

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

October 2018

A Note From the President



It is hard to believe that two months have passed since we began our semester on September 4.

Quest Council

met in September and October, and we have been very productive. Council passed a resolution unanimously, which grants our founding members lifetime

status, permitting them to attend Quest free of cost for the rest of their lives.

The 25th anniversary of Quest will be marked in 2020, and the Council has authorized the formation of a special committee to plan a celebration of our silver anniversary. The committee will be co-chaired by Jane Lubin and Michael Wellner, and its other members are Bob Hartmann, Marian Friedmann, and Howard Salik. As the committee formulates its plans, we will all be updated. As part of

the celebration, our founding members will be celebrated.

We have been extremely fortunate in attracting numerous new members, many of whom have already stepped up to make Quest a better place. If you see a new member, identifiable by the red ribbon holding their Quest ID, please introduce yourself and be welcoming. I wish everyone a joyous and happy Thanksgiving.

– Bob Gottfried

QuestCommunity & QuestBusiness. What's the Difference?

QUEST members are sometimes confused regarding when to use the google group QuestCommunity and when to use QuestBusiness. These simple rules should help:

- Use QuestBusiness emails for Quest-related business. For example, you should use QuestBusiness when looking for presenters or seeking input on a new course. Essentially any message dealing with classes should go through QuestBusiness.
- Use QuestCommunity when discussing issues of the day, informing members or an upcoming concert, looking to share a car service to Quest, etc.

And remember, in most cases you need respond to only the sender of the google groups message, not to all Quest members. Any questions? Contact Joyce Hinote (coordinator, QuestCommunity) or Wayne Cotter (coordinator QuestBusiness).

CultureQuest

- Oct 26** MOMA tour of Charles White exhibition
- Nov 16** Morgan Library & Museum: Tintoretto
- Nov 30** Rubin Museum: Shezad Dawood, The Otolith Group, and Matti Braun
- Dec 7** Asia Society: Modern Art for a New India

Freshman Class

Freshman Class Meeting: There will be four Freshman Class Meetings in October and November. They will be October 17th, October 30th, November 13th and November 27th. All meetings will be held at Noon in Room 27. For more information contact Betty Farber and Pam Gemelli.

Quest Travel Update

by Michael Wellner

Your Travel Committee has been busy planning trips to destinations near and far. Here is what's on the horizon:

Day Trips & Long Weekends to Nearby Places:

- **Kykuit:** We have scheduled two separate dates, one in the fall (November 2nd) and one in the spring (likely May 2nd, confirmation to follow), for a visit to the Rockefeller family home in Tarrytown, NY. If you would like to join either group, please stop by the office to sign up. Cost is \$26 person.
- **Philadelphia:** Many Quest members have expressed interest in an overnight or two-night weekend trip to the City of Brotherly Love and its many art and history museums. Our plan is to leave New York by Amtrak on a Friday morning and spend one or two nights in a center-city hotel. We'll plan visits to the Barnes Museum and at least a few other attractions. A spring date, late March or April, is most likely. If you are interested, please let Karen Levin know. She is a Philadelphia native and point person for this trip.
- **Washington, DC** and the African-American History Museum: We have been advised

that all requests for group visits are temporarily on hold. They have been overwhelmed by group requests, and for now are not accepting any new groups. Stay tuned—this remains on our “to do list.”

- A one-week “Southern Charm” tour, from **Jacksonville, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina**, featuring stops in Jekyll Island, Savannah, and Charleston, June 1st –9th: We begin in Jekyll Island, Georgia. A tram takes us to a tour of the Jekyll Island. Next, we travel to St. Simons Island, another fabled **Golden Isle**. Then to historic Savannah. Here we'll take in the ambiance of the “Old South” with a trolley tour highlighting Savannah's sprawling Historic District. Finally, we'll traverse the picturesque coastline on our way to historic Charleston. Prices begin at just \$2,684 per person and include round-trip airfare from New York. More information is available in the office.

Longer Trips to Faraway Places

- A seven-night independent trip to **London**, leaving May 18th: We will arrange our own itinerary, book theatre tickets, tours, an English tea, and whatever else we choose to do either individually or as a group. We already have rooms reserved at

the Strand Palace Hotel right in the middle of Covent Garden. Approximate cost is double, \$1600, and single, \$2200, both including airfare and breakfast. Seventeen Questers have already signed up for this trip (*see Carolyn McGuire*).

- A ten-day adventure to **Morocco**, January 9–19, offered by Collette Tours: This 11-day tour covers the highlights of Morocco and includes Casablanca, Rabat, Fez, Sahara Desert, High Atlas Mountains and Marrakesh. The cost is \$2499 double (\$700 single supplement). Airfare is additional. For more information pick-up a flyer in the lunchroom and/or office.

- A five-day Road scholar trip to **Quebec**, August 12–17, 2019. We'll explore old Quebec's Upper & Lower Towns, and its quiet neighborhoods; visit the Musee National des Beaux Arts; and enjoy a special dinner at the famed Chateau Frontenac. The price is just \$1,699 double (single supplement \$410). To enroll, please call Road Scholar at 1-800-322-5315, reference program #19748, starting August 12th, and note that you are a Quest member. Also, if you enroll, please let Michael or Carolyn know... And practice your French!

Q-Toon

by W. Cotter



“A new member just asked me if I’m “woke.” I’m not sure what that means but I think it has something to do with falling asleep in class.”

Regal Princess Bon Voyage Party

On Pier 12 in Brooklyn, the *Regal Princess* was docked for the afternoon of September 29th. Twenty five Questers were invited to a Bon Voyage Party. We all arrived at 11 AM and were given a tour of this beautiful ship complete with pools, theatres, bars and wonderful shops. A three-course delicious lunch was



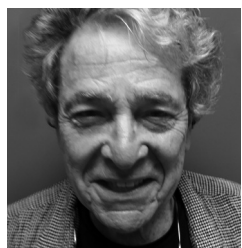
served with complementary wine. Quest was sponsored by Kate McGrath of Traveledge, the agency Quest is involved with in planning a number of our trips. The *Regal* sails with 5000 guests and has 17 decks, 3 dining rooms and a number of bar/lounges. The ship was quite impressive and we all enjoyed our time before going home after a lovely day.

Profiles



Arlene Curinga I retired and moved into Manhattan 9 years ago. I'm very happy with this move. I enjoy theater, playing bridge, museums and walking. I have been a volunteer at the Rubin Museum of Art for 7 years and also attend coop community meetings in my neighborhood.

I love getting together with friends and family. I spend two days a week babysitting my beautiful grandsons, age 3 and 6 who are fun and exhausting at the same time.



Stephen Rosen trained in nuclear astrophysics and cosmic radiation. He learned relativity from Professor Banesh Hoffmann, friend and colleague of Albert Einstein, and began speaking regularly about Einstein and relativity to general audiences. Now, he's transforming these talks into "Albert Einstein Sings the Great American Songbook." Stephen hopes to present this musical revue about Einstein's life and work at Quest. He and his wife, Celia Paul, wrote *Career Renewal*. Stephen also wrote a memoir, "Youth, Middle-Age, and You-Look-Great!"



Donna K. Ramer is a semi-retired communications professional who specializes in crisis management and communications strategy and training. With a long history volunteering, she is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association and currently chairs the Content Committee for the Association's Annual Leadership Conference. She is also an active volunteer with Fund for a Better Waterfront (Hoboken), a member of The Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital and tutors high school seniors who need extra support writing their college essays. At Quest, Donna is excited to continue learning and meet interesting people.



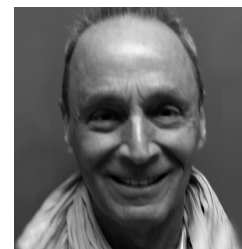
Karen Staulcup is a born and bred Brooklynite, currently living in Greenwich Village. She has had careers in Music Therapy and Hospital Administration and is currently semi-retired from her own business in Health Care Recruitment. Her passion is researching, planning and taking exotic trips. She is leaving for Bhutan and Nepal on October 24th.



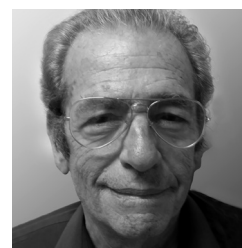
Ethel Sheffer has a rich background as an urban planner. She has taught urban planning as well as political science. She continues to teach part time in Columbia University's Graduate Planning Program. She is also a Commissioner on the NYC Public Design Commission and remains involved in a variety of community issues. She is a lover of the performing arts, especially theatre, and has been active in developing Symphony Space as a key part of New York City's cultural life.



Mort Sheinman is a Bronx-born retired reporter and editor at *Women's Wear Daily* and *W* magazine. He profiled many well-known personalities, from Alistair Cooke to Zero Mostel. He also wrote and photographed "adventure travel" magazine pieces (trekking in Europe, Asia and the US). He is a member of the CCNY Communications Alumni Hall of Fame. He is now taking classes in Shakespeare, acting and film. He is also planning Quest trips to Martinique and London.



Frank Montaturo retired after many years of reasonable success teaching the pleasures and traps of the subjunctive. All too late, he realized that retirement was the career he was destined for. Since then, he is usually engaged in enjoying a meal or planning his next one. He remembers fondly a rabbit stew savored unashamedly amidst the ruins of a medieval village on Corfu this summer. He was wise not to have chosen the moussaka. Frank can be found on odd evenings in Off Broadway theatres. He has recently been nominated for an Obie for Usher of the Year.



Larry Gulotta I'm a native of NYC, born in Bushwick, Brooklyn. I worked for NY State in public service. My specialty is affordable housing finance. I retired on August 30th and I landed at QUEST. My interests include philosophy, political science, Italian language and culture, art history, buildings & architecture. I'm a classical music fan and also enjoy country music. I'm looking forward to some QUEST sponsored museum trips. My family has lived in Park Slope for 33-years. I have two sons and one grandchild (age 4 months).

The Role of Deformity Masks in African Cultures:

The Ann Goerdts Collection

Our own Quest member, Ann Goerdts, has a collection of African masks that will be in a show at Queensborough Community College Art Gallery from October 12 to January 11, 2019. Ann provides a vivid description of the show:

"Some African cultural groups have worn masks with images that appear to be related to deformities caused by diseases. Like most African masks, these particular carvings are not associated with the living, but with spirits of ancestors, nature or of the gods. The masked performers often serve to emphasize values of the community. They can reinforce social order, settle disputes or clarify what is not acceptable behavior. When not in use, African sculptures may be hidden or kept in sacred locations where they may be used for divination.

This collection has deformity masks and figures from nine countries and identifies eleven diseases or conditions that existed in Africa and may have influenced the form of these carvings. An examination of the way in which each country used such sculptures shows the various roles they played.

Although this presentation suggests possible relationships between specific masks or figures and specific diseases or conditions, it also acknowledges that there have been multiple influences, not the least of which is the ingenuity and creativity of the carvers."

For more information, speak to Ann.



From Nigeria



*From Democratic
Republic of Congo*



From Tanzania

Creative Corner

Story for Mothers

by Betty Farber

When my daughters were small
One of their favorite stories
Was about a turtle
Whose mother would caution him
About the dangers in the world.

"Don't touch that stove,"
His mother would say,
"It's hot and could burn you."
Then he would touch it
And say, "Ooh, it's hot!"

Or, "That water is too cold,"
His mother would say,
"Stay out of it. You'll freeze."
He would go anyway,
And say, "Ooh, it's cold!"

My daughters used that turtle
As their role model.
They dipped their fingers and toes
Into marriages and careers
Their mother warned them against.

They made their own way
Into meaningful lives,
Which only goes to prove
That in our family,

Turtle knows best.

CultureQuest in Cold Spring

by Linda Downs

On Friday October 12th as part of the Friday Museum program, CultureQuest visited the private museum called Magazzino Italian Art in Cold Spring, New York. Twenty four Quest members gathered at Grand Central and took the Metro North train along the Hudson River in the brilliant and crisp fall weather. We were met by the Magazzino van which drove us to this jewel of a museum on Route 9A east of Cold Spring, NY. Magazzino was founded by Nancy Olnick (the daughter of the real estate magnate and major art collector, Robert S. Olnick) and Giorgio Spanu, a veterinarian born in Sardinia, in order to increase the recognition and understanding of Post War and Contemporary Italian art in the U.S. The building was acquired by Olnick and Spanu

from an existing computer manufacturing warehouse. (Magazzino means 'warehouse' in Italian.) The collection on view is devoted to Arte Povera, an Italian art movement initiated in the 1960's by artists who utilized everyday objects such as rocks, rags, twigs, coffee, found objects, embroidery in a variety of works. All the items express the contemporary concerns of the '60s such as colonization, trade, dwellings—as well as abstract constructs about weight and gravity, aesthetic contrasts between finely painted canvas juxtaposed to rough-hewn marble. The museum was designed by the Spanish architect Miguel Quismondo who complimented the art work with generous skylights, large windows that frame sections of the woods and gardens surrounding the museum and

continued on insert

Who's Doing What



Myra Nissen party. On a lovely Monday afternoon in September, over 50 Questers gathered in the Quest lunchroom for a gala Wine and Cheese party for Myra Nissen. The

wine flowed and the cheese, crackers and delicious cupcakes were wonderful. We all had a great time. Myra will be moving to Kalamazoo, Michigan to be closer to her daughter Thisbe and her family. While there, Myra will be in a lovely apartment and will be enrolled in a Lifelong Learning center similar to Quest. Hopefully, it will be nearly as satisfying for her as Quest has been. Myra will be missed by all of us.

Martha Drezin and **Wayne Cotter** both spent some time in Russia this summer. Martha and her husband Alan spent three

days in St. Petersburg and four days in Moscow in August, while Wayne and his wife Susanne visited St. Petersburg for two days in September. Highlights for Martha included the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. She also enjoyed chatting with the Russian people she met. For Wayne, the Hermitage's Impressionist art collection, the Fabergé Museum and Peterhof Palace provided his most memorable moments.

You never know who you're going to meet in New York but you'll always meet Questers. On Wednesday October 10th, **Carolyn McGuire** was at *Jazz at Lincoln Center* attending a performance of the 29th Annual NY Cabaret Convention at the Rose Theater. She ran into **Leslie Goldman** while waiting for the elevator. Then along came **Karen Levin** a few minutes later. Questers are everywhere in New York and it's fun to see them wherever you may be.

CultureQuest in Cold Spring *continued from back page*

contemplative pools of rocks. Bob Reiss presented a lecture on Arte Povera the previous Monday and familiarized us with artists such as Alighieri Boetti, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Marisa and Mario Merz and Janis Kounellis. After the museum visit, the Questers had a delicious lunch at Cathryn's Tuscan Restaurant. Molto gustoso!



Kindly Elephant



Loretta Menger just returned from 16 days in five countries in Southern Africa. A highlight of the trip for Loretta was at an elephant sanctuary where the picture was taken. After scratching her leg on the brush and drawing blood, Loretta's new "friend" took his trunk and stroked her leg to sooth it.

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Seamus Scanlon in Japan



Seamus Scanlon at the Irish Embassy in Tokyo with translator, producer, and director.

Almost three years ago a famous Japanese producer on holiday in New York visited the Drama Book Shop. There he spotted the ominous-looking cover of the *McGowan Trilogy*, written by an Irish playwright living in New York. The producer was intrigued and bought the book. He never heard of Seamus Scanlon but soon would get to know him very well. On the 13-hour flight back to Japan, he read the script and the rest is history.

Our own Seamus Scanlon, Librarian at CWE, was invited to stage his play in Japan, June 29th–July 19th, during the summer of 2018. It was staged in three venues; Aichi, Hyogo and Tokyo, in 600 to 800 seat theatres. In Tokyo, the play was sold out for the entire run. Of course it was translated into Japanese, but Seamus could discern words like Mayo, Belfast, Callow Lake, Galway, Thatcher and other phrases. A highlight for Seamus was an Irish prayer recited in Irish by the actress playing May McGowan.

The Irish Embassy and the Irish Studies Department at Waseda University made Seamus feel very welcome while he was there as did the numerous fans of the Japanese movie star Tori (who played Victor). The Irish Embassy held a lunch to celebrate the play with guests from the production and the Irish Studies academics.

The McGowan Trilogy consists of three interrelated one act plays – *Dancing at Lunacy*, *The Long Wet Grass* and *Boys Swam Before Me*. The trilogy was inspired by the violence in Northern Ireland, which was vicious and often intimate. Most killers knew their victims. Punishment shootings (e.g. kneecapping) were common as was execution of suspected informers. Some victims, known as *The Disappeared*, were buried without trace.



A therapist in Belfast found that many of the young killers suffered severe psychological trauma afterwards although at the time they were enthusiastic about their deeds. *Dancing at Lunacy* essentially reflects this fanaticism so the pace is kinetic, frenetic and unrelenting.

The second play, *The Long Wet Grass*, has The Disappeared as a central theme. It also reveals that Victor McGowan can retain some humanity as he struggles with the punishment of a woman who committed a minor infraction by aiding a dying British soldier. The façade of Victor, the ice-cold killer, cracks in this part of the trilogy. In *Boys Swam Before Me*, the third play, the background to Victor's sociopathy is revealed in the interaction with his mother who made him what he is.

Seamus states: "I am so happy that Takeshi Eguchi and CAT chose to produce my play. I am also delighted that the very gifted Eriko Ogawa is directing it. The play was first produced at Nancy Manocherian's Cell Theater in New York and directed by Kira Simring who happens to be a friend and former colleague of Eriko Ogawa. It is a small world. In my hometown of Galway, Ireland, also a small world, there are two great Japanese cafes Kappa Ya and *The WaCafé*. I wrote many versions of *The McGowan Trilogy* in those places, so it feels like a natural journey to travel to Japan to see the play. Those cafes are also an integral part of Galway life, since we also get Japanese students each year who come to learn English and drink Guinness!"