

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 20 – 23, 2023

This is an “A” 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 20, 2023 IS PRESIDENTS DAY
QUEST WILL BE CLOSED**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Russian Aggression in the 21st Century

Come to Foreign Affairs to learn about the Russian invasions of Ukraine, the Crimea, and the Republic of Georgia. See how Putin sees these conflicts, and the reasons why Russia has attacked its neighbors. Be prepared to have your questions about these events answered, and to contribute your thoughts.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried

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

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Constantine Cavafy

Constantine Cavafy (1863-1933), also known as the Alexandrian, filled his poems with history from Homer to Byzantium, from Alexandria to the Punjab. Some of his work is erotic, set in a contemporary setting. Volunteers will read several of his poems. The class will linger in discussion after each reading.

Presenter: Art Spar

Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: Belgian Cultural Figures

Ellen Rittberg will present some favorite Belgian cultural figures of the past, including singer Jacques Brel, and artists James Ensor and Rogier Van der Weyden. She will also share her four-month stay in Belgium living with a French family and then an American diplomatic family, while working as a student teacher at the American School.

Ellen Rittberg présentera quelques artistes belges dans le passé, y compris le chanteur Jacques Brel et les peintres James Ensor et Rogier Van der Weyden. Elle partagera aussi son séjour de 4 mois en Belgique où elle a vécu avec une famille française et après avec une famille américaine pendant qu'elle travaillait comme élève-professeur dans the American School.

Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

FRESHMAN CLASS MEETING-12-12:50 PM, Room 52-53

This meeting, the first in a series of four, is an introduction to and overview of the Quest experience.

At this meeting you will:

- **Meet Quest's Acting President Wayne Cotter.**
- **Learn how to access Quest's information and communication tools including the comprehensive resources available on our website.**
- **Meet Beth Callender and Peter Dichter, Co-Chairs of the Marketing and Communications Committee and hear about their work.**

- **Be able to ask questions about any aspect of Quest's activities and procedures.**
- **Engage with other new members.**

Who is invited:

New Spring 2023 members.

All 2022 new members.

Any current members who would like a refresher or may have missed sessions during previous semesters.

Note: Feel free to bring your lunch!

We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 21!

John Spiegel, Chair, New Members Committee, Susan Keohane, Co-Chair

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: FOLK MUSIC (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Tom Paxton

Come to Folk Music to hear and sing the songs of Tom Paxton including Ramblin Boy, I Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound and The Last Thing on My Mind. Learn about his personal life, and his career as a Folk Artist. Should be a fun class that brings back memories of our youth.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

Course: SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS *(In-person only)*

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Volcanos for Dummies

We will find out what volcanos have to do with the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey? Is the Ring of Fire only a song? Are there underwater volcanos? Are volcanos on other planets similar to those on earth? What impact did they have on antiquity? Can modern science predict when a volcano will blow its top?

Presenter: Linda Rothstein

Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Marion Schulteis, Judy Weis

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP *(In-person only)*

(NOTE: This class runs until 3 p.m.)

Room: Room 27

Explore and enjoy sharing your writing with fellow Questers in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere.

Every class begins with a prompt for ten minutes of writing (sharing is optional).

In the next class, we will work together on turning a familiar story into science fiction, looking at the elements that are similar and different from regular prose fiction.

Bring your writing in any genre (fantasy, memoir, romance, mystery, humor, science fiction), in poetry or prose. (Prose should be kept to 750 words or less but longer pieces can be read over several classes.)

Various aspects of writing are discussed; such as dialogue, characterization, setting, openings, using the senses, and vivid description.

Bring a notebook for in-class writing and 10 copies of your piece to share with the class.

Need ideas for a topic? How about your favorite toy as a child or something you've been thinking a lot about lately.

Presenter: Judy Hampson

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)**

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The History of the U.S. Constitution

What issue almost caused the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 to fall apart? What did the delegates, and the constitution, say about slavery? Why did the delegates adopt the electoral college instead of allowing for the direct vote for the President? And why didn't the original Constitution have a Bill of Rights? This presentation will address these questions, describe the convention and subsequent ratification process, and discuss the pivotal roles played by George Washington, James Madison, and less well-known convention delegates such as Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania.

Presenter: Karen Cullen

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Course: **SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: Taming of the Shrew

1. In order to facilitate our understanding and appreciation of this comedy, Ellie Schaffer will present her talk entitled “The Humanist Education of Katherine.”
2. The class will read aloud and discuss the Induction of Christopher Sly and Act I.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CLASSIC MOVIES (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

HIGH NOON - Bob Reiss –APPLE, VUDU Rent; from Amazon Prime for \$3.99; Rent at YouTube \$3.99. On his last day in office, town marshal Will Kane gets married and plans to retire on a farm but news that paroled killer Frank Miller is coming to get revenge on Kane changes the Marshal’s retirement plans.

GOODFELLAS - Judith Winn - Rent at APPLE for \$3.99. The story of Henry Hill and his life in the mob, covering his relationship with his wife Karen Hill and his mob partners Jimmy Conway and Tommy DeVito in the Italian-American crime syndicate.

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA - Marian Friedmann - MAX, APPLE, VUDU Rent at Amazon Prime for \$3.99. A sweeping, epic, and literate version of a British adventurer and English Officer. T. E. *Lawrence’s* experiences in *Arabia* during the First World War. *Lawrence*, miraculously united and led the diverse, often warring, Arab tribes during World War I in order to fight the Turks.

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold, Vince Grosso

Course: UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Whither The Supreme Court?

Each week's class will begin with a focus on one topic likely to have a major impact on our nation's future. This week, Michael Wellner will address the question: "Whither the Supreme Court?" In the aftermath of recent Court decisions that represent the reversal of long-standing precedents and laws, the Court finds its approval rating plummeting to historic lows, and its legitimacy questioned. Just what does the current session augur for the rights of the American people? Will long-standing precedents be reversed, and exactly what impact does the Court have, not only on certain individuals, but on our American society overall? As always, there will be ample time for discussion on this, and any other topic(s) you may like.

Presenter: Michael Wellner

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Howard Salik

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: AGING (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: What We Can Learn About Aging, Death and Dying From Other Cultures?

Other cultures – many much older than ours – have different traditions about aging, death and dying. Why are the elderly so revered in Japan and China? What is Mexico's Dia de Los Muertos all about? Why are "right to die" and assisted suicide so accepted in Switzerland? And what can Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet, teach us about love and death? We will discuss these topics and more in this thought-provoking session.

Presenters: Arlynn Greenbaum and Gordon Gilbert
Coordinators: Art Spar, Bryn Meehan, Larry Shapiro

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE *(In-person only)*

Room: 27

Subject: CRISPR and Gene Editing

We'll be discussing the latest developments in science news. Following up on a question from our previous session, we'll have a presentation on the current status of CRISPR and gene editing, including a discussion of its ethical dilemmas.

Discussion Leader: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Marion Schultheis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: WATER *(Hybrid)*

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: Swimming in the Water Part II: People

Having looked at much of the animal kingdom swimming in the first class, this time we focus on one species: Human beings. We will examine the Who, Where, When, How, and Why of people swimming. Who: who swims and who doesn't and why not; Where: the various places, some surprising, where we swim; When: the seasons and times of day; How: examining the various strokes we use that can get us moving efficiently in the water; and finally, Why: the many reasons why people swim (and dive) ranging from survival if your ship sinks, to exercise, competition, Zen, entertainment, exploration, discovery, and research

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Stories to read for Thurs, February 23 at 1 pm

1. *"In the Stacks"* by Robin Sloan Presenter: Steve Allen

Robin Sloan is a novelist, short story writer, essayist, musician, technologist, and producer of olive oil based in the San Francisco area. He has an incredibly interesting website, robinsloan.com, with links to a large selection of his writing.

2. *"All Rivers"* by Amos Oz Presenter: Frieda Lipp

Amos Oz,(1939-2018), renowned Israeli writer, novelist, journalist, professor, intellectual, and prominently controversial advocate of the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this story, Oz takes us into the esoteric, international world of stamp collecting, the Holocaust, and the wooing of two damaged, fragile poets.

Links for the two stories have been sent in a separate email to all Questers via QuestBusiness.

A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the A-week box in the lunchroom,

Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye@earthlink.net

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

CULTURE QUEST

NORMA

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE OPEN REHEARSAL

(In-Person Only)

Saturday, February 25th, 11:00am to 2:15 (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 10:30am to receive tickets.

To reserve your place, please send an email asap to Estelle Selzer at 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.

CULTURE QUEST

“I’ll Have What She’s Having”

NY Historical Society

March 3, 2023 @ 11:15am

(In-person Only)

Organized by the Skirball Cultural Center, “I’ll Have What She’s Having”: The Jewish Deli exhibit examines how Jewish immigrants, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe, imported and adapted traditions to create a uniquely American restaurant and reveals how the Jewish delicatessen became a cornerstone of American food culture. The exhibition explores the food of immigration, the heyday of the deli in the interwar period, delis and Broadway, stories of Holocaust survivors and war refugees who worked in delis, the shifting and shrinking landscapes of delis across the country, and delis in popular culture.

WHEN & WHERE: Friday March 3, 2023

Lobby of the NY Historical Society, no later than 10:45am.

170 Central Park West at 77th Street

**TO RESERVE: Send an email asap to Estelle Selzer at
eselzer19@gmail.com.**

Please put DELI TOUR in the subject of your email. Your email will be acknowledged asap.

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

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

COST: \$10. Please leave a check payable to Quest in the box in the office labeled CultureQuest asap to hold your reservation. Limited to only 20 participants.

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 live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

TO RESERVE LUNCH: Did the exhibition get you hungry? The restaurant Storico is offering new, deli-themed menu options, including a Pastrami on rye sandwich and smoked white fish dip. Please indicate in your email if you plan to join us for lunch so we can coordinate with the restaurant.