

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 67

October 2025

A Note From the President

Lower Broadway is still packed with people of all ages and nationalities taking advantage of the excellent pre-fall weather to tour the Native American Museum, Bowling Green, Battery Park, and all things the area has to offer. The lineup to be photographed around and under the Charging Bull is never ending and vendors hawking NYC souvenirs fill the air but are often drowned out by the sounds of taxis, tour buses, trucks, and sirens.

And then there are those individuals exiting from subway stations and buses

who are walking with purpose to enter 25 Broadway in time for coffee, conversation, and classes on the 7th floor.

Isn't it remarkable how much we pack into a small space? Just three classrooms, one lunchroom, one auditorium, and half an office play host to dozens of Questers each day four days each week. And in the few hours these rooms are ours, we have the honor of choosing from multiple courses and activities bolstered by coffee (worth mentioning a second time).

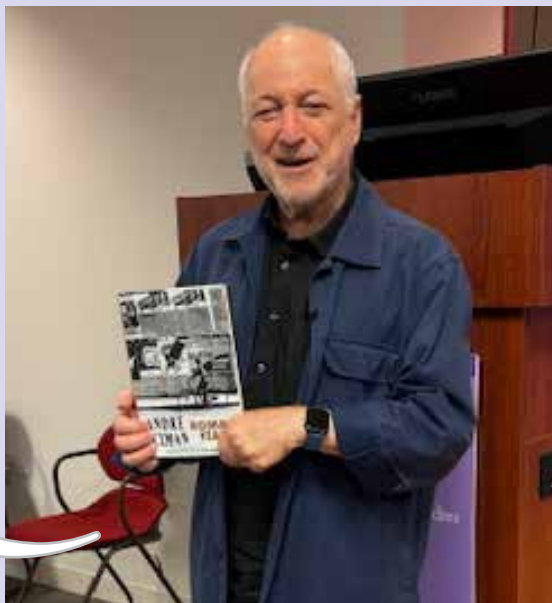
And the fuel that keeps the Quest machine

running smoothly is us. How fortunate we are that the 7th floor of 25 Broadway is more than just a place we gather—it's a community we create together. Amid the bustle of the city outside, our small space becomes expansive with ideas, learning, and friendship. Every class, conversation, and cup of coffee (ok, a third mention) reminds us that Quest is not defined by walls, but by the spirit we bring into them.

Donna Ramer

Distinguished Guest Speaker Andre Aciman

Andre Aciman, author of *Roman Year*, was our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker on September 10. He was interviewed on stage by **Arlynn Greenbaum**. Over 80 Questers in the audience enjoyed his reflections on writing, time, and Proust.



If You Know Something, Say Something

Please be aware that the Quest Caring Committee is ready and able to respond to the needs of any Quester. Let us know if anyone needs a hug, card, flowers, and more. We Care.

— **Gale Spitalnik, Michael Wellner, Elaine Martin, Sybil Cohen, Gloria Peropat**

Halloween at Quest by Gale Spitalnik

Join us in the lunchroom noon to 1:00 PM on Wednesday, October 29th. Bring your lunch and we will provide the sweets and dessert. Prizes for best costumes. No tricks but Treats. Brought to you by Quest Social Committee

CultureQuest Calendar Updated Fall 2025

- Oct 24:** Brooklyn Seltzer Museum:
Factory Tour & Tasting
- Nov 7:** Arts of Ancient Americas:
Renovated Rockefeller Wing at the
Metropolitan Museum
- Nov 21:** The Frick Collection
- Dec 5:** The Rise of Life: AMNH with Michael Hamburg
- Jan 23:** MET Opera Backstage Tour

Chautauqua Trio *by Madeleine Brecher*

Sandy Gordon, Arlene Hajinlian, and Madeleine Brecher spent Week 9 together at Chautauqua in August. The theme was "The Past Informs the Present: How to Harness History," and they heard some sensational speakers. Here's a taste of just a few: Doris Stearns Goodwin opened the week, Morgan Freeman and the creators of his Symphonic Blues Experience shared their inspirations, and Jonathan Zittrain from Harvard discussed the lessons from the early internet, and the implications of AI.

Paleoanthropologist, evolutionary biologist, and National Geographic Explorer Ella Al-Shamahi closed out the week. Madeleine found her talk enthralling as she introduced her new series, "Human," which premiered on PBS on September 18th. It will tell the story of humanity's evolution refuting the idea of our predestined greatness.

Sandy, Arlene, and Madeleine all agreed that a week... or more... at Chautauqua will change your life!



CultureQuest: Final Dress Rehearsal of Turandot *by Estelle Selzer*

On September 19th, 50 CultureQuesters gathered for the Final Dress Rehearsal of *Turandot* at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Franco Zeffirelli's glittering take on Giacomo Puccini's final masterpiece didn't disappoint. With glorious music and incredible gold laden sets, the opera takes place in a China of legend and follows the story of the princess Turandot who must choose a prince to marry. Any prince seeking to marry Princess Turandot must answer three riddles. If he fails, he will die. Soprano Angela Meade portrayed the princess Turandot and tenor Michael Fabiano portrayed the courageous prince Calaf. Both had fabulous voices.

Questers gathered during intermission for a photo op. Many who have attended previous dress rehearsals with Quest commented on how this was our best opera rehearsal yet. Be on the lookout for future dress rehearsals and sign up quickly. Tickets go fast.



City Wanderings *by Frank Montaturo*

Upper West Side. A wet Saturday night. It was way before the joint's 2:00AM closing time. Our solitary diner could have sat inside but chose al fresco instead. Perhaps it was too noisy inside. Kids dropping in on the way home from the movies? The umbrella protects his Margherita slice from stray raindrops dripping from the awning and defines a space where he can reflect on the day unobtrusively... undisturbed.



New Members

Quest welcomes 20 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.



Arthur Brown



Frances Chen



Arnold Davis



Linda Davis



James (Jim) Elkind



Joan Lambe



Alan Lash



Jon Marvel



JoAnn Marvel



Mary Mellow



Rona Middleberg



Mary Lou Murphy-Davis



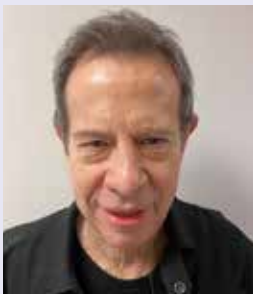
Lenore Nemeth



Mark Publicker



Martine Roberts



Ron Russo



Sandra Schein



Sandra Schanzer



Harriet Singer



Robert Singer

Our Intrepid Scavenger Hunters

by Susan Diehl

Twelve people completed the Met scavenger hunt over the summer, and they were each rewarded with a chocolate bar from the Met gift shop.

They loved the fact that the hunt took them to areas of the Met they rarely visited and had them look for items they hadn't noticed before. They unanimously voted to have another hunt ready for next summer.

For the next one, any member of Quest can submit a photo of their favorite object(s) in the Met for inclusion. The photo(s) can be one you took or pulled from the Met's web site.

Much more information on the "Member's Favorites" scavenger hunt in the months to come! Congratulations to all the winners!

**"Remember Always That You Not Only
Have The Right To Be An Individual,
You Have An Obligation To Be One."**
— Eleanor Roosevelt

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

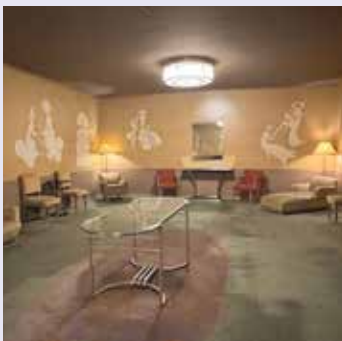
Articles submitted to QNews
may be edited by the Staff.
The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter
of the publication's contents.

CultureQuest Radio City Music Hall Tour

by Debbi Honorof



CultureQuest organized an excursion to the iconic Radio City Music Hall, which opened on December 27, 1932, as part of the construction of Rockefeller Center. The 5,960-seat theater has a storied history as the home of the Rockettes, who celebrate their Centennial this year. Quest members enjoyed a private tour that explored the venue's history, art deco architecture, and iconic spaces like the Grand Foyer and the Great Stage. A highlight of the tour was a meet-and-greet with a Radio City Rockette. Radio City's four-tiered auditorium was the world's largest when it opened. The theater also contains a variety of art, wall decorations, and even custom-designed carpeting that displays musical instruments. Although Radio City was initially intended to host stage shows, within a year of its opening it was converted into a movie palace, hosting performances in a film-and-stage-spectacle format through the 1970s. The Hall has hosted concerts by leading pop and rock musicians and live stage shows such as the *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, as well as televised events including the Grammy Awards and the Tony Awards. During the tour, Quest members shared their memories of attending shows at Radio City and continued the discussion at lunch at Havana Central, where they enjoyed hearty Cuban cuisine.



Chamber Music at Chautauqua

by Arlene Hajinlian

Arlene Hajinlian, pianist and violist, and her friend Sonya Sutton, pianist, organist, and conductor, both all-summer residents at Chautauqua Institution, invited 24 music friends to Chautauqua for an extended weekend of chamber music, just for the pleasure of it. Musicians from across the Northeast and Canada made the trip to western New York, many for their first visit to the historical place.

The weekend kicked off with an evening of three JS Bach concertos en masse, and continued for three full days of trios, quartets, and quintets in various locations scattered on the beautiful campus, including some large ensembles conducted by Sonya. It was all about the music and making new connections, and Chautauqua was the perfect location. Sonya and Arlene look forward to this as a new end-of-summer tradition and plan to call it CHQ Chamber Players Retreat, or CHQ 'CPR'!



October Special Days

1 International Coffee Day

1 Yom Kippur

2 International Day
of Nonviolence

3 Butterfly and
Hummingbird Day

4 National Cinnamon
Roll Day

6 World Cerebral Palsy Day

7 World Smile Day

8 National Depression
Screening Day

10 Indigenous Peoples Day

12 National Emergency
Nurses Day

14 National Dessert Day

15 National Grouch Day

16 Dictionary Day

17 National Pasta Day

21 "Back to the Future" Day

23 National Mothers-
in-Law Day

24 United Nations Day

24 World Polio Day

25 World Opera Day

27 National Black Cat Day

28 National Chocolate Day

28 National Immigrants Day

**"In The End, It Matters Less That You Can Fight.
What You Fight For Is The Real Test. "**

– John McCain

Murphy's Lesser-Known Laws

- God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
- If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
- Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
- The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Who's Doing What

Lisa Bu had a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Greece with Cantigas Women's Choir, in July. A nonprofit community choir based in Hoboken, NJ, they participated in an international choir competition and won a third prize! They also gave concerts in Athens, Nafplio, and Preveza. The closing ceremony was held in an ancient Roman amphitheater built in the 2nd century. Lisa said, "It's surreal to sit and watch in that space. Everyone was very happy to see that the top prize went to a youth choir from Ukraine. They conquered us with their pure and powerful voice and spirit. Music, arts, and communities of people, those are the best antidote to political depression." Lisa is holding the flag.



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Ellie Schaffer went whale watching in the Puget Sound with her son. They saw two orcas, a mother and son, kill two seals!

• • •

Debbi Honorof recently attended an event in Baltimore to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Volo Kids Foundation, a nonprofit for which she has volunteered as an adviser since its inception. She had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Baltimore, Brandon Scott, who was an early supporter of the organization, which started in Baltimore and now provides free sports programs to children in underserved communities across the country.



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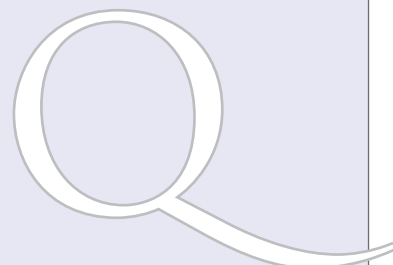
Teri and George Hicks spent 12 days cruising up the Nile River visiting the 4000 year old monuments of Egypt. They climbed a lot of ruins in 90+ heat. It was a great

adventure and they definitely crossed a major goal off their "bucket list."

Creative Corner

REMEMBER?®
by Betty Farber

Remember when we sat in an orchestra seat
At the Metropolitan Opera
Listening to a rehearsal of glorious music?
Remember when I walked
10 blocks
On a city street, using only a simple cane?
Remember when I taught classes in fiction
And Contemporary Poetry?
Remember when we travelled to France
And England and Ireland with friends?
But just now, when we met,
I couldn't remember your name...



"When You Win, Nothing Hurts."
– Joe Namath

Q Review

Only 31 Days until the Q Review dead line. 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.



Opening Night by David Judlowitz

It was Opening Night at the Metropolitan Opera, and Questers were there to see *Kavalier and Clay*. Among the well-dressed in gowns, tuxedos, and finery were **Marian Friedmann, Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine, David Judlowitz, and Shoshana Kagan.**

We were surprised to see soprano Nadine Sierra welcoming attendees and posing for pictures. She is charming and even more beautiful in person than on stage. I last saw her at the Met as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*.

The amazing production was received with resounding, thunderous applause and repeated curtain calls. Truly an evening to remember.



Lying about
my age is
easier now
that I have
trouble
remembering
what it is.

No, I Can't Do Snapchat or Tik Tok.
But I Can Write in Cursive,
Do Math Without a Calculator,
And Tell Time on a Clock With Hands.

No Matter How You Feel,
Get Up, Dress Up, Show Up,
And Never Give Up!

May the Rest of Your Life
Be the Best of Your Life.

IF SPEAKING
KINDLY TO PLANTS
HELPS THEM GROW

IMAGINE WHAT
SPEAKING KINDLY
TO HUMANS CAN DO

Guest Lecturer Carol Willis

by Karen Levin

Carol Willis was our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on September 24.

Carol is the founder, director and curator of the Skyscraper Museum, created in 1996. Her presentation included slides of many land marked buildings in Lower Manhattan and the Financial District as well as the history behind them.

Her expertise as an architectural historian along with her stories about each building were particularly interesting to everyone in the audience.

She gave a “show & tell” about the Skyscraper Museum from its first location to its present location and invited members to visit. Her passion for and knowledge of architecture and urban planning were obvious.

Carol is the author of *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*. The book received an AIA book award and the “Best Book on North American Urbanism” in 1995 by the Urban History Association.



Sole Mates

Our first walk of the Fall Semester along the Hudson River — some briskly walk, others stroll — all the while chatting and enjoying the outdoors. A fun way to end a day at Quest led by **Marian Friedmann** and **Andrea Irvine**.

Join us every Wednesday of A-week at 2:45pm. No signup, no commitments. Gather by the seating area near the elevators on the 7th floor and afterward we offer lots of help with finding your way home.

...and always ending up at a ‘rest stop’ to socialize with a glass of wine, a cuppa coffee, while together we watch the sun go down over the Hudson.

