

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

DECEMBER 3, 2018

This is a “B” Week

On Thursday December 6, at 12:30 in the auditorium, you are invited to a special showing of the award winning movie: “Leave No Trace” followed by a Q & A with Director Debra Granick. (Be aware that the movie and discussion could run until 4:00PM)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 @ 10:30 AM

(Tech support- Michael Wellner, Nina Dioletis)

Course: Fascinating Non-Fiction Room: 15-17

**Subject: *Blitzed: Drugs in the Third Reich*
by Norman Ohler**

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The Nazi regime preached an ideology of physical, mental and moral purity but as Norman Ohler reveals in his gripping new history, The Third Reich was saturated with drugs. Drugs seeped all the way up to the Nazi high command ... and to Hitler himself. Army leaders not only dosed themselves but incorporated drugs into their battle plans. Thoroughly researched and rivetingly readable, *Blitzed* throws light on a history that, until now, has remained in the shadows. *The Guardian* writes, *Blitzed* looks set to reframe the way certain aspects of the Third Reich will be

viewed in the future.

Presenter: Madeline Brecher

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

Course: The Art of Illustration

Room 27

Subject: Saul Steinberg

Saul Steinberg defined drawing as "a way of reasoning on paper," and he remained committed to the act of drawing. Throughout his long career, he used drawing to think about the semantics of art, reconfiguring stylistic signs into a new language suited to the fabricated temper of modern life. Sometimes with affection, sometimes with irony, but always with virtuoso mastery, Saul Steinberg peeled back the carefully wrought masks of 20th-century civilization.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Helen Goodman, Ellen Shapiro

Course: Acting Workshop: Beginners

Auditorium

This class will be open to beginners only. Through the use of acting exercises, we will learn the basic techniques of acting and focus on concentration and observation. We will also use improvisation to learn the skills of listening and reacting to each other. We do request that you attend each session because they are sequential. The class promises to be stimulating, enlightening, and just plain fun!!!

Coordinators: Marilyn Rosen, Panny King

MONDAY, DEC 3, 2018 @ Noon

Course: Noontime French

Room 19

Noontime French will be meeting on Monday, Dec 3, during lunch in Room 19. Participants will share their reactions to a presentation by Anita Hunter. The class is conducted in French, and all French speakers are welcome!

Coordinator: Ruth Ward

MONDAY, DEC 3, 2018 @ 1:00PM

(Tech support: Michael Wellner, Howard Salik)

Course: Contemporary Poetry

Room 22

Contemporary poets are creating thought provoking and sometimes challenging poems. Class members bring in and read contemporary poems they like. Everyone gets a copy and we then discuss them. This is a very participatory class leading to diverse subjects.

Coordinators: Joe Nathan, Betty Farber, Stan Raffes

Course: Turning Points in American History-Auditorium

**Subject: 1) Civil Rights: In the beginning and now
2) The Power to Choose: "The Pill"**

Civil Rights: Historians debate the exact beginning of the civil rights movement in American history. It's been argued that it all began in 1619 with the arrival of the first slaves at Jamestown - that black Americans, in ways large and small, have always been fighting for freedom. The 1950's saw the advent of a full blown civil rights movement. For a while, it seemed as if things were moving full-throttle forward. Unfortunately, too much still remains to be done. Where are we today?

The Pill: Throughout the course of the 20th century, American women steadily improved their levels of education and workforce participation. But one of the most often-overlooked elements in this story is the invention of the birth control pill. "The Pill" fundamentally changed the lives of American women. What will be the effect of Trump administration legislation and the Trump Supreme Court upon future generations of women?

Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Sandra Southwell

Life Drawing

Room 27

There is something magical about having a blank piece of paper in front of you and in just a few minutes a piece of art appears.

We would love to add a few additional members to our Figure Drawing group. Beginners and dabblers are welcome. Everyone works at their own level. Just enjoy being creative!

We have the paper and pencils and encouragement to get you started or you can bring your own (dry) supplies, which can be stored with us.

Coordinators: Carole Abrahams, Paul Adler, Gary Friedland.
Marilyn Weiss

TUESDAY, DEC 4, 2018 @10:30AM

(Tech support: Ruth Ward, Bob Reiss)

Course: Artists & Their Work Auditorium

Subject: The Poetry of Nature: Japanese Art

"The Poetry of Nature: Edo Paintings From the Fishbein-Bender Collection" is an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum that deals with perhaps the most diverse period of Japanese art, which lasted from 1615-1868. There are paintings in ink and light color and there are others with bright, flat colors and graphic stylization of natural forms. Poetic painting is art in which the viewer finds fresh, unhackneyed responses in mood to the physical world, like those one finds in poetry. In this presentation, we will dip into the rich variety of this art.

Presenter: Ellen Shapiro

Coordinators: Bob Reiss, Joan Diamond, Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian,

Course: The Vietnam War Room 15-17

**Subject: Subject: Seizing the torch - 1954 to 1959
(The U.S. gets involved)**

How did the United States allow itself to get ensnared into the Vietnam tragedy? This presentation will review the various critical incidents and choice points from 1954 (following the Geneva Accords) through 1959 that factored into the increasing United States' commitment to establish a non-communist foothold in

Southeast Asia. How did we enable an inept, brutal authoritarian leader (Ngo Dinh Diem) to influence significant US foreign policy decisions? How did US domestic politics and ignorance play into these choices? Were there other options? Can we retrospectively infer what JFK might have done in 1964 vis a vis a decision to deepen the US military commitment had he not been assassinated?

Come for a lively discussion of these and other questions following the presentation.

Presenter: John Spiegel

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Jill Altman, John Spiegel

TUESDAY, DEC 4, 2018 @ Noon

Noontime Knowledge

(Tech support-Michael Wellner)

Subject: Abbie Hoffman and The Yippies

Do you know the difference between a Yippie and a Yuppie? Abbie Hoffman did. We shared an apartment in college. David Brooks called him a master of public theater and a buffoon, the Trump of the left. Studs Terkel saw hilarity and pain, the schizoid psyche of our country, ebullience and despair rolled into one. Imagination was Abbie's credo and for Studs, he was the best. The Chicago Tribune summed it up this way: "Abbie, more than any other radical, showed potheads how to demonstrate and radicals how to dance. His quest for social justice and against the Vietnam war inspired his generation to question authority and challenge the status quo."

Presenter: Marc Kouffman

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Palma Mahl, Joyce West

TUESDAY, DEC 4, 2018 @ 1:00

(Tech support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward)

Course: Science & Scientist Room 15-17

**Subject: How does that little computer in our pocket
(the smart phone) know where we are?**

In this session, we will learn about the various radio transmitters and receivers in our smartphones, how they work together to figure out where we are, and how they use that information to give us directions and provide other types of location-based services. We will also learn about satellites that provide GPS services, and even a little about Einstein's theories of general and special relativity, which are important in the calculations that determine where we are. No advanced science or math knowledge will be required (I promise!).

Presenter: Peter Fleischman

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Gil Santiago, Brenda Wilder

Course: Dance Panorama Auditorium

Subject: Justin Peck and the New York City Ballet

In 2014, when Justin Peck was a 27-year old member of New York City Ballet's corps de ballet, he was already being labeled as one of the three most important current choreographers (along with Christopher Wheeldon and Alexei Ratmansky). He continues to produce new works of great power and variety at an astounding pace as resident choreographer of the New York City Ballet (while also having been promoted to soloist by the NYCB), along with commissions from other companies and a Tony award for his choreography of the Broadway revival of *Carousel*. We'll take a look at some excerpts from his work along with behind-the-

scenes looks at his creative process. We'll also discuss the unique role New York City Ballet plays in the ballet world.

Presenter: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Martha Drezin

Course: Collage Workshop

Lunchroom

To all Collage Folks: It's time again to get our creative juices going. We've got the basics - the glue, scissors, backings, some elements. All you need is the willingness to experiment. And bring your own personal stuff - family photos, travel pictures, fabric, magazine clippings, poetry, ribbons, buttons - whatever. It's time to play creatively and enjoy.

Coordinators: Marilyn Weiss, Jeanette Himmel, Susan Holiday, Frieda Lipp.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 5 @ 10:30 A.M.

(Tech support- Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward)

Course: The Roaring Twenties

Auditorium

Subject: Fashion and Dance in the 1920s

Fashion, music and dance were changing dramatically in the 1920s. Even after 100 years, we still recognize flapper dresses and the Charleston. Did the dances inspire the fashion or did the fashion inspire the dances? Our presentation explores the exciting breakthroughs in dance and fashion that swept through this incredible decade.

Presenter: Mary Beth Yakoubian

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

Course: American Ideals in Troubled Times- Room 27

Subject: Law and Justice

In the final class of this session, we will explore the relationship between law and justice in the American political tradition. Questions to be considered include: what are our moral and political obligations as Americans with respect to the law? Is civil disobedience in this country ever justified? If so, what form should it take? Do all societies, including the most decent ones, have some great injustice at their core? Can we in good conscience enjoy the benefits of living in such a society if this is the case? In considering these questions we will look at selections from the writings of Abraham Lincoln, Henry David Thoreau, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ursula LeGuinn.

.Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

WEDNESDAY, DEC 5 @ 1:00 P.M.

(Tech support: Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner)

Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series

Nancy Rubin Stuart, author of **DEFIANT BRIDES**

Nancy Stuart's most recent book is **DEFIANT BRIDES: The Untold Story of Two Revolutionary-Era Women and the Radical Men They Married**. The

is a beautiful blonde from Philadelphia, Peggy Shippen, who married Bene Arnold. The second is the spirited Lucy Flucker of Boston who married He Knox. One bride becomes a spy and the other an ardent patriot. Nancy discuss their fascinating stories.

Nancy Stuart has written 7 books on women's lives and social history including THE MUSE OF THE REVOLUTION: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren, THE RELUCTANT SPIRITUALIST: The Life of Maggie Fox, AMERICAN EMPRESS: The Life and Times of Marjorie Merriweather Post and ISABELLA OF CASTILE: The First Renaissance Queen. As a journalist, she has written for many publications and her books have won many honors. She is also the Executive Director of the Cape Cod Writers Center and co-president of the Boston chapter of the Women's National Book Association.

A distinguished guest deserves a significant QUEST audience. Potential members and guests are always welcome to this special lecture series.

Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Bob Reiss, Arlene Hajinlian, Estelle Selzer

THURSDAY, DEC 6 @ 10:30 A.M.

(tech support- Beth Callendar, Michael Hamburg)

Course: Across the Universe

Room 15-17

Subject: The Astronomers

We salute the men and women who throughout our history braved skepticism, scorn, and even personal peril to advance scientific knowledge. This presentation will acquaint you with the luminaries of that continuing march towards awareness and knowledge of our Universe. You will recognize some and become more familiar with others. In my research I also became more and more informed about the importance women have played in the advancement of the understanding of the Universe.

The search continues for new and more complete narratives that could explain the workings of our Universe and our place in it. Not an easy task, but today we see possibilities previously undreamed of. We stand a decent chance of finding answers only if we wholeheartedly support those who have chosen to dedicate their lives to opening doors. Only time will tell.

As with all presentations, questions are most welcome and will be answered as best as possible.

Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: Reading the Novella **Room 27**
Subject: *Brokeback Mountain* by Annie Proulx

Proulx has said that she wrote *Brokeback Mountain* simply to target homophobia in Wyoming the 60s. But as she develops the characters, complex issues about love and sexuality also develop. How do we understand the relationship between Ennis and Jack? Can they be compared with any star-crossed lovers, like Romeo and Juliet? Can sexuality exist on a spectrum? Be fluid? The story

has a tragic ending, so is this a cautionary tale about the perils of homosexuality? We will grapple with these issues and others suggested by the story.

We will also dig into Proulx's artistry beyond *Brokeback Mountain*. In the last class, we distributed a compilation of some of her stand-alone quotes. We hope you find them insightful and life enriching. You're invited to read aloud and comment on your favorites. (Copies available in the B-week box in the lunchroom).

Presenters: Martha Drezin

Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Art Spar

Course: Point of View

Room 22

This is an interactive discussion class in which both the coordinators and class members bring in short opinion pieces from newspapers and magazines (editorials, op-ed pieces etc.) on which the class votes and then discusses in depth

Discussion Leader: Terri Hicks

Coordinators: Barbara Gordon, Bob Hartman, Terri Hicks

Thursday, DEC 6 @ 1:00 P.M.

(tech support- Howard Salik, Steve Allen)

All Questers are invited to a special event. On Thursday December 6, our last day of this semester, both afternoon classes will be cancelled to make room for a showing of the award winning film "LEAVE NO TRACE".

Director DEBRA GRANIK (Quest member BRENDA ZUSMAN'S daughter) will join us for a Q & A at the conclusion of the film.

P.S Rotten Tomatoes reported that "LEAVE NO TRACE." is only the *second film ever* to be rated by critics at 100%

"LEAVE NO TRACE" summary

Will and his teenage daughter, Tom have lived in the forests and off the land in Portland, Oregon Suddenly their idyllic life is shattered by misguided local officials. (Both Lead Actors Have Been Nominated For NYC's Gotham Awards)

NOTE: DON'T FORGET OUR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, NOV. 7 AT 12 NOON AT NINO'S RESTAURANT ON FIRST AVE BETW 72/73 STS. IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR RESERVATION AND CHECK THERE'S STILL TIME. STOP IN THE OFFICE TO PICK UP A MENU FORM. TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

PLEASE NOTE: If you cannot walk down seven flights of stairs in the event of an evacuation please add your name to the list posted on the bulletin board. By law the Engineer's Department must have the names on file so that they can be prepared to provide alternate means of evacuation. Thank you.

Doreen De Martini, Warden, Emergency Response team



Have a wonderful

winter break!!!!