

QNEWS DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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A Note From the President

Happy New Year! I hope you've been enjoying the holiday season with family, friends, and exciting activities.

Perhaps you were among the hundred members and their guests who attended our holiday luncheon on Friday, December 16th from noon to 3:00 pm at the Lavo Restaurant. Many thanks to the Special Events chair Michael Wellner and his committee for an extremely convivial and delicious conclusion of our fall semester.

Perhaps you've been able to participate in one or more of the fascinating Quest ventures that have taken place during this intersession, such as a visit to the Enheduanna and Women of Mesopotamia exhibit at the Morgan Library with Sheryl Harawitz and Andrea Irving, an Adventure

in Dining at Wu's Wonton King, 165 East Broadway with Frank Montaturo, or a concert of Juilliard students preceded by lunch at the Arte Café with Steve Allen.

Our Spring semester looks very promising for our more than 200 members, with 20 intriguing hybrid courses, two more than last fall, complementing our many in-person only and Zoom classes. Thanks to Wayne Cotter and Sheryl Harawitz for assembling the necessary technical support for all these courses.

As you may recall, the lead coordinators of our new Spring 2023 courses gave us a taste at our November 9th General Meeting of the content of their offerings for the upcoming semester. For further information you can consult our online catalogue, available at the Quest website

at questlifelong.org, or you can pick up a catalogue in the Quest office when classes resume on Monday, February 6th.

Happily, our numbers continue to grow. The Membership committee is currently reaching out to potential members who have in the past expressed interest in joining us. A special shoutout goes to Marketing and Communications co-chair Beth Callender for her success in placing an ad on Google, with no fewer than 25 search words to attract new members to our organization.

Finally, my deepest thanks for your many good wishes for my recovery. I look forward to seeing you in person or on Zoom in the very near future.

Warm regards,
Ruth Ward

Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The Quest Book Club is looking forward to continuing in the Spring semester. We meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month from 12:10–12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway.

February 8: *The Weight of Ink*, by Rachel Kadish; presented by **Hedy Shulman**

March 8: *All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days*, by Rebecca Donner; presented by **Sandy Gordon**

April 12: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks; presented by **Joan Vreeland**
[Note: this is a change from the original selection for April]

May 10: *Clara and the Sun*, by Kazuo Ishiguro; presented by **Tamara Weinberg**

Winter Break: Lunch & Concert

by Steve Allen and Michael Wellner

On Tuesday, January 10th, some 35 or so Quest members gathered at Arte Cafe, on 73rd and Columbus Avenue, for a delicious lunch before attending a student concert at the nearby Juilliard School, at Lincoln Center. The event was a great success: only 25 had "signed up" beforehand, and we easily had at least 50% more actually turn up! And there were another eight or nine who attended the concert afterwards, but could not make the lunch. Everyone really enjoyed the opportunity to "catch up" with their Quest friends during our semester break. Without question we will schedule more of these events going forward. Stay tuned!



Who's Doing What

On December 9, **Bob** and **Ellen Gottfried** welcomed grandson Colton Cecil Gottfried, who was born in Jacksonville, Florida. Their son Bradley, who lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, is Colton's father. The delighted grandparents were in Jacksonville for Colton's birth and stayed with Colton and Bradley for 10 days until Colton was permitted to fly to New York City. Bradley will be raising Colton as a single father.



Colton is their third grandson, but the first to live in New York. The shirt Colton is wearing was a gift from the members of the Curriculum Committee.

Dena Kerren and **Roy Clary** were in the Berkshires from January 3 to 7. Staying in Lenox, they dined one evening with **Lois** and **Mark Cardillo**. They also enjoyed another visit to the Clark Art Museum and treated themselves to a day spa at the Miraval Resort, which included massage, jacuzzi, and a swim in an indoor/outdoor pool.

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Bob Reiss and **Debra Gillers** celebrated her birthday with their children and grandchildren (and significant others).



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Steve Koenig was a featured poet in a reading December 25 at the ETG Book Café in Staten Island.

Congratulations to **Gale Spitalnik**, who completed the Central Park New Year's Eve midnight 4 mile run — for the fifteenth time!



"A Beautiful Noise"

by Howard Salik

A friend of mine called me one night and explained that the music director for all Broadway shows invited him and he was asking me to the opening night and after-theater party for "A Beautiful Noise," the Neil Diamond story. As a longtime fan of Diamond, and without hesitation, I accepted.

In one of the opening lines, the actor playing Neil Diamond begins with "I'm just a Jewish boy from Brooklyn and that's about it... I'm a nobody." The play itself was fabulous with many of his songs inserted as part of his career. One interesting part of the play is when he explains he got tied up with the mob and they wouldn't allow him to tour on his own until he wrote a hit song, so that the group could collect the profits. He locked himself in a room and after weeks came up with "Sweet Caroline" and they tore up his contract.

Neil Diamond, who cannot tour as a result of Parkinson's disease, and his family were up in a box over the stage and at the finale, I took out my camera and videotaped him singing "Sweet Caroline."

Listen here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JfU4PKgmJc>



City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo

Float in a Blue Sea Chinatown, November 2022

One of my favorite urban canvases is this wall at the entrance to a Chinatown subway station. It is a narrow passage; one flight up... one down... and here to greet anyone who will take a breath to notice is the latest expression of what is probably an anonymous squad of artists. I have over the years never coincided with anyone engaged in bringing this blank space alive with color. It is undoubtedly executed by some nocturnal dauber and is there for early morning commuters. When I return for my next shopping trip might it be gone?... replaced by something new equally bold perhaps equally satisfying?



Diehl and Downs in Oaxaca

by Linda Downs

Susan Diehl and **Linda Downs** spent ten glorious days in Oaxaca to visit friends and see the sights. We visited the Los Tres Reyes celebrations at Chichicapam village at the invitation of a graduate medical school student and had dinner with her family. We also visited the archeological sites at Monte Albán, Mitla, and the weavers' town of Teotitlán.

Frank Montaturo supplied us with lists of his favorite sites and restaurants in Oaxaca which were invaluable and included a Zapotec/infusion cuisine where each of the seven courses was a work of art that presented unique and extraordinary flavors!



Adventures in Dining: Wu's Wonton King

by Frank Montaturo



From left: Nan McNamara, Tamara Weinberg, Hilda Feinstein, Liz Laube, Judith Winn, Karen Levin, Madeleine Brecher, Lois and Mark Cardillo, Wayne Cotter, Anita Hunter, and Frank Montaturo... with bib!



I forgot to ask for a show of hands: How many of you are visiting this part of Chinatown for the first time? I would wager that maybe one or two hands would have gone up. East Broadway and Rutgers Street is not a heavily touristed part of the city. Too bad (perhaps). There is much to entertain the urban wanderer here. Just opposite is Seward Park with its handsome Carnegie Library, and down the street from Wu's is the former home of The Forward... New York's first Jewish language newspaper... a 1912 Beaux Arts building now a condominium. Almost across from Wu's is the 1841-2 St. Teresa's church... with its soaring nave. But the food... well... let the photos speak for themselves. It was plentiful... it was served graciously... there were leftovers. But most important of all... Questers (mostly new members and first time "Adventurers") made it a wonderful occasion.

New Member

Quest welcomes new member **Ted Cohen**. 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.

End-of-Semester Luncheon

by Michael Wellner

To cap off a somewhat challenging (thanks to Covid and its related viruses) but overall successful semester, on December 16th, more than a hundred Questers and about a half dozen guests gathered once again at the wonderful Lavo Restaurant for our traditional end-of-semester gala luncheon.

Despite a few key absences, most notably our President **Ruth Ward** (who was hospitalized with a non-Covid respiratory ailment), and City College President Vince Boudreau (who had to be out of town), we carried on under the leadership of our vice president, **Wayne Cotter**, our good friend CCNY/CWE Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, and CWE key players and long-time Quest supporters

Davi Saroop and Nina Woods. Guests of honor included our dynamic tech duo, Robert Hernandez and Felix Pina, and four students who are the fortunate recipients of scholarships funded by Quest and its members.

The food was delicious, the service was nearly perfect, the wine flowed freely, and – despite less-than-ideal weather – we all had a really great time. Special thanks go to the Special Events Committee (**Marian Friedmann, Leslie Goldman, Bob Gottfried, Bob Hartmann, and Michael Wellner**), and our event-day volunteers **Beth Callender, Andrea Irvine, Gale Spitalnik, and Pam Gemelli**. Truly a wonderful day!



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

**When I was young,
I was poor.
But after years of hard work,
I am no longer young.**

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

Quest Loves Hopper!

by Linda Downs

Eighty members of Quest attended the CultureQuest zoom presentation on the exhibition "Edward Hopper's New York" given by Whitney Docent Linda Sweet on Friday, November 18th. Linda emphasized the focus throughout his career on qualities of light, the abstract elements of architecture, and his brilliance as a colorist all combining to create evocative moods. Linda presented the broad spectrum of Hopper's work from his early designs for advertisements, sketches and paintings and watercolors of his native New York. His focused dedication to realism kept him from being aware of Picasso's cubist developments even though he was in Paris when *Les Femmes d'Alger* was first publicly presented. And his defensive stance for realism during the height of attention to Abstract Expressionism in the 1950's, set him apart. But Hopper has remained popular throughout his lifetime and into the Twenty-First Century. The exhibition provides a great opportunity to see so many works and memorabilia that was donated by his wife, Josephine, to the Whitney Museum of Art. Culture Quest is working on setting up an in-person tour with Linda Sweet in January if possible. CultureQuest thanks **Bob Reiss** for providing the tech for this presentation.



New York Restaurant
c. 1922
Oil on Canvas
30" x 24"

Guest Lecturer Kermit Roosevelt III

by Karen Levin

Kermit Roosevelt III was our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on December 14. He spoke about his new book, *The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story*.

Professor Roosevelt teaches constitutional law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. His book tells the story of America's founding and the origins of its most important and fundamental values. However, he argues that many American ideals that we grew up learning, and that were attributed to the Founding Fathers, actually originated during and after the Civil War and Reconstruction.

He gave an enlightening presentation to clarify his thoughts and ideas. Quest members posed many interesting questions and comments.

The talk was recorded; if you couldn't attend, feel free to watch on our website.

