

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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A Note From the President

Hello Members, welcome to our Fall Quest Experience. Here at 25 Broadway our tech team continues to present a complete program of courses for both our on-site and our at-home participants. Again, many thanks to Wayne Cotter and Sheryl Harawitz, not only for overseeing all presentations in the auditorium and room 15-17 respectively, but for training other enthusiastic Quest members to prepare the podiums for our hybrid classes.

Our lunch period is beginning to fill

in with some intriguing presentations, and Quest members are enjoying both the spaciousness of the lunchroom and the noontime intimacy of the auditorium lounge and the Brooklyn room next to the office.

We understand the hesitancy of some of our members to take public transportation, but we encourage you if at all possible to come to class at 25 Broadway so that we can maintain the robust sense of community on which our institution was founded. At the same time, keep in

mind that our auditorium classes and select meetings are recorded and are available to you on our website at questlifelong.org.

Finally, remember that our 25th Anniversary Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, November 19th at noon at the Harmonie Club on 60th Street between Madison and 5th Avenues. Details will be available soon... So many reasons to be glad to be a member of Quest.

– Warm regards,
Ruth Ward

Quest's 25th Anniversary Gala Luncheon

As a few of our founding members can attest, Quest held its first classes in 1995, as a new Lifelong Learning Community, when a hundred or so hearty souls split from the IRP to venture out on their own. And what a wise move that has turned out to be!

Now, twenty-five years later (well, it's really twenty-six, but we are not counting our *annus horribilis* Covid year), we are celebrating with a gala luncheon at the Harmonie Club, on Friday, November 19th. To date we have over 140 RSVPs, and there is still time to add your name if you have not done so already. Seating will be organized before we arrive; be patient — plans are in the works and will be announced shortly. There will be live entertainment, a cocktail hour upon arrival, and a gift for all. We promise a wonderful afternoon! *Happy Anniversary!*

Spring 2022 Distinguished Guest Lecturers Announced

Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Phyllis Weiss and Bob Reiss are pleased to announce the following roster of guest speakers for Spring semester. Several of these speakers were recommended by Quest members. Please feel free to give us your suggestions for next Fall.

February 9: Joshua Greene, author of *Unstoppable*.

February 23: Joseph Bertolozzi performing Bridge and Tower Music.

March 9: Jane Brody, *New York Times* Personal Health columnist. Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker.

March 23: Elinor Lipman, author of *Rachel to the Rescue*.

April 6: David Hunt, retired CIA officer, on Intelligence in Flux.

April 27: Kevin Coughlin and Traci Rosow, authors of *Unblinded*.

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

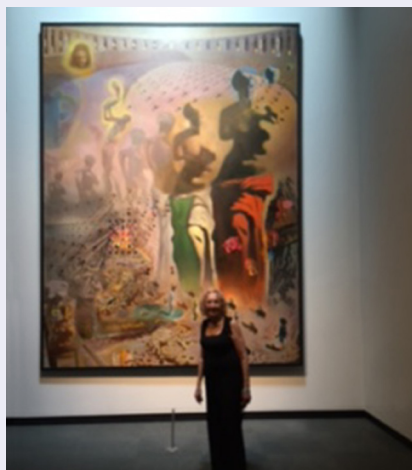
Two Weddings and Dali!

by Sandy Gordon

In this time, challenged by the virus, one wedding in Aspen, Colorado, and the other in Florida! A dilemma! Well, I decided, since both were dear to me, and the most threatening crowd would be at the weddings, why just the destination without enjoying the art and beauty, so, I flew to each with extra days to see the sights!

Aspen was spectacular, with mountains surrounding the picture perfect town, altitude of 6,000 feet, and September sun still encouraging the hikers to climb the mountain and take the ski lift down. This woman found that the altitude required a bench, a tree, or a stair every two-three blocks, as I explored the town. The art museum was first, very contemporary, very limited. However, the guide at the Jerome Hotel kept us enthralled, with the history of Colorado, and of Aspen. And the wedding was a great success!

The second destination was Tampa, Florida. I planned a side trip to St. Petersburg, with the intent to revisit The Dali Museum, as we had been there on opening day, 10 years ago, when I thought that the Spanish princess would not stop talking in time for us to enter the Museum before dashing for our plane. This time I visited with leisure and was again mesmerized by the visions of this amazing artist, Dali. Then, The Museum of Art, The Holocaust Museum, one of the best, and then a surprise. I was invited to a Creole Luncheon in the garden next to the African American museum, the prelude to the next major museum that will be built in St. Petersburg. And the wedding was another success!



Culture Quest Presents The Medici: Portraits and Politics (1512-1570)

by Madeleine Brecher

On Friday morning October 8, 40 fortunate Questers joined a superb virtual tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Medici exhibition. Our guide was Alexandra Bonfante-Warren, who graciously introduced herself in an email a week before the scheduled tour and asked that the attendees understand that "their participation would be an essential part of the experience." She made it clear that she would be encouraging an open dialogue and that all comments were very welcome... and indeed Alexandra did just that! She showed us about seven or eight portraits from the show and asked penetrating questions motivating us to look closely at the works. She told us the name of the sitter for the portrait, his/her connection to the Medici family, and how the artist was able to share the individual's social status by the clothing worn and the background details. Many of the works were painted by Agnolo Bronzino who painted in the "mannerist" style of the period which is defined by its "emphasis on self-conscious artifice over realistic depiction." The tour participants were very engaged studying the portraits, responding to the queries, and by the fascinating anecdotes that Alexandra shared. Sadly for all of us, the exhibition closed two days after our tour which meant we had little time to head to the MET with our enhanced insights.



Cosimo de' Medici and his wife Eleonora de' Toledo and her son.
Portraits by Agnolo Bronzino

Christian Dior Exhibit—Not to be Missed

by Laura Lopez



The new Christian Dior Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum is spectacular. Well staged, colorful, satisfying and informative, the exhibit is chock full of videos and photos. Beyond the 200 designer gowns, there is the history of Dior, his vision and legacy, and the contributions of his successors like Yves St. Laurent. The presentation of perfumes and accessories felt a bit like advertising. But the small gallery featuring fashion shots taken by famed photographers like Richard Avedon is enchanting. The exhibit evokes memories not only of Dior but the wonderful Paris of his era.

Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror At The Whitney & Philadelphia Museum of Art

by Madeleine Brecher

Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror is the most comprehensive retrospective ever devoted to the seven decades of Johns's art and it is currently showing simultaneously at the Whitney in New York City and at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It is a unique collaboration of co-curators Scott Rothkoff and Carlos Basualdo, of the Whitney and Philadelphia Museum, respectively.

When I entered the sprawling Whitney galleries on the 5th floor during the opening, I was thoroughly overwhelmed. Where does one start? Since that time, I have attended three or four virtual Whitney programs including Making Jasper Johns: Mind/Mirror with the exhibition's two curators. If you are interested, a recording of the event is available on the Whitney's YouTube channel. This talk gave me incredible insights into how to view this monumental exhibition that Holland Cotter of the *New York Times* calls a "blockbuster x 2".

The curators have divided the exhibition, rather than chronologically, into fascinating subject matter categories, different works in each city but twinned one to the other. The two curators collaborated on the galleries in both museums together. For example, the first gallery in each city exhibits works of everyday *motifs* ... in New York we see Johns's focus on flags and maps ... bright colored works on the left, works in white on the right. In Philadelphia, the center of attention in the first gallery is on Johns's numbers and colors ... the repetition and variations of black and white vs. color. These same patterns from his earliest work show up through the decades, analyzed in new and exciting ways.

The theme in the next room is *Place and Difference* and focuses on two important destinations in his life: South Carolina works on the wall in one city and Japan in the other. Johns was always fascinated with Japan; he stayed there studying and always returned throughout his life, especially drawn to printmaking and silk screens. South Carolina is the state where Johns grew up and where he returned throughout his life to connect with the past.

The next motif is *Doubles/Reflection* where the rooms in both cities use different artworks to display the focus of the gallery; in other words, you might see two flags, or two beer cans or one large work and one smaller work mirroring each other. The curators said that the artist gave them incredible freedom to set up the show. "The artist makes the work, the curator makes the show."

The next gallery focuses on *Unique Prints*. The Savarin monotypes are at the Whitney and the gallery is just fantastic. In Philadelphia, we are shown Johns's experiments with bold color. Interestingly, most artists keep only the final of their work whereas this artist keeps all the working proofs and signs them, so it provides a fascinating look at how he experimented with the themes he chose to paint. Prints and drawings have a giant place in his oeuvre.

Finally, there is the *Reveries vs. Nightmares* motif ... the first at the Whitney, the second at the Philadelphia Museum. Jasper Johns was always seen as a rationalist but there is great emotion in his work especially as he approaches his 80s and early 90s where instability and anxiety show up in his palette. There seems to be a conversation going on between the works of art as he experiments with grief and mortality.

I hope that with these insights, you might better understand this sprawling exhibition and know that a visit to both cities will not be one of repetition but will offer a broader perspective on the genius of America's most famous living artist. After a few more visits to the Whitney, I plan to board the train to Philadelphia!



A Tribute to Rick Salter

by Caroline Thompson

We were greatly saddened last month to learn of the passing of beloved Quest member Rick Salter. Rick, a resident of Toronto, was a wonderful person to have among us. He was an active participant in Quest, giving over 30 presentations during his nine years as a Quest member, on a wide variety of subjects, such as Canadian, US, and European history, the indigenous people of North America (the Native Americans of the US and First Nation people of Canada), foreign affairs, international law, the environment. Rick was truly a warm, gentle, and interesting person and always attracted a large audience for his talks. His wife, Liora, told me that Rick absolutely loved Quest and couldn't wait to get back after the pandemic eased travel restrictions.

But there was so much more to Rick than we Questers knew. I attended the memorial service for him and was simply awed by the outpouring of tributes paid to this unique man. Twelve people from all across Canada, who worked and interacted with him during his working years, along with Bob Reiss from Quest, spoke to a Zoom audience of 150. What became clear is what a devoted and generous man Rick was. He was so dedicated to the First Nation people of Canada, making numerous trips to remote locations in the Yukon and elsewhere in Canada to provide his outstanding legal services. Several of them spoke at the service, particularly emphasizing how he was a pioneer in empowering First Nation people to advocate for themselves and forcing the Canadian government to take their advocacy seriously. He was even invited by the Russian government to travel to Russia to advise them about handling their own indigenous people.

We were fortunate to have Rick among us for those too brief nine years. He was a gem, and I will always remember him as a friend.



Who's Doing What

In December, **Michele Mackey** is going to California "to meet my newly discovered half-brother through ancestry.com. This person, Peter, contacted me not long ago to say he was adopted and has been looking for his biological family for a long time. He believed me to be his half-sister through my father. Naturally, I was astounded but he told me information that was true. In addition, my father's name was on his birth certificate. Subsequently, I got my DNA tested at ancestry.com and it was true. He and I are related — siblings in fact. So I am going to meet him and his family. I am excited. Wish me luck!"

• • •

Judith Weis is the lead author of a study on sea level rise happening so fast that some of New Jersey's key tidal marshes could be swallowed whole by next century, eliminating critical wetlands that serve as wildlife habitat and storm barriers. "Faced with sea level rise, a marsh has two options — it can either increase its elevation at a rate equal to that of sea level rise, or it can migrate inland," said Judith Weis, a professor emerita of biological sciences

at Rutgers-Newark. "Otherwise, it will be submerged and drown."

• • •



Frank Montaturo, shopping in Jackson Heights, spotted "amidst the acorn squash the heads of lettuce and garlic... the 10 pound

bags of rice flour and long green gourds... sacks of dal and other Indian culinary exotica... came this amazing vision ... right out of a harem tale by Scheherazade. This is definitely not dress native to the neighborhood. How she brightened my visit to this large no fuss South Asian emporium! The visionary planning that went into putting together her ensemble made me pause in admiration. Her purchase of a bagful of color-coordinated elongated eggplants almost incited me to shout: Brava, diva!"

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**Do You Know
How Weird it is
Being the Same Age
as Old People?**

Culture Quest Tour of The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art

by Linda Downs

Culture Quest attracted 43 Quest members to an outstanding virtual tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas on Friday, September 17th given by Jann Pittman and Barbara Frye, two experienced docents. The museum was designed by the Israeli-Canadian-American architect Moshe Safdie whose buildings include the Collegiate Church Tower in New York, the National Library in Israel and the National Art Museum in Beijing. The architectural design pays close attention to creating a harmonious relationship between the museum pavilions and the creek-fed ponds, rivers and nature trails that surround it.

The collections have been amassed over a twenty-year period with the assistance of outstanding American art specialists. The collections cover the history of the American art from Charles Wilson Peale to the 21st century master Jasper Johns. Visitors are led in and out of the pavilions to experience the constructed and natural environment.

The concept for the museum originated with Alice Walton, the heir to the Walmart fortune. She donated over \$317 million dollars for the 217,000 square foot building that opened in 2011. Plans are to add new pavilions over the next few years.



A Typical/Untypical Day in Brooklyn Heights

by Liesje tenHouten

It's Saturday
 Same old, same old
 After breakfast, 2 hours of Chavurah study
 Then hairdresser
 Leaving the hairdresser, walking down Henry St. there is floating over the street at brownstone first floor level a cloud
 Watching the man-made cloud I bump into a lady, one petite sassy lady
 All pandemonium breaks out — camera crew, men in black everywhere
 I am rushed across the street
 Breathlessly I ask what happened =
 Reese Witherspoon filming "Your Place or Mine"
 That's what happened
 And I didn't even recognise her!

My typical/untypical day in Brooklyn Heights

Right in Our Back Yard

by Shoshi Kagan



The Battery Park Gun Violence Memorial remembers victims of gun violence. Each vase represents one of the 1,050 New Yorkers who died from gun violence last year.

First Day Back!



How to Drink Wine

1. Open the Bottle and Let it Breathe.
2. If it Doesn't Look Like it is Breathing, Give it Mouth-to-Mouth.

Creative Corner

Going to the Dogs
Named: Copper, Jack, Silas, Bentley, Garbo, Gina, Missy (and Millie)
 by Betty Farber

On my trip to the Midwest
 Seeing family was the best.
 But at each household — no regrets,
 They introduced me to their pets.
 This is a kind of monolog
 Of how I got to know each dog.
 Let me put this in the hopper
 I first meet Jack and lovely Copper.
 They sleep and eat and hear us talk,
 And twice a day we take a walk,
 Along with Nan and Rawn, her mate.
 Then we visit Brad and Kate.
 Great-grandkids there can all beguile us
 As do their dogs, Bentley & Silas.
 One is black and one is white
 One is fierce, one a delight.
 Then dinner with our friend named Jan
 We loved her shrimp dish in a pan,
 Like the others, even more so
 We loved her dog whose name is Garbo.
 Despite her name, she did not moan,
 Or say "I want to be alone."
 From there we drove to Steve and Amy
 I love their dog and you can't blame me.
 I'm sure you never could have seen a
 Pet as nice as their dog Gina.
 Then on to Nick and Emily
 And kids, all very dear to me,
 Whose dog, alert to any dangers,
 Is not so comfortable with strangers.
 The children love her; she's no sissy
 They hug their big black dog named Missy.
 (In closing, you may think I'm silly
 For adding Nancy's cat named Millie.)
 So here is where I end my blogs
 Of going to the cats & dogs.

