

A Note From the President

How do we continue moving forward to meet the enduring yet evolving needs of our members while preserving the integrity of our legacy and mission? Is the best path slow, evolutionary change, or a series of incremental revolutions? The answer, of course, is both, depending on the need.

Just a few months ago, we modestly increased our membership cap by fifteen people to assess the impact on our physical capacity. Over the years, we've also revised bylaws, created and dissolved ad hoc and standing committees, adapted to changing technology needs, and included well-structured PowerPoint training. Perhaps the most significant transformation has been the addition of post-Covid hybrid classes,

which permanently reshaped how we learn and connect.

Our summer programming, meanwhile, remained largely unchanged, anchored by a repeat class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in June and July. More recently, Creativity Day emerged as a highlight of the summer season. And now comes the next step in that evolution: Summer Extras.

This pilot program expands our summer offerings with three regularly scheduled afternoon classes and two additional special programs offered on a limited basis. We're also introducing a new Zoom-only program in August featuring a video presentation of a popular Distinguished Guest Lecture followed by facilitated discussions. **Arlynn Greenbaum** will share

more details later this month.

Be sure to check each week's NWAQ but mark your calendars for these Summer Extras:

- Tuesdays with Mark Twain, led by **Harriet Finkelstein** (Tuesdays, 12:30–2:00)
- Chair Yoga, led by **Lisa Levine** (Thursdays, 12:10-12:30)
- Beowulf, led by **Sheryl Harowitz** and **Andrea Irvine** (Thursdays, 12:30–1:30)

And don't forget our one-time Pop-Up Creative Writing Class on June 9 (12:30–2:00) that will be led by **Helen Saffran**, **Judy Hampson**, and me; and **Bob Shick's** Improv classes on Tuesday, June 30, and Thursday, July 30 (12:30-1:30). Most important of all: let's embrace the change!

– **Donna Ramer**

Summer Encores June 2026

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

Tuesdays June 2 – June 30

- June 2:** Ellie Schaffer, *Meredith Wilson's The Music Man*
Give My Regards to Broadway
- June 9:** Lynnel Garabedian, *Berthe Morisot & Mary Cassatt: Impressionist Painters, Artists & Their Work*
- June 16:** Michael Hamburg, *Tales of Constellations, Across the Universe*
- June 23:** *Creativity Day: A Celebration of Members' Artistic Works*
- June 30:** George Chung, *Time for Numbers, The Wonder of It*

Thursdays June 4 – June 25

- June 4:** Sandy Kessler, *America in Crisis: Where Do We Stand Today, The Federalist Papers*
- June 11:** Pete Weis, *Bauhaus, Art & Practice of Architecture*
- June 18:** Debbi Honorof, *U.S. Homefront During WWII, Eras in American History*
- June 25:** Bob Reiss, *South Pacific, Give My Regards to Broadway*

Off the “Wall”

by Ruth Kovner

Wednesday, April 29, was a first for me. I have been struggling to rejoin the world of Quest in person. Ever since I fell, broke four ribs, and had nine stitches in my forehead, I have had to watch Quest via zoom. I was literally housebound and the bad weather did not help.

However, Wednesday I awoke with resolve. I was determined to go to Quest and be there in person. Rather than spend an hour and a half on a bus, I chose to push my walker onto a subway train and use the elevators at the start and finish of the trip. The elevator on East 68th Street and Lexington Avenue is fairly new. And, of course, there is an elevator at Bowling Green. The trip home was a bit problematic as it was more crowded. Everyone was very kind. A friend joined me on the trip home. I had a seat.

I was so happy once again to be a full member of Quest, enjoying the benefits of being with you all in person. It was a joy to be with my Quest friends again.

A Day at Quest 4.10.26

by Ze'eva Cohen

It was the very first warm day after the long and cold winter months. To see a sun that was making me feel warm was such a pleasure. As usual, I was running late to my class at that tall building just across from the New York City's Charging Bull.

Again, I could not believe why international tourists find this aggressive looking sculpture so attractive and having a particular delight in posing their family for a photograph at the Bull's ass hole or, some say, his balls.

As I enter the building, I show my ID card to the building guard who knows me very well, but still needs to see it. I then proceed to the seventh floor where the wonderful CCNY guard with his contagious smile and open arms greets me.

When I enter the classroom and see the crowded room, I think of my friend Gregg. It would have been so much fun to have him join me in this philosophy class, so that I could keep discussing this presentation with him afterwards. In my mind I already hear our dialogue:

Z: Last week I attended an amazing class at Quest, where the impossible proved possible.

G: This sounds interesting but not possible. What was the subject, and who was the speaker?

Z: The speaker was Aristotle. What was remarkable about his delivery was that he hardly spoke.

G: You are pulling my leg. How did this work?

Z: He assumed we read or did not read the complex and long article he had us read on the latest technological phenomenon called Claude. He then let us talk.

G: Was there an agreement among the students?

Z: None

Mother's Day

by Debbi Honorof

I wasn't expecting to see my daughter on Mother's Day because she was crewing on a sailboat, helping to bring a friend's boat from North Carolina to Long Island. But that morning, she called to tell me exactly when they would be sailing up the East River. I waited on the shoreline at East 78th Street and saw the boat approaching from under the 59th Street Bridge. As they passed me, everyone on the boat

shouted "Happy Mother's Day." It was an incredible moment!

Then I walked up to 90th Street and boarded a ferry to Astoria to see my son, daughter-in-law, and baby granddaughter for my first Mother's Day as a grandma. A perfect New York City Mother's Day!

As I was taking photos of the boat and its crew, my daughter took a video of me, waving at the shoreline.



Prepare to have fun Tuesday, June 23 at 10:30. In addition to written works and artwork there'll be singing, storytelling, music, cooking, stand-up comedy, photography.

This year's lineup includes **Ellen Shapiro, Ellie Schaffer, June Jacobson, Jennifer Jolly, Helen Saffran, Ruth Ward, Steve Koenig, Linda Rothstein, Mary Beth Yakoubian, Frank Montaturo, Peter Dichter, Shirley Ranz, Marian Friedmann, Carol Teten, Judy Hampson, Debbi Honorof, Lisa Levine, Linda Schwartz, Lynne Scheurer-Foster, and Jenna Orkin.**

Please come and enjoy our talented Questers. Afterwards we'll gather opposite the auditorium to celebrate our creative colleagues with prosecco and cookies.

Three Chrononauts Set Forth

by Ruth Ward



On April 2nd, a very dark if not rainy night, **Ann Goerdt, Ellen Shapiro, and Ruth Ward** ventured out to the Merchant's House Museum for the guilty pleasure of *Killing an Evening with Edgar Allen Poe*. Before a distinguished gentleman, John Kevin Jones, chilled us with an awesome dramatization of several spine-tingling Poe stories and "The (ever awesome) Raven," a black-clad angel named Natalia Paruz warmed us with her sensitive playing of the little-known musical saw.

Curriculum Corner

by Ellie Schaffer

The Curriculum Committee is branching out!

In an effort to further enhance our wonderful peer-to-peer learning model, we are setting up subcommittees to better cover different curriculum efforts. The subcommittees are as follows:

1. Course Development
2. Summer Programs
3. Course Catalog Production
4. Lead Coordinator and Presenter Training

We plan to add additional training materials to our website. We plan to deliver presentation skills training on how to be a more effective and engaging presenter, and we plan to meet with Lead Coordinators this summer to involve them in this process. On a separate but related effort, we thank Tamara Weinberg and Tracey Lee, who together lead a terrific PowerPoint Workshop every other week.

There's so much to learn! We are committed to delivering that knowledge as effectively and engagingly as possible.

Ellie Schaffer,
elschaffer@gmail.com

Snug Harbor

by Madeleine Brecher



The gods were shining on us. The weather for our long-planned excursion to "The Rock" was perfect when **Karen Levin, Arlynn Greenbaum, and Madeleine Brecher** hopped on the Staten Island ferry to meet our gracious guide for the day, **Toni Dickenson**. Toni was there waiting for us so off we went to explore the cultural destination known as Snug Harbor.

We toured the campus, heard about Snug Harbor's history, and were charmed by the authentic classical Chinese Scholar's Garden. It is one of only two built in the United States, and is a compilation of different gardens in China based on the Ming Dynasty gardens (1368-1644 AD).

After a wonderful lunch at a charming tavern, we said farewell to Toni with the promise that we'd return in the Fall for a visit to the Museum of Tibetan Art, nestled on a quiet hill and designed to replicate a Tibetan Buddhist mountain monastery with 15th- to 20th-century Buddhist art.

Coffee, Anyone?

by Liz Laube and Michael Wellner

We are looking for a few volunteers to prepare coffee for our upcoming seventeen summer sessions, Tuesdays and Thursdays only, beginning June 2nd and ending July 30th. If you would be available to help, even on just one (or two) days, please email both of us... and *thank you* in advance.

CultureQuest: Woodlawn Cemetery Trolley Tour

by Estelle Selzer

On a beautiful May 8th, a group of CultureQuesters ventured to the Northeast Bronx to the historic Woodlawn Cemetery. With our excellent guide Liz we boarded a trolley and toured the enormous grounds. Many famous people are buried at Woodlawn. Among them are Celia Cruz, Sir Miles Davis, Illinois Jacquet, Duke Ellington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Joseph Pulitzer. We were able to go into two mausoleums which were huge and even had beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows.

After the tour we were dropped at a different exit and walked a few blocks to the Irish pub, Rambling House, where we had a delicious lunch. On the MetroNorth ride home



Questers commented on how much fun this event was. Several indicated that they wanted to make the trip back to both the Cemetery and the pub.

Here are the Questers who attended before we boarded the trolley.

Creative Corner

FINAL SALE®

by Betty Farber

A shopper for all seasons—
That was my mother.

“Meet me for lunch at B. Altman’s,”
Then we’d go shopping.

She could spot a jacket at thirty paces.
I would try it on. It would be perfect.

Her grandchildren loved shopping
with Nana,
And they inherited her genes.

For her granddaughter Claire’s wedding
in Texas,
My mother bought a beautiful grey dress.

One month later, when mother died,
She was buried in the grey dress.

When the phone rang and Claire got
the news,
She kissed her new husband,

Reached for her purse and walked toward
the door.

“Nana died. I’m going shopping now, in
her memory.”

Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo



Still life
East Village
June 2023

We walked into the shop... a very high end Scandinavian antiquarian’s. Muted brushed colors... pale blue... paler green... palest lilac grey... and then these transparent glistening hand crafted bottles. Seven on a shelf. So much more satisfying than eight or six... and lucky too. Their swirls and fractured engagement with the light charming the viewer. I thought of a Morandi painting... assemblages of bottles carafes vases pitchers cups blocks in subtle coloring. I thought of my “collection” of small soft green tinted vintage bottles picked up cheaply at a flea market... nothing to compare with these. These I coveted... wanting to pick them up and run my hands over their surface... to seek out the occasional blower’s bubble and any irregularities... to feel the pontil mark on the bottom. I refrained... fearful of a careless move. The eye would have to suffice.

Happiness Is Good Health And A Bad Memory.

— Ingrid Bergman



Quest's Semi-Annual End-of-Semester Luncheon

by Michael Wellner

Go West, young man, and grow up with the country." So said Horace Greeley in an editorial in the New-York Tribune, in 1865. Well, after a quick check of our membership roster, we quickly realized that almost all of the Quest members cannot be described as "young men." And so, with that in mind, the Special Events Committee decided that we'd be better served by going *East*, rather than West.

On a beautiful, sunny, and warm Friday, over one hundred of us, including several guests from CCNY, gathered for a wonderful luncheon at Nino's newly opened Italian restaurant on 52nd Street, east of First Avenue (almost as far east as one can go in Manhattan).

And going East was certainly a wise decision.

In a beautiful space that had been home to the famed Le Perigord French restaurant for over forty years, we were greeted with a lovely wine reception to begin, followed by an absolutely delicious three course meal, ending (of course) with Nino's favorite Tiramisu.

It is safe to say that virtually everyone had a wonderful afternoon, as these pictures will attest. Here's to a warm and delightful summer; see you in September (if not before)!

Bob Gottfried, Leslie Goldman, Marian Friedmann, Marilyn Ostrow, and Michael Wellner



cont.

Quest's Semi-Annual End-of-Semester Luncheon, *con't.*



Who's Doing What



Nina Sanders attended her daughter Maia's graduation from Haverford College on May 16th. It was a wonderful day!

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Ellen Rittberg

and most of her New York-based clan went to Philadelphia to support the Knicks in their final game against the 76'ers. Despite the lopsided Knicks victory, the Philadelphia fans were gracious about their loss, complimenting the Knicks and Ellen's all-orange choice of clothing.



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A very happy grand birthday to **David Judlowitz**

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For the May 15th weekend **Jennifer Jolly** went with her husband Cliff, and daughter Caroline to Rhode Island for their grandson Liam's graduation from URI. They were joined by their son Erik, his wife Imogen, and their other grandson, Owen who came from Burlington, Vermont. They stayed in a lovely house overlooking the water where it was quiet and peaceful. With lovely weather and good meals at local restaurants they had a wonderful time. Family gathered on the balcony at the house.

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Rica Fujihira just came back from Los Angeles where she attended



her nephew's PhD dissertation defense on brain cancer research. He aced it! They took a Waymo driverless taxi to UCLA and survived the ride to celebrate later.

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Marilyn Graman and family celebrated her 80th Birthday in Sonoma CA in April.

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Michael, Marsha, Mary Beth, husband Dan at "Bat Out Of Hell." Someone loved it so much that he hummed along to all the tunes. Was it Michael?

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Arthur and **Barbara Gelber** traveled to Henrico, VA to attend high school graduation of grands Violet and Logan. Also to West Chester, PA for grandson Jake's high school graduation.

**I Was Minding
My Own Business,
And All Of A Sudden
1976 Was
Fifty Years Ago!**

**If You Are
Not Happy With What You Have,
You Will Not Be Happy
With What You Get.**

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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.

Special June Dates

Pride Month
National Oceans Month

1 World Dinosaur Day

3 National Egg Day

4 Happy 250th USA

6 National YoYo Day

7 National Cancer Survivors Day

7 Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day

11 Corn on the Cob Day

14 Flag Day

19 Juneteenth

20 International Refugee Day

22 National Kissing Day

26 National Chocolate Pudding Day

29 National Camera Day

30 Meteor Watch Day

TheaterWorks Production Is A Success

by Arlynn Greenbaum

On May 13, in lieu of a guest speaker, a full auditorium of Questers were treated to five short skits, three of them original works. They were developed in **Art Spar's** TheaterWorks workshop and involved nearly 40 Questers as writers, directors and actors.

The original works were *Plunger* by **Lisa Bu**, directed by **Art Spar** and **Gloria Peropat**, *The Writers' Room* written and directed by

Donna K. Ramer and *The Phantom* written and directed by **Ruth Ward**.

The other two scenes were from *The Accused* by Tom Topor directed by **Yona Rogosin** and *Mary Stuart* by Friedrich Schiller directed by **Mary Beth Yakoubian**.

The Social Committee provided refreshments following the production and a good time was had by all.



Donna Ramer, Deborah Bonelli, Lisa Bu, Wayne Cotter, and Arlynn Greenbaum



June Jacobson, Bob Shick, Peter Dichter, and Gale Spitalnik from *The Writers' Room*.



Helen Saffran, Jennifer Jolly, Lois Klein, and Nancy Dobi from *The Phantom*.



Sol Zalcgendler, Lynnel Garabedian, Yona Rogosin, and Tamara Weinberg from *The Accused*.



Frieda Lipp, Vince Grosso, and Diane Reynolds from *Mary Stuart*.

See next page for more photos

TheaterWorks Production Is A Success, *con't.*



TheaterWorks Ensemble

Mornings At Quest

Each morning, a varied mix of Quest members amble into the Lounge, where the aroma of fresh coffee fills the air.

They gather around to share laughs, exchange stories, and savor the warmth of camaraderie as they chat about the happenings of the day.

