

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 9

Late October 2020

## A Note From the President

**Q**UEST Council held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13, and I will share with you the most important decisions the Council made. Our Secretary, Karen Levin, will be sending everyone the minutes of the meeting, as soon as they have been reviewed by all Council members.

Council voted to hold all Spring classes via Zoom. We made this decision to

safeguard the health and well being of all of our members. Tuition for all members will be \$150. In December, I will be sending all members a reminder to pay their tuition prior to the start of Spring classes on February 1, and will provide information on where to send your check. Members who opt out of enrolling in Quest for Spring 2021, can still enroll in Quest in the Fall of 2021, when we hope to be meeting at 25 Broadway.

Our Curriculum Committee and Scheduling Committee will be working together to create a course schedule for the Spring. We should receive that schedule on or about November 20, the date of our General Meeting.

Please stay safe! I look forward to seeing everyone in person, when it is safe to do so.

– Bob Gottfried

## Just a Note

**Hi Quest Members,** In order to connect with other members, both old and new, I have been asked to share our membership list with any Quest member who requests one. The membership list will contain names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. If any member would like to keep her or his contact information private, please send Donna Ramer at [donnaramer1@gmail.com](mailto:donnaramer1@gmail.com) an email before Wednesday October 21 and she will have your information deleted from the public membership list. Beginning on the 21st, any member can make an email request, and I will forward the latest membership list to you.

| Name                 | Address           | City      | State | Zip   | Phone        | Email                         |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Adams, John          | 1000 Broadway     | New York  | NY    | 10003 | 212 512 1234 | john.adams@quest.org          |
| Baker, Jane          | 456 Elm St.       | Brooklyn  | NY    | 11201 | 718 555 1234 | jane.baker@quest.org          |
| Chen, David          | 789 Park Ave.     | Manhattan | NY    | 10021 | 212 888 1234 | david.chen@quest.org          |
| Davis, Mary          | 321 Main St.      | Queens    | NY    | 11354 | 718 444 1234 | mary.davis@quest.org          |
| Evans, Robert        | 654 Madison Ave.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10022 | 212 777 1234 | robert.evans@quest.org        |
| Franklin, Susan      | 987 Broadway      | New York  | NY    | 10003 | 212 666 1234 | susan.franklin@quest.org      |
| Goldman, Michael     | 123 West 4th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10014 | 212 333 1234 | michael.goldman@quest.org     |
| Harris, Emily        | 456 East 1st St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10009 | 212 222 1234 | emily.harris@quest.org        |
| Johnson, James       | 789 West 2nd St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10011 | 212 111 1234 | james.johnson@quest.org       |
| Klein, Sarah         | 321 East 3rd St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10002 | 212 000 1234 | sarah.klein@quest.org         |
| Lee, Daniel          | 654 West 4th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10013 | 212 999 1234 | daniel.lee@quest.org          |
| Martin, Rachel       | 987 East 5th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10004 | 212 888 1234 | rachel.martin@quest.org       |
| Nguyen, Kevin        | 123 West 6th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10014 | 212 777 1234 | kevin.nguyen@quest.org        |
| Olson, Lisa          | 456 East 7th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10009 | 212 666 1234 | lisa.olson@quest.org          |
| Parker, Thomas       | 789 West 8th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10011 | 212 555 1234 | thomas.parker@quest.org       |
| Reid, Jennifer       | 321 East 9th St.  | Manhattan | NY    | 10002 | 212 444 1234 | jennifer.reid@quest.org       |
| Roberts, William     | 654 West 10th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10013 | 212 333 1234 | william.roberts@quest.org     |
| Shapiro, Rebecca     | 987 East 11th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10004 | 212 222 1234 | rebecca.shapiro@quest.org     |
| Stevens, Christopher | 123 West 12th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10014 | 212 111 1234 | christopher.stevens@quest.org |
| Taylor, Amanda       | 456 East 13th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10009 | 212 000 1234 | amanda.taylor@quest.org       |
| Thompson, Benjamin   | 789 West 14th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10011 | 212 999 1234 | benjamin.thompson@quest.org   |
| White, Victoria      | 321 East 15th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10002 | 212 888 1234 | victoria.white@quest.org      |
| Wilson, Matthew      | 654 West 16th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10013 | 212 777 1234 | matthew.wilson@quest.org      |
| Yong, Sophia         | 987 East 17th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10004 | 212 666 1234 | sophia.yong@quest.org         |
| Zimmerman, Alexander | 123 West 18th St. | Manhattan | NY    | 10014 | 212 555 1234 | alexander.zimmerman@quest.org |

## Spring 2021 Distinguished Guest Lecturers

Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer and Phyllis Weiss (replacing Arlene Hajinlian) are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers for next semester:

- Feb 10** **Vivian Gornick**, author of *Unfinished Business: Notes of a Chronic Re-Reader*.
- Feb 24** **Harold Holzer**, author of *Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French*.
- Mar 10** **Eleanor Randolph**, author of *The Many Lives of Michael Bloomberg*.
- Mar 24** **Dr. Jacob Appel**, Bioethicist at Mt. Sinai and author *The Biology of Luck*.
- Apr 14** **Peter Gelb**, General Manager of the New York Metropolitan Opera.
- Apr 28** **Roz Chast**, Memorial Guest Speaker (see related article)
- May 12** **Deborah Lipstadt**, Antisemitism, Here and Now

## Quest to Celebrate Silver Anniversary

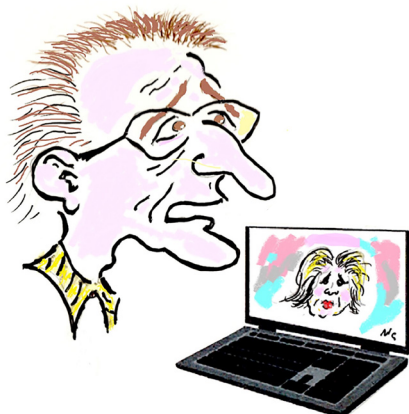
by Steve Rubin

**C**an you recall what happened in the year 1995, just a quarter century ago?

- Bill Clinton is president
- In February, the Dow Jones average closes above 4,000 points for the first time in history, only to close above 5,000 in November
- O.J. Simpson is found not guilty in the double murder of his ex-wife & her friend
- "Forrest Gump" wins the Academy Award for best picture of the preceding year (and Tom Hanks for best actor in that eponymous role)
- The San Francisco 49ers become the first National Football League franchise to win five Super Bowls, as they defeat the San Diego Chargers
- 168 people, including 8 Federal Marshals and 19 children, are killed in what was called the Oklahoma City Bombing
- Cal Ripken Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles breaks the all-time consecutive games played record in Major League Baseball previously set by Lou Gehrig 56 years earlier
- The Grateful Dead plays their last concert
- eBay goes live
- Quest, a CCNY Community of Lifelong Learning, is founded by a small group of dedicated people, to become the pre-eminent organization it is today

### Q-Toon

by W. Cotter



*"I've lost faith in all our major institutions  
...except Zoom!"*

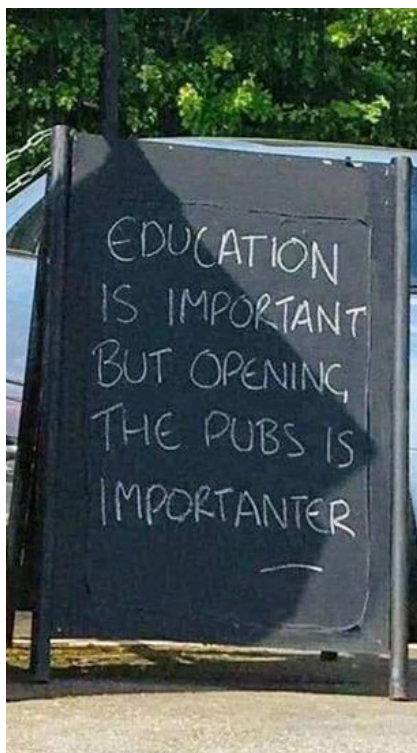
**I**n May 2021, Quest is planning to hold a luncheon in honor of its Silver Anniversary. Happily, six of the founding members are still active in our organization. Also remarkable is that another 160 Quest members have reached their own milestones:

- 4 members are in the 20 to 24 years of service category
- 10 have completed 15 to 19 years
- 51 have been members 10 to 14 years
- 95 have been with us 5 to 9 years

**A**ll told, that's 166, or about 63% of our total membership of 264, who have been Questers for more than 5 years. That's pretty amazing.

From time to time, QNews will print the names of members who make up each category, beginning with the founding members:

- Carole Abrahams
- Beverly Francus
- Evelyn Good
- Russell Good
- Sandy Gordon
- Bob Hartmann



## Zoom Trouble-Shooting Guide

by Michael Wellner

**I**f you have trouble entering an online Zoom class, The Zoom Team suggests the following potential solutions:

### **(1) Type zoom.us in the address bar of your browser and then hit "ENTER."**

That should take you to you to the Zoom site. At the top right of the Zoom site, you should see "JOIN A MEETING." Click on that. You will be asked for a Meeting ID which is listed under the course blurb in the NWAQ emails that are sent each Friday. (If you are asked for a passcode, that is also listed in NWAQ.) After a short wait, you will enter the meeting.

### **(2) If Solution (1) fails and you know the Zoom host or any of the coordinators, you could email them**

to ask them to invite you directly from the meeting. Please be aware, however, that these individuals may be actively participating in the class and not checking their emails.

### **(3) If Solutions (1) and (2) fail, try registering again**

from the link in NWAQ and then use the link on your new registration confirmation email to try to enter the meeting.

### **(4) If all else fails, you can phone into the class by dialing 1.929.205.6099.**

You will be asked for the Meeting ID, which is available in NWAQ. You will only be able to hear, but not see, the presentation when you dial in by phone. You can, however, ask questions or offer comments during the session.

**Good luck.** If you can successfully get in, I would appreciate your letting me know how you did it. Such information is useful for ensuring we are offering the best technical advice to Quest members. Likewise, if you were not successful, please let me know. Although I won't be able to help you enter this session, a member of the Zoom Team will be in touch to determine the nature of your problem.

## Creative Corner

### Isolation

by Betty Farber

I am home  
In isolation  
Looking for comfort.  
I am exploring  
A new planet,  
Figuring it out  
What to do  
How to act:  
What I can do  
Alone or  
With others.

Every day I get stronger, better,  
Able to be sad and happy.  
Seeing friends in space,  
Sharing a new  
Harmony of spirit.  
Finding comfort  
In what is waiting,  
Reaffirming belief  
In a bright dawn.

## Q News Staff

### A Quest Publication

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Carolyn McGuire

*Associate Editor*  
Michael Wellner

*Copy Editor/Proofreader*  
Barbara Gelber

*Graphic Design*  
Robbie

25 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
212.925.6625 x229  
questlifelong.org

## Two Questers Did What During The Pandemic? Why, We Got Married, Of Course!

by Steve Rubin and Anna Kunkas

**N**ot even the pandemic was going to cancel our wedding plans. Substantially alter them, yes; cancel them, no.

We, Questers Steve Rubin and Anna Kunkas, had originally decided on a mid-year ceremony and reception. However, with the pandemic underway, the wedding date obviously had to be changed. But, should we wait until the crisis was over and marry in the traditional way — or go with the “Cupid Project”? That was the question. This NYC initiative was launched in May to enable marriage licenses to be issued and weddings to be performed online while the Marriage License Bureau was physically closed and their key employees were largely working on a remote basis.

“Hey,” we reasoned, “who knows how long the pandemic will last and, after all, we’re very much in love, and not getting any younger,”

So, we two lovebirds applied online in June and were interviewed online by a clerk from the license bureau in mid-September (yes, the bureau was that backed up!) With license in hand, we contacted an officiant and were married online on Sunday, September 20, approximately three years from the date we met.

So, you see, every cloud has a silver lining.



## Roz Chast to Speak at Quest in the Spring

by Arlynn Greenbaum



**T**he Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is happy to announce that beloved *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast will be our fourth Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker on April 28, 2021. Since joining *The New Yorker* in 1978, she has established herself as one of the greatest chroniclers of the anxieties, furies, insecurities and surreal imaginings of modern life. David Remnick has called her “the magazine’s only certifiable genius.”

Chast is the author of more than a dozen books for adults including the award-winning *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* (2014), a work that chronicles her relationship with her aging parents. She has also written numerous books for children and has

collaborated with Steve Martin, Calvin Trillin and others. Her latest book, written with Patty Marx, is *Why Don’t You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It?*

Chast grew up in Brooklyn and received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has won numerous awards and in 2019 was inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame. She lives in Connecticut with her family and several parrots. She will give an inside look at her work and process in what will surely be an entertaining talk.



## IN MEMORY Myra Nissen

**M**yra Nissen died a few months shy of her 85th birthday. We at Quest knew her as a wonderful actress and loved her as a friend for the past ten years.

Myra grew up in upstate NY and briefly attended the University of Michigan, but, die-hard city girl that she was, she soon transferred to Columbia. In her early years she worked in summer stock with Richard Burton and Dustin Hoffman in his pre "Graduate" days. Although she didn't pursue a career in acting, Myra never stopped acting in many venues and organizations around the city.

She worked in various fields: modeling shoes for Pappagallo, writing for the Practising Law Institute and reading aloud to clients at The Lighthouse for the Blind, leading walking tours of Harlem as an official Big Apple Greeter, and teaching English to speakers of other languages.

For over a decade, Myra was an active member of Quest, where she taught and attended classes giving presentations in Art, theatre, history and other fields. and of course, she acted multiple times on the Quest Stage in the Great Plays course.

Myra was an avid traveler and joined the Quest travel group in Ireland, Iceland, London, Shaw Festival among other trips. Lynell Garabedian recalls a trip that they took together to Istanbul. "After a sweltering day of shopping in the open air stalls of the Grand Bazaar, we were hot, tired and lost. We stopped in an air conditioned rug shop and two men immediately brought out a beautiful carpet and presented us with: 'special prices for old ladies'. Myra and I had quite a few giggles about that adventure".



Myra is survived by her daughter, Thisbe Nissen; her especially beloved son-in-law, Jay Baron Nicorvo; and her grandson, Sonne Niscorvoson. When it is once again safe to travel, her family will bring Myra's ashes, those of her late husband, Tony, and those of her one-eyed cat, Winken, to scatter over the lake at Annecy, France.

## I'm a Winner by Betty Farber

**W**ho knew? After reading Steve Rubin's article, *You, Too, May Be Due Money Held By The State*, my daughter went online and entered my name. Sure enough, the New York State Comptroller's Office was holding money for Betty Farber. So I filled out the forms online and mailed them to the address given. A check came in the mail for \$82.26 held for me as former President of Preschool Publications, Inc. NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli included information on the stub of the check, saying that all New York State residents should contact his office if they believe there may be funds awaiting them. So I encourage you to try. You may be a winner, too! Thank you, Steve Rubin.

## Culture Quest Goes Virtual: The Peacock Room and American Art by Madeleine Brecher



**O**n Friday, October 9th, we held our first out-of-town "virtual tour" at the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art in Washington.

Detroit industrialist Charles Lang Freer was a collector of fine art who visited Japan and became a lover of Asian art. In 1906 he donated his art collection to the Smithsonian, and the Museum of Asian Art was born.

Back in the 1870s, James Abbott McNeill Whistler's glorious painting *The Princess from the Land of Porcelain* transformed the London dining room of the wealthy English ship owner Frederick Leyland. *The Princess* work represented a new ideal of beauty suggested in Japanese prints and Chinese porcelain.

Leyland asked Whistler's advice when remodeling his dining room and before long, Whistler had recreated the entire space, changing colors and displaying Leyland's extensive porcelain collection. After a major argument between the two men, Whistler added two huge golden peacocks to be the centerpiece of the elegant room, one to represent Leyland and one representing Whistler himself. Whistler titled his peacocks "Art and Money"!

Having acquired Whistler's *The Princess*, Freer anonymously purchased the entire Peacock Room in 1904 from Leyland's heirs.

Today the Peacock Room is considered a masterpiece of interior decorative art! I have a sense that many of us who attended this excellent virtual tour will visit the Peacock Room in person the next time we find ourselves in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Linda Downs who arranged this tour for Culture Quest.



## Profiles

Every semester Quest welcomes new members to our community. The Fall of 2019 was no exception *but* the Spring semester was very short due to the Covid 19. We didn't get a chance to meet our new members and recognize them in person. QNEWS has decided to create a *Profiles* section to introduce our new members (with photos). This issue we only received four but we hope to have may more in the future issues. Welcome



**Howard Seeman, PhD**  
Professor Emeritus  
at CUNY  
30 Years at  
Lehman College  
Certified Life Coach  
Education Consultant



**Joan Vreeland** retired from the NYC Department of Education after 10 years in administration. Previously, for most of my career, I was a Human Resources /Benefits Manager in the private sector. I live in Bay Ridge Brooklyn with my husband and, for the past four years, volunteer as a cat carer for Best Friends Animal Adoption Center, and as a dog walker for Sean Casey Animal Rescue.



**Cindy Hoddeson** is a resident of New York for many years. World traveler to over 75 countries. Language enthusiast (speak French and Hebrew). Former Director, North America of the Monaco Government Tourist Board. Currently serve on the board of directors of the Wellness Tourism Association and of Win Their Freedom. Joined as a guest member in August.



**Hedy Shulman** was a senior communications and marketing executive in the nonprofit sector as well as higher education, with particular expertise in media relations, crisis communications, and development of integrated marketing communications. She was also a writer and editor of institutional publications and oversaw advertising campaigns and creation of marketing materials.

### Recipe

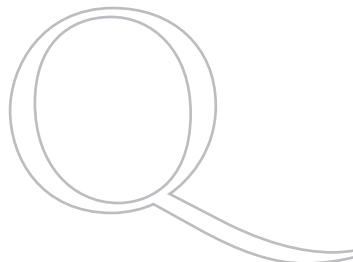
*by Joan Vreeland*

#### Lemony Pasta with Zucchini and Fresh Herbs

- 1 lb fusilli or other curly pasta
- 1 ½ lbs zucchini cut in half lengthwise and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- Salt and pepper
- 4 tbs evoo
- 2 garlic cloves sliced thin
- ½ tsp red pepper flakes
- Juice and zest of one lemon
- 1 ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- One 1:2 cups toughly chopped herbs- basil, parsley, mint

Bring pot of salted water to boil. Add pasta cook about 6-7 minutes. Drain and reserve a cup of pasta water. Meanwhile, Prepare the zucchini Season with salt and pepper Heat 3 tbs oil in large skillet, add zucchini and cook about 3 minutes

until golden brown. Flip and cook 2-3 more minutes. Remove from pan and set aside. Add 1 tbs Oil add garlic and red pepper flakes and cook about 30 seconds. Add zucchini back to pan with lemon juice and zest. Toss to combine. Add pasta and toss Add ½ cup pasta water and grated cheese and toss. Add herbs and toss again. Serve.



### Quiz: Colors in a Song

*submitted by Betty Farber & Lucille Granfort*

1. \_\_\_ moon, I saw you standing alone
2. I want some \_\_\_ roses for a \_\_\_ lady
3. \_\_\_, with your lips aflame
4. I'm dreaming of a \_\_\_ Christmas
5. That old \_\_\_ magic has me in its spell
6. They'll be \_\_\_ birds over the \_\_\_ cliffs of Dover
7. Those cool and limpid \_\_\_ eyes.
8. \_\_\_ sleeves was my delight
9. And we lived beneath the waves in our \_\_\_ submarine
10. \_\_\_ rain

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. blue      | 6. blue/white |
| 2. red/blue  | 7. green      |
| 3. tangerine | 8. green      |
| 4. white     | 9. yellow     |
| 5. black     | 10. purple    |

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS



# CultureQuest Tenement Museum Tour

by Deborah Yaffe

On September 25th, thirty members were treated to a Zoom tour by the Tenement Museum. The talk was focused on the Rogarshevsky family, Fannie and Abraham and their six children, who lived in a 300 square foot apartment at 97 Orchard Street in the 1910s. We saw their kitchen with its coal stove and gas meter. We saw their sleeping arrangements: two beds, one for the parent, one for two sisters, and the four boys slept on makeshift beds in the living room. Only two of the younger boys attended school. 16-year-old Bessie worked in a garment factory and we saw a



Lower East Side at the time, and we came to feel that we knew the Rogarshevsky family.

photograph of long rows of possibly 200 sewing machine workers side by side. A general strike was called to improve working conditions in the garment industry; it would have been a hard decision for Bessie, when the family counted on her income. We saw photographs of the strikers and the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, where 146 young people died. With the view of the apartment, the photographs, and the talk by the docent, we could visualize life on the

## Bits & Pieces



**Estelle Selzer:**  
October 1st was a beautiful day and I was lucky enough to get out of the city for the first time since the pandemic started. My friend rented a car and three of us went

to Maskers Orchard in Warwick NY for a day of apple picking. I didn't plan to pick as many apples as I did but it was easy to fill the bushel bag. I was able to make lots of applesauce and an apple pie. A fun beautiful day was had by all.

**New York, New York: Lucille Granfort**  
writes It's a Wonderful Town. We had opera tickets at Lincoln Center. At the last minute, we realized the curtain was at 7:30, not the usual 8:00. We ran for the 86th Street cross-town bus, told the driver our time problem, and asked which downtown bus would be best. He told us the Broadway bus runs most frequently. We got off at Broadway.

After waiting five minutes on Broadway, we saw the driver of our crosstown bus walking towards us. "I'm taking this bus in for the night. I'll give you a lift to Lincoln

Center," he told us. With the interior lights off and no other riders, he delivered us nonstop to Lincoln Center, and said he hoped we would enjoy the performance...  
*only in New York*

**Farmer Pete:**  
and the giant squash



**Ode to Wet Pants by Frieda Lipp:**  
'Twas a beauteous Fall day  
The sun was shining  
The leaves turning  
WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH  
As the lads were shooting hoops  
WHOOSH WHOOSH

Laughing, Running, Leaping

With abandon  
WHOOSH WHOOSH  
Tireless, relentless  
WHOOSH! What the... uh uh oh...  
What the...

'Tis nothing I swear  
On my oath I swear 'Tis mere sweat  
Heh heh heh!

'Tis truth on my word  
Heh heh heh!

IMAGINE...

Some families play bingo  
Others go fishing  
Some fly kites  
Others play the tuba  
The Lipps sweat  
TRADITION! Tra la! TRADITION!



**Anita Hunter**  
and **Joyce West**  
at Storm King's  
Mirrored Fence  
on a beautiful  
fall day.