

## NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

Oct 21–24, 2019

This is a “B” Week

The Quest Halloween Party is Tuesday, Oct 22, 2:30 pm, in the lunchroom.  
Costumes are not required.

**MONDAY, Oct 21 @ 10:30 am**  
**(Tech support: Nina Dioletis, David Judlowitz)**

**Course:** Fascinating Non-Fiction Rm 15-17  
**Subject:** *Citizen Kane: A Filmmaker's Journey* by Harlan Lebo

### NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This book, published in 2016, tells the behind-the-scenes story of a film masterpiece, *Citizen Kane*, and the genius behind it: Orson Welles.

How did a twenty-three year old film novice gain unprecedented creative control for his first motion picture? How did he manage to attract some of Hollywood's biggest talents? Why were so many of Hollywood's top executives so eager to bring him down? Why was the film nearly destroyed prior to its release?

In this session, we'll explore the above questions and also discuss the many innovative techniques Welles introduced in *Citizen Kane*, the intense pressures he endured during its filming, and why the film remains an American classic.

Critics routinely place *Citizen Kane* among the top films ever produced. After this session, we think you'll agree.

**Presenter:** Wayne Cotter

**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss

**Course:** South of the Border Before Columbus Auditorium

**Subject:** Mayans of Guatemala

*When they made man, they fashioned him of earth, and they fed him with wood, they fed him with leaves . . . But he did not talk, he did not walk, he had neither blood nor flesh, so our early fathers and grandfathers told us, oh my sons! But at length they found whereof to make it . . . corn was discovered and brought from out of the sea, the blood of the tapir and the serpent, and with it maize was kneaded. With this dough the flesh of man was made by the Creator and Maker. – Creation story from *The Annals of the Cakchiquels*, Book of the Cakchiquel Mayas*

We will look at the Mayan peoples of Guatemala, and dip into their advanced civilization, culture, literature, and architecture.

**Presenter:** Bob Reiss

**Coordinators:** Frank Montaturo, Ruth Ward

**Course:** Managing Money & Investments Rm 27

**Subject:** Confessions of an Investor

I'll discuss my investment journey from high risk tolerance to almost none, and how asset allocation and strategy changed along the way. I will also be discussing economic cycles and stock market cycles, how they are different; are there leading indicators that can help forecast either? or have machines (such as, artificial intelligence) turned this upside down?

**Presenter:** Marion Schulteis

**Coordinators:** Peter Fleischman, Steve Allen, Marion Shulthies

### **MONDAY, Oct 21 @ Noon**

**Course:** Noontime French Rm 19

**Subject:** A Very Challenging Experience

This week participants will all have the opportunity to do a lot of talking. After sharing a challenging experience with a partner, each person will relate their partner's experience to the group. Experiences might include a new job, a move, a health issue, a loss, a great achievement, even giving a Quest presentation! A group discussion will follow. The meeting will be in French, and all French speakers are welcome.

**Presenter:** Caroline Thompson

**Coordinator:** Ruth Ward

### **MONDAY, Oct 21 @ 1:00 pm (Tech support: Michael Wellner, Nina Dioletis)**

**Course:** Law & Order Auditorium

**Subject:** Gerrymandering

The most significant impactful long-term political issue facing us is Gerrymandering, the pernicious methods of enlarging the electoral power of controlling political parties and the dilution of parties not in control. The blockbuster Supreme Court decision in Rucho on June 27, 2019, which avoided the issue, will be analyzed in the light of the long history of Gerrymandering. Most interestingly, Hannah Wheelen of the Princeton Gerrymandering project will be interviewed about how to overcome the Supreme Court's abject failure to act by presenting concrete proposals to defeat Gerrymandering on the state level. The goal of the Princeton project is to "bridge the gaps between mathematics and the law to achieve fair representation through redistricting reform."

**Presenters:** Bob Bloom and Hannah Wheelen, Princeton University

**Coordinators:** Michael Wellner, David Judlowitz, Bob Gottfried

**Course:** Contemporary Poetry Rm 22

Contemporary Poetry enriches the lives of its readers. Class members bring poems to share with the other members of the class. The poems are read, re-read and discussed. Participate with us in learning about contemporary poetry.

**Coordinators:** Betty Farber, Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp

**Course:** Life Drawing

Rm 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 welcome additional members to our Life Drawing workshop. 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, Oct 22 @ 10:30 am**  
**(Tech support: Howard Salik, Michael Wellner)**

**Course:** Artists and Their Work

Auditorium

**Subject:** Betye Saar

On Sunday, September 15, 2019, the *New York Times*' art section had a full-page photo of **Betye Saar** with the headline: "It's About Time! Betye Saar's Long Climb to the Summit." At a time when being black and female was a double negative in terms of recognition by the establishment art scene, Betye Saar nonetheless emerged in the 1960s as a powerful figure in the redefinition of African American identity in art and in the making of a socially engaged art. Now in her "ninetieth revolution around the sun," Saar's work is finally being recognized in major museums around the world including the newly reopened Museum of Modern Art, which has a focused survey featuring one of her most iconic early pieces, *Black Girl's Window* (1969). However, this artist's rich body of art ranges from prints, collage, mixed-media assemblage, to room-scale installations. We will review the MOMA show and then examples of some of Betye Saar's recurring themes across the decades of her artistic life. At 93, she's "Still Tickin'."

**Presenter:** Joyce West

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

**Course:** Movers and Shakers

Rm 15-17

**Subject:** Barbara Jordan

In a life made limited and cut too short by devastating illness, Barbara Jordan had a enormous influence on her home state of Texas and on national social, cultural and political affairs. Her career was a series of "firsts" – for women and for African-Americans. Jordan was one of the most important orators of her time, perhaps of all the 20th Century, with a powerful voice that called us all to our better selves. She became a moral compass for the nation in the Nixon impeachment. Relying heavily on her own voice through audio and video recordings and her written autobiographical accounts, we will look at the remarkable life and times of Barbara Jordan.

**Presenter:** Brian Bosworth

**Coordinators:** Caroline Thompson, Pam Gemelli, Ruth Ward

## **TUESDAY, Oct 22 @ Noon**

**Course:** Noontime Knowledge

Rm 15-17

**Subject:** The Art of Jin Shin: The Japanese Practice of Healing with Your Fingertips

Discover the Power of Self Care! Come hear Alexis Brink, the president of Jin Shin Institute of New York City and a practitioner of the Art of Jin Shin since 1991. Alexis will be introduced by Madeleine Brecher who has been practicing Jin Shin for over 25 years.

Jin Shin Jyutsu (pronounced jit-su) is based on the ancient Japanese healing art of energy medicine that is now practiced throughout the world. It involves a gentle touch with the fingers and hands to redirect or unblock the flow of energy on pathways where energy tends to get stuck. It gives you the tools and power to help and heal yourself with your own two hands. This life-changing practice teaches you how to maintain wellness with a stronger mind-body-spirit connection, and a deeper sense of self. The Art of Jin Shin may be beneficial for blood pressure, headaches, back pain, digestion, immune system, anxiety, peaceful sleep and many other things. Jin Shin brings harmony to the total being.

**Presenter:** Alexis Brink

**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Joyce West, Palma Mahl

### **Meeting: Freshman Class**

Rm 27

The Freshman Class is designed to develop familiarity with all aspects of Quest and to encourage new members toward the goal of active participation in our community.

Today's guest speakers are Marian Friedmann (vice president) and Carolyn McGuire (secretary; Q News; travel committee).

The third session will be Thursday, November 21st.

**Coordinators:** Pam Gemelli, Betty Farber, John Spiegel

## **TUESDAY, Oct 22 @ 1:00 pm (Tech support: Joyce West, Bob Reiss)**

**Course:** Presenters Showcase

Rm 15-17

**Subject:** Tiny Houses

Lots of us live in houses that are supersized...or in small houses and apartments that have way too much stuff. The tiny house movement is much more than about how much square feet we live in, but about a state of mind; perhaps of less is more in square feet and things.

That success in life is having more and bigger toys but rather a live more in balance with nature, families, coworkers and friends. To think tiny is to think in big terms as to what, is really important in life. Cost, balance, location, and communities; stages of one's life, and what kind of future you want for the world and yourself.

**Presenter:** Gil Santiago

**Coordinators:** Palma Mahl, Steve Allen, Joyce West

**Course:** A Sampling of Israeli Literature

Rm 27

**Subject:** A Sampling of Palestinian Literature

In March 2011, Israeli author Amos Oz sent imprisoned terror leader, Marwan Barghouti, an Arabic translation of his book, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. The book contained Oz's personal dedication in Hebrew: "This story is our story. I hope you read it and understand us better as we attempt to understand you."

In this class we will sample some Palestinian literature that, hopefully, will help us understand Palestinians better. We will meet and sample the works of poet Taha Muhammad Ali; novelist, screenwriter and journalist Sayed Kashua; and architect Suad Amiry who has written an account of her 18-hour journey as the only woman accompanying illegal workers seeking work in Israel.

**Presenter:** Mary Ann Donnelly

**Coordinators:** Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Art Spar

**Course:** Acting Workshop

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

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 23 @ 10:30 am**  
**(Tech support: Pete Weis, Joyce West)**

**Course:** Women's Voices

Rm 15-17

**Subject:** The Birth of Women's Studies and Beyond

"History is written by the victors" -- a quote attributed to Winston Churchill who certainly was one of the "victors." The disciplines called "women's history" and "women's studies" began formally in the 1970's to remedy the situation in which women's history, perspectives, accomplishments, literature, etc., etc., etc. were omitted from the history books. Women, including faculty members and students, realized that short lectures and single courses would not be adequate to bring all of these to the fore. We will look at how these disciplines developed, who created them and what they covered. We will also look at how they have changed over time.

**Presenter:** Sandra Abramson

**Coordinators:** Sandra Abramson, Diane Crothers, Diane Reynolds

**Course:** Classic Perspectives on Human Nature & Politics    Auditorium

**Subject:** Aristotle on Virtue

During our third class meeting we will discuss Aristotle's understanding of how best to promote virtue or good character, which he considers the key to happiness or human flourishing. We

shall also consider the link between ethics and politics in his thought and the meaning of his famous assertion that we are "political animals." Finally, we'll consider his views on the various types of government, discuss how he might view American government today, and assess his overall perspective on human nature and politics in the light of our own experiences.

**Presenter:** Sandy Kessler

**Coordinators:** Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

**WEDNESDAY, Oct 23 @ 1:00 pm**  
**(Tech support: Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner)**

**Auditorium**  
**DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES**  
**Inaugural Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Lecture**

**Colum McCann,**  
**author of *Let The Great World Spin***

***Members only for this special lecture.***

Irish-born international bestseller Colum McCann is among the world's foremost storytellers. His National Book Award-winning novel *Let The Great World Spin* was a bestseller on four continents. His sixth novel, *Transatlantic*, published in 2013, earned him comparisons to Michael Ondaatje and Toni Morrison. In 2016, he was named a finalist for the Story Prize for his collection *Thirteen Ways Of Looking*. His highly-anticipated new novel, *APEIROGON*, will be published in February 2020.

Colum McCann is the co-founder of the global charity Narrative 4 which brings young people from all over the world together to "walk in one another's shoes." His writing has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Paris Review*, *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times*, among others. He will speak about "Letting the Great World Spin: How the Stories of Others Shape Our World."

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

**THURSDAY, Oct 24 @ 10:30 am**  
**(Tech support: Michael Wellner, Ruth Ward)**

**Course:** Across the Universe

Rm 15-17

**Subject:** The Electromagnetic Spectrum: All the Light You Can(not) See

In this presentation we will explore the nature of light and learn that most of the light in the universe is invisible to the human eye. We will explore the familiar and not-so-familiar applications of this form of energy.

**Presenter:** Michael Hamburg

**Coordinators:** Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

**Course:** From Grunts to Tweets

Auditorium

**Subject:** The Telegraph and Telephone Give Words Wings

The telegraph allowed instant communication across vast distances for the first time in human history and was one of the key technologies of the 19th century. Before the telegraph, written communications moved slowly, at the speed of human travel and could take days, weeks or months to arrive. By speeding up the flow of information, the telegraph contributed to the industrialization of the US. It seemed there was no stopping its power until it was overtaken by the telephone, which offered a faster, more convenient way to communicate person-to-person. In this presentation we'll take a look at how the telegraph and telephone were invented and how they transformed business and also our personal lives.

**Presenter:** Beth Callender

**Coordinators:** Beth Callender, Patricia Geehr

**Course:** Point of View

Rm 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:** Barbara Gordon

**Coordinators:** Barbara Gordon, Bob Hartmann, Terri Hicks

**THURSDAY, Oct 24 @ noon**

**Course:** Noontime Knowledge

Rm 15-17

**Subject: Early Voting.** In January of this year, New York State passed a historic set of voting reform laws, finally joining 34 other states that allow early voting. For the first time New Yorkers will be able to choose when to vote. This month we will have our first experience with Early Voting. Learn more about the Early Voting process, why Early Voting matters, and why it's important to try it

**Presenter:** Laura Lopez

**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Joyce West, Palma Mahl

**THURSDAY, Oct 24 @ 1:00 pm**

**(Tech support: Beth Callender, Steve Allen)**

**Course:** Explorations in Philosophy

Rm 22

**Subject:** Philosophy of Education 2

“Education expresses what is, perhaps, our deepest wish: to continue, to go on, to persist in the face of time. It is a program for social survival.” (Michael Walzer) We will continue our conversation about the philosophy of education by discussing a chapter from political

philosopher Michael Walzer's mighty book *Spheres of Justice*. Education, along with political power, wealth, free time, etc., is one of society's choice benefits, and is therefore contested, and inequitably distributed. How would this benefit be distributed in a just society? Must there always be a conflict between parents' desire to promote their children's interests and the interests of a just society? Copies of the essay are available in the Explorations in Philosophy folder in the B Week file at the back of the lunch room.

**Discussion Leader:** Larry Shapiro

**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro

**Course:** Film Today

Auditorium

**Subject:** New Movies; Italian Realism

We'll watch trailers of six NEW movies about to be released. Our members select four to be reviewed at our next class session.

With many new Questers attending our movie class, we've decided to re-play a past special feature in two consecutive sessions.

#### THE ARCHITECTS OF ITALIAN REALISM

A Closer Look at the Masters and their work.

VISCONTI: "OSSESSIONEONE": 1943

FELLINI: "LA STRADA": 1954

ROSSELLINI "OPEN CITY": 1945

DI SICA: "BICYCLE THIEVES": 1945

DE SANTIS: "BITTER RICE": 1949

OLMI: "POSTO OLMO:: 1961

#### OUR OWN MOVIE REVIEWERS' REPORT ON 4 NEW MOVIES

PARASITE - Lillian Scheinblum

CYRANO, MY LOVE – Betty Farber

OJO RABBIT- Moe Zusman

GREENER GRASS – Gale Spitalnik

**Coordinators:** Howard Salik, Bobbie Gold, Rita Buttolph, Marion Friedmann

**NOTE** to members planning to attend the Great Conversations class on A Week Monday, October 28: Copies of the reading, a selection of poems by Wislawa Szymborska, are available in the A Week file at the back of the lunch room.

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### CultureQuest Tour

DIA:BEACON MUSEUM

Beacon, New York

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Occupying a former Nabisco box-printing factory on the banks of the Hudson River, Dia:Beacon presents the Dia Art Foundation's collection of art from the 1960s to the present as well as special exhibitions and new commissions. In keeping with Dia's history of single-artist, site-related presentations, each gallery of the museum was designed specifically for the installation of one artist's work. A docent at the museum will guide us as through the galleries of the permanent collection.

**Ticket Cost:** Free, Limited to 20 people

**Round trip train fare** between Grand Central and Beacon, NY for seniors is \$23.

**Meeting Place and Time:** We will meet at Grand Central station at 8:30 a.m. and take the 8:46 a.m. train to Beacon arriving at 10:13. The museum is next to the train station. The guided tour begins at 11:00.

**Lunch:** Café at the museum

***Sign up on the sheet posted on the Quest bulletin board***