

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 13

February 2021

A Note From the President

The Spring 2021 semester is in full swing, and we have already had many excellent classes.

The Quest Council met on Monday, February 8th, and one of the matters we discussed is how Quest will operate in the Fall. I have been notified by City

College that they intend to have a combination of in-person and online classes in the Fall. Only large classrooms will be used, and there will be enforced social distancing for those students attending in person. Council will not make a decision on how Quest will operate until after we receive further information from City

College. There is a strong probability that Quest will be operating only via Zoom in the Fall of 2021. I will continue to keep everyone informed as I get additional information and Council makes its decision.

I hope everyone stays safe & healthy.

— Bob Gottfried

Notes

On The Road Again *by Michael Wellner*

The Quest Council comprising four officers and seven at large members is the governing body of our organization. The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) has met for the first time and elected Roy Clary as its Chair. The NEC is seeking 8 candidates to run for four open at large Council positions. Council meets once a month to conduct the business of Quest. If you are a member who has joined Quest prior to 2020, you are eligible to run for Council. If you are interested in being nominated, please send an email to Roy to roy.clary@yahoo.com. The NEC will be meeting to select candidates.

You will be glad to hear that your Quest Travel Committee, although temporarily “grounded,” is actually alive and well, starting to think about the restarting of our popular travel program. Although it’s fair to say that no one knows when we’ll be back on the road like the “good old days,” here are at least a few things to think about.

Italy: Many of you will remember that about twenty Questers had actually booked and paid for a **two-week trip to the Puglia region** (Bari, Lecce, and the surrounding area), on the Adriatic coast of Italy. We were all set for the end of May, last year, which of course, got canceled by the Covid-19 outbreak. Many of us are longing to return, so keep that on your radar screen.

More definite is our long-delayed and much-postponed **Civil Rights trip to Atlanta**, Birmingham and Montgomery, which is now firmly booked for the long weekend of March 24th – 27th, 2022. When we finally return to 25 Broadway, we will have more information and a formal sign-up sheet, but please note the dates on your calendar. Frieda Lipp, David Bernard, and Michael Wellner have more information.

Hudson Valley Wine Tour: With a little luck, Carolyn McGuire will finally lead us for a delightful day of wine tasting in the nearby Hudson Valley, about an hour or so north of the city. We are hoping for a date this coming fall; stay tuned for more information — and get your vaccinations as soon as possible!

Portugal: Portugal is one of the countries in Europe that has traditionally been just a little off the “beaten path,” but holds many delightful surprises. Just before the pandemic erupted, we were looking seriously at an **eight-day cruise on Portugal’s scenic Douro River**, preceded (or followed) by four or five days in Lisbon. We’d probably schedule this for the spring of 2022; if you think you might be interested please let one of us know.

For now, let’s all hope that this virus gets under control and we all get vaccinated quickly, so we can get back on the road ASAP!

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Reunion by Michael Wellner

This Winter break from our usual schedule at Quest has been anything but idle. Almost every day there have been fascinating topics to discuss, from travel to cooking, crossword puzzles, and so much more. A few weeks ago, Sheryl Harawitz and I put our heads together to plan a "Quest Reunion," hoping to bring together some of our former members, who may have moved away, or are no longer physically able to get to 25 Broadway (remember those days?).

We put together a list of about two dozen names, were able to make contact with about half of them, and held the first reunion, via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 27th. A few technical problems kept the group smaller than we had initially hoped, but we carried on nevertheless.

Our "star" of the morning may well have been **Joan Briller**, who many of us will remember fondly, and is now living with her husband in Indiana, of all places! **Geri Rude** had to cancel at the last minute to go get her Covid shot; **Lowell** and **Elaine Berman** had some computer issues; **Eva Shatkin** was as bright as always; and many others (**Beverly Francus**, **Carole Abrahams**, and **Bob Hartmann**, to name just a few) were reminiscing about the "good old days" before we got to 26 Broadway.

Everyone agreed that it was such a success that we plan another one (a Zoom cocktail party) this Spring. Please watch your email for further information.

Creative Corner

Up With Romance by Betty Farber

On the DOWN escalator
In the subway at 59th and Lex
I stared at a couple on the UP escalator
Kissing as they moved through space,
He one step above her
She reaching her lips up to his.
What awed me most as I held tightly
To the moving black bannister
Was: how do they keep their balance?
LOVE and YOUTH, I answered myself,
Stepping nimbly off the escalator steps
Using, of course, my indispensable cane.

Take a Look at Marilyn Weiss's New Website

I want to announce to those Questers who have shown interest in my paintings that I have just updated my website. There are 15 new pieces that have been added, as well as an update on exhibitions. The website is www.marilynweiss.com

Good Cookin' Chicken by Cindy Hoddeson

Here's a quick and tasty recipe for the whole family, must be cooked with love.

- Cut into the chicken breast (make several slits)

Make marinade:

- Stir 2 tablespoons of sour cream, salt and pepper to taste and 1/3 cup of soy sauce
- Add 3 cloves of garlic
- Leave the chicken in the marinade for 20 minutes

Slice 3 potatoes, slice 5 mushrooms and layer in a baking dish. Place the chicken on top and bake for 30 minutes at 350

Finely chop mozzarella (1/2 cup), add 1/2 cup of grated Parmesan and an egg and mix well

Add to the chicken and bake another 15 minutes.



Interesting Observation

1. The sport of choice for the urban poor is **basketball**.
 2. The sport of choice for maintenance level employees is **bowling**.
 3. The sport of choice for front-line workers is **football**.
 4. The sport of choice for supervisors is **baseball**.
 5. The sport of choice for middle management is **tennis**. And...
 6. The sport of choice for corporate executives and officers is **golf**.
- The amazing fact is, the higher you go in the corporate structure... there must be a boat load of people in Washington DC playing marbles.



Don't You Love New York? by Lucille Granfort

One Sunday, I was walking on Madison Avenue, safely distancing myself from the woman ahead, who was walking her dog. Suddenly, the dog started pulling at the leash... and kept pulling... and kept pulling.

The woman apologetically explained that the dog was "trying to get into the Chase Bank to get his daily dog treat. He doesn't know the bank is closed on Sunday."

We laughed together, and I wondered if this was one of those little love stories I read in the *New York Times*.

Christmas in the Lobby

by Bernice Schwartz



Christmas and New Year's in our building lobby with friends six feet apart.

Breaking News

Do not let them take your temperature when going into a store! It's a scam. They're erasing your memory. I went in for bread and milk and came out with six bottles of wine.



Creativity-at-Lunch

submitted by Betty Farber & Beth Callender

On Wednesdays, once a month, **Beth Callender** and **MaryAnn Donnelly** came up with the idea of a Quest Creative Lunch. The first session was on Wednesday February 17. The hour long session offered Questers the opportunity to share a diverse presentation of art work.

Presenting, oil paintings, handmade jewelry, photographs, poetry, knitting, hand sewing and furniture design were shown. Participants amazed the viewers with their talent and creativity.

Beth Callender quoted Margaret Atwood, author of "The Handmaid's Tale", The interviewer asked Margaret what she thought was the biggest misconception about creativity and she replied:

"I think one is that only geniuses have it. But, in fact, everybody has it because creativity is a human thing. It's just that people employ their creativity in different ways. Some people knit, some people make music. But it all has to do with our human capacity for invention and for seeing from different points of view."

Beth comments that is our goal — to let our artists share their inventiveness and their points of view with all of us.

Artists showing at this month's program were: **Roy Clary, Sybil Cohen, Betty Farber, Donna Ramer, Pereta Rodriguez, Helen Saffran, Lorraine Weberg, Marilyn Weiss and Deborah Yaffe.**

We look forward to next month's session on March 17th. If you are interested in displaying your artwork, get in touch with MaryAnn Donnelly or Beth Callender.

CultureQuest

by Linda Downs

Culture Quest's first spring virtual tours was given on Friday, February 12th. It was a presentation on the Whitney Museum's exhibition, *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945*. **Renee Woloshin**, Culture Quest coordinator, welcomed everyone and presented the upcoming virtual tours. **Linda Downs** introduced the docent, Linda Sweet, from the Whitney Museum who provided a background to the Mexican mural movement by focusing on the influence of the most well-known muralists, José Clement Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros and Diego Rivera. She described major works by Los Tres Grandes (as the muralists were called) in the United States in the 1930's and 1940's (murals at Pomona College, Dartmouth College, Museum of Modern Art and the Detroit Institute of Arts) and their impact on the work of three American artists: Jacob Lawrence, Jackson Pollack and Charles White. It was an insightful presentation and we all look forward to the time when we can tour exhibitions at the Whitney in person.



The Flame by Jackson Pollack, 1934 to 1938, oil on canvas



Prometheus by José Clement Orozco completed 1930, fresco

Limerick Contest

On a cold winter's day at the end of January, a small group of Questers once again converged on the lunchroom for a chat about various topics. We talked about classes we had this winter as well as other topics. We learned how to lie! We learned how to cook.

Before you know it, we started to get silly and Judy Hampson

2020

Submitted by Hilda Feinstein

Twenty twenty was a year to remember
We stayed home and we zoomed and
we gloomed
We phoned and we emailed and
learned how to cook
Kept warm and cuddled and kept out
of trouble
with some Italian wine and a book

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Saplings

Submitted by Donna Ramer

There once was a tree named Oak
Who didn't like people to toke
He stood straight and tall
And was sure not to fall
He protected the forest from y'all

On a dark stormy day one summer
He started to sway without blunder
The hurricane hit
But Oak wouldn't quit
He was up to the task without slumber

After the storm
It became quite warm
And the pretty Red maple was born
It took Red a while to grow to beguile
With a trunk and branches in svelte form

Oak became smitten and purred like a kitten
Protecting Red from the swarm
He would branch out and stretch
And was less than upset
When Red spewed saplings across the lawn

Over the years many joys and tears
And fears they would all become tables
But the Saplings grew strong
In a family throng
With Oaks of their own in this fable



Saving Grace

Submitted by Donna Ramer

There once was a Questor from Queens
Who thought Zoom classes were dreams
But they clicked on the link
And escaped from the brink
Of C-19 boredom and screams

• • •

Who's Afraid?

Submitted by Donna Ramer

There once was an author named Woolf
Who wrote with panache and truth
She was prolific and righteous
And gave us her brightness
But I needed a dash of vermouth

• • •

Mango Tango

Submitted by Lucille Granfort

There once was a young señorita
And no one could be any sweeter
She loved to eat mango
And learned how to tango
And everyone wanted to meet her!

• • •

Obsessed with Quest

Submitted by Betty Farber

There once was a scholar from Quest
With learning was simply obsessed.
She decided to rail
Against Harvard & Yale,
Since Quest classes are really the best!

came out with a wild limerick to get us laughing. Well, that was just the beginning. The limericks kept coming... some are not printable here !! but it was all fun.

Now we're going to have a contest... *a Limerick Contest*. Send your choice Limerick to Carolyn at QNews and then the "lunchroom group" will choose a winner Let's see how creative we get!

Handsome One

Submitted by Jennifer Jolly

A handsome young man from Cancun
Caused all the young ladies to swoon
But it went to his head
So he took to his bed
Where he sang by the light of the moon

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Be Warned

Submitted by Jennifer Jolly

There was an old lady from Maine
Who people all claimed was insane
She drank witches brew
And ate dandelion stew
'Til her laughter became quite inane

• • •

Rumba Romance

Submitted Lynnel Garabedian

Mademoiselle was a lady from France
Who loved to skip, sway and dance.
She met a senor from Columbia
Who taught her to tango and rumba
And thereby was born a romance.

• • •

The Hypocrite

Submitted by Jennifer Jolly

There once was a man who played trumpet
Whose favorite food was a crumpet
He railed against sin
While he banged on a tin
And then he went out with a strumpet

• • •

Sashayed

Submitted by Lynnel Garabedian

There was a young lady named Vinn
Who was so exceedingly thin
That when she sashayed
To drink lemonade
She slipped through the straw and fell in.

Who's Doing What

Deborah Yaffe had a family Zoom reunion. My six cousins and I had a Zoom reunion. We were close when we all lived in New York, now we're spread out from Maine to California. We've always kept up with everyone's news, but there were things to learn such as how one cousin started selling bagels when she moved to New Hampshire. Pictures and news of the grandchildren was a big topic, of course. And memories, we had a long conversation about how our mothers served borscht! It was great fun.

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Estelle Selzer visited the Mnuchin Gallery to see an exhibit of Frederic Church and Mark Rothko paintings. The exhibit juxtaposes the painters and their work and is called Sublime. It is truly sublime and highly recommended. Reservations need to be made online and the exhibit is there until March 13. Above is just one of many gorgeous Church paintings.

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Marcia and Gary Friedland had a great time hiking a long trail in the Dolomites. The pandemic doesn't own us. We didn't even wear those double masks. When we returned to our place, we had a snack with lovely bottle of Italian red, turned off YouTube, and made plans for Paris Safety first.

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Marva Kalish I do tons of reading: serious classics and historical fiction. Knitting is my salvation while watching TV—great therapy.

Linda Downs After the big snow I went to the Catskills and visited several small villages including Historical Hurley. Originally settled by the Esopus Indians then taken over by the Dutch in the late 1600's it became the capital of New York during the Revolutionary War. George Washington slept here in one of the many 18th century stone houses preserved in the town. One hundred years later Winslow Homer was a regular visitor who painted the famous children's game, Snap the Whip among other works.



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Andrea Irvine can 'almost' forget the Pandemic exists. Central Park was so crisp, clear and empty.



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Creativity Days

Tune in for monthly sessions of creative works by Questers on Wednesdays each month. Coordinated by Beth Callender and MaryAnn Donnelly

Opt-in QRated News

QRated News, a one-time literary publication, will be produced by the attendees of the Quest Lunchroom. The newsletter will feature risqué poems, Limericks and jokes they group has written. This publication was created by Lunchroom attendees, who recently engaged in a lively and evocative repartee that evolved into writing Limericks, unprintable here, but was the impetus for our QNews Limerick contest. Will keep you posted when QRatedNews is available.

Sincerely, Circz, Heraz, Lirg and Lucy in the Sky.

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