

A Note From the President

The first day of our fall semester is just a few weeks away and, as we wrap up our summer vacations, we also start looking at which courses pique our interest and fit into our busy schedules. With that in mind, here are 15 clues, the answer to each is a word in the title of at least one course. After filling in the blanks next to the clues, match the answer to at least one fall 2025 course. The answers are on the last page QNews but no cheating 🛡️✎️ (did you know this is the symbol for academic integrity?!). Reminder: the courses can be found on the Quest website if you don't have a hard copy of the catalog. And you win bragging rights if you get all 15 correct ... without cheating!

1. All of space and everything in it

2. Male siblings

3. New York City's famed theater district

4. What a clock measures

5. Literary form emphasizing expression and rhythm

6. Systems of faith and worship

7. Expressing strong feelings

8. The activity of composing text

9. The ability to do something that frightens one

10. Spoken so others can hear

11. The art or practice of designing and constructing buildings

12. The Bard

13. Popular Microsoft tool for presentations

14. Study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, and environments

15. Another word for movie

Donna Ramer

CultureQuest Calendar Fall 2025

September 12, 2025

Art Deco Walking Tour, NYC

September 19, 2025

MET Opera Final Rehearsal – *Turandot*

September 26, 2025

Tour of Cathedral of St. John the Divine

October 10, 2025

Tour of Town Hall

October 17, 2025

Metropolitan Opera Backstage Tour (TBC)

October 24, 2025

Brooklyn Seltzer Museum Tour & Tasting

November 7, 2025

Metropolitan Museum, Tour of the Renovated Rockefeller Wing (TBC)

November 21, 2025

Frick Museum Tour (TBC)

December 5, 2025

AMNH Tour, The Rise of Life with Michael Hamburg

(TBC) To be confirmed

Conference House

by Michael Wellner

I'd like to begin this article by asking two questions: 1) Do you know what the *Conference House* is, and 2) Do you know the southernmost point in New York State? (Hint: they are related!)

On Wednesday July 9th, thanks in large part to the very able planning of new Quest member **Andy Bata**, with a little help from **Michael Wellner**, some thirty Quest members (and a few guests) traveled by subway, then by ferry, then by Staten Island Railroad (interrupted by a two-hour, four-course lunch!), then by bus, and finally by foot for a six or seven block walk (on a pretty hot and humid day) to the *Conference House*, in Tottenville, Staten Island, which is actually the southernmost point in NY State (who knew?!). As for the *Conference House* itself, it was built in 1680, by the Billopp family, on land granted by the King of England. It is famous for hosting a peace conference, on September 11, 1776, that was attended by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge, who met with the British Admiral Lord Howe, in the only, albeit unsuccessful, attempt to peacefully end the American Revolution.

The 350-year-old house is in amazingly good condition, and is located on a beautiful three-acre site directly on Raritan Bay, across from Perth Amboy, NJ, where the Arthur Kill empties into the Bay, which itself is an arm of the NY Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. We were treated to a tour of each of the rooms in the house, including the below-grade "kitchen," as well as a walk around the garden and the grounds. All really beautiful.

At the day was quite an adventure, from reasonably early in the morning until well after 7:00 in the evening! (And it should be noted that the smart ones, like **Bob** and **Ellen Gottfried**, and **Pam Gemelli** and **Maggie Gill**, elected to drive! And, of course, **Toni Dickenson**, who actually lives in Staten Island, drove as well!)



Jazz in July

by Michael Wellner

On a very warm Tuesday evening in July, eight Questers (**Carol Rubin**, **Arlynn Greenbaum**, **Debbi Honorof**, **Susan Keohane**, **Andy Bata**, **Bob Shick**, **Stu Parker**, and **Michael Wellner**) enjoyed a delightful early dinner at the lovely Lex Restaurant, conveniently located on Lexington Avenue between 90th and 91st streets. The restaurant is just a block from the 92nd Street Y, to which we took an easy walk after dinner for a wonderful evening of jazz: opening night of the Y's annual Jazz in July series. That evening featured the multiple Grammy Award nominated Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, with its very special opening night guest, the famed jazz guitarist John Pizzarelli, the 'star' of the evening. Everyone had a wonderful time, and — at the end of the evening the discussion focused on "where do we go next?" Stay tuned!

City Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Sitting on the western edge of Harlem atop a riverine sewage treatment plant, Riverbank State Park... the only such facility in Manhattan... is an urban haven any day but especially during the canicule. With a 400 meter eight lane running track and football/soccer field... indoor and outdoor pools... a fitness and workout center... a theatre... roller and winter ice skating rink... tennis and basketball courts... a carousel and terraced restaurant facing the Palisades and the GWB... there is... I was recently informed... no such facility this side of Japan. Wow! And I neglected to mention a community garden exuberant with flowers, vegetables, and herbs. A wide range of courses from pickleball to quilting is also offered. I am happy to say that the senior aquatics class with its leaps and stretches, noodles and dumbbells is more fun than I could have imagined... and that as I gaze out the wide windows Jersey looks like Camelot.



Q Review

Only 91 Days until the Q Review deadline. Get your work in now! 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.

Who's Doing What



Arlynn Greenbaum, Madeleine Brecher, and Maureen Berman experienced the Mercer Labs Museum of Art and Technology on June 30. Located near Quest at

21 Dey Street, it is an immersive, high tech treat for the senses. Warning: It is expensive (\$50) and not for anyone who gets vertigo.

• • •

Dena Kerren and **Roy Clary** stayed in Sag Harbor in July. During that time, they enjoyed a visit to the historic Montauk Lighthouse, which was commissioned by President George Washington in 1792.

• • •

On Independence Day, **Ken Sasmor** and his wife attended a concert highlighting the music of jazz great Louis Armstrong, exquisitely performed by a trio of trumpeters in the public garden adjacent to the house. There is some dispute as to whether July 4th or August 4th is Louis Armstrong's birthday (which leads to celebrations on both days). At the conclusion of the concert, the audience was treated to chocolate birthday cake. There will also be a performance on August 2nd in honor of Louis Armstrong's second birthday date.



Dena Kerren, Leslie Goldman, Gale Spitalnik, and Arlynn Greenbaum met for lunch at Cowfish in the Hamptons in July.



• • •

Nine hearty Questers attended a cold and rainy afternoon Mets game in June. Above are



(from left) **Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter, Susan Diehl, John Davis, Bob Shick, Bob Gottfried, and Vin Grosso.**

The Mets were as cold as the weather — they lost to the Tampa Bay Rays 8-4. Also attending were **David Judlowitz** and **Marian Friedmann.**



• • •



Barbara Gelber spent two hours standing with about fifty others on an overpass above the entrance to the George Washington Bridge on July 17th.

• • •

Sybil Cohen is spending quality time with family at West Hampton Beach.



• • •

Questers **Steve Allen, Arlene Hajinlian, Mary Beth Yakoubian, Sandy Gordon,** and Mary Beth's husband Dan enjoyed a wine break on the Athenaeum veranda at Chautauqua.



Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

Okay; they may not be "beach reads," but summer is still a great time to get a head start on our fall reading list! Dates and selections are noted below. The Book Club meets once a month in-person on Wednesday of the first A-Week of the month, from 12:10–12:55 PM. We hope you'll join us!

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**

Lunchtime Creative Nonfiction Book Club

Debbi Honorof and **Carole Blane** have announced a new Quest Lunchtime Creative Nonfiction Book Club beginning in September.

Wednesday of first B-Week: September 10, October 8, November 5, December 10.

We open with *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail* by Ben Montgomery

Future books to be announced.

Erratum

The July issue contained a mis-identification on page 4. The top left photo caption should have read: Madeleine Brecher, Howard Salik, **Len Lavitt**, Toni Dickenson, Rita Lavitt, Shoshi Kagan, Andrew Bata, and Vince Grosso.

Creative Corner

THE LAST TEN YEARS®

by Betty Farber

Standing in an endless line,
I talked to a man
Who told me
In a confident voice
That he planned to travel
The last ten years of his life.

My mind did somersaults.
“How will you know
When the last ten years will be?
You may be dead tomorrow!”

He opened his eyes wide.
“I’ve told that to so many people,
And they never argued with me.”

The line moved so slowly
I almost forgot
What would be waiting for us
When we got to the end.

Nature Within

Ze’eva Cohen sent us some photos from her husband Avri Ohana’s exhibition — *Nature Within* — at Westbeth Gallery during the month of July. Several Quest members came to see the show over the last few weeks. Ze’eva reports, “It was wonderful to share Avri’s beautiful work with friends from Quest.”



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.



Why I Love New York City: A City of Endless Delight



New York is the only place I know where you can time travel, country-hop, and have your heart stirred — all in a single evening.

Take last week, for example. A group of us headed uptown to

Harlem, lured by the promise of an extraordinary Mexican restaurant. And it *was extraordinary* — rich, smoky mole, hand-pressed tortillas, and a staff who let us linger, laughing and sharing stories for nearly two hours. In a city always on the move, sometimes it's the stillness, at the right table with the right friends, that reminds you why you live here.

But the night wasn't over. We walked (because of course we walked — it's New York!) to Harlem Classical Theater, where something truly special was happening. Usually known for their spirited Shakespeare productions, this time the company stretched even further back in time, all the way to ancient Greece.

Memnon is a bold, moving retelling of the story of the Ethiopian king who came to Troy's aid. Yes, that Troy. The one with Helen, Achilles, and a famously problematic horse. But here, the spotlight was on Memnon, the heroic outsider who dared to challenge the Greek war machine. The production was electric: full of rhythm, sorrow, power, and pride. It made the old story feel new, urgent, and very much alive in Harlem.

Only in New York could such a night unfold: dinner in Mexico, drama in ancient Troy, applause in Harlem — and home by subway before midnight.

This is why I love New York. It doesn't just have everything—it lets you be everything: curious, full, moved, surprised. And sometimes all in the same breath.

A Visit to the Revitalized Brooklyn History Center

A group of us recently visited the beautifully revamped Brooklyn History Center. For those who haven't been in a while, the renovation is truly impressive, preserving the building's historic structure while adding welcoming community spaces and updated exhibition areas.

We attended a powerful program on slavery in Brooklyn, led by a deeply engaging educator/curator. The talk focused on the intertwined histories of the Lott family and Mildred Jones, the great granddaughter of Samuel Anderson, one of the enslaved on the Lott's farm.

In a moving act of recognition, the Center commissioned a portrait of Mildred Jones, an educator, community leader, and member of one of the few Bedford-Stuyvesant families whose presence in the neighborhood stretches back to the era of slavery. The oil portrait, created to match the size of John Lott's, places her story on equal footing and honors her lasting legacy.

The visit offered not only a deeper understanding of Brooklyn's complex history, but also a reminder of how personal and powerful storytelling can be, when treated with care and respect.



President's Note

Answers to first page

1. Across the Universe
2. The Brothers Karamazov
3. Give My Regards to Broadway
4. Time: The Wonder of It and Timeless Writings
5. Contemporary Poetry and Oral Interpretation of Poetry
6. World of Religions
7. Emotional Dichotomies Within
8. Creative Writing and Poetry Workshop
9. Profiles in Courage
10. Wonderful Books Out Loud
11. Art and Practice of Architecture
12. Shakespeare: The Comedy of Errors
13. You Can Do PowerPoint
14. Earth: Geography
15. Film for Thought

Vermeer's Love Letters

by Mary Ann Donnelly

After an enjoyable meal at the recently renovated Central Park Boathouse Café, **Yona Rogosin** and **Mary Ann Donnelly** walked across Fifth Avenue to the Frick Mansion to take in the exhibition of *Vermeer's Love Letters*. This exhibition pairs the Frick's *Mistress and Maid* with special loans of the Rijksmuseum's *Love Letter*, and the National Gallery of Ireland's *Woman Writing a Letter with Her Maid*. (Alas, no photos allowed.)

It was also their first look at the Frick's long-awaited renovation, and they encourage all to visit. Bring your Quest CUNY ID for free admission.

