

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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October 2024

A Note From the President

Our array of courses guarantee there is something to tickle our intellectual curiosity, and our growing number of on-site and off extracurriculars strengthen our connections and keep us entertained. While our classes keep our butts in seats, Soul Mates and

CultureQuest get us up on our feet.

Have an idea that isn't a course? **Frank Montaturo's** was to line the corridor outside the auditorium with photos taken by members and, *voila!* we have QPG, a.k.a. Quest Photo Gallery.

So while you're dreaming up new courses

to suggest to the Curriculum Committee, let your imagination run wild. Let me know what out-of-the-box idea you think might be right for Quest and let's see if we can pull it together.

Donna Ramer

CultureQuest: Members Have A Sweet Time On A Tour Of Sugar Hill

by Debbi Honorof

On Friday, September 13, CultureQuest hosted a walking tour of Harlem's magnificent Sugar Hill neighborhood, named for the "sweet life" enjoyed by the African-American middle class. The tour was led by the very knowledgeable licensed tour guide, Hank Orenstein, and began in Riverbank State Park, with sweeping views of the Hudson River.

Along the way, Hank pointed out historic architecture, free-standing mansions and elegant townhouses, and homes of former residents who were important participants in the Harlem Renaissance, including Paul Robeson, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Duke Ellington,

who invited us to "Take the A Train" to Sugar Hill in Harlem.

The group also visited Sylvan Terrace, a charming block of restored wooden townhouses built in 1882, and Manhattan's oldest mansion, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, which served for a time as General George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War. The mansion's owner, Eliza Jumel, was briefly married to Aaron Burr.

After the Tour, many of the tour members met at Hilltop Park Alehouse for a delicious lunch with Hank, who continued to regale the group with stories about NYC history.



Spring Memorial Guest Speakers

by Arlynn Greenbaum

Council recently approved establishing a second Memorial Speaker in honor of Jan and Stuart Eisler. The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce the first Eisler Memorial Speaker will be Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Jodi Kantor, who will speak at Quest on May 14, 2025.

In 2017, Kantor and Megan Twohey broke the story in *The New York Times* of decades of sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein. They were awarded the Pulitzer Prize and their exposé helped launch the #Me Too movement. They wrote the best-selling book *She Said* about their work and it was made into a movie in 2021.

Kantor is now working on behind-the-scenes stories about the U.S. Supreme Court. From 2007 to 2013, she covered the Obamas and wrote a book about them. She became a journalist when she dropped out of law school and joined *The New York Times*, becoming Arts & Leisure editor in 2003. She will discuss her illustrious career as an investigative reporter.

Renowned food critic Ruth Reichl will be our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker on March 26. She will discuss her new book, *The Paris Novel*, and her life as a famous foodie.

Reichl was editor in chief of *Gourmet Magazine* and restaurant critic for *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*. She is the author of five memoirs including *Tender At The Bone*, *Comfort Me With Apples*, and *Save Me The Plums*. She published an earlier novel, *Delicious*, and a cookbook, *My Kitchen Year*.

She has been honored with seven James Beard Awards and is the producer of a documentary film, *Food And Country*, which will be released in October.

Erratum

We apologize to **Howard Salik** for inadvertently omitting his name as the author of Plus Ça Change in our last issue.

CultureQuest Tour of the Brooklyn Army Terminal

by Lois Klein

Sixteen Questers toured the Brooklyn Army Terminal (BAT) in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, on Friday, September 27th. Half the group took the 12-minute ferry ride from the city and the other half, who live in Brooklyn, drove their cars or took the subway.

Doug Chapman, our guide from Turnstile Tours, was extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastically about this gigantic space and the gorgeous buildings. The terminal was designed by Cass Gilbert, the iconic Beaux Arts architect. BAT occupies more than 95 acres of space. Its construction was originally approved in 1918, during World War I, and was completed the following year after the conclusion of the war.

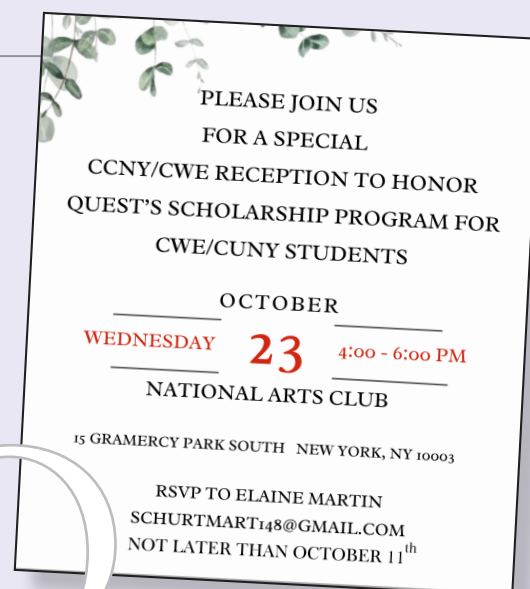
We learned that during the years of Prohibition, two floors of Building A were used as a depository to dispose of illegal liquor. However, BAT's ultimate use during WWII was as a supply center (the largest in the world) and it served as a point of departure for troops leaving for battle overseas. BAT had its own railroad line, as well as dedicated police and fire departments.

In 1981, New York City bought the Terminal and steadily began to modernize the buildings for contemporary use. Today, it is the hub for over 200 innovative businesses employing more than 4,000 people.

The annals of the Terminal could easily satisfy several presentations at Quest.



Quest's Scholarship Reception



New Members

Quest welcomes 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.



Robert Arko



Marjorie Baum



Harvey Benjamin



Jacqueline Camack



Tatyana Chernomaz



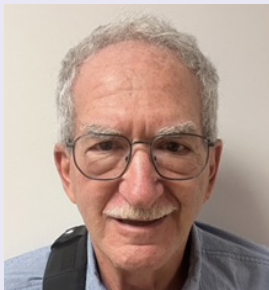
Prudence Crowther



Judith Feldman



Jane Goldberg



Martin (Marty) Green



Candy Johnson



Barbara Kaufman



Marion Kokot



Andrea Pastor



Ken Sasmor



Linda Schwartz



Ann O'Shea

continued next page

New Members Continued



Heidi Shedlin



Cornelia (Nealie) Small



Candace Wainwright

“Tact is The Art of Making a Point Without Making an Enemy.”

– Isaac Newton

“Attitude is a Little Thing That Makes A Big Difference.”

– Winston Churchill

Guest Speakers Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby

by Arlynn Greenbaum

Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby were the first Distinguished Guest Lecturers of the Fall term on September 11th. They discussed their timely book, *We Refuse To Be Enemies: How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time*. They have spent decades doing interfaith work and shared their vision for reconciliation.



Spring 2025 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, and Bob Reiss are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers for Spring semester. Please feel free to give us your suggestions for next Fall.

February 26: Neil Nyren on Publishing: The Inside Scoop From a Top Editor.

March 12: Patrick Bringley, author of *All The Beauty In The World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me*.

March 26: Ruth Reichl, food critic and author of *The Paris Novel*. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.

April 9: Russell Shorto, author of *Taking Manhattan*.

May 14: Jodi Kantor, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *She Says*. Jan Stuart Eisler Memorial Speaker.

Halloween Invitation

by Gale Spitalnik

The Social Committee invites all Questers to a Halloween Lunchtime fun fest on Wednesday, October 30th, in the lunchroom. Come in costume or masked. Entertainment by members of Shakespeare class, poetry class, and short stories class. Music provided by **Lauren Gee**. Prizes and sweets.



Who's Doing What

Ellen Rittberg

attended Fast Company's Innovation Festival at NYC Convene in September to watch her daughter, media strategist Kim Rittberg, give a presentation and lead a workshop on how to use AI to market their business.



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Toni Dickenson took a late summer trip to see the spectacular mountains and lakes of Switzerland and Austria.

• • •

Bob and Ellen Gottfried spent the first two weeks of September touring



Spain. They visited Barcelona, Madrid, Seville, Cordoba, Granada, and Carmona. Saw palaces, churches, and Jewish sites, from before the expulsion in 1492.

• • •



Rica Fujihira visited Ireland and Scotland with her sister recently to see a live performance of the Scottish rock band, Big Country, who had been touring

all year and playing their final dates in Ireland. The Dublin concert did not disappoint! With just two original members from the 1980s remaining, Big Country played all their hits to very loyal and enthusiastic Irish fans. The beautiful and

stirring songs composed by the late lead singer, Stuart Adamson, continued to sound as fresh as when they were first released. After Dublin, Rica and sis flew to Scotland where they visited Edinburgh, Dunfermline and Glasgow.

• • •

Judy Weis reports that her new book, *Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know*, was recently published.



• • •

Opera lovers enjoyed *Carmen* under the stars Quest Style on a beautiful Saturday night. **David Judlowitz, Marian Friedman, Rita and Len Lavitt, and Howard Salik** loved dinner at P.J. Clarke's and the amazing performance of this classic opera. Life in New York City does not get any better. Simply the best!



Creative Corner

MONEY DIDN'T MATTER®

by Betty Farber

You never showed distress,
When I purchased a new dress
Or coat or hat.
Money didn't matter.
You never asked what I paid.
I would parade
In front of you in my new clothes
And you would never impose
Your opinions on my taste
Or suggest I bought in haste.
I loved that about you
Although I admit, it's also true
That when we shopped
For you, I never stopped
You from buying suits
At Brooks Brothers.
You were absolutely
Great at choosing ties
That went well with your blue eyes.
People may think it odd
Because money was not our god.
Buying things was pleasurable we found,
But it was love that made the world
go round.

Vote!

by Barbara Gelber

In 1953, my sixth grade teacher, Miss Margaret Mary McAuliffe, drilled into us that, "You have many rights and privileges of citizenship. Equally important, you also have duties and obligations of citizenship. First, you must register to vote and vote in every election. Second, you must serve on a jury when summoned. Third, the boys must register with Selective Service on their 18th birthday."

VOTE.

Exercise your right.
Fulfill your obligation.
Be sure to encourage your children and grandchildren to vote, too.

Please don't disappoint Miss McAuliffe.



Guest Speaker Ross Perlin

by Bob Reiss

Ross Perlin, linguist, writer, and translator, spoke to us as part of our Distinguished Guest Lecturer program on September 25th. His book *Language City: The Fight to Preserve Endangered Mother Tongues* focuses on the most language-diverse location on the planet — our own New York City. We learned that over 7,000 languages are spoken throughout the world with about 700 heard in our fair city.



Train to the Plane

by Madeleine Brecher



It had been a while since we spent time together, so five Questers decided to head out on another adventure. By unanimous consent, the five of us chose a daytrip out to JFK airport to explore the TWA Hotel... and, a first for all of us, we voted to take the “train to the plane.” **Gale Spitalnick, Michele Mackey, Karen Levin, Arlynn Greenbaum,** and I met at the E train at 53rd Street and Lexington Avenue, and off we went.

It was very easy following the signs, especially without luggage. We arrived at TWA, and the staff there couldn't have been nicer. We each took a map, snooped around at all the exhibits: the funky 50s beauty parlor, the fabulous old photographs lining the halls from the World in 1962, and we even snuck a peek at a costly hotel room when housekeeping invited us to take a look. The 50s and 60s piped music was right up our alley. We got a kick out of the vintage cars, the 1962 living room, and the historic TWA flight crew uniforms, especially the matching headwear. We even took pictures in one of those great old photo booths where the three small shots were delivered in 60 seconds free of charge.

Happy but tired, it was time for our lunch reservation at the Paris Café by Jean-Georges. The food was delicious, we caught up on gossip after a summer apart, and soon decided it was time to head home. What a grand adventure it was. A highlight... taking the train to the plane!

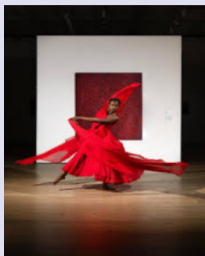
CultureQuest

CultureQuest will hold two additional tours this Fall Semester

November 16: Elizabeth Catlett at the Brooklyn Museum
In-person
Guide: **Linda Downs**

January 31: Edges of Ailey at the Whitney Museum
In-person
Guide: **Linda Sweet**

Mark Your Calendars!



Q News Staff

A Quest Publication

Editor-in-Chief
Barbara Gelber

Consulting Editors
Michael Wellner
Gale Spitalnik

Editor Emerita
Carolyn McGuire

Graphic Design
Robbie

25 Broadway
New York, NY 10004
212.925.6625 x229
questlifelong.org

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