QNEWS Q DIGITAL

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A Note From the President

This fall's General Business Meeting was packed with information about the health of Quest, from our finances (healthy) to our membership recruitment (almost at cap) to the nine new courses coming in the spring. There was so much more shared so please be sure to read the minutes when they are distributed by Quest secretary, **Karen Cullen**.

While every year at Quest is interesting, this fall we had a bonus experience: **Maureen Berman** and I have been on the planning committee of the first CUNY Lifelong Learning Summit that has two goals:

1. to bring together representatives of CUNY's four lifelong learning programs (LP squared, Brooklyn Lifelong Learning, the college of Staten Island's Options program and, what I like to refer to as the crown jewel, the CWE/CCNY Quest program) to share best practices; and
2. to better educate CUNY staff and faculty about lifelong learning as we define it so they can refer family and friends as well as possibly join one (or more) of these programs when they retire.

So on Friday, October 16, our first Summit was in two parts:

- The early morning session featured three experts on aging and learning, which was livestreamed and everyone at Quest was invited to log in.
- The second part of the morning featured three workshops (key takeaways from each to come at a later date):
  - Recruiting & Retaining Members, which was co-facilitated by Maureen;
  - Curriculum, which was co-facilitated by Debbi Honorof; and
  - Building a true partnership with your host university, which I co-facilitated with the co-chair of the Staten Island Options program.

Perhaps the most important part of the morning, was hearing from panel member, Anat Zohar, professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Education and a faculty member at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership. I had the honor of having a number of long talks with her, and **Ellie Shaffer** and I met with her when she toured Quest and sat in on one of our classes.

As I mentioned during my General Business Meeting remarks, Professor Zohar has been doing primary research in lifelong learning as she works to create a program in Israel. Part of her research uncovered a number of key ways learning in what is called the third act is so different and so much more impactful from when we were younger:

1. we are choosing what we want to learn about;
2. we typically aren't working toward a degree or profession;
3. we bring life experience and wisdom (hopefully) to our learnings;
4. we no longer need to—nor can we—commit so much information to memory.

The fifth insight is most important: we learn much better at our age when we engage in discussion, especially when in small groups. At the CUNY Summit, her recommendation for lifelong learning presentations and lectures: include small group breakouts to discuss an issue for about 10–15 minutes, then rejoin the group and have each group briefly report.

By doing this, we will find that significantly more members will leave still engaged, talking about our presentation topics, and remembering more about what we taught them.

Food for thought.

– Donna Ramer

Spring 2027 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

February 10: Sam Roberts, author of *Are They Dead Yet? The Art of the Obit.*

February 24: Laura Katzman, author of *Ben Shahn: On Nonconformity*.

March 10: Matthew Bogdanos on repatriating stolen art.

March 24: Marc Shaiman, author of *Never Mind the Happy: Stories from a Sore Winner*.

April 7: Kory Stamper, author of *True Color.*

Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series

by Estelle Selzer

On Wednesday, Oct. 14th, **Robert Kalman** spoke to us about his project, "What's It Like For You To Be An American?" After January 6, Kalman interviewed and photographed 500 people all over the country and created a book of 76 varied photographs and answers to the question. He entertained us with stories about his fascinating experience working on this timely project.



CultureQuest: Wave Hill

by Madeleine Brecher



Wave Hill, in Riverdale, is a spectacular 28-acre public garden and cultural center that sits high on the slopes overlooking the Hudson River and the sweeping cliffs of the Palisades in New Jersey. On a recent CultureQuest Friday, twenty lucky Questers found it to be a rare sanctuary where history, horticulture, and art blend seamlessly. It was hard to believe that this estate's pastoral charm was only 28 minutes by train from Grand Central station in the heart of New York City. We prayed for three long months for perfect weather, and the day was sunny in the 80s!

Wave Hill's meticulous grounds, alpine gardens and historic greenhouses were vibrant and alive in October. It is a living museum of artistic plant cultivation and botanical diversity. The gardens reflect the changing, colorful patterns from spring wildflowers to the autumn foliage. The aquatic plantings took your breath away! We learned the rich, fascinating history of the property from the time when the original Wave Hill House was built in 1843 by lawyer Willian Lewis Morris. Theodore Roosevelt's family rented it during the summers of 1870–1871, and Mark Twain leased it from 1901 to 1903. In 1903, George Walbridge Perkins, a J.P. Morgan partner, purchased the house and the adjacent property.

At the suggestion of Robert Moses in 1960, the Perkins-Freeman family deeded Wave Hill to the City of New York. Before 1987, the estate was known as Perkins Garden but during that year, Parks Commissioner Henry Stern renamed it Wave Hill.

After our tour, we gathered at round tables on the Kate French Terrace for a delightful catered lunch, and the usual Quest camaraderie. One new member remarked, "CultureQuest is the perfect place for new members to connect with long-time Questers." We noted the time, and sadly, we had only 30 minutes before the van departed to meet the train back to the city, while cars had to leave before Friday night traffic began. In the remaining time, some ran off to check out the art exhibits, others the gift shop, and others crashed on the Adirondack chairs sprinkled around the shaded gardens for one last relaxing look at the scenery.

CultureQuest: New York Transit Museum

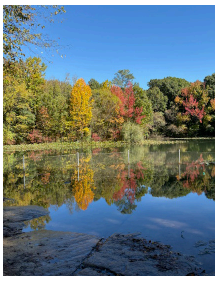
by Sharon Katz



Despite a forecast of rain all day, we enjoyed beautiful sunshine for our Transit Museum tour. Our wonderful, enthusiastic guide made the visit fun as we learned about transit history and sat in the original subway cars. This picture with our guide shows one of the many old cars we sat in.

After the tour, we enjoyed an exceptional lunch at Bar Tabac, a French bistro with Victorian décor. The food was delicious, and everyone enjoyed meeting and getting to know one another.

Who's Doing What



Nina Sanders caught this colorful scene in Prospect Park mid-October. Fall is undrway.

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Sole Mates about to depart for Battery Park on October 7.



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Shoshi Kagan spotted this Halloween tableau on East 74th Street.



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At the No Kings-Early Voting March in Brooklyn, **Nancy Richardson** and **Helen Saffran** celebrated our democratic right to vote. "What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like," was one of the chants as they marched.



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When You Are Blessed
With More Than You Need,
Double The Blessing
By Sharing With Others.

Young At Heart;
Old Everywhere Else.

My First Day as a Model

by Carol Teten

This delightful piece was submitted in August, and completely fell through the cracks. The Editor apologizes for the delay in your enjoying this wonderful article.

History

Two weeks ago, I was walking in my neighborhood when a woman came up to me and asked, "Do you live on the Upper West Side?" I said, "Yes." She told me they were doing publicity for Moncler, an upscale clothing firm from Paris known for its winter coats. "Would you like to be a model?" she asked. I said, "Sure." There were email follow-ups, and the shoot was yesterday. I was informed that I would earn $500—thus, I am officially a professional! —and that I would get the coat I modeled for free, a coat worth $2,000.

The Publicity

Moncler is opening a store in New York on Fifth Avenue at 58th Street, where FAO Schwarz used to be. The grand opening is September 10, and they are planning a big PR campaign, including Instagram. I signed releases for print, photographs, video, and more.

Fitting

I had to bring four personal clothing choices so they could choose what looked good with the white down jacket. They wanted us to show our own style and how it worked with the jacket. I chose black jazz pants with a black top—black with white. I also got Moncler sunglasses to complete the look. They gave me their smallest jacket, an extra-small. You could fit two or three of me inside it! I used it for the shoot, but sadly, I will have to give it to someone bigger than I am.

The Filming Day

We arrived at 6:45 a.m. There were 42 of us in white jackets— the "talent." There were another 50 people providing behind-the-scenes support. The talent represented all sizes, ages, skin colors, and shapes. We had hair and makeup and a big breakfast that lasted until 10 a.m. Then we were bussed to Fifth Avenue and 58th Street from 66th Street and Lexington Avenue. We sat and waited for Godot until 11 a.m. Then we walked to Fifth Avenue and 60th Street, where we crossed and re-crossed Fifth Avenue multiple times for more than an hour. We could cross only when our light was green, and we could count the seconds before waiting for the next cue. Walking was a matter of negotiating cars, pedestrians, traffic lights, noise, many cameras, and our cheerleader. Every time we crossed, she would yell, "Faster!" "Slower!" "Smile!" "Talk!" "Look happy!" and so on. I was usually at the front of the pack because of my size, so I seemed to be responsible for whether we were going "slow" or "fast." It all sounded quite doable, but added to the mix was warm New York August weather at high noon—with zipped-up ski jackets! After that, we were bussed to 70th Street, which the organization had rented for the day, and there were more street walks that turned into runs. I was fading after the ordeal on Fifth Avenue, so they let me go back to the home base to rest. (I was the oldest.) During a feast of a lunch, I asked about the plans for the afternoon. They said there would be sessions for small groups. I asked if I could be called early, as I was not in wonderful shape. All the management people said I could leave early because I had been featured often in the morning shoot, and they were very happy with my participation. As I was leaving, they asked if I would be willing to do an interview for a voice-over. I said, "Of course."

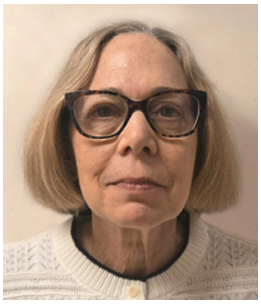


Their questions were about loving New York. When I finished, they said, "You nailed it!" And that was that, for me.My residual is that it will never be quite the same for me to cross Fifth Avenue—and I have a very expensive new coat that I can't wear!

My mantra: At 87, it is time to start a new career! :-)

New Members

Quest welcomes four 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.



Donna Berenson



Mary Rose Coleman



Marilyn Machlowitz



Stuart Weiss

Urban Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo

Out to do some shopping I did a quick 180! OMG... I thought... I've been watching too much Scandinoir! and it's come curbside here to my neighborhood. Is this a call to 911 or the sanitation department? It was too late for Halloween. Where was the rest of the poor fellow? That was quite a pile of trash... perhaps... but I thought better of approaching lest a motion sensor set off a Bronx cheer.



Curriculum Committee Corner

by Debbi Honorof

Two Upcoming Exciting Training Opportunities!

1 Save the date and attend "How to Deliver a Compelling PowerPoint Narrative," with Presenters: **Joseph Baker**, **Debbi Honorof**, **Art Spar**, **Carol Teten**

Join us on Tuesday, November 17th at lunchtime. This workshop will focus on the narrative portion of PowerPoint presentations. You will learn tips and techniques about how to: 1) write a conversational, active-voice narrative that feels natural and keeps attention, 2) annotate your script with cues for pacing, emphasis, and transitions, 3) deliver your narrative with confident body language, purposeful movement, voice projection, and audience eye contact, 4) intersperse stories and audience involvement, and 5) interact with tech to keep the presentation flowing.

You'll pick up practical pointers that make your narrative clearer, your delivery stronger, and your presentation engaging!

2 Take advantage of our Lead Coordinator Mentoring Program for guidelines, tips, and insights into leading a course. Questions? Contact **Debbi Honorof** dhonorof@gmail.com

In Memoriam: Constance Koenig



Q News extends our sincere condolences to long-time member **Steven Koenig** on the loss of his mother, Constance Koenig. Connie frequently joined Steve on Quest Travel trips and Quest luncheons. She was 91 years old.

Two October Cruises

by Michael Wellner





On an absolutely picture-perfect October day, some fifty Questers headed to Chelsea Piers where they boarded two separate boats for two cruises in the waters of New York Harbor. The first and larger group, some 28 of us, filled an entire boat for a cruise along the New Jersey Hudson River coastline, up past the GW Bridge, primarily to see the colorful fall foliage along the really spectacular Palisades. The only minor hiccup was that the color of the leaves was mostly green — with only a few splotches of red and yellow! But the weather could not have been better, and the boat's crew not any more friendly or helpful. In fact, as you can see from the photo, our own Capt Mike got to pilot the boat down the river for a few miles!

A slightly smaller group, 22 Questers, joined the AIA sponsored Architecture Cruise all around Manhattan, starting at West 23rd Street, taking a slight 'detour' past the Statue of Liberty, then heading past the Brooklyn shore into the East River, to Hell Gate, where the boat headed into the Harlem River, to the very top of Manhattan Island. Then it cruised past the Amtrak swing bridge and into the magnificent North (Hudson to you landlubbers) River, past Inwood and Ft. Tryon, under the George Washington Bridge and the famous Little Red Lighthouse, and back down to Chelsea Piers.

If you have not had the opportunity to see Manhattan from the water, I urge you to join us next spring when we do another of our wonderful cruises.

The Piano Lesson

by Sandy Gordon



A beautiful Saturday for an enthusiastic Quest group to enjoy brunch/lunch at The Triumph Restaurant, in Red Bank, New Jersey, then attend the powerful, superbly acted August Wilson play, *The Piano Lesson* at the Two River Theater.

It was a full house, with twenty-five Questers filling orchestra seats, totally immersed in this very personal and dramatic play, its production enhanced by innovative direction and staging.

The conversation in the train returning to New York was filled with the sharing of insightful comments about the play.

Two of the couples, the Schaindlins and the Sasmors, remained in Red Bank to explore the town. A perfect day!

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Creative Corner

MY NEW RING?©

by Betty Farber

Impressionist painting
Surrounded by silver
Azure sky at twilight
With sparkling pink stars.

This ring was a gift
I bought for myself
To honor my wedding
Sixty-four years ago.

How do I know
What he would have chosen?
He could read my mind
And he knew I loved
Impressionist paintings.

Quest Halloween Festival

Lunchtime Halloween festivities for Questers on Wednesday, October 28th. Entertainment was provided by Quest Vintage Voices, our own Doo Wop singers: **Peter Dichter**, **Frank Montaturo**, **June Jacobson**, and **Mary Beth Yakoubian**.

The Social Committee provided lots of sweets and Halloween trivia questions to a full lunchroom. **Arlene Curinga**, **Lois Klein**, **Pam Gemelli**, **Lynn Scheurer-Foster**, **Gale Spitalnik**, **Marilyn Ostrow**, **Donna Basile**, and **Nina Diolitis**.





Special November Dates

1	Daylight Saving Time Ends (clock falls back one hour)
1	National Cinnamon Day
1	World Vegan Day
1	New York City Marathon
3	Election Day. VOTE
6	National Fountain Pen Day
8	Diwali
8	National Cappuccino Day
9	World Adoption Day
10	World Science Day
10	Sesame Street Day
11	Veterans Day / Armistice Day
13	Sadie Hawkins Day
14	National Pickle Day
14	National Seat Belt Day
16	Button Day
26	Thanksgiving Day
27	Buy Nothing Day
27	Black Friday
30	Cyber Monday