

QUEST Q NEWS

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A Note From the President:

GOOD NEWS! The Election is actually behind us, and we now have a new reality confronting us. A Republican President, with no prior government experience, a Republican House & Senate, and probably more than one Supreme Court vacancy to be filled. We are in for quite a time: perhaps our election course should continue—so much to discuss. In any event, I think we should take a cue from our British friends, and try our best to “Keep calm and carry on.”

At Quest, our winter break in this slightly-shortened term is only three weeks away, and I want to wish you all (in order) a Happy Thanksgiving and then a Happy Hanukkah, and a very Merry Christmas (both of which actually fall on the same day this year—must be a good omen). I know that many of us will be traveling over the winter break; please be safe and have a wonderful time. Remember that our Spring Term begins on Monday, January 30th, and there will be no classes on Monday February 13th (for Lincoln's Birthday) and the following

Monday (the 20th) for President's Day. And—in case your planning ahead—our spring break is the week of April 10th, and the last day of classes is on May 11th (Luncheon the day before).

And—just a wee bit early—*Happy New Year!* Hard to believe it's almost 2017!

Michael Wellner

Quest at MOMA

by Bob Reiss

Whimsey... Passing Years

Plans are well along for another exciting tour of MoMA on February 16, 2017 at 10:00 AM. This will enable us to begin our tour before the museum opens to the general public at 10:30 AM. As before, admission is free and in addition we get a free pass for 5 people to visit the museum at a future date. With our guide, we will explore the Francis Picabia exhibit, *Our Heads are Round so Our Thoughts Can Change Direction*. Picabia was a French avant-garde painter, poet and typographer. His highly abstract planar compositions were colorful and rich in contrasts. Bob Reiss will broadcast an email when final details are in place.



As part of their Prime Time program, MoMA offered scholarships to seniors for evening art history classes. Bob Reiss applied and was granted a scholarship spot in a four session class, *Francis Picabia, Modern Master*. The course will explore the artist's immense influence on modernism.

Us in 1966

- Long hair
- Keg
- Acid rock
- Moving to California because it's cool
- Hoping for a BMW
- Going to a new, hip joint
- Rolling Stones
- Screw the system
- Disco
- Passing the driver's test

Us in 2016

- Longing for hair
- EKG
- Acid reflux
- Moving to Florida because it is warm
- Hoping for a BM
- Getting a new hip joint
- Kidney stones
- Upgrade the system
- COSTCO
- Passing the vision test

CWE Develops Education Partnership with DC 37

by Davi Saroop and Elena Romero

A few short months ago, Dean Mercado and CWE Recruitment Coordinator Trisha Baboolal met with some officers of District Council 37, New York City's largest public employee union, to discuss the possibilities of working together.

As a result of that meeting, CWE entered into an agreement with the District Council 37 Education Fund (DC 37) to serve the educational needs of their members. "This is part of CWE's history—the relationships with unions," stated Dean Mercado. "This agreement is more formal because we are planning a long-term relationship related not only to certificate programs but also eventually to credit-bearing classes/programs."

This fall, CWE's first initiative is with a computer training program designed to offer about 70 union members basic computer courses such as: Introduction to Computers, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. Members of collective bargaining units represented by DC 37 (except Local 371) are eligible for Education Fund classes and programs. At the end of the courses, DC 37 students who have successfully completed coursework will receive a certificate of completion. Classes have been in session since October, and all the feedback from instructors and DC 37 partners points to a very positive and successful outcome.

CWE is already in discussions with DC 37 to continue this program in the Winter/Spring term. "We believe that reconnecting with this union is a huge step for CWE and DC 37 and we look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship," concluded Mercado.

Since 1971, the DC 37 Education Fund has helped make it possible for thousands of DC 37 members to improve their academic skills, language knowledge, technical skills and clerical skills. It has prepared members for civil service examinations and provided financial help and guidance in their higher education endeavors.

Committee News

UPDATE ON THE FRESHMAN CLASS

by Betty Farber

QUEST's second Freshman Class Meeting of the current semester took place at 12 noon on October 25th, 2016. Freshmen took the opportunity to join in an informal discussion about their experiences at Quest. Everyone who spoke commented on the positive, friendly welcome they received. They also met with three Quest speakers:

- Caroline Thompson, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee.
- Bob Reiss, Coordinator of: Artists & Their Work, Explorations in Architecture, Fascinating Non-Fiction and Lecture Series.
- Leslie Goldman, Long Range Planning Committee and Marketing Committee.

The speakers encouraged the freshmen to become active participants.

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

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Travel Update

1 Winter "warm-up" to Sarasota is all booked and set for January 22-27

2 Moving to April 5-9, to the Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC. We need to book this NOW so let Carolyn know your interest. The cost is \$1275 through Road Scholar.

3 Sicily from June 8-17 is booking now. The tour cost is \$2804 with \$589 for a single through Celtic. Check with Carolyn. Some are going to Malta for a few days pre tour. Check with Michael about Malta.

4 Summer offers include a 10 Day Canadian trip to Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. Through Road Scholar, this tour is August 14-24. Cost is \$2400. Contact Carolyn if interested

5 Also on offer is a week in Santa Fe from August 6-11 for the opera season. The cost is \$1600-\$2400 depending on numbers. Contact Bobbie Halfin if you're interested.

6 Under consideration is Fall Foliage through New England for a week-end in October 2017. Contact Yona for more information.

Other weekend trips will be listed in our February issue.

Coming Up

Guest Lecture Series:

Dr. Tony Liss, November 30th

Great Plays:

"The Goat" by Edward Albee, November 21st

"The Beauty Queen of Leenane" by McDonagh, December 5th

Freshman Class Meeting:

November 29th

Museum Tour:

December 2nd

Visit to the International Print Center

by Bob Moore

On Friday morning, October 7th, about 20 Questers visited the International Print Center (IPC) on West 26th Street. Two of the artists in residence explained how the printing process is done. Sometimes the artist prepares the template for printing; in other cases, the artist creates a drawing and one of the IPC technicians prepares the template from the drawing.

The prints are produced by a simple process that has not changed for years. Colors and layers of emphasis are achieved by pressing the templates several times, or by using different pressures that yield texture, contrast and interesting details.

After the print demonstration, we viewed "Black Pulp," the current exhibition, described as "An unprecedented overview of over a century of image production by black artists and publishers..." We enjoyed the varied formats and colors in these prints.

Then on to lunch at a local restaurant. The next Museum visit will be on Friday, December 2nd to the townhouse of Sara, Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt on East 65th Street.



Sir Robert Pumpkin at Election Review on Halloween

Hyde Park Roosevelt National Site New York

by Lillian Scheinblum

On Friday October 28, 2016, twenty-nine Questers braved the traffic on a Friday and embarked on a day trip to Hyde Park. We were picked up at various spots in the city by fearless drivers who volunteered to carry us to this National Site run by the National Park Service. We arrived at 11AM and began our tour.

Our first stop was Val-Kill Cottage, the private rooms of Eleanor Roosevelt. This cottage was a lovely and warmly furnished retreat used by the family for picnics and various other dinners and activities. Hundreds of family photographs hung on the walls and family heirlooms were on display. At one time Eleanor had established a small business there, Val-Kill Industries, which made furniture and pewter works.

A major event hosted by Mrs Roosevelt was her meeting with JF Kennedy who visited with her to try to gain her endorsement for his run

for the presidency in 1961. She did endorse him as long as he agreed to make Civil Rights part of his platform which he did.

After a light lunch we moved along to the boyhood and family home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. In contrast to Val-Kill, this is a magnificent large home, yet has very basic comfortable furnishings which exuded a feeling of comfort and warmth. It was not at all ostentatious. Views of the river were beautiful and certainly allowed us to enjoy a wonderful sunny day.

The site also houses a museum and library which contain important papers, pictures and many historic artifacts. There are also short films that can be viewed at the site. We then braved the Friday afternoon traffic and headed home... Some of us took the train... not a bad idea.

A thank you to Bob Moore and Michael Wellner for planning this event



Q-Toon

by Wayne Cotter



"We just heard Art Spar mysteriously disappeared this morning. Any volunteers to lead his 'Monsters' class?"

Profiles

by Joyce West



Arlynn Greenbaum grew up in a suburb of Cleveland and went to the University of Michigan. When she graduated in 1970, she moved to New York City and began a career in book publishing eventually becoming Director of Marketing for Little, Brown. In 1991, she started her own lecture bureau, Authors Unlimited, where she represented many well-known literary authors. She lives in the Gramercy area and enjoys everything the city has to offer. Her goal in life was never to be bored so she is happy to have found Quest.



Gale Spitalnik was Brooklyn born and has now been living in Manhattan for the past four years. She retired from a career in marketing and sales and she finds herself blessed with high energy and curiosity, so she takes advantage of the city by walking different neighborhoods, and going to the theater, film classes, and museums. After living on a mountain in the suburbs, where the deer prevented her from planting anything worthwhile, she's added gardening to her many interests while she spends her summers in Quogue.



Carol Klarman had a career for over 25 years as a residential real estate executive. She specialized in working in the world of high-end condominium sales and rentals, expanding her work to include marketing, sales and administration. She followed this with eight years in her own business in professional tax preparation. She is a passionate theatre and museum goer and loves to travel and, in general, do as much as possible.



Lois Klein recently retired from the Dept. of Education as PreK Social Worker. While she misses working with parents, children and teachers, she loves the freedom of retirement. Lois lives with her long time partner and love, Gaston. They enjoy theatre, art, film, and literature and look forward to their yearly trips to France and other places. They reside in a converted loft in Park Slope, Brooklyn with a weekend house in Newtown, Connecticut. Lois has two grown children, both of whom are living in San Francisco



Verica Neumann was born in Curacao and lived in Costa Rica and Mexico before coming to the US. She speaks Hungarian and Spanish, with some German and Italian. She is a Juilliard graduate and taught in the New York City school system. Besides music, she loves traveling and taking all kinds of art classes. She has traveled to South America, Far East, Africa and Europe, but Italy has always been her favorite. At Quest she has enjoyed meeting new people and listening to some very interesting lectures.



John Spiegel recently retired from a long career as a student service and academic administrator at a community college. He is a history buff with interests varying from the early U.S., World War II, and Cold War periods, to the Roman and Byzantine empires. He is a political junkie, a die-hard Yankee fan, loves the theater and symphonic music. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to join the acting workshop at QUEST, enabling him to resume a youthful passion. In his free time, he co-leads a book group, now in its 20th year. He and his wife Laurie live on the Upper West Side.



Jo Ellen Terrell is newly retired from the New York City Board of Education as a Teacher of Nursing. She shares her life with her husband, Iran, and her rescued Chihuahua, Ethan. She volunteers at the Fresh Air Fund and the American Museum of Natural History and enjoys travel, dance, art, music and fine dining. But most of all she enjoys being in "school" and shares the love of learning with her fellow "Questionians."



Colleen Babington became an expert in the old master techniques of painted finishes and gilding during her time as a harpsichord painter in Stonington, CT. She used their application in interior design and on art objects, then worked for an industrial designer making lamps. For this she trained graduates of Rikers Island, then taught workers in southern China. She is currently interested in Urban Sketching, attempting to capture the moment quickly without a camera.

