

QUEST NEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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A Note From the President

As you well know by now, Governor Cuomo has closed all CUNY and SUNY schools in New York for the remainder of the Spring semester, and Quest will therefore not be able to hold classes until the beginning of the Summer term, June 2, at the earliest. You will be notified as soon as I know if we will be able to have a Summer session.

You will be receiving the Fall course catalog via email, and one copy of *Q Review* will be physically mailed to all Quest members (thank you Wayne Cotter). Extra copies will be available when we return to 25 Broadway.

Quest's tuition for the 2020-2021 academic year will remain at \$550, but all members who joined before this spring term will receive a credit toward

next year's tuition in an amount to be determined by Council prior to the registration period for next year. All members who joined earlier this spring will receive a credit for the total amount paid, which will be applied to next year's tuition.

We have decided not to hold our gala 25th anniversary party in May, as was originally scheduled. Right now it is tentatively rescheduled for September 25th, but that is subject to possible further delay. We will keep you posted.

The Council and Quest committees are working on other steps to help members stay in contact with one another until we are able to meet again in person, and to help course coordinators and presenters find the best solutions

for rescheduling missed classes. I will keep you informed of these developments as they occur. To make it easier for Quest members to stay in touch with their Quest neighbors, Michael Wellner, Quest's Membership Chair, has e-mailed all of us a membership list sorted by zip code.

The Council voted to postpone the election of new officers and at-large Council members until September. You will find below more information about the election from Gloria Peropat, the Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee.

Finally, if you have any questions, please call me at 917-541-4103, or send me an email at bob@gottfried.net.

– Bob Gottfried

A Note From the Editors

This is the first of what will likely be several electronic issues of *Q News*. Our intention is to bring you current news about Quest on a more frequent basis than we usually do with the printed version. So please watch your e-mail for future editions.

And, as always, if you have any usual items to contribute, please e-mail either Carolyn or Michael, or both. Thank you, stay safe... and keep washing your hands!

– Carolyn McGuire & Michael Wellner

A Note About Elections

With the unexpected changes in our class schedule this term, our elections, previously scheduled for early May, have been moved to Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29th & 30th. As usual, absentee ballots will be available in the office.

Anyone interested in self-nominating for the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, must obtain a support petition of signatures from 40 members (15% of the current membership as stipulated in the bylaws). The petition & a personal statement must be sent to Gloria Peropat, Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee (NEC) no later than APRIL 15th. Her e-mail address is gperopat@gmail.com. For instructions regarding the process of obtaining signatures, please email her as soon as possible.

Anyone interested in self-nominating for the three council members at large positions, must obtain a petition as described above. That petition and a personal statement are due no later than September 10th.

We hope that we will return to Quest on September 8th, as currently scheduled. All nominee statements and photos will be posted at that time. In person presentations by all candidates will be given Monday–Thursday during the week of September 21st, during lunchtime.

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Marketing & Communications Committee

Quest's Marketing and Communications (M&C) Committee recently suggested that Quest encourage more online communication among members during the shutdown, including "hyperlinks, documents and messages designed to educate entertain and inspire."

Council concurs with this suggestion and at last Friday's meeting agreed that QuestCommunity would be the ideal forum for such enhanced conversations. As you know, QuestCommunity already serves as a source of informal communication among members, but through this initiative we hope even more of you will participate.

This means Quest is encouraging members to email responsible items of interest via QuestCommunity. What does "responsible" mean? Well, if a friend forwards you an intriguing link to an article from a source you are unfamiliar with, we urge you to verify the article's authenticity before forwarding it to all QuestCommunity members. One excellent source for separating fact from fiction is snopes.com. Essentially, think before you send.

You may also feel free to send other interesting items such as one of your poems, a prose piece, a work of art, or a slide show or video of a talk you've been working on.

We only ask that you respect other members' points of view and maintain civility when sharing your views and perspectives on QuestCommunity.

Council also recognizes that some QuestCommunity members may not welcome the increased volume of incoming emails during this hiatus. For those members, please be aware that other options are available for receiving email, such as receiving one daily email summarizing the day's messages. You can also opt out of QuestCommunity entirely and choose to rejoin once classes resume and the volume of QuestCommunity emails decrease.

Please contact Joyce Hinote, QuestCommunity Administrator, for details about these options. You can email Joyce at joyce@hinoteny.com

Finally...

Finally, please watch your inbox for the next electronic *Q News*, which will contain the usual items about Quest members, and plans to put some of our classes on-line so that we can share at home. Stay tuned! For now, stay safe, and **wash your hands!**



Creative Corner

Punkboy Blues

by Steve Koenig

i turn on the ceiling fan again
the room feeling too tennessee williams
marla sings "aint that a shame" with the new
orleans gals
and the colored girls sing in germany
the deejay plays "down to love town" again
we step out to the iron-barred terrace
in the cold night air my glasses fogging
again again
drinking mezcal again
in a glass of monkeys but not home
again
the blond boy come to my lips and asks me home
paralyzed in his acid eye
i choke no but thank you
i see him underground waiting for the steam train
just like me but i dont enter his car
the punkboy comes to my lips and asks me
to do him in the street
shirt ripped by hand, pins bridging his chest
and a longer pin through his cheek
paralyzed in his streetfleshpink
i see him underground in the tunnel
purple bulbs blue centers
the tracks silver pins no safety
even at the bottom of the stairs
slipping rumpbump steep and narrow
in snowclad shoes
they asked if i was all right
of course not i said but will be
of course not but will be
just say that i love you
just say you love me
and lay me at the crossroads
again

Steve Koenig is a Brooklyn-born and bred poet, educator, and activist. His poems have appeared in Brooklyn Day of the Poet, Poetry In Performance, Sensations, and Diseased Pariah News. His music writing has appeared in LaFolia.com, Perfect Sound Forever, AllAboutJazz.com and Signal to Noise. He's Editor of AcousticLevitation.org: Journal of Arts and Culture.

