

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

December 2018



A Note From the President



As I write this message on Veterans Day, we have four weeks left this semester. Time has really passed quickly. Looking back,

we can rejoice the addition of many new members; we currently have 251 members, and we anticipate meeting our cap of 260 members by the end of the Spring

semester. Thanks to all our coordinators and presenters, Quest courses are diverse, interesting, and plentiful. We all should be happy to belong to an organization that is both intellectually stimulating, and provides us with the opportunity to be with our peers. If you like having coffee at Quest, you should thank Roberta Schoenfield, the chair of the coffee committee, who arrives before 9:30 am, on most days, to brew the coffee. We still have our holiday luncheon to anticipate. This year the festivities will take place at Nino's Ristorante, 1354 First Avenue between

72 and 73 streets on December 7 at 12:00 noon. Please pick up your menu in the Quest office, and return it with your selections, and a check for \$40 for members, and \$60 for guests. Please note that the Quest Curriculum Catalogue, indicates that the Spring semester will start on February 4, observance of Lincoln's Birthday will be on Tuesday February 12, President's Day on February 18, and Spring break from April 22-25. I wish all Quest members a happy holiday season, and a joyous new year.

– Bob Gottfried

A Day in Kykuit *by Michael Wellner*



A group of 26 Quest members spent the day on November 2nd visiting the absolutely beautiful Rockefeller Home, Kykuit, in nearby Sleepy Hollow, NY. Not only is the home quite impressive, but the setting on the highest hilltop along the Hudson is truly spectacular. We had a great time, saw some really interesting things, and had a delightful lunch before heading back to the city. Big thanks to Karen Levin for



organizing everything so efficiently. In the group besides Karen were Sal and Lucille Granfort, Zenaide Reiss, Marian Friedmann, David Judlowitz, Arlene Curinga, Marilyn Weiss, Dolores Raeben, Nancy Richardson, Aileen Margolis, Joyce West, Wayne & Suzanne Cotter, Donna Basile (and guest), Lindsley Borsodi, Mary Ann Donnelly, Betty Farber, Michael Goldstein, and Marva and Michael Wellner.

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Creative Corner

Everyday Bravery
by Betty Farber

You must be brave to climb a subway stair
Slushy with snow that salt does not erase,
Or walk half-empty twilight streets, aware
That one behind you will not show his face.
You must be strong to walk on wintry roads
On ice that's slippery and smooth as glass.
Your final trace of bravery erodes
Waiting for the gusts of wind to pass.
You need a hero's courage when your key
Opens the door of your dark rooms alone
Or when you read a bloody mystery
Sure that you hear next door a chilling moan.
And you must be a valiant poet indeed
To clutch your heart and hold your every breath
And take your pen in hand to fill the need
To write a poem that scares you half to death.

Who's Doing What

Ellie Chernick attended an interfaith gathering on Monday, October 29, to grieve with others for the individuals who were gunned down in a synagogue because they were Jews. Ellie reports, "It was heartwarming to see members of the clergy from the Christian church, other temples, and people dressed in very unfamiliar garb. The clergy from my own synagogue, Central Synagogue in Manhattan, read all the names of those killed in Pittsburgh. Of course, we recited Yizkor, the prayer for the dead. It made me feel, finally, that I was not alone in my anguish."

Judy Weis was absent from Quest for some weeks this fall because she went on three work-related trips in four weeks. The first was to the exurbs of Chicago for a workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to discuss and shape a new program NSF plans to start, called "Coasts and People." The following week Judy was in Maine to speak on marine environmental topics at the University of New England in Biddeford. Then in another week, Judy was off to Odessa, Ukraine, courtesy of the UN. The UN Environment Programme, gearing up to produce a second iteration of the "World Ocean Assessment," sponsored several workshops to discuss this document, which will focus on what has changed since the original came out in 2010.

Ruth Ward and **Lillian Scheinblum** attended a 100th birthday party celebration at the New York Public Library, Amsterdam Avenue, October 11th, to honor Jerome Robbins. Jerome Wilson Rabinowitz was born Oct. 11th, 1918, into a family of Jewish immigrants. He rose to fame mentored by Gluck Sandor and his wife Felice Sorel who introduced Robbins to modern dance, character acting and dramatic presentation. During an interactive workshop led by Robert LaFosse and Barbara Hoon, Ruth and Lillian were invited to snap, sail, bust and strut, Robbins' signature moves. At this party, from 6 p.m. to 7:30, about 35 people were given an opportunity to perform without shoes to dances from his many ballets and Broadway plays. Lillian reports, "Ruth

and I danced with the moves shown. I almost fell over doing a hora; Ruth managed all with grace. We had a great time."

Deborah Jaffe, our head librarian, would like John le Carre fans to be aware of an interesting book. "A Legacy of Spies" came out last year, and it's the first George Smiley book in 25 years. It lays out the backstory of "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold," and it made Deborah resurrect her copy of that book to fit the pieces together. Several characters from "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" are also included as they fit into the story. It is vintage le Carre.

Marc Kouffman exercises alternate mornings at the Y pool and Stuyvesant Town's outside gym. One morning he got up uncharacteristically early. Swim gear prepacked, bathing suit on, he grabbed keys, Y pass, hoodie and was off and running as his wife, Lana, regarded him quizzically. It was still dark outside when he arrived at the Y. *Maybe a storm threatening.* The Y was quiet. He lockered up quickly. But the knob on the pool door wouldn't turn and his banging was to no avail. "What's going on?" he asked the guy on the next bench. "Adult laps are from 8 to 10," he responded. "My schedule says seven," Marc countered in disgust. Getting dressed quickly, he stopped by the front desk to lodge his complaint. He's told unapologetically, once again, that laps start at 8 pm. *Why is it different this morning?* As he left the Y it was still dark. Suddenly, he had a new thought! He asked the person at the front desk what day it was. The answer was Friday. Marc realized it was 7:15 p.m. and not 7:15 a.m. He had fallen asleep dinnertime, and upon awakening, decided it was morning. A wakeup call, but the wrong one.

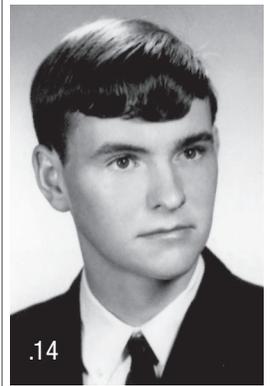
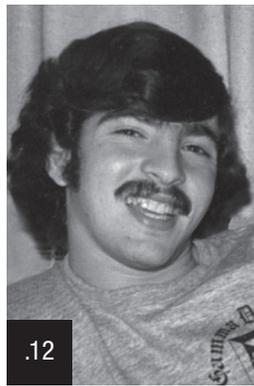
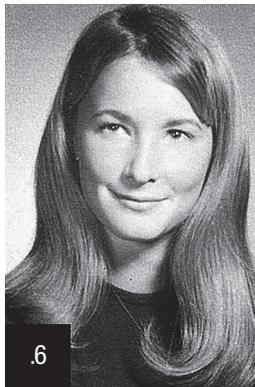
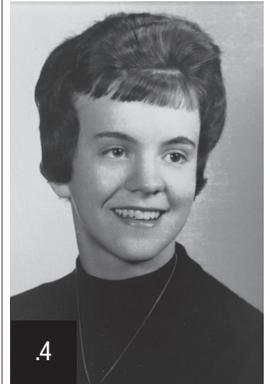
A Few Notes

End of Term Luncheon
Friday, December 7th
Freshman Class meetings
will resume in February

Who Am I?

We turned back the hands of time and sent high school and college pictures and now expect you to recognize who we are... Can you guess ?

The answers are numbered according to the pictures on back page.



QTravel

Your Quest Travel Committee has certainly been busy! Twenty-six of our fellow members spent a wonderful day at Kykuit, and we had so many interested in this excursion that we have scheduled another visit for early May (Kykuit II). Please let Karen Levin or Michael Wellner know if you are interested. In April we are featuring a great opportunity to spend a long week-end, April 12–15, at the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. This is a Road Scholar trip, and we've just been advised that additional single rooms have been added. Several members have already made their reservations.

And looking ahead to spring and beyond, Carolyn already has 18 signed up for a Quest-exclusive trip to London. For those who love art and museums and the like, Karen Levin is organizing a long week-end in Philadelphia to visit the Barnes museum (and so much more). This is tentatively scheduled for September/October.

And finally, a few other offerings of note: A trip (Southern Charm, operated by Collette Tours), to Jacksonville (FL), Charleston (SC), and Savannah (GA), from June 1st – 9th, and finally an Independence Day Cruise on the Queen Mary 2, sailing from and returning to New York City, from June 30th – July 7th, calling at Newport, RI, Boston (for July 4th), Halifax and Nova Scotia. Details on both are in the office. Happy Travels.

Here I Am...

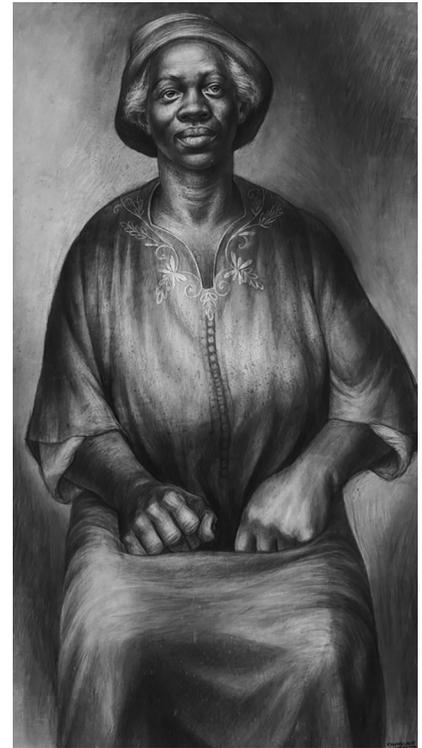
1. Marybeth Yakoubian; 2. Howard Einbinder; 3. Betty Farber; 4. Caroline Thompson; 5. Steve Allen; 6. Beth Callender; 7. Larry Gullotta; 8. Ellen Gottfried; 9. Marilyn Weiss; 10. Vivian Oliver; 11. Judy Weis; 12. Bob Gottfried; 13. Panny King; 14. Wayne Cotter; 15. Bob Hartmann; 16. Frank Montaturo; 17. Nina Dioletis; 18. Linda Rothstein; 19. Arleen Margolis

CultureQuest at MOMA

by Bob Reiss



On October 26th, 35 Questers toured the Charles White exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. White's commitment to creating powerful images of African Americans was unwavering over the course of his four-decade career. White believed that art had a role to play in changing the world: "Art must be an integral part of the struggle. It can't simply mirror what's taking place. It must adapt itself to human needs. It must ally itself with the forces of liberation. The fact is, artists have always been propagandists. I have no use for artists who try to divorce themselves from the struggle."



Adventures in Dining

by Michael Wellner



On Thursday evening, October 25th, ten Questers joined new member Frank Montaturo, creator and Chief of Quest's new Adventures in Dining Program, for an expedition to an Uzbeki restaurant, Cheburechnaya, in Rego Park, Queens. We all enjoyed a several-course meal with perhaps a few unidentified ingredients, including lamb hearts! It was good fun for attendees Bob and Ellen Gottfried, Marion Schulteis, Ethel Sheffer, Leslie Fenchel, Joyce Hinote, Larry Shapiro, Anita Hunter, Marva and Michael Wellner and our fearless leader Frank. The attached photo is proof positive that we all had a ball, as close to Uzbekistan as we're likely to get!