

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 27

May 2022

A Note From the President

Hello Questers. Congratulations to us all! We made it through a challenging Spring semester while keeping our program creative and inspiring. Hopefully, you've gotten at least one copy of the 2022 QReview and the Fall 2022 Course Catalogue, which are a testament to our vibrancy.

Now Council is planning for the Fall. Are you interested in serving on a committee? Our new and returning committee chairs are currently soliciting members for the 2022-2023 academic year, which extends from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

Watch your email regarding committees. You have received or will soon receive an email called Annual Solicitation for Quest committee members for the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 year. In it each chair includes a statement directed to potential committee members, explaining what their committee does and their members' responsibilities. They ask applicants

to indicate their level of expertise or relevant experience, explaining why they would be a good fit for a one-year committee stint. You can apply for up to three committees — on each application indicate them all in order of preference. Chairs will accept applications between June 1 and July 31, and they will appoint members of their committee for a term that begins on the first day of the Fall semester, which is Tuesday, September 6th. A description of our committees can also be found on the member page of the Quest website, at questlifelong.org. 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.

Our traditional Year-End Luncheon was held on Friday, May 13th at the Lavo Restaurant on 39 East 58th Street from noon to 3 pm. Over 100 Quest members attended, along with our esteemed guests Dean Juan Carlos Mercado of CWE and President Vincent Boudreau of CCNY.

Kudos to Special Events Chair Michael Wellner and his team: Marian Friedmann, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, and Bob Hartmann, assisted by Beth Callender, Pam Gemelli, and Andrea Irvine. The social time, the menu, and the venue itself were magnificent.

As you know, our summer Encores program will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 am to noon, from June 7th through July 28th, with the exception of July 5th. All but the last four presentations will be hybrid, while the last four will be Zoom only. We encourage you to come in person, but if you can't, you can enter the meetings via the auditorium link. Again, watch your email for further info.

Last but far from least, enjoy a safe and cheerful few weeks away from 25 Broadway... and come back smiling and healthy on Tuesday, June 7th!

Warm regards,
– Ruth Ward

Al Franken to Speak at Quest in the Fall

by Arlynn Greenbaum

The Distinguished Guest Lecturer Committee is pleased to announce that Al Franken, former U.S. Senator, author, comedian and producer, will be our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker on Sept. 14, 2022. With his unique background, his views on politics and the issues of the day will be fascinating.

Franken was a writer for Saturday Night Live for 15 seasons, specializing in political satire. He has written four best-selling books including *Lies and the Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*. He had a radio talk show from 2004–2007 and won five Emmys. He served in the U.S. Senate from 2009 to 2018 representing Minnesota. He has a popular podcast and is a sought-after speaker.



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Guest Speaker: Kevin Coughlin

by Estelle Selzer



On April 27th Questers heard an amazing and moving story from our guest speaker Kevin Coughlin. Kevin went blind at the age of 36 and discovered that he suffered from a rare disease, Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. Through perseverance he learned to live with the disease and overcome its obstacles. Then one day 20 years later his eyesight started to come back. Kevin shared his journey which is chronicled in *Unblinded*, the book he co-authored with Traci Medford Rosow. He was even kind enough to bring a dozen copies of his book which he gave out after the talk.

Travel: May 2022

by Sandy Gordon

When I decided that May would be an ideal month to plan an international venture, it was with the security in the experience I had as a traveler in the many years prior to Covid. I almost forgot that my partner in adventure, Al, was not able to travel for a number of years, as well, so our last trip was about 2010. With not an ounce of trepidation, I scanned the barrage of travel offerings I received last October, decided on the type of experience I wanted, chose my destination, found a perfect vehicle, arranged for air and accommodation, and committed in November. It is only now, as I approach my departure date, that I am confounded by the myriad of challenges with which one has to contend in our current world in order to successfully achieve this escape!

In 2010, there were inoculations necessary for exotic travel, but they were static and expected! However, now, we have Covid testing. The types and time frames before traveling vary week by week and, as was the case this week, happened to change within a day. My destination is a river boat tour in Croatia, and Croatia just eliminated all testing for entering the country! Since there is also the possibility that they could, in a day, re-invoke testing, I decided that I would do the Rapid Antigen Test in the 48 hours prior

to leaving. Since I lose "a day" in travel, this is tricky! And, the U.S. requires the Rapid Antigen Test to return to my country of birth, which needs to be administered in Dubrovnik prior to the return! Another challenge.

We didn't have mobile phones in the "olden days." We did know that we needed converters, but they are not appropriate for iPhones! It is a tech learning process. Now, quickly, we need to purchase the proper power cable. My daughter-in-law, in California, immediately said, "Don't worry Mom... I will order from Amazon and you will have it tomorrow, but also let me explain that you will need a SIM card to be bought in Croatia". I can't wait to try to explain that I need a SIM card in Croatia. Although probably no problem I will have to find a tech-savvy, bilingual 16-year-old in Dubrovnik.

Do I need this stress? Yes! Do I know that somehow all will be fine and I will return to report on my independent adventure! Yes... Stay tuned!

**There are two things
that are infinite, the universe
and man's stupidity...
and I am not sure about
the universe.**

— Albert Einstein

Creative Corner

PASSION

by Betty Farber

It was many, many years ago
When I felt a surge of passion.
For a sweetheart or a beau--
But it's gone out of fashion.

I feel a loss of energy
I feel a loss of nerve
The crackling electricity
I thought I once deserved.

I have a fervent notion
Perhaps some strong desires,
To stop negative emotion
And watch what then transpires.

The longing that engulfs me now
Is life to share with friends
A hopeful future that somehow
Brings cheer that never ends.

I'm looking to discover
A life that is the best,
Learning to uncover
The answer to my Quest.

Noontime SingAlong

by Andrea Irvine

Our own resident musician, **Arlene Hajinlian**, once again led us in an amazing Noontime SingAlong. Twenty-seven of us spent a relaxing hour in Room 15-17 with our lunches and raised our voices to the lyrics of Carol King.



...and, as in
the words of
Carol King's
great song
— at Quest
"You've Got
A Friend."

Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

Is there a book you love that you'd like to introduce to others? The Book Club is looking ahead to the Fall semester and developing our reading list. Each month a different person leads the discussion of that meeting's book, and we're looking for people to present books that spoke to them. It's a great way to try your hand at presenting for a single session. The Book Club meets at lunchtime, in-person at 25 Broadway on the second Wednesday of the month. Email any one of the group's co-coordinators listed below and let us know the title and author of the book you'd like to present.

Quest Book Club

Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

Subway Ramblings

by Frank Montaturo



Netted... one of Neptune's nereids? One never ceases to wonder... there is always a reason for stepping out of the house... always something or someone to ambush the jaded. I was hurrying to the far end of the platform when I did a double take and wondered how this fish had landed on our shores? We would be taking different trains, but I stopped on a dime... in awe and amazement... how bold how liberating what aplomb... nothing fazes the New Yorker..." fluidity" is the byword of the day; how ever did he get those stockings on without tearing a hole with his big toe?! I dared not ask.

Who's Published: Judith Weis

Quest member **Judith Weis** is the lead editor of *Polluting Textiles: The Problem with Microfibers*, which examines the critical issue of environmental pollutants produced by the textiles industry.

Comprised of contributions from environmental scientists and materials and textiles scientists, this edited volume addresses the environmental impact of microplastics, with a particular focus on microfibres released by textiles into marine and freshwater environments.

The chapters in Part I offer environmental perspectives focusing on the measurement of microplastics in the environment, their ingestion by small plankton and larger filter feeders, the effects of consuming microplastics, and the role of microplastics as a vector for transferring toxic contaminants in food webs. The chapters in Part II present potential solutions to the problem of microplastics released from textiles, discussing water treatment, degradation in aquatic environments, textile end-of-life management, textile manufacturing and laundry, and possible policy measures.

This is a much needed volume which brings together in one place environmental research with technical solutions in order to provide a cohesive and practical approach to mitigating and preventing environmental pollution from the textiles industry going forward.

Judith S. Weis is a Professor Emerita in the Department of Biological Sciences, at Rutgers University, USA. She is the author/editor of over 250 scientific articles, multiple books, including Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know (2014) and Biological Invasions and Animal Behaviour (2016, with Daniel Sol).



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A Quest Publication

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"Aging is the extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been."

— David Bowie, singer & actor

"Yesterday's home runs don't win today's games."

— Babe Ruth, baseball player

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right, and evil doesn't become good just because it's accepted by a majority."

— Booker T. Washington

Celebrating Our Mothers



Benedetta Montaturo
mother of **Frank Montaturo**



Elise Souroghlian
mother of **Mary Beth Yakoubian**



Esther Moalem Kshepitzki
mother of **Shoshana Kagan**



Alexandria (Biby) V. Abramson
mother of **Sandra Abramson**



Elsa Winkler
mother of **Ilene Winkler**



Florence Ehrenberg Rudner
mother of **Linda Rothstein**



Emma Katznelson Rosen
mother of **Stephen Rosen**



Rose Byrd
mother of **Richard Byrd**



Gertrude M. Shapiro
mother of **Larry Shapiro**

Celebrating Our Mothers



Gertrude Singer Gold
mother of **Leonard Gold**



Lois Farbman
mother of **Arlynn Greenbaum**



Mildred Wishnie
mother of **Madeleine Brecher**



Gusta Banet Schmidt
mother of **Stella Gold**



Maria Luna Lopez
mother of **Laura Lopez**



Pearl Cooper Shulman
mother of **Judith Weis**



Irma Reiss
mother of **Bob Reiss**



Masha Mednick
mother of **Frieda Lipp**



Pearl Pober
mother of **Ellen Rittberg**

Celebrating Our Mothers



Sally Guriant
mother of **Betty Farber**



Shirley Atlas
mother of **June Jacobson**



Virginia Parlo
mother of **Joan Vreeland**



Jean Hurwitz
mother of **Michael Wellner**



Ethel Woodward
mother of **Margaret Woodward**



Helen Wolfe Kaplan
mother of **Barbara Gelber**

Quest Encores June 2022

All Classes are 10:30 am – 12:00 noon

Tuesday, June 7

Sandy Kessler: *Abraham Lincoln on Civic Education*

Tuesday, June 14

Laura Lopez: *The Nobel Peace Prize* – Nobel Prizes

Tuesday, June 21

Sheryl Harawitz, Jennifer Jolly, Donna Ramer & Mary Ann Donnelly:
Ancient Gods and The Circle of Life – Mythology

Tuesday, June 28

Lois Klein & Mary Ann Donnelly: *Jo March from Louisa May Alcott's 'Little Women'* and *Frankie Addams from Carson McCullers's 'The Member of the Wedding'* – Literary Heroines

Thursday, June 9

Ellie Schaffer:
Irving Berlin – Movers & Shakers

Thursday, June 16

Ze'eva Cohen: *A Life in Dance* – Presenter's Showcase

Thursday, June 23

Wayne Cotter & Steve Koenig: *Salute to Songwriters II* – Live and Brand New [not an Encore] – Classic Rock Albums

Thursday, June 30

Toni Dickenson: *Resistance & Rebellion in the Antebellum and Post-War South* – Slavery's Role in US Capitalist Development

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

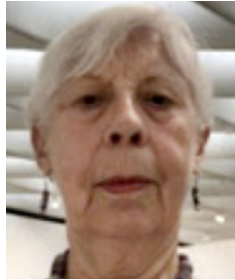
Curriculum Committee



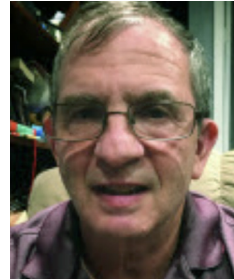
Andrea Irvine



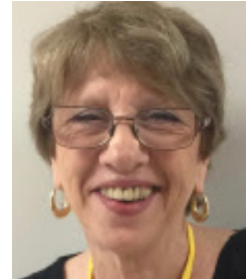
Art Spar



Joyce West



Bob Gottfried



Diane Reynolds



Leslie Goldman



Martha Drezin



Paul Golomb



Sheryl Harawitz

If you pick up your course catalogue from the Quest office or open it online, you will see some of the work that the Curriculum Committee does each semester. The catalogue is the next to last output of our work each semester; the summer program being our last. We begin each semester by reviewing the courses currently running, considering what we may be lacking, brainstorming ideas for new courses, and then sending out a survey with possible ideas for courses to the Quest membership. We use those results to solicit course proposals for the next term. We also ask the Quest membership and the course coordinators to recommend presentations for the summer program.

There are numerous “legacy courses” which continue each semester (*Foreign Affairs* and *Law and Order* are two examples) and we then add new courses, which last anywhere from a single semester (*Mozart’s Women*) to several years (*Antisemitism*). One of our latest innovations are the three new *Something Extras*, including *Birth of Ideas*, *Emily Dickenson Circle*, *Music of the Heart*.

Members of the committee include **Martha Drezin, Leslie Goldman, Paul Golomb, Bob Gottfried, Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine, Diane Reynolds, Art Spar** and **Joyce West**, Chair. **Martha, Leslie, Diane** and **Joyce** will be rotating off the committee this year. **Paul, Bob,** and **Andrea** are new members. Most of the members are also coordinators of courses.

We are a very active committee, meeting every two weeks at

lunchtime. All of us take on multiple roles, but **Martha Drezin** as the editor of the bulletin has been especially crucial; **Andrea Irvine** will assume Martha’s role. **Sheryl Harawitz** has been our spreadsheet and survey generator and **Art Spar** lead the effort for creating this coming summer program, taking over from **Leslie Goldman** who did it last summer. All of us serve as proofreaders and idea generators.

The Curriculum Committee membership will be following the new by-laws starting next semester. The bylaws state,

“Each year, between June 1 and the beginning of the Fall semester, all committee chairs are required to notify the full membership through electronic means of the responsibilities of their committees, to solicit members to apply for committee membership no later than July 31, and to appoint members of their committees for a one-year term that begins no later than the beginning of the Fall semester.”

You can find our requirements for membership in the Curriculum Committee section on the Quest website (or ask the chair for the list). Basically, we are looking for individuals with knowledge of how Quest “works,” who have served as course coordinators, presenters, or served on committees. Plus, the ability to use Word in editing, proofreading, and sending and opening documents. The new Chairperson for the committee will be appointed by the President of Quest.