

A Note From the President

Once again, our spring General Membership Meeting is bitter sweet. As some Council members reach their term limits and step down, we also welcome newly elected members who will bring fresh perspectives following a week of engaging meet-the-candidate forums.

On behalf of Quest, we extend our sincere thanks to members-at-large **Tamara Weinberg** and **Judy Winn** for their thoughtful counsel and insights; to **Bob Gottfried**, who chose not to seek a second term as vice president; and to **Peter Fleischman**, whose two terms were marked by significant improvements, including streamlining our financial interactions with CWE.

At our June Council meeting, we will welcome our new vice president, **Tracey Lee Barrett**, along with **Ellen Rittberg** as member-at-large. We also congratulate incumbents **Karen Cullen** and **Vince Grosso**

on their re-election to second terms as Council secretary and member-at-large, respectively.

Quest elections also signal the near ending of our spring semester and the transition to our Summer Encores program.

This program, facilitated by **Joyce Hinote** and **Andrea Irvine**, with **Arlynn Greenbaum** as chair, features one class each Tuesday and Thursday morning in June and July that highlight repeat presentations selected by you, our members.

And, of course, we have our annual Creativity Day spearheaded by **MaryAnn Donnelly** and **Tamara Weinberg**. More on our summer schedule in the upcoming weeks.

This summer we're expanding Tuesdays to include afternoon activities. Long-time member **Harriet Finkelstein** invites everyone to continue her Wonderful Books Out Loud experience with readings of short stories by Mark Twain. New member **Lisa Levine**

will lead chair yoga sessions that will help improve our flexibility, balance, muscle tone and stress reduction without having to get down on the floor or change into workout gear. And **Bob Shick** will bring energy and spontaneity with an introduction to improv, getting participants thinking on their feet.

We're also exploring additional on-site opportunities. If you're interested in organizing a Tuesday afternoon activity — bridge, chess, a study group — please let me know and we'll provide a space and ensure an NWAQ listing.

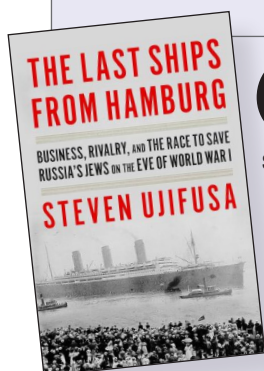
Finally, we continue to open our summer program to non-members at no cost, which is a welcoming opportunity for others to learn more about Quest.

Summer at Quest continues to grow, expanding both knowledge and connection.

– Donna Ramer

Steven Ujifusa Speaks to Quest

by Bob Reiss



On April 8, 2026, Steven Ujifusa, a historian who chronicles the American experience, with special interests in business, social, and maritime history, spoke to a rapt Quest audience on his compelling book, *The Last Ships from Hamburg: Business, Rivalry, and the Race to Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I*. He related the moving story of Eastern European Jewish immigration to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The saga of two million

Jews making their way from the *shtetls* in the Pale of Settlement to Ellis Island is rarely told and is one of perseverance, determination and resilience. Steven also highlighted the role of leading Jewish philanthropists such as Jacob Schiff who financed this mass migration.

During Q & A, several Questers were inspired to relate their families' immigration stories.

This was the final session of the highly successful 2025-26 Guest Speaker program. Thanks go to **Arlynn Greenbaum** and her committee of **Estelle Selzer**, **Karen Levin** and **Bob Reiss**.



IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Rosen

by Sheryl Harawitz

Marilyn was one of those rare, unforgettable people. She brought that same spirit—her full heart and soul—into her acting class. It wasn't just a course; it was something she created and gave to all of us.

I remember her most vividly in the hours after Quest, when we would go to the Knickerbocker. We had a ritual. We would begin at the bar—Marilyn with her martini, which she loved for the way it was made and poured—then move to our table for dinner.

Our conversations wandered easily: the theater, old loves, her children. There was always laughter. Those evenings had a rhythm of their own—generous, open, and full of life—just like Marilyn.

At the end of the night, I would put her in a cab back to Brooklyn, a small closing to something that always felt complete.

My last memory of Marilyn is of the beautiful birthday celebration her daughters gave for her. Her home on Henry Street was filled with people—crowded with warmth, affection, and gratitude. It was a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much of herself to others.

Marilyn shone in everything she did. She will be deeply missed.



New Members

Quest welcomes two 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.



Carolyn Jones



Anna Szabolcsi

Enticing Encores Program Set for June and July

The Encores 2026 committee – **Arlynn Greenbaum, Joyce Hinote and Andrea Irvine** – is happy to announce a diverse program of 17 classes that will start on June 2 and run through July 30 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:30 am – 12 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 history, religion and the mysterious Black Swan. Selections are based on members voting for noteworthy classes.

The summer program will start on June 2 with **Ellie Schaffer** reprising her popular presentation on “The Music Man.” It will be followed by a celebratory lunch.

Back by popular demand is Creativity Day on June 23 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 the week of May 11. It will also be posted on the website. We look forward to seeing you at Quest this summer!

**The Meaning Of Life Is To Find Your Gift.
The Purpose Of Life Is To Give It Away.**

— Pablo Picasso

**You Can Never Cross the Ocean
Until You Have the Courage to Lose Sight
of the Shore.**

— Christopher Columbus



Bat Mitzvah

by Michael Wellner



On Saturday morning, four Quest members, accompanied by a couple of friends, traveled to Brooklyn to attend and celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of our very own **Sandra Abramson**, who, as you might suspect, is just a bit older than thirteen!

Sandra, who grew up in Philadelphia, had only a very abbreviated ceremony way back when, a time when Jewish boys typically became B'nei Mitzvah, but girls were often not. This was an opportunity for her to correct that oversight.

The weather was fine, the synagogue and ceremony were certainly unique, and everyone had a really wonderful time. Congratulations to Sandra — for a long overdue rite.

Great Plays: *The Vagina Monologues* by Wayne Cotter



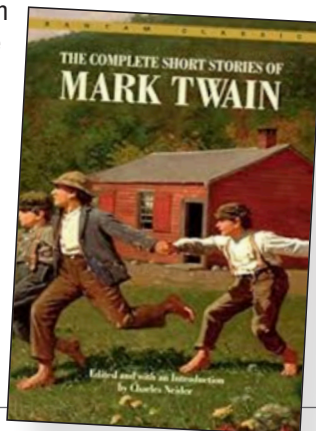
On March 23, Frieda Lipp presented a memorable version of *The Vagina Monologues* in the Great Plays course. Pictured are cast members (seated, l. to r.) **Mary Beth Yakoubian, Yona Rogosin, and June Jacobson**. Standing next to Frieda in the top row is Zoya Kachadurian, who helped produce a star-studded version of *The Vagina Monologues* at Madison Square Garden in 2001. Zoya spoke to the Great Plays audience following Frieda's production.

Tuesdays With Mark Twain!

Catch up with the amazing Mark Twain this coming summer. In Spring 2025 we read some of Twain's sixty great short stories in *Wonderful Books Out Loud*. This summer we plan to continue the fun. Join in reading Mark Twain aloud each Tuesday at 1:00 pm during Summer School weeks. For those who do not have the book, *The Complete Short Stories Of Mark Twain*, Bantam edition, is available at goodreads for just \$4.28. Other publishers' editions are fine so long as they include the stories we will be reading. You can also access the stories on your cell phone or laptop. All are welcome — newcomers as well as previous Twain participants.

Every week attendance is not essential — just drop in whenever you are not at the Hamptons or in Paris.

No advance reading required.
Facilitators: **Harriet Finkelstein, Ruth Ward, and Larry Shapiro.**



Bruce Museum by Karen Levin

On a beautiful sunny day, **Madeleine Brecher, Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Michele Mackey, and Gale Spitalnik** travelled to Greenwich, Connecticut to visit the Bruce Museum, an art, science, and natural history museum.

Our mission was to see an exhibit called *Ants: Tiny Creatures, Big Lives*. This exhibit was very creative using displays of ants and their habitats. It included models that showed close-up views of how ants live and care for each other.

We learned about the many ecosystem services that ants provide, ranging from pollinating crops to aerating and improving soil to serving directly as a food staple in some societies.

The exhibit runs through May 17, 2026.

We'll never stamp on an ant again!



Quest Community at The Whitney Biennial by Margaret Gill

A group of Questers and friends attended the Whitney Biennial on April 19th. They had a wonderful time and were able to get in free with their Quest IDs. The exhibits were interesting and enjoyable, and the guide was fantastic.

It was a lovely bit of sunshine on a cold, wet, miserable Sunday.



Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo



Busting Out Williamsburg

In a studio somewhere in Brooklyn there must be a hard toiling Pygmalion who abandoned his desperate task to call to life these Junoesque Graces. We know from myth that they represent youth/beauty, mirth, and elegance... though which is which would be hard to tell. Even Paris might quail this time around in choosing the fairest. They command attention. Too strong-willed for their creator they are set to go... indeed one is already in half-stride. Heads would surely turn on the streets of Williamsburg... though not theirs.

Creative Corner

CRAZY QUILT® by Betty Farber

Start with plush velvet, smooth satin, soft cotton shapes.
Maneuver them to find patterns:
Dark and light, plain and print.
Move and change
Until it looks right.
Embellish with ribbon and braid.
Embroider with feather stitches and French knots.
With sparkling threads, dream up stars.
Try new ones, rip them out, stitch again.
Learn from books, friends, teachers,
But in the end
Creating a crazy quilt
Is up to you
Alone.

CultureQuest: Final Dress Rehearsal of “Innocence” by Estelle Selzer



Fifty CultureQuesters gathered for the Final Dress Rehearsal of “Innocence” at the Metropolitan Opera House, on April 3rd. The New York Times gave it a Critics Pick when it opened the following Monday evening and said “the most astonishing achievement of ‘Innocence’ is how much it communicates in just an hour and 45 minutes.”

This new modern, multilingual Met production by a Finnish woman Kaija Saariaho did not disappoint. It was a powerful story of a grieving mother and the daughter she lost in a mass murder of teenagers in an international school ten years previously. Questers gathered after the performance for a photo op and to discuss the production. Be on the lookout for future dress rehearsals and sign up quickly. Tickets go fast.

Chess, Anyone? by Konstantin Dolgin



It has been a while since I played competitive chess, so I decided to give it a try. I am playing for the US team in the World Senior Team Competition in Durres, the second largest city in Albania and a popular resort on the Adriatic Sea.

Our team competes in the over-65 Division. Many top players from all over the world participate in this tournament, and I am looking forward to interesting chess games.

Who's Doing What



Ellen Rittberg went to L.A. to celebrate her two youngest grandchildren's first and third birthday. Seen here: the one year old.

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Curriculum Corner

by *Ellie Schaffer*

How are courses created at Quest?

Here are resources and upcoming activities to help you understand the process.

- 1) Early semester lunchtime brainstorming session about new course ideas — stay tuned!
- 2) Lunchroom suggestion box (new) for when an idea strikes.
- 3) Website documents listed under Course Coordinator Information on the main member page.
 - a. Lead Coordinator
Role of the lead coordinator in course creation.
 - b. Proposal Form
Required form for proposing new courses.
 - c. Worksheet
Course Schedule Worksheet.
 - d. Checklist Checklist and Helpful Tips for Course Lead
- 4) Mentors. We maintain a list of Lead Coordinators to assist and guide you.
- 5) Upcoming "Creating the Quest Curriculum" lunchtime meeting. All members, new and existing, are welcome.

Note: The gold standard for developing wonderful Quest courses happens through interaction in and outside the classroom. Lunchtime schmoozing is critical!

Email me, **Ellie Schaffer**, elschaffer@gmail.com, with any questions. Remember, summer is a great time for dreaming up new possibilities at Quest!

Special Days in May

- May 1** Law day
- May 2** Kentucky Derby
- May 4** Star Wars Day
May the 4th Be With You
- May 5** Cinco de Mayo
- May 8** World Red Cross Day
- May 10** Mother's Day
- May 12** International Nurses Day
- May 15** Endangered Species Day
- May 16** Preakness Stakes
- May 17** International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
- May 18** International Museum Day
- May 20** World Bee Day
- May 22** National Strawberries and Cream Day
- May 23** World Turtle Day
- May 25** National Memorial Day
- May 26** National Paper Airplane Day
- May 28** World Hunger Day
- May 31** World No Tobacco Day

Fantasy is a Necessary Ingredient in Living, It's a Way of Looking at Life Through the Wrong End of a Telescope, And That Enables You to Laugh at Life's Realities.

— *Dr. Seuss*

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New Members Meeting

by *Leslie Goldman*

New members gathered in small groups on April 28, getting to know each other, asking questions, and making suggestions for future participation. New members indicated that this format was a wonderful way to get to know each other.

New Members Committee:
Leslie Goldman and **Tracey Lee**,
co chairs **John Davis**, **Vince Grasso**,
Ken Sasmor, and **Laurie Spiegel**



Celebrating a Century of Art Deco: The CultureQuest Walking Tour

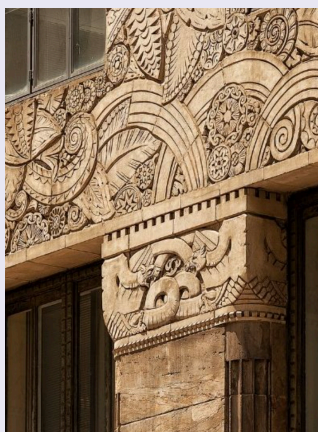
by Debbi Honorof

In 2025, the world marked the centennial of Art Deco, a modernist architectural style that, after falling out of favor for a time, has become one of New York City's most beloved and recognizable aesthetics. To honor this significant milestone, participants joined our knowledgeable guide, Tony Robins, for an engaging walking tour exploring the heart of Manhattan's Art Deco legacy near Grand Central Station.

The tour spotlighted three of the city's most outstanding Art Deco landmarks, including the Daily News Building, completed in 1929, and renowned for its impressive rotating globe in the lobby, a symbol of the era's fascination with progress and technology. Questers also enjoyed a spectacular view of the iconic Chrysler Building, completed in 1930, and boasting remarkable features on its facade, including detailed etchings inspired by automotive parts and oversized reproductions of Chrysler automobile hood ornaments. The group also visited the Chanin Building, constructed in 1927, and admired for its exquisite exterior carvings that capture the intricate craftsmanship of the period.

In addition to these famous sites, Tony introduced participants to less well-known buildings that represent the spirit and innovation of the Art Deco era, showcasing the breadth and diversity of the style throughout the neighborhood.

The tour was led by Tony Robins, an Architectural Historian with deep expertise in the field. He is the former Vice-President of the Art Deco Society of New York and the author of *New York Art Deco: A Guide to Gotham's Jazz Age Architecture*, an award-winning book that has become an essential resource for enthusiasts and scholars alike.



Everything Old is New Again

by Carol Teten

On April 27, Carol Teten presented "Meet and Greet Through Movement," as part of the course on Play. There were three parts to the class:

The Grand March: A 19th century invention that was fashionable for the opening of large Balls. Through 'follow-the-leader' formations, the participants create geometric group patterns whereby every dancer can look over possible dance partners for the continuation of the evening. It is super easy (walking) and fun to promenade to the Radetzky March.

The Grand Right and Left: Everyone stands in a circle facing partners. Each individual weaves their way around the circle, so that each person reaches around the first partner with the right hands, and then passes to the next person with the left hands, and so on, throughout the circle. The ever-changing meetings were danced to the Tennessee Waltz.

The Virginia Reel: This has been a popular contradance since the 17th century. We performed its patterns to Turkey in the Straw. While two lines face each other, everyone greets the vis-a-vis partner in five different ways, and then casts off so that each couple moves into a new place in their line to repeat the whole pattern (i.e., one's place in the society changes, but relationships remain the same — an old fashioned way of living!)

Happily, after much laughter, there was time for an animated discussion at the end of class.

