

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

Winter 2019

A Note From the President



As we enter the Spring semester, I want to encourage all Quest members to participate in some way to make our

lifelong learning experience as good as it can be. My suggestions include making a presentation, joining a Quest committee, becoming a Council member or officer, developing and submitting a new course proposal to our curriculum committee, acting as a course coordinator, taking part in one of Quest's plays, giving a talk at

noontime knowledge or, at the very least, contributing an opinion during question and answer time at presentations. We are a peer to peer learning group and without your support Quest cannot flourish.

Quest is a place for all of us to keep our minds active, meet and socialize with other members and to participate in enjoyable activities. I would greatly appreciate your input as to what you would like from Quest. Currently, we have trips to cultural institutions on Fridays, a robust travel committee to provide members with the opportunity to travel together and, our newest initiative, a *dining around* program. Bring your ideas to me or to any Council member.

Finally, as I indicated in my recent email, Quest has received \$200,000 from the estate of a former member, Kenneth Leedom, and we expect to receive an additional \$100,000 before the end of the year. I am still soliciting your input as to what Quest should do with these funds. We have put in place a committee to recommend ideas to Council, but we are still at the beginning of this project, having met once. I expect to be able to make a report to the membership by the middle of the semester at our general meeting and through an email to all members.

— Bob Gottfried

Distinguished Guest Lecture Series

Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Arlene Hajinlian and Estelle Selzer have lined up the following guest speakers for us for Spring:

- February 13** Margalit Fox, author of *Conan Doyle For The Defense* and former obituary writer for the New York Times.
- February 27** Harold Holzer, author of numerous books on Abraham Lincoln, on *The Presidents and the Press: Fake News Then and Now*.
- March 13** Michael Schenker, travel photographer, on gender inequality in Southeast Asia.

- March 27** Larry Joseph, author of *Seltzertopia*, on the history of seltzer and egg creams.
- April 10** General Membership Meeting
- May 1** John Mauceri, author of *Maestros and Their Music: The Art and Alchemy of Conducting*.
- May 15** Sarah Case, Director of Policy and Planning for the International Rescue Committee, on *Refugees: The Political Crisis of Our Time*.

David and the Swapped Jacket

by (perpetrator) Marilyn Weiss



Mistakes happen. At Quest, we may be so intellectually preoccupied that we have cases of mistaken identity. Not that we go home with the wrong husband or wife but umbrellas, canes, backpacks and coats are another story. Last Tuesday, David Judlowitz and I hung our almost identical jackets, except for size and gender designation, side by side in the lunchroom. I didn't realize that I was wearing the wrong coat until I got home, put my hand in the pocket and found a pair of men's gloves. I immediately assumed someone took my coat by mistake, went online and sent an email to the Quest community, and to Eneida, that whoever has my coat should contact me, so we could arrange a swap.

David contacted me immediately and told me that I was the one who took his coat. We both laughed, and since we live near each other, arranged to meet in the middle then and there.

I carried David's coat on my arm. David showed up wearing mine and I told him he looked adorable. Meanwhile, the story went viral on email. I admitted to being the culprit and apologized profusely to one and all. David and I had a good laugh and agreed that we should meet so I could take a picture of him because the incident created so much attention. Here is a cute picture of David being a very good sport in my silly jacket.

IHOP

by Marc Kouffman

The IHOP sign on 14th Street triggers visions of a warm breakfast in the minds of most people. Not for me. En route to visit my grandkids in Brighton Beach, I left Quest the other day, hopped on the Q at Atlantic and hopped off at Canal Street. It was the wrong direction. Today, I took the L in the right direction but hopped off at Third Avenue instead of First. I'm hoping my hopping improves because these snafus are very annoying. They remind me of what happened years ago.

I hopped over the rope at Union station and hopped on an Amtrak train that was pulling out. My car was surprisingly dark. So were the next couple of cars. I got to the engineer just as the train approached the station master who personally escorted me the half mile back to the station. En route, donning my headhunter's hat, I asked how he got this job. Apparently, his family had a bus company that went bankrupt (from too many accidents it would seem). I figured this put us more or less on even footing. Wrong again. He admonished me for hopping over his rope and onto a train that was not in service.

If there's a moral to this story, I'm still looking for it.

November 16th Morgan Tour

On Friday November 16th the CultureQuest museum group met at the Morgan Library & Museum for the exhibit Drawings in Tintoretto's Venice. The exhibit is important because even though Tintoretto is one of the most distinctive painters of the Italian Renaissance, his drawings are unfamiliar even to many scholars, and along with Tintoretto's drawings there were examples from other artists of his time. Our guide gave a lively, informative, and detailed talk about the history of the drawings, information about drawing technique, even the paper that was used. She pointed out specific elements of drawings that were new to us, from how a figure is portrayed to how artists converted a drawing to a final painting. Before seeing the exhibit we had a delicious lunch in the Morgan café; a special menu was planned for us from soup to dessert. All in all it was a very satisfying day.



QTravel

A wise man once said: "Buy straw hats in the winter time; summer will surely come!" And he was right! We may be freezing now (after all, here in New York January and February are statistically the coldest months of the year), but we have plans for the spring and summer that are sure to keep us busy. Here's what's on tap:

- Several Questers have already reserved their spots on our Road Scholar trip to the **Cherry Blossom Festival, in Washington, DC**, from April 12th to 15th. If you'd like to join them, please call Road Scholar directly at 1-800-454-5768, and say that you are interested in trip #18683RJ.

- In early May we will be organizing a second visit to the Rockefeller home (**Kykuit**) in Tarrytown, NY. Several of us were there in early November, and we heartily recommend it. A worthwhile day in nearby Westchester County. Karen Levin has all the details.

- Next, in late May, Carolyn McGuire is leading a group of 18 (so far) Quest members to **London** for a week of theater, dining and sight-seeing in what is arguably one of the greatest cities in the world. If you'd like to join the group, please talk to Carolyn immediately.

- And we have arranged two trips with Collette Tours (who just celebrated their 100th anniversary last year). On June 1st is a trip (**Southern Charm**) to Savannah and Charleston, beginning in Jacksonville, Florida, and including a stop in Jekyll Island. And on June 6th is a wonderful trip to **Madrid and Barcelona**, featuring the AVE High Speed Train between the two. Details on both are in the office and can also be obtained by calling Collette at 1-800-852-5655.

- Next, we invite you to join three Quest couples who are already booked for a wonderful week-long July 4th **cruise on the Queen Mary 2**, sailing out of New York on June 30th and stopping in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Boston (for the 4th of July celebration) and Newport, RI. Details are in the office; talk to Michael Wellner for more information.



- Finally, in the fall, we are planning a long weekend in **Philadelphia**, home to many museums and other attractions. If you think you'd be interested in a spending time in the City of Brotherly love, please let Karen Levin know. Bon voyage!

CultureQuest

February 8

Museum of Arts and Design. This will be a tour of the exhibition *The Future of Craft: Part I and Part 2*.

February 22

Museum at Fashion Institute of Technology. This will be a tour of *Exhibitionism: 50 Years of the Museum at FIT*.

March 15

The Neue Galerie. This will be a tour of the exhibition *The Self-Portrait from Shiele to Beckmann*.

March 29

MoMA. This will be a tour of the works of the *Fauves* on display at the museum.

April 12

American Museum of Natural History. This will be a tour spotlighting the *Rose Center for Earth and Space* led by Quest member Michael Hamburg, docent at the museum.

Adventures in Dining

with Frank Montaturo

On November 29th, a day auspicious for dining out, a group of adventurous Quest diners found their way to *Sripraphai Thai Restaurant* in Woodside. For some this was the first time navigating the culinary wonderland that is Queens, passing food markets offering jack fruit and purslane, at prices not to be found in Manhattan. Our prix-fixe menu covered the gamut: ground pork salad, with mint chilis and lime; drunken noodles; roast duck green curry, with pineapple and coconut milk; sautéed seafood; trout in tomato sauce; and Thai eggplant, sautéed with tofu garlic chili and basil. All agreed that the food was good and the price was right. But it was the company made the occasion special. Diners included Frank Montaturo, Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Ethel Sheffer, Leslie Fenchel, Anita Hunter, Dolores Raeben, Ruth Kovner and Yona Rogosin. But, of course, the success of our initiative depends upon willing adventurers with open spirits and hearty appetites. Please consider joining us the next time. And do ponder this quote from MFK Fisher: "*First we eat, then we do everything else.*"



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 the bottom of insert page.



Profile

Deborah Yaffe has worked and volunteered in the fields of education, civil rights, book publishing, photography and library research. At Queens College, summer of 1963, she was one of 16 students who went to Prince Edward County, VA when Virginia closed the public schools in response to Brown vs. the Board of Education. White children had private academies and black children had nothing. Deborah's group set up tutoring centers for the black children and lived within the community.



Deborah's first job was in book production at Harper & Row, where she divided her time between editorial work and budget, sales and contracts. She also photographed authors for book jackets. She started a small photography business and then left Harper to become a professional photographer. After five years of this, she was broke and needed a new direction. So, at age 38, she became a librarian to support the photography, but instead found that being a librarian was exactly what she should be doing.

She was a corporate business and finance research librarian for 25 years. Her last job before retirement was at McGraw-Hill where she did business research and was the researcher for the Education Division.

In retirement, Deborah has volunteered as a GED tutor and ESL instructor. Currently, she is a Friday volunteer at The Morgan Library & Museum doing special projects in the Printed Books department. The rest of the week she attends Quest, which is another joy.

Profile

Karen Neuberg grew up in Brooklyn and Massapequa. She has lived in Brooklyn since graduating college and joined Quest this past September. Since her 2006 retirement as a librarian/information specialist in public, then non-profit, then corporate settings, she's kept busy writing and being part of the NYC poetry scene, taking classes at The Art Students League, spending time with family and friends, and going to museums, exercise classes and gardening. She is a member of 350Brooklyn and volunteers her time to do research around issues of energy, climate change and eco-justice. She's looking forward to getting to know others at Quest and participating in more classes and excursions.



Q News Staff

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Editor in Chief
Carolyn McGuire

Copy Editing
Martha Drezin

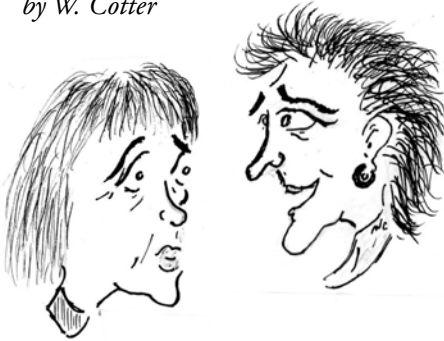
Consultant and Proofreading
Michael Wellner

Photo Assistant
Steve Allen

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

Q-Toon by W. Cotter



"Trump has really improved my vocabulary. Now I know words like braggadocio, xenophobia and kleptocracy."

Here I Am...

1. Joyce West; 2. Lorraine Weberg; 3. Steve Koenig; 4. Helen Saffran; 5. June Jacobson; 6. Bob Reiss; 7. Michael Wellner

Who's Doing What

Pete and Judy Weis spent the first week of December snorkeling at the beautiful coral reef, Gardens of the Queen, about 50 miles south of Cuba. They knew it was the best coral reef remaining in the Caribbean which, according to them, isn't saying much, but it greatly exceeded their expectations. They spent the week on a boat with a group of nine people who were mostly in the Quest age demographic, along with guides and Cuban hosts and crew. They spent most of mornings and afternoons in the water, visiting different parts of the enormous reef and also the mangroves, whose roots hosted an impressive community of attached animals. They report, "It was all marvelous!"

Ellen and Bob Gottfried went on a two-week trip to Panama City and Boquete. They were joined by two of Bob's California cousins. The highlights of the trip included a partial transit of the canal, a trip with local resident guides to two native villages, an international flower festival and a birding excursion.

A wonderful trip to Cuba in early February for ten days will find **Estelle Selzer** on a small sailboat cruising the Caribbean. For six nights she will sail around the island and then dock in Havana for four nights. The focus of the trip is the culture of Cuba and is meant to be an exclusive people to people adventure.

Michael and Marva Wellner enjoyed Martinique for a week in January. It's a Road Scholar trip and **Leslie Goldman** and **Michael Goldstein** enjoyed the warmth as well.

Sarasota is a prime destination for **Stan** and **Nannette Leiblein**. A wonderful spot for theatre, opera and fantastic restaurants, not to forget the lovely beach. A fun spot for a January vacation. Ringling Brothers Circus museum is a feature of Sarasota.

Once again **Steve Allen** and **Caroline Thompson** are trekking through India.

This year **Paul Adler** visited Scandinavia and especially visit the Vigeland Park in Oslo, Norway. This park is the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist. We wait to hear from Paul.

Creative Corner

Wait for Spring by Betty Farber

On a weary winter night
Memories are quick to spring,
Cat-like, to the waiting mind
And settle down to dream...

And while the winter waits outside,
With words to sigh, sad songs to sing...
I and my dreams beside the fire
Can stretch and sleep and wait for spring.

Quest Visits the Rubin by Dena Kerren

On Friday, November 30th, 2018, as part of the Friday Museum program, a group of twenty Questers visited the Rubin Museum of Art. The building, housed in the former Barney's Department store on 17th and 7th Avenues, is architecturally stunning and an ideal site to house the Rubin's treasures from Tibet and Himalayan Asia.

We toured the exhibition "A Lost Future" by artist Matti Braun that focuses on the screenplay "The Alien" by Bengali filmmaker Satyajit Ray (1921-1992). This three-part exhibit challenges existing histories and speculative futures across cultures and in Bengal—a culturally rich region divided between present-day India and Bangladesh.

Our group was guided through the exhibit by two knowledgeable and inspired young docents who encouraged us to participate throughout the exhibit. We enjoyed lunch at the museum's Cafe Serai followed by a visit to their amazing gift shop. The Museum offers many activities throughout the week, including Friday night concerts.

Holiday Luncheon



Friday, December 7th at noon, nearly 135 Quest members, which was for us a record number, gathered for our annual year-end Holiday Luncheon. This year's event was held at the very delightful *Nino's Ristorante* on First Avenue & 73rd Street, in Manhattan's Upper East Side. Judging by the number

of people still drinking and schmoozing at nearly 3:00 o'clock, we deem it to be a big success. Thanks go to Bob Hartmann and Michael Wellner for making all the arrangements. If you have any ideas for a location for next December's party, please let Bob or Michael know.