

# **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**October 30 - November 3, 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, October 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS (Hybrid)**  
**Room:** **Classroom 27 (NOTE ROOM CHANGE. Zoom participants should use the Room 27 link.)**  
**Album:** **Funkadelic's One Nation Under A Groove (1978)**

**Led by funkrock mastermind George Clinton, Funkadelic was born in 1968 and was active until 1982, although the members of the band still perform in other combinations. The title song remains a major shake-your-rump hit with lots of club and radio play.**

**Funkadelic combines rock, funk, jazz, psychedelia, and dada in a unique, ever-evolving, ear-expanding vortex. Oh yeah, and they're fun. Its personnel include some members of James Brown's bands. The album made Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.**

**Presenters:** **Steve Koenig and Wayne Cotter**  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter**  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener, Michael Wellner**

**Course:** **THE GREAT GATSBY (In-person only)**  
**Room:** **Classroom 15-17**

**The reading assignment for the week is Chapters 5, 6, and 7. Chapter 5 stands at the very center of the novel. Previous chapters have led up to the crucial reunion of Gatsby and Daisy and subsequent chapters portray the consequences of the renewal of their relationship. What reactions of Gatsby and Daisy does Nick observe as they meet again after five years? Chapter 6 relates the true story of Gatsby's past and how it formed his character and ambitions. Why does Tom pay him a visit and then take Daisy to his party? Read carefully the five sentences which make up the second to the last paragraph of Chapter 6 and relate to Gatsby's early love for Daisy. We may not have time to begin Chapter**

**7 which involves five of the main characters, their conflicting interests and feelings, and a dramatic confrontation which leads to a tragedy.**

**Discussion Leaders: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**

**Tech Support: Bob Reiss**

**MONDAY, October 30 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

**Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: "Name That Tune"**

**You KNOW the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces it. Many 'American Songbook' and standard tunes begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it. These intros are gorgeous and deserve attention. In this presentation, I will play the verse and stop. You need to guess the song which I will subsequently play.**

**Come listen and watch 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! And don't forget to bring your lunch.**

**Presenter: Ellie Schaffer**

**Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

**MONDAY, October 30 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course: COMEDY CENTRAL (Hybrid)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17 (NOTE ROOM CHANGE. Zoom participants should use the Room 15-17 link.)**

**Subject: A "Sketchy" Look at Sketch Comedy**

**Our guest presenter scheduled for this time slot was forced to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances. Instead, this session will offer a “sketchy” look at sketch comedy. Why Sketchy? Because with limited preparation time, we were unable to do a deep dive on many of these sketch comics and instead will be depending on you - our audience - to share your anecdotes and memories.**

**The session will be based on the book “The History of Sketch Comedy” by Keegan-Michael Key and Elle Key published this month. The presentation will feature sketches by comic duos such as Nichols & May, Bob & Ray, and Key & Peele. Classic sketches by Milton Berle, Carol Burnett and, of course, the cast of Saturday Night Live should also keep the laughter flowing.**

**In addition, you’ll learn the difference between a “sketch” and a “skit” and why sketch comedy continues to be an essential component of the comic arts.**

**Presenter: Wayne Cotter**

**Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Leslie Goldman, Vin Grosso, Michael Wellner**

**Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ellen Shapiro**

**Course: THE SCARLET LETTER (In-person only)**

**Room: Classroom 27**

**We will concentrate on chapters 10 through 14. In the first of these chapters, Hawthorne redirects the reader’s attention away from Hester and Pearl to Chillingworth and Dimmesdale where we witness Chillingworth’s diabolical determination to increase Dimmesdale’s tortured battle with himself. Chapter 12, “The Minister’s Vigil” is the second of the crucial “scaffold” chapters when Hawthorne brings all three characters together exactly in the middle of the novel revealing the change in these characters over the past seven years.**

**Coordinators: Patricia Geehr, Susan Keohane**

**Tech Support: Steven Chicoine**

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**TUESDAY, October 31 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course: FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Hybrid)**

**Room: Auditorium**

**Subject: The Armenian Genocide**

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic destruction of the Armenian people and identity in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Spearheaded by the ruling Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), it was implemented primarily through the mass murder of approximately one million Armenians during death marches to the Syrian Desert and the forced Islamization of others, primarily women and children. Armenians charge that the campaign was a deliberate attempt to destroy the Armenian people, and thus an act of genocide. The Turkish government has resisted calls to recognize it as such, contending that, although atrocities took place, there was no official policy of extermination implemented against the Armenian people as a group. In this presentation we will take a close examination of the history of the Armenian people in the Ottoman empire and the events that led up to this terrible time for the Armenian people. The presentation will rely on documentation of the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey during World War I, Henry Morgenthau, and the book *Black Dog of Fate* by Peter Balakian.

**Presenter: Bob Gottfried**

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

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

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

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: Japanese Theater**

**When we think of Japanese theater, we are likely to think only of Noh and Kabuki. But Japanese theater has a history going far back to mythological times.**

**We shall look at reenactments of some of these early forms of drama; they could be bawdy yet also transcendent, had mimicry and also profound feeling.**

**We shall talk about and look at stage clips of haunting Noh performances. We shall look at a clip of Kabuki, a form of theater which becomes larger than life.**

**We shall learn about the bunraku puppet theater, which influenced Kabuki and was itself influenced by it.**

**And we shall discuss the modern theater, influenced by defeat in WW II and Hiroshima.**

**The gods were on stage in Japan, left it for a short time, and then returned.**

**Presenter: Ellen S. Shapiro**

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

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

**TUESDAY, October 31 @ NOON**

**All SPOOKTACULAR QUESTERS ARE INVITED FOR CANDY & Halloween themed snacks in lunchroom at noon. Lauren Gee will provide music & there will be entertainment. Prize for best mask.**

**Compliments of Quest Social Committee.**

**Course: DEJEUNER FRANCAIS**

**Déjeuner Français will not hold class on Tuesday, October 31st at noon so that the Francophiles and Francophones can enjoy the noontime Halloween holiday party in the Quest lunchroom.**

**Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile**

**TUESDAY, October 31 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

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

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Subject: The Sweet Sounds of Jesse Winchester**

**Jesse Winchester is the best songwriter you've never heard of. Winchester, raised in northern Mississippi and Memphis, played music throughout high school and during his years at Williams College, where he graduated in 1966. Jesse then began his musical career, but the Vietnam War intervened, and Jesse felt compelled to move to Montreal to avoid the draft. He would not set foot in the U.S. for another decade.**

**He continued to play music in Canada and soon caught the attention of Robbie Robertson of The Band, who helped Winchester secure a recording contract. Unfortunately, he was not permitted to perform in the United States until 1977 when President Carter granted him amnesty.**

**Winchester was known as “a songwriter’s songwriter” and his songs have been recorded by Joan Baez, James Taylor, Emmylou Harris, the Everly Brothers and countless others. He is also that rare artist whose songwriting got better as he got older and wiser. So please join us as we explore the career of this gifted songwriter and performer.**

**Presenter: Wayne Cotter**

**Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Jill Altman**

**Tech Support: Michael Wellner**

**Course:     **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE** (In-person only)**  
**Room:       Classroom 27**  
**Subject:     The Rise of Life with Michael Hamburg**

**This presentation will follow that of the highlight tour that I offer visitors at the American Museum of Natural History. It traces the rise of life on the only planet where we know for certain that life exists. Beginning with the very origin of the universe (The Big Bang), we will follow the creation of the elements, the Solar System, and eventually the Earth. In some still unknown way, unicellular life establishes itself in the water and begins a long path of evolution. We will follow this development of life as it diversifies into the myriad species in both the animal and plant kingdoms that have come and gone over millions of years. We will also take a look at some of the largest and oldest organisms that have ever existed.**

**Next, we will examine the origins of our own species and look at the fates of our ancestors. Why has Homo sapiens become the only survivor of all those other hominids who preceded us? Lastly, we will contemplate the future. Wither humanity? Are we to remain here or is our destiny in the stars? As always, questions are welcome along the way.**

**(The actual tour will be offered on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.)**

**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 PM)**  
**Room:       Classroom 19**  
**Subject:     Spooky Stories**

**Please join us in person**



- **Open to all writing genres.**
- **If you would like to share a piece of prose, please keep it under 50 words or create multiple parts to share over a few classes.**
- **Class begins with a ten-minute free-writing exercise (sharing is optional).**
- **Bring a notebook for in-class writing.**
- **As it will be Halloween, it seems a great opportunity to focus on SPOOKY stories and poems.**

**If you write any before the class, the social committee would love you to read them aloud at lunchtime. We also encourage you to dress up, though costumes do not have to be scary.☺**

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

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**WEDNESDAY, November 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course: QUESTER'S CHOICE (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: The Last Kings of Shanghai**

**Jonathan Kaufman's best-selling book: "The Last Kings of Shanghai - The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China and How The Families Sassoon, Kadoories, and Other Wealthy Jewish Families Helped Save 18,000 European Jews From the Holocaust."**

**Presenter: Howard Salik**  
**Coordinators: Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian**

**Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Tamara Weinberg**

**Course: SHAKESPEARE (Hybrid)**

**Room: Classroom 15-17**

**Play: A Winter's Tale**

The class will read aloud and discuss Act IV. Far removed from the affairs of the Court, we find ourselves within the world of shepherds and romance. Nevertheless, aristocrats intrude in ominous and disruptive ways. Will the male anxiety regarding female eroticism displayed in the first part of the play, now vanish in a pastoral setting? Can a lost child be restored? Can the power of love transform? Can a play move from Tragedy to Comedy within a framework of five Acts? These and other questions will be explored.

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

**Tech Support: Ellie Schaffer**

**WEDNESDAY, November 1 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

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

**Room: Classroom 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, November 1 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course: CINEMA QUEST (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Current and Classic Films**

***FLORA AND SON* (Current) Reviewed by Bobbie Gold**

**Streaming: APPLE**

**Rotten Tomatoes: 94/86**

**Trailer: <https://youtu.be/beNTTHnMly8>**

**(1 hour 34 Minutes)**

**(2023)**

Single mom Flora (Eve Hewson) is at a loss about what to do with her rebellious teenage son Max. Flora tries to occupy him with a beat-up acoustic guitar. With the help of a washed-up L.A. musician (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), Flora and Max discover the transformative power of music.

***CHINATOWN* (Classic) Reviewed by Sol Makon**

**Streaming: APPLE, VUDU, PARAMOUNT**

**Rotten Tomatoes: 99/93**

**Trailer: [https://youtu.be/iiyYojVT\\_8o](https://youtu.be/iiyYojVT_8o)**

**(2 hours 11 Minutes)**

**(1974)**

When Los Angeles private eye J.J. "Jake" Gittes (Jack Nicholson) is hired by Evelyn Mulwray to investigate her husband's activities, he believes it's a routine infidelity case. Jake's investigation soon becomes anything but routine when he meets the real Mrs. Mulwray (Faye Dunaway) and realizes an imposter hired him.

***A COMPASSIONATE SPY* (Current)**

**Dramatized Documentary Reviewed by Howard Salik**

**Streaming: APPLE, PRIME**

**Rotten Tomatoes: 88/88**

**Trailer <https://youtu.be/dSpRObYKiGO>**

**(1-hour 41Minutes)  
(2022)**

**Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were "unimportant" compared to Ted Hall In this real-life spy story. At age 18, a brilliant physicist was recruited to join Oppenheimer at Los Alamos with the Manhattan Project. When he learns the true nature of the atomic bomb, he fears the risk of a nuclear holocaust and begins to pass secrets to the Soviet Union.**

**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: Classroom 15-17**

**In our class this week we will discuss the subjects I had hoped to discuss on October 18th. These include Tocqueville's discussion of American slavery and of sexual equality in early 19th century America. If we have time, we will also begin to consider Tocqueville's analysis of the problems of democracy. As always, we will first try to understand Tocqueville's thoughts on these matters and then consider their relevance to American life today.**

**Presenter: Sandy Kessler**

**Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Ellie Schaffer**

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

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**THURSDAY, November 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course: SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Auditorium**  
**Subject: Scientific Models**

The dictionary definition of a “model” is “a simplified representation of a system or phenomenon.” Examples would be a wind tunnel used to test the aerodynamics of an aircraft and a computer model used to calculate the rate of disease spread relative to different public health measures. Models increasingly have important applications in almost all aspects of life – weather forecasts, economic forecasts, retirement planning, climate change, among many others. But models, being simplified representations, by necessity always leave out some aspects of what is being represented. How do we know when to trust models, how much to trust them, and how to use them in making decisions. Our presenter, Steve Allen, has been heavily engaged with these questions throughout a career in the finance industry and as a lecturer.

**Presenter: Steve Allen**  
**Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis**  
**Tech Support: Pete Weis, Tamara Weinberg**

**Course: CONTEMPORARY POETRY (Hybrid)**  
**Room: Classroom 15-17**  
**Subject: Poems of Louise Glück**

Louise Glück died last month at the age of 80. She was one of ours - born in New York City and raised in Woodmere, Long Island. She was also the winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature and was Poet Laureate of the United States from 2003-2004.

In response to her passing, we will read and listen to her poetry and listen for the unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal for which she was recognized by the Swedish academy.

As Dwight Garner wrote in his New York Times review of her career-spanning poems 1962-2012, . . . they display a supple and prosecutorial

mind interrogating not merely her own life but also the sensual and political nature of the world that spins around it.

**Presenter:** Mary Ann Donnelly  
**Coordinators:** Ellen Rittberg, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly,  
Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** Ilene Winkler

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (A WEEK)** (Hybrid)  
**Room:** Classroom 27  
**Subject:** I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou  
Chapter 23

### **NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

Graduation excitement is floating through Sparks, Arkansas. Amidst the joyfulness, Maya decides that Negroes are not in control of their lives and that hopefulness is futile. A white politician gives a speech at the graduation ceremony that belittles Negroes. The day is ruined until Maya's friend, Henry, the valedictorian, lifts the graduation audience with his graceful speech.

At the conclusion of chapter 23 reading, we will turn our attention to the handout "Growing Up Maya Angelou." In this Smithsonian magazine article, Ms. Angelou discusses her childhood, her writings and the importance of family.

**Presenters:** Harriet Finkelstein and The Class  
**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** Ruth Ward

**THURSDAY, November 2 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **HISTORY OF MEDICINE** (Hybrid)  
**Room:** Classroom 15-17  
**Subject:** The History of Women's Heart Disease

In the 1940's the medical profession regarded heart disease as "a predominately man's disease." Today heart disease affects both young and old women and is the leading cause of death for women. However only about 50% of women recognize that heart disease is their number 1 killer. This presentation examines the history of women's heart disease in the United States and the reasons why heart disease in women remains under-diagnosed and under-treated and why women having heart attacks have worse outcomes than men.

**Presenter: Leslie Kraus**

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

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

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

**Room: Classroom 27**

**Stories to read for Thurs, November 2, at 1:00 PM**

**1. *Witch's Money* by John Collier**

**Presenter: Steve Allen**

John Collier (1901 – 1980) was a British-born author and screenwriter best known for his short stories, many of which appeared in *The New Yorker* from the 1930s to the 1950s. *Witch's Money* was published in *The New Yorker* in 1939. His stories may be broadly classified as fantasies but are really sui generis. They feature an acerbic wit and are usually ironic or dark in tone. A characteristic point of his style is that the titles of many of his stories reveal (or at least telegraph) what would otherwise be a surprise ending. His stories are memorable; people who cannot recall title or author will nevertheless remember "the story about the people who lived in the department store" (*Evening Primrose*, which a young Stephen Sondheim turned into a musical), or "the story in which the famous beauties that the man magically summons all say, 'Here I am on a tiger-skin again'" (*Bottle Party*).

**2. *Bullet in the Brain* by Tobias Wolff**

**Guest Presenter: Mark Altschuler**

***Bullet in the Brain* is a much-anthologized story, written in 1995. It is a story of memory and potential memories. Tobias Wolff is considered a master of the short story form, but probably most famous for his memoir, *This Boy's Life* (1989) which was subsequently turned into a successful film, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert DeNiro. Wolff, a Vietnam veteran, recently retired from teaching at Stanford University. He is 78 years old and still writing.**

**Links for the two stories have been sent by Nancy 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**

**Class members will continue to work on theater exercises and monologues in a fun and creative environment.**

**Coordinator: Roy Clary, Panny Mitchell, Art Spar  
Tech Support: None**



## **CULTUREQUEST**

**American Museum of Natural History**

**“The Rise of Life”**

**with Michael Hamburg**

**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM**

**(In-person tour)**

**In this tour, we will be following the emergence of life as we know it on the only planet where so far we are sure it exists. We will then follow its evolution and diversity and conclude with the emergence of humans. Beginning in the Big Bang Theater, we witness the creation of the Universe in a virtual and immersive display. We then enter the Hall of Planet Earth where we will find some of the answers to the question "Why is the Earth habitable?" There will also be a brief glimpse of the existential crisis facing us all. Next stop will be the Hall of Biodiversity where we will encounter the myriad species that have lived and perished and see some of the species that are today endangered with extinction. We will then visit the largest animal to have ever lived and its unique relationship with one of the smallest. Next, on to the evolution of plant life and a visit to the largest single living organism and to the longest living one as well. At last we enter the Hall of Human Origins and confront our own story of how H. sapiens became the dominant and only survivor of a long line of hominid ancestors. Finally, we will muse on the future of life as we know it.**

**Our guide for the tour will be fellow Quest member Michael Hamburg who is a docent at the museum. We are grateful to Michael for being our guide and generously giving us 20 free tickets.**

**WHEN:** Friday, November 10, 2023. Please arrive by 10:15 AM The tour will begin promptly at 10:30 AM

**WHERE:** American Museum of Natural History, 200 Center Park West, NYC

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

**TO RESERVE:** Send an email asap to Renee Woloshin at: [rswolo@aol.com](mailto:rswolo@aol.com)

**Please put AMNH TOUR in the subject line of your email and 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.**

**LUNCH (Optional)**  
**Nice Matin, 201 W. 79<sup>th</sup> St.**

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

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

**Important note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show and did not cancel will be placed on 'future waitlists only' when they sign up to attend live CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.**