

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

September 2018

A Note From the President



Welcome back to Quest to our returning members, and greetings to our new members. I hope everyone had a good

summer. I want to alert everyone that there is an error in our class bulletin. Yom Kippur will be observed and Quest classes will not be held on Wednesday September 19. All "A" week, Thursday classes will be presented on Thursday

September 20. I want to remind all of our members, but especially our new members that there is a wealth of information available to you on Quest's website, <http://www.questcontinuingednyc.org>. This includes our semester calendar, a list of courses with the topic and presenter for each class, the minutes of both the Council and General meetings, and the names of the Council members and committee chairs. As Quest is a peer to peer learning organization, I urge all members to contribute by volunteering to present, joining a committee, becoming a coordinator, or contributing in some other manner. I will be available to answer any

questions, and to assist all members in any way each morning from 9:30–10:30 am in the office and at noon time in the lunch room. As we start our new academic year, I urge everyone to try to be considerate of your fellow Quest members, by turning off your cell phones during class time, by respecting other members' opinions, and generally other Quest members, as you would like to be treated. Given the diversity of classes and the excellent presenters, this should be an outstanding semester.

– Bob Gottfried

The Distinguished Guest Lecture Series

- September 12** A staged reading of "Dyin' For It," an Irish comedy by Derek Murphy.
- September 26** Kory Stamper, author of *Word By Word: The Secret Life of Dictionaries*
- October 10** Jessica Genick of Show Scores on the making of the Broadway hit, *Come From Away*
- October 24** Patricia Goldstone, author of *Interlock: Art, Conspiracy and the Shadow Worlds of Mark Lombardi*
- November 7** Quest General Membership Meeting
- December 5** Nancy Stuart Rubin, author of *Defiant Brides* about two Revolutionary-era women who married radical men, Benedict Arnold and Henry Knox.

CultureQuest Events

- September 14** **The New York Public Library.** This will be a docent-led, behind the scenes tour of the iconic library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.
- September 28** **The American Folk Art Museum.** This will be a docent-led tour of the museum conducted by fellow Quest member John Hood.
- October 12** **Magazinno Italian Art.** This will be a docent-led tour at this new artspace in Cold Spring, NY which is devoted to postwar and contemporary Italian art.
- October 26** Tour at **MOMA** of the Charles White exhibition

Who's Doing What

Joyce Hinote can now finally check off the top and, in fact, the only item on her bucket list. In July she and **Helen Saffran** took the train across Canada, from Toronto to Vancouver. It was a wonderful trip filled with interesting people and fascinating places. Among them were the 250,000 lakes of Ontario, the prairies of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the lime-green fields of canola plants in Alberta, and the Rockies of western Alberta and British Columbia. And the highlight may have been Vancouver, a beautiful city with a separate city commission dedicated solely to landscaping. Its parks and gardens are really wonderful, and have the climate for many plants that do not grow here. An interesting fact: Native Americans in Canada are referred to as First Nations People, and they saw lots of both old and new art produced by them, in addition to paintings by well known Canadian artist Emily Carr, Joyce and Helen were introduced to Ice Wine on the train, although interestingly enough it is not all that easy to get Ice Wine in Canada today, because most of it is now exported to Japan! Although Ice Wine was actually invented in Canada, it's now produced in the Scandinavian countries as well. Aah—the things one learns while traveling. Where to next? The Orient Express perhaps?

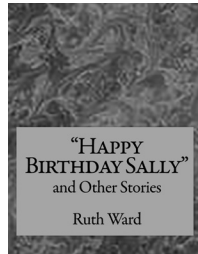
Liesje ten Houten has had a very full and great summer. She went to DC to visit her daughter and while there got a ticket to the African American Museum which was great.

A major highlight of her adventures was a trip out west and a visit to the Burning Man Festival in the desert of Nevada, a festival of installations and sculptures based on anti consumerism and therefore everything is burned after the week long festival... very interesting ... she also visited a Raptor Sanctuary in Arizona owned by a friend, which housed 32 vultures, and other birds of prey. They feed at 4:30am so the screeching is an automatic alarm clock.

Then she was off to Milan and Ravenna —attending the opera and visiting

phenomenal mosaics and Byzantine architecture. Sadly it was only for 10 days, then she'll be returning to Quest to get some rest.

She refuses to let her physical health issues stop her and has a new cane called Medusa. Keep pushing Liesje!



Another publication by **Ruth Ward**: Can grim memories of childhood yield to expansive hopes for the future? Can the pain of a physical handicap lead to the release

of self-acceptance? From the fragile joy of a Queens birthday girl to the staggering success of a Colombian drug lord, from the leverage wielded by a red-faced sister to the retaliation sought by an abused daughter, these narratives deal with the extremes of human experience. Beginning as a fictionalized account of the author's early years in New York and the Midwest, these stories go on to give voice to her love for the global Hispanic community.

Pam Gemelli, Barbara Gelbers, Steve Rubin, the McGuires, and a few other friends boarded the gorgeous **QM2** right here in Brooklyn on July 1st for a 5 day sail up the coast. The ship sailed up to Canada, then down to Boston for the fireworks on the 4th of July and returned to Brooklyn on day six. It was a lovely sailing on an absolutely beautiful ship and a very relaxing few days.

Marva & Michael Wellner spent a long week-end in the Thousand Islands, in the St. Lawrence seaway on the Canadian border. An absolutely beautiful spot, ideal for boaters and those who love the water and the outdoors. Highly recommended.

Carolyn and Pete McGuire once again spent most of the summer in Ireland. The highlight of the trip was the Galway International Arts Festival which runs for two weeks in July. It's a smaller version

of the Edinburgh Fringe but there are plays, music, art installations, street music and entertainers and tons of things to do. It's an easy walking small city with a great university, so you can walk wherever you want to go without destroying the knees, hips or the rest of the body. After seeing a play a day and listening to concerts, a trip to Yeats country was on the agenda with two more Yeats plays and then on to Dublin for a few days and the Abbey theatre. In between all this visiting family was part of the trip...The Festival is highly recommended for an easy cultural exercise. *Same time next year*

Marilyn Rosen and Lillian Scheinblum enjoyed a week in the Berkshires at Marilyn's home. She drove her red Honda like a demon to the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood, Jacobs Pillow Ted Shawn Theater, an African Dance company and a music set by Arturo O'Farrell. They also saw Macbeth at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Edith Wharton home in Lenox. They were certainly super busy and had lots of fun.



Leslie Goldman, volunteering at Jazz at Lincoln Center with **Wynton Marsalis**.

Date to Remember

Freshman Class Meeting: September 25th (Last Tuesday in September). All new members as of 2018 are welcome. See Pam Gemelli and Betty Farber for more information.



Quest Travels to Croatia

by Michael Wellner



In late May, eight Quest members and my wife, Marva, spent an absolutely delightful two weeks on a Road Scholar trip to Montenegro and Croatia. Marian Friedmann, David Judlowitz, Sondra Lipton, Giuliana Lopes, Denise Siegel, Pam Gemelli, Joyce West, and Marva and I embarked on a Lufthansa flight from JFK to Dubrovnik, then took a cross-border taxi (slightly tricky) to our first hotel, located in Herceg Novi, Montenegro. Interestingly enough, although Croatia is *not* part of the EU, Montenegro is, and crossing the border requires two separate stops with two passport checks.

During our two days in Montenegro, in a beautiful hotel located right at the Bay of



Kotor's edge, we explored the historic town of Kotor itself, once a prized city in the Venetian Empire. The entire region, located at the intersection of the Moslem Ottoman Empire and Christian Western Europe, was ruled over the centuries by an assortment of dictators, kings, emperors and the like, which makes for a fascinating history.

After leaving Montenegro we took the short but spectacular ride to the ancient walled city of Dubrovnik where we boarded our small (135-foot, 25 passenger) ship for the most wonderful eight days anyone could wish for. Under picture-perfect blue skies, in calm waters, we cruised north along the coast of Croatia from Dubrovnik to Split, stopping along the way in Korcola,

Hvar, Trogir and other beautiful small islands and towns before our cruise ended in the beautiful and bustling city of Split. Here we spent three full days, including a visit to the nearby town of Sibenik, beautifully situated high in the mountains, where we enjoyed a wonderful lunch served in an old farmhouse nearby.

Everyone agreed the trip was over much too quickly. Our extremely compatible traveling companions included a group from a Chicago-based Osher Lifelong Learning Program (among others). We were all sad to see the trip conclude. A word to the wise: If you haven't yet been to Croatia, we highly recommend you go. You'll love every minute!

Judy and Pete Weiss in Borneo

Judy and Pete Weiss spend the last half of June in Borneo, visiting the provinces of Sabah and Sarawak. They snorkeled, visited a mangrove area and went to Mulu National Park, a beautiful rainforest area with numerous caves—some set up for tourists with lights and boardwalks and others reserved for experienced cavers with ropes, etc. They visited some “tourist” caves, one of which boasted two or three million bats who leave between five and six in the late afternoon. Benches are set up for tourists to view the exodus. Then they went to Kuching where they saw a rainforest with orangutans, various species of monkeys and enormous shopping malls in the city itself. At the end of the trip they attended the Fifth International Marine Conservation Congress.



If It's Tuesday, It Must Be Belgium

by Betty Farber



Actually, on the first Tuesday of our trip, we were in Holland, in the magical city of Amsterdam, with its many canals, interesting architecture and quaint cobbled streets. We wondered why the canal houses were so narrow and found that it had to do with taxes. Back in the sixteenth century, Dutch authorities levied taxes from citizens based upon, among other things, the width of their houses.

But we did get to Belgium and also to Luxembourg and even Germany. We visited many other cities on this 10-day trip, including Rotterdam, Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Brussels, and others, staying at four different hotels that served delicious breakfast buffets. And talking of food, we sampled Dutch "hotchpotch" on a river dinner cruise. This dish is a mixture of mashed potatoes and carrots.

We did much more than eat and sleep. There were fascinating tours each day. We were guided through the highlights of the Rijksmuseum by a knowledgeable docent who explained the meaning behind such masterpieces as Rembrandt's "The Night Watch." We celebrated spring with a visit to Keukenhof, where our cellphone cameras were put to good use, capturing the glorious colors of the tulips. In Antwerp, we visited the largest Gothic cathedral of Belgium to see gorgeous artworks by Peter Paul Rubens. A boat ride in Rotterdam gave us the opportunity to view 19 working windmills and to see how families actually made a home in the windmills.

Memorials to World War II were impressive and touching in Bastogne, the site of the Battle of the Bulge. The next day, we journeyed to the Luxembourg American Cemetery and saw rows of crosses and stars and visited General Patton's grave, which lies near those of his men.

Many other experiences will be remembered—some with pleasure and some with dismay. The cold and bumpy ride on the horse and carriage was an optional trip we wished we had not chosen. The need to "get on the bus" at 8 in the morning, dressed, breakfasted and ready for another day was an annoyance. But we had a wonderful time and the favorite memory for many of us will be sitting at a café in a market square with other Questers, drinking coffee or warm chocolate and watching the world go by. Of course, Belgium Chocolate was a most prized treat and we all overindulged!

Creative Corner

Waterfall

by Betty Farber

Traveling in the Canadian Rockies,
A falling ribbon of water beckoned to me.
I left the group and hiked right up to it.
A torrent of silver cascading earthward,
It laughed and danced its way down to the ground.
A living thing, it sprayed my face with mist.
Engulfed in mystery and beauty,
Connected to a force beyond my knowledge,
I had a fleeting glimpse of the eternal.

More than orange-gold sunsets,
More than majestic mountains,
The spirit of the waterfall had moved me.
I felt we shared a sacred moment.
Alone with my secret, I walked back on the path,
Mist on my face mingling with my tears.

Shoes on the River



Lillian Scheinblum took a trip to Prague and Budapest and found one of the most moving historical memorials right on the Danube. In 1944 many Jews were stripped naked on the banks of the Danube and made to face the river; a firing squad then shot the prisoners at close range in the back so that they fell into the river to be washed away. This memorial sits in front of the magnificent Parliament building and focuses on 60 pair of rusted shoes cast out of iron in different sizes and styles. This sculpture was erected in April 2005.

Quest Tech Committee

by Wayne Cotter

Awe begin the fall semester, we ask all coordinators and presenters to make sure they avail themselves of our Tech Committee staff.

Each Tech Committee member has a working knowledge of the podium, external microphones, the DVD players, PowerPoint, and much more. Presenters should be aware of the tech members assigned to their classes.

The same tech members are assigned to the same classes throughout the semester and their names will appear on each week's Next Week at Quest (NWAQ) email. Tech representatives arrive at Quest by 10:00 am on their assigned days to assist presenters. If you are giving a presentation and anticipate problems, please contact your tech rep(s) in advance.

The following are the 2018 tech committee members: Wayne Cotter (Chair), Michael Wellner (Vice-Chair), Steve Allen, Beth Callender, Nina Dioletis, Michael Hamburg, June Jacobson, David Judlowitz, Pete Reis, Bob Reiss, Howard Salik, Art Spar, Ruth Ward, and Joyce West.

If you have any technology-related questions, please contact any of the above members, either in person or by email.

Q News Staff

A Quest Publication

Editor in Chief
Carolyn McGuire

Copy Editing
Martha Drezin

Consultant and Proofreading
Michael Wellner

Quest, a community for lifelong learning, is affiliated with the City College of New York (CCNY), and its Center for Worker Education (CWE).

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

End of Year Play

Members of the Drama Workshop perform *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters. This is a collection of epitaphs of the residents of a small town in the mid west. It was directed by Roy Clary who was assisted by Marilyn Rosen and Panny King.



End of Term Luncheon

Questers enjoyed a lunch at the beautiful Battery Gardens Restaurant on May 10th. Organized by Jane Lubin, over 120 members were present.

