

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 48

February 2024

A Note From the President

The Winter solstice is behind us and holiday decorations are packed away for us to *ooh!* and *aah!* over in less than a year. And, before we know it, Persephone will spring into action as she rises from the underworld to bring us the first tulips, snowdrops, and trillium of the season.

Yes, Winter break is over and our Spring semester is just beginning so welcome back to sample the fruits of the labors of so many who have been researching, writing, and creating a cornucopia of classes and activities these past several weeks.

Spring is also the time we elect new Council members as terms of office require some to step down. This year, our Nominating and

Elections Committee (NEC) has a daunting task as they need to identify members to fill three Executive Committee positions — Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary — along with two of our Council members-at-large members. According to our Bylaws, NEC must assure “that each candidate has valid qualifications, in the sole opinion of the NEC, to hold the position being sought, and then compiling a slate of nominees for each position.”

Council is the governing and policy-making body of Quest and each Council member is elected by the membership. There are eleven members: four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), seven members-at-large, and the immediate

past president who serves as an ex-officio, nonvoting member for the year immediately following their term of office.

Requirements are simple: each candidate must be a member for at least two full semesters prior to the date of his/her assuming office as a Council member. (Presidential candidates must have served on Council but that spot isn’t open this year.)

So if you’re approached by an NEC member — **Paul Adler, Maureen Berman, Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goodman, or Howard Salik** (Chair) — don’t just say no; think about running for office because, as an all-volunteer organization, it’s up to each of us to contribute in the best way we can.

Welcome back to Quest!

Donna Ramer

CultureQuest Spring Schedule 2024

February 1: MOMA “Picasso in Fontainebleau” • 10:50 AM • In-person tour

March 1: Subway Art Aboard the MTA • 11:00 AM–1:00 PM • In-person tour on the subway

March 15: Jewish Museum • Marta Minujin: Arte! Arte! Arte! • 11:00 AM • Zoom only

March 22: Metropolitan Opera House • La Rondine • TBD • In-person

April 12: Palace Theater • NYC Wonder Theater • 10:30-noon • In-person tour

May 3: The Glass House National Trust • New Canaan, CT • TBD • In-person

July 16: Whitney Biennial Tour with **Linda Sweet** • 10:30 AM–noon * Zoom only

Coordinator: **Madeleine Brecher**

Committee: **Linda Downs, Dena Kerren, Lois Klein, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer, Hedy Shulman, Renee Woloshin**



The Earth Laughs in Flowers.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Q'Xtra: Lunch and Juilliard

by Steve Allen

For the second year in a row, Quest members had the opportunity to join the audience for the Juilliard School's annual Chamber Fest. The Chamber Fest is a series of recitals by Juilliard music students who return early from Winter break for intensive coaching in a collection of chamber-music masterpieces. As we did last year, we chose a 4:30 concert preceded by a leisurely lunch at the nearby Italian restaurant Arte Café, which offers a three-course prix fixe lunch menu with a wide variety of choices and enough privacy to allow for lively discussion around the table.

This year's recital featured a Bartok sonata for two pianos and percussion, a Beethoven string quartet, and a Brahms clarinet quintet. The students' performances were first rate and our Quest attendees were very enthusiastic in their enjoyment.

Now that we have done this in two consecutive years it has officially become a Quest Winter Break tradition and we can look forward to continuing it in coming years.

Those Quest members who participated this year were **Sandra Abramson, Steve Allen, Donna Basile, Ted Cohen, Ze'eva Cohen, Jane Flynn, Pam Gemelli, Vincent Grosso, David Judlowitz, Lois Klein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Donna Orosz, Helen Saffran, Ellen Waldman, Judy Weis, Pete Weis, and Judy Winn.**

Unfortunately, no one took any photos.

Q'Xtra Lincoln Center January 7th



A perfect afternoon — wonderful music — familiar faces — comfy couch in lobby of David Geffen Hall.

Q'Xtra Washington DC

by Sheryl Harawitz



Washington DC: A Working Holiday, Quest Style

In December's embrace, Questers set sail,
To Washington DC, a working holiday tale.
In the heart of the Capital, where history resides,
Intrepid souls explored, with curious strides.

Museums diverse, like chapters unfold,
A journey embarked, a story to be told.
Women spies' whispered secrets of old,
Watery art mesmerized, as its tales unfold.

Simone Leigh's sculptures, a dance in the air,
Renowned artistry, beyond compare.
A hint of a course, a horizon to trace,
A tantalizing glimpse, in this wondrous place.

Stay tuned, dear readers, for updates ahead,
From our explorations, where inspiration is bred.
In the heart of DC, where Questers rove,
A working holiday, wrapped in treasure trove.

Q'Xtra: Aging is Better When Done Together

by Sheryl Harawitz

John and Lillian Hood — long time members — walked over from the Westside to see the Met's current version of Carmen at Union Square Regal Theater. There they ran into us — **Mary Ann, Andrea, Judy, Tamara, Ellens x 2, Jennifer, Arlene, Sheryl,** and granddaughter Adina.

And, contrary to the critic's review, it was amazing. Carmen had just the right touch of strength and sex appeal — a very powerful performance enjoyed by everyone.



Prospective Members

by Donna Ramer

Madeleine Brecher and Diane Reynolds facilitated one of two groups during Quest's January 29 prospective-member info session. Of the 14 attendees, 11 joined, bringing the total number of members to 258. All Membership Committee members were on hand — **Tamara Weinberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Maureen Berman,** and **Donna Ramer** (chair) in addition to **Madeleine** and **Diane** — along with Quest's administrative assistant, **Raquel Rivera**, who created IDs so all new members can easily take their seats the first day of the Spring semester, Monday, February 5.

The info session received high praise from prospective members who really appreciated being able to ask questions, tour Quest, and meet other new members in small groups. So please take a few minutes to introduce yourself to our newest members who are easily identified by their eye-catching red lanyards.



General Knowledge Quiz

This general knowledge quiz might seem easy at first, but if you're not paying close attention, some of these questions might catch you off your game.

1. **How many legs do spiders have?** ~ 6 ~ 9 ~ 4 ~ 8
2. **What do you call someone who doesn't eat meat or any animal product whatsoever?** ~ Paleo ~ Keto ~ Omnivore ~ Vegan
3. **What makes balloons rise?**
~ Hydrogen ~ Helium ~ Calcium ~ Barium
4. **What kind of bug makes honey?** ~ Bees ~ Wasps ~ Hornets ~ Turtles
5. **What animal did ancient Egyptians worship?** ~ Dogs ~ Pigs ~ Cats ~ Cows
6. **What principle of physics did Issac Newton "discover" when he was hit on the head by an apple?** ~ Gravity ~ Inertia ~ Kinematics ~ Quantum Physics
7. **Are oceans made of salt or fresh water?** ~ Fresh ~ Salt ~ Brackish ~ Alkaline
8. **What two colors make green when mixed together?** ~ Purple and Orange ~ Blue and Yellow ~ Red and Blue ~ Blue and Orange
9. **Which of these ingredients is NOT used in traditional Japanese sushi making?**
~ Raw Chicken ~ Seaweed ~ Rice ~ Cream Cheese

Answers on next page.

Quotes to Remember

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself."
— Tom Wilson

"To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early, or be respectable."
— Oscar Wilde

"The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for."
— Will Rogers

"We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars — more and more repairs and replacements are necessary."
— C.S. Lewis

"Old age comes at a bad time."
— San Banducci

"Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened."
— Jennifer Yane

"Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard there is nothing you can do about it."
— Golda Meir

"I'm so old that my blood type is discontinued."
— Bill Dana

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."
— Mark Twain

"I don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet."
— Rita Rudner

"I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do."
— Phyllis Diller

"Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere."
— George Burns

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up."
— John Wagner

"Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life."
— Kitty O'Neill Collins

"Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get."
— Robert Orben

"Middle age is when you're sitting at home on a Saturday night and the telephone rings and you hope it isn't for you."
— Ogden Nash

General Knowledge Answers

1. How many legs do spiders have? 8

Spiders are members of the arachnid family. This means that they typically have some sort of venom, an exoskeleton, and eight legs.

2. What do you call someone who doesn't eat meat or any animal product whatsoever? Vegan

If the person you're speaking about doesn't use any animal products whatsoever, they're definitely vegan.

3. What makes balloons rise? Helium

It's not just regular air that makes balloons float ~ it's helium!

4. What kind of bug makes honey? Bees

Not to be confused with any other buzzing flying insect, honeybees are the ones that make honey!

5. What animal did ancient Egyptians worship? Cats

Cats were considered godly in ancient Egyptian times. Pharaohs, royalty, and scientists were the only ones that were allowed to "own" cats as pets. Cats were given free rein over the spaces in which they resided, and a lot of the time they were treated better than common folk.

6. What principle of physics did Issac Newton "discover" when he was hit on the head by an apple? Gravity

Newton "discovered" gravity when he happened to be sitting beneath an apple tree as an apple fell onto his head. That impact made him question why things fall, thus creating the theory of gravity.

7. Are oceans made of salt or fresh water? Salt

Although some freshwater sources let out into the ocean, every ocean on Earth is made completely of salt water.

8. What two colors make green when mixed together? Blue and Yellow

Green happens when you mix together blue and yellow. All of these other combinations will make colors, but they won't make green.

9. Which of these ingredients is NOT used in traditional Japanese sushi making? ~ Cream Cheese

Cream cheese is NOT used in traditional Japanese sushi making?

Maximize Your Hybrid Experience

by Wayne Cotter (Co-chair, Tech Committee)

Since we are beginning a new semester at Quest, I thought it a good time to offer some rules and suggestions for those members participating in hybrid classes via Zoom.

We are proud to be offering 20 of our 36 courses in hybrid format this Spring. We welcome the opportunity to provide these courses to our members who are unable to attend classes at 25 Broadway and we appreciate your active participation.

We do, however, ask that you keep in mind the following:

- **Identify Yourself:** It's very important that your name is printed below your Zoom video panel, otherwise we won't know whether or not you're an active Quest member. If your name does not appear, the tech committee member assigned to monitor the laptop will send you a chat message asking for your name. If you fail to respond, you may be removed from the session. If you do not know how to enter your name on Zoom, the tech member can enter it, but it will only appear for that one class so please contact tech co-chairs **Bob Reiss**, **Michael Wellner** or me for instructions to permanently change your Zoom name. (You can also google how to change it.)

- **Keep Your Camera On:** We like to see your face during Zoom sessions, so we encourage you to turn on your camera. Keeping your camera on further unites us as a community.

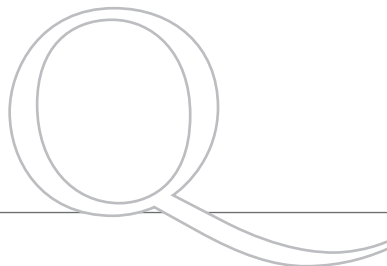
- **Questions for the Presenter:** If you have a question from home, we ask that you either raise your electronic hand icon and turn on your camera to ask that question or use the "chat" function to send your question to the tech committee member who is monitoring the laptop. That person will then read your question to the presenter. If you don't know how to raise your hand icon, send a chat message to the tech committee monitor for instructions.

- **Problems with Audio or Video:** If you are having a problem seeing or hearing the presentation, please do not shout out from home during live sessions. Such disruptions can be quite distracting to presenters and the audience. Moreover, your technical problem may be with your own computer rather than a system-wide issue. If you are having trouble hearing or seeing, send a chat message to the laptop monitor.

Also, please keep in mind that although the tech committee has been overseeing the technical aspects of hybrid courses since we returned to 25 Broadway in September 2021, it is not a perfect system. The tech committee does its best to replicate the in-person experience for members at home, but neither the committee nor the Zoom system is perfect — so please be patient.

- **Links:** Although we email NWAQ to all members, each week's NWAQ is also posted on the Quest members' website. If you can't locate your weekly email — *no worries* — just access the Quest members' site. In addition, you can view a week-by-week listing of topics and presenters for most spring semester courses through the Quest website. To find such topic and presenter information, select the "**Courses**" tab at the top of the website and then select "**Spring 2024**." If you are having trouble accessing the members' site, email our webmaster **Michael Russo** (russom.sunysuffolk@gmail.com)

I hope you'll be enjoying Quest's ambitious hybrid experience throughout the Spring semester. And if you have any technical questions, please feel free to ask any tech committee member.



CultureQuest: Museum of the City of New York

by Hedy Shulman

CultureQuest visited the Museum of the City of New York which is celebrating the centennial anniversary of its founding. The museum has captured the hundreds of ways that New York City has captured the imagination of filmmakers, writers, artists, musicians, poets, fashion designers and urban planners over the last century. The museum's collection contains more than 750,000 objects.

This is New York: 100 Years of the City in Art and Pop Culture explores the many ways that the city has inspired storytelling across art forms and features both famous and lesser-known depictions of New York City. There are books and CD's you can position on a device that links to a large screen which transmits a short video of the book or CD.

Each borough is represented by an outline on the gallery's floor and when one steps on a specific borough, snippets of a song about that borough will be played while images or video and will be projected on the gallery wall. The gallery also features "*Songs of New York*," an interactive installation that touts the diversity of each borough through songs it has inspired.

The "Destination NYC" section features works by artist and photographers such as Edward Hopper, Nan Goldin and Faith Ringgold.

Another major highlight is "*You Are Here*," an immersive 16-screen experience comprised of more than 400 films with New York City as its essential location. One can revisit scenes from "*On the Waterfront*," "*Taxi Driver*," and even some episodes from "*Sesame Street*" to name just a few. This film montage is simply breathtaking.

You can visit mcny.org for more information.



Toni Dickenson, Karen Levin, Karen Reiter, Robert Majeska, Madeleine Brecher, and Hedy Shulman

**This sentence contains exactly
threee errors.**

Food Memories: Tales From the Table

by Frank Montaturo

Perhaps it was just a happy coincidence. **Donna Ramer** mentioned to me an idea for a new mini feature which had been rattling around in my own mind for a while: How about a short piece... a few lines from members... about a food related memory... be it good or not so good (in which case humor should obtain)... possibly a recipe shared... really short!

And so... in this issue of *QNews* we debut our new column: *Tales From The Table*. Enjoy — and please submit your food memories to **Frank Montaturo**: pepito0201@gmail.com

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Tales From The Table

I remember the times my grandpa took the whole family — uncles, aunts, cousins — out to Lundy's restaurant when I was a kid and I first had lobster.

— **Judy Weis**

* * *

One of my favorite desserts growing up was grape nut pudding, a New England staple for many years. The dessert emerged in the early part of the 20th century, shortly after Grape-Nuts cereal was introduced in 1897 by cereal maker C.W. Post.

Grape nut pudding is made primarily with milk, cream, eggs, vanilla extract, brown sugar, and of course a hefty portion of Grape-Nuts cereal. It can be served cold or hot (when served hot, top it with a dollop of vanilla ice cream). It is still a featured dessert at the Cowesett Inn in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

Anyone who wants my mother's grape nut pudding recipe can contact me for a copy.

— **Wayne Cotter**

* * *

Funny-but-true cooking story: it took me years to cook well enough for my three children. When they were elementary school-aged and I was going to law school, one night I told them that we were going to eat in rather than eat out and one of my children burst out crying!

— **Ellen Pober Rittberg**

* * *

My grandmother had an enameled tin drinking cup at the kitchen sink, used only during Passover. Regardless of all the traditional, symbolic foods and four glasses of wine, it wasn't truly Passover until we drank Pesachdikeh vasser (Passover water a/k/a NYC tap) from that cup.

My grandchildren all agree it tastes special!

— **Barbara Gelber**



New Members

Quest welcomes new members this month. Look for their red lanyards, indicating a new member, at

25 Broadway, greet our new members, make them welcome, and include them in our wonderful Quest.



Carol Blane



Beth Grossman



Amy Huter



Susan Katims



Martha Kline



Dale Kurow



Stevie Philips



Lisa Ragen



Mark Ragen



Diane Sidikman



Joel Truman

Q'Xtra Chinatown: Sharing a Kosher/Vegetarian Meal

January 24th Q'xtra ventured into the heart of Chinatown to eat at "Buddha Bodai" on Mott Street — a kosher/vegetarian restaurant where 16 of us plus a member's mother had fun choosing and sharing multiple dishes. And now that we know the ones we like — maybe a return visit after Quest one day? Only a 20 minute walk from 25 Broadway.



Who's Doing What



Karen Levin, Gale Spitalnik, Leslie Goldman, and

Wayne Cotter enjoyed the Palm Springs International Film Festival in January.

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Bernice Schwartz reports the weekend brunch menu at Gage & Tollner, the historic, reopened venue, was delicious and different: Dutch pancake, Brûlée French toast, Brioche doughnuts, and recipes dating back to 1879, when G&T first opened.

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Bob and Ellen Gottfried spent two glorious weeks visiting Argentina in January. Destinations included Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, El Cafate, Iguazu, and a tango show.



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Dena Kerren and Roy Clary escaped the NYC cold snap by enjoying Saint Petersburg, Florida and the fabulous Vinoy Hotel. Highlights included a visit to the Dali Museum and

joining friends at a disco parlor where they danced the night away!

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Judith Weis has been busy every evening with rehearsals for Don Giovanni at the Arts Center in the Church on 86th and Amsterdam. Performances run on the weekends of January 26 – 28 and February 2 – 4. During the days, she is working on a report for NJDEP's Science Advisory Board,

a paper with the Scientists Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty, and the UN World Ocean Assessment.

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Ellen Rittberg visited the Atlantis in the Bahamas with her family, where



she happily encountered the underside of a carpenter shark a/k/a sawfish behind glass.

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In January, **Toni Dickenson** traveled to Atlanta GA, and Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham AL, on a Civil Rights tour. The tour featured the Ebenezer Baptist Church and King Center in Atlanta, various Freedom Ride sites and their chilling history, the awesome Peace and Justice Memorial Center which individually documented and honored more than 4,400 lynching victims of the Jim Crow south. The tour ended in Birmingham at the 16th Street Baptist Church, with a depiction of the death of the four little girls in the church bombing, and across the street in the Civil Rights Institute, with a discussion of the all-encompassing apartheid laws and de facto controls imposed in that once extremely segregated City.

It was a lesson about a time in America that wasn't so long ago.

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Sybil Cohen saw "How to Dance in Ohio" with her theater loving son and grandchildren.



George and Terri Hicks took the Roads Scholar trip to Cuba sponsored by the Quest Travel committee. Here they are (with a fellow traveler) touring Havana in a 1957 Ford Fairlane, just like the one Terri's father drove when she was a child. The Cuba tour was very interesting and quite different from most tours they've taken: attended a lot of scholarly lectures, concerts, dance recitals, art exhibits and saw a lot of decaying architecture. Altogether it was a very different vacation.



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A Quest Publication

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