

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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A Note From the President

I am writing to you following the Meet the Candidates Zoom session and the Quest Council meeting. I urge all members who did not Meet the Candidates this morning to attend on Wednesday at 10:30 am. The Nominations and Elections Committee has done an outstanding job in finding six highly-qualified candidates to run for the three vacant Council-at-Large positions. To make an informed decision you should listen to what each candidate has to say and ask questions. Congratulations to Gloria Peropat and the entire NEC for planning and running both Meet the Candidates

presentations and the Quest elections.

Governor Cuomo has not yet decided whether City College will have in-person classes in the Fall. Until he does, no final decision can be made on whether or not Quest will have in-person classes in the Fall. The Curriculum Committee is hard at work putting together a schedule for the Fall, in the event that Quest will be meeting only online. Lead coordinators for Spring 2020 courses have been contacted by Curriculum Committee to determine if those who were unable to give their presentations in the Spring would be ready and able to present in

the Fall via Zoom. I want to personally thank Joyce West, the Chair, and the entire Curriculum Committee for undertaking this difficult assignment.

Finally, my thanks to Bob Reiss, Sharon Krutzel, and the entire online learning committee for rescuing Quest, by enabling our members to present via Zoom. Without their leadership, Quest would be in dire straits.

Please stay safe. I will continue to update you on new developments, as they occur.

– Bob Gottfried

Zoom Team Project Update

by Michael Wellner

The Zoom Team is pleased to report that since we've moved online, we have had about two hundred Quest members participate at one time or another, in one of our online presentations! A very rewarding show of support, indeed. It's been a bit difficult at times, but well worth every minute.

Now, as we start to prepare for a possible fall semester online, we'd like to borrow a line from the old Army recruiters: "*We are looking for a few good women — and men!*" In fact, our Zoom Team needs a few technical assistants to help with a very active fall semester. Our "requirements" are pretty straightforward:

- Your computer needs to have a working camera and microphone.
- Note that Zoom seems to work best with the Google Chrome browser. You need to have that installed.
- You need to have PowerPoint installed on your computer, preferably version 2016 or later.
- A PC or a MAC will work well.

If you think you might like to help out, please e-mail any one of us on the team: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward, Pete Weis, Ellen Shapiro, Jeanne Gold, Victor Brener, and me Michael Wellner! Thank you!

And watch for weekly announcements about our summer schedule — we have a few surprises in store!

Guest Speaker Announcement

by Estelle Selzer

The Distinguished Guest Speaker Committee is pleased to announce that **Lizabeth Cohen**, Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor, will present "Saving America's Cities: A Fresh Look at Urban Renewal," live via Zoom on Wednesday, July 8th. She was originally scheduled to speak during the Spring Semester.

Quest Scholarships for CWE Students

by Bob Gottfried

As most of you know, Quest has been awarding scholarships to deserving CWE students for many years, as part of our desire to be a good partner with them. This year, we have added two scholarships funded by the bequest of Ken Leedom. Last month, I had the honor of representing Quest at the virtual award ceremony; all Quest members had been invited to attend via Zoom. **Myra Rosa** and **Ana Abreu** each received one of the Ken Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Scholarships, and **Vivian Ramos** received the Quest Scholarship.

Who's Doing What to Stay Safe & Sane

Larry Shapiro Except for an occasional drive to recharge my car battery, I haven't left Queens since March 16. (I'm writing this on the 2-month anniversary.) I walk a few miles almost every day on the lightly used trails of nearby Forest Park, and for now this takes the place of more exotic destinations. I am thinking about places I could drive to this summer for a more extended hiking trip: northern New England, the Adirondacks, the Shenandoahs. My social life is mostly on screens, and my neighborhood book club has moved there too. I've continued some of my volunteer teaching via Zoom and FaceTime. I miss you all.

Marilyn Weiss I have stayed in NYC. Have yet to go out to my house in Westhampton Beach. I just felt safer here and less isolated. Hope to get there by the end of the month. The amusing part is that, for the first time in 40 years of living here, I am exploring and using every room. My daily routine: Get out of bed, walk once around the apartment. Brush teeth, walk once around the apartment. Put up coffee, walk once around the apartment. Make bed, walk once around the apartment. Drink coffee, walk once around the apartment. That makes up the major part of my daily exercise.

Betty Farber A new way to exercise my brain: I work with my daughter and son-in-law (who live in Missouri) on a Sunday Crossword

puzzle on FaceTime. We choose a time on Sunday morning. He emails me a copy of an online crossword puzzle in advance. He reads out the clues and we call out the answers as he fills in the squares on his copy as I do the same on mine. We work for an hour together and get most of it completed. One way to stay sane and keep in touch with family.

Patricia Geehr We are sheltering in NJ (not as fortunate as Art Spar to be at our home in Wellfleet). We walk every day. I garden, read, Zoom, cook, bake Jim Lahey's no-knead bread. I am getting ready to move on to sourdough. I take pleasure reading through Road Scholar-Tauck-Viking brochures, planning our next trip whenever it can be.

Despite all this, I have some down days, alleviated by calls from my grandsons. It's interesting that, after all the years of worrying about our sons, they are now worrying about us. They live in MD and CA, so we are fortunate to have our neighbor shopping for us. When they insisted, I told my husband, "I guess they regard us as old." And I am beginning to think of myself as old... not good.

Bob Gottfried I am reading many books, playing Scrabble and Words With Friends, going on walks in my neighborhood, and reading the news on my computer. One side line is baking... I baked my first 'from scratch' cake for my son's birthday.

Lucille Granfort Sal and I walk each day, a couple of times a day, usually up Fifth Avenue facing the traffic and down Madison facing the traffic. If we pass a slow-moving bus, we give the driver a thumbs up. They always respond, either with a couple of honks or their own thumbs up. Everyone seems to want to stay in touch!

Steve Rubin and his fiancée, Anna Kunkes, have found their "crafty" side. Here are some samples of their work. Don't worry. Only the picture is lopsided, the objects d'art are not.



Barbara Gelber We celebrated my birthday in April with a Zoom gathering of our four children and assorted spouses, two granddaughters, six grandsons, two granddogs, two grand Guinea pigs, one grandcat... and a Chanukah candle in a large mushroom.

Same Zoom guest list for Arthur's birthday in early May. This time, the Chanukah candle was in a huge strawberry.

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 elsewhere in this newsletter



Recipes in the Time of Pandemic

Green Pea & Mint Soup for Four

by Frank Montaturo

- Some butter...4 tblsp
- Scallions ...4 chopped
- Good amount of Fresh or frozen peas
3 cups
- 2 1/2 cups veg stock
- Fresh mint to taste...plus more
to garnish
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- Salt & pepper
- Light cream...to serve

Melt butter... add scallions to brown softly
Add peas, stock and chopped mint and
bring to boil...till peas are tender
Remove 3 tblsp peas for garnish
Blend soup adding milk
Cool in fridge

Serve with a swirl of cream, garnish
with mint and reserved peas.
Croutons?

Shortbread Cookies

by Panny King

- 2 cups flour
 - 1 cup butter
 - 1/2 cup confectioner's sugar
 - Pecans
- Cream sugar and butter; work in
flower and form into balls the size of a
walnut. Place on an ungreased cookie
sheet. Press with a fork, put a pecan
on each cookie and bake at 350° until
brown. Sprinkle with colored sugar for
Christmas cookies,

Carrot Charlotte

by Ellen Gottfried

Preheat oven to 325°
• 1/2 cup oil (neutral)
• 1/3 cup brown sugar
Mix oil and sugar.
• 2 eggs
Add eggs and mix
• 1 cup flour
• 1 tsp baking powder
• 1 tsp cinnamon
Add to liquids and mix
• 2 cups finely grated carrots
Add and mix
• 1/2 cup raisins (optional)
Add and mix
Grease with butter and flour an
8 x 5 inch baking dish
Bake 1 hour

Fashions of the Pandemic

by Marilyn Weiss



When Marilyn finished disinfecting her house with Clorox, she noticed that she had
created a new fashion statement in what she was wearing.



Shelter in Place Fashions



Creative Corner

Hope

by Stella Gold

On West End Avenue
Above a public garage
Twelve cherry trees
Overlook the deserted street.
This large bouquet
Of pink flowers
Is alien to the pain
Of the people in the City
Decimated
By a lurking virus.
This offering of Beauty
Does not sooth the anguish
Of the destroyed lives,
Yet the blossoms
Are a reminder
That Spring follows Winter
And that the cycle of the year
Will bring us the joy of new lives.

Missing My Wonderful Summer Vacation		Humor in the Time of Virus
<p>Marilyn Weiss Where I didn't travel was to Paris, and a Tauck river boat from Lyon to Aix with my twins to celebrate their 66th birthday. It was to be a very special trip, just the three of us. No spouses. Needless to say, it didn't happen. But we were virtually saying, "Today we are in Paris," etc. Big disappointment.</p> <p>Carolyn McGuire Once again, we planned to be in Ireland for the Galway International Arts Festival and the Yeats Summer Program in Sligo during July and August, and then visit the Irish family. Well, needless to say, everything has been cancelled... except for my air fare, which I'm trying to get refunded OR switched to 2021. I have high hopes that we'll be fine for the trip next year. I think the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake through Road Scholar will be cancelled for August and, of course, our trip to Florida in March was cancelled. So, in general your Travel Committee chairperson is <i>staying home</i>...</p> <p>Jean Owen Summer cancellations: my family planned to gather at my brother's house in Nantucket. But Nantucket doesn't have the coronavirus and doesn't want to get it. So if we go there, we would have to go into quarantine, and we would not be allowed to go to the beach. Who wants to go to Nantucket if you can't go to the beach? I was also planning to visit my late husband's family in Denmark and Sweden. But who wants to sit on a plane these days for seven hours?</p> <p>Bob and Ellen Gottfried We postponed until next year a two-week trip to Bulgaria and Berlin. Our three-week trip to the Chautauqua Institution was cancelled. We had to cancel trips to see our grandsons scheduled for March and April.</p> <p>Bernice Schwartz My 2020 travel plans to Oberammergau have been postponed by the town until summer 2022. That's good, because the Passion Play is performed every ten years. In 2010 I was caring for my mom, and in 2000 did not have enough seniority for a summer vacation. Cannot plan ahead for 2030.</p>	<p>Andrea Irvine Today - I should be sitting in an Alaskan Airlines aisle seat en route to Seattle, WA - from there I was to travel by ferry to Victoria, Vancouver Island - then bus up to Nanaimo to spend a week with my cousin Paddy. Disappointing for both of us - she is the senior consulting doctor in addition to the prison system - staff take good care of her when she visits - Paddy is 82 years old.</p> <p>Eileen Kelly My stepdaughter Julie Glauboch & I had plans to spend a week in June at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz NY, and had to cancel due to the Virus. Hopefully we can do it in the Fall. It's very disappointing.</p>	<p><i>Contributed by: Lieje tenHouten, Lucille Granfort, Diane Crothers, Vivian Oliver, Steve Rubin,</i></p> <p>Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent COVID-19 but to stop eating.</p> <p>If you keep a glass of wine in each hand, you can't accidentally touch your face.</p> <p>This cleaning with alcohol is total b.s. <i>Nothing</i> gets done after that first bottle.</p> <p>Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?</p> <p>You think it's bad now? In 20 years our country will be run by people home schooled by day drinkers...</p> <p>My Mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by laying in the bed all day, but look at me now! I'm saving the world!</p> <p>I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine lettuce. Ahh, the good times...</p> <p>Whoever owes you money, go to their house now. They should be home.</p> <p>It is suggested that Governor Cuomo make the raccoon the city's/state's official mascot for 2020 — it washes its hands constantly, always wears a mask appropriately and the name raccoon is an anagram for Corona.</p> <p>Lament upon opening the refrigerator door: Oh dear, no beer!</p> <p>From the did you realize? department: Did you realize that <i>Dump Ton Lard</i> is an anagram for Donald Trump and <i>I Need Job</i> is an anagram for Joe Biden.</p>
Who's Behind The Mask?		
1. Larry Shapiro , 2. Ilene Winkler 3. David Judlowitz		
Q News Staff		
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Here I Am...		
1. Giuliana Lopes, 2. Loretta Menger, 3. Jeanne Gold, 4. Sheryl Harawitz		

Cuddling in the Park

by Lucille Granfort



One day, our usual walk got colder and windier than we anticipated, so we hunched together on a bench, just about buried in each other, black jackets, black sweats and masks. A youngish woman passing by stopped and asked if she could take our picture. We guessed she couldn't believe her eyes! She focused her serious looking camera (not an iPhone), snapped our photo, and moved on. Probably some day, when she's explaining to her grandchildren how bad the pandemic was, she'll show them the photo and say, "It was so bad that this is what people looked like!"

The Pigeon and Me

by Frieda Lipp

A couple of weeks ago I took a walk to a large Asian market that carries my favorite rice vinegar. On the way back I sat to rest for a while on one of those benches along Broadway. I'm sitting quietly contemplating life when here comes a lone pigeon that settles on the pavement about three or four feet away from me, eyeing me. We stared at each other for some time during which it flew away several times and then returned. I began to feel we were somehow communing, and even imagined that given time we might adopt each other. A few days later I am talking with my fourteen year old grand nephew. We are talking about the crazy pandemic world. I am now telling him about communing with the pigeon, about how we were somehow communicating with each other. The wiseass says, "ya know, the bird mighta thought you were a statue." Ya gotta love the kid.



Who's Behind The Mask?

by Beth Callendar

In "Who's Doing What" we usually show members engaged in travel and other exciting adventures. But since our adventures are now limited to food shopping and neighborhood walks, Beth Callendar came up with something different that we can all relate to. See if you can guess "Who's Behind the Mask?"



Make America... Great Britain Again

submitted by Steve Allen



To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA, and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately.

The Upside of Sheltering in Place

compiled by Beth Callender

Susannah Falk Lewis

Currently my husband, Michael, and I are living in our country house on the Upper Delaware. During this period of 'staying home,' it is wonderful to be able to watch spring come to the countryside and to be able to take long walks.

I want to express my appreciation for the courses that have been offered online. They have been extremely interesting and well-presented. During this period, they offer an important place to think about larger matters than our restricted lives. I hope we will get back to meeting again in person; in the meantime, this works very well.

Laura Lopez

My day now begins with a careful news scan and the daily updates of Governor Cuomo (our nation's best pandemic leader so far), followed by many hours online with a cornucopia of cultural resources, events, talks, and town halls, in addition to Quest classes and French meet-ups. Treasure beyond measure!

I am spending more time on the phone and at Zoom gatherings with family and friends, yet the human need to connect in person runs deep. I proposed a Mother's Day picnic and enjoyed a socially-distanced meal with friends.

Before the pandemic, I spent more time doing than reflecting. Now the opposite is true. The isolation has made more precious the time I have.

Judy Weis

I have been working from home since I "officially" retired, so the writing and editing go on as before. Meetings and conferences are virtual, and one benefit is that I can "attend" thesis defenses I wouldn't have been able to otherwise.

Major losses in my life are the chorus rehearsals that stopped in March, and our May 2 concert at Alice Tully Hall, which has

been postponed until October. I don't think the concert will happen since a group of people singing in a room is a very good way to spread viruses. Some people predict that singing groups like choral societies, opera groups, and musical theater won't be able to resume safely until a vaccine is widely available. Very sad.

Bob Gottfried

One good thing about the enforced isolation is that my son Bradley, who resides in Manhattan, is staying in Plainview with Ellen and me, and working from here. He turned 40 during his stay and I have had the pleasure of spending quality time with him during and after dinner, on the weekends, and while we take walks together. I have also spent a lot of time with Ellen, which is always enjoyable.

Arlynn Greenbaum

Here's one good thing about the pandemic: It has cured me of my FOMO (fear of missing out). I used to go out almost every night, never wanting to miss the latest play, movie, or concert. But now that nothing is going on I'm content to stay home, have a Zoom Happy Hour with friends, and watch a movie or read a book.

Ann Barandes

I am blessed with *optimistic* genes and lately I've had lots of time to activate them. More than ever, I cherish my family and friends. And I've had more opportunity to save money and to think about the future. Hopefully, when this isolation is over I will be frugal with my money but reckless with my hugs & kisses. Best of all, I am *positive* that I will be able to reschedule my Jet Blue flight and visit my family in Los Angeles before the leaves fall, or will it be when the snow falls? Out-out damn negative thoughts!

Calculate Your Next Trip

Now that we've cancelled our wonderful summer trips, we've found a way to calculate where we could go in the next few months:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Pick a destination number from 1-9
 1. Spain, 2. India, 3. England, 4. Scandinavia, 5. Australia, 6. Canada, 7. Mexico, 8. Ireland, 9. Stay Home
2. Multiply by 3
3. Add 3
4. Multiply by 3 again
5. Add the 2 digit numbers that you get together
6. The number that you get is where you'll be travelling to

Q-Toon

by W. Cotter



"All I want these days is to take a couple of daily walks without a mask, get my hair and nails done occasionally, and have someone prepare my dinner. Basically - I want to be my dog."