

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 26 – 30, 2022

This is an “B” Week

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.

THE *QREVIEW* IS EAGER FOR YOUR WORK

**As we settle into the fall semester
QReview, our annual literary and arts magazine,
is calling for your Poetry, Prose, and Art**

**How can you fully enjoy this fall semester?
By sending your creative work to the *QReview***

**Do you like to write poetry or prose?
Do you enjoy creating art?**

Beat the November 1 deadline by emailing your prose (800 word maximum) to our prose editor, Donna Ramer, donnaramer1@gmail.com, and your poetry (76 line maximum including the spaces between stanzas and 64 characters per line) to our poetry editor Art Spar, arthur.spar@gmail.com, If you are submitting artwork, contact our art editor Paul Adler, adlerworks@verizon.net for details.

**Quest is Closed Monday and Tuesday
September 26 and 27**

WEDNESDAY, September 28 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

**Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: *Supertall: How the World's Tallest Buildings are Reshaping Our Cities and Our Lives* by Stefan Al**

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

We are living in a new urban age, and its most tangible expression is the "supertall" megastructures that are dramatically bigger, higher, and more ambitious than any in history.

In this fascinating work of urban history and design, Stefan Al explores the factors that have led to the worldwide boom. He reveals the marvelous and underappreciated feats of engineering that make today's supertalls a reality. Taking readers behind the scenes of the building and design of remarkable megastructures, both from the past and the present, Al demonstrates the impact of these innovations.

Yet while the supertall is undoubtedly a testament to great technological victories, it can come at an environmental and social cost. Focusing on four global cities - London, New York, Hong Kong and Singapore - Al examines the risks of wealth inequality, carbon emissions, and contagion that stem from supertalls. And he uncovers the latest innovations in sustainable building, from skyscrapers made of wood to tree-covered buildings that promise to yield a better urban future.

Supertall is both a fascinating exploration of our greatest accomplishments and a powerful argument for a more equitable way forward. But there is a dark side - the "American Dream" of owning your own home may one day be a thing of the past if the movement towards living in cities continues.

Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

Course: **SOCRATES AND THE PROBLEM OF PHILOSOPHY (In-person only)**

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Socrates and the Problem of Democracy

Socrates (as he is represented in the dialogues of Plato) considered democracy a totally unsatisfactory system of government. He considered citizens too ignorant and easily swayed to make correct policy choices or to pick the best representatives. He compared democracy to a ship being commanded by passengers ignorant of the art of sailing or commanded by a captain selected by ill-informed passengers. Today, we can expect nearly everyone to support democracy as the best form of government. But are we so sure? We'll have a discussion based on some more current versions of Socrates' critique. Readings will be distributed in advance on QuestBusiness.

Discussion

Leader: Steve Allen

Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Steve Allen

WEDNESDAY, September 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Gary Ginsberg, Author of *First Friends*

Subject: Gary Ginsberg In Conversation with Howard Wolfson

Gary L. Ginsberg is a lawyer, political operative and corporate adviser, serving as a strategist in both the public and private sectors for more than 25 years. A former George editor and counsel, he worked in the Clinton administration before holding executive positions at News Corporation, Time Warner, and Softbank. He is the author of *FIRST FRIENDS*, an engaging look into the lives of commanders-in-chief and how their presidencies were shaped by those on whom they relied and held most dear.

Howard Wolfson is a Democratic political strategist. He served as a counselor to the former mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg.

Please join us for a lively conversation about American Presidents.

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

THURSDAY, September 29 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (In-person only)
Room: Room 27
Subject: Planet Earth: Why Are There Ocean Basins, Continents, and Mountains?

The Earth never stops moving under our feet. We'll use the American Museum of Natural History's Hall of Planet Earth as our guide to learning how and why.

The major topics covered will be vulcanism, seismology, and plate tectonics along with a little history of how scientists figured it out.

Presenter: Andrew Epstein
Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Steve Allen

Course: AUSTRALIA: DOWN UNDER (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Fauna in the Land Down Under

Geologically separated from the rest of the world for eons, Australia has been an incubator for the development of the unique and often bizarre. From egg-laying mammals to thorn studded lizards, more than 80% of its fauna does not exist anywhere else in the world

Struck by the uniqueness of these creatures, scientists have learned much about adaptation and evolution. Some even want to bring back creatures that went extinct many decades ago. Marion will discuss their stories and more, like the Great Emu War of 1932.

Presenter: Marion Schultheis

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

THURSDAY, September 29 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: CREATIVITY WORKSHOP (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 52-53

Subject: Storytelling Workshop

We are all storytellers. All humans are. Every time a story is told, it is created anew. Every story is created by the joining of teller and listener.

To quote David Heathfield, a well-known storytelling teacher, in this workshop, we will get comfortable “in telling stories using our imaginations, bodies, faces, and voices—until the stories are no longer coming from the printed page but from our ‘selves.’”

We will practice with short traditional tales—folk tales or myths—in a nonjudgmental, accepting environment.

Come try!

Presenter: Ellen S. Shapiro

Coordinators: Mary Ann Donnelly, Beth Callender

Course: **GREAT CONVERSATIONS (In-person only)**
Room: **Classroom 15-17**
Subject: **Anthropology and the Abnormal by Ruth Benedict**

When Ruth Benedict compared human societies to each other, she observed that one society's idea of human excellence was another society's idea of deviance. In 1934, what lessons could be drawn from this? Anthropology and the Abnormal comes from an era when anthropologists believed their young science could change the course of history and save humankind from catastrophe. Anthropology today is a more data-driven and less audacious science, but Benedict's themes remain relevant to readers who believe we need to understand 'the big picture' before we can correct course. Let's discuss this at the next class. The essay is available on page 185 of the book Great Conversations 5, and online. I'll be sending a link to an online source via Quest Business.

Discussion

Leader: **Larry Shapiro**
Coordinators: **Jane Lubin, Larry Shapiro**

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP (In-person only)**
Room: **Classroom 27 (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)**

Write a poem using the cue word "boots" 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, September 29 @ 2:45 P.M.

Event: SOLE MATES (In-person only)
Our Q'xtra Fortnightly event in "B" Week
Meet: By the elevator on the 7th floor of the Cunard Building

Laura Lopez, Marian Friedmann, and Andrea Irvine will lead us on our second walk along the Hudson River. We leave Quest at 2:45, proceed to Battery Park, and then head north.

It is up to you how far you walk. There are lots of transportation options in the Oculus.

There are no signups or commitments, just serendipity, community, and a healthy heart, a great way to end a week of Questing.

Coordinators: Laura Lopez, Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine

CULTUREQUEST

Friday, September 30, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum

(In-Person Tour)

421 East 61st Street, New York, N.Y. 10065

(Between 1st Avenue and York Avenue)

**"An exquisite experience! This gem is a MUST see
for any history buff."**

"For a little while you can imagine life as it must have been a couple hundred years ago. A visit helps keep today's life in perspective."

Housed in one of the few pre-1800 buildings left in Manhattan, the Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum transports visitors back to 1826 when the hotel served as a day's respite from the dirt and noise of the streets below 14th street where most Manhattanites lived.

The docent-led tour will guide you through eight furnished period rooms, including a fully restored kitchen and an elegant Ladies Parlor. The Museum showcases the luxury furnishings of the era: fine bone China, artisanal furniture, and multiple tea services. There are 6 gentle steps up the Museum entrance, and the tour visits the Museum's two floors

COST: \$8.00 - Please bring a check made out to "Cash" or \$8.00 in cash with you. Limited to 20 participants.

To reserve your place, please send an email ASAP to Maureen Berman at bermanmaureen@gmail.com. First come, first served. We'll 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 live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

We'd love you to join us after the tour for lunch and conversation at Sea Salt, a Modern Greek and Mediterranean Restaurant, 1123 First Avenue (62nd Street.) Please let me know when you RSVP.
