

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

December 5 – 8, 2022

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, December 5 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: CLASSIC ROCK ALBUMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Album: Caravan Tonight by Steven Grossman (1974)

Caravan Tonight is the first-ever album of songs on a major label (Mercury) by a gay man about his life and loves, a rare happening even to this day, but it's far more than a historical document. Some of the lyrics and arrangements recall Laura Nyro's album New York Tendaberry. It is brilliantly orchestrated, and Grossman has a unique voice, at once velvety and raspy.

Presenters: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter

Course: HUCKLEBERRY FINN (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

As we have come to the end of the book, our last class will focus on the major themes and characteristics that have distinguished Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from all other American fiction at the time of its publication. Think about the narrator, the use of dialect, where the story takes place, the juxtaposition of racial injustice and religion, and the symbolism of the raft. What do we think of Tom Sawyer and his plans to free Jim? Most important is the moral development of Huck's conscience. What is the significance of Huck's decision at the end of the book?

Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler

MONDAY, December 5th @ 12:10 – 12:50 P.M.

Course: MUSIC OF THE HEART (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Join fellow Quest music buffs during lunch and enjoy these beautiful pieces of music:

Arlene will showcase the heavenly, intimate & very inventive first movement of Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto in G major, a jewel of a different color within Beethoven's commanding and heroic output. Recent advances in piano construction are utilized, and the emphasis here is less on bravura and more on radiant beauty.

Mary Beth will introduce us to “As Steals The Morn” - has been called one of the sublime moments in all of Handel's oratorios. This duet is from “L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato,” which gained wider popularity when it was choreographed by Mark Morris in 1988.

Presenters: Arlene Hajinlian, Mary Beth Yakoubian

Coordinators: Frank Montaturo, Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, December 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: COMEDY AND SATIRE (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Flanders and Swann

Michael Flanders and Donald Swann have been called the 20th century's Gilbert and Sullivan. Like G&S, these Englishmen wrote funny and satirical songs and one (Flanders) wrote the words and the other (Swann) wrote the music. Also, like G&S, they are remembered and performed more in the UK than the U.S. However, unlike G&S, they did not include their songs in operettas but performed them themselves in

revues. Two of their revues came to Broadway, "At the Drop of a Hat" in the late '50s and "At the Drop of Another Hat" in the early '60s.

While much of the satire pokes gentle fun at English ways, most are also applicable on this side of the pond.

Presenter: Judy Weis

Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner

Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: Science Clubhouse, A New Course This Spring

In this class we give an overview of our new course, Science Clubhouse, which is a science discussion course. This class will answer the following questions:

- **What is the Science Clubhouse course all about?**
- **What can you expect?**
- **How can you participate?**
- **What are some of the proposed topics?**

We will, in this introductory session, discuss some recent science news: Artemis mission to the moon; China Launches Astronauts to Newly Completed Space Station; and One Step Closer to a Universal Flu Vaccine

Presenter: Marion Schultheis

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

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Poetry Can Be Fun

Poetry is many things. It can make you think. It can make you cry. It can also make you smile or laugh out loud. We need a little light as the

dark days of winter set in, so join us as we smile and maybe laugh out loud as we read some lighter verse, including some witty poems by Dorothy Parker, Billy Collins and even Emily Dickinson, among others.

If you've always dismissed poetry as stodgy maybe these light verses will change your thinking.

Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly

Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp, Sheryl Harawitz

TUESDAY, December 6 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Syria's Civil War: a humanitarian and refugee crisis

Leaving half a million dead and displacing approximately twelve million people, the Syrian Civil War is a humanitarian catastrophe of unimaginable scale. The fighting has reduced Syria to a crisis-ridden vassal state with little prospect of political reform, national reconciliation, or economic reconstruction. In the modern era, there have been few greater national humanitarian catastrophes than Syria. The war morphed over the years from being a civil war to being one fought by many foreign proxies. We will examine the complex history of this bitter conflict, from its start as a peaceful Arab Spring protest to the tenuous victory of the Assad dictatorship and a requiem for the country.

Presenter: Nina Dioletis

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

Course: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: “The Waste Land” by T.S. Eliot

Did you read The Waste Land as part of a college course around 50 years ago but felt you didn’t fully or fractionally understand or appreciate it? Or perhaps you never read it. This 433-line poem has almost uniformly been agreed to be the most significant English language poem in the beginning quarter or half of the 20th century and arguably the entire 20th century. It has lots of footnotes and editor’s notes but getting some context about the words and the man and talking about it and hearing it read aloud should be a small thrill.

Presenter: Ellen Rittberg

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

TUESDAY, December 6 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: The Hippie counterculture of the 1960’s as seen in the dance cloud Song.

Ze’eva Cohen will discuss her experience as an Israeli coming to New York in the mid 1960’s and having a hard time understanding the Hippie culture. We will view excerpts from Cohen’s dance, Cloud Song, in which three characters represent the cultural polarity of the time. Class members will read the opening monologue, taken from the play Mod Donna, that introduces the dance.

Sujet: La contre-culture hippie des années 1960 vue dans la danse Cloud Song

Ze’eva Cohen parlera de son expérience en tant qu’Israélienne venue à New York au milieu des années 1960 et ayant du mal à comprendre la culture hippie. Nous verrons des extraits de la danse de Cohen, Cloud

Song, dans laquelle trois personnages représentent la polarité culturelle de l'époque. Les élèves liront le monologue d'ouverture, tiré de la pièce Mod Donna, qui introduit la danse.

Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen

Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

TUESDAY, December 6 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: THE FABULOUS FIFTIES (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Forgotten War: Korea 1950-53

Join us as we examine the origins and forces, both historical and political, that converged to bring about this war --- first in our history that we did not win! How did we get involved in a war over a remote peninsula on the Asian mainland that most Americans had never heard of? What was at stake in the conflict? What role did the UN play? What were the human costs to the adversaries and the civilian population? How was the U.S. different at the end of the conflict? Could the war have been avoided? And, to what extent might Russian behavior in the war have been a predictor of its current invasion of Ukraine? This presentation should provoke a lively discussion.

Presenter: John Spiegel

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Ellen Gottfried, Bob Gottfried

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (In-person only)

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

Room: Classroom 15-17

We'll kick off our last class of the semester with our usual workshop format -- an in-class ten-minute free-writing exercise with optional sharing -- but end as a master class in writing thanks to our guest

speaker, Valerie Constantine, who, with her sister Lynne, pens best-selling psychological thrillers. One of their early books, *The Last Mrs. Parrish* (2018) is under development by Netflix as a series.

Just a few reminders: This workshop is open to all genres (fantasy, mystery, science fiction, memoir) but prose must be less than 750 words (longer pieces can become multi-part stories to share over a few classes).

Presenter: Donna Ramer

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

Course: READING EDITH WHARTON (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

We will finish the book and discuss the New York Times article about Edith Wharton, “The Woman who Hated Women.”

Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Arlene Curinga

WEDNESDAY, December 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: German Education, German Universities, German Science and Social Science and the Making of a World Power

If you had been an observer/reporter for *The Economist* in 1900, you could have easily declared that the next hundred years would be the German Century. What had been an economic backwater, Germany became an economic and industrial juggernaut, and showed no sign of abating. How and why did this happen? This presenter will argue that Germany’s adoption of universal education, the creation of research

universities, and the private and public funding of basic and applied research were the factors responsible for Germany's rise to world power status. This formula for global leadership would be adopted by the US in the post WWII era, and now in the 21st century, by China.

David Grossman will be presenting off site via Zoom. Michael Wellner will be facilitating the discussion from the podium at 25 Broadway.

Presenter: David Grossman

Coordinators: Caroline Thompson, Steve Allen, Linda Downs

Course: SHAKESPEARE (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Play: Richard II

The class will read aloud and discuss Act V. In this final act of the play, Richard and his wife are separated, and Richard is imprisoned. Bolingbroke seizes kingship. Conspirators are dealt with. The issue of the Divine Right of Kings remains. The beauty of the language is noted. We ask is the play a tragedy?

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, December 7 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: SYMPOSIUM (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: The Artist and the Art

Are the actions of artists separate from their art? Should judging visual or performance art take into consideration the character and behavior, ethics and morals of the artist? Whether it's a contemporary or ancient artist, should inexcusably bad behavior impact the cultural and financial value of the art itself? Who is the final arbiter of what is bad

behavior, proven or unproven? And should the actions of one impact the value of an ensemble or troupe?

Presenter: Nan McNamara

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnell, Donna Ramer

WEDNESDAY, December 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: INDIE FILMS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Our Final Session

We begin with Arlynn Greenbaum reviewing “Till.” In 1955, after Emmett Till is murdered in a brutal lynching, his mother vows to expose the racism behind the attack while working to have those involved brought to justice. (Rotten Tomatoes: 98. Stream it on PRIME, APPLE, VUDU)

Next, it’s Karen Levin who’ll analyze and review “Emily the Criminal.” Down on her luck and saddled with debt, Emily gets involved in a credit card scam that pulls her into the criminal underworld of Los Angeles, ultimately leading to deadly consequences. (Rotten Tomatoes: 94. Stream it on PRIME, APPLE, VUDU)

In our final selection, Ann Barandes tells us all about Steven Spielberg’s real life in “The Fabelmans.” Growing up in post-World War II era Arizona, young Sammy Fabelman aspires to become a filmmaker as he reaches adolescence, but soon discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth. (Rotten Tomatoes: 93. Currently in theaters only but soon to be streaming on various platforms).

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Madeline Brecher, Marian Friedmann, Bobbie Gold

Course: FOLK MUSIC (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Joan Baez

Come listen to the “Barefoot Madonna” of 1960s American folk music, with a 3-octave range and a lifetime devoted to pacifism, activism, and music, which she used, she has said, “as a voice for those who cannot be heard or have been silenced by fear and powerlessness.”

Presenter: June Jacobson

Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Ellen Gottfried

WEDNESDAY December 7 @ 2:30 – 3:30 P.M.

Course: EMILY DICKINSON CIRCLE (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Emily Poems

Emily Dickinson, 1830-1886, never goes out of style. How does she do it? We will slow down, read her poems out loud and enjoy. We read from “Poems by Emily Dickinson,” published by the Emily Dickinson Museum, but you’re invited to bring any Emily poem that delights or confounds you.

Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Sheryl Harawitz, Joyce West

THURSDAY, December 8 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: AGING (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: The Gin Game

The Gin Game by D.L. Coburn was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the Best Play in 1978. It uses a card game as a metaphor for life. Two residents of a seedy nursing home discover they both dislike the home and enjoy playing Gin. As they play, they reveal intimate details of their lives. Their secrets become weapons used against one another. The Boston Globe called the play “a vibrant study on loneliness, disillusion, old age, and death, yet fiercely funny.”

Presenter: Roy Clary

Cast: Roy Clary and June Jacobson

Coordinators: Art Spar, Bryn Meehan, Larry Shapiro

Course: NEW YORK CITY NEIGHBORHOODS (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 27

Subject: City on the Grid: A Special Addition

There are neighborhoods, but Manhattan itself is a neighborhood! In 1811, while the city was still small, a commission was charged with laying out a street plan for the whole island. We will talk about how Manhattan was laid. And why, for instance, there are 20 blocks to a mile.

Presenter: Paul Golomb

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

THURSDAY, December 8 @ NOON – 12:45

Course: ZOOMER LUNCH DISCUSSIONS (Zoom-only)

Room: no classroom, participants should use the auditorium link

This session is canceled.

Coordinators: Nina Dioletis, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston

THURSDAY, December 8 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: WATER (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Climate Change and the Ocean

The ocean has profound effects on climate change and vice versa. We will discuss both of these, with emphasis on the effects of rising temperatures and sea levels on residents of the oceans and bays. Finally, we will discuss how the ocean can contribute to efforts to reduce the amount of global warming that will occur.

Presenter: Judith Weis

Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis

Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 27

Note: We need volunteers to suggest and present contemporary short stories in the Spring term. Please email nancyrye@earthlink.net with your suggestions.

Stories to read:

1. “Ghosts and Empties” by Lauren Groff

Presenter: Bobbie Gold

Lauren Groff (born 1978) is an American novelist and short story writer. She has written four novels and two short story collections, including “Fates and Furies” (2015) [President Barack Obama chose this as his favorite book of 2015], “Florida” (2018), and “Matrix” (2021).

2. “Street Sweep” by Meron Hadero

Presenter: Mary Buchwald

Meron Hadero, an Ethiopian-American writer, came to the US with her family, as refugees, when she was a child. She was the first Ethiopian born winner of the AKA Caine Prize for African Writing (2021). Her debut short story collection, “A Down Home Meal for Those Difficult

Times,” was published in June 2022 in the US. Meron’s short stories appear in Best American Short Stories, Ploughshares, and McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern.

Links for the two stories will be 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

Course: **ACTING WORKSHOP (In-person only)**

Room: Auditorium

The class will read aloud and explore a project for next semester.

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Art Spar