

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 63

June 2025

A Note From the President

The early days of summer are always a special time at Quest as we return after a special event celebrating another successful year (this year we celebrated with an excellent 30th anniversary dinner at Michael's on 55th Street), extra-curriculars and a two-week hiatus to Creativity Day (Thursday, June 26) and encore presentations of more than a dozen classes we were unable to attend the first time or want to attend a second.

In addition to our first day lunch provided by the Social Committee, a few members have put together a few extras so keep your

eye out for our Friday NWAQ.

- On Tuesday, June 10, **Helen Saffran**, **Judy Hampson** and I will, once again, lead a pop-up writing class for experienced as well as novice authors. Time: 12:30–1:30 pm in room 19.
- Tuesday, June 17 is the date for our annual screening of one film featured in the Americas Film Festival New York. As always, it will be shown in the auditorium from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Details to follow. Quest has been a sponsor of the festival for several years thanks to our relationship with CWE.
- **Bob Schick** will lead two improv classes,

the first on Tuesday, June 12, and the second on Thursday, July 15, in the auditorium from 12:30–1:30 pm.

Interested in joining a committee? June is also the month new Council members take their place at the table, and chairs begin finalizing the members of their committees. Check your email for the list of committees and contact chairs of those you might be interested in joining to find out the details.

And don't forget your sunscreen on even those cloudy days of summer. Those rays can wreak havoc when we least expect it.

Donna Ramer

Fall 2025 Distinguished Guest Lecturers

Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, and Bob Reiss are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers for Fall semester. Please feel free to give us your suggestions for next Spring.

September 10: Andre Aciman, author of *Roman Year: A Memoir*. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.

September 24: Carol Willis, Director of The Skyscraper Museum.

October 8: Neal Shapiro, President and CEO of *Thirteen*.

October 22: Frank DiLella, Host of Spectrum News NY1's "On Stage."

November 5: Luis Miranda, author of *Relentless: My Story*.

December 10: Dr. Danielle Ofri on the Doctor-Patient Relationship. Jan & Stuart Eisler Memorial Speaker.

Guest Speaker Jodi Kantor by Arlynn Greenbaum

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jodi Kantor was our *Jan and Stuart Eisler Memorial Guest Lecturer* on May 14. She explained how she and Megan Twohey broke the story on the Harvey Weinstein sex abuse allegations that led to the #Me Too movement. She answered questions in the Q&A about her current investigations of the Supreme Court.



Glass House

by Michael Wellner

Perhaps **Arlynn Greenbaum** said it best: *"It was a spectacular day; of course, the weather could have been better, but then again, it could have been much worse!"* She was so right, referring to the rain we encountered on Thursday, May 22nd, when some twenty-four Questers traveled to New Canaan, Connecticut (some by car and some by train), for a two-hour visit and tour of the famed Philip Johnson designed *Glass House*, and its related buildings and spectacular surrounding grounds.

And, thanks to new member **Andy Bata**, who generously made a reconnaissance trip to New Canaan before our visit, some thirteen of us enjoyed a particularly delicious and delightful lunch at nearby *Chef Luis* restaurant, just a couple of blocks from the Glass House visitors' center.

All in all, it was a great day, although several of us agreed that actually living in a house with four floor-to-ceiling glass walls might just be a bit much! But we did all agree that if you have not been there, by all means go! It's an easy train ride from Grand Central, and very much worth seeing!



Amici Little Italy Tour

by Lois Klein

On May 2nd, 21 Questers met at the Italian American Museum at 151 Mulberry Street. We were worried about possible rain, but the day was warm and sunny. Our guide, Marie Palendino, was superb. She was young and confident and passionate about her Italian heritage. Her excitement was communicated to us as she described the immigrant experience. Today, it is Mulberry St. that defines Little Italy. In spite of this now limited locale, for our 90 minutes, we were educated and guided through the Italian immigrant experience. We heard about the "Black Hand," which was an extortion racket threatening new immigrants with harm unless they paid a ransom. The "Sons of Italy" was a group that was organized to help these victims. We heard stories of struggle as well as celebrations of victory. We had lunch at an old neighborhood restaurant



— Lunella. After lunch, many in our group visited the Italian American Museum. This Culture Quest tour was "Benissimo."

City Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

This stunning mural, which formed the backdrop of a gas station, used to delight me every time I ventured up to Broadway and 155 Street. It was one of the more breathtaking creations of the Audubon Mural Project now the NYC Bird Alliance... the famed artist/ornithologist having fallen definitively out of favor. The Project, which started in 2014 and is concentrated heavily in Harlem and Washington Heights, has commissioned artists to bring to vivid life on bodegas and barber shops, on apartment buildings and supermarkets, more than



100 (still counting) feathered species... many endangered by climate change. Sadly, on a recent trip uptown for a tour of Trinity Cemetery I turned and stood aghast gazing at this very wall now painted over as part of the host building's face lift. There is still in the south facing corner of the station a much smaller mural... making the day a bit brighter for all who take the time simply to look.

30th Anniversary Gala Dinner

by Michael Wellner

Here's a quick question: Can you name one of the ten best restaurants you have ever been to? Well, for me and 120 or so other Questers, I dare say that the answer to that question might well be *Michael's New York*, the site of Quest's fabulous 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner, Friday evening, May 16th.

And a celebration it certainly was, with several of our founding members joining many former presidents and virtually all of our current council members, led by **Donna Ramer**. We were also honored to have several of our friends from City College, led by CWE Dean Juan Carlos Mercado.

From the moment that we all arrived it was apparent that we were in for a real treat. A choice of red or white wine greeted us, along with a never-ending selection of delicious hot and cold passed hors d'oeuvres. And then we were seated in what is arguably one of the prettiest dining rooms in the city, with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the wonderful gardens of the

Rockefeller apartments, between 54th and 55th Streets, just off 5th Avenue.

A wonderful three-course dinner followed, which included more wine and a truly delicious dessert (for those who had room), and coffee or tea. It's fair to say that the Special Events Committee deserves a big round of applause, as do all our other helpers that night, and our distinguished president (no, not the one in Washington!) whose contact led us to Michael's in the first place.

It was a very special evening, and a truly sensational opportunity to celebrate our good fortune to be a part of such a wonderful, caring, and exciting community. If you think about it, it is extraordinary that we have not only survived for thirty years, but prospered in grand style — thanks to our superb, hard working members who volunteer continually for an endless number of tasks. We can't thank them enough!

Here's to our next thirty years — and more!



Who's Doing What

Steve Koenig premiered his new poem "Lines and Things" at CCNY's 53rd Annual Poetry Festival.

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Ellen Rittberg accompanied her daughter, Kim, who gave a TedX talk in Houston.

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While surfing TV channels recently, **Roy Clary** came upon an episode of *Guns Smoke* from February 2, 1957. The following pronouncement by Marshall Matt Dillon got Roy's attention: "You can't use the law for your own revenge." Clearly, we need Marshall Dillon more than ever.

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Shirley Ranz spoke on behalf of the National Organization for Women, at a May Day rally in support of a law prohibiting Home Attendants from being forced to work 24-hour

shifts (at below minimum wage.) City Council speaker Adrian Adams is blocking the bill from coming to the floor.

• • •

Dena Kerren and **Roy Clary** were in Saugerties from May 19 to May 22. They stayed at the Diamond Mills Resort Spa and enjoyed a facial and a massage. A highlight of the trip



was a visit to Olana the home of Frederic Edwin Church, the great American



19th Century landscape painter who was a central figure in the Hudson River School. Olana is beautifully restored and landmarked in an awe inspiring setting overlooking the Hudson River.

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Debbi Honorof and **Emily Mines** went to the Member Preview

of Van Gogh's *Flowers* at the New York Botanical Gardens.

June Dates

1 Stonewall Uprising / Pride Month

4 National Cheese Day

5 World Environment Day

7 National Chocolate Ice Cream Day

8 World Ocean Day

12 Loving Day / *Loving v Virginia* (1967)

14 Flag Day

14 World Blood Donor Day

19 Juneteenth

20 World Refugee Day

Quest Takes On a Classic

by Ruth Ward



A *Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams is an unforgettable piece of theater. The play was shown first at New York's Ethel Barrymore theater in 1947, released as a critically acclaimed film in 1951, and reprised in cropped form in the Quest auditorium on May 12, 2025 as part of the Great Plays course.

Our version featured **Ruth Ward** as Blanche Dubois, Mary **Ann Donnelly** as Blanche's sister Stella Kowalsky, **Art Spar** as Stella's husband Stanley Kowalsky, **Frank Montaturo** as Stanley's friend Harold Mitchell, and **Peter Dichter** (not shown) as the Narrator.

As Shakespeare inquired in *As You Like It*, "Can one desire too much of a good thing?"

Creative Corner

SUBWAY SURPRISE®

by Betty Farber

I paid my subway fare,
Sat on the R train,
Wearing my grey fedora
(which covered my grey hair)
With matching grey scarf.
All was well.

A young woman sat opposite,
Glanced at me
And seemed to smile.
Upon leaving the train,
She leaned close
And whispered in my ear,
"I saw your eyes closing;
Don't sleep on the subway.
It's dangerous.
And you're so adorable,
I want you to be safe."

She left at Times Square
So for the rest of the ride,
I kept my eyes open
And concentrated completely
On looking adorable.

Make Music NY

by Lauren Gee

Put June 21 on your calendar to either participate in or be an audience member for *Make Music NYC*. *Sousapalooza* is great fun for wind and brass players. Choral singers are invited to perform the Mozart Requiem usually at the World Trade Oculus or in Midtown. You will need to register if you plan to perform. <https://makemusicny.org/2025-special-programs>

Don't Forget Q Review

Only 153 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.

Brave Questers

Brave Questers participating in the first Improv workshop run by **Bob Shick**.



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A Quest Publication

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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.

Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The Book Club is looking forward to continuing in the fall. The dates and selections are noted below — summer is a great time to get the jump on the reading list!

Hope to see you in the fall.

Sept 3: *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali; presented by **Ze'eva Cohen**

Oct 1: *The Granddaughter* by Bernhard Schlink; presented by **Shirley Ranz**

Nov 12: *Table for Two* by Amor Towles; presented by **Joan Vreeland**

Dec 3: *A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline; presented by **Debbi Honorof**

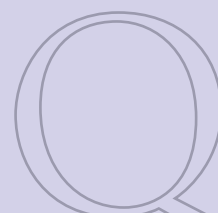
Please join us.

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.



Bernadette Cullen



Summer Encores 2025

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

Tuesdays June 3 – July 29	Thursdays June 5 – July 31
June 3: Steve Allen, <i>The Secret Life of the American Musical</i> Give My Regards to Broadway	June 5: Sandy Kessler, <i>American Constitutionalism: An Introduction to the Federalist Papers</i>
June 10: Gil Santiago, <i>Elon Musk</i> , Power, The Glory of It	June 12: Ellie Schaffer, <i>West Side Story</i> , Star-Crossed Lovers
June 17: Roy Clary, Actor, Bob Reiss, Playwright, <i>Mr. Jefferson's Women</i> , Flawed Greatness of Thomas Jefferson	June 19: Michael Hamburg, <i>They Defined the Universe</i> , Across the Universe
June 24: Tamara Weinberg, <i>The Art of Dutch Daily Life in the Golden Age</i> , Artists & Their Work	June 26: Creativity Day: <i>A Celebration of Members' Artistic Works</i>
July 1: Debbi Honorof, <i>Genealogy: Researching Our Roots</i> , Quester's Choice	July 3: Holiday / Quest Closed
July 8: Ellen Shapiro, <i>Siena 1300–1350</i> , Artists & Their Work	July 10: Robert Belfort, <i>Affirmative Action</i> , Supreme Court
July 15: Steve Koenig/Wayne Cotter/Mary Ann Donnelly, <i>5th Annual Salute to Songwriters</i> , Rock & Roots Albums	July 17: Marty Green, <i>The History of Money</i> , Quester's Choice
July 22: Trudy Deweese, <i>Life in a French Utopian Village</i> , Quester's Choice	July 24: Wayne Cotter/Art Spar, <i>100 Years of New Yorker Cartoons</i> , Quester's Choice
July 29: Judy Hampson, <i>Christianity and Gnosticism</i> , World of Religion	July 31: Elaine Martin, <i>We Never Lie in Our Dreams</i> , Health and Medicine



A Tyrant Must Put on the Appearance of Uncommon Devotion to Religion. Subjects Are Less Apprehensive of Illegal Treatment From a Ruler Whom They Consider God-Fearing and Pious. On The Other Hand, They Do Less Easily Move Against Him, Believing That He Has The Gods on His Side.

– Aristotle

Exciting Encores Program Set for June and July

The Encores 2025 committee: Arlynn Greenbaum, Joyce Hinote and Andrea Irvine, is happy to announce a diverse program of 17 classes that will start on June 3 and run through July 31 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 am 12:00 noon. Presentations will feature highlights from the hundreds of classes held at Quest during the past year. They will run the gamut from art and music to genealogy, money and cartoons from the New Yorker. Selections are based on members voting for noteworthy classes.

The summer program will start on June 3 with **Steve Allen** reprising his popular presentation on *"The Secret Life of the American Musical."* It will be followed by a celebratory lunch.

Back by popular demand is *Creativity Day* on June 26 which will showcase Questers' talents in the performing and visual arts. Prosecco and cookies will be served after.

The sessions will all be live at 25 Broadway and most will also be available via Zoom. You can pick up a schedule in the lunch room. We look forward to seeing you at Quest this summer!

Chairs

TERM LIMITED

Auditing	David Bartash
Curriculum	Debbie Honorof
Membership	Ruth Ward Lynn Vairo
Scheduling	Tamara Weinberg

OPEN TERMS

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CultureQuest	Madeleine Brecher
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Emergency Response	Paul Adler Michael Wellner
Marketing & Communications	Maureen Berman
New Members	Leslie Goldman (Year 1)
QNews	Barbara Gelber
QReview	Judy Hill
Social	Gale Spitalnik
Special Events	Michael Wellner
Technology	Wayne Cotter Bob Reiss Michael Wellner (all continuing)
Travel	Michael Wellner
CWE/Quest Administration	Donna Ramer Bob Gottfried Peter Fleischman Karen Cullen
Nominating & Elections	TBD

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Hearing Issues	Ilene Winkler
Quest/CWE Scholarships	Michael Wellner

Museum of the City of New York

by Ken Sasmor

I recently experienced a culture-rich day with **Debbi Honorof**, **Harriet Finkelstein**, **Michael Wellner**, and two new Questers, **Joy Gazzoli** and **Anne Marie Gussman**. Thanks to an email from Debbi on Quest Business, we learned about a tea that was to be held at the Museum of the City of New York.

Lilly Tuttle, a curator at the museum, made a presentation about the famous commercial lithographic firm, Currier and Ives. Contrary to popular misconception, this firm's lithographs did not focus only on bucolic New England landscapes. There were lithographs about fires, trains, horses, and the death of Abraham Lincoln, along with a wide range of other subjects. Ms. Tuttle said that the Museum has 2800 Currier and Ives lithographs.

After the tea and presentation were over, I spent three hours at the museum, focusing on movies filmed in New York City, music associated with each of the five boroughs, and an exhibit in two large rooms documenting the history of the City and its predecessors from the days of the early Dutch settlers in the early 17th Century (Nieuw Amsterdam) to the onset of COVID (2020).

When I left the museum, I walked over to the nearby Conservatory Gardens in Central Park — fully in bloom — and from there walked through the park down to 60th Street and Fifth Avenue. Altogether, it was a lovely indoor and outdoor day.

The Museum of the City of New York is a treasure that is frequently eclipsed by the Met and the other art museums gracing Fifth Avenue. It is well worth an extended visit in its own right.



**At His Best, Man is The Noblest of All Animals;
Separated From Law and Justice, He is the Worst.**

— Aristotle

