

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**MAY 13, 2019**

**This is a “B” Week**

**MONDAY, MAY 13 @ 10:30 AM**

(Tech support: Nina Dioletis, Michael Wellner)

**Course:** FASCINATING NON-FICTION **Room 15-17**  
**Subject:** *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America*

By Erik Larson

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

*The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson weaves three narratives taking place contemporaneously in Chicago during the early 1890s. Larson recounts how the World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair) was conceived, designed, constructed and managed in the face of overwhelming obstacles. During the same period a serial killer escaped detection for several years and finally was found, tried and executed. Meanwhile, Patrick Prendergast planned and assassinated Mayor Carter Harrison. The talk will focus on the World's Fair as that is the most fascinating part of the book.

**Presenter:** Bob Reiss

**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

**Course:** The Art of Illustration **Room 27**

**Subject:** Rube Goldberg

Rube Goldberg is best known today for his involved, complicated inventions, laboriously contrived to perform a simple operation, but he did much more in his lifetime. We will examine his fascinating story leading up to an in-depth look at his most ingenious creations. Rube never actually built any of his machines, but that hasn't stopped others from trying. We will conclude by showing some recent attempts to bring these machines to life.

**Presenters:** Jim Brook

**Coordinators:** Helen Goodman, Ellen Shapiro

**MONDAY, MAY 13 @ Noon**

**Course:** Noontime French  
**Subject:** Open Conversation

Room: 19

At our last meeting of the spring semester, we'll plan our summer luncheon and we'll talk about our presentations for the fall of 2019.

The meeting will be in French, and all French speakers are welcome!

**Presenter:** Ruth Ward  
**Coordinator:** Ruth Ward

**MONDAY, MAY 13 @ 1:00 P.M.**

(Tech support: Michael Wellner, Nina Dioletis)

**Course:** Contemporary Poetry      Room 22

In our last class for this semester, we are asking participants to bring in a favorite contemporary poem, even if they have shared it with the class previously. Please have 18 copies of the poem so that everyone gets a copy. After a reading, there will be a lively discussion of the poem and the thoughts it inspires.

**Coordinators:** Joe Nathan, Martha Drezin, Betty Farber, Frieda Lipp, Stan Raffes,

**Course:** Turning Points in American History      Auditorium

**Subject:** America - Prior to European Contact

America was comprised of a host of vibrant societies prior to initial contact with Europeans. History is actively being rewritten and we no longer can think of a pre-settler America as "primitive" or "simple" or "savage." New research is uncovering a very different narrative that truly undermines everything we have been taught and come to believe about indigenous America.

During this class, we will discuss the demographics of pre-contact America and you will be amazed to learn that the populations in America were even greater than in Europe at the time. Then, probably the greatest population disaster the world has ever known happened in the Americas as a result of European contact.

We will also discuss the complex social systems and the sophisticated technologies used by indigenous people to sustain their large populations and cultures. Many myths will be challenged and new questions raised about this dramatic "turning point" in American history.

**Presenter:** Rick Salter

**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Sandra Southwell

**Course:** 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, May 14 @ 10:30 AM**

(Tech support: David Judlowitz, Bob Reiss)

**Course:** The Vietnam War Room 15-17

**Subject:** Panel Discussion: The Impact of the Vietnam War on You

For the last class of this course, there will be a short panel discussion consisting of Quest members who will discuss the impact of the Vietnam War on their lives. Following the panel, the floor will be opened up for audience members to comment and share their memories of those years and the particular ways the Vietnam War may have affected their lives.

What challenges did those years pose for you? Come and share your story.

**Presenter:** John Spiegel

**Coordinators:** Michael Wellner, Jill Altman, John Spiegel

**Course:** Artists and Their Work Auditorium

**Subject:** Baltic Art

Symbolism was an art movement that existed in Western Europe from the late 1800s to WWI. Some of the artists are familiar to us, e.g., Gustave Moreau, Odilon Redon, and Edvard Munch. Artists in the Baltic countries who participated in this movement are not well known. This lack of awareness was addressed in a show of Baltic artists at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris in 2018. The exhibit was then featured at the Kumu, Art Museum of Estonia in early 2019. We will learn about these artists from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who were presented in those exhibitions.

**Presenter:** Ann Goerd

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

**Coordinator Emerita:** Sandy Gordon

## **TUESDAY, May 14 @ Noon**

**Course:** Noontime Knowledge Room 15-17

**Subject:** "On the Home Front: Memories and Music from World War II"

"On the Home Front: Memories and Music from World War II" written and performed by Susan Laubach, accompanied by Arlene Hajinlian (approximately 45 minutes in length).

Susan tells funny and heartwarming stories, interspersed with songs written during the War years, now all part of the Great American Songbook.

Lyric sheets are provided and the audience is encouraged to sing along.

**Presenter:** Susan Laubach and Arlene Hajinlian

**Coordinators:** Ruth Ward, Mary Ann Donnelly

## **TUESDAY, MAY 14 @ 1:00 P.M.**

**(Tech support: Ruth Ward, Howard Salik)**

**Course:** The Big Picture: Contemporary Non-Fiction Articles Room 22

**Topics:** (1) How Everything Became the Culture War by Michael Grunwald, Politico Magazine November/December 2018,

(2) This is Your Brain on Nationalism by Robert Sapolsky, Foreign Affairs Marc/April 2019, (3) The Case For Late Bloomers: An Interview with Rich Karlgaard by Dr. Diane Hamilton (podcast transcript)

**Discussion leaders:** (1) & (2) Phil Gisser, (3) Michael Wellner

**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Wayne Cotter, Joyce West

**Course:** Dance Panorama Auditorium

**Subject:** Merce Cunningham

Mercier Philip "Merce" Cunningham (1919 – 2009) was an American dancer and choreographer who was at the forefront of American modern dance for more than 50 years. The Cunningham Dance Foundation continues his work with free performances in NYC which are also webcast.

He is notable for his frequent collaborations with artists of other disciplines, which had a profound impact on avant-garde art beyond the world of dance. Merce's works often use space and time and improvisation, rather than a narrative.

We'll talk about who and what influenced him, and whom he influenced in turn, see some brief interviews, and view a lot of Merce's choreography, interspersed with discussion of his methods and your responses to his pieces.

**Presenter:** Steve Koenig

**Coordinators:** Ruth Ward, Martha Drezin

**WEDNESDAY, May 15 @ 10:30 A.M.**

(Tech support: Art Spar, Wayne Cotter)

**Course:** The Roaring Twenties      **Room 27 NOTE CHANGE**

**Subject:** Baseball in the '20s

The story of baseball in the 1920s is largely the story of Babe Ruth.

The fascination with his life and career continues. He is a bombastic, sloppy hero from the 1920s, origins undetermined, a folk tale of American success. His moon face is as recognizable today as it was when he stared out at Tom Zachary on a certain September afternoon in 1927 and proceeded to hit his record-breaking 60<sup>th</sup> home run. If sport has become the national religion, Babe Ruth is the patron saint. He stands at the heart of the game he played, the promise of a warm summer night, a bag of peanuts, and a beer. And just maybe, the longest ball hit out of the park.

In addition to the Babe, we'll cover some of game's most glorious highlights and most notorious lowlights during the decade.

**Presenter:** Bob Reiss

**Coordinators:** Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

**Course:** American Ideals in Troubled Times      Room 15-17

**Subject:** Abraham Lincoln- The Greatest American President

During the last session of our "American Ideals" class we will continue our discussion of the political philosophy and statesmanship of Abraham Lincoln, Matters to be considered include Lincoln's views on the causes of the Civil War, his understanding of the nature of the Union, his evolving position on slavery, the little we know regarding his views on Reconstruction, and the qualities that made him perhaps the greatest of all American presidents. Readings will include selections from his greatest speeches during the war years.

**Presenter:** Sandy Kessler

**Coordinators:** Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

**WEDNESDAY, May 15 @ 1:00 P.M.**

(Tech support: Bob Reiss)

**Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series**

**NOTE: Room Change 15-17**

**Sarah Case, Director, Policy & Planning International Rescue  
Committee**

THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, helps people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future. IRC works in over 40 countries and 22 US cities. Sarah Case oversees strategy and policy in the Office of the President, David Miliband. Previously Sarah worked in Jordan where she developed and led IRC's advocacy and policy strategy on the Syria Crisis and in Iraq where she oversaw IRC's largest legal assistance program for displaced Iraqis.

Before the IRC, Sarah worked with a range of humanitarian and human rights groups including UNHCR and Amnesty UK. She holds a BA in International Development from McGill University and an MS in Human Rights from the London School of Economics.

Sarah will talk about the global refugee crisis, the root causes and current trends, and what can be done to protect the worlds' most vulnerable people. She has recently been to the epicenter of the Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and will share reflections on the intersection of conflict and health. In addition, she will illuminate the situation of early childhood development, malnutrition, gender inequality and the role the United States can play in improving the lives of refugees abroad and at home.

***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, May 16 @ 10:30 A.M.**

(Tech support: Pete Weis, Wayne Cotter)

**SPECIAL EVENT- FINAL PLAY OF THE SEMESTER**  
**Auditorium**

**“Under Milk Wood” by Dylan Thomas**

Don't miss the wonderful end of the year presentation by the Advanced Acting Workshop on Thursday, May 15 at 10:30 AM, “Under Milk Wood” by Dylan Thomas, a beautiful play about a small town in Wales and the interesting people who inhabit it !! This is NOT TO BE MISSED!! And then accompany us to our end of the year luncheon at 12:30pm.

***Emergency Response Notice***

***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 Quest 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**