

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 37

March 2023

A Note From the President

Our current semester is living up to its promise. Our finances remain robust; our membership, now at 237, is steadily increasing. And, although we no longer have access to the faraway room 52-53, we now have the use of our former classrooms 19 and 22, which are near the lunch room.

On Wednesday, March 29, after our guest speaker's presentation, we will have a hybrid spring Memorial presentation to celebrate the lives of Questers who have passed since our last Memorial of September 2020. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this moving event.

This year's Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by **Bob Gottfried**,

includes council liaison **Judy Winn**, plus **Jennifer Jolly, Arlene Curinga, and Andrea Irvine**. They have chosen 7 candidates for 4 offices. Our lunchtime meet the candidates meetings will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 8, 9, and 10. Electronic (email) voting will occur from Thursday through Saturday, May 11–13 and the results will be announced on Monday, May 15. The committee has nominated **Donna Ramer** as our candidate for President and in alphabetical order: **Mary Ann Donnelly, Paul Golomb, Joyce Hinote, Nan McNamara, Estelle Selzer, Joyce West, and Ilene Winkler** as our candidates to fill four seats on the Quest Council.

Pursuant to the Quest bylaws, additional nominations must be made by a petition

signed by no less than fifteen per-cent (15%) of the membership (counted as of the first day of the spring semester of the year in which the election is to be held) and submitted to the NEC prior to April 1. In 2023 the required number of signatures is 33.

In anticipation of our summer session, the Marketing and Communications committee will publicize our summer events with the aid of a professional photographer! We will be providing coffee and treats this summer to encourage on-site participation. We will also have an Open House to attract new members.

So much to look forward to. Meanwhile, don't forget to enjoy the coming of spring!

Warm regards,
Ruth Ward

CultureQuest Calendar Spring 2023

March 17: *Highlights of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Virtual Tour, 10:00 – 11:00 AM*

March 31: Jackie Robinson Museum – Docent-led, In-Person Tour - 11:00 – Noon

Special Note on Attendance: We are delighted with the response to our programming. However, we request that you please read Instructions for signing up for a tour more carefully. If you are first

April 21: American Museum of Natural History – Insectorium and Vivarium Tour – In-Person Tour, 11:00 – Noon

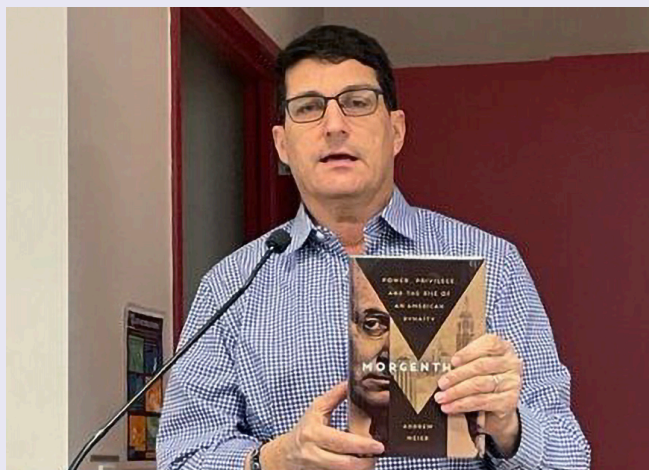
May 5: Green-Wood Cemetery – Private Trolley Tour In-Person Tour, 10:30 – 12:30 PM

to RSVP, we want you on the list, but your name will *not* appear if you don't read carefully, follow the directions, and email the correct recipient. Thank you.
— The CultureQuest Committee

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Distinguished Guest Lecturer: Andrew Meier *by Estelle Selzer*

On Wednesday, March 1st Andrew Meier, a former Moscow correspondent for *Time* and contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, spoke about the Morgenthau family legacy. His 1,000 page book details the rise of the family from the arrival of Lazarus Morgenthau to the United States from Germany, through the tenure of D.A. Robert Morgenthau. Meier made the family come to life for the Quest audience. Several Questers are reading the book and commented on how much they are enjoying it. More info can be found on the website Andrewmeier.com.



Distinguished Guest Lecturer: Georgina Pazcoguin *by Estelle Selzer*

Questers were treated to a most informative presentation on Wednesday, February 15th from Georgina Pazcoguin. She is the first Asian American dancer to be promoted to soloist at New York City Ballet. Pazcoguin chronicles her struggles and achievements in her memoir *Swan Dive*, which she read from during the presentation. In addition to dancing, she is involved in many causes to promote and help Asian American dancers.



CultureQuest by Estelle Selzer *by Estelle Selzer*

I'll Have What She's Having March 3, 2023

Questers spent a Friday morning at the I'll Have What She's Having exhibit at the New-York Historical Society. Our docent Pam explained the origins of the Jewish Deli as we know it and there were lots of menus and memorabilia to be seen and videos to watch.

After the tour several Questers dined at the Storico restaurant in the museum. Wonder what they ate?



Norma February 25, 2023

Fifty members of Quest braved the cold weather and were treated to a Working Dress Rehearsal of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Norma. The tickets were compliments of the Metropolitan Opera's Education Department and our seats were in the orchestra. We all know how expensive these tickets would have been if we had to pay for them.

The production was glorious and many Questers commented on how much they loved it. Here are Questers during intermission.



Talking Hybrids: Q&A

by Wayne Cotter, Acting President

The following are answers to questions that frequently arise at Quest regarding our hybrid policy.

Q: How many Quest courses are currently in hybrid form?

A: For the spring 2023 semester, 21 of our 35 courses are in hybrid form.

Q: Is Council likely to significantly reduce the number of hybrids in the future?

A: Hybrids are here to stay at Quest. There are certainly some members who long for the “good old days” when we all participated in person at 25 Broadway. But during those so-called good-all-days, a member who could no longer attend at 25 Broadway was compelled to leave the organization. That is no longer true. Each semester the number of hybrid offerings will be tweaked but hybrids will not disappear.

Q: Sometimes the lighting and sound are not ideal when I participate at home via Zoom. Can anything be done about that?

A: Our goal when providing hybrid offerings via Zoom is to make sure the presenter can be clearly heard at home and that any accompanying PowerPoints and videos can be seen and heard. Because conducting eight to ten hybrid sessions per week is a significant challenge, the tech team at times does not achieve its goal. CCNY is scheduled to install new podiums and equipment in all Quest classrooms this spring. This should help Quest present hybrids with fewer issues for our at-home attendees.

Q: Why doesn't Quest just hire tech people to set these hybrid classes up every day?

A: Hiring qualified tech people is, I believe, a red herring. This is not a technical issue. Even if we could hire the most talented and experienced people, Council does not believe it is in the best long-term interest of the organization to offer every one of our courses in hybrid form.

Q: Attendance at 25 Broadway has significantly improved this year, but how do we know that is because fewer hybrid courses are being offered?

A: We can never know that for sure, but many members have acknowledged that they would definitely not be coming to 25 Broadway if a particular course was being offered in hybrid format, which certainly makes sense.

And we are told by the membership committee that prospective members have been impressed by the live experience at Quest. There are literally hundreds of Zoom learning institutions throughout the country that a prospective Quest member can participate in from home. Quest's unique strength in attracting new members is the meaningful social interaction that we engage on a regular basis. Zoom-only organizations cannot possibly replicate that experience.

Q: My favorite course is not offered in hybrid. Why not?

A: Although Quest offers a sizable number of hybrid courses, invariably someone's favorite course will not be available for at-home participation. The alternative would be to offer every single course in hybrid format, which Council believes, as explained earlier, is not in the best long-term interest of this organization.

Since May 2020, Quest has been in the forefront of embracing technology that allows us to share a majority of our classes with those at home. We've invested heavily in such technology, in terms of dollars as well as blood, sweat and tears. We accomplished all of this during a time of unprecedented uncertainty throughout the country.

Quest's Council has been extremely pleased that so many members are participating at 25 Broadway. As always, Council will be revisiting its hybrid assumptions and decisions on a semester-by-semester basis.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of the Technology Committee who have worked so incredibly hard over the past three years to make hybrid courses a reality at Quest. hard over the past three years to make hybrid courses a reality at Quest.

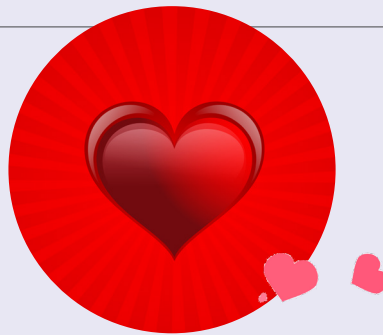
**You Don't
Have to Believe
Everything
You Think.**

**In a Time of
Universal Deceit,
Telling the Truth
Is a Revolutionary
Act.**

**Don't Quit
Five Minutes
Before Your
Miracle Happens.**

Spread The Love!

by Hedy Shulman



That's exactly what happened at Quest's Valentine's Day party. As each member entered the lunchroom they were given a heart shaped sticker by **Andrea Irvine** who asked them to be her valentine.

Lois Cardillo, lead member of the Social Events committee, was unable to join the celebration due to an injury, but in true Quest style **Sheryl Harawitz** and Andrea stepped up to co-host the party which was a huge success! We had chocolate martinis, Prosecco, mini chocolate pretzels, a basket of chocolate kisses, cafe mocha, and members brought cookies and strawberries.

Christine Veschi, a brand new member, said she was excited and looking forward to learning something new nearly every day. Other new members, **Leslie Kraus** and **Susan Guest**, both expressed appreciation for the dedication of Quest members, and were excited about being part of the Quest community.

Bob Hartman, one of Quest's original founders 27 years ago, said, "I'm very optimistic about Quest's continuing growth and I'm enthusiastic to see so many new members."

Donna Ramer, Chair of the Membership Committee, spoke and announced the names of the 26 new members, and congratulated the "graduates" of 2022. More than 50 people participated in Quest's Valentine's Day bash!



REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS

Adventures in Dining by Frank Montaturo

Today's event took twelve Apostles of Adventures in Dining to Rincón Melania... a popular Ecuadorian restaurant along an accessible if not too seductive a stretch of Queens Blvd... This was our first experience with the food of a Latin American country. Our host, Nestor (I didn't ask if his parents had been

thinking of the Odyssey), was super attentive. Our food... too much food... was a hit... and there's still much to explore on the menu. Some of us will be eating goat stew for another few days!

Normally, wine is not part of our menu, but we weren't counting on the generosity of **Andrea, Susan, Sheryl** and **Joyce**.



Bolón mixto...bigger than a softball!



From foreground center moving left:
Susan Diehl, Toni Dickenson, Laura Lopez (partial), Andrea Irvine, Joyce Hinote, Linda Downs, Marian Friedmann, Jennifer Jolly, Frank Montaturo, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz, Ellen Shapiro.



Yucca frita...fried yucca



Andrea with ceviche and tostados... Wow...All for me?



Yapingachos... fried corn cakes with pickled onions



Sheryl pours, Susan watches



Jennifer, Frank, Mary Ann



Nestor serves the bolón mixto



Joyce and Linda

CultureQuest : Alex Katz – Gathering

by Dena Kerren

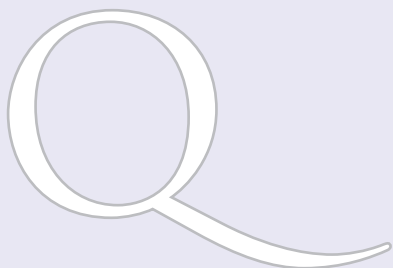


Alex Katz, *The Black Dress*, 1960. Oil on linen

Forty-six Quest art enthusiasts joined the virtual tour of Alex Katz's latest show at the Guggenheim on Friday, February 17th. The tour was led by a knowledgeable educator, Ellen Edelman, who encouraged a vigorous Q&A. We gained new insight into the artist and his paintings. The title of this show is, *Alex Katz – Gathering*, which may at first sound corny, but it is apt. It suggests the social gatherings of people drawn from the circle of painters, poets and dancers with whom he was closest, although his most frequent model was his wife, whom he married in 1959.

A prolific artist, Alex Katz is especially well-known for his paintings of Ada, his wife and muse. Katz developed his signature style with flat planes of rich, lovely color and embraced figurative clarity and the accessible pleasures of Pop Art. The artist remained untethered to any particular school or movement. He wanted to paint representationally in a contemporary way. He was open to the smooth aesthetics of movies, advertising billboards and the latest fashions – as illustrated by the painting, *The Black Dress* from 1960, which shows Ada Katz wearing a black dress in six different poses. In the painting, the viewer follows Ada through a cocktail party reminiscent of the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Katz is all about style and fashion.

He loved to capture the moment.



City Wandering

by Frank Montaturo

Death and The Maiden NYC Subway 2023

No... The *Maiden* is Death and in her tight embrace a smiling suitor. They were dancing to a Latin beat that set my own feet moving. I would have tapped him on the shoulder to cut in... to cut up a few moves... so seductive was the music, but I didn't. This reminded me of another instance many years ago when... as I was descending a ramp at this very stop... I heard the music of an accordion player. He was... I suspected... Eastern European but he was playing a paso doble. I don't know the steps but can fake them. At the bottom of the ramp... a young woman watched me as I twirled down. She opened her arms... the music continued. We danced no longer than 45 seconds surely. And then... the mind said: Hey... whoa!... Do you know what you're doing? Of course, I didn't... but at that moment it shouldn't have mattered... but it halted us in mid-step. I guess I should have interrupted this black garbed Lothario and given Death a spin.



Who's Doing What



Phil Gisser spent most of February in sunny California, visiting his son in

Pacific Palisades. Spent the time walking on the beach, eating in beach restaurants, and taking a few side trips. One was to Frieze Los Angeles 2023 where he saw some fabulous art.

Another was a behind-the-scenes tour of Union Station, Los Angeles, dubbed the "last of the great train stations." The multi-building site, while still a regional transportation hub, is now a historic site, and has been largely restored to its original magnificence. The original ticket concourse, is now used for movie and TV shows, and available for reunions, weddings, bar-mitzvahs, and other private events. The picture is on the balcony overlooking the historically renovated original Fred Harvey Restaurant, a part of the Union Station Complex, where Phil stands with Stationmaster George Meyer, and Marsha and John Shyer, Phil's daughter and her husband. This was once home to the "Harvey Girls" and the location where the movie about them was filmed.

• • •

Carolyn McGuire has moved to The Esplanade on Staten Island. Her cell phone number remains the same. She is happy, making good progress, and would welcome hearing from Quest members.

Ellen Rittberg (left) visited her snowbird sister, Roberta Jemal, in Boynton Beach,

End of Year Luncheon Scheduled for May 19th

Our end of the academic year luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 19th, at the lovely Arte Cafe, located at 73rd and Columbus Avenue, on the West Side. Formal invitations will go out in about a month; for now please mark your calendar! We look forward to seeing everyone there.



before).

• • •

Pete and Judy Weis stopped at LA to see their daughter and s-i-l and to visit the Huntington Gardens and cousin Nicole, who is the director. Then they flew to Maui and the beautiful view from their balcony (right).



Florida. Highlights included two visits to the Norton Museum and two nature preserves. An avid birder, Ellen was thrilled to add several "lifers" to her list (birds she'd never seen

Hawk Nest

by Larry Shapiro

Almost to the day, February has brought a return of the hawks who built a nest last year on my neighbors' fire escape and raised two fledglings until they all departed in June. This year's nest is about finished.



Creative Corner

A LOST MEMORY

by Betty Farber

Alone...
I am in a desert
Of emptiness.
There's a question to
be answered.
Where?
When?
Can I remember?
I seek; I ponder.
Slowly my mind
Replays the years
Until the place and time
Reveal themselves.
Memory recovers.
My life renews.

Don't You Just Hate It When Your Brain Leaves The Room Without Permission?

Encores

by Art Spar

Each summer we reprise the best classes of Quest. Please nominate any class you attended that deserves an encore.

Please tell us the following:

- What is the course?
- What is the subject?
- Who is the presenter?

Click
QuestEncores2023@googlegroups.com
to email your nomination.

Thank you for your help.

Quest Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

The next meeting of the Quest Book Club will take place on Wednesday, March 8, from 12:10 – 12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway.

We'll be discussing *All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days* by Rebecca Donner. The Book Club is making an exception to its focus on fiction in selecting this biography because it's a biography that reads like a gripping novel. Named winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography, the book chronicles the extraordinary life of the author's own great-great-aunt Mildred Harnack, the American leader of one of the largest underground resistance groups in Germany during World War II. Sandy Gordon will be presenting.

The dates and reading selections for the rest of the semester are:

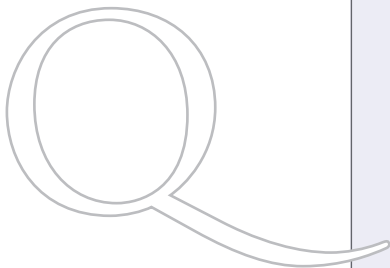
April 12: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, presented by Joan Vreeland.

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

We hope you'll join us!

**NO SENSE
IN BEING
PESSIMISTIC
IT WOULDN'T
WORK
ANYWAY**

**It is Better To Grow Old
With a Sense Of Humor,
Than to Grow Old With
No Sense at All!**



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A Quest Publication

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

Welcome New Members!

On February 21, the New Members Committee hosted the first new members meeting of the Spring 2023 term.

Eighteen members attended and were welcomed by Quest Acting President Wayne Cotter. This was followed by a presentation by Beth Callender and Peter Dichter, Co-chairs of the Marketing & Communications Committee. Topics covered included using the website, accessing Quest's information and communication tools and NWAQ. A lively question and answer period took place after the presentations.

The New Members Committee reaches out to new members and invites them to monthly noontime information sessions. There they get a chance to meet a wide array of Quest's committee chairs, program coordinators, and Quest council members, and have the opportunity to network with other new members.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 15 at 12:00 Noon in Room 22. The special guests will be Sheryl Harawitz, Chair of the Curriculum Committee and other members of the Committee. Also visiting will be Donna Ramer, Chair of the Membership Committee to discuss reaching out to other potential new members. We look forward to seeing you there!

New Members

Quest welcomes new members:
Konstantin Dolgitsen
Harriet Dubroff
Richard Elrauch
Rica Fujihira
Marilyn Graman
Victor Rodack
Joy Sabella
Christine Veschi

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.