

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 14

March 2021

## A Note From the President

**A**lthough we are not meeting in person at 25 Broadway, we do have a full schedule of activities including presentations, Noontime Knowledge events, Quest Lunchroom, Creativity Days, Book Club meetings, Art Talks, and Museum trips.

The Quest Council has just passed a resolution formally creating Zoom members. They are eligible to make presentations, contribute to our literary and art publications, act as a co-coordinator of a class, and, under special circumstances, with the permission of the Council, serve on Quest committees. Any Zoom member who desires to become a full Quest member, which will entitle you to vote in our elections

and on Quest-wide proposals, serve as a lead coordinator of a class, serve on and chair a Quest committee, and be a candidate for Council, may apply for full membership by making an application to the Membership Committee, once classes resume in person. I believe that will be able to happen in September 2021.

Council is working on a plan to allow Quest members to attend classes both in person and via Zoom. I will update you as more information becomes available.

We will be having two Noontime Knowledge sessions on March 15 and 16, to introduce and answer questions about the proposed changes to Quest bylaws, created by a special

ad hoc by laws committee, and approved by Council.

Please try to attend one of these sessions, or listen to one of the recordings, which will be placed on Quest's private website page.

The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) has nominated eight terrific candidates for the four open Council at-large positions, and one candidate each for President and for Vice-President. I urge you to review the candidates' statements that will be sent to you via Quest Business, and to attend the Meet the Candidate forums on Zoom, scheduled for lunchtime on April 26 and April 28.

– Bob Gottfried

## Additional Nominees by Petition

**I**f you wish to run for President, Vice President, or one of the four vacant at-large Council seats, and you have not been nominated by the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC), you must follow the following procedures.

*Additional nominations must be made by a petition signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the membership of the year in which the election is to be held and submitted to the NEC no less than one month prior to the scheduled election date.*

You must obtain support from 35 members, and forward them to the Chair of the NEC, Roy Clary, (roy.clary@yahoo.com) by March 29.

## Candidates For Council

*by Roy Clary, Chairperson, NEC*

**I**am delighted to report on the members who are running for Council. Please note that Ruth Ward is running unopposed for President and Wayne Cotter unopposed for Vice President.

On Monday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 28 from 12:30 to 1:45pm, candidates will speak to the membership through Zoom technology. Speeches will be no longer than 10 minutes. There will be time for Q and A. Speeches will be recorded.

The candidates speaking on Monday, April 26 are:

- Wayne Cotter
- Sandra Abramson
- James Brook
- Susan Diehl
- Mary Ann Donnelly

The candidates speaking on Wednesday, April 28 are:

- Ruth Ward
- Nan McNamara
- Donna Ramer
- Pereta Rodriguez
- Michael Wellner

Additional information will be forthcoming. I send all good wishes,

## Quiz

by Lowell Berman

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
6. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?

### Answers

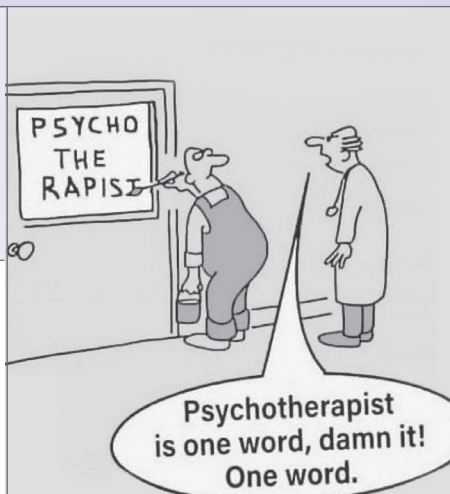
1. Boxing
2. The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb
4. Strawberry
5. Dwarf, dwell and dwindle
6. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts
7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. Lettuce
9. North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls... the rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.

### Notes:

A special thank you to **Ellen Shapiro** for her artistic efforts in this QNEWS.  
Thank you to **Steve Allen** for photographs for the obituaries

### Good Thoughts

Appreciate even the simplest things in life, like a smile or a hug, for you can never tell how long these will last.



## More Limericks

**W**ell our Limerick contest ended up to be a tie. There was no clear winner and everyone just decided that they were all winners. A few late entries came in so we decided to just include them in this issue for your enjoyment.

*Submitted by Linda Amster*

There once was an artist named Harris  
Who spent all his spare time in Paris.  
One day while in town  
His trousers fell down  
And Harris was very embarrassed.

*Submitted by Z*

There once were some women who cared  
To make the world better they dared  
To speak of injustice,  
The anguish among us  
'til all in our country were spared

### Notes:

**Thisby Nissen**, daughter of **Myra Nissen**, has written another book, *How Other People Make Love*. Short stories from Wayne State University Press.

### Good Thoughts

What makes friendship special is the way each one remembers the other when they are apart and they miss the talks, the laughs and the times they were together. Life changes; memories don't.

When you are feeling stressed and about to break down, just remember: STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backwards. It's just a piece of cake!

## We Remember Jerry Wiesenberg

**Q**uest has lost another former member last month, with the passing of Jerry Wiesenberg, 89 years old, a proud US Army veteran, formerly of Fresh Meadows, Queens, and for the last few years Parkland, Florida. Those who knew him will remember that Jerry was an outstanding magician, a longtime member of the Society of American Magicians and the New York City Society of American Magicians (Parent Assembly 1). Jerry was a retired Engineer at New York City Transit, and was a member of the NYC Transit Task Force Response Team that responded to the World Trade Center attack on September 11th, 2001. Jerry joined Quest in September of 2007, and will be remembered as a loyal member of the acting class, who performed in several plays. He was a genuine “nice guy,” who always had a smile on his face, and loved life. He will be missed.



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*A Quest Publication*

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## Hot Pants

*by Caroline Thompson*

**D**o any of you remember the era of hot pants? Hot pants was a fashion trend that started in the late 1950s and is probably still in fashion in some ways today, but the official time period for the “hit era” defined by the shock value of such a fashion at a time when many women still wore skirts (in the 1950s), not even pants. Well, believe it or not, I briefly took part in this trend and even have proof, if you will accept that at the time my name was Caroline Howells from my first marriage. (I married Steve in 1991 and didn’t resume using my maiden name, Thompson, until 1995 when I moved to New York from Vermont. It seemed like the best time to start over with the name.) Anyway, back to the hot pants story.

I don’t remember what motivated me to be stylish (not exactly my thing) but this happened in 1971. I worked at Chase Manhattan Bank and was a colleague and good friend of Steve’s in the Operations Research Department. A group of us were invited to a party in Brooklyn one night (with my husband, but not Steve), and I must have decided I wanted to be “cool.”

The proof is that I got mentioned in an article in the New York Post. A reporter talked to me when I was buying the hot pants at Macy’s (where else?). Good thing Steve saved the article all these years, almost 50 now, and an image of the part about me is included here. Reading the reference to “Mrs. Caroline Howells” is downright painful, not the Howells part but the formality of how a married woman in general was referred to as late as 1971. As a postscript, I left Chase at the end of December, 1971 and had my first child in January, 1972, so I joined the world of motherhood rather than hot chicks being cool, which never would have happened anyway.

If the topic piques your interest in these Covid times, you might enjoy reading an article on both the history of hot pants and where things stand now. The title is *Hot Pants Are Back* — And Yes, They Are Hotter Than Ever.

**The following was printed in the New York Post:**

### Hot Pants: A Short Story?

are bringing in the shoppers.

At Macy’s, Mrs. Caroline Howells of Montclair, N.J., an officer at Chase Manhattan Bank, bought her first pair because “they’re sort of fun” and her husband favors the idea.

“I’m not the type to go with the style,” she explained. “I don’t even have a pants suit. But short things are more fun . . . and I can wear them.”

Mrs. Howells said she would wear her HP to parties but not to work.

### Notes:

Sorry, Diane Figueroa’s name was omitted from the Creativity Day artist’s listing in the February issue of QNews

### Good Thoughts

You may think that time makes people forget... but the longer the time people spend apart, the longer it makes them remember each other more often.

## New York Adventures

by Beth Callender

### Overheard on the Subway:

**Girl #1:** Did you hear that Cathy broke up with Jonathan?

**Girl #2:** Really?

**Girl #1:** Yes, and she's already dating someone new!

**Girl #2:** That Cathy, she's a real socialist butterfly.

Apologies to socialism but I immediately pictured a drab little butterfly flapping its mousy brown wings.



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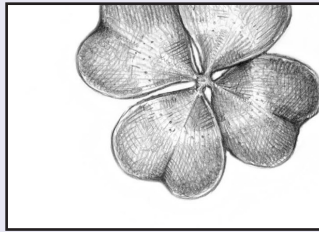
### Central Park Wild Things

Wild things do live in Central Park and the other day I had a close encounter with one. I was standing in the wooded area called The Ramble admiring the fresh snow when a red dot appeared on the snow at my feet. As I stared, another dark red blob appeared and then another. I looked up into the eyes of a large hawk sitting on a branch immediately above me, gripping a very dead pigeon. I moved!

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### Do I Look Like a Drinking Fountain?

This summer I was standing in the park holding a glass of water when a squirrel mistook me for a drinking fountain. He raced up my leg, jumped to my arm and was ready to take a drink when I yelped and dropped the glass. I jumped, he jumped and then he raced off. I don't know which of us was more startled!



I always tried to avoid the rowdy man sitting at the 69th street entrance to Central Park. But one day I found a four-leaf clover and with no one else around I proudly showed it to him. He pulled out a small leather bag filled with four and five leaf clovers and told me he'd show me his secret spot one day. And he did. We walked to the Mother Goose statue and found one five-leaf clover. I noticed his legs were scarred and that he walked with great difficulty and he said it was shrapnel wounds from the Vietnam war. His name was James Ax and he died in the van his brother bought so he'd have a place to sleep off the street.

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### They're Not North American Birds!

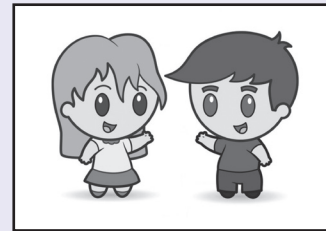
A few summers ago, while walking my dog I heard bird calls unlike anything I'd ever experienced. These birds were not politely chirping and warbling — no, they were squawking and screeching and they were LOUD. I followed the sound and quickly found the culprits; a flock of large green parrots had landed in a nearby tree and were using it as a jungle gym. I watched as they twirled around the branches, munched on berries and screamed their approval. Then, as suddenly as they'd arrived, they lifted off in a green cloud and flew noisily away. A friend said they were an escaped pet store shipment and that they would die when the weather turned cold. I hope they made it to a warmer climate.



Overheard at Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors  
At an afternoon event, two children are playing together in the aisle before the performance. They're about four years old.

**Girl:** You're black and I'm white

**Boy:** No, I'm blue (points to his pants) and yellow (points to his shirt), you're green (points to her dress & pink (points to her tights).



...

Back when I was still working, I attended many lectures at the main 42nd street library. One science lecture was less than thrilling but I'll never forget how the speaker, a weedy-looking professor, suddenly stopped, looked directly at us and said "Always remember that you are the ultimate lottery winners". We glanced around, wondering if something momentous was about to happen. But he explained that our good fortune was in simply being born. Out of the countless eggs and sperms that remained single, two came together to produce each of us. No matter what else is going on, his words made me realize just how lucky I am.

...

First date in Central Park. My date and I decided that Central Park would be the perfect place for a first date. We'd stroll and talk and get to know each other in the great outdoors, far from the hustle-bustle of urban life. It was all going swimmingly until a very large bird decided to relieve itself directly over my date's head. The gooey glop settled in his curly hair and neither of us had even a hanky to try and mop it up. We eventually found a public bathroom and he was able to repair the damage somewhat, but alas, our date did not survive the direct hit. I should have suggested a movie.



## Bits & Pieces (Who's Doing What?)

**Ann Goerdt** and **Ellen Shapiro** walked around the southern and western sides of Central Park's big Lake. There they enjoyed the Ladies Pavilion, a delicate and ornate cast iron structure designed by James Wrey Mould in 1871. It originally was a shelter for horse carriages for passengers waiting at the 59th Street park entrance; after 40 years it was moved to this site abutting the Lake.



Lunch outside in winter weather: Questers will do whatever it takes to have in-person contact! **Bob Hartman, Frieda Lipp** and **Andrea Irvine**.

...



*Maye's March for Women's Votes* by **Amy Houts**. Vera Maye Shipps is a 19-year old trombone player who yearns to do something important to fight for women's voting rights. There's not much opportunity in the rural area where she lives. But then, as a member of the Missouri Ladies Military Band, she is invited to travel 1,000 miles by train to lead a 1913 suffrage parade in Washington, D.C. When the parade route is blocked by a throng of men, Maye and the other band members must act fast to stir the course of history. Written for ages 8-12, this narrative nonfiction book, *Maye's March for Women's Votes*, based on real people and real events, includes passages from Maye's diary.

*Amy Houts is Betty Farber's Daughter*

**CultureQuest**  
by *Estelle Selzer*

**Creative Corner**

**O**n Friday, February 26th, about 70 Questers were treated to a virtual tour of Winterthur, the former country home of Henry Francis du Pont in Delaware. After a powerpoint presentation about the history of the family and the estate, our fabulous docent Debby Harper (with the help of Lois Stoehr) led us on a "live" walkthrough of several rooms on the ground floor of the 150 room estate. Each room was described and items of interest including several paintings were pointed out.

I have visited Winterthur many times over the years and each time is better than the previous one. It is especially beautiful in the spring and fall. You can take a tram tour around the grounds and get off and explore the vast landscape. I highly recommend this estate as an excursion once COVID is under control.



**STATE FAIR**  
by *Betty Farber*

On a winter's night in 2020  
I watched a movie made in 1945  
in technicolor bright as a lollipop.

Jeanne Crain sat in the window  
of her Iowa farmhouse  
in the heat of a summer's day  
and sang, "It Might As Well Be Spring."

I was fourteen years old in 1945  
Looking out on clotheslines  
from the window of my Brooklyn apartment,  
feeling "restless as a willow in a windstorm."

Seventy-five years later, I can remember  
how it felt  
to be fourteen and looking for love.  
The miracle was that I found it  
and it will always be with me.

That's even better than a Hollywood ending.

## We Remember Trudy Owett

**T**rudy Owett passed away last month at age 92. Predeceased by her loving husband Bernard Owett.



Adored and survived by her son Adam, daughter Margot, son-in-law Ken, and grandchildren Gideon, Clara, Lola, and Jonah. Trudy was born in Vienna, Austria. In the run up to WWII, she escaped through the Kindertransport and lived with a foster family in England. Trudy was reunited with her parents five years later in New York under the auspices of HIAS. As a working mother, she was a trailblazer: a fashion editor of *Ladies Home Journal* for 17 years, a contributing editor to *New York Magazine* and to *Ms. Magazine's* first edition. At the height of her career, she switched paths, earning a Masters in Social Work at NYU. As a psychotherapist affiliated with Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic, she continued her practice well into her 80's. All who loved Trudy were continually inspired by her intelligence, insight, love of culture, art, and travel, and her often-dark sense of humor. Margot shared that "Quest community meant a lot to both my mother and father." A memorial will be announced at a later date. Contributions in her memory can be made to: [www.hias.org](http://www.hias.org) to protect today's refugees.

### Good Thoughts

Words and hearts should be handled with care, for words when spoken and hearts when broken are the hardest ones to repair.

When you find a dream inside your heart, don't ever let it go. For dreams are the tiny seeds from which beautiful tomorrows grow.

## Giving is Getting *by Howard Seeman*

**I** find, I am sure you agree, that giving is getting. I am lucky enough to be only semi-retired to be able to do *Helping*; I am a certified Life-Coach. Only a small private practice, but I do Freud's advice: besides Loving: *Work*.

And this work I do is giving is getting. Here is a taste of it:

- I have a client who is a new young doctor often working/learning in the stressful ICU. My job: to help him with his stress as he saves lives. What an honor I have.
- I have a young Indian woman who is afraid she will become like her [Indian] mother: almost no rights, cannot be assertive, and restricted to "mother". My job: give her ways to grow stronger amidst her culture so she can have rights her mother never had, e.g., choose her husband, rather than bend to an arranged marriage.
- I have a young gay artist, striving to not be "a starving artist". My job is to help him navigate the art world, market his art, and never feel "less" in front of many homophobics.

Often when these sessions end, they feel uplifted, which lifts me: medicine for my own aging, to keep feeling my life is valuable — midst my hurting, e.g., knee, back...

Warm regards especially to those who know what I am talking about, and to all of us who forget that often giving has more *got* than getting.

## Fran Lebowitz to Speak at Quest in the Fall *by Arlynn Greenbaum*

**T**he Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that the legendary wit, social commentator and curmudgeon Fran Lebowitz will be our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on November 3, 2021. She can be seen in the popular Netflix series "Pretend It's a City" with Martin Scorsese.

Lebowitz is the author of two collections of essays, *Metropolitan Life* and *Social Studies*. She also wrote a children's book, *Mr. Chas and Lisa Sue Meet The Pandas*. She admits to suffering from "writer's blockade." But she has plenty of opinions on everything as we will hear on November 3. Instead of the usual talk, I will interview her for 30 minutes and then she will answer your questions for 60 minutes. We're in for a special treat!



Copyright Brigitte Lacombe



## International Women's Day



### She Looks Up *by Donna K. Ramer*

#### International Women's Day March 8, 2021

She looks up at the smiling face looking down  
She looks up for help to ease her pain  
She looks up in wonder at her world  
She steps up

She stands up with head held high  
She stands up to question why  
She stands up to face her world  
She steps up

She speaks up for herself  
She speaks up for others who have no voice  
She speaks up to control her world  
She steps up

She looks up to the brave women who came before  
She stands up so we can't turn away  
She speaks up for all who follow  
She steps up

### International Women's Day

To celebrate this important day the Zoom Lunchroom hosted a wine and cheese celebration on Monday March 8 at 4pm via our favorite meeting local—Zoom.

Questers wore pearls and decorated their zoom screen in pearls and flowers. **Nancy R.** presented a brief history of the International Women's Day There were a few poems and limericks to honor the occasion. We all had a question to ponder: When did you realize you were female? Sincerely, **Sheryl, Donna, Judy, LinZ, Carolyn, and Nancy.**

#### Good Thoughts

Sometimes, we close our eyes  
and just listen to the echoes of our hearts.  
We fall in love and there are times  
when we love so much that we  
lose ourselves in our own emotions.