

General Meeting Minutes of Nov. 12, 2014

Welcome Everyone: Michael Wellner, Quest President, addressed the assembly and welcomed all warmly. He indicated that this is a wonderful time for Quest and that our Community has never been stronger. We now have 218 paid members, many of whom are active in class. He gave kudos to Caroline Thompson for her work with the freshman class.

Daily Attendance: Thanks to Steve Allen for keeping tabs on our Daily Attendance. We are aware that more people are attending classes. However, with the added use of Room 15-17 we seem to have room for all members who come to classes. A typical daily attendance is 60 or 70 members and there has never been a day with more than 90 people at Quest.

At this point Michael acknowledged the contributions of the Quest Council.

Quest Council Officers:

Vice President: Carolyn McGuire

Secretary: Ruth Kovner

Treasurer: John Sicree

Other Members of Council: Sandra Southwell, Beverly Francus, Bob Hartmann, Jane Pittson-Chianese, David Lewis, Bob Moore, Wayne Cotter.

Various Behind the Scenes Contributions: Michael, in his role as President, then acknowledged the work of the Committees and Committee Chairs.

Committee Chairs:

June Dwyer – Curriculum Committee

Frieda Lipp – Scheduling Committee

Lila Heilbrunn – Emergency Response Team

Pam Gemelli – Membership Committee

Sandra Southwell – Tech Committee

Q News: Editors, Bob Reiss and Myra Nissen

Coffee at Lunchtime & Parties: Lowell and Elaine Berman and Palma Mahl

Quest Office Secretary - Eneida Perez was included in the acknowledgements. “She is the one person without whom Quest would literally stop”, commented Michael in his acknowledgments.

All were greeted with a round of applause as a “thank you” from the membership in attendance.

Reports from Committee Chairs:

Sandra Southwell – Tech Committee: Sandra reported that the Tech Committee is here to help you. They will even go to your home to help you with Power Point, if necessary. The Committee has been expanded with a few new members.

Members include Steve Allen, Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner, Marian Friedmann, Art Spar, Howard Salik, Doreen De Martini, Peter Fleischman, Wayne Cotter and Sandra Southwell.

June Dwyer - Curriculum Committee: “We are facilitators” she said, and encouraged all Quest members with ideas for new courses to stop any member of the committee to talk over ideas and suggestions they might have.

Committee members are: Steve Allen, Roy Clary, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro, Art Spar, Joan Briller, Leslie Goldman, Caroline Thompson and June Dwyer.

A. Summer School – June reviewed some changes that should improve the Summer School experience. One is to reduce the presentation time to 1 ½ hours from 2 hours. Another is to include a Lunch & Learn session at some of the Tuesday and/or Thursday lunchtimes. Coffee will be available each day.

B. June advised that there is now an “Encore Box” in the lunchroom. Should you hear a particularly good presentation and believe it to be a good candidate for

a Summer School presentation, she asks that you fill in the form and deposit it into the box. Lastly, we will assess the presentations given from Spring Break to Spring Break for possible inclusion during the Summer Session.

- C. As a new policy, we will now give the coordinators the option of making up any classes that had to be canceled because of inclement weather during the Fall or Spring term in the summer, as an afternoon class, if they wish. Our intention is to return the morning Summer School classes to their normal 1 ½ hour format.

Pam Gemelli, Membership - The committee has done a very fine job of attracting and welcoming new members to Quest.

Committee Members include: Yvonne Kress, John Hood, Karin Dick, John Davis, Paul Adler and Bobbi Gold.

Lila Heilbrunn – Emergency Response Team: This is an extremely important Committee responsible for the wellbeing of every member in the event of an emergency. Lila gave an expanded talk of what is expected of all members of Quest should we have an emergency causing us to evacuate the premises. This is vital since some members may need special assistance.

Members of the Committee: Doreen De Martini, David Abrahams, Paul Adler, Mary Anne Donnelly, Loretta Menger, Juliana Lopez, Elaine Berman, Lowell Berman, Bob Hartmann, Palma Mahl and Lila Heilbrunn.

Travel Committee: A formal travel committee headed by Carolyn McGuire has now been established. Others on the committee are Bob Hartmann, Bob Moore and Michael Wellner. We have a few interesting offerings for this year and next including a River Cruise from Budapest to Prague in July; a trip to New Orleans this January, a trip to the Iceland Arts Festival in Reykjavik next May; and possibly a trip next summer to the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario.

Also, those interested in the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, may proceed independently; this will not be a formal trip sponsored by Quest. Carolyn McGuire, Steve Allen, Caroline Thompson and John Sicree have more information.

Need for an Archivist: We have many records, documents and Quest memorabilia going back twenty years or so. These need to be sorted, organized and hopefully digitized. If any member is willing to help with this important project, contact Michael or anyone on the Council. And thank you.

The Hearing Loop: The work done by the CCNY contractor has not been completed. We have not paid for any of the work. Currently we are trying to take over the responsibility for the project from CCNY; if we can accomplish that then we alone can decide how best to proceed with the completion of this long delayed project.

WiFi Access: The CCNY folks are working on this. We hope to have it completed shortly. (Ed note: It was completed two weeks after the meeting.)

Clean up After Lunch: 1) Please, NO FOOD OR COFFEE IN THE AUDITORIUM.
2) Also, Please clean up after lunch, whether in the lunchroom or in a Lunch & Learn class. It is important. And thank you.

Questions or Comments? 1) If a Course is not put into the Encore Box, will they be included for consideration? Answer: Yes.

2) If you've missed a great presentation, can you put an entry into the Encore Box anyway? Answer: No. It is suggested that you find someone who had attended the session, and agreed with you, to put in an entry.

3) When do classes start for the spring term? Answer: Feb. 2, 2015.

4) When is the summer hiatus? Answer: End of the third week in July 2015 until first week in September.

5) What regular courses are ending? Answer: One Act Plays, Utopian Studies and Ballet & Opera.

Special Note: We will have one fewer class next term and we will therefore run the film class without an opposing class.

New Courses : When do we submit proposals for new courses? Answer: Any time. Submit it to the Curriculum Committee. There is a form available in the office.

New Course: Environmental Issues- Conservation, Pollution, Invasive Species, Pesticides, Sewage, Fertilizer and Climate Change, etc. led by Pete and Judy Weis.

Question: Are there arrangements for those who cannot walk down seven flights of stairs? Answer: Take the freight elevator.

Question: Are there lights in the stairwells? Answer: Yes there is Emergency Lighting.

Christmas/Holiday Party: This will take place on Thursday, Dec. 11th at noon in the lunchroom. Lunch will be served. Ruth Kovner and Carolyn McGuire are heading a team. (Ed. Note: Members of Team Party are: Faith Aarons, Bob Bloom, Nina Dioletis, Pam Gemelli, Harriet Greenberg, Juliana Lopez, Ellie Chernick, Jack Gladstein, Anita Hunter, Wally Bloom, Doreen De Martini, Helen Neilson, Loretta Menger, Ruth and Carolyn. Curtis from CCNY will be assisting us in setting up and taking down the furniture for the Party.)

Question: Regarding our Council-set maximum number of members – (225) What happens when number 226 arrives? Answer – He or she will be put on a waiting list.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Ruth Kovner, Council Secretary

Ruth Kovner

