

# QNEWS DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 10

November 2020

## A Note From the President

**A**s we approach Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for. Most of our members are healthy, and have avoided contracting Covid. Due to the extraordinary hard work and good planning by numerous Quest members, we have been able to maintain a vigorous schedule of classes, and opportunities for socialization. Quest is a vibrant organization which will

emerge from the pandemic stronger and in better financial position than ever. As you will learn at our General Meeting, scheduled for Friday November 20 at 1:00 pm, our Curriculum Committee has selected a full schedule of classes to be presented via Zoom in the Spring. The Scheduling Committee had the difficult task of arranging the schedule to meet the needs of the lead coordinators, and

the Online Learning Committee will assign members to be hosts for each class. Please plan to attend the General Meeting, and encourage your friends, acquaintances, and relatives to join Quest as Zoom members in the Spring. Hope you have a joyful and safe Thanksgiving.

– Bob Gottfried

## New Courses Spring 2021

### **African Continent**

Coordinators: **Ann Goerdt**, Bob Gottfried, Bob Reiss  
• B Week Mon. 10:30 – 12:00

### **Antisemitism: Past, Present, Facts**

Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss, Rick Salter • A Week Thurs. 10:30 – 12:00

### **Borders & Boundaries**

Coordinator: **Stephen Baker** • B Week Thurs. 2:00 – 3:30

### **Reading Black Lives**

Coordinators: **Barbara Barnes**, Diane Crothers, Judy Hampson, Penelope Pi-Sunyer • A Week Mon. 2:00 – 3:30

### **Reading Christian Scriptures:**

#### **Between Faith And Reason II**

Coordinators: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Martin  
• A Week Wednesday 2:00 – 3:30

### **Russian History: From The 10th Century Up To World War II**

Coordinators: Carolyn Thompson, Steve Allen  
• B Week Tuesday 2:00 – 3:30

## Zoom Team Plans

*by Michael Wellner*

**I**t may seem hard to believe, but our fall semester ends on Thursday December 10th. Time certainly flies when you're having fun — even if it's all on Zoom! But we want you to know that even though the Zoom Team will be taking a bit of a break for the holidays, we have been working hard to be sure that you are informed and entertained.

To that end, you'll be pleased to know that we (with a very special extra effort by Michael Russo, the newest member of our Zoom team, Victor Brener, and Ilene Winkler) are going to have available online recordings of many of our summer and fall lectures. This is a perfect opportunity to catch up on those classes that you might have missed, or even to repeat a class that you particularly enjoyed. Although not every class has been recorded, our list includes virtually all of our webinars (presentation classes), most of the Wednesday Guest Lectures, and a few of the larger discussion sessions as well.

It is a very substantial undertaking, which is being completed as the semester draws to a close. We will, of course, send complete instructions on how you will be able to access these recordings. But for now, just know that we won't leave you all alone during our time off.

We know it's going to be a very strange holiday season; please be safe, be careful, and try to enjoy as best you can!

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Nicholas Buccola to speak at Quest *by Phyllis Weiss*

Professor Nicholas Buccola will be our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on May 12, replacing Deborah Lipstadt, who could not make it. Buccola's most recent book is *The Fire Is Upon Us: James Baldwin, William F. Buckley and The Debate Over Race in America*. He is a writer, lecturer and teacher who specializes in the area of American political thought. At Linfield University in McMinnville, Oregon, he is the Elizabeth and Morris Glicksman Chair in Political Science and teaches courses in Political Theory and Public Law, as well as Law, Rights and Justice. He is the book review editor of *American Political Thought* and has written for many scholarly and popular publications including *The New York Times*. He will be coming to us from Oregon via Zoom for a timely discussion of race relations then and now.



## CultureQuest Goes Virtual *by Phyllis Weiss*

On Friday October 23rd, our Quest Culture Committee arranged a private "virtual tour" of the life and work of Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky at the Guggenheim. Kandinsky was a pioneer of abstract painting and many of his most significant pieces possessed emotional intensity and transcendental qualities inspired by his spiritual ambitions at the time. Kandinsky's body of work is considered by many as some of the most significant abstract art ever created.

Solomon R. Guggenheim and Hilla Rebay, the institution's first director, promoted non-objective painting above all other forms of abstraction. It was therefore no surprise that Guggenheim and his wife, Irene, were particularly captivated by Kandinsky's work and visited his studio at the Bauhaus in Dessau, Germany, where they purchased 150 of the artist's most important pieces.

This presentation of select works from the Guggenheim collection traces Kandinsky's aesthetic evolution from his early beginnings in Munich at the start of the century, to the return to his native Moscow with the outbreak of World War I, to his interwar years in Germany as a teacher at the Bauhaus, and culminates in his final chapter in Paris.



## Questers Attend "Count Every Vote" Rallies



Questers attend a "Count Every Vote" Rally at the New York Public Library.



Loretta Menger and Barbara Gelber attended a rally to Protect the Result in Teaneck, NJ on November 4th.



## Creative Corner

### When I Heard the Quest Astronomer *by Betty Farber*

When I heard the Quest Astronomer  
I listened in awe-inspired wonder.

When did the Universe give birth  
To all the planets, such as Earth?

How many stars are in the sky?  
We cannot count, or even try.

A novice, I could not contain  
The facts that buzzed about my brain.

But looking up from Earth, our home,  
The star-filled sky was like a poem.

## More Member Milestones

*by Steve Rubin*

**I**n the last QNews we listed 25-year (founding) Quest members, as part of our recognition of colleagues who have reached major service milestones. Other milestones include the following categories

Those who have reached more than  
20 years but not yet 25 years

**David Robinson** (1996)  
**Helen McMahon** (1998)  
**Guilana Lopes** (1999)

Those who have reached 20 years

**Helen Neilson** (2000)  
**B.J. Rohmer** (2000)  
**June Zacccone** (2000)

Those who have reached more than  
15 years but not yet 20 years

**Barbara Gordon** (2001)  
**Howard Salik** (2003)

Those who have reached 15 years

**Howard Einbinder** (2005)  
**Martin Helpern** (2005)  
**John Hood** (2005)  
**Eileen Kelly** (2005)

Apologies: to Eva Shatkin for the inadvertent omission of her name from the 25-year list appearing in the last QNews. As we all know, Eva is one of our founding members. And we regret the oversight.



I've probably worn a  
face mask more than I've  
worn a bra this year.

## Photo for A Lovely Day

*by Andrea Irvine*



**Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge: 3.6 miles** – Andrea Irvine walked halfway across from the Tarrytown end on a clear Autumn day – stopped at the attractive 'rest' areas – a bike & a pedestrian lane and yes, the traffic whizzing by was noisy but to be overlooking the Hudson was pretty special.

## Which Two...

Answer: Far left Judy Weis, Far right  
Andrea Irving

## Quiz: US States & Cities

Submitted by Betty Farber and  
Lucille Granfort

1. I like \_\_\_\_\_ in June.  
How about you?
2. Just an old sweet song keeps \_\_\_\_\_  
on my mind.
3. The stars at night are big and bright,  
deep in the heart of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Oh I know all I owe, I owe \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Poor little \_\_\_\_\_ the smallest  
of the 48.
6. I was dancing with my darling to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ waltz.
7. Away, we're bound away, across the  
wide \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ where the wind comes  
sweeping down the plain.
9. I left my heart in \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Why, oh, why, oh, why, oh, did I ever  
leave \_\_\_\_\_?

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. New York     | 6. Tennessee     |
| 2. Georgia      | 7. Missouri      |
| 3. Texas        | 8. Oklahoma      |
| 4. Iowa)        | 9. San Francisco |
| 5. Rhode Island | 10. Ohio         |

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*A Quest Publication*

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## Intellectual Humor

Submitted by Lowell Berman

Once again *The Washington Post* has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternative meanings for common words.

The winners are:

1. **Coffee** (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted** (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. **Abdicate** (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade** (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly** (adj.), impotent.
6. **Negligent** (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. **Lymph** (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle** (n.), olive-flavoured mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence** (n.), emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash** (n.), a rapidly receding hairline
11. **Testicle** (n.), a humorous question on an exam.
12. **Rectitude** (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists (doctors of the colon and anus)
13. **Pokemon** (n.), a Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Oyster** (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

15. **Frisbeetarianism** (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that, when you die, your soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
16. **Circumvent** (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

*The Washington Post's* Style Invitational also asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

The winners are:

1. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
2. **Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period.
3. **Sarchasm** (n): The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
4. **Inoculatte** (v): To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
5. **Osteopornosis** (n): A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
6. **Karmageddon** (n): It's like, when everybody is sending off all these Really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
7. **Glibido** (v): All talk and no action.

## Which Two?

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



Linda Redding and Judy Weis were in 3rd grade together Which two are they?



## Profiles

Every semester Quest welcomes new members to our community. The Fall of 2020 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 many more in the future issues. Welcome



**Ze'eva Cohen** is a dancer, choreographer, and dance professor emerita at Princeton University, where she founded and directed the dance program for forty years. She grew up in Tel Aviv, Israel, and came to New York in 1963 to study at the Juilliard School and perform with the Anna Sokolow Dance Company. She was a founding member of New York Dance Theater workshop in the 60's.



**Theo Ciaccio** built her career as a buyer for Lord and Taylor and for Bergdorf Goodman, and then spent many years working in Asia designing and producing Private Label Brands for Federated Department Stores. Theo and her late husband traveled extensively to India, China, Tibet, Nepal, Cuba, and Russia. She has volunteered for years at the *English Speaking Union* working with immigrants from Ukraine, Russia, Venezuela and elsewhere.



**Marva Kalish** was born and raised in Forest Hills, Queens. She earned a BA in Philosophy and Languages from Adelphi University. Her career as a marketing and public relations executive began as an Assistant Buyer for Bloomingdale's, which led her to four years in London. Presently, she is publicist for an interior design firm. Marva is an avid culture and literature maven. Her husband, Michael Wellner involved her in the admirable work of the Quest Community.



**Mari S. Gold** is a native New Yorker. Her first job was in PR where she was an executive running the health care division of a public relations agency. She then worked for The New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She is also a freelance writer for theater, dance, concerts, travel and restaurants in publications as diverse as *The New York Times* and *Go Nomad*.

## Art Exhibit at The Met Breuer Museum

*by Estelle Selzer*



Questers were treated to an excellent virtual tour on November 6th of the *Gerhard Richter: Painting After All* exhibit at the Met Breuer Museum. The exhibit had only been open for 9 days before the museum was forced to close because of the pandemic. Our docent, Andrea Clark, was most knowledgeable and “walked” us through the exhibit as if we were there. The first painting “September” was done in 2005 and reminds us of the twin towers burning on 9/11. Andrea discussed the methods Richter uses on several of his oil paintings. Thanks to Andrea and Shar-Lyn Tay for allowing us to gain a greater appreciation of a very complex artist.

## Who's Doing What

**Stan and Nannette Lieblein** went to the Brooklyn Museum to see the Studio 54: Night Magic exhibit which closed November 8th. It is a fun exhibit retelling the story of its 33 month run in the 1970s with costumes, film, architecture and theme parties. We were given the opportunity to dance to "The Hustle" at the exhibit's end.

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**Beth Callender** Halloween fun!



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**Betty Farber's** claim to fame. Not sure it will make the headlines in Q News but I just heard from a friend in St. Louis who lived in my apartment building when we were children. She told me that Ruth Bader Ginsberg attended the same Elementary School, P.S. 238, in Brooklyn, as I did. My claim to fame!

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**Shosh and Ellen Shapiro** 'swinging high

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**Lorraine Weberg** Happy Halloween, everybody!



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A lovely brunch at the Beach Cafe with **Ruth Kovner**, the **McGuire's**, the **Granforts** and **Betty Farber**.



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Auntie Acid 2019

auntie acid

**Marilyn Weiss** is a figurative painter known for her mixed-media works. Her keen eye and ability to seamlessly integrate elements set Marilyn's collages apart from others. In Marilyn's words, "Figures are important in my compositions. Finding the perfect thread, fabric & paper element for a shape or detail in my paintings informs the direction of every piece."

"Years spent in life-class have influenced me. The 'honesty of nude' inspires my pieces. I build from there as I find an emotion and intimacy I want to convey. Now, in the time of Covid, I am using reference materials from past classes in addition to creating new free form collages always with figures."



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# Happy Thanksgiving

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS