

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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September 2024

A Note From the President

As I sit here writing this month's column, the sun is dancing with a skyfull of white puffy cumulous clouds. My windows are open and the clean smell of an early fall rides in on a cool gentle breeze bringing with it the opening day of Quest nipping at my heels.

As usual, Quest hasn't taken much of a break; it's been a busy summer for so many members. **Barbara Gelber** has kept us in touch via *QNews*, while **Ruth Ward** has been keeping the submission deadline for *QReview* top of mind. Tech assigned rooms and committee members to each of our 37 courses. Membership has been on top of renewals and held a late August info session for potential members. Curriculum has started looking at courses for spring

2025, which is just a few months away. Our Marketing Committee has been updating the look and content of the website, which now features an *In Memoriam* page to pay tribute to members who recently passed away. And we added a page that features insights gleaned from our attending this year's lifelong learning conference.

The New Members Committee has its schedule of guest speakers set. And while committee chairs are finalizing their 2024–2025 committee members and lead coordinators their final schedule of presenters, so many other members have been working on their presentations.

And our new Quest/CWE Scholarship team has been working with CCNY to cross the T's and dot the I's for their October 23

cocktail party at which they will pay tribute to our members who provide scholarships for CWE students in need of financial help. This 4:00pm event, which will be held at the historic National Arts Club in Gramercy Park, is open to all Quest members and will feature food, drink and remarks from a few students who benefited from our scholarships.

So, not much dust has gathered at Quest over the weeks we've been away. Clearly, we're ready to pick up on Tuesday, September 3, where we left off.

But I am wondering what our Social Committee has in store for us this fall. HmMMMM?

Donna Ramer



Special Fall Dates

Thursday, October 3: Rosh Hashanah CLOSED

Monday, October 14: Columbus Day /
Indigenous Peoples Day CLOSED

Wednesday, November 20: Fall General Business Meeting

Mon–Thu, November 25–28: Thanksgiving Break CLOSED

Friday, December 13: Holiday Luncheon

IN MEMORIAM:
Lois Cardillo



Lois Cardillo, was a dear friend. We met several years ago and bonded over Jewish jokes, Jewish comedians, and Bill Maher, and we shared a

love of wordplay and just plain zaniness.

She was irrepressible in spirit, be it through her presentations, such as the one about Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss, topped off with Cat in The Hat cookies, or her impeccably organized Social Committee activities, filled with elegant desserts and drinks and fun. She always wore bright colors! Plus, her colorful, upbeat personality exuded joy and warmth.

She was a bright star in my personal firmament, and I will miss her dearly. May we all smile when we think about and remember Lois.

Contributed by Ellie Schaffer

Ovations for Encores 2024

Our Summer Encores program, which began on June 4 and ended on July 25, was a resounding success. The 15 classes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings ran the gamut from art, music, and history to women spies, psychology, and AI. The diverse programming was representative of the wide range of offerings we have at Quest during the school year.

We added Creativity Day on July 11 which was in person only and very popular. All of the other classes were hybrid and we had a total of 458 people attending in person and 173 via Zoom.

After **Peter Dichter's** presentation on Classical Music in Pop Culture on June 4, there was a lunch courtesy of the Social Committee. They also provided Prosecco and cookies after Creativity Day. And hats off 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, keep your antennae up for classes you think are worthy of being included in Encores 2025. And be sure to vote! Thanks from the Encores team — **Arlynn Greenbaum, Andrea Irvine, and Joyce Hinote.**

Families Are Like Fudge: Mostly Sweet With a Few Nuts.

I Do Not Mind Growing Old, But My Body Isn't Taking It Well.

National Grandparents Day
September 8th.



Revised CultureQuest Fall Schedule 2024

September 13: Sugar Hill in Harlem: A Walking Tour • In-person • 11AM–12:30PM

September 27: Brooklyn Army Terminal Tour • In-person • 10:30AM–Noon

October 25: Breakfast at Chelsea Hotel+Poster House Exhibit • In-person • 9AM–1:00PM

November 1: Chelsea Art Gallery Walk • In-person • 11AM–12:30PM

November 22: Grand Central Station Holiday Tour • In-person • 11AM–12:30PM

December 6: Morgan Library, Belle da Costa Exhibit • In-Person • 3PM–4:30PM

December 27: MET Opera Rehearsal: *Aida* • In-person • 10:30AM–1:30PM

January 17: Art Historian Talk on Ellsworth Kelly • Zoom • 11AM–12:30PM

Coordinator: **Madeleine Brecher**

Committee: **Linda Downs, Debbi Honorof, Dena Kerren, Lois Klein, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer, Hedy Shulman**

Who's Doing What

Judy Winn, Maureen McLeod, and Mary Beth Yakoubian spent a week at Chautauqua Institute this summer. They were on a Road Scholar trip and stayed at the Athenaeum Hotel.



At cocktail hour, following some music beautifully performed by **Arlene**

Hajinlian, they and other Questers relaxed with snacks and wine on the verandah of the Athenaeum Hotel, overlooking the lake.

• • •

Debbi Honorof

and her husband, Alan, spent a week in New Hampshire. They rented an amazing house with gorgeous views of the mountains and set off on a different hike each day, including a challenging one to the top of Mount Major above Lake Winnepesaukee. The vista was definitely worth the climb.



Murder Mystery Night in Westhampton. Yes, Jarvis the butler did



it! **Gale Spitalnik** and **Marilyn Weiss** with the French maid, who turned out to be an undercover cop.

• • •



Judith and **Pete Weis** spent most of the summer at their place in Eastern Long Island. The highlight was when their two grown-up granddaughters came to visit.

**“Weak People Revenge.
Strong People Forgive.
Intelligent People Ignore.”**
— *Albert Einstein*

Creative Corner

LOVERS OF PARIS®

by *Betty Farber*

On the thirty-seven bridges crossing the Seine
Parisian men and women pledge their love:
They attach a padlock to the side of the bridge,
Lock it and toss the key into the dark water.
Will he be faithful because the key is sleeping at the bottom of the Seine?
Will she turn from temptation because her promise
Is locked on a bridge near the indifferent waters?

• • •

Lovers of Paris — stay true to each other,
Though life flows by like currents in the river.
May joy outlast the strongest metal clasp,
And love be locked in your hearts forever.

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A Quest Publication

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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.

New York City Architecture as Seen by Boat

by *Michael Wellner*

On Friday, August 16th, some thirty-five Questers (and a few friends and family members) met around noon at Chelsea Piers on 23rd Street and the Hudson River, for a three-hour boat ride around Manhattan Island, which focused on the myriad architectural styles that make up our great city. We were treated to an almost-continuous narration by an AIA (American Institute of Architects) guide, who was both extremely knowledgeable and very pleasant, answering all kinds of questions about the many sights, bridges, power plants, and buildings to be seen as we circled Manhattan.



The weather was picture perfect, and everyone had a wonderful time. In fact, I've already had a few requests for a repeat performance next summer!

Plus Ça Change

I visited the New York Historical Society last week to see an exhibit of some remnants of old New York. I was amazed to see a 1903 notice posted by the Chinese Empire Reform Association. The notice stated that they had donated money to the survivors of an April 1903 pogrom in Kishinev, Russia (now Moldova). This act responded to what they felt was necessary to assist others facing intolerance.

My father was born underneath a bed during that pogrom by Cossacks on Easter Day, when 49 Jews were killed, 1,600 were gravely injured, several Jewish women were raped, and 1,500 homes were damaged.

My grandfather and his family emigrated to the United States shortly after that, and he became president of the Kishinev Society in America.

The incident focused worldwide attention on the persecution of Jews within the Russian Empire. It led Theodor Herzl to propose the Uganda Scheme as a temporary refuge for the Jews.

The poster I saw had the following written on it:
"In 1903, the New York Chapter of the Chinese Empire Reform Association raised \$280 (\$25,000 in 2024) for Jewish victims of the Kishinev massacre in Russia through a benefit performance held at the Chinese Theater in New York. Amid the overt racism against their own community spurred by the 1882 Exclusion Act, the organizers noted the need to assist others facing intolerance."



Chinese Empire Reform Association Meeting in Chinatown, New York.



Cartoon requesting President Theodore Roosevelt to tell Tsar Nicholas II to stop the murder of innocent Jews.

**If Liberty Means Anything At All,
It Means The Right To Tell People What They
Do Not Want To Hear.**

– *George Orwell*

**The Greatest Discovery Of All Time
Is That A Person Can Change Their Future
By Merely Changing Their Attitude.**

– *Oprah Winfrey*



**September 13th is the first
Friday the Thirteenth of the year. It is also:
International Chocolate Day,
Blame Someone Else Day,
National Defy Superstition Day, and
Positive Thinking Day.**

[Editor's comment: You had me at "chocolate."]

**Books, Umbrellas, Parachutes, and The Mind
— Only Work If They're Open!**

**Nothing Will Slow Your Progress
Like Negative Thinking.
Stay Positive, No Matter What Is
Happening Around You.
It Makes All The Difference.**

You May Not Know These Seven Quotes On Democracy

The International Day of Democracy, established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, is celebrated around the world on September 15 each year.

The day is an opportunity to review the state of democracy and parliaments around the world. And as a reminder of what democracy signifies, here are seven quotes on democracy that you may not know.

There are of course those often cited, such as **Abraham Lincoln's** "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people." And "Democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time," from **Winston Churchill**. However, there are ideas expressed by less-quoted thinkers that are as meaningful, and memorable.

1. "A functioning, robust democracy requires a healthy, educated, participatory followership, and an educated, morally grounded leadership."

— **Chinua Achebe** was a Nigerian novelist, poet, and critic who is regarded as a dominant figure in modern African literature.

2. "Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

— **Carrie Chapman Catt** was a key leader of the American women's suffrage movement. Her oratory and organizational skills led to ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote in August 1920.

3. "Dictatorships are one-way streets. Democracy boasts two-way traffic."

— **Albert Moravia** was an Italian novelist and journalist best known for his debut novel *Gli Indifferenti* and for the anti-fascist novel *Il Conformista*. Moravia said that the most important facts of his life had been his illness, a tubercular infection of the bones that confined him to a bed for five years, and Fascism, because they both caused him to suffer and do things he otherwise would not have done.

4. "Democracy doesn't recognize east or west; democracy is simply people's will. Therefore, I do not acknowledge that there are various models of democracy; there is just democracy itself."

— **Shirin Ebadi** is an Iranian political activist, lawyer, a former judge and human rights activist and founder of the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran. In 2003, Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her significant and pioneering efforts for democracy and human rights, especially women's, children's and refugee rights. She was the first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to receive the prize.

5. "If you want to raise a crop for one year, plant corn. If you want to raise a crop for decades, plant trees. If you want to raise a crop for centuries, raise men. If you want to plant a crop for eternities, raise democracies."

— **Carl A Schenck** was born in 1868 in the town of Darmstadt, Germany and became a pioneering forestry educator in North America, known for his contributions as the forester for George W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate, and the founder of the Biltmore Forest School, the first practical forestry school in the United States, in 1898, near Brevard, North Carolina.

6. "Peace cannot exist without justice, justice cannot exist without fairness, fairness cannot exist without development, development cannot exist without democracy, democracy cannot exist without respect for the identity and worth of cultures and peoples."

— **Rigoberta Menchú Tum** is a K'iche' Guatemalan human rights activist, feminist, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1992). Menchú has dedicated her life to publicizing the rights of Guatemala's Indigenous peoples during and after the Guatemalan Civil War (1960–1996), and to promoting Indigenous rights internationally.

7. "Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."

— **Karl Paul Reinhold Niebuhr** was an American Reformed theologian, ethicist, commentator on politics and public affairs, and professor at Union Theological Seminary (NY) for more than 30 years. Niebuhr was one of America's leading public intellectuals for several decades of the 20th century and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964.

City Ramblings

by Frank Montaturo

Winged Hermes NYC

The Wingèd Sandals of Hermes (Ancient Greek: πτηνοπέδιλος, ptēnopédilos or πτερόεντα πέδιλα, pteróenta pédila) are... a symbol of the Greek messenger god Hermes. They were said to be made by the god Hephaestus of imperishable gold and they flew the god as swift as any bird.

There's also a handbag to go with them. Price upon request.

