

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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September 2026

A Note From the President

Walking through the Union Square green market drives home the message that fall is nipping at the heels of the last weeks of summer. The last of the farm-fresh peaches and nectarines, corn and lettuces sit proudly atop long tables, each with a cornucopia of textures and tastes. The sweet cherries almost jumping into our hands when passing our corner produce vendor are now elusive, most likely not to return until three seasons pass. All signs it's time to return to 25 Broadway, hat-less and coat-free for the next several weeks.

It was quite a summer at Quest. Our Encores program (thank you, as always, to **Arlynn Greenbaum**, **Andrea Irvine** and **Joyce Hinote**) offered classes in myriad topics; thanks to all of you who resurrected and updated your presentations for our edition. We expanded our typical summer Tuesdays and Thursdays in both June and July with a few afternoon treats: chair yoga (**Lisa Levine**), Mark Twain (**Harriet**

Finkelstein) and even an improv workshop (**Bob Shick**) and creative writing class (**Helen Saffran**, **Judy Hampson** and me). And, of course, our review of three recorded guest lectures (led respectively by **Bob Reiss**, **Karen Levin** and **Estelle Selzer**) brought us together on Zoom.

Mark Your Calendars for These Special Lunch-time Activities: As always, NWAQ will have the details as we get closer to each of these, but here's a sneak peek into this fall's special lunch-time activities: Our back-to-school lunch will be **September 16**, sponsored by our Social Committee. Our Curriculum Committee will be facilitating a brainstorming session to tease out ideas for new courses during our lunch break on **September 30**, and will provide tips on being a presenter during lunch on **October 28**. And, of course, our New Members Committee will host three fall gatherings: **September 29**, **October 27**, and **December 1**. And let's not forget that on **September 17**, we'll

get a glimpse into our regular Poetry Workshop with **Helen Saffran** and **Judy Hampson** encouraging the poet in us all. And **Lisa Levine** will continue her very popular Chair Yoga workshops on Thursdays.

But our program is about more than just classes. It's about friendships, laughter, and the conversations that spill over from the classroom into the lunchroom and hallways. These connections remind us that learning is not a solitary pursuit—it's something we do best together.

So as we begin this new term, I encourage you to bring your curiosity, your questions, and your perspective. Be open to discovery, be willing to share, and be ready to enjoy the journey. And don't forget to engage our red-lanyard members; remember when you were a newbie.

Here's to another rewarding season of growth, connection, and inspiration. Welcome Back!

— Donna Ramer

Curriculum Corner

by Ellie Schaffer

Let's Discuss New Course Ideas!

Is there something missing at Quest that you would like to explore? Is there a subject you would like to learn more about?

It's never too early to develop new courses for Spring 2027 at our Curriculum Committee Open Forum for New Courses at 12 noon on September 30th.

There are many ways to learn here — lecture courses, discussion courses, study groups, workshops — and topics can be explored through these varied approaches.

So please come on the 30th with your thoughts and your lunch. We are confident that conversation will generate exciting course ideas that will satisfy what you would like to see at Quest.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Ellie Schaffer, at elschaffer@gmail.com.

P.S. Sweets will be provided to stimulate the brain!

Welcome Back to Quest



Questers at Delmonico's by Harriet Finkelstein

Celebrating Mark Twain and our out-loud reading of his short stories, Questers dined, discussed, and explored the “Mark Twain Rooms” at Delmonico’s (Beaver Street). This elegant restaurant, established in 1837, was one of Twain’s favorites and he enjoyed his seventieth birthday party there with over 170 guests. The Delmonico’s luncheon was a lovely conclusion to a Quest semester and summer session dive into the heart and mind of Mark Twain.



Seated: **Jennifer Jolly**, **Lynnel Garabedian**, **Harriet Finkelstein**, **Ruth Ward**, **Ellie Schaffer**
Standing: **Frieda Lipp**, **Karen Cullen**, **Donna Ramer**, **Larry Shapiro**, **Rita Fischer**

Celebrating “America At 250” at Chautauqua by Madeleine Brecher

And what a celebration it was! The National Constitution Center and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation formed an exciting partnership for the week, and the program featured a deep dive into American history and democracy with high-profile morning presentations including filmmaker Ken Burns and legal scholar Jeffrey Rosen. Filling out the week’s agenda were other academic experts who explained the critical responsibilities of citizens necessary to maintain the unity of our democracy for another 250 years. Some of these qualities are personal virtue, personal responsibility, striving for the common good over personal satisfaction, an ethical education, and most importantly, a legal framework to bind us together. They reminded us that, despite the ups and downs of the past 250 years, here we are today still celebrating our United States of America.

The eight Questers plus two very significant others in attendance were there to learn, to be entertained, and to socialize. **Sandy Gordon**, **Arlene Hajinlian**, and **Steve Allen**, our Chautauquan experts, arranged our lovely Quest cocktail party on the terrace of the Hotel Athenaeum. The Road Scholar group consisted of **Wayne** and **Sue Cotter**, **Marilyn Graman**, and **Madeleine** and **George Brecher**. **Terri** and **George Hicks** were there on their own. We were all so exhilarated with the program and seeing one another that you couldn’t get a word in edgewise. The downside was that not one of us remembered to take a photo of the group!

Our Road Scholar morning presenter was Ambassador Molly Williamson, a career Foreign Service Officer specializing in U.S.-Middle East relations and economic policy. She lectured for an hour each morning and kept us on the edge of our seats addressing the contemporary global economic situation. Can you believe how superb she must have been to keep us all coming back for five straight days with that topic? We’re keeping our fingers crossed that the Guest Lecture Committee can bring her to Quest one day soon.

If you’re looking for the perfect spot for your vacation in Summer 2027, try Chautauqua. You won’t be disappointed!

CultureQuest Fall Events by Estelle Selzer

- September 18:** A day at the Cloisters medieval gardens and museum in Upper Manhattan
- October 2:** A day at the beautiful gardens of Wave Hill In Riverdale
- October 16:** A docent tour of the Transit Museum in Brooklyn
- October 30:** *Impact: The End of the Age of Dinosaurs* at the American Museum of Natural History with our very own docents Marian Shultheis and Michael Hamburg
- November 13:** Open working rehearsal of the opera *Jenufa* at the Metropolitan Opera
- December 4:** *New York Now: After Dark* (Triennial of Contemporary Photography) exhibit at The Museum of the City of New York
- December 28:** And a bonus winter break event for opera lovers: Open working rehearsal of the opera *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Creative Corner

FOOLISH THINGS (FOR ARTHUR)®

by Betty Farber

Self-published books where you were
sole creator

Your favorite joke about a Jewish waiter

The reprint bought in an Old Lyme museum
City Landmarks—how we love to see ‘em

A ramekin of Lucious creme brûlée
A five-flight climb to see a classic play

A photograph of foggy mirror lake
Classic films that kept us wide awake

Foolish things—but absolutely true—
And everything reminds me of you.

He Who Knows Only His Own Side of the Case, Knows Little of That.

— *John Stuart Mills*

Q News Staff

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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.

Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The Quest Book Club meets on
Wednesday of the first A Week of
the month.

Sept 9: *Lonesome Dove* by Larry
McMurtry; presented by
Lois Klein

Oct 7: *The Paris Hours* by Alex George;
presented by **Sandy Gordon**

Nov 4: *The Correspondent* by Virginia
Evans; presented by
Madeleine Brecher

Dec 9: *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson;
presented by **Maggie Gill**

We hope you'll join us!

Q Review

REMEMBER Q REVIEW

45 days until deadline

For publication in Quest's literary and
arts journal:

Send prose to **Donna Ramer**
donnaramer1@gmail.com

Poetry goes to **Judy Hampson**
judyahampson@gmail.com

Contact **Paul Adler**
adlerworks@verizon.net
to learn how to submit your art

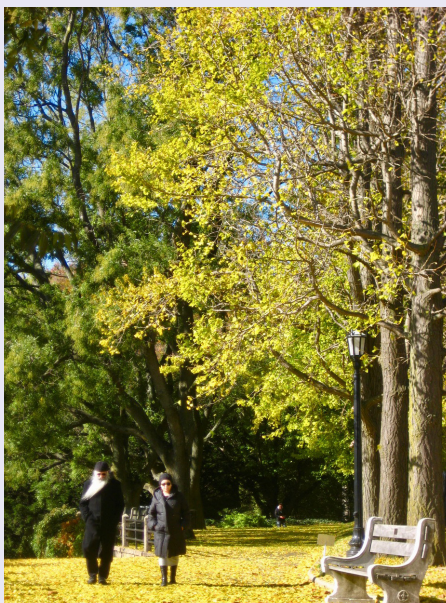
Find guidelines at [https://www.questconti-
nuingednyc.org/q-review/](https://www.questcontinuednyc.org/q-review/)

Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Tolstoy in the park Brooklyn Botanic Garden n/d

Reencountering this photo was the
result of a search in the closet for
an old college anthology of French
literature. Perhaps a more concentrated
sifting will eventually find it... I cannot
imagine having thrown it out... but what
did fall off a shelf was a cheap copy
masquerading as Moroccan bound leather
of Tolstoy's Anna K. The spine must be
reglued. And so memory's ways being often
inscrutable it called up this image which
reminded me in turn of others I had seen
of Tolstoy long bearded strolling intently
about his Russian estate. I recalled having
a paperback edition many years ago. It was
perhaps an abridged version. And I finished it on a ferry to one of the Greek islands. The
pages had been falling out here and there like these yellow leaves. I do remember enjoying
the early chapters. I also remember long ennui thereafter, but I was young. When at last
I was left with torn covers and endless sighs...I consigned Anna and her sorrows to a wine
dark sea.



Who Am I?

We are reviving a QNews column
from a number of years ago.
Please submit a photo of your-
self taken during your teens or twenties,
and let's see if fellow Questers can figure
out which grown-up you became.

Special September Dates	New Members		
1 National Forgiveness Day	Quest welcomes 12 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.		
2 VJ Day Blueberry Popsicle Day			
4 National Food Bank Day			
5 International Day of Charity	<i>Camille Cooper</i>	<i>Saul Eagle</i>	<i>Lynn Exton</i>
6 Coffee Ice Cream Day			
7 Labor Day			
8 World Ampersand Day			
11 Patriot Day National Day of Service and Remembrance			
12 Rosh Hashanah 5787 Chocolate Milkshake Day	<i>Sally Guttmacher</i>	<i>Nancy Kipping</i>	<i>Cory Olicker</i>
13 National Grandparents Day			
16 Mayflower Day			
17 Constitution Day Citizenship Day			
18 POW/MIA Recognition Day	<i>Marguerite Pitts</i>	<i>Marsha Rimler</i>	<i>Suhasini Sankaran</i>
21 National New York Day International Day of Peace			
22 Hobbit Day / Go Barefoot Day			
29 National Silent E Day			
Let Us Not Take Ourselves Too Seriously. None of Us Has a Monopoly of Wisdom, And We Must Always Be Ready to Listen and Respect Other Points Of View. — Queen Elizabeth II			
			
	<i>Melvin Schoenfield</i>	<i>Leanna Stiefel</i>	<i>Ellin Witt</i>

Who's Doing What

Ellen and Bob Gottfried celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Mazal tov!



• • •

Sybil Cohen has been enjoying family togetherness at her Westhampton Beach house.



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Nina Sanders recently caught this wonderful double rainbow in Vermont after a big thunderstorm.

• • •

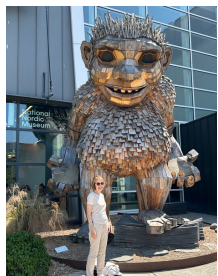
On Wednesday, August 19th

Joyce Hinote, Helen Saffran,

and **Ruth Ward** took the B train down to Brighton Beach, where they lunched on the Boardwalk at the Ador restaurant. What was on offer? Hot borscht, shrimp cocktail, mussels ... and sun-baked fellowship.



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Toni Dickenson took the opportunity to meet a Norwegian Troll, on a trip to Seattle this summer.

• • •

Ellen Rittberg and some of her kids and grandkids spent a day at Harb's in Riverhead, Long Island, a farm-themed amusement place where they cheered on piglets, jumped on giant trampolines, and other kid things.



RIDDLE:
Some Months Have 30 Days,
and Some Months Have 31 Days.
How Many Months
Have 28 Days?
(answer below)

**Shout Out to the People
Who Prove That New Yorkers
Are Kind and Caring
As Long as You Don't Stop
At The Top of the Subway Stairs.**

ANSWER:
All 12 of them. (Every month has
at least 28 days!)

My Trip to Greece

by Michael Wellner



I was lucky enough to spend a week in Crete, with my son, his wife, and their two young children (ages 4½ and 1½), in a beautiful rented house. Great fun, and picture-perfect weather: 75-85 degrees every single day, and never a cloud in the sky! Did a bit of sightseeing, enjoyed great food, and just hanging out together.

The real adventure was my trip home (I came back before they did). My flight was scheduled to land at exactly the time that the tornado struck Atlantic Beach! We were diverted to Stewart Airport in Newburgh, where we waited for over two hours while we were refueled, then flew a half hour back to JFK, landing around 10:30 PM in the driving rain. I did not get back to my apartment until 1:00 AM! Quite the adventure, but, as they say, all's well that ends well.

Ovations for ENCORES 2026

Our Summer Encores program, which began on June 2 and ended on July 30, was a resounding success. The 16 classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings ran the gamut from art, music and theater to tap dancing, the subway and the black swan. The diverse programming was representative of the wide range of offerings we have at Quest during the school year.

As usual, Creativity Day on June 23 was in person only and very popular. All of the other classes were hybrid and we had a total of 785 people attending in person and 173 via Zoom. This was about the same as last summer despite the fact that we had to cancel Debbi Honorof's presentation on "The U.S. Homefront During WWII" because of the victory parade for the Knicks.

After Ellie Schaffer's class on "Meredith Wilson's The Music Man" on June 2, there was a lunch courtesy of the Social Committee. They also provided Prosecco and cookies after Creativity Day. And thanks to the Coffee Committee who made sure we had fresh coffee every morning.

In addition to offering classes for members who may have missed some gems, Encores offers prospective new members the opportunity to experience Quest in a relaxed summer setting.

A big thank you to all the presenters, some of whom updated their material, to the tech team who made sure everything ran smoothly and to all who attended - new and old members alike.

As we begin a new semester, please keep your antennae up for classes to include in the Encores 2027 line-up. And be sure to vote! Thanks from the Encores team - Arlynn Greenbaum, Andrea Irvine and Joyce Hinote.