

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

December 2017

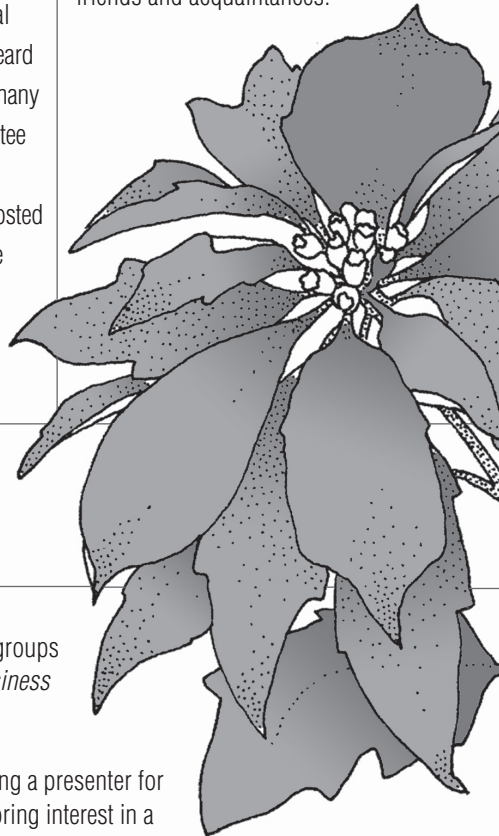
A Note From the President



The Fall semester is rapidly coming to an end. At our General Meeting we heard reports from many of our committee chairs. If you

missed the meeting, the minutes will be posted on our website, shortly. We all need to give thanks for our health, both physical and mental, and for the opportunity to be engaged in lifelong learning.

I want to personally thank all of the volunteers who make Quest an intellectually stimulating, and fun place to spend our retirement years. As an added bonus, we are able to make new friends and acquaintances.



As a reminder, our holiday party will be at Scaletta Restaurant located at 50 West 77th Street, on Friday December 8 at 12 noon, the day after the last day of classes. Reservations will be accepted in the Quest Office until December 4. I hope we will have a huge turnout. Our next semester will begin on Monday January 29th, and end on May 10th. We will be off on February 12 (Lincoln's Birthday), February 19 (President's Day), and April 2-5 (Spring break).

I wish all Quest members a happy Chanukah, Christmas, and New Year.

— Bob Gottfried

“Questbusiness” & “Questcommunity” by Wayne Cotter

Quest has added a new Googlegroups email service called *QuestBusiness* to supplement its existing Googlegroup, *QuestCommunity*.

Use *QuestBusiness* when you are seeking a presenter for a Quest course you're coordinating, exploring interest in a Quest book club, looking for committee volunteers, etc. Essentially, *QuestBusiness* focuses on the business side of Quest. If, however, you are sharing information about an event outside of Quest, for example, if you have an extra ticket to the opera or want to share your thoughts regarding a controversial New York Times article, use *QuestCommunity*.

Any Quest member can initiate a *QuestBusiness* or *QuestCommunity* email. Please note that *QuestBusiness* replies are sent only to the initiator of the email, not to all members. If you experience trouble with *QuestBusiness*, please email Wayne Cotter at wcotter999@gmail.com. For problems with *QuestCommunity*, you can email Joyce Hinote at joyce@hinotenyc.com.

Spring Guest Speaker Schedule

February 7 : Jennet Conant, author of *Man of the Hour*, about her grandfather, James Conant, who oversaw the Manhattan Project.

February 21: Haroon Moghul. author of *How to Be a Muslim*.

March 7: Mina Abdelmalak on Christian Minorities in the Arab World.

March 21: Nancy Rubin Stuart, author of *Defiant Brides*, a double biography of the wives of Benedict Arnold and General Henry Knox.

April 11: Nina Stern, world class recorder player, classical clarinetist, international educator and author of *Recorders Without Borders*.

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Visit to the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation

by Yvonne Kress

On Friday, October 13, a group of Questers met at “Tre Giovanni” for a very pleasant lunch.

In good spirits, we then walked to the townhouse building in Greenwich Village that houses the Chaim Gross Sculpture Studio and the couple’s living quarters and extensive art collection.

Chaim Gross, 1904-1991, is renowned for his impressive wood carvings, executed in a style that combines modernist, African and folk form elements and uses rare woods to achieve striking effects. The artist’s studio on the first floor is now used to exhibit many of his major wood, stone and bronze sculptures, spanning a period of 60 years.

The upstairs living quarters features paintings by the couple’s daughter Mimi Gross as well as artwork by the Gross’s artist friends from America and Europe. The many paintings and drawings are interspersed by

a very impressive collection of African and Pre-Columbian art. The townhouse is truly a study in the fusion of art creation with art collection and well worth a visit.



How to be Your Own Best Friend

by Martha Drezin

Does this ring a bell? It is a title of a book that was so popular in the 70s that it became a household expression. Familiar with it or not, this book is of interest to all Quest members because our very own **Jean Owen** co-authored it in the 1970s with two psychoanalysts. It sold three million copies, was on the New York Times best seller list for a year and was translated into eight languages. Jean went on to train as a psychoanalyst and we enjoy her active participation at Quest.

Jean is bringing this book to our attention now because a new edition has recently been published. Jean just learned that both Oprah Winfrey and Ellen DeGeneres are promoting it on their TV shows. This is definitely a subject worth revisiting. Congratulations and thank you, Jean!

Featured Poet

Betty Farber was a featured poet in the April 2017 issue of *Sanctuary Magazine*: www.sanctuary-magazine.com. In December, 2017, the magazine will update the information about Betty as follows: “Betty continues to be active at Quest, the CCNY Community for Lifelong Learning, where she is a member of the Poets’ Workshop, a co-coordinator of the course, “Understanding Contemporary Poetry,” and the organizer of “A Taste of Poetry” in which Quest poets read their works aloud.

Her poems have appeared in Quest’s newspaper, *Q News*, and journal, *Q Review*. She continues to offer new poems on her website: <http://bettyfarber.weebly.com>.”



Quest’s New Lending Library

Two heads are better than one—especially at Quest! **Michael Wellner & Deborah Yaffe** have teamed up to begin a Quest lending library, officially up and running in Room 27.

The idea started with Michael, who kept looking at a disheveled collection of books in the laundry room of his apartment building, and thought that we could do better at Quest. So, with CWE’s approval, we are now asking any Quest members who have “extra” books at home to bring them in to the office, where Deborah, a trained librarian, will sort them and then put them on the shelves in Room 27. Feel free to borrow any book of interest any time; we are not keeping any records. No fines for overdue books!

And as another good deed, all books donated will be available to the CWE students as well.

Bits and Pieces... Who's Doing What

Loretta Menger

attended a Planned Parenthood Special Reception for major donors on Nov 9th. This reception was held before their all day annual conference the following day. Pictured are Lin-Manuel Miranda, Loretta Menger and Lin's mother Dr. Luz Towns-Miranda.



Sondra Lipton Sahlman went on a river cruise this past summer along the Rhine, which included Amsterdam, Stuttgart, Rudesheim, Cologne and ended in Berne with a trip to the top of the Jungfrau where it was snowing like crazy. She is looking forward to Croatia in 2018 with fellow Questers.

Sheryl Harawitz drove to Virginia with "Sister District," a network of volunteers who live in deeply *Blue* locations like NYC and get together, taking their politically-focused energy to where it can make a real impact in *Red* districts such as Virginia. Here's what Sheryl reports: "It was a marathon weekend. Leaving at the crack of dawn, we drove eight hours nonstop to Virginia, arriving at 2 p.m., just in time to grab a clipboard and a voter list, so we could go door-to-door to get out the vote. By the time darkness descended we found our hosts for the night and a warm dinner. The next morning, after stuffing our faces with pancakes, we hit the campaign trail for an early Sunday morning doorbell-ringing session.

I rang 170 doorbells and it felt good. It worked. On November 7, 2017, we won 13 of our 14 Sister Races, and one is headed for a recount on a razor thin margin of 12 votes. Democrats also swept statewide races: Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General in Virginia. This is a big, beautiful *Blue* tidal wave—and we are going to ride it straight into 2018."

John Hood will give a 45-minute tour of an acclaimed new exhibit, "War and Pieced Quilts," on Saturday, December 9th at 1 p.m. at the American Folk Art Museum located at 2 Lincoln Square (Columbus Avenue between 65th and 66th Streets). Admission is free. The show features quilts, principally from Britain's Victorian era in the 19th century. The quilts were all made by men and frequently made from British military uniforms. Men were encouraged to take up quilting to



stave off the temptation of drink and boredom from military life. The colors are often vibrant and some of the show quilts are remarkable tableaux of Britain's history.

Estelle Selzer spent 10 days in France this September with a friend, visiting Lyon, Beaune and Dijon. Estelle reports, "We ate great food and drank exceptional wine. Lyon has incredible cathedrals and though it is France's third largest city it hasn't lost its charm. We walked through old Lyon with its charming streets and traboules (hidden passageways). A wonderful trip."

Judy Weiss went to Providence to give a talk at the conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation. She spent the afternoon with her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter who live there. When she gets back home, she will perform in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe" in New Jersey and December choral concerts in New York City. Who says retirement is relaxing?

Leslie Fenchel fulfilled a cherished dream this fall of visiting Jane Austen's home in Hampshire, England as well as the surrounding countryside that Austen loved. Then in October she happily moved from New Jersey to the upper west side of Manhattan. In February, she's taking a cruise devoted to jazz and hopes of visit her grandson in Singapore.

Sybil Cohen plans to spend Thanksgiving weekend with her family in Greenwood Village, Colorado and then travel to the Broadmoor Wilderness Adventure Resort in Colorado Springs. During February, she will visit the in-laws in Singapore, then go on to Thailand and other Malaysian ports.



Anita Hunter writes us from Kyoto, Japan, which she describes as a beautiful city of impressive Shinto palaces, temples and gardens of great beauty and

tranquility. She reports: "On this trip, my son, his wife and I met in Tokyo and saw some of the sights before we took a bullet train to Inazuki Onsen, a resort mountain town, where for three days we ate like (Japanese) kings, took thermal baths and enjoyed a small private train trip to see an enormous chasm. We also visited Kanazawa, a lovely small city with many wonderful temples and gardens and an extraordinary Zen Buddhist museum built by a Yale educated Japanese buddhist scholar, E. Suzuki. Nearly over, the trip has been a great experience. Being in a country where one is always safe, the streets are clean and everyone obeys societal rules, a lot of the stress and tension of American life disappears.

Myra Nissen is once again a Publicist for two new books: Thisbe Nissen's *Our Lady of the Prairie* is a sharp and biting funny novel about a professor whose calm-ish midwestern life gives way to a vortex of crises—and her attempts to salvage the pieces without going to pieces herself.

Jay Baron Nicorvo's *The Standard Grand* is a "seamless blend of road-trip saga, love story, and critique of military contractors... An ambitious novel that effectively braids corporate greed, outdoorsy grit, and human connection."

—Kirkus Reviews

Freshman Class Meeting

by Betty Farber

An enthusiastic group of new Quest members attended the Freshman Class meeting on October 31st chaired by Pam Gemelli and Betty Farber. As they introduced themselves, it was apparent that these freshmen came from interesting backgrounds with extensive experience in such fields as education, health and law enforcement.

To familiarize the freshmen members with Quest's program and policies, guest speakers gave informative presentations about Quest committees. Mary Ann Donnelly, Curriculum Committee Chairperson, discussed the committee's duties and asked the new members to bring their suggestions about presenting ideas for future courses to the committee for feedback. Larry Shapiro and Arlene Hajinlian, co-chairpersons of the Mentoring Committee, discussed the purpose of this committee, which is especially designed for freshmen. And Paul Adler, Art Editor for Q Review, shared the workings of his committee and asked for contributions from Quest members for the next edition. The final meeting of the Freshman Class for the Fall semester will be the last Tuesday of the month, November 28th at 12 noon.

Volunteering

by Dolores Dolan

Robert Bloom, a Quest member for the last three years, is a retired lawyer, Princeton and Harvard man and has run in 14 New York City marathons. He is also adept at handing out bread at The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. When the mostly homeless men and women ask at the bread table for a soft roll or bagel (because many of them have lost some teeth), Bob is friendly and helpful, saying, "The bread is mostly hard today but I'll try to find you a soft roll."

The soup kitchen provides a hot meal Monday through Friday and the last stop after diners have finished lunch is the bread table. There, they can take day-old bagels, rolls and loaves of bread that have been donated by top Manhattan bakeries. Bob said, "The favorite bagel is the raisin bagel, which is always in short supply." The soup kitchen, celebrating 35 years this year, serves about 900 meals each day. Interestingly, it only serves soup on Fridays and that has only been in the last couple of years since the Tabatchnick family began donating their soup.



Creative Corner

Sunlight and Shadow

by Betty Farber

Sitting outdoors on First Avenue
Basking in the bright sunlight—
Suddenly a shadow overhead
Darkens my world.

No planes flying above me
No rain clouds in the sky
But the tramway to Roosevelt Island
Has cast a shadow over me.

I shiver. Everything might change
In the space of a second . . .
A dark moment has come and gone
And I am back in the brilliant sunlight.

It Could Be Worse

by Wayne Cotter

How strange the year we've had
But not everything was bad
QUEST, for one, was seldom boring
And the stock market is still soaring

Yes, North Korea is still unnerving
And Trump's tweets still self-serving
As he dodges all the press's queries
But the Yankees almost made the Series!

Well the holidays are now upon us
And climate change has yet to drown us
So we look to 2018 with cheer
And pray it's better than this year

