

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**September 4 - 7, 2023**

**This is an “A” 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 <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 (click on “AUDITORIUM” below):**

**AUDITORIUM**

**Meeting ID: 813 5977 7119**

**Passcode: 252525**

**FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 15-17 CLASSES (click on “ROOM 15-17” below):**

**ROOM 15-17**

**Meeting ID: 893 8196 3761**

**Passcode: 252525**

**FOR ALL MEETING ROOM 27 CLASSES (click on “ROOM 27” below):**

**ROOM 27**

**Meeting ID: 834 6569 8593**

**Passcode: 252525**

**PLEASE NOTE: 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, September 4, Labor Day, Quest is Closed**

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**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: The US-Mexican Border: A History of Conflict and Cooperation**

**The history of the United States as a global power can't be told without including its relationship with Mexico. Over the more than two hundred years since the independence of both of our countries, the United States and Mexico have developed strong diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties but nonetheless have clashed continually over borders, migration, trade, and an escalating drug war. The history of our push-pull relationship at the southern border is a story full of twists and turns, conflict and cooperation.**

**Presenter: Toni Dickenson**

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

**Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Victor Brener**

**Course: WORLD OF THEATRE (In-person only)**

**Room: 15-17**

**Subject: The History of Theater From Antiquity to Modern: An Overview**

**Every age has used theater to express its idea of truth. Every age has combined elements of stage production to express that truth.**

**But, what is theater? Why is it important to us? Why does it endure?**

**To help us answer these questions, this class will provide an overview of how European theater began and evolved. Its focus will be on the historical periods of: Antiquity; Ancient Greece and Roman; Medieval; Elizabethan; and Modern. It will detail how plays, stage designs and acting styles have changed over the centuries, reflecting the history and culture of each era.**

**Presenter: Roy Clary**

**Coordinators: Yona Rogosin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Panny Mitchell, Nan McNamara**

**Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Ellen Shapiro**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: CONVERSATIONS EN FRANÇAIS (In-person only)**

**Room: 19**

**Subject: Les formules sociales et l'étiquette de cuisine**

**Lors de cette réunion nous aborderons des aspects de la culture française - ses valeurs, les moeurs, les traditions, la gastronomie et l'étiquette. Un peu de tout, ridiculement ambitieux, forcément superficiel, et, on espère, amusant.**

**At this gathering we will discuss some aspects of French culture - values, manners, traditions, gastronomy and etiquette. A little bit of everything, ridiculously ambitious, necessarily superficial, and, one hopes, fun.**

**Presenter: Richard Elrauch**

**Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK (Hybrid)**

**Room: 15-17**

**Subject: Simon & Garfunkel**

**Come to Folk Music and Mellow Rock to listen to Simon & Garfunkel's greatest hits including Sounds of Silence, Homeward Bound, I am a Rock, Mrs. Robinson, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and the Boxer, and learn about the lives of these superstar performers.**

**Presenter: Bob Gottfried**  
**Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman**  
**Tech Support: Michael Wellner**

**Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** (In-person only)**

**Room: 27**

**Subject: A Tour of the Cosmos**

**Come explore the wonders of our universe starting from the relatively close family of planets and moons that revolve around the Sun of our own Solar System. Then we'll continue far beyond to the very outer limits of the universe.**

**First, we will be visiting the major and minor bodies that revolve around our star – the Sun. Learn about how the Sun, planets, moons, and other members of our celestial family were born and evolved. Continuing our unique journey across the cosmos, we'll pass beyond the furthest bodies of our Solar System and head for the stars and continue on towards the farthest reaches of the observable universe. All the while we will explore its many extraordinary features like exoplanets, supernovae, black holes, galaxies, dark matter, and dark energy. We will even try to predict the ultimate fate of the universe by looking at its birth in the Big Bang. In addition, we will also cast our eyes forward to speculate on the future place for humanity.**

**Prior knowledge or any technical expertise in math or science is not required. Just bring your questions and sense of wonder.**

**Presenter: Michael Hamburg**  
**Coordinators: Michael Hamburg, Vickie Costa**  
**Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg**

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

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

**Room: 19**

**Welcome back to Quest. Enjoy sharing your writing with a small, friendly group of fellow writers who want constructive feedback about their work. Each class begins with a 10-minute prompt. Other in-class writing might be related to the specific topic of the day such as dialogue, character development, the senses. Sharing is optional with all in-class writing. Bring in your prose, poetry, plays and essays written at home in all genres (memoir, romance, comedy, science fiction, and horror) for comment. Make ten copies to share with the group, (Copies can be made in the office.) A notebook for in-class writing is suggested. Need a writing suggestion? How about My Favorite Childhood Books and Toys. The three coordinators alternate in facilitating classes. Let's see where our writing takes us this semester!**

**Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer  
Tech Support: None Assigned**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid- Zoomers connect to Room 27)  
Room: 27  
Subject: Boss Tweed**

**We all know that New York is, and has always been, a "Democratic" stronghold. But did you know that the Democratic Party here was ruled and controlled by Tammany Hall --- for almost two hundred years? True --- and Tammany's most (in)famous leader was none other than William M. ("Boss") Tweed, who ruled in the late 19th century. Come and listen to his almost unbelievable story...**

**Presenter: Michael Wellner  
Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian  
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg**

**Course: SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)**

**Room: 15-17**

**Play: The Winter's Tale**

**The first class will include:**

- 1. A short Quiz.**
- 2. A brief look at Shakespeare's contemporaries, theaters, actors, etc.**
- 3. A presentation of several major sources of the play including King James.**
- 4. Major themes will be discussed.**
- 5. Similarity to other plays by Shakespeare will be noted, e.g., Othello and Much Ado About Nothing.**
- 6. It will be noted that Winter's Tale is a play of two halves and moves from potential tragedy to comedy — similar to Measure For Measure**
- 7. As time and technology permit, a clip from the RSC production starring Antony Sher will be shown.**

**Coordinators: Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer**

**Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

**Course: ITALIAN CONVERSATION (In-person only)**

**Room: 19**

**This is an informal Italian conversation group for all 'Questini' who want to speak, practice, learn and/or be exposed to La Bella Lingua. Some bilingual material will be offered to stimulate discussion. English will be used to further our purpose. Program and process will be determined in consultation with the group. There's one requirement: the ability to say "buongiorno" with a smile.**

**Coordinator: Richard Elrauch**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid Zoomers connect to Room 27  
Room: 27**

**Questers will review three important films. Listed are the streaming sites to review two of the three movies.**

**“OPPENHEIMER” LOCAL THEATERS**

**ROTTEN TOMATOES: 94/94**

**J. Robert Oppenheimer, born on the West Side of Manhattan and educated in his youth at The Ethical Culture School, was an American theoretical physicist professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley. Oppenheimer was the wartime head of the Los Alamos Laboratory and is among those who are credited with being the "father of the atomic bomb" for their role in the Manhattan Project. He later remarked that the explosion brought to mind words from the the Hindu Scripture, Bhagavad Gita: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds." In August 1945, the "gadget" was used in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

**"REVOIR PARIS" (French) MAX**

**ROTTEN TOMATOES: 97/93**

**After an idyllic date night full of red wine and a late-night motorcycle ride home, Mia (Virginie Efira- awarded the Cesar French "Oscar") stops at a Parisian bistro to take shelter from a downpour. Her reprieve is shattered when a gunman opens fire. Three months later, with a frustratingly hazy memory of the attack, Mia finds herself numbed and unable to resume her life. Her friends and partner seek something she can no longer give.**

**“AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS” (French) **PRIME, VUDU****

**ROTTEN TOMATOES: 93/89**

**Autobiographical –**

**Directed by: Louis Malle "As a Jewish boy, remembering that Nazi presence more than 40 years ago, I'll remember every second of that January morning in Vichy France until the day I die."**

**In a Catholic boarding school, a Jewish boy is taken on as a student, hidden from the Nazis and the Vichy French. We see hazing and random bullying while ineffectual headmasters look the other way, bedwetting, reading after hours, playground battles, curiosity about girls, and the kind of childhood events that get remembered for life, like getting lost in the woods. In other words, it's just boys trying to get through the difficulties of growing up, and it really could be any group of boys at any time**

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

**Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Tamara Weinberg**

**Course: **TOCQUEVILLE'S DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA: A CLASSIC FOR OUR TIME** (In-person only)**

**Room: 15-17**

**In our first class on Tocqueville's Democracy in America we will discuss Tocqueville's life, his journey to America, and the basic ideas that shape his thought. These include the differences between democracy and aristocracy, the inevitability of a worldwide democratic revolution, the social condition of equality, and mores, or the habits of heart and mind that shape a country's national character. We will also talk about why Tocqueville is so relevant today.**

**Presenter: Sandy Kessler**

**Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer**

**Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro**



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 10:30 A.M. – NOON**

**Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: Mendeleev and the Periodic Table**

**Demitri Ivanovich Mendeleev ranks as one of the greatest Chemists of all time, primarily because of his discovery in 1869 of The Periodic Table of the Elements. This presentation will cover his life leading up to this pivotal moment in modern science as well as a brief introduction to The Table itself (which you'll remember hanging on the wall of your high school chemistry classroom). And is it true that Mendeleev invented vodka?**

**Presenter: Jim Brook**

**Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis**

**Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)**

**Room: 15-17**

**Subject: Wallace Stevens**

**Wallace Stevens, one of the modernist giants of the 20th century, is the subject of the first class. By day, he was an insurance executive and by night and in his free time, he wrote award-winning poetry that is not easy to access but well worth the effort. His unusual style venerates nature, and shares opinions sometimes in a loopy, surprising and oblique way, and his fresh images give ample room to explore the poet's meaning and intention and think about both his and our own views of the world and times.**

**Presenter: Ellen Rittberg**

**Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp**

**Tech Support: Ilene Winkler**

**Course: WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (A WEEK)(Hybrid)**

**Room: 27**

**Book: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

**(There will be some xerox copies available for those who have not yet purchased the book.)**

**In our first session, we will become acquainted with three of the main characters: Maya, her brother Bailey, and their grandmother, "Moma," in chapters 1, 2 and 3 (the chapters are short). Members of the class (in Room 27 and Zoomers) will take turns reading aloud. But if you prefer not to read, you are still most welcome to just listen and enjoy. Everyone's questions and comments will be addressed.**

**This chronicle of an African-American girl growing up in the rural south in the 1930s taps into the conscience of the nation grappling with civil rights and women's liberation issues. The book's popularity endures not only because it continues to be instructive in matters of race and gender, but also because it is a universal tale of survival.**

**Presenter: Harriet Finkelstein and The Class**

**Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward**

**Tech Support: Ruth Ward**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course: HISTORY OF MEDICINE (Hybrid)**

**Room: 15-17**

**Subject: Bellevue**

**Bellevue is the oldest public hospital in the United States. Its history is the history of New York City and society's evolving understanding of disease and how to treat it. In this first of seven classes on the History of Medicine, we look at the City's early use of almshouses, pesthouses, and insane asylums to manage the poor and the sick. We also consider the epidemics that devastated New York's immigrant**

population and led to initial efforts to clean up the City's streets. And, of course, we review the development of Bellevue Hospital on the old Kip's Bay Estate on the East River, as well as the Insane Asylum and other health facilities on Blackwell's Island, and some of the private hospitals that were founded to serve the City's varied ethnic groups.

**Presenter: Karen Cullen**

**Coordinators: Karen Cullen, Donna Ramer, Michael Wellner**

**Tech Support: Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES (Hybrid)**

**Room: 27**

**Stories to read for Thurs, Sept. 7 at 1 pm**

**1. "How I Became a Vet" by Rivka Galchen      Presenter: Larry Shapiro**

Larry says "Rivka Galchen is one of the reasons I could never give up my subscription to *The New Yorker*. Reading her essays about science and medicine, or better yet, her short stories, is an enlightening and delightful experience. She has written: "Medicine only explains things up to a certain point, and then it hits a wall....Fiction does its best work in those same wide spaces where data starts to lose its conclusive usefulness." So it is with this amazing story."

**2. "Evensong" by Laurie Colwin      Presenter: Arlynn Greenbaum**

Laurie Colwin wrote five novels, three collections of short stories and two volumes of essays during her short life. She died tragically in 1992 of an aortic aneurysm at the age of 48. She was a regular contributor to *Gourmet* and known for her food writing. *Evensong* was discovered by her daughter and published in *The New Yorker* posthumously. It's a beautifully nuanced story of a woman having an affair and finding comfort in an *Evensong* church service.

**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](mailto:nancyrye@earthlink.net)**

**Coordinators: Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp  
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Michael Russo**

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

**Room: Auditorium**

**The class will focus on various theater games and exercises. Monologues and Scene Work will be distributed for future presentations.**

**Presenter:**

**Coordinator: Roy Clary, Panny Mitchell, Art Spar**

**Tech Support: None**

## **CultureQuest**

### **American Museum of Natural History**

#### **“The Richard Gilder Center”**

**Friday, September 15th 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**(In-person tour)**

**“A sculpture that could be Banksy’s, an astonishing vein of rock crystal, and Nabokov’s butterfly specimens — they are all found here” (NYT). “Here” refers to a fascinating new wing of AMNH, the Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation which opened last May. The building housing the Center, which was designed by Jeanne Gang and her award-winning firm Studio Gang, has been described by an architecture critic as “a poetic, joyful, theatrical work.” As we venture inside the building on this tour, we will visit the 5,000 square-foot Insectarium to view rare and endangered live species and the year-round butterfly Vivarium. We will also have the opportunity to participate in an immersive experience called “Invisible Worlds.” Our guides for the tour will be fellow Quest members Marion Schultheis and Andrew Epstein, docents at the museum. We are very grateful to Marion and Andrew for being our guides and generously giving us 20 free tickets.**

**WHEN: Friday September 15, 2023. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11 a.m.**

**WHERE: Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education and Innovation  
415 Columbus Ave. NYC**

**COST: Free - Limited to 20 participants**

**TO RESERVE: Send an email asap to Renee Woloshin at rswolo@aol.com**

**Please put GILDER CENTER TOUR in the subject line of your email.**

**\*\*indicate if you will be joining us for lunch. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days.**

**\*\*We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership. 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 live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

**LUNCH (optional)**

**Nice Matin Restaurant, 201 W. 79th St.**

**To see the menu, click on link below or type it into your browser:**

**<https://nicematinnyc.com/menus/lunch/>**