

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 21

November 2021

## A Note From the President

**H**ello Quest Members, November has been a lively month. Our autumn courses have been progressing well, and our semester continues to provide an intriguing hybrid program for both our in-person and our at-home participants. Many members have sent their request for a summer reprise of an outstanding fall presentation to Art Spar at [QuestEncores2022@googlegroups.com](mailto:QuestEncores2022@googlegroups.com). If you've been meaning to make such a request, this is the email to use.

Our bi-annual General Meeting took place on Friday, November 12th on Zoom. Quest members were introduced to our Council Officers, our new spring

course Lead Coordinators, and our current Committee Chairs. The meeting ended with an animated open forum discussion led by Technology Committee Chair **Wayne Cotter** on Quest's hybrid program and its efforts to meet the needs of all our members, both now and in the future.

On November 19th we enjoyed our 25th Anniversary Gala Luncheon, with over 150 enthusiastic Questers in attendance. We savored hors d'oeuvres and wine, accompanied by the piano stylings of our own **Arlene Hajinlian**, and then heard intriguing talks by our past presidents, who reviewed Quest's development from its inception to the present. Rolls, salad, a choice of main

dish, plus coffee and chocolate cake made this a memorable event, indeed.

Our thanks go out to our current *QNews* Editor, **Barbara Gelber**, who graciously took over the publication of our monthly newsletter when **Carolyn McGuire's** health concerns caused her to step down. Many thanks to Carolyn, as well, for her many years of deeply appreciated service in that role.

As we enter the winter holiday season, Quest wishes you and your family and friends a Happy Thanksgiving. Be well, stay safe, and "talk to you soon."

– Warm regards,  
Ruth Ward

### Quest Irish Breakfast *by Donna Ramer*



**T**he crowd in the lunchroom on October 19th was reminiscent of pre-Covid days, this time as on-site members indulged in a light Irish breakfast of soda bread, Irish butter and cheddar, and even Irish coffee (a little whiskey and whipped cream mid-morning really can't hurt) before heading to class thanks to **Sheryl Harawitz** and **Donna Ramer**.

### CultureQuest: La Boheme *by Estelle Selzer*

**65** members of Quest were treated to a Final Dress Rehearsal of the Metropolitan Opera's production of *La Boheme*. Last Spring I interviewed Peter Gelb, General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera, as a Guest Speaker for the Distinguished Guest Lecturer program. The Met was not in full operation at that time. After the interview I asked Peter if his offer to host our group for a Final Dress Rehearsal in the Fall when the Met returned live still stood. He put me in touch with his assistant Hilary Ley, who arranged for 100 tickets to be left at the Box office for us.

The production was glorious and many Questers commented on how much they loved it. Our seats were in the Grand Tier with a fabulous view. Here are Questers seated before the performance and during intermission.



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Quest Celebrates in 25th Anniversary — A Year Late, But Definitely in Style!

by Michael Wellner

Whoever said that all good things come to those who wait, certainly knew what they were talking about! After waiting almost eighteen months (a delay entirely attributable to the covid-19 pandemic), about 160 Questers gathered at noon on Friday, November 19th, at the beautiful Harmonie Club of New York, to celebrate — in style — Quest's 25th Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1995, when forty members of the Institute for Retired Professionals stepped out on their own and founded Quest, we have certainly come a very long way. From those early days at 99 Hudson Street, in twenty-five years we have grown into a formidable organization, with just about 270 members (before the covid outbreak), and moved into a wonderful space at 25 Broadway — (home of CCNY's Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and its Center for Worker Education), and become the official Lifelong Learning Program of the City College of New York. Quite an achievement!

We were fortunate to have all but one of our still living founding members present for the festivities, which included a delightful cocktail hour, followed by a delicious three-course meal, and remarks by all the living Quest ex-presidents, as well as the CWE Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, and the CCNY President Vincent Boudreau. Both are big Quest supporters.

After dessert was served, and consumed, nobody wanted to leave! It was such a treat to see everyone in person, and be able to talk and schmooze face-to-face, that the party might have gone on into the wee hours, had not the Harmonie Club politely told us that it was time to go!

To say that a good time was had by all would be a gross understatement! As Bob Hartmann said in his remarks, we look forward to seeing you at our 50th!



L to R: Sal Granfort,  
Margaret Woodward,  
Jo Ellen Terell



*To our  
President, Ruth  
To our amazing  
Board  
And to all who  
participated  
In making  
the luncheon*

*A GALA!*

*Thank you  
from all  
who Sipped  
and Chatted,  
Smiled and  
Hugged,  
Ate and  
enjoyed!*

*It was  
QUESTabulous!*

— Sandy Gordon

## Potpourri

### Limerick

by Donna Ramer

There once was a presenter at Quest  
Who was afraid of not doing their best  
But they gave it a shot  
And found it was hot  
To research and share with the rest

• • •

### Department of...



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### Two Poems in Honor of Home Participants

by Donna Ramer & Judy Hampson

People people on the wall  
We hope the bolts hold and you won't fall  
We truly wish you were in this hall  
To join the fun, we're having a ball

Zoomers, watching from the wall,  
Cling on quite tight so you don't fall,  
From our perspective you're quite small  
But we still love you, one and all.

**I am now on  
DAYLIGHT AGING TIME.  
I set my age back to 62.**

**That was a good age.**

## New Courses Spring 2022

### Reading "A Passage to India"

Lynnel Garabedian, Lead Coordinator

### The Middle East

Ann Goerdt, Lead Coordinator

### Women in Greek Drama

Sheryl Harawitz, Lead Coordinator

### Across the Universe

Michael Hamburg, Lead Coordinator

### German History

Caroline Thompson, Lead Coordinator

### The Nobel Prize

Laura Lopez, Lead Coordinator

### Indie Films

Howard Salik, Lead Coordinator

### Black Women's Voices

Ilene Winkler, Lead Coordinator

### Reading Edith Wharton

Patricia Geehr, Lead Coordinator

## Q News Staff

### *A Quest Publication*

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Barbara Gelber

*Consulting Editors*  
Michael Wellner  
Margaret Woodward

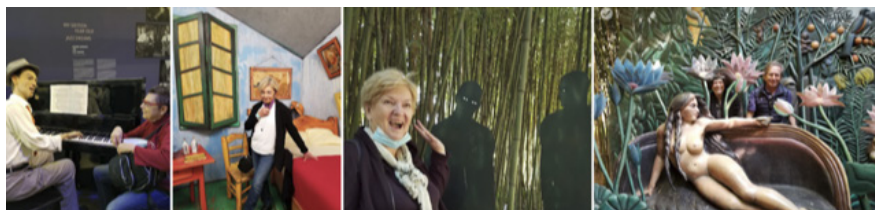
*Editor Emerita*  
Carolyn McGuire

*Graphic Design*  
Robbii

*Humor Contributor*  
Lowell Berman

25 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004  
212.925.6625 x229  
questlifelong.org

## CultureQuest: Grounds for Sculpture *by Donna Ramer*



Sixteen Questers journeyed to Hamilton, New Jersey to visit Grounds for Sculpture, a Culture Quest Event. We were welcomed with blue skies, friendly clouds, crisp air, warm sun, luminous landscape, and stunning sculpture, not to mention a luscious lunch with good company. A day of smiles and laughter.

## Who's Doing What



**Madeleine Brecher, Karen Levin, Gale Spitalnik, Michele Mackey, and Arlynn Greenbaum** spent a wonderful weekend in Greenport on the North Fork of Long Island at the end of October. A terrible nor'easter was forecast but, luckily, never materialized. We took ferries to Shelter Island and Sag Harbor, had a hot game of scrabble, ate one fabulous meal after another, and laughed a lot. We're already planning our next adventure!"

• • •

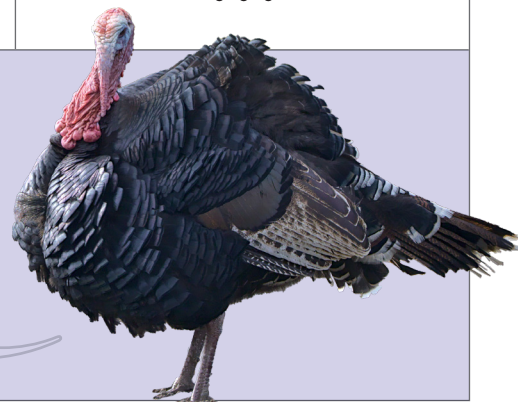
On Friday October 22nd, what was possibly the last warm, sunny day of the year, **Michael Wellner** and **Jeanne Gold**, along

with their spouses **Marva** and **Danny** (full disclosure: Michael and Danny were classmates at RPI way back in the 60s), spent the day on Governors Island, where they rented a bicycle built for four (see picture), and toiled around the island, taking in all the sights (Castle Williams, abandoned military housing—including Colonels' Row—waterfront piers, the new hills) and so much more. Exhausting as it was, we managed a delightful outdoor lunch before heading back on the ferry. A great day, highly recommended. For more information visit <https://www.govisland.com/>



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## Happy Thanksgiving



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS



## Quest Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

*by David Bernard*

This committee has the important task of establishing a more Diverse membership at Quest that will include peoples of all races, colors, ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientation and religion. This has been a goal and desire of Quest ever since its founding over 25 years ago, and my committee has a renewed energy, enthusiasm and passion to finally achieve this. I know all of us would agree that having a more Diverse membership will enrich Quest and make our presentations and discussions more exciting.

I am privileged to be the chair of a committee of eight extraordinarily talented people, namely **Richard Byrd, Pereta Rodriguez, Arlynn Greenbaun, Michael Wellner, Frieda Lipp, Margaret Woodward, Vivian Oliver, and Paul Golomb.**

But we do also believe that the entire Quest membership can play a role in helping us achieve our goal. We urge all members to consider ways that can help us do this, such as by reaching out to appropriate friends and colleagues and to consider contacting your college alumni associations to identify appropriate people to approach.

And finally, we encourage all members to contact me or one of the committee members to share ideas or to let us know you would like to work with us on this wonderful project.

## Creative Corner

### Deny

*by Betty Farber*

I can't deny that my reflection in the mirror is different from my photo as a bride.

I can't deny the struggle that's ongoing  
To coax my body out of bed each morning.

I can't deny that I do not remember  
Names of movies, books and  
even neighbors.

I can't deny technology confounds me  
Leaving me in terror or in tears.

I can't deny that I wake with a question,  
"What challenge will life greet me  
with today?"

## For Your Holiday Table

### Bourbon Glazed Carrots

*by Barbara Gelber*

- Place two pounds carrots (peeled and sliced diagonally into 1/2-inch pieces) in a large pot and cover with water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender yet firm to the bite, 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and transfer to a serving bowl.
- Combine 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup butter, and two Tbsp bourbon together in a saucepan; bring to a simmer. Cook and stir sauce until thickened, about 10 minutes. Pour sauce over carrots and serve immediately.

### Spicy Garlic Broccoli

*by Barbara Gelber*

- Heat 1/4 cup oil in a nonstick pan. Add six cloves garlic, minced, and two pinches red pepper flakes to the hot oil and cook for two to three minutes. Add two lbs. broccoli cut into spears, and stir until well coated in oil. Add three ounces of water and cover the pan. Steam until tender but not mushy, about five minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

### Baked Cauliflower

*by Frank Montaturo*

- Pre-heat oven to 360 degrees. Line sheet pan with parchment paper.
- Break one medium size cauliflower into florets
- Cook in salted boiling water... five minutes or till al dente...drain.
- Make mixture of 2/3 cup panko (or breadcrumbs)... add crushed garlic to taste and five Tbsp EVOO.
- Add combo of Italian herbs, chopped parsley and 1/2 cup grated Parmesan.
- In shallow bowl, beat two eggs... maybe three...depending.
- Dip florets into a dish with flour... then into the egg...then into the Panko.
- Put onto prepared baking sheet... then into the hot oven...15 minutes.
- Serve with a dip of sour cream/ yoghurt/ chopped parsley/Tbsp of lemon juice/ salt/pepper

I will be serving mine with smoked salmon.

## The Best Part

*by Michael Wellner*

### The Best Part of Waking Up is Coffee in Your Cup

The "good old days" are back — at least in part — thanks to the good efforts of coffee captain **Pam Gemelli** and her crew: **Sal Granfort, Lenore Delman, Marion Schultheis, Eleanor Maurillo, and Susan Keohane** (among others).

Now, when you arrive at 25 Broadway each morning, you'll find fresh, hot, delicious coffee awaiting you in the lunchroom. So get in early, and sit and schmooze before classes start. We all look forward to seeing you!



## Quest 25th Anniversary Celebration

# Gala

*What a fabulous afternoon!  
It was wonderful to celebrate  
with old friends and new ones.*

*- Beverly Francus*



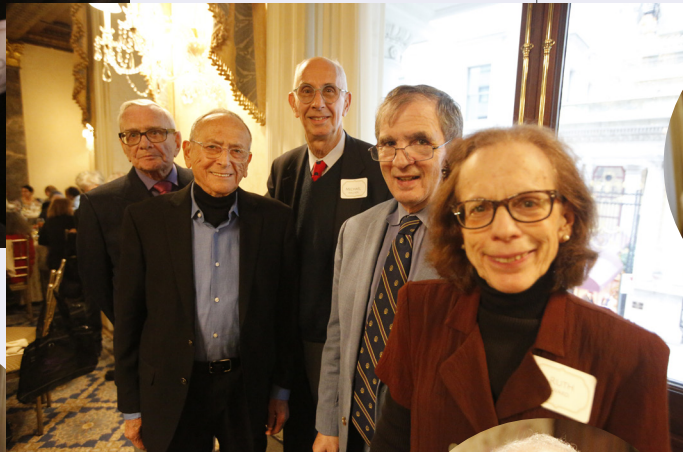
Nancy Richardson and  
Frieda Lipp



Wayne Cotter



The Harmonie Club,  
New York  
November 19, 2021



Bob Hartmann, Howard  
Salik, Michael Wellner,  
Bob Gottfried, Ruth Ward



Bob Reiss

### A thank you to those who deserve recognition

I think we can agree that Quest's 25th Anniversary Gala Luncheon was a joy for all present.

Quest would like to thank by name the 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee: Chair **Michael Wellner**, **Marian Friedmann**, **Leslie Goldman**, **Bob Gottfried**, and **Robert Hartmann**, as well as assistants **Beth Callender**, **Andrea Irvine**, **Gloria Peropat**, and **Gale Spitalnik**, for their care and attention to detail that made this event so memorable. The choice of venue, design of name plates, seamless table assignments, pianist, menu choices, brochures, table centerpieces, and gift tote bags set the tone for the uplifting afternoon.

Along with our Technical Operations supervisors **Wayne Cotter** and **Sheryl Harawitz** and the Technology Team, we give profound thanks to **Bob Reiss**, who initiated the entire Zoom program and helped to shepherd it into the present.



Carolyn McGuire

*It was amazing and so well organized. I echo all of Ruth's comments. Thank you to everyone. Quest is a fabulous community and I feel very fortunate to be part of it.*

*- Jennifer Jolly*



## Quest 25th Anniversary Celebration



Judy Winn and  
Lillian Scheinblum

*And I echo those remarks and appreciation of thanks. It was a wonderful affair full of excitement, energy and spirit.*

*- David Bernard*



Marion  
Schultheis

*Wow! A million thanks to our fabulous 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee, their helpers and the Tech Team for their work in creating a memorable, enjoyable Party!*



Mort Sheinman and  
Linda Amster



Russell  
Good



Margaret Woodward, Anita Hunter,  
Ruth Kovner and Shoshana Kagan



Hedy  
Shulman

*Gala*

Many thanks to **Marvin Fink**, Quester and photographer extraordinaire, for taking all these wonderful pictures of our Anniversary Gala.