

# QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

Spring 2018

## A Note From the President



I hope you are as excited about the spring semester as I am. As we all know, Quest is a peer learning organization and

without the contributions of our members our organization could not function. Presently, we have a strong team of volunteers who are doing a wonderful job. But in an organization like ours, you can never have

too many volunteers. We need volunteers to coordinate classes, make presentations, develop ideas for new classes, serve on Quest committees, serve coffee and participate in our fine art, writing and theatre workshops. If you wish to volunteer but are unclear about how to proceed, I will be happy to direct you to the right person.

We also need volunteers who are interested in managing the organization by running for office or for a Council seat. I became Vice President of Quest in the Spring of 2016 after being a member since 2014 and became President the following

year. The election committee is currently seeking candidates to run for three Council seats and for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

There is another important way to make a contribution to Quest. Tell your friends and acquaintances about Quest and actively recruit them to join. Our membership fluctuates from year to year, so new recruits keep the organization healthy. I urge every member, both old and new, to make a commitment to take action to ensure the continued vitality of Quest.

— Bob Gottfried

## Meet Your New Techies

We are pleased to report that with the addition of seven new techies this spring, we have doubled the size of Quest's Technology Committee.

Each Tech Committee member has a working knowledge of the podium, external microphones, PowerPoint and much more. Almost every day Quest members face an unexpected technology glitch. Our job is to ensure that a glitch does not become a crisis. Two Tech Committee members are assigned to each morning and afternoon session. In addition, we encourage you to contact any Tech Committee member with your tech-related questions. We are committed to help minimize your technology fears! Here is a list of all current Technology Committee members:

Steve Allen	Michael Hamburg	Art Spar
Wayne Cotter	June Jacobson	Ruth Ward
Doreen DeMartini	David Judlowitz	Michael Wellner
Nina Dioletis	Bob Reiss	Pete Weis
Arlene Hajinlian	Howard Salik	

## Emergency Response Team Members

In case of a fire, explosion, accidental chemical spill, or who-knows-what, our team will assist you in following the directions of the building's emergency management personnel. All team members wear their big orange buttons to make identification easy. They are:

Doreen De Martini, *Warden*  
Paul Adler, *Deputy Warden*  
Mary Ann Donnelly  
Barbara Gelber

Pam Gemelli  
Lucille Granfort  
Sal Granfort  
Bob Hartmann  
Lila Heilbrunn  
Shoshana Kagan  
Ruth Kovner  
Palma Mahl  
Eleanor Murillo  
Loretta Menger  
Linda Redding  
Steve Rubin  
Sandra Southwell  
Michael Wellner



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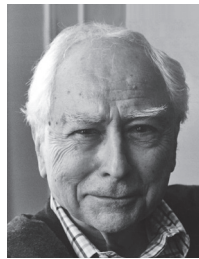
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## Q-Toon by W. Cotter



*"I can't believe The Times is now \$3!  
How does it feel to pay 50¢ more a day  
to get thoroughly depressed?"*

## Who's Doing What



**Roy Clary** was recently cast in a Hewlett-Packard commercial, playing a grandfather, with a son and baby grandson. Although it

becomes clear that the grandfather passes away, his son has several of his father's photos to share with his son.

It's a heartfelt, wistful piece about the role that pictures play in recording and sharing memories. One of the real challenges was working with a baby. In this case, there were two babies (twins) so that when one was sleeping, the other was ready (hopefully) to go to work!

It was impressive that the cameraman was the great Emanuel "Chivo" Lubezki, who is the only cinematographer to have won three Oscars in a row: "Gravity", "Birdman" and "The Revenant".  
Kudos Roy

**Bob and Ellen Gottfried** celebrated the first *Gottfried Family Gathering* ever. Due to the technical and cyber world we now live in, the Gottfrieds were able to find long lost relatives as well as relatives they didn't even know they had. They spent the weekend in Atlanta, GA and met cousins that they didn't even know existed. Cousins came from Mexico, Oregon, California, Florida, Georgia and New York. There were more than 25 people at this event and it will be the first of many. In fact, Bob and Ellen are hosting another Gottfried Family Gathering at their home in late June.

**Marcia and Gary Friedland** travelled for 30 days south of the border in January. They left from Fort Lauderdale and traveled to Mexico, Central America, through the Panama Canal to Ecuador, Peru, Chile and on to Puerto Natales for a trek in the national park in Patagonia. Marcia says, "Yes, according to our experienced guides, the glaciers are retreating faster than ever before."

**Michael Hamburg** Michael Hamurg has been a docent at the Rose Center for Earth & Space for more than 17 years. Now he's training as a tour guide at the American Museum of Natural History. He will lead groups of people through several halls at a time and will need to learn much more of the museum's exhibits.



**Pete and Judy Weis** went off to Sri Lanka this winter where they visited beautiful beaches, mountains, waterfalls and other natural wonders. They

also picked tea at tea plantations, visited a sea turtle hatchery/rescue, shopped in various markets and ate wonderful food. In addition to visiting Buddhist temples, they climbed to the top of Sigiriya, which is equivalent to 66 stories. What stamina!

**Joyce West** got out of the New York cold and recently spent a week in Puerto Vallarta where the weather was in the 80's. Puerto Vallarta, one of Mexico's premier destinations, was a very comfortable place for her to visit. It is full of ex-pats from Canada and the United States.



**Anita Hunter** is spending more time in beautiful San Miguel de Allende. She is happy to be back in Mexico for a couple of weeks and never tires

of being there. It is one of the most photographable towns in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The photo shows the cathedral in the distance.

## Enjoying the Winter Warmth of Palm Springs, *by Michael Wellner*



**I**t all began with the Palm Springs Film Festival of 2018. Road Scholar, who for years had tours that included the Film Festival, this year initiated a new six-day trip to the California desert, scheduled to begin just after the end of this year's film showings. Seven of us decided to book this new trip and escape the cold New York winter weather for the dry heat of the California desert. Pam Gemelli, Leslie Goldman, Michael Goldstein, Bob Hartmann, Aileen Margolis and Michael and Marva Wellner were able to enjoy a few of the festival films before joining 20 other Road Scholar participants who came from all over the country to learn about this desert area.

Highlights of the tour included visits to a wind farm, a drive through neighborhoods filled with mid-century modernist architecture, a hike through desert flora and fauna, a brief tour of the incredible Annenberg Estate (Sunnylands) and a drive through several of the Coachella Valley desert cities close to Palm Springs. Coincidentally, while walking along Palm Canyon Drive, the main street in Palm Springs, the group ran into two familiar Quest faces, Joan Briller and her husband, Joseph, who were visiting the area from their new home in Indiana. Talk about small worlds! For those interested, the R.S. trip to this California desert resort is highly recommended.

## Speakers at CWE

**CWE** Assistant Professor **Susanna Rosenbaum**, who specializes in anthropology, presented her book, *Domestic Economies: Women, Work, and the American Dream in Los Angeles*, recently at CWE. She examines how two groups of women—Mexican and Central American domestic workers and the predominantly white, middle-class women who employ them—seek to achieve the “American Dream.” Throughout, Rosenbaum underscores how the ideology of the American Dream is impacted by gender and race.

## CultureQuest Events

- March 2** New York Philharmonic Open Rehearsal
- March 9** Grant Wood: American Gothic and Other Fables, The Whitney Museum
- March 23** Hotbed Exhibition, New York Historical Society
- April 13** Miriam Shapiro: Surface/Depth Exhibition, Museum of Art and Design
- April 20** Vestiges & Verse: Notes from the Newfangled Epic, American Folk Museum

## Guest Speaker Haroon Moghul

**O**n February 21, 80 Questers attended a talk by Haroon Moghul, author of *How to Be an American: A Muslim Story*. Haroon gave us valuable insight into growing up Muslim in America. He presented his personal story of what it's like to struggle with faith, identity and community in the backdrop of a post 9/11 environment.





## Upcoming Elections at Quest

**T**his spring, we will elect three new officers: Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, in addition to three council members at-large. Anyone who has been a member of Quest for at least one year is eligible to run (providing you have not already served within the past two years). If you think you might be interested in running, please contact a member of the Nominating and Elections Committee: Paul Adler, Leslie Goldman, Bob Hartmann, John Hood, or Nan McNamara, Chair, by March 20.

The bylaws also allow nominations by a petition to the NEC signed by no less than fifteen per cent (36) of the current membership, by March 24.

The election will take place on May 1 and 2. In the two weeks preceding the election, during the noontime hour, candidates will make brief presentations and answer questions. If you will not be in attendance on May 1st or 2nd, please pick up an absentee ballot in the office.

## Creative Corner

### A Poem For My Mother

by Betty Farber

On the balcony of a cruise ship, I saw  
A vision, rising gracefully out of the fog:  
Lady Liberty blessing New York Harbor,  
A shadowy grey, with her lamp shining brightly.  
Is that how she looked a hundred years ago  
When a little Russian girl, hugging the smokestack  
Of a different ship, gazed at her?

"An inspiration to us all,"

I used to say. Not speaking of the statue,  
But of that little Russian girl who lit my way.

*To read more of Betty Farber's poems, go to her website:  
bettyfarber.weebly.com and click on Poetry Journal*

## Bits & Pieces

**Q**UOTE, The Quest literary and art journal is available for pick up in the office. Thanks to all the poets, writers and artists who contributed.

### FRESHMAN CLASS MEETING

**A** dozen new members joined Co-chairs Pam Gemelli and Betty Farber for a meeting on February 27th. The speakers were Bob Gottfried, Carolyn McGuire, Michael Wellner and Marilyn Weiss. who acquainted new members with the various Quest programs and policies. The next monthly meetings will be on March 27 and April 24 at Noon.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Break: April 2-8

General Meeting: April 23

Drama Workshop Performance of  
"Spoon River Anthology" May 9 (Morning)

End of Term Luncheon May 9

**Seamus Scanlon**, our resident Irish Playwright and CWE Librarian, has won the Best Cinematography Award at the Brightside Tavern Film Festival in Jersey City for the "Long Wet Grass", a film version of the original play which we saw at Quest and the Cell Theatre. Now it's on its way to the Cork Film Festival in Ireland and then on to Berlin. Congratulations Seamus.

## New Play From Ykoubian Cousin

*Daybreak*, a new play written by **Joyce Van Dyke**, a cousin of our very own **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, and directed by **Lucie Tiberghien**, is having its world premiere on Thursday, April 26th and we have thirty tickets (which are sold out!). The play, which highlights Armenian-American History, is set in three time periods and was inspired by the true stories of two female friends who survived the Armenian genocide. Using memory, dreams, and music, *Daybreak* carries the story of these women into the 21st century in a celebration of the human spirit's endurance.

## CultureQuest at MoMA

On February 23, 33 Questers attended a tour of the Tarsila do Amaral exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. Most were introduced for the first time to this breakthrough artist who led the modernist movement in Brazil.

