

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

May 2 – 5

This is an “A” Week

There are four links for all classes throughout the semester: Auditorium, Classroom 15-17, Classroom 52-53, 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 <https://zoom.us/> 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.

FOR ALL AUDITORIUM CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH
NxbFI4YnRwdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152954768?pwd=c0ZVbm5IRGEvbG9WWH
NxbFI4YnRwdz09)**

Meeting ID: 841 5295 4768

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0Um
xTbDRXQ0RDQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82513720307?pwd=a21sdmNOaWpyN1g0Um
xTbDRXQ0RDQT09)**

Meeting ID: 825 1372 0307

Passcode: 252525

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 52-53 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlp
WnBGeFNCdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83796273632?pwd=L0o1RFppTGJBZXF6eGlp
WnBGeFNCdz09)**

Meeting ID: 837 9627 3632

Passcode: 25252

FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES:

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek1
5bmlTNIIjUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82484341199?pwd=dEN5SUVkSFdsNHhOek1
5bmlTNIIjUT09)**

Meeting ID: 824 8434 1199

Passcode: 252525

PLEASE NOTE: Unless indicated below, all classes are conducted at 25 Broadway, with presenters mostly presenting live. In some cases, a presenter may not be live at 25 Broadway, but will present from home via Zoom. In the week beginning May 2, all presentations are currently scheduled to feature live presenters except (1) Tuesday's Comedy & Satire class; (2) Wednesday's Slavery class; and (3) Thursday's Nobel Prizes class. Please note that all lunchtime activities (except the French class) are in person only.

MONDAY, May 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS
Room: Auditorium
Album: "Too-Rye-Ay" by Dexys Midnight Runners (1982)

What would you get if you combined classic sixties soul music with traditional Irish music? If you're lucky, something that sounds a lot like Dexys Midnight Runners second album, "Too-Rye-Ay."

Many Quest members may remember the Dexy single "C'mon Eileen" that rocketed to number one in both the UK and U.S in 1982 and subsequently became a wedding party staple. The good news is the rest of the album is also joyous, intriguing and highly listenable.

Both Wayne Cotter and Steve Koenig have been huge fans of this controversial band for decades so their insights into Dexys Midnight Runners should be revealing. You might even find out what "Too-Rye-Ay" means.

Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig
Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: A PASSAGE TO INDIA

Room: Classroom 15-17

In the concluding chapters of the book, Aziz has moved to a Hindu state and established a new life. How have his attitudes and character changed, and what critical mistake has he made with regard to Fielding? Why do you think Forster chose a huge Hindu celebration as a prominent part of the book's ending? Although Mrs. Moore has died, in what way does she remain an important figure in the story? Thinking back to Chapter I when Aziz and his friends discuss whether Indians and Englishmen can be friends, how does Forster address this question in the last chapter?

Discussion

Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, May 2 @ 12:00PM - 1:00 P.M

Course: Noontime Knowledge

Room: 15- 17

Come listen to the candidates for at-large Council seats David Bernard, Arlynn Greenbaum, Larry Shapiro, and Judy Winn. Be an educated voter by asking questions of the candidates either in person or via Zoom. Voting will be solely electronically from May 5-8.

MONDAY, May 2 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY

Room: Auditorium

Subject: German Culture

For most of the European Age of Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries, contributions from the German lands were minimal. When Frederick the Great built up a major center for enlightenment

scholarship in Berlin in the 1740's, nearly all of his scholars were imported from France. Frederick himself wrote exclusively in French, almost always spoke French rather than German, and expressed contempt for German culture outside of music. Yet, by the middle of the 19th century, Germans were recognized throughout Europe as the center of leadership in philosophy, history, mathematics, physics, chemistry, medicine, and many other fields of scholarship and German universities were considered a model to be emulated. This talk will look at how this transformation came about and its consequences for culture and learning throughout the world.

Presenter: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY
Room: Classroom 15-17

Since this is our last class of the semester for Contemporary Poetry, we ask that participants make a choice. You may bring a favorite poem to read aloud, even if you have read it previously. Or you may read a poem you had chosen for a previous class but did not have the time to read.

Please send a copy in advance to Martha at mdrezin@aol.com who will create a packet of poems to share on screen. We look forward to hearing you read your chosen poems in our final class, either in person or on Zoom.

Coordinators: Betty Farber, Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp

TUESDAY, May 3 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS & THEIR WORK
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Giotto di Bondone

“One of the five best artists in history.”

“There are few men in the entire history of art to equal the stature of Giotto as a radical innovator.”

“Giotto is the father of western pictorial art.”

“... the summit among painters.”

Who is this artist that receives such high praise from these renowned art historians? And about an artist who lived in the 14th Century no less? Giotto was the first to break away from the flat, stiff figures of Byzantine art. He created an entirely new picture space and gave his figures weight, depth and emotion that moved away from the ideal and toward realism. His scenes were more realistic and human than anything that had been done in a thousand years. Giotto was probably the first painter to become a “rock star” during his lifetime and grew to become the wealthiest and most famous painter of his day. The importance of Giotto to the art world cannot be overstated.

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

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Open Readings

One of the most enjoyable classes of each semester is the last. We do open readings. If you have a favorite poem you would like to share with the class, this is your opportunity. Whether it is from this semester’s

theme of Poets Laureate, or any poem you are dying to read, now is your chance. Please send an email to Art Spar arthur.spar@gmail.com to reserve your space.

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

TUESDAY, May 3 @ 12:00PM - 1:00 P.M

Course: Noontime Knowledge
Room: 15--17

The candidates for Quest offices, Wayne Cotter, Vice President, Karen Levin, Secretary, and Peter Fleischman will be giving 5-minute talks at Noontime in room 15-17 and will be available to answer questions from members who attend in person or via Zoom. Voting will take place solely electronically from May 5-8.

TUESDAY, May 3 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY AND SATIRE
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Laughter - What it is, where it comes from, and what it does to us, and for us!

Laughter – what a familiar, fundamental and wonderful behavior of humans. The sound which we all love to hear, especially from children, and the behavior we strive to do more of. We automatically laugh without thinking, yet we are unable to make ourselves laugh, although we sometimes try to fake it. But exactly what is this fascinating feature of humans?

Come and hear what laughter is, where it came from, when we do it, and most importantly, what it does for our bodies, our minds and our

relationships. As Charlie Chaplin said, “A Day without laughter is a day wasted.”

Presenter: Joel Mittler

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP** (NOTE: This class runs until 3 p.m.)

Room: Classroom 15-17

This class is open to all Quest authors regardless of genres so please join us in person (or on Zoom) with a writing you want to share for class feedback.

- Keep prose to under 750 words or create multiple parts to share over a few classes.
- Class begins with a ten-minute free-writing exercise (sharing is optional).
- Bringing one of your writings is encouraged but not required to attend the class.
- Bring a notebook for in-class writing.

Need a prompt for some inspiration? I will never write about...

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Course: **READING EDITH WHARTON** (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

At this final session, we are fortunate to welcome guest speakers, Harriet Shapiro, librarian at The New York Society Library on 53 East 79th Street, and her colleague Diane Srebnik. Together, they will give a fascinating insight into early members of Edith Wharton’s family who were members of the library and into Wharton’s life growing up in “Old

New York” of the 1870s as well as a discussion of The Age of Innocents for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921.

All Quest members are encouraged to join us for this very special session of Reading Edith Wharton.

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga

WEDNESDAY, May 4 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: SLAVERY’S ROLE IN U.S. CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Reparations for Slavery? The Debate

The debate over reparations for slavery may be the single most divisive idea in American politics and many minds are already made up, both pro and con. Advocates have spent decades calling on the U.S. government to assess how such a policy could be implemented and to enact a law that might offer some form of restitution to the descendants of enslaved people.

A California Reparations Task Force recently determined to use a “lineage-based” standard restricting restitution to the descendants of free or enslaved Black people who were in the U.S. prior to the end of the 19th century. Dividing the Black community is this Task Force’s decision to reject a “race-based” approach for eligibility whereby all of its Black residents would be eligible for compensation.

Divergent viewpoints on the reparation argument will be addressed.

Presenters: Glenn Johnston & Sandy Frank
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, June Zaccone

Course: **SHAKESPEARE**
Room: **Classroom 15-17**
Play: **The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet**

The class will finish reading aloud the play beginning with Act 4, scene 4. Discussion will include:

- 1. The character of Juliet as described by Pamela Allen Brown.**
- 2. A 1845 production described by James Shapiro.**
- 3. Consideration of the play as a Tragedy.**

Presenter: **Roy Clary**
Coordinators: **Roy Clary, James Brook, Ellie Schaffer**

WEDNESDAY, May 4 @ 12:00PM - 1:00 P.M

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

Come listen to the candidates for at-large Council seats David Bernard, Arlynn Greenbaum, Larry Shapiro, and Judy Winn. Be an educated voter by asking questions of the candidates either in person or via Zoom. Voting will be solely electronically from May 5-8.

WEDNESDAY, May 4 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **READING THE RABBIS**
Room: **Classroom 15-17**
Subject: **A Little Bit of This; A Little Bit of That**

For the final session, we will look at various short passages that highlight the Talmud's range of interests and inquiries: including an extraordinary comment on pigs!

Presenter: **Paul Golomb**
Coordinators: **Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss**

Course: INDIE FILMS
Room: Auditorium

We're calling our final session **"FILM CLASSICS"**, and we'll review three of the five most popular films of all time.

"SCHINDLER'S LIST" - Vince Grosso will discuss its creation 26 years after it was released and its impact on thought and morality.

"THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION" - Michele Mackey will give us her impression of a film that had a so-so premiere 28 years ago, but through the years audiences have recognized it as a true gem in storyline and performances.

"THE GODFATHER" - Howard Salik - On its 50th anniversary it remains unchallenged as one of the greatest films ever made. We'll look at some of its scenes, its history and why it almost didn't come to the screen.

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold, Brenda Zusman

THURSDAY, May 5 @ 10:30 A.M. - NOON

Course: ANTISEMITISM: PAST, PRESENT, FACTS, MYTHS
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Being Jewish. What does it mean - today - and for the future? Listen in as Jews of all backgrounds reflect, argue, and imagine.

Daniel Pearl's final words before he was executed were, "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish." An idea germinated. Danny's last words could serve as a catalyst for fellow Jews to reflect upon, question, ponder, discuss, analyze, and hopefully clarify their own feelings about their Jewishness. A book evolved - **I Am Jewish: Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl.**

An ensemble of Questers will read the contributions of individuals from all walks of life including Lawrence Summers, Wendy Wasserstein, Deborah Lipstadt, Elie Wiesel, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Ehud Barak, Nadine Gordimer, Amos Oz.

We look forward to seeing you at this concluding session of "Antisemitism: Past, Present, Facts, Myths."

Presenters: Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward, Bob Reiss, Marian Friedmann, Harriet Finkelstein

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Marian Friedmann, Bob Reiss

Course: THE NOBEL PRIZES

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Pseudo "Nobel" in Economics: Who Gets it? And Who Doesn't?

The Nobel prize in Economics is sometimes called the pseudo-Nobel. Why was it established? What types of economists and theories has it favored? And what have been the consequences for the field of economics and the advice our society gets from economists? We'll look at some winners—the distinguished, the dubious, and the damaging. And why a remarkable woman, one of the most distinguished economists of the 20th c., didn't get the prize.

Presenter: June Zaccone

Coordinators: Laura Lopez, Marion Schultheis

THURSDAY, May 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: ACTING WORKSHOP (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

The class remains in rehearsal for "From Serious To Silly...a potpourri of scenes and skits." Material ranges from pieces by Tennessee Williams to A.R. Gurney to Mel Brooks, to Bob and Ray. The rehearsal

is the final one prior to presentation in the Great Plays course on Monday, May 9 at 1PM in the Auditorium.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, John Spiegel

Course: MOVERS AND SHAKERS
Room: Classroom 27
Subject: Marcel Proust

Marcel Proust was born in 1871, in Paris, into an affluent and prominent family. He would go on to study law and literature, and as a young man, would make his way into the most glittering of Parisian salons. There he met and socialized with the intellectual, artistic, and aristocratic elite. Later, after WWI, he would isolate himself in his apartment to write his famous work, « In Search of Lost Time », which many have described, as the one of the most important works of literature in the 20th century. The series of seven novels is a reflection/remembrance of his life, as well as a chronicle of the Belle Époque era in Paris.

Presenter: Paul Adler
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Caroline Thompson

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES
Room: Classroom 15-17

Note: The first few lines of each story are listed below to give a feel for the story.

***1. “Richard” and “Kafka’s Axe” (translated from Hebrew by Ze’eva and the author)**

Author: Rebecca Rass
Presenter: Ze’eva Cohen

First lines of “Richard”. “Yes, no doubt, deep down he knows that even though this morning he woke up as usual, showered and shaved as usual, drank a cup of black coffee while reading the morning paper, just as usual, this morning is different from all other mornings. This morning he woke up a stranger to place and time. ...”

First lines of “Kafka’s Axe”: “One day, when Habakkuk was in fourth grade, he returned from school, and as he entered his home, he overheard his mother speak on the phone, “If only I could find Kafka’s axe,” she sighed, “I could have been much happier.” “

Rebecca Rivka Rass was born in Israel. After serving in the Israeli Air Force, she studied at The Hebrew University of Tel Aviv and later at Brooklyn College. Rivka has taught in the English Depts. of City College, Hofstra U., and Pace U., where she is a Senior Professor and is still teaching. Her books, fiction and non-fiction, were published in New York, in Israel, Switzerland, and Spain.

***2. “Things We Worried About When I Was Ten“**

Author: David Rabe

Presenter: Linda Downs

First lines: “High on the list was trying not to have the older boys decide to de-pants you and then run your pants up the flagpole, leaving you in your underwear, and maybe bloodied if you’d struggled—not that it helped, because they were bigger and stronger—and your pants flapping way up against the sky over the schoolyard.”

David William Rabe (born 1940) is an American playwright and screenwriter, known for his loose trilogy of plays drawing on his experiences as a draftee in Vietnam, Sticks and Bones (1969), the Tony Award-winning The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel (1971), and Streamers (1976). Rabe is also author of novels Dinosaurs on the Roof, Recital of the Dog, and a short story collection, A Primitive Heart.

***Note:** Look for copies of the short stories in a separate email about the class sent via QuestBusiness to all Quest members.

Also, a few print copies of the stories will be available in the A-Week box in the lunchroom.

If you have any questions, please email Nancy, nancyrye@earthlink.net

Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp

CultureQuest Tour

"Jewish Harlem"

Friday, May 6th, 11:00 a.m.- Noon

In-person guided tour

Walk and study with Prof. Jeffrey Gurock as he recounts the history of Harlem that, in its heyday before 1917, was home to the second largest Jewish community in America. See their institutional remnants and learn about both the poor and wealthy Jews who made up what was often contentious groups of immigrants and their children.

Jeffrey S. Gurock is the Libby M. Klaperman Professor of Jewish History at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies of Yeshiva University. He is the author or editor of twenty-three books, including A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community: Mordechai Kaplan, Orthodoxy and American Judaism (Columbia University Press) which in 1998 was awarded the Saul Viener Prize from the American Jewish Historical Society for that year's best book in the field. His Jews in Gotham: New York Jews in a Changing City (NYU Press) won, in 2012, the Everett Family Foundation Prize for the Best Book from the Jewish Council. Gurock is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Jewish Research and the New York Academy of History and has been designated by the Association for Jewish Studies as a Distinguished

Lecturer. His most recent academic work, *Parkchester: A Bronx Tale of Race and Ethnicity* (NYU Press) appeared in October 2019.

Our tour is limited to 20 guests. We are meeting in front of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church located at the corner of W.120th St. and Lenox Avenue at 10:45. The 2 & 3 trains go to 116th St. and it is a short walk from the subway. Please sign up if you are sincerely interested in attending.

More information to follow upon confirmation. Reserve your place by email to hedy.shulman@gmail.com.