

A Note From the President

Our two snow days gave me some unplanned-for free time, some of which I used for reflection. And it was during those moments that I was reminded that lifelong learning is not simply about acquiring new information: it is about remaining engaged with the world and with one another. Retirement offers something many of us spent decades wishing for: time and an extraordinary opportunity for exploration, curiosity and renewal.

Quest exists because learning does not belong exclusively to the young, nor does growth have an expiration date. In fact, many of our members find that this stage of life provides the ideal conditions for discovery. Without the pressures of grades, credentials or professional advancement,

learning becomes something it was perhaps always meant to be: joyful, social and personally meaningful.

Each of our courses, discussion groups and special events represent more than subject matter— they represent connection (something missing for too many of us during last week’s blizzard conditions). In classrooms, on Zoom screens and in shared conversations before and after sessions, we see the formation of new friendships, the rekindling of long-held interests and the courage to step into unfamiliar territory. Whether you are studying history, literature, science, the arts or current events, you are participating in a vibrant intellectual community that thrives on openness and shared experience.

Equally important is the understanding

that learning in this phase of life often invites reflection. New ideas are enriched by the depth of lived experience each of us brings. The exchange is never one-directional; it is collaborative, thoughtful and deeply human. Our presenters may guide the conversation, but it is our engagement that animates it.

Thank you for the energy, enthusiasm and curiosity you bring to this program. Your participation sustains a culture of inquiry and connection that benefits us all. I encourage you to continue exploring new subjects, asking questions and sharing your perspectives. Together, we are demonstrating that learning is not confined to any particular age or season of life; it truly is lifelong.

– Donna Ramer

Guest Lecturer Dr. Nir Barzilai

by Karen Levin

Dr. Nir Barzilai, our Jan and Stuart Eisler Memorial Speaker for the 2026 Spring semester, was our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on February 11.

His talk on *How to Die Young at a Very Old Age* reflected data and various studies on the biology of aging and longevity. Dr. Barzilai is the Director of the Institute for Aging Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the President of The Academy for Health and Lifespan Aging Research (AHLIS).

His expertise and knowledge in the field of aging was particularly interesting for Quest members. Our audience asked many questions and he did a great job with his answers.

He was a huge hit, and everyone gained insightful tips on how to live longer!

If you missed his talk, please go to the Quest website at <https://www.questcontinuinged-nyc.org/quest-class-videos-spring-2026> under *Distinguished Guest Lectures*.



Travel Adventures

by Nancy Seng



New Yorkers are experienced pedestrians by necessity but my skills have been raised to PhD level after a month in Taiwan, Vietnam and Cambodia. Taipei's Old Town was a warm up; Hanoi was battlefield testing. In a city of over 8.5 million people there are over 7 million registered scooters and 1.1 million cars on roads damaged by annual flooding and many not wide enough for modern traffic. Note: traffic lights serve as mere decorations.

Communism may control most things in life for the Vietnamese but personal freedom reigns on the streets with the drivers! Enter the untrained tourists. Tour Leader Guidance: move your head up and down, right and left while sight-seeing to watch for holes in the pavements and to get around the parked scooters and crowded life on the slivers of sidewalks. If you are crossing the street after you see a miniscule slowdown in the traffic roaring past you (scooter drivers watching the road and their phones) step out, move at steady pace, do not make eye contact with drivers and *do not back up*. You have established your presence and intention and they will make their way around you. For group movement of 12 Senior Citizens the guide would say "Sticky Rice." We would clump together like an amoeba, raise our hands and all wave like a group of young children—strength in numbers.

Thanks to improved pedestrian skills I was able to enjoy Taipei's National Palace art treasures, ancient Cambodian Temples at Angkor, Vietnam's Halong Bay — plus learn more of the history of Southeast Asia's ancient cultures, Communism past and present, and the aftermath of the American War (aka Vietnam War). We ended with the Lunar New Year celebration of decorations, huge crowds and fireworks.

**Everything Will Be Okay In The End. If It's Not Okay,
It's Not The End.**

— John Lennon

**If You See Someone Without A Smile,
Give Them One Of Yours.**

IN MEMORIAM

Lorraine Fuchs

Lorraine Fuchs, long-time member, passed away on February 11 at age 90. Lorraine, who joined Quest in the fall of 2008, was a piano prodigy at age three, and her love of music extended throughout her life.

A native of the Bronx, she met her husband, Harry, at a summer music camp on Lake Winnepesaukee (New Hampshire). For 29 years and until his death in 1986, they were partners in life and music, performing four-hand piano concerts and raising their family on the Upper West Side.

For much of her life she was a bridge player, an avid walker, a curious traveler, and a consumer of all things cultural in New York. At Quest, Lorraine took advantage of CultureQuest activities as well as music and film courses.

Lorraine volunteered to play at the Port Authority in the middle of the day. People stopped, listened, and loved her playing Chopin and Beethoven.



Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Grand Slam Met Museum

There is much to see at The Met. It staggers. Sometimes the viewer doesn't suspect that he is being viewed as well. Sometimes the viewer viewing and his engagement with an object catches the eye of another viewer not particularly interested in the object but in the interaction. Thomas Struth, most famously, but perhaps others as well, turned his camera to recording such moments. Often these are as interesting as the solitary object... because a solitary object really needs an interlocutor to be fully realized. That is, in fact, a commonplace.



Many people come wanting to take home a piece of art to brighten a space to relive their visit. The Met has shops offering ample opportunity for merchandising. One can indulge that desire or "appropriate" the work digitally as this man might do. He almost seems to have "appropriated" Mondrian in his choice of outer wear... almost but not quite.

Judith Viorst to Speak at Quest This Fall

by Arlynn Greenbaum



Photo Credit: Milton Viorst

The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that our Fall season will start with a bang on September 16 when our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker will be Judith Viorst.

With her signature wit and wisdom, she will discuss her latest book — *Making the Best of What's Left: When We're Too Old to Get the Chairs Reupholstered*.

Viorst is the author of over 40 books for children and adults including the beloved *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* and *Necessary Losses*. She has written humorous books for every decade starting with *It's Hard To Be Hip Over 30*. Mark your calendars now for September 16.

I Feel The Older I Get, The More I'm Learning To Handle Life. Being On This Quest For A Long Time, It's All About Finding Yourself.
— Ringo Starr



Fall 2026 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

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 16 Judith Viorst, author of *Making The Best Of What's Left*. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.
- September 30 Gayle Feldman, author of *Nothing Random: Bennett Cerf and the Publishing House He Built*.
- October 14 Robert Kalman, author of *What Is It Like For You To Be An American?*
- October 28 Kathleen Chalfant, award-winning actress.
- December 2 Rev. Jacqui Lewis, author, activist and preacher.
- December 16 Amanda Vaill, author of *Pride And Pleasure: The Schuyler Sisters in an Age of Revolution*.

CultureQuest Virtual Visit to the Guggenheim Museum: Exploring the Life and Art of Gabriele Munter

by Dena Kerren

When women were barred from attending public art academies in Germany early in the 20th century, Gabriele Munter rebelled against this tradition in both her art and her life.

She established herself at the forefront of experimental art at a time when formal artistic training was largely reserved for men. She emerged as a pioneering voice in modern art.

From Photography to Painting

Munter's first artistic passion was photography. In 1898, during a visit to the United States with her sister, she purchased one of the first Kodak Box Cameras. For two years she focused on small-town life in America's South and Midwest, capturing informal portraits rooted in the no-frills of daily life and landscape images. These early photographs

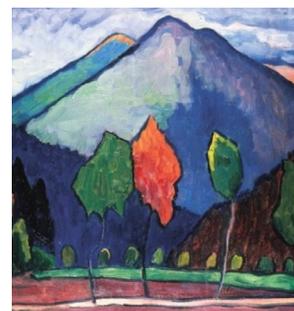
helped shape her visual sensibility. Upon returning to Germany,



she enrolled in the progressive Phalanx School in Munich, one of the few institutions that welcomed women. There she studied with Wassily Kandinsky, who would become her teacher, artistic collaborator, and long-time partner. Together they travelled extensively through Italy, France, and Tunisia, eager to capture the world around them.

At the outbreak of World War I, Munter fled to Stockholm where she became known for her symbolic portraits of her women friends reflecting the mood of the times. She returned to Germany in her 80s for an exhibition at the Lindbott Gallery where she donated her vast collection of 80 oil paintings and over 300 drawings.

Gabriele Munter is known for her vibrant stylized landscapes and colors, intimate domestic interiors, and portraits. Her work is characterized by bold simplified forms, heavy dark outlines, and emotional use of color.



Visit the exhibition at the Guggenheim through April 26th.

Q News Staff	Special March Dates	Creative Corner
<p><i>A Quest Publication</i></p> <p><i>Editor-in-Chief</i> Barbara Gelber</p> <p><i>Consulting Editors</i> Michael Wellner Gale Spitalnik</p> <p><i>Editor Emerita</i> Carolyn McGuire</p> <p><i>Graphic Design</i> Robbii</p> <p>25 Broadway New York, NY 10004 212.925.6625 x229 questlifelong.org</p> <p>Articles submitted to QNews may be edited by the Staff. The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter of the publication's contents.</p>	<p>Women's History Month</p> <p>1 St. David's Day</p> <p>1 World Music Therapy Day</p> <p>2 American Citizenship Day</p> <p>3 Purim</p> <p>3 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race</p> <p>4 National Grammar Day</p> <p>5 National Absinthe Day</p> <p>6 Employee Appreciation Day</p> <p>6 National Dentist Day</p> <p>8 International Women's Day</p> <p>8 Proofreading Day</p> <p>8 Daylight Saving Time begins</p> <p>12 National Girl Scout Day</p> <p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>19 Let's Laugh Day</p> <p>20 Spring Begins</p> <p>21 Common Courtesy Day</p> <p>29 Palm Sunday</p> <p>30 Vietnam War Veterans Day</p>	<p>VILLANELLE® <i>by Betty Farber</i></p> <p>"When you are old and grey and full of sleep" – <i>W.B. Yeats</i></p> <p>Though I am old and grey and full of sleep, I still can choose to write and laugh and love. I know which dreams to lose and which to keep.</p> <p>At times I smile at fortune, times I weep, And lift my tearful eyes to heaven above, Since I am old and grey and full of sleep.</p> <p>Memories sustain me, thoughts can creep, Some cheerful, some I am unworthy of. I know which ones to lose and which to keep.</p> <p>Let go of loneliness, although it's anchored deep Within my soul—I'm lost without my love, Since I am old and grey and full of sleep.</p> <p>When drowning in despair that is too deep, I call on thoughts that I am tired of. I know which dreams to lose and which to keep.</p> <p>So when you see me sighing, do not weep. It is the sound of mourning, like the dove. Though I am old and grey and full of sleep I know which dreams to lose and which to keep.</p>
<p>You'll Never Find A Rainbow If You're Looking Down. — <i>Charlie Chaplin</i></p>		
<p>We Should Not Look Back Unless It Is To Derive Useful Lessons From Past Errors. — <i>George Washington</i></p>		

New Members

Quest welcomes five 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.



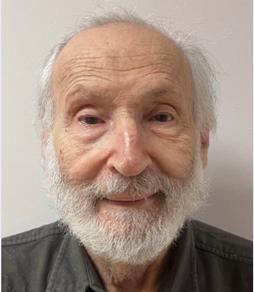
Rita Fischer



Amy Plotch



Michelle Pollack



Peter Ranis



Jacqueline Wertzer

Birthday Dessert



A birthday dessert party was held at noon, Wednesday, February 4th, to celebrate *all* Questers for 2026. Thank you to the Social Committee with addition of **Lynn Scheurer-Foster.**



Report on the Amazing Generosity of Quest Members

by Sandra Abramson, Marsha Porcell & Michael Wellner

Over the last year, we three have reached out several times to Quest students about making donations to City College (CCNY) in order to establish annual scholarships for Center for Worker Education (CWE) students who share our space here at 25 Broadway — albeit at a different time of the day/evening. This tradition began over twenty years ago, when one of Quest's founding members generously established an endowment that created an annual scholarship for a CCNY/CWE student. That single act prompted another Quest member to establish another endowment. (*An endowment creates a scholarship that is awarded annually forever. A minimum of \$25,000 is needed to create an endowed scholarship.*)

Many of you may be unaware of the great generosity of many of your fellow Quest members who have responded to these calls. As a result of our current outreach, seven more Questers have each established individual endowments of at least \$25,000. And, even more good news, we are pleased to announce the funding of our first endowment created by another seven Quest members who have pooled their resources to reach an amount even greater than the minimum — \$27,500!

And, all of this is in addition to the nearly \$20,000 that Questers have donated over the past two years to establish the newly created *CWE Emergency Fund*. With this money, CWE's Dean Juan Mercado is able to assist, on a one-time basis, any student who is experiencing a financial crisis that would otherwise preclude their continuing their studies. In this time of rising costs, the ability of the dean to make such assistance available is so critical to enabling the students to reach their goal of attaining their BA.

In addition to the Quest endowed scholarships, Quest as an organization provides several individual scholarships for CWE students on an annual basis. Needless to say, this generosity on the part of Quest and its members is a source of great pride for each and every one of us.

On behalf of the CWE Dean, the President of City College, and the CWE students who have or might benefit, we want to say thank you! And, of course, if you would like any more information about any of these efforts, please feel free to reach out to any one of us at any time.

Thank you again!

Trust Yourself. Create The Kind Of Self That You Will Be Happy To Live With All Your Life. Make The Most Of Yourself By Fanning The Tiny, Inner Sparks Of Possibility Into Flames Of Achievement.

— Golda Meir

You Don't Learn From Succeeding, You Learn From Failing.

— George Clooney