

A Note From the President

After a few delays for each of our flights, **Wayne Cotter** and I checked into the Hilton Downtown Lexington (I got in around midnight) for this year’s Southern Regional Conference for Learning in Retirement, hosted by the Office of Lifelong Learning at the University of Kentucky and sponsored by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The two-and-a-half-day conference offered twenty-three different workshops along with two plenary sessions. Registration was down about thirty percent from last year’s conference (205 vs 145) and another dozen had to cancel due to the global technology outage caused by a faulty software update that grounded flights and caused several days of myriad disruptions to our lives.

Wayne and I were there to present “Hybrids: Positives and Pitfalls in a Post-Pandemic World,” which was attended by staff and volunteers of twenty-one different lifelong learning programs. Our focus was twofold: (1) to present our all-volunteer governance, operations and curriculum model; and (2) to share how we moved from an all in-person format to all Zoom and then

hybrid in just two short years. Questions from our very engaged audience ranged from the type of equipment we use to how our members actually create and present courses with no paid staff.

Going our separate ways, we had plenty of time to attend a few workshops, such as “Lifelong Learning Curricula Challenges and Opportunities”; “Ways to Keep your Members Engaged Beyond the Classroom”; “Fundraising: Starting and Improving Upon the Journey to Create a Culture of Giving”; “Beyond Zoom Lectures: A Case Study of Online, Live and Interactive Exercise”; and “Marketing by the Numbers.”

Of Particular Note

- We heard that the executive director or director of curriculum may cancel a course if they feel registration isn’t



sufficient; at Quest, attendance is not a criterion for cancelling and continuing is at the discretion of the lead coordinator.

- We also heard that evaluations of presenters range from a simple “would you recommend this class?” to “how do you rate the teacher’s presentation style and knowledge of the subject?” As you know, we don’t evaluate presenters.

- We have a longer semester (fourteen weeks) than other programs that limit theirs to a few as three weeks or only six weeks.

This was Wayne’s first lifelong learning conference and he noted that “Quest enjoys a far more robust lifelong learning program than so many others that are run by paid professionals and have far more members.” He added that “there are so many different lifelong learning programs that you can truly say ‘if you know one lifelong learning model, then you know only one lifelong learning model: no two are the same!’”

Donna Ramer



IN MEMORIAM:
Loretta Menger



Loretta Menger, a Quest member for fifteen years and resident of nearby West New York, New Jersey, passed away on July 10th, at the age of

85. Almost a year ago, she was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer, but refused treatment, and had been receiving home hospice care. Then, in May, she fell and broke her hip, and had been at a nursing facility since then.

Loretta was an avid bridge player, active hiker, expert skier, and frequently attended the theater and ballet. She especially enjoyed ushering at ballet performances of *The Nutcracker*. She traveled widely to many exotic destinations, including a photo safari in Zimbabwe.

Loretta volunteered at the New York Public Library and closely followed politics. She was a major donor to Planned Parenthood, and attended many PP leadership events.

She received a full tuition scholarship for her last two years at Pace University, and decided to give back by establishing the Loretta M. Menger Scholarship Fund for a deserving, hardworking Pace student.

Loretta joined Quest in 2009, made numerous presentations, was a member of the Emergency Response Team, and enjoyed Adventures in Dining events.

Different colored streaks in her hair (the latest were blue) framed her happy face. Loretta will be missed.

CultureQuest: Whitney Biennial
by Linda Downs



The Whitney Biennial provides an opportunity to see what the curators recognize as cutting edge American art. This year's Biennial includes not only up-and-coming young artists but also artists who have had a very long career. Several artists are in their 80's.

The artists selected address different aspects of contemporary conceptions of bodies (be they human, political or social) that are part of our era's challenges and concerns. For example, we saw the fragility of the artist Julia Phillips' own body as a mother in small porcelain casts of her face, breasts and back. There was the strength, determination and immobility of the feminist Harmony Hammond's body represented in a gigantic abstract white painting belted with a large black canvas band and held in place with grommets. And there was a video set up in a circle of odd chairs that looked like a library book club gathering. But, the topic was the difficulty of physically and socially transitioning sexually.

We all agreed on two works that elicited what we consider a normal traditional response to aesthetically pleasing objects. One was a macrame and crochet artist who used wire instead of thread to replicate antimacassars. And the other was Suzanne Jackson's colorful poured and manipulated hangings.

Our docent, Linda Sweet, did a great job of addressing our skepticism about whether every object could really be called "art" by taking us deep into the objectives of the artists and the curatorial perspective on the art itself.

We then proceeded to a perfect apres tour gathering place at Dos Caminos Restaurant for a very convivial lunch.

Membership Renewal

As chair of the Membership Committee, I want to thank all of you who have already renewed. And if you haven't done so already — the August 19 deadline for renewing your membership is rapidly approaching. The annual cost remains \$550, which covers the fall 2024 semester as well as the spring and summer 2025 semesters.

You can pay by either a personal check or a bank check payable to Quest Lifelong. Mail your check to **Quest Lifelong Learning**, 25 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10004.

You can also avoid writing a check by paying via Zelle, an

electronic payment service. Just direct your Zelle payment to this email address — q25broadway@gmail.com (note that Quest has changed its Zelle email address but the old address still works). Most major banks and financial institutions offer Zelle and it's easy to use.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our Treasurer, **Peter Fleischman** or me.

Also, if you plan not to renew, please let me know. Thanks for your cooperation. Best wishes for a wonderful summer,
Wayne Cotter, Chair, Membership Committee
wcotter999@gmail.com

Who's Doing What



Born on the Fourth of July, **Shoshi Kagan** celebrated in style with grandchildren on a Circle Line cruise around Manhattan.

• • •

Susanne and **Wayne Cotter**, **Dena Keren** and **Roy Clary** enjoyed a beautiful summer afternoon recently in Sag Harbor, Long Island.



• • •

Mary Beth Yakoubian spent an uplifting week at the Swannanoa Gathering in Asheville, NC. Most of the time was spent singing — Gospel Music, Bluegrass — though an unexpected highlight was spotting a beautiful black bear who was strolling around the campus.

• • •

Sybil Cohen has been enjoying family visits to their



Westhampton Beach house. They all watched the Ospreys nesting. The eggs just hatched and two chicks are actively being fed by both parents.

• • •

Bob and **Ellen Gottfried** visited Colorado for 5 days in July. Highlights of the trip included visits to a butterfly enclosure, a Colorado history museum, and a Wildlife Animal Sanctuary. Colorado is the 42nd state Bob has visited.

• • •

On July 23rd, **Madeleine** and **George Brecher** celebrated their 57th anniversary with lobster rolls on the Pond in Montauk.



• • •

The next morning, **Madeleine** met **Jaime Sykes** for coffee and a “political chat” in Amagansett in the rain.



• • •

Gale Spitalnik, **Marilyn Weiss**, and **Leslie Goldman** enjoyed Lobster Night in Westhampton Beach.



• • •

Carole Cronig Abrahams and grandson Adam Kominik shared a wonderful family reunion in the town of her birth, Vineyard Haven. Carole asks everyone coming to Martha's Vineyard to get in touch and



enjoy the beach in her front yard.



Creative Corner

I DON'T WANT TO MOVE®

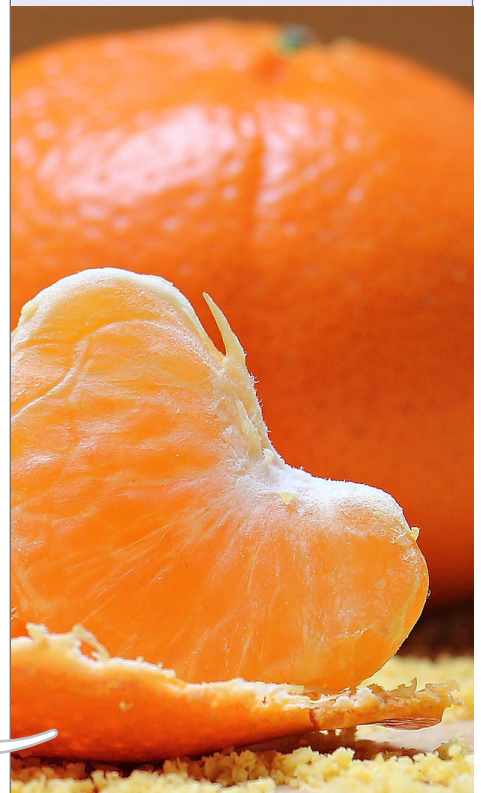
by Betty Farber

I don't want to move.
I've lived in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens,
Nassau and Suffolk Counties,
St. Louis, Missouri and Memphis, Tennessee,
And I don't want to move.

I don't want to move.
Grew up in a three-room walkup,
Rattled around in a seven-room ranch,
Felt cozy in a five-room colonial,
Rented a split-level monster,
Enjoyed a doorman-guarded condo,
And I don't want to move.

I don't want to move.
I've had homes with attics and basements,
Garages and outdoor decks,
A home office with a bay window,
A sunroom overlooking a garden,
And I don't want to move.

Oh, well. There's the van.
Careful with that lamp!
It belonged to my mother...



Who Said It?

A Quiz On Presidential Wit and Wisdom.

Think you know your presidents? Take this quiz from Dictionary.com and see if you can match the style, wit, and ideology of these memorable lines to the right POTUS.

Question 1.

"I do believe that the buck stops here, that I cannot rely upon public opinion polls to tell me what is right. I do believe that right makes might and that if I am wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference."

- A. Jimmy Carter
- B. John F. Kennedy
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. Gerald Ford

Question 2.

"The second office of this government is honorable and easy. The first is but a splendid misery."

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Barack Obama

Question 3

"If this were a dictatorship, it'd be a heck of a lot easier, just so long as I'm the dictator."

- A. George H. W. Bush
- B. George W. Bush
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. Donald Trump

Question 4

"It wasn't my finest hour. It wasn't even my finest hour-and-a-half."

- A. Richard Nixon
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. Lyndon B. Johnson
- D. George H. W. Bush

Question 5

"Hope is the bedrock of this nation. The belief that our destiny will not be written for us, but by us, by all those men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is, who have the courage to remake the world as it should be."

- A. Thomas Jefferson
- B. Barack Obama
- C. John F. Kennedy
- D. George W. Bush

Question 6

"Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views."

- A. Jimmy Carter
- B. George Bush
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Barack Obama

Answers on next page

Question 7

"We must face the truth, and then we can change our course. We simply must have faith in each other, faith in our ability to govern ourselves, and faith in the future of this Nation. Restoring that faith and that confidence to America is now the most important task we face. It is a true challenge of this generation of Americans."

- A. Ronald Reagan
- B. Harry S. Truman
- C. Jimmy Carter
- D. Gerald Ford

Question 8

"From [Medicare] it's a short step to all the rest of socialism, to determining his pay, and pretty soon your son won't decide when he's in school, where he will go, or what he will do for a living."

- A. Ronald Reagan
- B. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson

Question 9

"I'll be long gone before some smart person ever figures out what happened inside this Oval Office."

- A. Richard Nixon
- B. Ronald Reagan
- C. George W. Bush
- D. George H. W. Bush

City Ramblings

by Frank Montaturo

Chelsea, New York September 2008

Wikipedia tells us that

"radical feminists view society fundamentally as a patriarchy in which men dominate and oppress women."

I didn't stop that day while on my Chelsea gallery hop to inquire further into the ways and means of this Male Art Now group... How had I not heard of them? Had they targeted The Met or The Whitney or The New Museum with their demands of: "A return to the good old days of (white) male artists and no Feminism!"?

Wow! Would they leave a trail of tightie whities through exhibits of Faith Ringgold or Judy Chicago in protest?

I shuddered and sheepishly moved away...



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.

“In All Things of Nature There is Something of the Marvelous.”

– Aristotle

“The Function of Freedom is to Free Someone Else.”

– Toni Morrison



Answers from prior page.
1D, 2C, 3B, 4B, 5B, 6C, 7C, 8A, 9C

Creativity Day a Success

by Arlynn Greenbaum



Some 75 Questers were amused, amazed, and entertained on July 11 at Creativity Day, part of the Summer Encores program. It was orchestrated by **Mary Ann Donnelly, Andrea Irvine, and Tamara Weinberg.**

Thanks go to **Ze'eva Cohen, Peter Dichter, Diane Figueroa, Marian Friedmann, Lauren Gee, June Jacobson, Jennifer Jolly, David Judlowitz, Martha Kline, Steve Koenig, Shirley Ranz, Ellen Rittberg, Yona Rogosin, Linda Rothstein, Helen Saffran, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro, Paulanne Simmons, Ruth Ward, and Mary Beth Yakoubian,** who sang, danced, told stories, read poems, showed artwork and jewelry, and even talked about cooking and gardening.

Afterwards, the Social Committee provided Prosecco and desserts. A good time was had by all.

CultureQuest Fall Schedule 2024

September 13: Sugar Hill in Harlem: A Walking Tour • In-person • 11AM–12:30 PM

September 27: Brooklyn Army Terminal Tour • In-person • 10:30AM-Noon

October 18: Chelsea Art Gallery Walk • In-person • 11AM-12:30PM

October 25: Breakfast at Chelsea Hotel+Poster House Exhibit • In-person • 9AM –1:00PM

November 22: Grand Central Station Holiday Tour • In-person • 11AM–12:30PM

December 6: Morgan Library, Belle da Costa Exhibit • In-Person • 3PM–4:30PM

December 27: MET Opera Rehearsal: *Aida* • In-person • 10:30AM –1:30PM

January 17: Art Historian Talk on Ellsworth Kelly • Zoom • 11AM–12:30PM

Coordinator: **Madeleine Brecher**

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