

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

October 2019

A Note From the President



Quest is off to a great start in its 25th anniversary year. We currently have 265 members, including more than 20 members who have joined this

year. Congratulations to Michael Wellner, Chair of the Membership Committee, and all committee members for interviewing, screening and registering our new members. The membership cap, as voted by the membership last spring, is 270, and we do not anticipate adding any additional

members until next semester.

Our new social committee, co-chaired by Lois Cardillo and Marcia Friedland had its first very successful ice cream social on Monday, September 23. Additional events are planned for Tuesday, October 22 and Wednesday, November 20. This is a great opportunity for longer term members to meet and greet our new members.

The curriculum committee, chaired by Joyce West, is hard at work planning our courses for next semester. The committee is also soliciting recommendations for presentations to be repeated in our summer session. Please use the form located in the lunchroom to make your selections, and put them in the red box.

Our General Meeting, in which new courses are introduced and important information is delivered, will be held on Wednesday, November 6 in the auditorium from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. I urge all members to attend.

As President, I try hard to make Quest run smoothly, and respond to members' questions, comments, and complaints in a timely manner. If you need any assistance, please see me in the Quest office from 9:30 to 10:25 any day Quest is in session. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other Quest officers, Marian Friedmann, V.P., Steve Allen, Treasurer, and Carolyn McGuire, Secretary, as well as the at large members of the Quest Council for all their hard work in support of Quest.

— Bob Gottfried

Dates to Remember

Oct 22	Freshman Class Meeting
Oct 22	Halloween Social 2:30 PM
Oct 23	Guest Speaker Colm McCann
Nov 5	Guest Irish Play 2:00 PM
Nov 6	General Meeting
Nov 8	Frick Museum
Nov 20	Guest Speaker John Reddick, Jazz
Nov 21	Freshman Class Meeting
Nov 22	Cooper-Hewitt Museum
Dec 4	Guest Speaker Jamie Bernstein, <i>Famous Father Girl</i> , daughter of conductor Leonard Bernstein
Dec 6	Holiday Party

Adventures in Dining

Thanks to the good efforts of our leader, Frank Montaturo, the Adventures in Dining program had yet another successful outing, this time closer to home (at least for most of us). On Tuesday evening, September 24th, twelve valiant Questers went by subway and bus to the Safari Restaurant, on West 116th Street, for a delicious meal of Somali food. The menu included vegetarian and traditional meat dishes (including roast goat), all of which was heartily enjoyed. It's fair to say that everyone was quite pleased. Watch the announcement for the next event, which we hear may actually be out of state!



Chef Shokib and Frank

How We Remember Dolores

There is no end of wonderful things to say about Dolores Dolan and proof of the pudding is the outpouring of love and rich memories at her standing-room-only funeral last month. We know Dolores donated thousands of hours to a soup kitchen, was a devoted sister, mother, grandmother and had a love story marriage.



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Creative Corner

CHANEL LIPSTICK
by Helen Saffran

I'm stuck on
Chanel lipstick
At \$35 a stick
it should stick
When you snack
But it doesn't
Alack

Philadelphia Here I Come

In mid-September a group of 14 Questers converged on Philadelphia for the weekend. Native born Karen Levin arranged the trip for us and it included some wonderful sites that Philadelphia has to offer.

The highlights of the trip were the beautiful Barnes Foundation and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Both exceptional experiences. We enjoyed group dinners at two non-tourist restaurants but very famous ones with Philadelphians. After our scheduled activities we had a free day and people wandered around to some of the many sites. Howard and Joellen Einbinder visited the Rocky Balboa statue outside the museum and watched the visitors imitate Rocky's fists, walked along a beautiful tree lined boulevard, visited the Liberty Bell.

Stella and Leonard Gold and Betty Farber went to the National Museum of American Jewish History, where they saw a model of the Touro Synagogue in Newport Rhode Island, the George Washington letter embracing freedom and many other interesting exhibits.

MaryAnn and Bob Donnelly went to the Franklin Institute, the Eastern State Penitentiary and the Phillies -Red Sox baseball game.

The weather was beautiful, the city was lovely and the company was wonderful. We all look forward to additional short trips to nearby cities.



CultureQuest at the American Folk Art Museum

by Renee Woloshin

September 27th was a lovely fall day when more than thirty Questers gathered at the American Folk Art Museum for a tour of the exhibition *Memory Palaces: Inside the Collection of Audrey B. Heckler*. The exhibition showcases one hundred and sixty works created by more than seventy artists who represent the field of self-taught art. Quest member John Hood, joined by his wife Laima were our guides. Since they are collectors of folk art and are very knowledgeable of this genre, the tour included fascinating insights about the artworks and the artists in the exhibition. A very unusual sculpture we viewed was of a man which we were surprised to learn was created by intricately wound varied colored insulated wire. For those of us who attended John's presentation last spring on Henry Darger, we were delighted to be able to see one of his paintings in the exhibition. We were amazed by the wonderful works of art collected by Audrey Heckler and our tour was most enjoyable.



Guest Speaker



JAMIE BERNSTEIN

Dec 4 Guest Speaker Jamie Bernstein, *Famous Father Girl*, daughter of conductor Leonard Bernstein

Falderol From The Groaning Board

The Quest Board is considering a proposal for a new and exclusive club. The idea is to turn Adventures in Dining into a limited access group. Membership is bestowed upon completion of a lengthy application form... sample questions: Do you know where to put the coffee in an Italian coffee pot? Do you know how to unscrew an Italian coffee pot? Draw an illustration of an Italian coffee pot. Which of the following would not be found on a French menu: bouillabaisse, quiche, beef bourguignon, Snickers? If you answered bouillabaisse ...you may not proceed to the oral interview. Can you pronounce bouillabaisse?

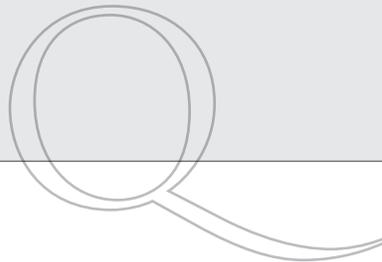
Yes... there is an oral interview. Please tell us about your first experience with ofal?

If you pass, you will be issued your laminated membership card with photo and on the reverse an image of your favorite wine label... Blue Nun not allowed... and an Adventurous Diner T-Shirt... it comes in one size only...XXL.

A final word from our dear Julia: "The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook."

Fake News

- Donald Trump has bought 25 Broadway so we have a permanent home as long as we vote for him.
- Encore presentations this summer will be held at a Broadway Theatre.
- Beginning next semester we will be offered Breakfast along with coffee prepared by an executive chef.
- The Steve Allen science program and new travel agency will offer excursions to the center of the earth.
- The instructions regarding access to the Private Quest Members Page has been expanded to include 10 steps on as many pages.
- Prior to his retirement in 2014, Jim Brook served as the Distinguished Professor of Nonsense on Stilts at New York Law School.
- Rudy Giuliani announced today that he has changed his name to PhillipSpace.



A Visit to El Museo del Barrio

by Ruth Ward

On Friday, September 13th, CultureQuest kindly sponsored a visit by 22 Questers, led by Frank Montaturo and Ruth Ward, to El Museo del Barrio on Fifth Avenue and 106th Street. The exhibit was called “*Culture and the People: El Museo del Barrio, 1969-2019*,” a golden anniversary survey of intriguing art from the collection of a New York museum eager to chronicle its roots, resistance, and resilience in the face of cultural change. The docent-led hour-and-a-half tour was followed by a half-hour art workshop, which enabled participants to feel like indigenous Caribbean Taínos, at least for a short time. After the morning tour and workshop, Questers were invited to stroll through the beautiful Conservatory Garden, Central Park’s only formal garden, on the way to lunch at the West African Teranga restaurant on Fifth Avenue and 10th Street. There Questers build their own meal on West African regional specialties. A special thanks to Frank for discovering this culinary jewel, which is sure to become a favorite of all those who try it.



Excursion to Iran

by Linda Downs



Two Quest members, Steve Allen and Linda Downs, traveled with a small group for a three-week tour of Iran. The itinerary included sites that date from 5,000 BCE to contemporary art of professors in Shiraz.

Our trip began in the northern city of Tabriz and we worked our way to Teheran, the southwestern cities near the Iraq border such as Susa and Hamadan, then to the southeast to Shiraz, Yazd then up to the Safavid capital of Isfahan. We traveled by van and covered about 2,500 miles through deserts, gorgeous mountains and lush pistachio, pear and pomegranate orchards. We were astounded by the ancient ruins of a prehistoric ziggurat, elaborate waterworks and palaces from the time of Darius the Great at Persepolis to Shah Asad of the Savavid Dynasty, of the 15th century CE and through the 19th Qajar Dynasty and the 21st century of the Islamic Republic. The endless invention of design throughout the history was astounding.

The Iranian people were very friendly, welcoming us, asking where we came from, telling us of their connections to the U.S., and giving us lots of friendly smiles. We look forward to sharing the trip with everyone at Quest at a NoonTime Knowledge this semester.

Who Am I?

We turned back the hands of time and sent high school and college pictures and now expect you to recognize who I am... Can you guess ?

The answer located elsewhere in the newsletter.



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Who's Doing What

Steve Koenig's poem "Our Land, Our People," inspired by a Quest museum trip, was just published in CCNY's journal Poetry In Performance 47. It was inspired by the Ford Foundation's Art Gallery exhibit on "Perilous Bodies" visited a year ago by CultureQuest.

Marilyn Weiss will be going to Miami in December with Art Basil, and Ann Goerdt, as guests of friends, after a wonderful Art trip to Spain.

Andrea Irvine recently won a \$1,000 Nursing Education Award—what better place to spend it than in London! In November she will be attending the Tenth European Psychoanalytical Film Festival— theme is The End. Films used to have the words The End on their last frames (as if spectators would not otherwise be aware that it was about time for them to get up and leave the cinema!) In psychoanalysis, there has always been an interest in how to end the open-ended form of therapy—and when, and why, and who should decide about it. In discussions of the Festival's films, links will be made between the way their makers have chosen to end them and the way psychoanalysts end their work with patients. Really interesting material for a Presenter's Choice Class.

Howard Seeman, new QUEST member, Professor Emeritus from CUNY, and former restaurant piano player, is trying to form a little quest-Band to play for fun or for sing-alongs. Any Questers who play or used to play a musical instrument should contact Howard Seeman. They plan to play old standards, from sheet music, a fake book, old ballads: A Foggy Day, Pennies From Heaven, Summer Time, Dixie Land, Sinatra songs, Blues, Broadway Musicals... His theme is "close relationships are what life is about". So far, they have Questers who play or played clarinet Saxophone, piano, tambourine, recorder and singers. More on this in the next issue.



Panny King and **Carol Coburn** just returned from a few weeks on a river cruise through the Rhine River. They sailed from Amsterdam and ended up in Zurich. Great adventures and beautiful scenery and castles along the way were exceptional experiences. Sounds great.

Roy Clary's poem "Father/Mother/Son," which appeared in this year's *Q Review*, was selected by The Americas Poetry Festival of New York 2019 (TAPFNY). Roy read his poem at festivities on October 2 and the poem appears in TAPFNY's Anthology. The Anthology features 34 poets hailing primarily from the Americas with five from the USA. This year, the Festival celebrated Walt Whitman's bicentennial with a three-day series of multilingual readings and conferences. Roy was proud to be part of this important poetry festival.

Marc Kouffman's grandson Noble, age 11, the brother of Sera, age 8, is an off-again, on-again student eager to see the world. So, he stayed on top of our triplex booking at Carnival, which had broken probation for dumping and was threatened with port closures by an irate judge. When Noble read that Carnival's penalty was to be delayed beyond August, he texted me, "We're on our way." The first night at sea there was a loud grinding sound outside our window on the main deck. Noble, unlike his sister, decided he wouldn't be able to sleep and he phoned customer service. They sent a steward who couldn't identify the origin of the problem and promised to check into it. After 30 minutes, Noble called again and another steward arrived with the same disappointing result. Undeterred, Noble called a third time. Lo and behold an engineer was dispatched to our cabin. He listened attentively and concluded that the huge dishwashing machine operating below us was the noisy culprit. Noble's brow wrinkled and he thought for a minute.

His last waking words were, "At least this ship isn't going to sink."



Judy Weis took ten days away from her summer house in Springs to go to England for the 26th International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. She, along with a group of people from

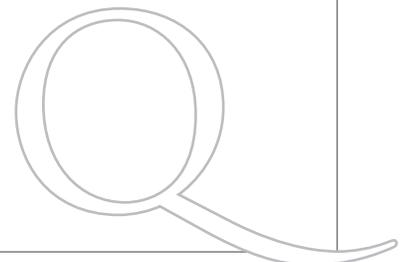
US, England, Holland, Belgium and Canada, participated in the Savoynet Performing Group production of "Princess Ida." They rehearsed all day for a week, enjoyed productions of other shows in the evenings, and had a group dinner. On the day of the show, they moved into the theater in the morning, had dress rehearsal in the afternoon and performed in the evening. The next morning, Judy started on her way home, finally arriving in East Hampton at 9 PM eastern time. Why do such a crazy thing? Because it's fun!

Bob and **Ellen Gottfried** will be going to Kenya for a Safari for 2 weeks in November. Watch out for the elephants!

Boo at the Zoo! In the spirit of Halloween, **Helen Safran** gave a chat about bats and was a Spooky Scientist at the Prospect Park Zoo where she is a docent.

Here I Am...

1. Karen Levin



Bits and Pieces

PHYSICIANS CONSENSUS ABOUT THE WALL

Should the U.S. build Trump's Mexican Wall?

- The Allergists were in favor of scratching but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.
- The Neurologists thought Trump had a lot of nerve but
- Obstetricians felt certain everyone was laboring under a misconception.
- Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.
- Pathologists yelled, "over my dead body!" while
- Pediatricians said, "Oh grow up!"
- Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness while
- Radiologists could see right through it.
- Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and
- Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow
- Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter"

- Podiatrists thought it was a step forward but
- Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea
- Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas and
- Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end the Proctologists won out leaving the entire decision up to the back ends of those in Washington

ATTENTION, BLUE-EYED QUESTERS

It has been reported by a team of geneticists in Denmark that 6,000-10,000 years ago, a gene mutated in such a way that it caused eyes to be blue. Thus, all blue-eyed people have a common ancestor. So, if you have blue eyes, when you come to Quest and see another member with blue eyes, give him/her a hug. You're embracing a long-lost 250th cousin!

Creative Corner

ADVICE FOR TROUBLED TIMES

by Betty Farber

In a time of bleak recession

How to fight against depression?

You'll have no bank account Hereafter

The only thing to save is laughter.

The lack of stocks or bonds or money

Seems minor when your friends are funny.

Can't fund your yearly trip to Crete?

Stretch your legs on a New York street.

Get some inexpensive thrills

In Riverdale or Forest Hills.

When you read the New York Times

And you weep at all the crimes,

Take a page from Scarlett's book.

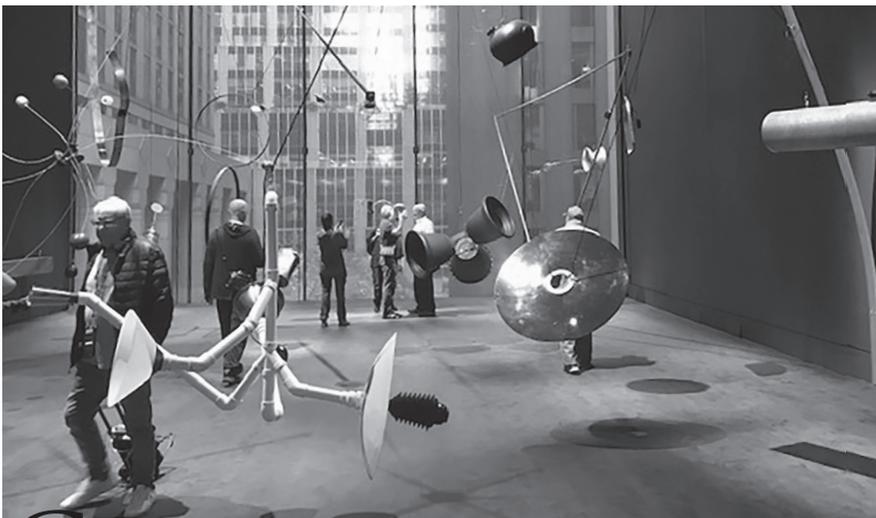
Though you feel you are forsaken,

Don't be killed with pain and sorrow —

Smile and shelve it 'til tomorrow.

Guess Where I Spent the Day?

by Madeleine Brecher



Guess where I spent the day? Hint: It's magical! It sounds just like Costa Rica
Answer: The Rainforest V installation on the 4th floor of the new MOMA wing.

Q-Toon

by Wayne Cotter



*"I volunteered to be a docent
at the Museum of Sex,
but they told me I was overqualified"*