

# QNEWS Q DIGITAL

A Quest Publication

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## A Note From the President

**N**ot long after Punxsutawney Phil's shadow lets us know how much more winter to expect, the Curriculum Committee gathers Questers to brainstorm new course ideas, surveys members about their interest in coordinating and/or presenting in one or more of these courses, and reviews proposals from those of us who are already in the process of developing a course (and may even have a presenter or two lined up).

But because stepping up may seem daunting for a first-time coordinator, the Committee has created a new initiative to help members navigate the process and bring their idea to life.

Have an idea and want to know the process even if you're not quite ready to commit? Contact **Ellie Schaffer** (elschaffer@gmail.com) and she'll connect you with an experienced Quest lead coordinator, who

will explain how to secure co-coordinators and class presenters (and make suggestions as appropriate); help you complete the course proposal and course planning worksheet; and offer practical tips on managing the day-to-day responsibilities (e.g., NWAQ blurbs, what to do if a presenter becomes ill, etc.).

BTW: Did you know that our bylaws allow for one outside guest speaker for each course? And that we can provide a very small honorarium if needed.

And please mark your calendars for a few special events coming up.

**April 9, 2:30–3:30 pm:** A few authors will read their poetry or prose submission in this year's QReview, hot off the presses, aided by a little wine and some cheese. This is a new annual event thanks to a bequest from Quest co-founder **Eva Shatkin**, who was deeply committed to the publication.

**April 21–24, 12:00–1:00 pm:** Daily noon-

time Candidate Forums (hybrid) for you to meet and ask questions of the candidates running for four soon-to-be-open council-at-large positions. And the electronic election will open Friday, April 25, and close Sunday, April 27. Be sure to stay on top of your QuestBusiness email so you don't miss the opportunity to vote.

**April 30, 1:00–2:30 pm:** Our semi-annual General Business Meeting, during which coordinators of new fall courses will give us all a preview, along with updates from our treasurer and other committee chairs.

**May 16, 6:00–8:30 pm:** Dinner at Michael's New York on West 55th Street, will cap our 30th anniversary celebrations. Stay tuned for more on this very special event.

As always, our weekly NWAQ (Next Week at Quest) will keep us informed along with special announcements and electronic invitations.

**Donna Ramer**

## 30th Anniversary Event

by Gale Spitalnik

**Q**uesters enjoyed celebrating the 30th anniversary of Quest along with chocolate and love songs for Valentines Day in the lunchroom. **Sandy Gordon** and **Bob Hartman** lit candles as founding members of Quest.



## Quest Book Club

by Jan Goldstein

**T**he next meeting of the Quest Book Club takes place on Wednesday **March 5**, from 12:10–12:55 pm, in-person at 25 Broadway.

We'll be discussing *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. It's a safe bet that it's the first novel you will have read that has as one of its main characters an octopus. But the unlikely friendship that develops between the octopus and the elderly woman who cleans the aquarium where he lives each night, makes for an utterly original, funny, and wise story of love, grief, and family lost and found. **Joan Vreeland** will be presenting.

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

**April 2:** *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett; presented by **Debbi Honorof**

**May 7:** *Long Island* by Colm Toibin; presented by **Anita Hunter**

Hope to see you there!

## Back to School

by Gale Spitalnik

On day two of spring semester, 90 Questers enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the Social Committee. There was plenty of conversation and a lot of “What I Did During Winter Break.”



## Distinguished Guest Speaker Neil Nyren

by Estelle Selzer

On February 26th the Spring Semester Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series was kicked off by Neil Nyren who talked about getting a book published from start to finish.

Photo: Estelle Selzer



## City Wanderings

by Frank Montaturo



So... as I remember it was an afternoon on Governors Island. Perhaps we were aware of the appearance of a French Carnival on our shores... perhaps it was a surprise. It doesn't matter. It was there and so were we. There was an antique carousel, and you pedaled yourself around... unlike what we are used to now but maybe the norm in days gone by. There were handsomely rendered caught-in-mid-gallop wooden horses that a collector could covet. And then there were these figures... brash and startling with leering eyes and mouths agape ready to catch a thrown ball: a prize of course awaiting the successful shot. They are figures to haunt one's dreams... and they probably did.

## Special Days in March

3 World Hearing Day

14 Purim

4 Mardi Gras

14 Holi

6 National Dentists Day

15 Ides of March

8 International Women's Day

20 International Day of Happiness

8 National Proofreading Day

20 First Day of Spring

9 Daylight Saving Time begins

23 National Puppy Day

14 Pi Day

25 World Waffle Day

## Creative Corner

### **SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT®**

*by Betty Farber*

Brought up in New York City,  
But living in the South in the sixties,  
I shocked the inhabitants  
By sitting down  
At a drugstore counter  
And ordering  
A “black and white” ice cream soda.

## Who’s Doing What

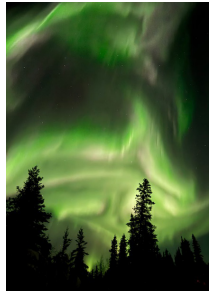


After serving as the Medical Director of an Environmental Medicine Center for

36 years, **Adrienne Sprouse** (second from the left) retired in 2018 and decided to play senior competitive tennis as her next goal. Last year she represented the United States in the Ralph and Mary Wilson Friendship Cup.

• • •

On February 11th, **Roy Clary** and his daughter, Megan, went on a Natural Habitat trip to Churchill, Manitoba, Canada to see the Northern Lights. Over four nights, the Lights were enthralling, inspiring, and totally magical. He also rode on a dog sled, heard a presentation by an indigenous woman artist, enjoyed an outdoor cookout, and viewed some wildlife — all in minus 35 to 40 degrees!



### **Creativity Is Intelligence Having fun.**

*– Kahlil Gibran*

## Q News Staff

*A Quest Publication*

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**Rivers Do Not Drink Their Own Water; Trees Do Not Eat Their Own Fruit; The Sun Does Not Shine On Itself And Flowers Do Not Spread Their Fragrance For Themselves. Living For Others Is A Rule Of Nature. We Are All Born To Help Each Other. No Matter How Difficult It Is Life Is Good When You Are Happy; But Much Better When Others Are Happy Because Of You.**

*– Pope Francis*

**Dost Thou Love Life? Then Do Not Squander Time, For That Is The Stuff Life Is Made Of.**

*– Benjamin Franklin*

**When You Stop Giving And Offering Something To The Rest Of The World, It’s Time To Turn Out The Lights.**

*– George Burns*

**How Far You Go In Life Depends On Your Being Tender With The Young, Compassionate With The Aged, Sympathetic With The Striving, And Tolerant Of The Weak And Strong. Because Someday In Life You Will Have Been All Of These.**

*– George Washington Carver*

**The Truth Has No Defense Against A Fool Determined To Believe A Lie.**

*– Mark Twain*

**I Feel The Capacity To Care Is The Thing Which Gives Life Its Deepest Significance.**

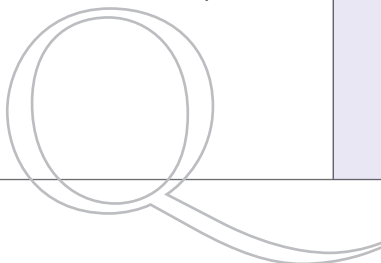
*– Pablo Casals*

**One Of The Most Beautiful Qualities Of True Friendship Is To Understand And To Be Understood.**

*– Lucius Annaeus Seneca*

**The Glow Of One Warm Thought Is To Me Worth More Than Money.**

*– Thomas Jefferson*



## CultureQuest: MOMI

by Debbi Honorof

**C**ultureQuest organized an excursion to the Museum of the Moving Image (MOMI) in Astoria, Queens. MOMI, established in 1988 and housed within one of the thirteen buildings of the Kaufman-Astoria studio complex, offered Quest members an insightful tour detailing the artistic and technical processes involved in the creation, promotion, and presentation of films, television shows, and other digital entertainment. The group marveled at an exhibition of historic motion picture and television equipment, including early television sets and prototypes of film and television cameras. A nostalgic display of vintage toys, games, and other childhood artifacts evoked fond memories. In the museum's mini-replica of an early 20th-century Egyptian-style movie theater, members were captivated by a documentary on Jim Henson and the Muppets. Prior to the tour, members enjoyed a delightful lunch at Psari, a Greek restaurant known for its fish and seafood.



## Comedy Club

by Michael Wellner



**L**et me begin by asking two questions about this great city of ours: How many of us know anything about the Amateur Comedy Club, and/or Sniffen Court? And yes, they are related.

Both date way back: Sniffen Court is a small close-ended mews, running perpendicularly southwest from East 36th Street, between Third and Lexington Avenues in the Murray Hill neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City. The district, one of the smallest in New York City, consists of 10 two-story brick stables built in 1863–1864 in the early Romanesque Revival style. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission designated Sniffen Court as a city historic district on June 21, 1966, and the district was added to the National Register of Historic Places on November 28, 1973. For those who live on the Upper West Side, Pomander Walk may be a more familiar similar site.

I mention this because The Amateur Comedy Club, which dates back to 1884, is located in Sniffen Court (150 East 36th Street). It is a (somewhat) unique amateur theater group, that mounts three major productions each year, and also hosts several cocktail parties and similar get togethers during the year. Tickets are not available to the general public, but only to members. Several members actually write and/or perform in the club's shows. As you can imagine, the theater itself is small and intimate, and provides a very different experience from that of the big Broadway theaters.

And, fairly recently, our own **Michael Wellner** became a member, and he and **Gale Spitalnik**, **Leslie Goldman**, **Maureen Berman**, and **Paul Adler** recently attended a performance of the club's latest show, *Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses*. The show was very funny, and thoroughly enjoyed by us Questers, and the larger audience. Our photo was taken in front of Sniffen Court, on a very rainy day.

If you'd like any additional information about the Club, please ask Michael any time.

# Culture Quest: Ailey at the Whitney

by Hedy Shulman

**T**wenty Questers were guided through the Alvin Ailey exhibit at the Whitney Museum by docent Linda Sweet on January 31st.

Alvin Ailey (1931–1989) is not only an icon of modern dance, founding the internationally renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, AADT in 1958, he is also among the most culturally, historically impactful artistic figures in the US and the world. “Edges of Ailey” at the Whitney Museum, is at once a survey and a tribute that unites the stories of how Ailey came to be, the ideas that preoccupied him, and the inspirations behind his visionary choreography and company.

In this exhibition, extensive personal and creative archival

material are paired with a looping montage taken from the audiovisual collection of the Ailey archive. These elements provide insights into Ailey’s imaginative process and private life, featuring multi-faceted works in a range of media by over 80 artists that share and amplify themes in Ailey’s choreography.

The installation features collaborations with Ailey, selections by visual artists, musicians, dancers, and writers referenced

in his notebooks; they also reflect thematic associations that are at the core of his choreography.

The breathtaking film loop of Ailey in motion sweeps the ceiling of the exhibit and powerfully reflects his unique passion, creativity and singular contribution to American dance.



## New Members

**Q**uest welcomes 10 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.



Bonnie Franklin



Joy Gazzoli



Mary Ann Grossinger



Anne Marie Gussman



Robert Marshall



Edna Schwartz



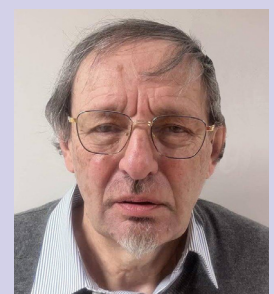
Robert Shedlin



Bradley Solomon



Laurie Spiegel



Tomas Wichs