

From the Curriculum Committee

—————
We have begun planning for Summer 2021, when we reprise some of our favorite presentations in June and July. We need your input. Please let us know when you see an outstanding presentation by sending your recommendation to our new virtual mailbox:
QuestEncores2021@googlegroups.com

Thank you! We appreciate your participation!

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

This is an "A" Week

MONDAY, November 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS**

Album: "Child is Father to the Man" by Blood, Sweat & Tears

As a New York teenager in the early 1960s, Al Kooper (not Alice Cooper!) never missed Maynard Ferguson when he played New York City. Ferguson's big band jazz sound entranced young Al as he began to dream of forming a rock band with a horn section. In 1968, that dream came true when Al convinced seven other jazz-oriented musicians to create "Child is Father to the Man." He called the group Blood, Sweat and Tears.

The landmark album combines soul, jazz, rock and classical music. Although this first BS&T album enjoyed stellar reviews and some

commercial success, Kooper left the group over artistic differences. A new version of Blood, Sweat and Tears recorded a blockbuster second-album and would remain hugely successful for decades.

In our opinion, however, no other Blood, Sweat & Tears album comes close to matching the musical brilliance of “Child is Father to the Man.” Come to this session and see if you agree.

Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig,

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: **DANIEL DERONDA**

Class discussion will begin with Chapters 7 and 8 which we did not have the time to talk about during our last meeting. We will proceed to the reading assignment, Chapters 9 – 15, which describes the widening experiences of Gwendolen Harleth and her reactions to them, including a dramatic and disturbing confrontation. George Eliot skillfully weaves satire and humor into the narrative. Look for examples that might be shared with the class.

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, November 2 @ 12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Course: **EXPLORING WHITE PRIVILEGE**

According to Audre Lorde: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is an inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." Since most of us have been educated through a Europatriarchal curriculum, we have chosen this day (just before the election) to focus on all we have to gain by expanding beyond that curriculum. Please read the Introduction to Sensuous Knowledge by Minna Salami, (pdf attached at the end of NWAQ) and watch the video on Native American Arts : Beading Woman from an Exhibition at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. <https://vimeo.com/343742719>

Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz

Coordinators: Diane Crothers, Sheryl Harawitz, Diane Reynolds

MONDAY, November 2 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: **INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

Subject: Heating and Cooling

Our world is a world of extremes. At times it will be extremely cold outside, at other times extremely hot. What can we do to make life more bearable whatever the forecast? This presentation will examine the long history of those inventions and improved technologies mankind has come up with to meet the challenges posed by extremes of the weather -- from the campfire to the air conditioner (and everything in between).

Presenter: Jim Brook

Coordinators: Pete Weis, Jim Brook

Course: **MODERN HISPANIC PLAYWRIGHTS**

Play: Luis Miguel Valdez and Zoot Suit

Luis Valdez, born in California in 1940, is widely regarded as the father of Chicano theatre in the U.S. Playwright, writer, actor, director and teacher, Valdez is best known for his play Zoot Suit, his film La Bamba, and for founding El Teatro Campesino to enrich the lives of the farmworkers. Out of that movement came the groundbreaking Zoot Suit, first performed in 1978, made into a film in 1981 and revived in 2016 to a whole new audience. The play introduced Chicano culture to an American audience and spoke to the immigrant experience in ways that still resonate with us today. In this session we will talk about the man, his play, and its clothing. No wearing of actual zoot suits is required, though if you want to show off your reet pleats and drape shapes, no one will stop you...and if you want to brush up on your Mexican slang, the play's Spanish words are clear in context, but just in case.

<https://www.mexicotrippa.com/top-25-mexican-slang-words-need-know/>

<https://baselang.com/blog/vocabulary/mexican-slang/>

Contact Ruth Ward immediately at rutheward@gmail.com if you would like a pdf copy Zoot Suit before Monday's presentation.

Presenter: Lorraine Weberg

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, November 3 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Subject: Margaret Thatcher

Margaret Thatcher was the British Prime Minister from 1979 until 1990. She was the only woman in her Cabinet of mainly aristocratic men, and she dominated them all. This presentation focuses on the influences that gave her the confidence and determination to reach this elevated position and hang on to it for an extraordinary length of time. She became Prime Minister immediately after the Winter of Discontent, when the whole country was in economic freefall and disarray. Her shining moment was the Falklands War, when she became the heroine of the hour and was lauded by political leaders all over the world, including Ronald Reagan.

Presenter: Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Sandy Frank, Ellen Gottfried, Glenn Johnston

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**

Subject: Native American Poetry

We will discuss Native American Poetry led by Joyce Hinote. Volunteers will read several poems from the outstanding anthology prepared by Joyce. The class will linger in discussion after each reading. Sheryl Harawitz will electronically distribute poems by Anne Carson, and volunteers will be recruited to read Carson's poetry at the next session.

Presenter: Joyce Hinote

Coordinators: Art Spar, Roy Clary, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, November 3 @ 12:30 – 1:30

The Quest Lunchroom is up and running on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 1:30. Stop by to talk and meet in small groups, with or without lunch, to chat, to share what you are doing.

TUESDAY, November 3 @ 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

If I waited for perfection, I would never write a word."- Margaret Atwood

It doesn't have to be perfect. Let our small supportive writing workshop help. All writing genres are welcome, from haikus to press releases to chapters in your soon- to-be-published memoir. Please keep prose to under 1,000 words.

Class will begin with a ten-minute free-writing prompt with the option to share this writing with the class.

To be an active participant, please send a copy of your finished writing via email (hifein13q@gmail.com) no later than Sunday, November 1.

Authors of work received will receive back a compilation of all writings submitted for review in preparation for class.

Writings included in the compilation will be read in class by the author followed by critique and discussion.

Writing Suggestion: tenacity

Coordinators: Hilda Feinstein, Donna Ramer, Helen Saffran

TUESDAY, November 3 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

Opera: Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein. Showboat. Act II.

You needn't have seen Act I to enjoy this; we'll give a brief synopsis as an intro. This story of miscegenation, family ties, musical theater and intrigue on a Mississippi River showboat is chock filled with tunes you know. Sung in English with English subtitles.

Presenters: Steve Koenig, Victor Brener, Frieda Lipp

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Victor Brener, Frieda Lipp

WEDNESDAY, November 4 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **GREAT JOURNALISTS AND PUBLISHERS**

Subject: Henry Luce

Henry Luce was one of the most significant publishers of the 20th century.

Americans became addicted to his unique exciting magazines. Eventually his influence became so powerful that he developed a worldwide presence. We'll have a delightful TIME taking a closer look at his amazing LIFE!

Presenter: John Davis

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellne

Course: **SHAKESPEARE**

Play: Macbeth

To continue our study of Macbeth, the first half of a 1979 TV film starring Ian McKellen and Judi Dench will be shown. This performance was from the original Royal Shakespeare Company production of 1976 directed by Trevor Nunn at the Donmar Warehouse. This is a very highly praised production which John Gielgud stated, “was brought off to perfection.” The second half of the production will be shown on 11/18.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, James Brook, Sondra Lipton Sahlman

WEDNESDAY, November 4 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: **THE POLITICAL THOUGHT AND STATESMANSHIP OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Subject: The Causes of the Civil War

During this class, we will discuss Lincoln's statesmanship during the Civil War. We will consider whether he abused his powers as President in conducting the war and the sequence of events that led him to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. As always, we will link our discussion to the existential crisis facing our country today.

Presenter: Sandy Kessler

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Bob Gottfried

THURSDAY, November 5 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **ELECTION 2020: AMERICA'S SEARCH FOR OUR NEXT LEADER**

Subject: What Changed on Election Day

Two days after election day, and where do things stand? Do we have a clear-cut result? How will the uncertainties be sorted out? Can our democracy withstand the pressures that this election uncovered -- minority government control, violation of election laws, threats of violence, voter suppression and court hostility to free and fair elections? Our discussion leaders may start the conversations, but we're counting on the class to fill in the blanks. So, come prepared with your issues, your questions, and hopefully, your answers. No telling where the discussion will lead.

Discussion Leaders: Phil Gisser, Wayne Cotter, Sandra Abramson, Brian Bosworth

Coordinators: Phil Gisser, Sandra Abramson, Wayne Cotter, Patricia Stryker

Course: **POET'S WORKSHOP**

Write a poem using the cue word "contagion" or a word of the poet's choice. Each author will read a poem and then share that poem with the class through screen share. A discussion of the poem will follow.

Coordinators: Judith Winn, Helen Neilson, Helen Saffran

THURSDAY, November 5 @ 12:30 – 1:30

The Quest Lunchroom is up and running on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 - 1:30. Stop by to talk and meet in small groups, with or without lunch, to chat, to share what you are doing.

THURSDAY, November 5 @ 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS

Subject: Probability and Statistics

The mathematical field of probability and statistics has an enormous number of applications throughout all of science and technology as well as being a vital tool for every individual in making decisions and understanding the world. Yet it was the very last part of mathematics to be developed, with almost no work done prior to Europe in the 1600's. Why this is the case is an interesting question that we will examine. We'll explore the history of probability and statistics, look at some of its major achievements, and scrutinize the serious problems involved in applying it.

Presenter: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Gil Santiago, Brenda Wilder, Judy Weis

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**

We will be reading and discussing the following two stories:

****1. “SWEAT” by Zora Neale Hurston. Presented by Arlynn Greenbaum**

There are two possible online links for the story. The first link includes a long bio of Hurston

https://blackwomenwriterssp18.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/hurston_sweat.pdf

<https://www.houstonisd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=133958&dataid=193682&FileName=sweat.pdf>

****2. “JACK AND DELLA” by Marilynne Robinson. Presented by Anita Hunter**

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/07/20/jack-and-della>

(if you have problems opening the New Yorker link because you’re not a subscriber, attached to this email is a Word.doc version of the story.

For newbies, Contemporary Short Stories is an interactive discussion class. Stories, chosen by and briefly introduced by the presenter(s), are then freely discussed by the class.

If you have any questions or a story to present, please email Nancy at nancyrye@earthlink.net,

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp