



June 11, 1949

"I often [ponder]: why did fate allow us, through the greatest tragedy in world history, through upheavals, the extent of which in all areas is still not known, by a sea of suffering and distress, whipped by a typhoon of all human vulgarities that the devil can invent, to steer through almost unscathed in a small pleasure boat, and to enjoy a life more like the Garden Arbor than the Trojan War."

*Excerpt of letter from Fritz Oskar Laquer to his friend, Helmut Plessner,
Plessner Archive, Groningen, Netherlands*

Translated and digitized by Ann Laquer Estin

February 13, 2019

Dear Family,

Save the Date!

USA Laquer Family reunion on Friday July 10 through Monday July 13, 2020 in NYC.

This will be the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Fritz Oskar Laquer family in the United States on July 15, 1940. We plan a trip to Ellis Island, where Fritz entered the US, and we'll find his name on the digital immigrant database. We'll walk up West End Ave to the hotel where Fritz brought his wife, Kathleen, and his children, Henry, George, Edward, Ric and Barbara, after excitedly meeting their boat on the pier. We'll share memorabilia, history, genealogy and stories. We'll eat together and toast our ancestors who bravely fled Germany and all they had and knew for a new life in a land of opportunity. We'll see each other again or meet each other for the first time.

Your hostess will be Patricia Woodbridge Dunn, oldest grandchild of Fritz and Katchen Laquer, with help from Ann Laquer Estin and Deva Estin Guzik. Christi Laquer Pacheco is our Digital Coordinator and she'll be reaching out to you soon. Ann and I are creating a Laquer Family contact sheet. Since we don't yet have everyone's email, please share this letter with family.

We are aware that our far-flung relatives and their families might be concerned about expenses. Attached is a list of inexpensive and moderate priced hotels, some within walking distance of 530 West End Ave., Pat's apartment, the hub for our reunion. We'll provide some brunch, lunch and cocktail food and drink. There will be two group dinners, but we'll be mindful of cost. Consider extending your stay to explore the many things NYC offers.

Warm regards and a family hug,

Patricia Woodbridge Dunn woodbridgepatricia@gmail.com

530 West End Avenue Apt. 7A at 86Street, New York, NY 10024