debbie Goldberg, Quest friend and excellent MOMA guide, led us on a discovery of *Jack Whitten: The Messenger*, MOMA's first comprehensive retrospective of the artist's oeuvre. Featuring over 175 paintings, sculptures, works on paper, archival items spanning the 1960s to 2012, the show explores Whitten's move from a focus on Civil Rights to large groundbreaking abstraction. Some of the highlights include floor-pulled acrylic canvases and mosaic-like paint-tiles that fuse African, Mediterranean, and technological influences. Some of

his sculptures reminded us of some of the pieces in the newly renovated Rockefeller African and Oceania collection.

Do make sure you visit this exhibition which closes on August 2nd. Our group agreed that it was mind-blowing! However, seeing it through Debbie's eyes added so much to our understanding and appreciation. Whitten's inventive techniques reshaped modern art and probed themes of race, memory and society.

We visited MOMA's Terrace Café for lunch where we connected at small tables to get acquainted and talk about Jack Whitten.

What a remarkable day!



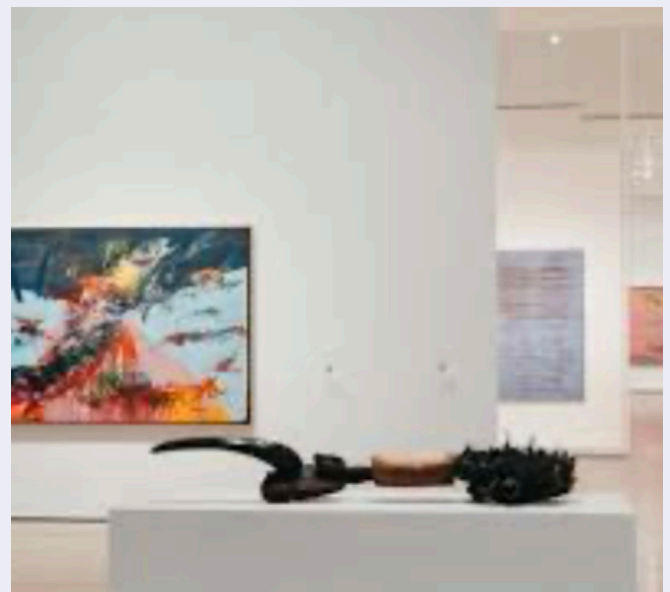
Madeleine Brecher, Howard Salik, Ken Sasmor, Toni Dickenson, Rita Lavitt, Shoshi Kagan, Andrew Bata, and Vince Grosso.



Jeanne Gold, Andrea Pastor, Marilyn Ostrow, Hedy Shulman, and Ze'eva Cohen



Whitten's tribute to 9/11, he watched it happen



Art and Sculpture

A Visit To a Fairybook Suburb

by Madeleine Brecher



West Side Tennis Clubhouse & Restaurant

Forest Hills Gardens Station Square

The weather prediction that June Thursday was sunny and hot for our adventure to Forest Hills Gardens. Four of us... **Maureen Berman, Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, and Madeleine Brecher**... took the air conditioned E train from 53rd Street and, much to our amazement, 15 minutes later arrived at Continental Avenue in Forest Hills, the entryway into the Gardens.

We passed under the LIRR trestle into charming Station Square, its red-bricked archways and cobblestone streets took our breath away. Could this really be part of New York City? We learned how Colonel Teddy Roosevelt's *100% American Speech* on July 4, 1917, in that exact spot, convinced Federal authorities to place Station Square in the National Register of Historic Places. We saw the Forest Hills Inn just as it had looked back then. We learned more about the history of this extraordinary place.

As midday approached, we made our way to the West Side Tennis Club, the site of legendary matches of the US Tennis Open, and how it moved from Newport to Forest Hills Gardens in the 1910s. We took our seats on the dining terrace, with views of the grand stadium and multiple tennis courts visible nearby. Lunch was a leisurely affair as delightful breezes kept us cool, and delicious salads and chilled glasses of iced tea or an Arnold Palmer kept us satisfied. Our host entertained us with stories about the current life of those living in this glorious oasis in the city. The quiet luxury of the space set the tone for a perfect afternoon.

After lunch, we were given a quick tour past the tennis courts, swimming area, and current controversial outdoor music stadium that hosts popular musical entertainment during the summer months. The upgraded stadium once provided audience seating for the Forest Hills US Open before it moved to Flushing Meadows in 1977. The New York Times reports that the noise level at the rock concerts in 2025 created a stressful situation for nearby neighbors in this tony community.

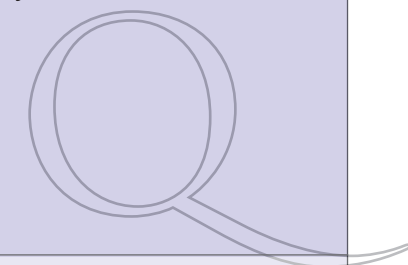
We bid our hostess farewell and strolled under the Tudor arches into the heart of the gardens to see the homes, churches, parks, and the School in the Gardens where Madeleine went to elementary school. We marveled at how the past and present seemed to coexist effortlessly. The exquisite architectural styles remain today a distinguishing feature of Forest Hills Gardens, setting it apart from other neighborhoods in New York City. Make sure to pencil in a day this summer to enjoy the magic!

New Member

Quest welcomes one new member this month. Look for her red lanyard, indicating a new member, at 25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest.



Lynne Scheurer-Foster



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A Quest Publication

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

Creative Corner

PLACES I HAVE LIVED®

by Betty Farber

Brooklyn

My sister and I did not talk
gloom and doom,
Though we slept on a couch in the
living room.
A few years later, almost grown
We were given a bedroom all our own.

Queens

With my new husband, I had the
means
To move to a building in Bayside,
Queens.

Nassau County

Family growing, we needed space
Glen Cove was a nice suburban
place.
With the loss of a job we looked
around
Found a cozy home in Levittown.

St. Louis

A new job offer in the Midwest
St. Louis County seemed the best.
A place of comfort and of charm
We bought a house in Oak Tree Farm.

Memphis

Daughters to college to get a degree
Husband transferred to Tennessee.

Nassau County (reprise)

New York was calling; we formed
a committee
To look for a home in Garden City.

Suffolk County

Living in Southold, life was a peach
We started a business and sat on
the beach.

New York City

It was time for Manhattan; we were
retired,
Time to enjoy the things we desired.
So I live on the East Side, after
trying the West,
And I think I have found the place
I like best.
So I don't plan to move, whatever
the price
'Til they find me a penthouse in
Paradise.

Westbury Senior Living—2023

Nearer to family, in the Midwest.
I finally discovered what suits me
the best.
There's no discussion; there's no
debate.
Paradise will have to wait!

CWE Scholarship

On Wednesday evening, May 21st, seven Questers (**Donna Ramer**, **Bob Hartmann**, **Michael Wellner**, **Sandra Abramson**, **Elaine Martin**, **Bob Shick**, and **Carol Rubin**—all donors to the CCNY/CWE Scholarship program) gathered in the 7th floor auditorium at 25 Broadway to join the City College President, the Provost, our good friend the CWE Dean, and several CWE faculty and staff, to participate in a ceremony that honored some nineteen superb CWE students for their academic excellence during the year just concluded. After a few opening remarks by President Boudreau, Provost Tony Liss, and Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, our own **Michael Wellner** made a brief congratulatory address to all the students, which was then followed by specific scholarship presentations. These included **Donna Ramer** (for four Quest scholarships, including the Peter Cott and Ken Leedom memorial award, most of which Quest has been doing for many years); **Michael Wellner** (the “Captain Mike” scholarship); **Elaine Martin** (the Robert Schurtman memorial scholarship); Quest founding member **Bob Hartmann** (for his long-standing scholarship); and **Sandra Abramson** (the Terry Defiore and Sandra Abramson scholarship).

As is the case each year, the most moving remarks by far were those of the winning students themselves, many of whom are not typical college-age students, but rather are older, usually working, certainly not wealthy by any measure, and often juggling families and children at home while pursuing their degrees. All of us in the audience could not fail to be moved by their stories, and everyone at Quest should be proud of those members who have opted to support these wonderful hard-working students, and this important CWE City College program.

Room to Move

Ze'eva Cohen's photograph and video of her dancing with her DTW colleagues are on display in the exhibition: Room to Move: Dance Theater Workshop and Alternative Histories of Downtown Dance at the NYPL for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. The exhibition's focus is the experimental modern and postmodern dance scene in New York during the mid 60s and the 70s.

The exhibition is on view through September 13, 2025, at the Astor Gallery on the L level.

Free tours with Library staff will take place July 30 and August 27 at 11:00 AM.

