

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 26

April 2022

A Note From the President

Hello Questers. We hope you've been enjoying the past few weeks at Quest. Council has been busy reflecting on the Spring semester and planning for the Fall.

We discussed the procedures for choosing Committee Chairs and Committee members for the 2022-2023 academic year, which extends from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Before the end of April, 2022 each current Chair or their appointee will write a paragraph or two directed at potential committee members, stating what their committee does and their members' responsibilities. They will also ask for the applicant's level of expertise or relevant experience, explaining why they would be a good fit for a one-year stint on this committee.

Prospective committee members need to understand that in many cases there will be more applicants than committee openings.

Chairs will send their statements to both Ruth Ward at rutheward@gmail.com and Donna Ramer at DonnaRamer1@gmail.com. Ruth and Donna will compile them into one document of Committee blurbs that will be sent to the entire membership via QuestBusiness before the end of May.

New Committee Chairs will be approved by Council at the May 11th meeting, attended by new-but-not-yet-voting and current Council members. Committees will appoint the new and returning members of their committees between June 1 and the start of the Fall semester.

A description of our committees can also be found on the member page of the Quest website. If you feel you are a good fit for one or more of our many committees, keep an eye out for the emails related to applying.

Meanwhile, don't forget to sign up for the Year-End Luncheon to be held on Friday, May 13th at the Lavo Restaurant, 39 East 58th Street, from noon to 3 pm. Send your \$60 check and your table request to Bob Gottfried at bob@gottfried.net. If you have questions about the menu selection or about mailing in your check, email Bob or Michael Wellner at captmike46@aol.com.

Last but far from least, enjoy a safe and cheerful Spring break. Looking forward to seeing you again on April 25th!

– Ruth Ward

Quest Elections

The members of Nominations and Election Committee (NEC), **Beth Callender, Paul Golomb, Bob Gottfried, Andrea Irvine, and Mary Beth Yakoubian** (Chair), are pleased to present the candidates for Council-at-large and Quest officers.

During the first week in May, the candidates will speak at noontime and you will have the opportunity to ask them questions.

Council-at-large candidates will speak Monday and Wednesday, May 2nd and 4th; candidates for Quest officers will speak Tuesday, May 3rd.

Voting will then take place 'on-line' May 5th to 8th.



Enjoy Spring Break

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

CultureQuest Virtual Tour Istanbul: The Capital of Empires *by Madeleine Brecher*

After a disappointing cancellation in March due to an Istanbul snowstorm, Questers finally got to hear from our excellent Heygo guide, Safak Kulansi, on April 1st. He did not disappoint! Safak took us on a virtual walking tour of Istanbul as he told us about this prominent city when it was the capital of three Empires: Constantinople in the Roman and Byzantine period, and Istanbul in the Turkish Ottoman era.

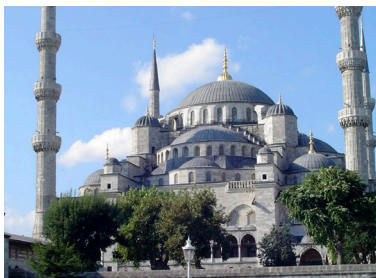
Safak's English was excellent, his enthusiasm was infectious, and his historical descriptions were so enticing that several Questers said they were ready to head off to Turkey, or at the very least, head back to Turkey with Heygo. Why not? Istanbul sits on the shores of Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Marmara Sea... the only city in the world that lays on two continents, and it surely has its share of exotica!

We started our visit at Hippodrome Square where the famous Hippodrome stood in the 3rd century BC, during the Roman period. The Serpent Column, cast to celebrate the victory of the Greeks over the Persians during the Persian Wars in the 5th century BC, and an Egyptian obelisk from 3500 years ago are still standing though the Hippodrome itself is long gone.

Next, we strolled to the breathtaking Blue Mosque representing Istanbul's Ottoman period. While it was not next historically, it stood quite close to Hippodrome Square. The breathtaking Blue Mosque was under scaffolding so we could not go inside; however, Safak discussed its history and told us that hand-painted blue tiles adorn the mosque's interior walls, and at night the mosque is bathed in blue as lights frame the mosque's five main domes, six minarets, and eight secondary domes.

Finally, we were able to go inside the very magnificent Hagia Sophia cathedral from the Byzantine Empire. In 325, it is said that Constantine ordered the original church to be built. When that and another church on the same site burned down, Justinian I had the third Hagia Sophia completed in a remarkably short time in 537. It was a cathedral for 900 years, was converted to a mosque in 1453 under the Ottoman Empire, and was restored as a museum in 1930. Just 5 years ago, President Erdogan had it converted back to a mosque and that is how we viewed the vast space on our tour. Because it was a lovely evening weatherwise in Istanbul, large numbers of people were around the square, walking in the streets, and visiting the Mosque.

It was clear that Safak was very proud of his city, though his passion for Hagia Sophia was overwhelming. He was so exuberant, I couldn't wait to get inside the doors, forgetting that I had actually been there in person several years ago. From the chat box, it was also clear that our CultureQuest audience had spent a joyous and informative hour in Istanbul.



Blue Mosque



Hagia Sophia



Hippodrome Square

Creative Corner

COINCIDENCE

by Betty Farber

How can my mind make any sense
Of what is called "coincidence"?
Is it bizarre, a mystery?
Or just the way life seems to be?

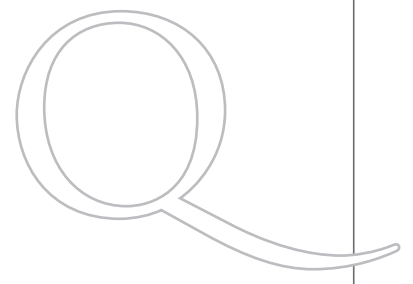
Would you be thinking so much lesser
Of me, if I didn't know that Hesse
Won the Nobel Prize for Peace?
But, (will wonders never cease?)
The day that Quest told that to me
It was a clue on Jeopardy!
The question, if you'd like to bother
Was, "Who was the author of Siddhartha?"

I'm home, at ease, a memory brings
To mind a friend – my cell phone rings.
You surely guess what I'll relate,
It is that friend! It is that mate!
Or your doctor has you take
A pill so you won't stay awake.
Check first online and it's a source
That you're allergic to, of course!

But best is when you have a dream
To eat a pie with mounds of cream.
And someone that you dearly love,
Says, "That's what I was thinking of!"

**"If You Want
Others To Be Happy,
Practice Compassion.
If You Want To Be Happy,
Practice Compassion."**

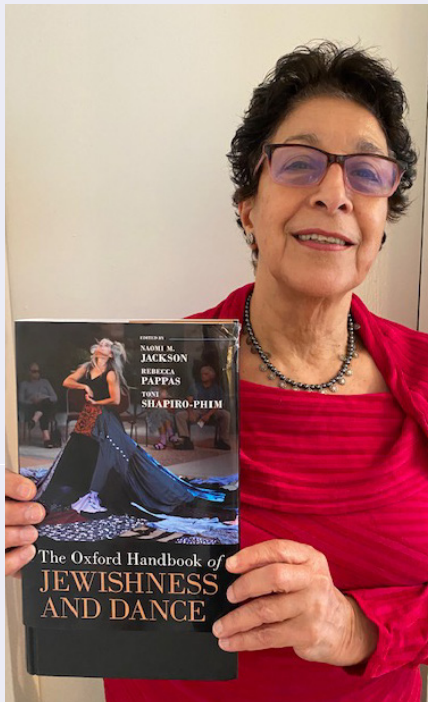
— Dalai Lama



Who's Published: Ze'eva Cohen

Ze'eva Cohen has recently returned from her three-week visit to Israel, where she spoke at the book launch of *The Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance*, about her chapter in this book titled: "Reclaiming my Jewish Yemenite Heritage." The book assembles thirty-one essays by writers from the USA, Europe, and Israel. It advocates the honoring of existing and transforming traditions in dance in the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as the inclusion and discussion of Latin, Sephardic, Middle Eastern, and Africanist Jewish heritages, and placing them in contemporary perspective.

Writing the article, says Ze'eva, presented a wonderful opportunity to clarify the evolution of her artistic work as a contemporary modern dance artist, in relation to her Jewish/Yemenite/Israeli heritage, and finding her authentic voice while living and working in the USA for most of her adult life.



Apology:

Last month, we inadvertently omitted Hedy Shulman's byline on *A Novel Idea — Lunch in the Lunchroom*. Thank you, Hedy, for your article.

CultureQuest: AMNH Sharks and Gems *by Dena Kerren*

Twenty of us gathered at the American Museum of Natural History, Friday, March 25th, for a long-awaited, in-person tour. It was great being together again. We were a most enthusiastic group as you can see in the photo below.

Marion Schultheis and our newest Quest member, **Andrew Epstein**, also a docent at the Museum, led us through the most amazing underwater adventure. We learned there are over five hundred known species of sharks in the world. Sharks go back four hundred million years, are older than dinosaurs, replace their teeth every few weeks, never sleep, and some species actually glow in the dark.



Visiting J.P. Morgan's Library *by Madeleine Brecher*

Have you ever visited the renowned library of J.P. Morgan, the American financier and investment banker who dominated Wall Street during the Gilded Age? After reading the current best-seller about his Personal Librarian Belle da Costa Greene, five of us were determined to take another look at the must-see museum and cultural space.

Following a morning CultureQuest visit to Istanbul, we finished the day with lunch out and a visit to Mr. Morgan's library, his Private Study, Ms. da Costa Greene's office, and two excellent current exhibits of the German painter Hans Holbein and the great American troubadour Woody Guthrie. Our April Fool's Day was pretty spectacular... no joke.



Madeleine Brecher, Michele Mackey, Arlynn Greenbaum, Gale Spitalnik, Karen Levin

Challenge

This challenge does not measure your intelligence, your fluency with words, and certainly not your mathematical ability. It will, however, give you some gauge of your mental flexibility and creativity. You need to figure out what all those initials are. Take this test as a personal challenge.

Instructions: Each question below contains the initials of words that will make it correct. Find the missing words.

Example: 16 = O in a P

Answer: 16 Ounces in a Pound

1. 26 = L of the A
2. 1001 = A N
3. 7 = W of the A W
4. 12 = S of the Z
5. 54 = C in a D (W T J)
6. 9 = P in the S S
7. 88 = P K
8. 13 = S on the A F
9. 32 = D F at which W F
10. 18 = H on a G C
11. 90 = D in a R A
12. 200 = D for P G in M
13. 42 = P on a P of D
14. 3 = B M (S H T R)
15. 4 = Q in a G
16. 24 = H in a D
17. 1 = W on a U
18. 5 = D in a Z C
19. 57 = H V
20. 11 = P on a F T
21. 1000 = W that a P is W
22. 29 = D in F in a L Y
23. 64 = S on a C B
24. 76 = T L T B P
25. 118 = E on the P T

Answers on page 8

**Happiness Can Be Found,
Even In The Darkest of Times,
If One Only Remembers
To Turn On The Light.**

An Exhibit of Solidarity

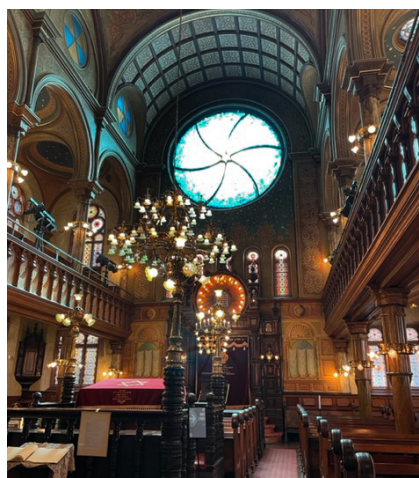
A painting by Quest member **Marilyn Weiss** has been chosen for Hearts & Souls:

An Exhibit of Solidarity, April 30 through May 15, at the William Ris Gallery in Jamesport New York. The collection will highlight works by 20+ artists who have enthusiastically accepted the invitation to participate in this important exhibit. A portion of sales will go to a recognized global organization benefiting those countless people in need as a result of the war in Ukraine. Marilyn says, "Watching the news, I am reminded just how fortunate we all are. This is how we can help in a small but important way. It's the right thing to do."



CultureQuest: Eldridge Street Synagogue *by Estelle Selzer*

A small group of Questers attended a tour of the Eldridge Street Synagogue and Museum on April 8th, a lovely Spring day. Our docent, Jaime, explained the history of the Synagogue from the time it was built in 1887, and its extensive restoration over a period of 20 years after many years of neglect. The sanctuary, with over 60 simple stained glass windows, and its gorgeous huge modern stained glass window designed by artist Kiki Smith, was awash with sunlight pouring in during our visit.



2022 Quest's Council Nominees



Wayne Cotter: Vice President I feel very fortunate to have been involved in Quest since 2012 and believe Quest is the perfect way for retirees to transition from the working world.

Almost from the beginning, I have been active in numerous Quest committees and courses. Most notably, I currently co-chair the Technology Committee and serve as Quest's Vice-President. I also recently served on Quest's bylaws committee, charged with reviewing and revising our bylaws. The bylaws, I believe, are crucial to ensuring the long-term viability of our organization.

For four years, I served as Editor-in-Chief of *Q Review*, our literary and arts journal, culminating in the publication's 25th anniversary issue in 2020. I continue to contribute prose and poetry to the publication, while providing technical assistance to current Editor-in-Chief Ruth Ward.

Participating in Quest committees and Council has been an exceptional experience. However, my first love will always be presenting. I have presented dozens of times at Quest and worked with countless members seeking PowerPoint help.

I currently serve as a coordinator for *Comedy and Satire* (lead coordinator), *Classic Rock Albums* and *Great Plays*. The quality of Quest's presentations, I believe, is the key reason the organization continues to flourish.

In my previous life, I worked in downtown Manhattan as Director of Research for the New York State Insurance Department and as a financial editor for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. I also served on the Board of Directors of the Motor Vehicle Accident Indemnification Corporation until 2018.

COVID has changed our lives forever. I am very proud of how Quest members pulled together these past two years to offer a full schedule of exceptional classes in the face of this devastating pandemic. It's testimony to the strength and resiliency of this organization. I also appreciate all the support and encouragement I've received in the past year from so many Quest members. It's been a tough year, but we made it.



Karen Levin: Secretary I'm originally from Philadelphia (along with several other Quest members) but don't hold that against me. I got my B.A. in American Studies from Temple University. In 1979, I moved to New York City and I've lived here ever since.

In my prior life, I worked in both corporate and not-for-profit organizations, specializing in Human Resources, Employee Benefits and Employee Communications.

After I retired, I joined Quest in 2018 and have enjoyed it immensely! It's a great way to meet people, especially those who are so talented and knowledgeable about so many wonderful topics and enjoy having good conversations.

I've been the Secretary of Quest Council for two years now. It's been very rewarding and I've strived to make the minutes comprehensive and easy to read. I'm happy to say that I've received wonderful feedback from the membership. Quest is a fabulous

organization and being on the Council is a great way to learn about how Quest operates.

I've given two presentations — one on Mike Nichols for the *Film Directors* course and one on Jackie Gleason for the *Comedy and Satire* course. I've also reviewed several films for the prior *Film Course* as well as the new *Indie Films* course.

As a member of the *Distinguished Guest Lecturer* series, I've worked with the committee to research new speakers as well as with Quest members who have recommended fabulous speakers. Adam Gidwitz and David Hunt are speakers that I introduced to Quest.

As a member of the Travel Committee, I've taken Quest members to the Rockefeller Estate in Westchester and also led a group of about 20 Quest members to Philadelphia for a long weekend.

I am honored to be running for Council and look forward to being Secretary for the next two years.

Peter Fleischman: Treasurer I've been a member of Quest since



2013. I was born in Manhattan to immigrant parents who escaped the Nazis from their homes in Stuttgart and Budapest. We moved to New Rochelle when I was three years old, and I lived there until I went to college. My wife, Susan, and I have lived in the Village ever since college.

Upon graduating from MIT, where I studied mathematics and computer science, I started a job with a tech company and I went to business school at NYU. I received my MBA five years after graduating from college.

I started my career in information technology as a programmer and never strayed too far from technology as I worked for firms that served technology, financial and healthcare clients. My job titles included project manager, sales manager, general manager, vice president, senior vice president and chief operating officer. I approached every job with a quantitative "bent," but also with a human approach that I learned from my management roles and my wife, who is a psychologist.

As a Quest member, I have enjoyed the variety of courses offered, and enjoyed teaching as well. I haven't taught during the pandemic, but as it becomes safer to meet in person, I hope to teach some classes again. I was approached about the Treasurer position because several Quest Council members knew of my computer and analytical skills and experience in finance. I would of course have things to learn in order to perform the job of Treasurer, but I think I'm well equipped to master those things quickly. I believe I can bring new ideas to Quest, as well as an ability to execute the good ideas offered by others.

My goals as Treasurer include making sure our investments are safe and provide the maximum return. I'd like to help Quest utilize technology to further its mission in the best possible ways to serve existing members and perhaps to open up new opportunities to reach additional potential members. I've gotten a lot from my membership in Quest and look forward to giving back to Quest as Treasurer. Thank you.

cont.

2022 Quest's Council Nominees



David Bernard, MD: Member At Large I was born in a small town just outside of Johannesburg, South Africa, and attended Medical School in Johannesburg. In 1973 I moved to Boston to train in Diseases of the Kidney. After 22 years at Boston University, where I became Professor of Medicine, I moved to the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1990, several colleagues and I started a company called Doctor Quality, aimed at helping physicians improve the quality of care they deliver. In 2002 I moved to The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and later to The Beth Israel Medical Center, where I continued to pursue this goal. Over my career, I held Executive positions in four major Medical Systems in three cities working to improve all functions of medicine including the quality of care delivered and the patient experience and service. During this process, I got to work with many people from all walks of life, to appreciate cultural and ethnic differences between people and to promote fairness and equality for everyone whose lives we touched.

My life changed when I joined Quest in Feb 2019. Never before had I felt part of a group of such warm, welcoming, and supportive people, and *that* in an atmosphere of learning and exploring areas and topics I hadn't realized I would find so interesting and stimulating. I have tried my best to contribute — I have given several presentations, I am the Chairman of the *Quest Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* (DEI) Committee, I have served on the *Curriculum* Committee and I am leading a Council initiative to establish small discussion groups of members to discuss the present and future challenges Quest faces. And I am a member of a newly formed *Quest Long Range Planning* Committee. Oh, and I am responsible for sending a steady stream of jokes that hopefully kept Questers amused during these past long two years!

I feel I can still contribute to ensure Quest remains an innovative, and exciting place. It would be singular honor for me to continue to serve as a member of Council.



Arlynn Greenbaum: Member At Large I grew up in Beachwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, and got my B.A. in Journalism from the University of Michigan. In 1970, I moved to New York City to pursue a career in book publishing. I started as a Gal Friday at E.P. Dutton and 20 years later was Director of Marketing at Little, Brown. In 1991, I started Authors Unlimited, a lecture agency for authors, and was proud to represent many prestigious writers. In 2016, I retired and sold my company to the Lyceum Agency.

I joined Quest in September, 2016 and was invited to join the *Distinguished Guest Lecturer* committee because of my background. A year later, I was asked to head it. Since taking over, my committee and I have brought 52 guest speakers to Quest on a wide variety of topics. In Fall 2019, I initiated the Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Lecture in order to invite

a more prominent speaker each semester to Quest and to honor Ken and Peter, who were friends of mine. Our first Memorial Speaker was Colum McCann. We recently hosted Jane Brody and our Memorial Speaker this Fall will be Al Franken.

In addition to heading the *Guest Lecturer* committee, I am a contributor in the *Short Stories* and *Indie Film* courses. I am on the *Encores* and *Diversity* committees and have also contributed to the *Q Review*. It has been my pleasure to serve on Council during the past two challenging years and I would be honored to be re-elected for another term. I will work to ensure that Quest continues to be a vital, stimulating, inclusive environment for learning, growth and friendship.



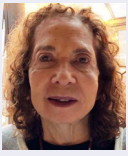
Larry Shapiro: Member At Large I grew up in an all-white suburb of Boston that was the home town of the John Birch Society, and attended a college in California whose name was synonymous with radical nonconformity. No part of my background prepared me for living in New York City in the 1970s, which I discovered required daily negotiations and compromises. Yet by the time of my first city-wide crisis, the blackout of 1977, I had come to love the “we’re all 8 million of us together in this” feeling that came with living on an island that was a microcosm of the planet. We might be responsible for each other—every day I’ve lived here teaches that, and it’s a lot of weight to carry—but I discovered that among the 8 million, it was possible to find more intimate communities that give us sustenance to flourish in the bigger world that claims us. We’re lucky to have both.

My work life in publishing led me to a company where I was treated like family. Over time the family atmosphere gave way, first under one conglomerate owner and then another, while I acquired more responsibilities and in truth, less sense that I was doing something worthwhile.

In retirement, I sought out activities that gave me purpose and reasons to stay rooted in New York. I found them especially in teaching English to adult immigrants, mostly as a volunteer, and for some challenging but happy years as a community college adjunct. Once again, work felt like being part of a community. And then again at Quest, beginning in 2016, where I experienced the thrill—no exaggeration—of peer-to-peer learning and teaching. My brain, trained in publishing to regard books as commodities, rediscovered the joy of learning for its own sake. Thanks to our lively and stimulating classes, I’ve learned much about the different ways there are to learn. I’ve also found a community of friends and peers. We are a collective of people with a shared passion for learning who feel responsible for each other. It’s a privilege to help sustain it to the extent of my abilities. Could I have found this without living in New York? Yes of course, yet it happened here, in ways that were specific to this city, and it is the particulars, the people, places and shared history, that keep me looking forward to every next day.

cont.

2022 Quest's Council Nominees



Judy Winn: Member At Large I am originally from Philadelphia. I earned a bachelor's degree from Temple University, got married and had two children. When my children were in pre-school, I went back to Temple and earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. I then began a 35-year career working in community college education.

My first job was as a Professor of Education and Psychology at Community College of Philadelphia, where I became the Director of the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Service Careers. I moved on to become the Vice President and Dean of the College at Burlington County College in New Jersey. After nine years in New Jersey, I moved to Texas and served as President of Northwest College, which is part of the Houston Community College System. My next job was President of Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey, a position I held for 12 years until I retired in 2007.

Bergen Community College enrolls approximately 14,000 students

in college credit courses each year and about 8000 students a year in non-credit continuing education courses. In my last year as President, I oversaw a \$100 million dollar budget, 700 full-time employees and 400 part-time employees.

After I retired, I moved to Brooklyn Heights to be closer to family and I became a member of Quest five years ago. At Quest I've made presentations in a number of courses, served on the *Curriculum Committee* for four years and am currently lead coordinator for the *Poet's Workshop*.

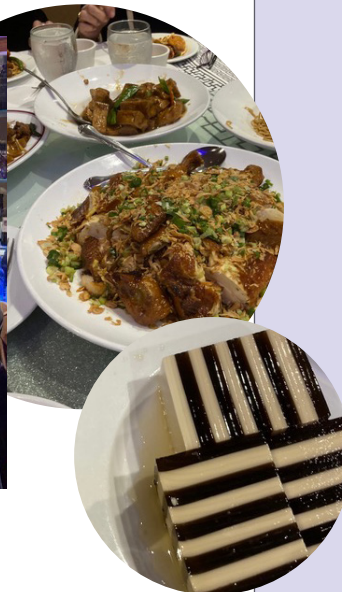
My most rewarding retirement activity is serving as a volunteer project director for a team of volunteers who resettle refugees in New York City. Currently, we are resettling two young men, ages 22 and 24, who came out of Afghanistan in the chaotic airlift at the end of August. After they received clearance, they were brought to New York City through HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and assigned to my volunteer group. Our job is to get them housing, jobs, phone plans, subway cards, medical care and everything else they need. We also raise funds for their support.

Adventures in Dining *by Frank Montaturo*

After a pandemic induced hiatus Adventures in Dining rebooted with a full complement of hungry food loving and animated Questers open to exploring a part of Chinatown that might never have been on their radar... or long absent at best. The event at East Broadway's Golden Unicorn... long in planning... came off without a single contretemps... no one got lost... no one spilled the crispy fried garlic chicken... or speared a neighbor with the chopsticks. We had a separate area of the restaurant... all gussied up in what unwittingly turned out to be our school colors... purple and white. Stay tuned... till we eat again.



From center front, clockwise... Loretta Menger, Laura Lopez, Steve Allen, David Judlowitz, Marian Friedmann, Pam Gemelli, Faith Aarons, Arlene Hajinlian, Donna Basile, Mary Ann Donnelly, Leslie Goldman, and Frank Montaturo



"Wiggly Dessert"

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A Quest Publication

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City Ramblings by Frank Montaturo

So it was that finding ourselves for a late lunch in the neighborhood and remembering this subterranean tonsorial emporium from several months ago... I decided that here was my chance!! I knew... like a swallow returning to Capistrano... that one day I would come here for a clipping. Two “hairstylists” one older one not... one child being shorn... his mother... and an older gent head swathed in cling wrap so the dye would set... and me. Little or no English. How much?... fingers in the air imitating scissors. “Ten dollars.” Okay. My coat? She motioned... she being the older stylist visible from the back in the mirror... to the whirring washing machine. Coat rack. I sat. She did not ask; I did not question. I knew better... and really: did it matter? She set about her business skillfully enough. I was encouraged. Months of grey sheared onto the floor. “Shampoo?” “No shampoo, thank you.” I gave her a twenty. My change... to my amazement was fourteen dollars. Six was the original price of months ago but that was earlier in this inflation cycle. I smiled. I tipped. I looked



around spotting the electric tea kettle the hot plate the unwelcome wooden sofa the general jumble and in another room... a dining table. No exterior window. Can she possibly be living down here? Does she have a lifetime lease? Is that why she can keep rates so low? Does she host family dinners? A business card was offered... all in Chinese. I could hardly call for an appointment. I took my leave only to return five minutes later... Spouse in tow for him to occupy my vacated seat. She bowed repeatedly in gratitude smiling. I bowed. I exited...glowing with the riches of the experience. I would return. Haircut be damned!

Waiting room, Chinese barber shop
East Broadway, February 2022

Challenge Answers

Answers:

1. Letters of the Alphabet
2. Arabian Nights
3. Wonders of the Ancient World
4. Signs of the Zodiac
5. Cards in a Deck (with the Jokers)
6. Planets in the Solar System
7. Piano Keys
8. Stripes on the American Flag
9. Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes
10. Holes on a Golf Course
11. Degrees in a Right Angle
12. Dollars for Passing Go in Monopoly
13. Pips on a Pair of Dice
14. Blind Mice (See How They Run)
15. Quarts in a Gallon
16. Hours in the Day
17. Wheel on a Unicycle
18. Digits in a Zip Code
19. Heinz Varieties
20. Players on a Football Team
21. Words that a Picture is Worth
22. Days in February in a Leap Year
23. Squares on a Chess Board
24. Trombones Led the Big Parade
25. Elements on the Periodic Table

David Hunt Visits Quest by Karen Levin

As part of our Distinguished Guest Lecturer program, David Hunt, a former senior officer from the Central Intelligence Agency, spoke to Quest on April 6, 2022. He worked for the CIA for 32 years and his tours included Italy, Vietnam, Somalia, Norway, France and New York City. Over 80 members of Quest attended David's talk (both in-person and on Zoom).

The first part of David's talk focused on the early days of Vladimir Putin when he was a KGB foreign intelligence officer for 16 years. He addressed the current situation in Ukraine as well. Next, he spoke about French espionage operations



targeting employees of major US corporations doing business in France. One of David's favorite assignments was Chief of Station in Somalia where he had the opportunity to meet with Somali leaders and other dignitaries.

He shared stories and anecdotes about foreign nationalists who just “walked in” to a US agency and asked to defect to the United States. Svetlana Stalin, the daughter of Joseph Stalin, was one of the most famous defectors.

The afternoon was certainly fascinating and David entertained questions from our members. Many of us wondered what it would be like to work for the CIA – whether under cover or in another capacity!

Guest Speaker: Elinor Lipman by Estelle Selzer



Novelist Elinor Lipman gave an entertaining talk on March 23 about her latest novel, *Rachel To The Rescue*, and her career.