

QUEST Q NEWS

A Quest Publication

March 2017

A Note From the President:



off our festive green outfits. But Lowell and Elaine have promised that next year we'll have green coffee on St. Paddy's

Happy St. Patrick's Day! This year our Irish holiday falls on a Friday, so we won't be at Quest showing

Day morning—something to look forward to.

For now, spring is right around the corner, and that means we only have about six more weeks this term at Quest, which is truly hard to believe. Our last day of classes is on Thursday, May 11th, and our annual Year-End Gala Luncheon at the beautiful Battery Gardens restaurant is the day before, Wednesday, May 10th. Equally important, our Quest Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 26th, at 1:00 PM.

Please try and join us; we have several important items on the agenda.

For now, let's all be grateful for our very mild winter (70 degrees in February, no complaints), as we look forward to a glorious springtime in the city! And, regardless of the weather, thanks to everyone for always making Quest such a warm place.

Michael Wellner

Friday Museum Tour

by Bob Moore

On Friday, February 24th, 17 Questers gathered on Rector Street in Lower Manhattan for a visit to the China Institute Gallery to see "Art in a Time of Chaos."

This exhibition contains works of art from six dynasties in China, spanning the 3rd to the 6th centuries, A.D.

Our docent-led tour started off with an informative video that provided context for the period that the exhibit covers. There were four sections: Chinese porcelain, sculpture, calligraphy and large scale paintings. More than 100 exhibits had been assembled from the Nanjing Municipal Museum.

The decorative porcelain was mostly Celadon, which is covered with a clear vitrified glaze of blue-gray or yellowish-green. Some of the porcelain was connected to burial rites. The sculpture room consisted mainly of ornate representations of Buddhist figures. In the calligraphy room, there were scrolls as well as stele with eulogies running long from gravesites. The large paintings were typical of their type and beautifully detailed. The exhibit provided a fascinating insight into the history of China during a time when the country was wracked by civil war, foreign aggression and violent power struggles.

Questers Tour Picabia Exhibit at MoMA

by Bob Reiss

Twenty-five Quest members took a guided tour of the controversial Francis Picabia exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art on February 17th.

As its title, "Our Heads are Round so Our Thoughts Can Change Direction," hints, the exhibition positions Picabia as an almost impossible-to-pin-down figure artistically, shifting styles from Impressionism to Dada to his famous monsters.

In person, he was known to utter anti-Semitic comments and was even accused of collaboration with the Petain regime in Nazi-occupied France during W.W. II.

Nevertheless, the MoMA docents provided tour attendees with insight into this sometimes inscrutable artist.



Profiles

by Joyce West



Diane Crothers is a New Englander with deep family roots in Mississippi. She graduated from the University of North Carolina and Rutgers Law School. She was an organizer in Alabama, North Carolina, and New York, and became a civil rights lawyer for the federal government and New York City. She once debated Playboy's Hugh Hefner about women's rights on The Dick Cavett Show.



Stan Katz is a life-long New Yorker except for a tour overseas with the US Army. He was born and raised in Queens and spent most of his career as a commercial real estate broker. He has a deep interest in the political history of New York and in its historic skyline. He is also an old movie buff and challenges any Quester to a memory match. He lives with his wife, Susan Cuttler, and they are devoted to their two young grandsons, Harry and Julian.



Howard Salik knew it was time to retire in 2003, after 37 years with a major pharmaceutical manufacturer. Though an awful golfer, but with a passion for the game, his plan was to enroll in a golf school and learn to play... without losing 10–12 balls and spending most of game time in the woods. But, with a history of severe back-pain, the orthopedist's advice was: "The worst thing you can do for your back is play golf." He turned to Quest. Howard became a totally dedicated member and still is.



Ruth Ward was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. She returned to Brooklyn in 2013 when she retired from her career as a Spanish and French teacher in Nevada and California. She has since written a novel, made a futile effort to develop upper body strength at the gym, learned to tango, and audited history and literature courses at NYU and FIT. Always eager for discussions in French, she enjoys hosting the Mercredi Français meetup in Manhattan.

Travel Update 2017

Spring break is practically here, and although there are no organized Quest trips for our week off, I know that more than a few of us will be taking short trips of our own. (Marva and I are off to the Land of Lincoln). Whatever your plans, enjoy, and don't forget to bring back your stories for the next edition of *Q News!*

Your travel committee has several trips well into the planning stages for the coming months:

1. Fifteen of us are off to **Sicily** and **Malta** in early June for what promises to be a wonderful time in the Mediterranean.
2. In July, from the 23rd to the 30th, Carolyn is organizing a wonderful trip to the **Galway (Ireland) International Arts Festival**. There are eight people going and this will be a private tour, with our own Quest van and guide. Two day trips to surrounding areas will also be included. We will get tickets to several cultural events, including art exhibits, theatrical productions, play readings, music performances, lectures, comedy shows as soon as the schedule is set. The cost is \$1300 per person (twin), plus round-trip airfare (on Aer Lingus) of about \$900. This two-week festival is quite the event and not to be missed. If you'd like to join the group, or have any questions, please e-mail Carolyn now! (carolyn8912@aol.com)
3. Then in August, from the 14th to the 18th, a few Questers are joining the **Road Scholar Shaw Festival** Niagara Falls (Ontario – on the Canadian side). Included are 4 nights' hotel accommodations, tickets to three performances (*The Madness of George III*; *Saint Joan* and *Me and My Girl*). Renowned for its stylish productions, the Shaw Festival is home to one of North America's largest repertory companies. This is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the theater world with performances, backstage experiences and lectures by Shaw company members. And we'll round out our stay with visits to, the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory and a local winery (famous for Niagara's ice wine). The cost is \$1,245 (double; single supplement \$301). If you are interested in joining this group, or would like more information, please talk to Bob Hartmann (rgh685@twc.com).
4. Looking ahead to the fall and winter, we are planning:
 - a. A September or October day trip to **Kykuit**, the Rockefeller home in nearby Tarrytown.
 - b. A January five-night **Road Scholar trip to the Palm Springs (California) International Film Festival**. Price about \$2,000 per person. If you'd like to join us, please contact either Michael or Leslie Goldman.)
 - c. Something a bit more exotic: a January 12-day, 11-night **Road Scholar trip to Oaxaca, Puebla and Mexico City**. From a 2,500-year-old Zapotec ceremonial pyramid to a mole poblano pepper picked that day, Mexico's southern states of Oaxaca and Puebla offer a magical blend of the ancient and the modern. We'll learn about its history and its food. Discover how a blend of more than 20 distinct indigenous groups, along with centuries of colonial Spanish influence, have created layers and layers of culinary and archaeological treasures. Cost about \$2,500 per person.

If you are interested in any of these, or have any other suggestions or ideas, please contact either Carolyn or Michael.

Who's Doing What In and Out of Town

In the process of updating her information for the "Who's Who" listings that she's included in, **Marilyn Weiss** was notified that she was selected for the "Marquis Who's Who Life Time Achievement Award." The Who's Who Research Department, in reviewing the information from their listed professional profiles, nominates certain candidates whom they consider deserving of this distinction. It is recognition for outstanding accomplishment in a chosen field over an extended period of time, usually more than 20 years.

Michael Hamburg will be giving a Power-Point presentation at the Strand Bookstore on March 17 at 7 PM under the sponsorship of *thinkolio.org*. The topic is: *This Just In: A Tour of the Solar System*. You can follow the link to reserve a seat (\$20) or wait and see this at QUEST sometime in the future. We look forward to the presentation.

Betty Farber's publisher has provided a new website: *bettyfarber.weebly.com*. It is a comprehensive look at her poetry and features a poem that was just right for February 14th. Enjoy.



Roy Clary and **Dom Chianese** are certainly not *dumb* as they star in Pinter's "Dumb Waiter" in Great Plays.

Myra's French Adventure

After a warm week in Nicaragua, Myra Nissen finally got to Provence in February. The airfare was low and an intensive French course for a week (2 students per class) included room, board, tuition and sightseeing for only 750 euro. After class, the instructor took the students to the lovely small towns around the area and through it all *no english* was spoken. Mimosas were in bloom (were they drinkable?) Unfortunately, Myra did not come back fluent but she'll go again...

Anita Hunter is managing two vacations this year. She's usually in Mazatlan, MX but this year has decided to move on. The second or third largest carnival in the world takes place in Mazatlán, Feb. 23-28, so she is now going to Teac pan, 2.5 hours down the coast, a sleepy little palm-lined Pacific hideaway, to escape and take a vacation from her vacation. Nice work if you can get it!

Michael's Brooklyn Surprise... Oh Ye Of Little Faith

Michael and Marva Wellner went to see "Dear Evan Hansen" on Myra's recommendation... great show! Michael also saw "The Price" at Roundabout but liked the Quest production better (yeah Beverly). The Wellner's celebrated Valentine's Day at the River Cafe in Brooklyn... absolutely perfect. Highly recommended. (Who knew Brooklyn had such great restaurants?)

Palma Mahl's Chilling Experience

After a smooth flight from N.Y. to Ft. Lauderdale to visit her son, Palma Mahl needed to "run for cover" when a gunman was shooting in the baggage area. Palma and a family lay on the tarmac for two hours and then in a hangar for another two, and waited for the commotion to stop. Finally, after the exhausting and scary experience, they were told they could leave. By this time, they had become "family." Unfortunately, her son,

who was picking her up, had been detained by the FBI while they held his car in the car park, so he was still in the airport. Then, once they were released, Palma's "new family," the Huber's, took her and her son to dinner in Boca Raton. This would not be Palma's first choice as a way to gain family and friends.



Judy and Pete Weis got out of the January cold and snorkeled in Palau, an island in the western Pacific. See the beautiful fish...

Lorraine Fuchs performed "Piano Sonata in A Major D.664 Op.120" on Sunday, February 26th, at the DiMenna Center with The Amateur Classical Musicians Association (ACMA). The ACMA was founded in 2007 to provide opportunities for dedicated musicians to play in front of an appreciative audience. There will be other concerts throughout the year. Good luck Lorraine.

Freshman Class Monthly Meeting

by Betty Farber

The Freshman Class met at noon on Tuesday, February 28th, and will continue to meet during the spring semester on the last Tuesday of each month. The meeting was attended by members who joined Quest during 2016 and 2017. Also in attendance were Coordinators Pam Gemelli and Betty Farber and Quest's President, Michael Wellner.

Coordinators were excited to learn that new members come from diverse backgrounds. New members overwhelmingly said that they liked the variety of courses, the flexibility and the sense of community at Quest. We look forward to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 28th, when Carolyn McGuire of the Travel Committee and *Q News* will join us.

Q-Toon

by W. Cotter

FOREIGN AFFAIRS ENCORE PRESENTATION:
"OUR PAL VLADIMIR"



"Many of you remember Kevin's Russian presentation last fall 'Inside the Evil Empire.' Well, he's tweaked it a bit."

CWE News

Creative Corner

The International Transatlantic New York Conference will take place at CWE, May 24-26, 2017. The Conference seeks to recover, document and evaluate the interactive work of writers, artists, cultural agents, journalists, founders of Hispanism and the Caribbean in New York.

The conference is currently open to papers/proposals discussing a common theme or topic (60 minutes) about people and institutions in the complex and diverse Anglo-Afro-Hispanic culture.

The conference will be organized in sections with the following topics given priority: A) Writers ranging from Hostos and Martí to Lorca and Julia de Burgos, Nicanor Parra and Junot Díaz, including Antonio Muñoz Molina, Sylvia Molloy, Ricardo Piglia, Óscar Hijuelos, Carmen Boullosa, Luis Rafael Sánchez and Daniel Alarcón. B) Founders of Hispanism. C) Artists and filmmakers. D) Translators. E) Journals and editors, including Areito, Exilio, Escandalar, Románica and Mariel. F) Interactions of English and Spanish in literature.

Proposals for panels containing three lectures on the same topic are also welcomed. For more information, go to <http://www.nytransatlantico.com/english.html>.

Theater Talk

by Betty Farber

I'm confused and not quite certain
When the stagehands close the curtain
If theater helps us thrive
Or makes us sad to be alive.
I realize that it's very hard
To make a living as a bard
But why can't writers make us laugh?
Must they design and epitaph?
When I buy a play subscription
My doctor gives me a prescription
To overcome my deep depression.
Why can't they teach an upbeat lesson?
Instead of trying to beguile
The audience and make them smile
They write of illness, death and war.
What did I purchase tickets for?
It is no use to keep pretending
To look for plays with happy endings.

Antarctica Tour

by Bob Moore

In January, my wife, MAC Chiulli, and I set off for a nine-day adventure in Antarctica. Flying from Punta Arenas in southern Chile to King George Island in the South Shetlands, we joined the small cruise vessel *Sea Adventurer* with about 110 other passengers.

The ship headed south and crossed the Antarctic Circle at just over 66.5 degrees South latitude. Here, we, together with 50 of our fellow passengers, undertook the *Polar Plunge*. We jumped, dressed in ordinary swimwear, from the ship into the iceberg-strewn 33-degree Fahrenheit water. It proved to be a quick dip!

On our way back north we landed at several spots on the Antarctic mainland as well as the offshore islands, visiting colonies of various breeds of penguins and seals and admiring the amazing pristine scenery of glaciers, mountains, fantastically-shaped icebergs and two research bases before disembarking at King George Island and flying back to Punta Arenas.

Our expedition staff gave us wonderful information on conservation and other issues relating to the Antarctic, which is threatened by global warming and over-exploitation. This was, for sure, the trip of a lifetime and we are left hungry for a trip to the Arctic.

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Editor's Note:

Apologies to Estelle Selzer for misspelling her name in the last issue of *Q News*.

Neil and Noel

by Carolyn McGuire

There will be *no* tears or depression when the Quest Acting Workshop gets going in May. The Acting Workshop, under the coordination of Marilyn Rosen and Panny King, is diligently working on the end-of-year production entitled, "Neil and Noel." The program will consist of a number of scenes from various comedies written by Neil Simon and Noel Coward.

Workshop members will direct some of the scenes as well as act in them. You will certainly recognize a number of these, and you'll be thrilled by our own Questers' professional performances. A full review will appear in our Summer issue of *Q News*.

