

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**February 13 – 17, 2023**

**This is a “B” Week**

## **Instructions for Zoom Classes**

**There are three links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, and Classroom 27. Click on the appropriate link below to join a class no earlier than 15 minutes before its start.**

**Alternatively, you can enter a class by going to the [Zoom Website](#) and selecting “JOIN A MEETING.” You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode. Also, you can attend classes via phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the password.**

### **AUDITORIUM:**

**Meeting ID: 886 445 6806**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 15-17:**

**Meeting ID: 821 1094 3310**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 27:**

**Meeting ID: 875 6632 5995**

**Passcode: 252525**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either “Hybrid” or “In-person.” “Hybrid” classes are available to members attending at 25 Broadway and to members attending from home via Zoom. “In-person only” classes are presented solely at 25 Broadway with no Zoom option.

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2023 is LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY  
QUEST WILL BE CLOSED**

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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Albrecht Dürer: Master Artist of the Northern Renaissance**

**Albrecht Dürer (1471 – 1528), the brooding artist of breathtaking as well as horrifying images, became the most well-known printmaker, painter and theorist of the Northern Renaissance. A devout Catholic who was inspired by the humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam as well as the Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther was one of the first to study the natural world, the principles of anatomy and to publish his own books.**

**Born in the Bavarian town of Nuremberg, one of the first major centers of publishing, his work was widely marketed through a network of German merchants. He traveled throughout northern Europe and visited Venice twice. His work was influenced by leading Italian artists and, in turn, they were inspired by his extraordinary woodcuts and engravings and the use of prints to reach a broader European public. His work has continued to inspire artists, collectors and art lovers over the past 500 years.**

**Presenter: Linda Downs**  
**Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro**

**Course: SYMPOSIUM (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: The Thinking Drinking Party**

**According to the Greeks, Symposia are convivial drinking parties. So, bring your coffee, and we will peruse some ancient stories created during these hospitable drinking parties. In honor of Valentine's Day, our selections will include our earliest love stories, as well as our love of social gatherings.**

**Heads-up, we will be creating a Time Capsule. So, bring a pen.**

**Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz**

**Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish Conversation) (*In-person only*)**

**Room: Classroom 27**

**The Spanish conversation lunchtime program is finally here! We are anticipating participants will have varying levels of proficiency (or “rustiness” as some people describe their level) and no worries: everybody will be made to feel welcome. We’ll get to know each other and there will be a brief participatory presentation.**

**Come! Speak! And enjoy.**

**Presenter: Rosemary Feal**

**Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Rosemary Feal**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: The United German Empire from 1871 through the First World War.**

**Following the 1871 unification of the German Empire, the new nation became a central player in European diplomacy. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck skillfully manipulated to keep Germany in a position to avoid international conflict while making major strides in domestic politics and policy. But soon after a new monarch, Wilhelm II, dismissed Bismarck in 1890, conflict between Germany and other European powers intensified, culminating in the First World War. Was the fault primarily with Wilhelm and his advisors or had Bismarck created a system that was bound to unravel? Or was conflict inevitable once a powerful new empire had been created? We'll consider these questions and look at the consequences of the War and how these consequences set the stage for the Second World War.**

**Presenter: Steve Allen**  
**Coordinators: Steve Allen, Linda Downs**

**Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES (In-person only)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Legendary Black Women Dance Artists**

**The work of five legendary African American dancers, choreographers, and social activists whose work expanded the field of dance and culture in the USA will be the focus of this session.**

**The presentation will include photographs, interviews, and archival videos. We will look at Josephine Baker, working in Paris in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; Pearl Primus and Katherine Dunham, dancers and**

**anthropologists who studied local dance in Africa and the Caribbean, which they later taught and developed in the USA; Judith Jamison, former artistic director and longtime lead dancer of the Alvin Ailey Company, and Misty Copeland, the first black woman principal dancer in American Ballet Theater's 75-year history.**

**Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen**

**Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Barbara Barnes, Susannah Falk Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer**

**Course: MODERN OPERA: THE 20<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES (*In-person only*)**

**Room: Classroom 27**

**Subject: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by composer John Eaton (2010)**

**Distinct from the recent movie, John Eaton's opera focuses on the irony and emotional core of the original Fitzgerald story, which is filled with moments of great humor and subtlety largely missing in the film. The dialogue in the opera is taken directly from the story, adapted by librettist Estela Eaton. The musical score, by MacArthur "genius" award winner, John Eaton, draws from the contemporary idiom, and is spiced with songs and dance tunes, such as lullabies, school songs, battle music and marches, nearly all evoking the time period and locality of Benjamin Button's world.**

**In English with English subtitles.**

**Coordinators & Presenters: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 2:30**

**Occasion: VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION**

**Location: Lunch Room**

**Let's join together to share friendship with Prosecco and Kisses by Lois Cardillo and Cafe Mocha by Pam Gemelli and Michael Wellner.**

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**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: *The Quiet Zone: Unraveling the mystery of a town suspended in silence***

**By: Stephen Kurczy**

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

**When journalist Stephen Kurczy began traveling from New York City into the West Virginia backcountry in 2017, he was convinced he had found a modern-day Walden - an oasis unspoiled by the clamor of the digital era. Wary of the tyranny of today's nonstop connectivity (he hadn't owned a cellphone for a decade) Kurczy had high hopes that Green Bank, West Virginia, would live up to its billing as "The Quietest Town in America."**

**Green Bank is a place at once futuristic and old-fashioned. It is home to the Green Bank Observatory, where astronomers search the depths of the universe using the latest technology, while schoolchildren go without WiFi or iPads. But a community that on the surface seems idyllic is a place of contradictions, where the provincial meets the**

**seemingly supernatural and quiet can serve as a cover for something far darker. What lessons can we learn from Green Bank?**

**Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein**

**Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward**

**Course: TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: The Writer, The Editor, The Person**

**What inspired, offended, aroused her? Where did she grow up, go to school, marry, work? How did she choose the themes of her books, their characters, names and personas? After Penelope gives us some insight into how she became one of the world's most admired writers, we'll have a thought-provoking discussion about what she wrote. So bring your favorite Toni Morrison book and let's discuss why that book's theme and characters resonate with you.**

**Presenter: Donna Ramer & Penelope Pi-Sunyer**

**Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Speaker: Georgina Pazcoguin, author of *SWAN DIVE*, and soloist at New York City Ballet**

**Subject: The Rogue Ballerina**

**Georgina Pazcoguin dances as a soloist woman in a company of nearly 100 dancers. She started as an apprentice in 2001 and was promoted to soloist with the company in February of 2013. Her journey was not necessarily uncomplicated or painless; in fact, quite the opposite. Why ballet? It is a pursuit of perfection. She says she likes the idea of**

**striving to attain a seemingly unattainable ideal. Georgina is New York City Ballet's first Asian American, let alone Filipina American woman, ever to be promoted to an upper tier.**

**In addition to dancing for NYCB Ms. Pazcoguin made her Broadway debut as Ivy Smith in *On the Town*, and also performed as Victoria in the 2016 Broadway revival of *Cats*.**

**She has also been involved in foundations which give her the great honor of sharing hope and the gift of dance to those less fortunate around the globe.**

**Please join us for this special presentation.**

**Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss**

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: NYC NEIGHBORHOODS (Hybrid)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Manhattan's East Village**

**Manhattan's East Village has a fascinating history spanning over 350 years. From Peter Stuyvesant to punk rock, Veniero's Italian pastries to Veselka's pierogis, the "Yiddish Rialto" to the Nuyorican Poets Café and the Negro Ensemble Company, the neighborhood has been home to waves of immigrants, artists, musicians, and community and labor activists. Many Questers have roots in the neighborhood or the adjacent Lower East Side, so come share your memories--and learn how gentrification is threatening the "old neighborhood."**

**Presenter: Ilene Winkler**

**Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss**



**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY POETRY** (*Hybrid*)  
**Room:** Classroom 27  
**Subject:** Poetic Forms to Engage With

**“Men seldom make passes  
At girls who wear glasses.”  
-Dorothy Parker**

**Is a simple rhyming poem written in iambic trimeter (six syllables/three iambs per line). Simple and to the point, it sticks in your head like glue. But there are so many poetic forms. Free verse, blank verse, sonnets, haiku, villanelles.**

**In our class we will engage with some of these forms and find out how their rules help poets to create.**

**Presenter:** Ellen Rittberg  
**Coordinators:** Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE** (*Hybrid*)  
**Room:** Classroom 27  
**Subject:** Rebecca Goldstein’s *Betraying Spinoza*

**Let’s devote a class to discussing the famously difficult and still controversial 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, Baruch Spinoza. (Even his first name is controversial!) We’ll try to get a grip on what Rebecca Goldstein calls Spinoza’s “radical remedy...to the problem of being human.” In addition, our reading and discussion will focus as much or more on the person and on the Amsterdam community of exiled Portuguese Jews he was part of until he was banished at the age of 23. Our guide will be philosopher and novelist Rebecca Goldstein, whose book *Betraying Spinoza* pursues traces of Spinoza’s life in even the most abstract reaches of his thought. I’ll be sending out excerpts from the book on Quest Business.**

**Discussion Leader:** Larry Shapiro  
**Coordinators:** Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Jane Lubin

**Course:** **FOOD: BEYOND JUST CALORIES** (*In-person only*)  
**Room:** Classroom 15-17  
**Subject:** Jewish Deli

The birth of the delicatessen occurred in the late 1800s after waves of Eastern European Jewish immigrants settled predominantly on the Lower East Side. Delis generally were opened by the second generation and began as an offshoot of Jewish-German gourmet food stores. We will explore history of the lower East Side, the role the delicatessen played in the life of these immigrants - tracing it all the way up to today.

Come share your stories of family - of Lower East Side - of beloved foods eaten as children - your favorite sandwich - your favorite delicatessen

**Presenter:** Andrea Irvine  
**Coordinators:** Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

**Course:** **POETS WORKSHOP** (*In-person only*)  
**Room:** Brooklyn Room (Note: This class ends at 3:00 P.M.)

Write a poem using the cue word "serenity" or a word of the poet's choice. Authors will read their poems and bring copies of each poem to the class for a second reading by a classmate. A discussion of the poem will follow.

**Coordinators:** Judith Winn, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 2:45 P.M.**

**Course: *SOLE MATES* (In-person only)**

**Meet: by elevators on 7th floor.**

**Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine and Laura Lopez will lead us on our FIRST SPRING SEMESTER walk along the Hudson River.**

**Leaving Quest at 2:45, we will proceed to Battery Park and then head North.**

**It is up to you how far you walk - lots of transport options in the Oculus Train Station with option of ending at a 'watering hole' for good cheer before heading home.**

**No signups, no commitments - just serendipity, community and a healthy heart.**

**A great way to end a week of Questing.**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 11:00 A.M.**

**ALEX KATZ: GATHERING**  
**CultureQuest**

**Virtual Tour at the Guggenheim Museum**  
**Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M.**

**The Farmer's Almanac predicts cold and inclement weather on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, so make sure to stay cozy and tune in to the virtual tour from the Guggenheim, Alex Katz: Gathering! The talented Ellen Edelman, Gallery Educator who led us for Pollock and Kandinsky, will guide us through. This exhibition is a retrospective spanning the totality of the artist's astonishingly long and robust career which may**

**finally make this artist more recognizable. Born in 1927, we will look at this artist and his work at 95.**

**Katz's paintings are divided into genres of portraiture, landscape, and printmaking. Since the 1960's, he has painted views of New York (especially his immediate surroundings in Soho) and landscapes of Maine, as well as portraits of family members, artists, writers, and New York society protagonists. His paintings are defined by their flatness of color and form, their economy of line, and their cool but seductive emotional detachment.**

**Katz achieved great public prominence in the early 1960's influenced by films, television, and billboard advertising. He began painting large-scale paintings often with cropped faces. In 1977, Katz was invited to create a public work to be produced in billboard format above Times Square. If you were living in the city at that time, you may remember seeing the billboard that extended 247 feet along two sides of the RKO building. It consisted of a frieze composed of 23 portrait heads of women.**

**Plan to join us Friday February 17th at 11:00 A.M.**

**e-mail [dena@kerren.us](mailto:dena@kerren.us)**

**to reserve your spot!**

**We will cap this tour at 40 participants and have a waitlist.**

**We will send you access a day or two before the tour.**

***Important note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on 'future waitlists only' when they sign up to attend in-person CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.***

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

**CultureQuest**

**NORMA**

**METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE OPEN REHEARSAL**

**(In-Person Only)**

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 A.M. to 2:15 P.M. (3 hours 15 minutes)**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE**

**Celebrated for its finely shaped melodies and exquisite arias, Vincenzo *Bellini's* powerful opera NORMA is full of gorgeous music. The action takes place in Gaul under the Roman occupation, and is centered on the love triangle between Pollione, the Roman proconsul of Gaul, Norma, his former companion, and the young Adalgisa. The background is the uprising of the Gallic people against the Roman occupiers, led by the Druid Oroveso.**

**COST: There is no charge for this rehearsal. Limited to 50 participants.**

**We will meet in the lobby of the Metropolitan Opera House no later than 10:00am to receive tickets.**

**To reserve your place, please send an email ASAP to Estelle Selzer at [eselzer19@gmail.com](mailto:eselzer19@gmail.com)**

**\*We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership**

**Please put NORMA in the subject of your email. I will send you an immediate confirmation if you make the cut. Save it.**

**First come, first served. We will have a waitlist.**

***Important note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on 'future waitlists only' when they sign up to attend in-person CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.***