

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 27 – March 3, 2023

This is an “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 27 @ 10:30- Noon

Course: CLASSICAL MUSIC (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Classical Music----the Who, What, Where, When & How

Our first session will be an overview of western classical music - the elements and stylistic evolution from 500 AD to the present. Using our Quest keyboard and YouTube examples, I will provide short examples to enhance our understanding. I eagerly welcome YOUR questions, curiosities and interests in classical music at any time, before & during the class.

Presenter: Arlene Hajinlian

Coordinators: Sol Makon, Bob Reiss

Course: A WEEK IN PARIS (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Paris as a Work of Art

This talk will focus on Paris of the 19th century, which is mostly what tourists see of Paris today. Two themes will be addressed: (1) how Baron von Haussmann transformed the landscape of Paris, and (2) what the built environment of Paris suggests about this city as a work of art and about its culture.

Presenter: Laura Lopez

Coordinators: Laura Lopez, Donna Basile, Ellen Rittberg

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 @ 12:10 – 12:50 P.M.

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: “Name the Tune”....Again!

You KNOW the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces the song. Many iconic American Songbook and standard tunes begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it. These intros are gorgeous and deserve attention.

I will play the verse and stop the soundtrack. You need to guess the song which I will subsequently play.

Come listen to and watch lovely audio and video clips of these wonderful tunes. I will post the lyrics so that we may all sing along and make beautiful music together - don't forget your lunch!

Presenters: Elle Schaffer

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Sheryl Harawitz

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: GREAT PLAYS (*In-person only*)

Room: Auditorium

Playwright: Tennessee Williams

To help us better understand both his plays and the playwright, a video will be shown: “Tennessee Williams, Wounded Genius.” Because Williams was one of the preeminent playwrights of the 20th Century, discussion will be encouraged.

We hope you share with us your favorite Williams' plays, scenes and characters.

Presenter: Roy Clary
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Course: SIXTIES (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 15-17

The 1960s started off as the dawn of a golden age to most Americans. On January 20, 1961, the handsome and charismatic John F. Kennedy became president of the United States. His confidence that, as one historian put it, “the government possessed big answers to big problems” seemed to set the tone for the rest of the decade. However, that golden age never materialized. On the contrary, by the end of the 1960s, it seemed that the nation was falling apart. What happened?

Presenter: Michele Mackey
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Paul Golomb, Diane Reynolds

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: The Soyer Brothers

Regarded as America's leading advocate of realism, Raphael Soyer devoted his long, productive life to "painting people - in their natural context - who belong to their time." Soyer was familiar with the daily lives of ordinary people. In his art, he did not focus on the fashionable denizens of culture, but preferred to depict men and women who dealt with daily hardships as they eked out a living.

Throughout the 1920s and 30s, Soyer's portrayals of life on New York's Fourteenth Street and Lower East Side secured his reputation as a major Social Realist. Unlike his contemporaries, his paintings did not judge, satirize or instruct. His restrained use of color and absence of melodrama allowed the subject's emotional state to dominate. New York City's "coldness and hardness and dissociation" compelled Soyer "to dig, to scrape, to unearth the beauty" of his subjects.

This talk will also cover Raphael's two artist brothers, Moses and Isaac.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

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

Course: SYMPOSIUM (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Joan of Arc

Was she inspired?

Was she mentally ill?

Does her example of armed resistance have anything to say to Americans mired in unrest? What does a 19-year-old who lived from 1412 to 1431 have to teach us?

. . . and why was she burned at the stake?

Let's examine her life and maybe come up with some answers, maybe!

Presenter: Andrea Irvine

Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

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

Room: Classroom 27

We're going to read some poems about childhood by a Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral, the first poet from Latin America to win the Nobel Prize in literature.

En este almuerzo vamos a leer algunos poemas de Gabriela Mistral (Chile), primer Premio Nobel de Latinoamérica. El tema es la niñez, y nuestra conversación será sobre el mundo de los niños.

Presenter: Rosemary Feal

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Rosemary Feal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: HISTORY OF GERMANY (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: The Weimar Republic (1918 – 1933): The Greatest Hope and the Greatest Disaster

The end of World War I left Germans with astronomical reparations, a weak economy, a smaller country with fewer industries, no colonial income and street fighting that turned into two revolutions. While mayhem reigned in city streets, cafes, shows and tea dances thrived. Expressionist painters who were shunned before the war, were now showing and selling with great success. Plays, films, books and music were created that continue to fascinate us today. And breakthroughs in physics, psychology, aeronautics and history formed the basis for 20th century intellectual life.

We will discuss those aspects of Weimar that can be seen in American life today.

Presenter: Linda Downs

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Linda Downs

Course: BLACK WOMEN'S VOICES (In-person only)

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Octavia Butler

Prize winning author Octavia Butler helped reshape science fiction by appealing to feminist and Black readers, offering naturalistic stories with strong Black female characters. Writing in the late 20th century, this imaginative Black writer stretched the boundaries of the genre to write about slavery in her breakthrough time-travel novel *Kindred* (now a TV series on Hulu). In two other novels she presciently wrote that tremendous water shortages and the ravages of climate change would destroy California by 2024, resulting in massive homelessness and the rise of a fascist Christian America movement that campaigned to Make America Great Again.

Whether or not you are a dedicated science fiction reader, come learn about this remarkable woman, one of the first Black women to receive a MacArthur “genius” grant, and join in our discussion about her work.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

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

Course: MODERN OPERA: THE 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES (NOTE: NOW HYBRID)

Room: Classroom 27 - New Location

Subject: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by composer John Eaton – Act 2 (2010)

If you missed Act 1, we will painlessly catch you up, so come to enjoy the very clever opera *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.

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 and Presenters: Steve Koenig, Frieda Lipp, Victor Brener

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: FASCINATING NON-FICTION (*Hybrid*)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: *Hitler's American Friends: The Third Reich's Supporters in the United States* by Bradley W. Hart

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This book examines the strange terrain of Nazi sympathizers, nonintervention campaigners and other voices in America who advocated on behalf of Nazi Germany in the years before World War II.

Americans who remember World War II reminisce about how it brought the country together. The less popular truth behind this warm

nostalgia: until the attack on Pearl Harbor, America was deeply, dangerously divided. Bradley W. Hart's *Hitler's American Friends* exposes the homegrown antagonists who sought to protect and promote Hitler, leave Europeans (and especially European Jews) to fend for themselves, and elevate the Nazi regime.

We try to tell ourselves it couldn't happen here, but Americans are not immune to the lure of fascism. *Hitler's American Friends* is a powerful look at how the forces of evil manipulate ordinary people, how we stepped back from the ledge, and the disturbing ease with which we could return to it.

TRIGGER WARNING - There will be several slides where the swastika is prominent. Consider skipping this class, if that is disturbing.

Presenter: Bob Reiss

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

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

Room: Classroom 15-17

Subject: Her Lesser-known Works

What is the name of Toni Morrison's one and only opera and what inspired her to write it? How many poems did she write and what were they about? Regardless of whether these works were critically acclaimed or panned, let's take a look at their deep meanings and messages.

Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz & Donna Ramer

Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 @ Noon – 12:45 P.M.

Course: HEARING ISSUES AT QUEST (Hybrid)

Room: Classroom 27

Being able to hear what is going on in our classrooms is basic to our full participation and enjoyment of Quest classes. So this meeting will be an opportunity to share our concerns, suggestions and any issues we may have with the current audio situation in our classes.

This meeting is open to all Quest members, whether or not you are in Quest's Hearing google group.

Bring your questions, concerns, as well as your lunch!

Discussion Leader: Vivian Oliver

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

Course: DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Speaker: Andrew Meier, author of *MORGENTHAU*

Title: Power, Privilege, and the Rise of An American Dynasty

How did the Morgenthau family of Germany come to America and amass a fortune in real estate as well as gain power in politics?

Andrew Meier is the author of two previous award-winning works of nonfiction: *Black Earth: A Journey Through Russia*

After the Fall, and The Lost Spy: An American in Stalin's Secret Service.

A former Moscow correspondent for Time, Meier has contributed to The New York Times Magazine, among numerous other national and international publications, for more than two decades.

In addition to appearing as a commentator on the BBC, CNN, and NPR, Meier has reported for PBS television documentaries, and co-directed the Netflix documentary, Our Godfather (2019).

A graduate of Wesleyan and Oxford universities, Meier teaches journalism and nonfiction at The New School in New York City, where he helped to launch and chaired the undergraduate Journalism + Design program.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON

Course: NYC NEIGHBORHOODS (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: Soho

Few transformations in New York’s history would be as dramatic, or utterly unexpected, as what happened in SoHo. Through the centuries, this neighborhood would take on many new identities – from an area of high-end stores, restaurants and residences, to a red-light district so famous that guide books were written to point out the best brothels. Then came light manufacturing and the advent of cast-iron facades resulting in the largest collection of cast-iron buildings in the world. The 1960s saw artists moving into vacated warehouses that the city had deemed “an area so inefficient and unsanitary that industry avoids it even at extremely low rents...There are no buildings worth saving among the 30 surveyed.” Thousands of artists, followed by galleries, saved the area and eventually made SoHo the largest artist community in America. SoHo’s history is filled with wonderful anecdotes of the events and people that transformed this neighborhood through the ages.

Presenter: Susan Diehl
Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 27
Subject: Robert Frost

Art Spar will lead us in a discussion of the poetry of Robert Frost (1874-1963), an American poet and winner of four Pulitzer Prizes. Frost frequently wrote about settings from rural life in New England in the early 20th century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. Volunteers will read several of his poems. The class will linger in discussion after each reading.

Presenter: Art Spar
Coordinators: Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp

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

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (Hybrid)
Room: Classroom 27
Subject: Lysistrata

Lysistrata is probably the oldest comedy which has a permanent place in the modern theater. It deals with two themes - war and sexual love - with intelligence and realism. For 21 years, while Athens was engaged in a war to make the world safe for Athenian democracy, Aristophanes relentlessly and wittily attacked the war, risking not only his popularity, but what was for an Athenian as precious as life itself – his citizenship. It has been said that to read Aristophanes is to see all the life of Athens - the politics of the day, war and pacifism, women’s rights, free trade, fiscal reform, educational theories - everything that interested the average citizen. He was speaking of the follies and foibles of his day. Lysistrata is the play of peace at any price.

We will read and discuss Lysistrata in class. PDF version of the play to follow.

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

Course: FOOD: BEYOND JUST CALORIES (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject: FOOD - History of French Cooking

The history of French cuisine starting with Catherine the Great, who brought her chefs with her to France, and introduced fine dining at the French court. We’ll cover Varenne, Careme, Escoffier, down through the years, through to Nouvelle Cuisine, and up to today’s trends, including the latest top French chefs.

And we'll have a discussion about our favorite French dishes - home cooked, as well as those you may have had on your travels in France.

Presenter: Paul Adler

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

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

Room: Brooklyn Room (Note: This class ends at 3 p.m.)

Write a poem using the cue word "inspiration" 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 Safran

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 @ 2:45 P.M.

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

Our Q'xtra Fortnightly event in "B" Week

Meet: by elevators on 7th floor.

And we're off again on our SECOND Spring walk!

Marian Friedmann, Andrea Irvine & Laura Lopez will lead us 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, MARCH 3, 2023 @ 11:15am

CultureQuest

**“I’ll Have What She’s Having”
NY Historical Society
(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.