

QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

Issue 49

March 2024

A Note From the President

Trivia has been in the air at Quest. Despite each of us, at times, being stymied as we search for that right word, the name of the book we just finished or restaurant where we had that great meal just last night, we do quite well remembering historic events, scientific facts and philosophical constructs.

So let's turn our attention to Quest: how much do you really know? This short QTQ — Quest Trivia Quiz — will test your working knowledge of Quest.

Instructions: Score one point for each correct answer. Answers below but deduct two points each time you cheat. Get all 10 right and you win bragging rights for one week.

1. When was Quest founded?

2. How many standing committees are mandated by our bylaws?

3. Which Executive Committee position also functions as our parliamentarian?

4. What is the fast-food chain a few steps to the right as you exit 25 Broadway?

5. What is the difference between the Membership Committee and the New Member Committee?

6. What is the statue in Bowling Green?

7. What is the course that offers a variety of topics, not one theme?

8. What is our membership cap?

9. What is the copier passcode?

10. What is the room number of the Quest office?

Answers

1. 1995

2. 18 and all are listed on the website

3. Vice President

4. Subway

5. The short answer: The Membership Committee is responsible for interviewing prospective members, maintaining the master contact list, collecting and logging tuition, while the New Member Committee helps newcomers become familiar with all aspects of Quest through monthly meetings that feature committee chairs and others as guest speakers.

6. At the north end is The Charging Bull by Italian Sculptor Arturo Di Modica, installed in 1989.

7. Quester's Choice

8. 270 and, as of this issue, we're very close with 262 members.

9. 25257

10. 7-29

Donna Ramer

Guest Speaker: Gordon Chang



On February 14, Gordon Chang spoke to our members as part of the Distinguished Guest Lecture program. Gordon is a commentator and writer with a special focus on China. His subject was *China Shakes the World: The Revolutionary Remaking of the International Order*. A spirited Q&A period ensued after his remarks with many varied opinions being expressed.

Kissinger on the Cutting Room Floor

by Howard Salik

I've been asked by quite a few Questers to elaborate on that discussion about Henry Kissinger. I mentioned that I had to cut out over an hour to conform to the 90-minute time limit at Quest... omissions that included his favoring the Israelis during the Yom Kippur War and then abandoning them when they requested assistance in aiding Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel; his devious methods to connect to China to ensure a Nixon visit; his subtle threats to the USSR by threatening a China-US alliance; his ability to ignore Nixon's anti-semitic remarks and even adding to them... and yes, in my opinion, he was a reincarnation of Niccolo Machiavelli.

CultureQuest: Picasso Tour at MoMA

by Renee Woloshin

On Friday, February 16th a group of Questers attended a fascinating tour of the grand exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, *Picasso in Fontainebleau*. Our guide was art historian Deborah Goldberg who shared with us her impressive breadth of knowledge of Picasso and his prolific body of work created during the summer of 1921 when he was vacationing in Fontainebleau near Paris. Deborah has given several wonderful virtual museum tours for Quest in the past. To have an in-person tour with her as our docent was a fantastic experience.

The focal point of the exhibition is four 6-foot-high monumental paintings: two versions of "Three Musicians" and two of "Three Women at the Spring." The first pair of canvases are in Picasso's abstract style, while the second pair are in his classical style. We learned that Picasso was the only artist who painted in both modes at the same time. We delved into the differences and similarities between the two versions of "Three Musicians." Both paintings were on opposite walls of Picasso's temporary studio, a garage in Fontainebleau. This was a rare opportunity for us to see both paintings at once since one is in MoMA's permanent collection while the other, which was on loan, is in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. There were many other paintings, pastels, drawings, and etchings we viewed and learned about in this amazing exhibition.

Some of us had seen *Picasso in Fontainebleau* at MoMA on our own but seeing it with Deborah as our incredibly knowledgeable guide gave us an even greater appreciation of the artist. After the tour, we had lunch at the lovely Terrace Café in the museum where we enjoyed delicious food and the camaraderie of our fellow Questers.



Condolences

We extend our condolences to long-time member **Shoshana (Shoshi) Kagan** on the recent loss of Yair Kagan, her cherished husband of 60 years, after a prolonged illness.

Quest Social Committee

The Quest Social Committee invites you to share green sweets in the lunchroom on Monday March 18th at noon.

**"I Was Thinking
About How People
Seem To Read
The Bible A Lot More
As They Get Older,
And Then It
Dawned On Me—
They're Cramming
For Their Final Exam."**

— George Carlin

**"I Don't Do
Alcohol Anymore—
I Get The Same Effect
Just Standing Up Fast."**

— Anonymous

**"Books Are A Form Of
Political Action.
Books Are Knowledge.
Books Are Reflection.
Books Change Your Mind."**

— Toni Morrison

Creative Corner

NEW YORK, NEW YORK®

by Betty Farber

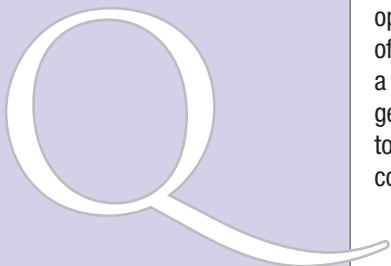
To some folks who grew up on farms
New York City rings alarms.
“Can you get through the day unhurt?
Are the subways filled with dirt?
I hear the park is even worse!
At night, hold tightly to your purse!”

No, no, as I have oft discussed,
This bleak description is unjust.
It's understood that bad or good
Folks live in every neighborhood.

I can spend my New York days
Attending great museums and plays.
What fun to ride upon a landmark:
The carousel in Central Park.
Like reading? Well, with fearsome looks
Two lions guard its many books.
There is so very much to see,
When you explore its history.
As I am a New York defender
I smile as I enjoy its splendor!

Holiday Food Memories

In the first four months of 2024,
we mark Asian Lunar New Year,
Lent, Ramadan, Purim, Easter, and
Passover — with traditional foods and
special meals. Please share memories
of your family's holiday and holy day
observances and foods.



Guest Speaker: Gail Papp



Distinguished Guest Lecturer Gail Merrifield Papp was interviewed by Arlynn Greenbaum on February 28, 2024. Gail shared fascinating stories from her new memoir *Public/Private: My Life with Joe Papp at the Public Theater*.

Tales From the Table

Eighty some years ago and I can still remember the delicious aroma of the chicken soup, see the lokshn (noodles) drying on the white cloth, and smell the roasting chicken. The cook was a balebusta (a good housekeeper), clean white apron wrapped around her ample girth, she stirred and chopped and kneaded in a big old fashioned kitchen in a big old fashioned Victorian house in the East Bronx, when I was about seven or eight. Both my grandmothers had died before I was born and this was the home of my mother's childhood friend's mother, a faux grandma for me! The house was filled with delightful faux uncles and aunts, Bessie and Sally and Yitzhak and Avi and Eva, who all seemed to have time for me. I was happy to be there. It was a wonderful place and wonderful food!

...

— Anita Hunter

The memory is so old and still so fresh that I am confident it will remain with me till other memories have evaporated. It was a very long time ago. We had decided to spend the day outside of Tunis at the beach in Carthage... redolent... if not for food... certainly for historic and mythic associations. The beach was disappointing. We settled into deck chairs poolside at a hotel frequented by French tourists. From the opposite corner of the pool my empty stomach recalls being summoned by the aroma of grilled meat. I followed nose and instinct and the line of the hungry and returned with a hunk of crusty baguette (this had been a French protectorate after all)... smothering a generous portion of juicy merguez... the spicy earthy North African lamb sausage. I sat to eat... thinking... might Dido's pain have been assuaged had she had this exquisite consolation?

...

— Frank Montaturo

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.



Susan Altman



Judy Chawkins



Dorothy Lahm



Nancy Lerner



Paulanne Simmons

Valentine's Day at Quest



Who's Doing What



Ellie Schaffer spent a week in central Florida with a good friend from Chicago. Like Seinfeld, the show about “nothing,” they did NOTHING — but read, relax, watch

old movies, exercise, and read some more. Ellie finished “All The King’s Men.” “My goal was accomplished for this trip!” she exclaimed. “Everyone should read this fantastic and beautifully written book!”

• • •

Ellen Rittberg

visited her L.A. grandson and used her favorite on-the-hip carrying style she employed having had three kids in three years.



• • •

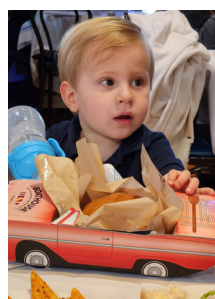
Judith and Pete Weis have been to “Once Upon a Mattress,” “Sweeney Todd,” and “Jelly’s Last Jam.” Judy was in seven performances of Amore Opera’s “Don Giovanni” over two weekends (the chorus plays a very minor role in this opera).

She went to Lisbon, Portugal for a two-day UN meeting of the coordinating authors of the third World Ocean Assessment. Meetings were interesting, people were great, and the location of the meeting couldn’t have been more appropriate — the Oceanarium.



• • •

Marva and Michael Wellner took advantage of Quest’s winter break, spending two weeks in (a surprisingly cool) Florida. The first week was in the Orlando area, with Michael’s son, daughter-in-law, and almost two-year-old super-cute grandson. Our highlight may have been a long drive through a nature preserve. The second week was in the general Palm Beach area, where each day was spent with a different friend or relative, and — among other



places of interest — we drove by Mar-a-Lago, current home to you-know-who. All in all, it was a welcome break from what turned out to be a cold and gray two weeks here in the city.

• • •

Back to School Lunch

by Gale Spitalnik

The Back to School Lunch was a big success.

Everyone enjoyed six different varieties of sandwiches, along with catching up with Questers after a five-week Winter break. Lots of hugs and smiles. All eager to start Quest Spring classes.



Q News Staff

A Quest Publication

Editor-in-Chief
Barbara Gelber

Consulting Editors
Michael Wellner
Gale Spitalnik

Editor Emerita
Carolyn McGuire

Graphic Design
Robbii

25 Broadway
New York, NY 10004
212.925.6625 x229
questlifelong.org

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

Weedy Sea Dragons: Relatives of Seahorses



Judith Weis asks:
Can you spot the fourth one?

Somewhere, I'm Still Dancing

by Ze'eva Cohen



Ze'eva Cohen tells about an exciting exhibition at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center representing world dance artists that includes a small video excerpt of her dancing. This large-scale dance exhibition, titled: *Border Crossings, Exile and American Modern Dance 1900 – 1955*, opened on June 8th, 2023 and will be closing March 16th, 2024. The exhibition includes costumes, photographs, explanatory texts, recorded interviews, and several video compilations of world dance artists living in the US.

The purpose of *Border Crossings*, as explained in the show's catalogue, is "the acknowledgment and celebration of the fundamental contributions of artists of color, and artists from immigrant or indigenous communities, to the history of modern dance.... It constructs a new narrative of 20th century modern dance performance with a fuller, more inclusive history, focusing on the exiled and marginalized dancers that catalyzed modern dance."

Ze'eva also tells of another show, that took place this past summer at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA, that included a large photo of her dancing in the contemporary Yemenite/Jewish styled dance titled, "Mothers of Israel". This archival exhibition has also featured world ethnic dance performers who danced at Jacob's Pillow over the years.

Ze'eva has not yet been able to see her dancing on one of the video monitors at the Lincoln Center's exhibition due to the narrow, hard benches with no back support that made it difficult to sit through the huge amount of video excerpts on the various monitors representing the selected world dance artists.

While she was recovering from a knee replacement this summer, followed by the onset of persistent sciatica pain this Fall, Ze'eva was not able to attend the opening of the NYPL exhibition, nor attend the exhibit at Jacob's Pillow. It was therefore, "so nice to hear from friends and colleagues that saw the video clip at Lincoln Center or the photograph of her dancing at Jacob's Pillow."

"Somewhere" she says, "I am still dancing."

City Ramblings

by Frank Montaturo

July 2023
New York City

Damn!
Is
nothing
sacred?



**"Grandchildren Don't Make A Man
Feel Old, It's The Knowledge That
He's Married To A Grandmother
That Does."**

— J. Norman Collie

**"Birthdays Are Good For You.
Statistics Show That
The People Who Have The Most
Live The Longest."**

— Larry Lorenzon

**"It's Paradoxical That The Idea Of Living
A Long Life Appeals To Everyone,
But The Idea Of Getting Old Doesn't
Appeal To Anyone."**

— Andy Rooney