

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 31

September 2022

A Note From the President

We hope you've enjoyed your return to Quest. We have close to 200 members, many of whom have been able to participate in person in classes at 25 Broadway. If you haven't done so yet, please pick up the 2022 QReview, a Fall catalogue, and a bundle of Quest bookmarks to share with people you think might consider joining our organization.

It's time to mark our calendars. Council approved our Spring 2023 schedule, which is below:

Monday, February 6:

first day of Spring 2023 semester

Monday, February 20:

President's Day holiday

Monday-Thursday, April 3-6:

Spring break

Thursday, May 18:

Last day of 2023 semester

Our Distinguished Guest Speakers will present on February 15, March 1, March 15, March 29, and May 3. The Spring General Meeting will take place on April 19, and Creativity Day will happen on May 17.

Reminder to mark your calendar: our hybrid Fall General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 9th at 1:00 pm.

In 2017, Quest published a report by an ad hoc Long-range Planning Committee, whose purpose was to ensure Quest's vitality as an organization, to promote its growth, and to mitigate potential threats to its well-being. Quest is now forming a follow-up Long-range Planning Committee, which will write its report this Spring. In order to serve on the committee, you must have been a Quest member for at least one year and be willing to commit to spending the time and undertaking the collaborative work necessary for this vital

project. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact me at rutheward@gmail.com.

On another subject, if you would like to to exercise outdoors in the company of your fellow Questers, consider joining the Solemates Walking Group that meets on Thursdays of B-week at 2:45 pm in the Quest lobby. Coordinators **Marian Friedmann, Laura Lopez, and Andrea Irvine** are eager to enjoy our neighborhood with you.

Many thanks for your participation in presenting, serving on committees, and contributing your comments in our varied classes. Our peer-to-peer organization remains robust because of your heartfelt enthusiasm.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
— Ruth Ward

Distinguished Guest Speaker *by Estelle Selzer*



Al Franken was our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker on September 14. More than 100 Questers enjoyed his humor and political acumen.

Hail & Farewell *by Michael Wellner*

This month we introduce a new regular column in QNews: *Hail & Farewell*. Unabashedly "borrowed" from a military ceremony of the same name, this new feature will introduce those new members who have joined since our last issue, and will "send off" those who are leaving us, or who have left us. We hope you will find this new feature helpful, and invite your comments and contributions.

Farewell to **Betty Farber**. It is with definite mixed emotions that we say farewell to Betty Farber, who has been a vibrant, loyal, and wonderful member of Quest for more than fifteen years. Betty first joined Quest in 2006, and has contributed in so many ways, especially with her brilliant writing. Just check a current or past issue of Q Review, and you'll find one of Betty's wonderful essays and/or poems. She is moving to Columbia, Missouri, to be near to her two daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! Although we shall miss her every day at Quest, we wish her all the best in her new adventure!

QPal Volunteers

by Madeleine Brecher

The Quest Membership Committee is launching a new member service: QPal (QuestPal). We anticipate that this will more seamlessly integrate new members into our community by partnering them with current active Questers.

However, we need your help! Please let me know if you would like to partner with one new member. Some suggested responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- meeting in person with your assigned new Quester;
- answering their questions;
- reviewing the course schedule so they understand A vs. B week;
- touring the facility with them so they are able to navigate the 7th floor;
- explaining how our community works, i.e. participation possibilities, email blasts, lecture vs. discussion classes, Quest Business vs. Quest Community, etc.;
- introducing them to others;
- having them join you for coffee or lunch;
- following up by proactively reaching out to check in; and
- being available to answer questions in person, via email, text or phone.

The key is to be of service, but not joined at the hip!

If you sign up, we will keep your name on file as we get calls from new members who wish to participate in the QPal program.

Madeleine Brecher, QPal Administrator
madbrech@gmail.com • 917-843-3363

New Members

Quest welcomes five new members who have joined since August:

Rosemary Feal
Judith Feldman
Elizabeth Laube
Donna Orosz
Tamara Weinberg

Look for red lanyards at 25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest.

CultureQuest: Chelsea Art Galleries Tour

by Madeleine Brecher

Friday, September 16th was the most gorgeous day in New York City! It was perfect weather for twenty-five Questers to set out with a guide on their CultureQuest walking tour viewing what is new and extraordinary in four preselected Chelsea art galleries!

An art installation by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer at the Pace Gallery took our breath away. It was absolutely dazzling. We learned the artist's story and concept and had fun monitoring our own heartbeat which influenced the movement of the lights. Next, we saw two works by Do Ho Suh at the Lehmann Maupin Gallery... one, a wall of colorful everyday items seen in a home, each hanging at the exact height you would find them in your residence. I was more interested in his red woven box with a single figure hanging upside down with several legs dangling in the air. It was a statement by this Asian artist hoping to "turn things on their head" to recognize the existence of Asians, other minorities, and women as equals to white men in society.

In the fourth gallery, the Paula Cooper, we were again blown away by an incredible conceptual wall drawing executed by contemporary unknown artists using the detailed instructions left by the now deceased but renowned artist Sol LeWitt. His concept was unique and almost unbelievable until our own Linda Downs explained that she had commissioned a Sol LeWitt when she was a museum director and confirmed that what we were hearing was true! Her museum bought his instructions, other artists followed those detailed instructions, and DeWitt, still alive at the time, showed up every now and then to supervise the job. He was no longer available to oversee the installation when the walls at the Paula Cooper gallery were recently painted as he passed away in 2007.

The Slag gallery was our final stop where we viewed very exciting textile art. It was interesting that some were not initially impressed but after studying the pieces on the wall, came away agreeing that the artist's work was quite wonderful.

Many of us joined together for lunch after the tour which gave us the opportunity to relax and chat about what we had just seen. We agreed that it was another educational Quest experience!



The Sol DeWitt wall drawing at the Paula Cooper Gallery.

CultureQuest Fall Schedule 2022

September 16: **Madeleine Brecher** Chelsea Art Galleries
New York Gallery Tours – In-person tour

September 30: **Maureen Berman** Mount Vernon Hotel
Museum & Gardens – In-person tour

October 14: **Lois Klein** Brooklyn Navy Yard: Past and
Present – In-person tour

October 28: **Linda Downs** Edward Hopper at the
Whitney – In-person tour

November 11: **Dena Kerren** Center for Photography
– In-person tour *To Be Confirmed*

December 2: **Bob Reiss** Abstraction in African American
Painting – Zoom lecture by Art Historian
To Be Confirmed

Murphy's Lesser-Known Laws

by Lowell Berman

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
3. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
4. A day without sunshine is like, well, night.
5. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
6. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
7. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool
8. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
9. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
10. The things that come to those who wait may be the things left by those who got there first.
11. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
12. Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
13. God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.
14. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Viruses come and go... Loss of freedom is forever

City Rambling

by Frank Montaturo



Making the Most of the Moment

New York Subway, July 2021

Making up in public is not a new phenomenon. I recall many years ago on my way to work on a relatively crowded express train starting from 96 St... a young lady pulled her make up kit out of her deep purse and to the fascination of those in the immediate vicinity started to apply: eye shadow, liner, mascara... and with deft strokes worthy of Renoir... a brush of powder on each cheek... checked the mirror... then the lipstick... bringing the full lips together to make sure the paint was evenly applied and not on her teeth... and as we pulled into 14 St... a final overall inspection of her maquillage... to the spontaneous applause of the gratified commuters. She stepped off the train gingerly not in the least nonplussed.

**Your success and happiness lie in you.
Resolve to keep happy, and your joy
and you shall form an invincible host
against difficulties.**

— Helen Keller

Who's Doing What

In August, **Bob and Ellen Gottfried** visited Canada for a week. They saw Hamlet, All's Well That Ends Well, and Chicago in Stratford, Ontario; The Doctor's Dilemma, a Shaw play, at Niagara on the Lake, Ontario; and The Royal Ontario Museum and the Aquarium in Toronto. They then spent 5 glorious days with our sons, daughter-in-law, and grandsons celebrating our youngest son's 40th birthday, on Grand Island, which is between Buffalo and Niagara Falls. The following week Bob and Ellen took grandson Ben, who is three years old, to the Great Escape Park in Lake George, New York, a splash park on Long Island, and Prospect Park in Brooklyn. It was great spending time with him.

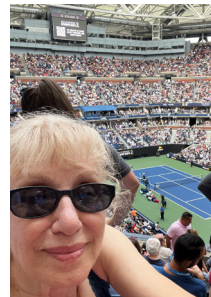


dance, art, and friendship.

• • •

Shoshi Kagan did not travel this summer. Enjoyed staying in the city. Celebrating Labor Day at the US Open.

Lois Cardillo, Roy Clary, Dena Kerren and Mark Cardillo enjoyed a delicious end-of-summer brunch in Lennox, Massachusetts. We celebrated a Berkshires August filled with music, theater,



Encores 2023 by Arlynn Greenbaum

The Fall semester has just begun, but the Encores team wants to remind you to keep your antenna up for any outstanding presentation you think worthy of an Encore performance next summer. **Art Spar**, head of the committee, will send out periodic reminders via QuestBusiness. Email QuestEncores2023@googlegroups.com and tell us the name of the class, presenter and date. **Joyce Hinote** does the tabulating and **Andrea Irvine** and **Arlynn Greenbaum** assist with the selection process. Thanks for your help in advance!



Q'XTRA: African Burial Ground National Monument by Richard Byrd

On August 24th, I had the pleasure of attending (along with my colleagues from Quest) an exhibit at the African Burial Ground. This was a truly soul-stirring experience. The exhibit delved into the history of pre-colonial New York in general, and the disenfranchised Africans in particular. Besides the dehumanizing experience of being reduced to human chattel, one sees how the "The Spirit of the People is Greater than Their Oppressors' Brutality." Though enveloped in "The Immobile Workshop of the Devil's Mind," they valiantly fought to maintain their culture and traditions.

The exhibit commences with a film about the history and discovery in 1991 of the remains of the enslaved Africans who were buried throughout the area around present-day Broadway and Reade Street. One learns that, although they were in bondage, they paid homage to those among them who transitioned and joined the ancestors. The film shows the valiant struggle, in modern times, to turn this sacred site into a shrine to those who dared to struggle, determined to win.

After the film, one takes a tour through the Museum, which terminates at the outdoor memorial. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone who wishes to broaden their perspectives.



From l-r: Donna Ramer, Karen Levin, Barbara Cohen, Richard Byrd, Ruth Ward, Diane Reynolds with Ranger Bethany at the African Burial Ground National Monument.

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