

# QNEWS DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 15

April 2021

## A Note From the President

**W**e are writing to update you on plans for the fall 2021 semester, all of which are subject to change if Covid19 restrictions are reinstated. We now project that Quest will be returning to 25 Broadway beginning on September 13. We will schedule in-person classes from Monday to Thursday, mornings and afternoons. Many of these classes will simultaneously be offered via Zoom. The Curriculum, Scheduling, and Online Learning Committees are coordinating to present a full schedule of classes. Course Coordinators and presenters are being polled to determine whether a particular class will be offered only in person, only one line, or both ways

We are looking into purchasing additional equipment, including microphones, cameras, and infrastructure

required for participants at home to share in the Quest experience. Coordination between Quest and our landlord, City College's Center for Worker Education, is ongoing. We already know that a new air-filtration system has been installed in the auditorium, and an aerial cleaning system is in place that will be utilized after a room has been used by either Quest or CWE. Our current expectation is that only rooms 15-17, 33-34, and the auditorium will be used for fall classes. This is just a brief summary. More details and an opportunity to ask questions will be provided on April 16 at 2:00 pm, when Quest will hold a Special General Meeting, during which we will discuss these issues. We will then poll our members concerning their intention to return to 25 Broadway in the fall. Only

after listening to our members' concerns, will the Quest Council make final decisions about the operation of Quest in the fall, as well as about the purchase of the equipment required to run in-person and Zoom courses simultaneously.

The customary spring General Meeting to introduce new classes, give committee reports, and present the Treasurer's report, will be postponed one week until April 23.

Please mark your calendar for the 2:00 pm Special General Meeting on April 16, so that you can become fully informed and participate in the poll regarding a fall return to 25 Broadway. A link for the meeting will appear in the April 9 NWAQ. If you have any questions, please contact either of us: Bob Gottfried, Quest President, Ruth Ward, Quest Vice President

– Bob Gottfried

### Reminder

**April 26 and 28**  
Council Candidate Presentations

**April 29 to May 2**  
Elections

**Thank You Visa Gift Card**  
To **Wayne** and **Sue Cotter** in appreciation for mailing *Q Review* to members for the past two years

### Fall 2021 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

**Sept 22** **Philip Lopate** on *"My Love Affair With the Essay"*.

**Oct 6** **Musa Mayer**, daughter of artist **Philip Guston**, on his life and work.

**Oct 20** **Adam Gidwitz** author of *"The Inquisitor's Tale"*.

**Nov 3** **Fran Lebowitz** (Memorial Lecturer), social commentator and star of Netflix's *"Pretend It's A City"*.

**Nov 17** **Janice Nimura** author of *"The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women"*.

**Dec 1** **Dr. Howard Rosenbaum** of the Wildlife Conservation Society on *"The Whales of New York: A New Tale"*.

**Dec 15** **Maaza Mengiste** author of *"The Shadow King"*.

*Several of these speakers were suggested by our members. Please feel free to send us your suggestions for next Spring.*

## We Remember Hal Cantor

**W**e are sad to report that we have just learned that Hal Cantor passed away this week. He was a long time member of Quest, who was always happy to share his wide knowledge on many subjects. Hal was a genuine “good guy”, who will be missed.



## Creative Corner

### ENCHANTED APRIL by Betty Farber

On a city street lined with pear trees,  
An April breeze ruffles the branches.  
Countless pear blossoms fall quietly  
Like snowflakes.  
As I stare in wonder,  
West 25th Street becomes a fairyland.  
Do I alone sense the magic?  
No...  
A slender young Asian girl  
Rises in the air to catch a blossom  
And having her prize in hand  
Turns to smile at me.

**A shoutout to  
everyone who can still  
remember their  
childhood phone number  
but can't remember  
the password they  
created yesterday.**

**You are my people.**

## Jackson Pollock's “Mural” –Away from the Easel

by Dena Kerren, Quest Culture Committee



**O**n Friday, March 12th, our Quest Culture Committee arranged a private “virtual tour” of the work of Jackson Pollock at the Guggenheim Museum.

Peggy Guggenheim commissioned Jackson Pollock to paint a mural for her Manhattan townhouse. The mural was to be eight feet by twenty feet. The commission came with a stipend, rare in 1943, of \$150 per month. The money was much needed, as Pollock and his future wife, Lee Krasner (a painter in her own right), were barely scraping by in their shared New York apartment.

*Mural* would not only be Pollock's first large painting – it would be his largest. So large, in fact, that he and Krasner were forced to dismantle one of their apartment walls to fit the canvas inside.

The problem was, Pollock couldn't get started. As Krasner told it, he stared at the blank canvas for days that turned into weeks that turned into months. Guggenheim, at first simply concerned, became increasingly frustrated with his progress. She finally gave Pollock an ultimatum: Finish the painting for a party I'm throwing in January, or your stipend is history. When Krasner went to sleep the night before the deadline, Pollock still hadn't made a single mark. She was certain that his career was over.

When she awoke the next morning, the 160-square-foot canvas had been transformed into a frenzy of energetic brushstrokes. Teal, yellow, red, and black marks looped and whirled on a white background, a vision Pollock later described as a stampede of every animal in the American West, cows and horses and antelopes and buffaloes. Everything charged across the surface. Pollock rolled up the canvas and delivered it to Guggenheim's apartment with hours to spare. It's a great story and a terrific myth.

A team of technicians determined that the work was painted over a period of weeks, identifying several layers of paint that dried between applications. That wasn't the first time someone poked holes in Krasner's story.

**I NEVER USE TURN SIGNALS**



**IT'S NOBODY ELSE'S BUSINESS  
WHERE I'M GOING**



**After Corona is over,  
we will have to wear our masks  
like this for two months to  
get our ears back in place!**

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

**Encores 2021**  
*by Leslie Goodman and Art Spar*  
 All Classes are 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

## Who am I?

### Tuesdays

**June 1**     **Susan Diehl** *Gordon Parks*— Great Journalists and Publishers

**June 8**     **Madeleine Brecher** *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History*— Fascinating Non-Fiction

**June 15**    **Phil Gisser, Sandra Abramson & Wayne Cotter**  
*What Happened*— Election 2020

**June 22**    **Larry Shapiro** *Islam and the Jews*— Anti-Semitism

**June 29**    **Jennifer Jolly** *Leonardo da Vinci*— Movers and Shakers

**July 6**     **Marian Friedmann** *An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice* by Khizr Khan— Fascinating Non-Fiction

**July 13**    **Lynnel Garabedian** *Salvador Dali*— Artists and Their Work

**July 20**    **Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter** *A Salute to Songwriters*— Classic Rock Albums

**July 27**    **Ruth Ward** *A.O.C.*— Women's Voices

### Thursdays

**June 3**     **Brenda Wilder** *Synthetic Biology: Reinventing Nature*— Science and Scientists

**June 10**    **Michael Wellner** *Clarence Thomas*— Law and Order

**June 17**    **Beth Callender** *All You Need is Love: A History of Romantic Love*— Presenter's Choice

**June 24**    **Karen Levin** *Mike Nichols*— Film Directors, Then and Now

**July 1**     No Class

**July 8**     **Toni Dickenson** *Ukraine*— Foreign Affairs

**July 15**    **Beth Callender, Mary Ann Donnelly** *Creativity Day*

**July 22**    **Sandra Abramson** *Rachel Maddow* Great— Journalists and Publishers

**July 29**    **Ann Goerdt** *Ethiopia*— The African Continent

**Spring Cleaning.** While cleaning out old boxes in the attic today, I found my tickets to Woodstock as well as a photo of me with the beard I grew there. Amazing what you find in the attic.

The answers are on page five.



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*A Quest Publication*

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## Creativity at Lunch

by Mary Ann Donnelly

On March 17th it was the luck of this Irish-woman to host, along with Beth Callender, a special Creativity at Lunch session featuring the work of Art Spar and Marilyn Weiss.

Art read excerpts from his poem *The Diary of Sheldon Stein*. This work of fiction is about a 14 year old Jewish kid living in Bay Terrace, Queens during the pandemic. He is the youngest of three generations crowded into his small grandparents' apartment. To make some sense of the times when... *the world went kablooe*y, he follows the advice to... *Start Writing Grandson*:

*Grandpa sez  
These are interesting times  
For a kid who speaks in rhymes  
Write about what's happening  
Trump, Covid, Black Lives, Global Warming!*

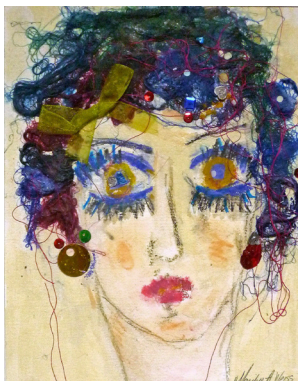


After Art's creativity in words, Marilyn Weiss took us on an "Artist's Journey" of the artwork she's created over the last four decades. Through the miracle of Zoom we were able to see the full range of her award-winning work that includes collage, painting, printmaking, assemblage and handmade paper.

This session was recorded and is available for viewing on the Quest website. You'll find the link to the entire poem below.

On April 21 Creativity at Lunch will feature more poetry and art and also music and dance. Please join Beth and me for another opportunity to witness the creativity of our fellow Questers.

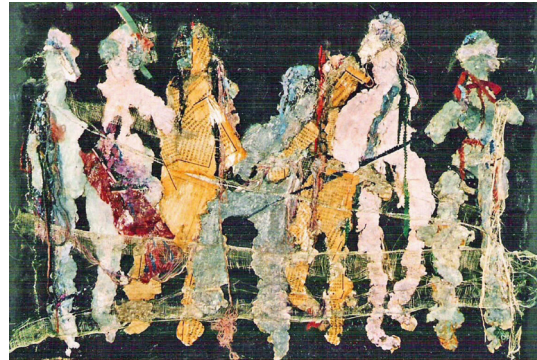
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Monie 11" x 14"



In and Out 40" x 30"



Go for It  
35" x 45"

## Where Are We?

1959 Freshman Year Dorm PJ Party at Cornell U. in Dorm Dickson VI. Find **Judy Weis** and **Nancy Richardson**.



**We are  
not aging,  
we are ripening  
to perfection**

# Toasts

submitted by Sandy Gordon

When a host hands you a glass of bubbly, there's rarely a concern that the liquid in hand will cost you your life. Yet, back in ancient Greek and Roman times, it was a common worry. Raising a glass wasn't just to the health of the guests, but was also a way for the host to prove that the drink wasn't

poisoned. Traditions of toasting can also be traced as far back as Mughal times in India, and to the Vikings in Scandinavia. Some say the gesture of raising a glass became a toast in 17th century England during the reign of Charles II, when pieces of spiced toast were dipped in the liquid to impart flavor. Here in the U.S., we toast with *Cheers*!

## Where would you be if toasted with the following?

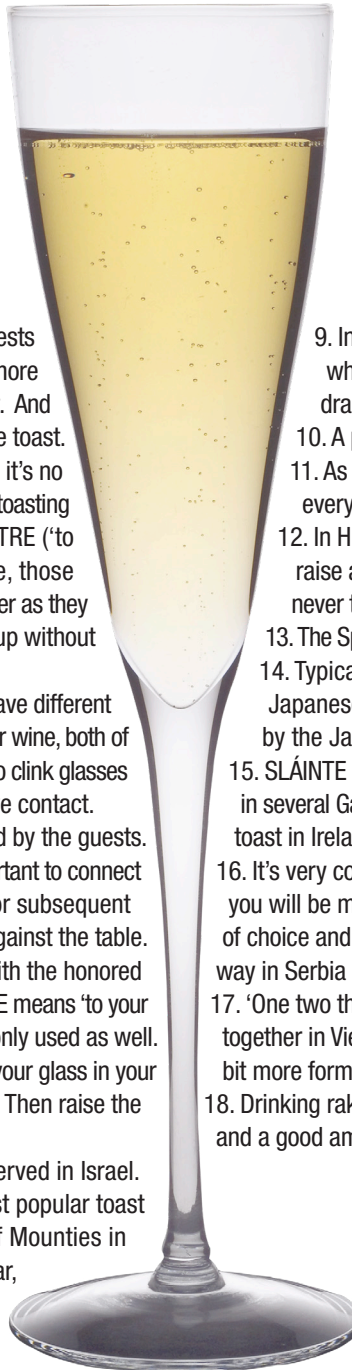
1. SKÅL (pronounced Skoal)
2. A VOTRE SANTÉ
3. PROST or ZUM WOHL (zoom vohl)
4. GAN BEI 'bottoms up' or KAI PAY 'drain your glass'
5. SALUTE or CIN CIN (chin chin)
6. HO TA LAH
7. L'CHAIM
8. SOCIABLE
9. NA ZDROWIE (na-zdroh-vee-ah)

10. PROOST
11. CHOK DEE
12. EGESZSEGERE
13. SALUD
14. KAMPAI
15. SLÁINTE SLÀINTE
16. ZIVJELI (zheev yay lee)
17. MÔT HAI BA DZÔ (mot hai ba yo)
18. SEREFE (sher-i-feh)

## Answers

1. In Denmark, they take their toasts seriously. Guests are never to toast their host or anyone older or more senior in rank until they have been toasted to first. And never taste your drink until the host has said the toast.
2. The French love their wine and rich cheeses, so it's no surprise that when they raise a glass, they're not toasting to happiness, but to 'health' (SANTÉ). A LA VOTRE ('to yours') is another common toast. Furthermore, those toasting must maintain eye contact with each other as they clink glasses, and toast every person in the group without crossing arms.
3. The Germans love their beer and wine, so they have different toasts for each: PROST for beer and ZUM WOHL for wine, both of which translate to mean 'to your health.' Be sure to clink glasses with everyone around you, while maintaining eye contact.
4. In China, the host makes the first toast, followed by the guests. When clinking glasses for the first time, it is important to connect the bellies (just under the rims) of the glass; for subsequent toasts, the bottoms of the glasses are tapped against the table.
5. Typically, in Italy, the host gives the first toast with the honored guests repaying the toast later in the meal. SALUTE means 'to your health,' but the more informal CIN CIN is commonly used as well.
6. In Taiwan, this means 'let the cup be dry.' Raise your glass in your right hand with your left hand under it. All drink. Then raise the cup again before placing it on the table.
7. L'CHAIM 'to Life' is said whenever alcohol is served in Israel.
8. In Canada, particularly in Nova Scotia, the most popular toast is simply SOCIABLE! Imagine a large group of Mounties in their snazzy crimson uniforms, lined up at a bar, collectively saying SOCIABLE!

9. In Poland, it is traditional to stand when toasting, which could occur all through the meal. And always drain your glass.
10. A proper toast in the Netherlands.
11. As a visitor to Thailand, you are likely to be toasted by every person at the table to welcome you.
12. In Hungary, it is customary for the guest of honor to raise a glass of wine and make the first toast. And never, never toast with beer.
13. The Spaniards raise a glass saying SALUD, meaning 'health.'
14. Typically, toasts are made at the beginning and end of Japanese parties or drinking and dining sessions, usually by the Japanese host.
15. SLÁINTE or SLÀINTE is a word literally translating to 'health' in several Gaelic languages, and is commonly used as a drinking toast in Ireland and Scotland.
16. It's very common that any new place you go to in Croatia, you will be met with a shot of Rakija. This is the country's drink of choice and is used in every social gathering. You can toast this way in Serbia and Bosnia as well.
17. 'One two three cheers!' is a fun way the whole table toasts together in Viet Nam. Saying CAN LY DIL and clinking glasses is a bit more formal.
18. Drinking raki in Turkey involves a ceremony, some traditions, and a good amount of pleasure.



Here I Am...

1. George Hicks



## Who's Doing What

**Phil Gisser** The school system here in Sammamish, Washington (suburban Seattle) expects a lot from their students. Last week, the sign at the grade school entrance, which I walk past frequently, welcomed back 2nd and 3rd graders, with the same reminder at the bottom.



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**Howard Einbinder** We are opening up our summer home in Peekskill which involves a lot of cleaning. But we have a large covered porch with lots of air openings and I love to sit outside and read. It's very quiet with only the birds tweeting. Since there are 70 units throughout the five acre community, there is always a neighbor to talk to. Can't wait to go in the pool!

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**Linda Downs** I am a tender at a panel garden at West 108th Street and Riverside Drive. Lots of flowers are coming up—snowdrops, crocuses, irises, and daffodils.

• • •

**Ellen and Bob Gottfried** flew to Austin, Texas on Thursday March 25 for five days to visit with their son, Bradley.



**Cindy Hoddeson** enjoyed the holiday when she invited two friends to celebrate Passover together. They also enjoyed the tulips, matzos, and wine among other wonderful foods.

• • •

Dining at Baita: An Italian Alpine Experience. During the Spring holiday, five Questers enjoyed a luncheon together in an Eataly "ski hut". In addition to lots of eating, we celebrated a few birthdays. A fun time was had by all! Top row: I to r **Michele Mackay, Madeleine Brecher**. Bottom: I to r **Gale Spitalnik, Karen Levin, Arlynn Greenbaum**



• • •

**Nannette and Stan Lieblein** celebrated Passover at a daughter's house with an in person seder of 8, 4 unvaccinated at a separate table. In addition, we zoomed with a group of 15 from around the United States. It worked well because we had a strict zoom master controlling the flow.

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**Larry Shapiro** My family had our second consecutive (and, we pray, final) Zoom seder. Everyone checked in, from Vermont to Seattle, including my niece who lives in a Zen Buddhist monastery. (About half the residents were planning their second consecutive seder the next night.)



**Judy Weis** Our (vaccinated) California kids came east and stayed in the luxury apartment near us that they had bought in late 2019 and had hardly been able to use. It's been occupied in the interim by their daughter Jessie, a Barnard student. We had a seder at their place with them, Jessie and three of her friends, and Pete's sister. Zooming in were our other daughter in Colorado, and our son, daughter-in-law and 10-year old granddaughter from RI. So the whole family was sort-of together, remotely. Here's me and our daughter Jen.

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**Lucille Granfort** says for Easter this year, **Sal** plans to be *Standing on the corner, watching all the girls go by*. We used to go to the Easter Parade on Fifth Avenue, outside St. Patrick's Cathedral, with our whole adult family, complete with exotic, home made Easter bonnets. This year, what a surprise, nothing.

• • •

**Lillian Schienbaum** Across from my cot in a hallway in the Emergency room I had chance to speak with a patient who appeared to be of a Hasidim group. We spoke in Yiddish and it was a great opportunity to understand and say a few words in a rarely used language and comfort one another.

## Here We Are

**Nancy Richardson** pouring wine in top row and **Judy Weis** in bottom row, second from the left.

## 25 Broadway

by Donna K. Ramer

The March wind made it feel cooler than the fifty-seven degrees our iPhones claimed on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, when we — four hearty but masked Questors — met at high noon to tour the Bowling Green area in anticipation of returning to 25 Broadway on September 13th.

Sheryl Harawitz, Nancy Richardson, QNews editor-in-chief Carolyn McGuire and I found a dearth of office workers, students and tourists on the streets and in the parks, which made navigating the streets easier — but a bit sadder — from pre-Covid days. Just a few souvenir and food cart vendors hawked their wares, and only Meredith's Bread had a kiosk in the area where the farmers market usually draws crowds.

We did find Starbucks, the NY Transit Store and The Loft on the east side of Broadway open, as were the Subway sandwich shop and wine store a few doors south of the Quest building. Also open was the MTA office at 3 Stone Street, an easy walk from Quest if you need to replace your Metro card; it was quite empty as we passed by. The Museum of The American Indian is still closed.

As diehard lunchroom attendees, we Zoomed with fellow Questors Judy Hampson and Linda Redding (still in Kauai, where it was 6:00 a.m.) as we lunched outdoors on burgers, salmon, or fish and chips at The Dubliner on Stone Street. Yes, there was wine and beer but also diet Cokes and water.

We know things are in a state of flux in these Covid times so we plan to update everyone as we get closer to our first day back at 25 Broadway.



Questors **Carolyn McGuire, Nancy Richardson, Donna Ramer & Sheryl Harawitz** (l to r) unmasked to eat when they stopped for lunch during their tour of the Bowling Green area.

### How much do you remember about the neighborhood?

1. Who is honored on a plaque in the center of the park?
2. What is the name of the wine store a few yards south of Quest?
3. When was our last in-person meeting at 25 Broadway?

### Answers

1. George Delacorte, magazine publisher and founder of Dell Publishing
2. NY Wine Exchange
3. Tuesday, March 10, 2020



## Quiz

by Betty Farber and Lucille Granfort

### Quiz: What numbers can be found in these quotations?

1. Into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell rode the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ little maids from school are we
3. When you were sweet, when you were sweet \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ blind mice, see how they run.
5. Get your kicks on Route \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sing a song of sixpence a pocketful of rye, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ blackbirds baked in a pie.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ buckle my shoe. \_\_\_\_\_ knock at the door.
8. When we \_\_\_\_\_ parted in silence and tears,
9. \_\_\_\_\_ trombones led the big parade.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ alone to be my own, I alone to know her caresses.
11. Trial of the Chicago \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answers

1. Six hundred
2. Three
3. Sixteen
4. Three
5. Sixty-six
6. Four and twenty
7. One, two \*\*\*three, four
8. Two
9. Seventy-six
10. One
11. Seven