

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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## A Note From the President

**W**elcome to Quest's 2023 Spring semester. We're off to an exciting start! Our finances and membership are robust. We'll be getting about 4% on our CDs, which will bring us considerable income in the new year. We now have close to 220 members, with 16 or 17 more prospective Questers coming in, folks who have learned about Quest through friends or Internet searches. We now have a new category of remote members who, living outside the greater metropolitan area, will participate via Zoom, paying the same fee as regular members and enjoying most of the same privileges. People on a leave of absence will continue to receive Quest Community communications and will hopefully return next Fall.

Our Marketing and Communications Committee has made Quest visible on

Google; it now comes up first under the search words "life long learning." In addition, we now have a presence on Facebook, Yelp, and several local publications.

This year's Nominations and Elections Committee will consist of council liaison **Judy Winn, Bob Gottfried, Jennifer Jolly, Arlene Curinga, and Andrea Irvine.** Judy will set up the first meeting, during which the members will choose their chairperson. More election information will be offered to us shortly.

Regarding promotional "pre-blurbs" on Quest Business, Council confirmed that lead coordinators should include information on the work to be studied, such as reading material or films, and where these items are available. However, blurbs should not advertise in any way.

And... our new severe inclement weather

policy: If Council determines that Quest will be closed at 25 Broadway, members will be able to stay home and participate via Zoom, thanks to the technical support of the intrepid **Sheryl Harawitz** and **Wayne Cotter**, who will make the trek to our building. In person classes will get a link so that they can participate.

Finally, this Spring CCNY will be installing turnstiles in the lobby. Questers will receive a new ID for this, which will be in addition to our current Quest ID.

I'll be participating remotely as I work toward a full recovery from lung and heart related issues. So if you don't see me in person, look for me on the wall.

As you can see, we 're going to have a busy Spring!

Warm regards,

**Ruth Ward**



## Welcome Back

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

## Aventuras en la Ciudad de Mexico

by *Ellie Schaffer & Tamara Weinberg*

**W**hat a whirlwind six-day vacation for **Tamara Weinberg** and **Ellie Schaffer**!

Our itinerary: San Angel – Diego Rivera's studio and sometime home with Frida Kahlo, and the Bazaar Sábado for Mexican artists, Chapultepec Park – the Anthropology Museum and Chapultepec Castle, the Teotihuacan pyramids explained by the best 24-year-old archeologist in Mexico, Frida Kahlo's home and studio in Coyoacán, Xochimilco canal boat ride, the Zócalo – the city's historic district and the murals of Diego Rivera in the Secretariat de Educación Pública and the Palacio de Belles Artes.

We feasted throughout on mucha comida deliciosa but could not muster the courage to try grasshoppers, ant eggs, or worms. Frida por siempre!



## How Smart is Your Right Foot?

**I**t's absolutely true: there are some things the human brain cannot handle.

While sitting on a chair, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Now, while doing this, draw the number '6' in the air with your right hand.

Your foot will change direction, and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it!

You and I both know how stupid it is, but before the day is done you will try this again... if you've not already done so.

## CultureQuest Tour of the Hopper Exhibition at the Whitney Museum



**A**t long last, CultureQuest had an outstanding in-person tour of the Hopper Exhibition at the Whitney Museum of Art. Whitney

Docent Linda Sweet gave a most enjoyable 90-minute tour and expertly engaged the group in discussions of his major works, his illustrated diaries, the early 'spec' work of advertisements and his approach to painting (very clean!). She emphasized that he was not interested in

presenting particular emotions even though his work elicits strong responses in viewers. Nor was he interested in capturing particular neighborhoods (although the Whitney staff has posted information on where he painted when). His primary objective was to paint harmonious, colorful compositions. Sweet speculated on whether he would have developed into a purely abstract painter if he had lived a little longer because of his primary interest in geometric form and color. The exhibition will be on view until February 27th.

## City Wandering

by *Frank Montaturo*

Please come in...  
Williamsburg, New York  
September 2013

**W**as it a shop? A former home now memory palace? The dream house of a hoarder? The lock on the jamb inclines me to think this is not a family dwelling. More like a social worker's nightmare... awaiting an official order of condemnation from the Fire Department. And how exactly does one slip in without being buried



under an avalanche of clutter? Might there be a gem or two hidden herein? Perhaps, but the search would be exhausting. The owner is evidently patriotic... though the flag is a weather bleached bit of rag. Alas... I do know someone whose collection this could be.



## Who's Doing What

In January, **Sandy Gordon** enjoyed an interesting cruise to the Panama Canal, stopping at ports in Central America. New friends, new conversations, exciting experiences!



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**Judith and Pete Weis** had Covid for the holidays! They were not very sick, having had all the vaccines and boosters, and were all recovered by early January, when they took the postponed trip to Providence to visit son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. They have seen a number of friends for dinner, gone to the Met to see "Fedora," been to MOMA and the Hopper exhibit at the Whitney, watched and participated in a variety of webinars, prepared talks for Quest, and Judith has been to many rehearsals for Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe," which will be performed on February 10th and 11th at the Thalia.

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**Michael Hamburg** spent 11 days in Spain, and is leaving for two weeks to St. Lucia. He is working two days a week at the Museum of Natural History, has almost finished the first draft of his debut novel, and is now meditating 30 minutes every morning. (Great for the blood pressure.)

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**Steve Koenig** spent is Editor of <https://www.acousticlevitation.org/>, a Journal of the Arts and Culture. It features music reviews, performances, poetry, visual arts, and interviews. For fun, listen to the two 15-minute audio interviews Steve did with Yoko Ono. Many of NY's "Downtown" jazz musicians have donated their music for streaming or free download.

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On January 28th **Estelle Selzer** adopted a cat from Bideawee. He is two years old and his name is Snowy but she has decided to change it to Tigger. He has tiger stripes. He came home and

Immediately settled in to his new digs. While he can never replace her wonderful Boychik who was put to sleep this Summer, he is bringing joy and love to this cat Mama. He is playful and Estelle is getting lots of exercise just retrieving toys that he bats under the furniture.

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**Judy Winn** traveled to Turks and Caicos with her son and granddaughter in January.



**Maryann Donnelly and Yona Rogosin** loved the Lou Reed exhibit at

the Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center after visiting the archives and TOFT theater exhibit there. The Library is a gem among NYPL's vast resources.

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**Marva and Michael Wellner** spent two weeks last month in surprisingly chilly (but sunny) Arizona. Their trip began in (snowy) Sedona, but thankfully they were still able to sightsee among the absolutely gorgeous and justifiably famous red rocks. Then it was on to Scottsdale, where the highlight



was unquestionably lunch at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Biltmore Hotel. What a gorgeous place, and on the National Register of Historic Places as well.



## Not Everyone Can Read This

**F**i yuo ca raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. I cdnuolt biveiee taht I cluod aulacity uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mid, aoccdnrng to a rscheearch

at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the only iproamtnt tihg is taht the frsrit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitil raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid

deos not red ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yah and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! If you can raed tihs *share it*. Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.

**We live in a time where  
intelligent people  
are being silenced so  
that stupid people won't  
be offended.**

## Q News Staff

### *A Quest Publication*

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Articles submitted to QNews  
may be edited by the Staff.  
The Editor-in-Chief is the final arbiter  
of the publication's contents.

## New Members

**Q**uest welcomes new members:  
**Elaine Gelstein**  
**Susan Guest**  
**Carole Kolber**  
**Ron Kolber**  
**Leslie Kraus**  
**Sara Lustigman**  
**Elaine Martin**  
**Nina Sanders**  
**James Sykes**

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

## Historical Gem: Mt. Vernon Hotel Museum & Gardens *by Madeleine Brecher*



On a dreary day in January, nine enthusiastic Questers met at the Mt. Vernon Hotel Museum and Gardens. Our informative tour was led by our own **Maureen Berman**, who is a docent at the museum, and who had wow'd a Quest group in October on a CultureQuest excursion. This sturdy old stone building operated as a hotel for only eight years, from 1826 until 1833, and was originally owned by Colonel William Stephens Smith and his wife, Abigail Adams Smith, a daughter of John Adams.

For those eight years, it was a fashionable resort that was quite popular with New Yorkers who could afford to make the trip uptown to the "country" and away from the noise and dust of downtown, which at the time, was south of 14th Street. The day hotel was marketed to a well-bred clientele who went by stagecoach or steamboat up to 61st Street to relax in the ladies' parlor, play cards in the gentlemen's tavern, or stroll the lovely garden in the proper season.

After a short video of the history to put the group in the mood, we toured the building and learned about the wonderful furniture and table settings in each room which were totally authentic and typical of the period. Despite the winter day, we were able to get into the garden to stroll around and take a fun picture at the side of the historic building.

At the end of the tour, the group headed back to reality for lunch around the corner on bustling First Avenue. It was a far cry from the city that once existed in this remote corner of New York almost two centuries ago, and a rare reminder of an important era in the history of our city.

If you wish to spend a delightful hour or two traveling back in history, do speak to Quest member Maureen Berman, who is always pleased to take you on a visit to this hidden gem on the Upper East Side.