

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 27 - December 1, 2023

This is a “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 <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, NOVEMBER 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CLASSICAL MUSIC (Hybrid)**
Room: Auditorium
Subject: Woodwinds in Classical Music

OBOE: “The ill wind that nobody blows well
BASSOON “The clown of the orchestra”

You heard in an earlier class that the organ is a wind instrument, that somehow air from somewhere is blown through pipes to make music.

Woodwinds are the same: Air from somewhere is blown through pipes to make music.

How is air blown? Where does it come from?

What kind of pipes does it go through?

Why is each of the instruments so similar and yet so different?

What is the history of each instrument?

What makes them sound so different?

How are each of them used today?

Come and decide if four woodwinds — flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon — still blow ill or are clowns.

Presenter: Penelope Pi-Sunyer

Coordinators: Sol Makon, Peter Dichter, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

Tech Support: Victor Brener, Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

Course: **TONI MORRISON: THE LEGEND (In-person)**
Room: Classroom 15-17
Subject **Song of Solomon: Unlocking the Power of Names**

Step into the enchanting world of Toni Morrison's literary masterpiece, Song of Solomon, and discover as we delve deep into the artistry of Morrison's storytelling, where names are more than just words—they are portals to history, culture, and identity. From the evocative title itself, which beckons us to journey into the past, to characters like Pilate, Circe, Milkman, and Macon Dead, Morrison weaves a tapestry of names that are as poetic as they are symbolic. Each name carries its own unique weight, reflecting the complex interplay of race, heritage, and personal identity in a world marked by both historical struggles and timeless human desire, inviting us to ponder the deeper meanings that lie beneath the surface and unlock the hidden treasures of Song of Solomon.

Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Coordinators: Donna K. Ramer, Sheryl Harawitz, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY (In-person only)**
Room: 15-17
Subject: Met Opera 2023 - 24 Season

Step into the enchanting world of opera with the "Metropolitan Opera HD Series" - where the timeless art form comes to life on the big screen. Join us as we enjoy lunch, listen to enchanting arias, and engage in discussions about the compelling stories behind the performances of this Season.

Presenter: Sheryl & Andrea
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: GREAT PLAYS (In-person only)

Room: Auditorium

Play: The Thanksgiving Play by Larissa FastHorse

In “The Thanksgiving Play,” a trio of well-meaning educators/actors attempt to present an elementary school Thanksgiving play without offending the school's administration, the school board, or parents. Toward this goal, they use grant money to hire a professional Native American actor, a move that only brings hilarious new challenges for the trio to overcome.

Larissa FastHorse, a Native American playwright from South Dakota, wrote The Thanksgiving Play in response to the difficulties she faced finding Native American actors for her previous works. Through satire and humor, the play addresses the misrepresentation of Native Americans, the lack of indigenous casting, and the challenges of accurately representing indigenous people in American society, as well as taking aim against the broader target of political correctness.

The play was first performed in New York at the Playwrights Horizons in 2018 and moved to Broadway for a limited run earlier this year.

Cast Mary Ann Donnelly, Frank Montaturo, June Jacobson, Wayne Cotter

Presenter: Wayne Cotter

Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp

Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

Course: SIXTIES (Hybrid)

Room: 15-17

Subject: Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., was the most well-known boxer not only in the 1960's, but in the entire 20th century. He was the heavyweight world champion multiple times and was known as the Greatest. Come to the Sixties class to learn about his career as a

boxer, his controversial refusal to be inducted into the armed forces of the United States, his membership in The Nation of Islam and his work as a social activist. It will be both a fond remembrance of an extraordinary athlete, and an opportunity to learn about other aspects of his life.

Presenter: Bob Gottfried
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Diane Reynolds
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

Course: MEXICO: SOUTH OF OUR BORDER (In-person)
Room: 27
Subject: Mexican Dance – from Traditional to Contemporary Performances

Mexican dance mirrors the country’s rich and diverse history that encompasses various cultural influences and traditions. It is deeply rooted in the country’s heritage that often blends indigenous and European influences, while also preserving the unique, ancient dances that are still practiced today. We will be looking at some of these indigenous practices, as well as the glamorous theatrical adaptations of the regional folkloric dances that represent Mexico abroad and are much enjoyed at home. We will also be looking at a few contemporary choreographers seeking connections with the global contemporary dance scene.

Presenter: Ze’eva Cohen
Coordinators: Tamara Weinberg, Harriet Dubroff, Joyce Sabella
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Bob Reiss

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK** (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: **At the Crossroads of Art, Science, and Technology**

In the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art this past spring and summer, visitors encountered the astonishing work of the digital media artist, Refik Anadol: a 24-foot-high wall of constantly roiling shapes generated from 380,000 digitized images taken from the museum's entire collection of art, design and photography entitled Unsupervised an adaptive AI system that is constantly changing. From Anadol's varied body of work we will see how he uses audio and video generative learning models to transform the exterior of the Walt Disney concert hall in LA, the AI-generated artwork at The Sphere in Las Vegas, archival photographic data of our universe for Machine Memoirs: Space in Istanbul, and an ongoing project to document the lives and work of the indigenous peoples of Yawanawa in the Amazon. Finally, we will look briefly at digital artists who influenced him.

Presenter: **Joyce West**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro**
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro, Bob Reiss**

Course: **WATER** (Hybrid)
Room: 27
Subject: **Feeding in the Water**

Eating should be easy, right? Just open your mouth and put the food in it . . . well, it's not that easy for animals that live and/or feed in the water. They have a great variety of ways to get their food. This includes filtering the water, scouring the bottom for goodies, sucking in the food, stinging and paralyzing prey, ambushing them, opening or crushing hard shells, being a parasite on the outside or inside of another species, eating the parasites off other species, hosting tiny plants that

photosynthesize and do the work for you, and many more. Come digest and absorb this fascinating information!

Presenter: Judy Weis
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Steven Chicoine

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation) (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 19

We'll be discussing what influenced the person you are today (or did in the past that you now laugh about it— in Spanish, with help if needed.) We'll be using the words/terms for our relatives and conjugating correctly the verb "influence."

Presenters: Sheila Serfati and Ruth Ward
Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Bob Hartmann, Ruth Ward

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28@ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: FILM FOR THOUGHT (In-person only)
Room: Auditorium

We continue our viewing of the best short films - award winning dramas, comedies, and documentaries. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and their poignant and provocative stories for entertainment and discussion.

Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

Course: **HARLEM RENAISSANCE** (Hybrid)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington in 1920s New York

If one of the achievements of the Harlem Renaissance was the recognition and appreciation of African Americans' participation in and contribution to American Culture, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington must be viewed as two of its heroes. This presentation will tell the story of how in 1920s New York, Armstrong and Ellington emerged as two forces in modern American music that white America could not and did not want to ignore. Central to the presentation will be 1920s recordings by Armstrong, Ellington, Paul Whiteman, King Oliver and Fletcher Henderson.

Presenter: Stuart Parker
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Ilene Winkler, Hedy Shulman, Stuart Parker
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Ilene Winkler

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION** (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium
Subject: **The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America**
by Russell Shorto

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Next year will be the 400th anniversary of the first Dutch settlers landing on the southern tip of the island of Manhattoe, as the Munsee inhabitants called it, not far from where 25 Broadway sits today. To celebrate, we are presenting the prizewinning book, *The Island at the*

Center of the World by Russell Shorto. Published in 2004, the book was hailed as a breakthrough that fundamentally changed our understanding of New York's origins.

Shorto contends that New Amsterdam, as the Dutch named the town -- and the surrounding colony of New Netherland -- differed fundamentally from the other twelve colonies because of its Dutch origins. As an outpost of the Dutch West Indies Company, New Netherlands was the only colony established as a business, while the English colonies were founded on strict religious principles. New Amsterdam was relatively tolerant, democratic, and open to people of many nationalities, at a time when Amsterdam was the most progressive city in Europe. Shorto believes that this difference has influenced the development of New York City ever since.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Course: UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES (In-person only)

Room: 15-17

Subject: The Worrisome Decline of American Newspapers

What has happened to the hometown papers that we all grew up with? Even here in the big city there is a long list of papers (including the Evening World, the Telegram, the Daily Mirror, the Herald, the Tribune, PM, the Sun, and so many more) that have simply disappeared. And that has happened in small towns and not-so-small cities and towns across the country. As news sources undergo what we could call "the great consolidation," this has worrisome consequences for us all. Join us as we discuss this critically important trend, and be prepared to reminisce about the papers you grew up with!

Presenters: Michael Wellner & Linda Amster

Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks

Tech Support: Steven Chicoine, Michael Wellner

NOVEMBER 29 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: BOOK CLUB (In-person only)
Room: Classroom 27
Book: The Dictionary of Lost Words
Author: Pip Williams

Set in England during the height of the women's suffrage movement, and inspired by actual events, the novel is a beautifully written fictional tribute to the real women whose work on the original Oxford English Dictionary has gone unrecognized.

Presenter: Arlynn Greenbaum
Coordinators: Jan Goldstein, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 @ 12:50 PM – 2:15 PM

Course: GENERAL MEETING (Hybrid)
Room: Auditorium

All members are invited to our Fall 2023 General Meeting, Wednesday, November 29, from 12:50 p.m.-2:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the auditorium and on Zoom (via the auditorium link). As always, we'll unveil a few new projects, hear updates from several committees, and get a sneak peek at our Spring 2024 classes, which start Feb 4. You'll also have an opportunity to ask questions.

But wait, there's more! Don't plan to run out the door as the clock strikes the quarter-hour because the Quest Social Committee is hosting a wine and cheese gathering immediately after the meeting so we can chat with new and long-time fellow Questers and just hang out a bit (see next item).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 @ 2:15 – 3:15 PM

WINE & CHEESE FALL GATHERING-

Please join us for wine, cheese and assorted snacks after today's General Meeting. Come one! Come all!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS (Hybrid)

Room: Auditorium

Subject: Staten Island

Staten Islanders call Manhattan “The City” but most New Yorkers know Staten Island for the free ferry ride, or as the borough that tried to secede from The City. We’ll look beyond the ferry terminal to learn about Staten Island’s 300-plus year history, including Colonial-era Richmond Town, the Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the oldest continually inhabited free Black town, Sandy Ground, that was a stop on the Underground Railroad, and the home of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker. We will also examine the island’s reputation for conservative politics, racial problems, and anti-immigrant rallies—as the island becomes home to a growing number of immigrants, an LGBTQ community, and the first attempt to organize a union at Amazon. And finally, since the population is over one-third Italian American, a guide to great pizza.

Presenter: Ilene Winkler

Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

Tech Support: Paul Golomb, Ilene Winkler

Course: SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE (In-person only)
Room: 15-17

A report on the latest developments in artificial intelligence, with a particular focus on the fight over the firm OpenAI which is making headlines. As always, we look forward to lively and wide ranging discussions of this and whatever topics pop up!

For those wishing to do some reading in advance concerning the fight over OpenAI, articles will be circulated on QuestBusiness.

Presenter: Steve Allen
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

Course: WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD (B WEEK) (Hybrid)
Room: 27
Subject: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
Chapter 30

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The adolescent Marguerite is invited to southern California, where she meets Daddy Bailey and his "mean and petty" young girlfriend Dolores, whom Daddy Bailey doesn't invite to accompany them on a drive to Ensenada, Mexico. At Daddy Bailey's favorite cantina, his friends invite Marguerite to join their abandoned drinking and dancing. When her father disappears for a tryst, M. figures that if Dolores knew, "she would crawl up in her blanket of affectations and die circumspectly." When their Mexican friends at last produce a very drunk Daddy Bailey and deposit him in the back seat of his car, M. decides she is capable of driving her father back to the U.S. Do you believe she succeeded? Come and read with us to find out.

Presenter: Ruth Ward and The Class
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Technical Support: Larry Shapiro

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ NOON – 12:50 PM

**NEW MEMBERS MEETING (In-person only)
Room 19**

This meeting, the third in a series of four, continues our introduction to and overview of the Quest experience.

At the meeting you will:

- **Meet Madeleine Brecher, Chair of the CultureQuest Committee**
- **Meet Michael Wellner, a past president of Quest and currently a member of the Council, Chair of the Special Events Committee, Co-Chair of the Travel Committee, and Co-Chair of the Emergency Response Committee**
- **Be able to ask questions about any aspect of Quest's activities.**
- **Engage with other new members**

Who is Invited:

Fall and Spring 2023 new members

Coordinators: Susan Keohane (co-chair), Renee Woloshin (co-chair), John Davis, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR (In-person only)
Room: 15-17
Subject: Constructing A National Culture

Embark on a journey that unravels the threads of tradition, innovation, and the nuanced elements that set Japan apart from its neighbors. From the graceful dance of tea ceremonies to the bold strokes of calligraphy, delve into the artistry that shapes the Japanese identity. Uncover the

historical roots and contemporary expressions that make Japan a captivating mosaic of uniqueness within the rich diversity of East Asia.

Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash

Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY (Hybrid)

Room: 27

Subject: Two stories by Anton Chekhov

Since this is a hybrid philosophy & literature course, I thought it would be interesting to discuss what Chekhov was up to in these great enigmatic stories, "Gooseberries" and "Gusev." Unlike Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky or D.H. Lawrence, Chekhov doesn't lecture or preach, but does he practice philosophy by other means? Does Chekhov stealthily convey views on ethical behavior, good and evil, free will, the meaning or meaninglessness of life, etc.? Or just tell stories crafted to make us think?

I'll distribute links to the stories and possibly pdfs via Quest Business. I'll try to do this before Thanksgiving and again during the week we meet.

Discussion Leader: Larry Shapiro

Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen

Tech Support: Larry Shapiro

Course: POETS' WORKSHOP (In-person only)

Room: 19

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

Write a poem using the cue word "belief" 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
Tech Support: None Assigned

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 @ 2:45 PM

Course: SOLE MATES (In-person only)

Room: Gather in the lobby by elevators on 7th floor at 2:45 p.m.

Andrea and Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River. They will start at Battery Park and head north ending at a 'rest' stop for a glass of wine, a cup hot soup, socialization. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – No commitments just serendipity – community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a week of Questing.

Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 10:45AM – 12:00 PM

CultureQuest

The Museum of the City of New York (MCNY)
“Celebrating the Centennial at MCNY”

Friday, December 1 – 11 AM – 12 PM
(In-person tour)

Since 1923, The Museum of the City of New York has documented New York's stories and celebrated our greatest moments of reinvention. Quest has arranged for a guided tour of its Centennial exhibition: This Is New York: 100 Years of the City in Art and Pop Culture, which conveys the essence of New York City through the eyes of artists and creators, inventors and pioneers, locals, and visitors. Our tour will cover some of the hundreds of objects that have conveyed New York City through the last 100 years, from paintings, sculptures, and photographs to costumes, books, vinyl records, and much more. After the one-hour tour, we highly recommend you stay for an additional 20 minutes as you will

not want to miss “You are Here: An Immersive Film Experience” featuring 16 screens and hundreds of clips from movies set in New York City.

WHEN: Friday, December 1, 2023. Please arrive by 10:45
The tour will begin promptly at 11 AM

WHERE: 1220 Fifth Avenue (103 St.)

COST: \$10 – Limited to 20 participants. Please leave a check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in our CultureQuest mailbox in the Office by November 20.

TO RESERVE: Send an email asap to Hedy Shulman at hedy.shulman@gmail.com Please put Museum of the City of NY in the subject line of your email. 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 waitlist only' when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

LUNCH (optional): There is a very cute Mexican place called Conmigo that is just south of Mount Sinai on the east side of Madison Ave. between 98th and 97th St. I thought it was quite good. There is also a Le Pain Quotidien which is casual and usually has good seating even if the group must break up a bit.