

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 26 - 29, 2024

This is a B Week

There are three links for all classes for 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.

Below are given the links (in red), meeting IDs, and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If Zoom is installed on your computer, you can enter any hybrid class by clicking on the appropriate link:

AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 813 5977 7119

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 893 8196 3761

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 834 6569 8593

Passcode: 252525

Alternatively, you can enter a class using your browser by going to <https://zoom.us/join> and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with 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 passcode.

NOTE: All classes are conducted at 25 Broadway and are listed as either Hybrid or In-person only. 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, FEB 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CLASSICAL MUSIC**
Subject: The Old Testament as Musical Inspiration
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Sol Makon**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis,
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Victor Brener

The Old Testament is replete with thrilling narratives that, religious implications aside, make for absorbing reading. Genesis begins with the creation of the world and (almost) ends with the great Flood that wipes out most of mankind (spoiler alert: Noah) and the fascinating story of Joseph and his amazing rise to second-in-command in Egypt. Then there is Exodus with the riveting adventures of Moses and Aaron and the 40-year departure of the Israelites from Egypt. The narratives of David, Samson and Solomon are as famous as narratives can get. The prophets Jeremiah and Elijah influenced multiple religions. So it is not surprising that composers renowned and obscure, classical and modern were motivated to write music inspired by this powerful document. Hear, O Quest!

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Willa Cather, and an introduction to the main characters of *O Pioneers!* will be the focus of our first session. A brief biography of Cather gives us clues to the perspective, intent and symbolism in her writing.

At once a sophisticated pastoral and a prototype for later feminist novels, *O Pioneers!* is a work in which triumph is enmeshed with tragedy; a story of people who do not claim a land so much as they submit to it and, in the process, become greater than they were.

Reading aloud together, we can look forward to meeting Alexandra, Emil, Carl and Marie (our debatable heroines and heroes) in Part I, The Wild Land, Sections 1-3 of *O Pioneers!*

MONDAY, FEB 26 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY
Subject: Noontime Jazz
Presenter: Richard Byrd & Stu Parker
Room; 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

Tune in to the smooth melodies of jazz greats Joey Alexander and Emmet Cohen as they transport you to a world of timeless classics. From Alexander's rendition of "My Favorite Things " Emmet Cohen's soulful take on "When I Grow Too Old to Dream," let the soothing rhythms of noon-time jazz favorites serenade your senses and uplift your day.

1. Joey Alexander "My Favorite Things" | The World
2. Joey Alexander "Round Midnight"
3. Emmet Cohen w/ Jon-Erik Kelliso & Evan Christopher, "When I Grow Too Old to Dream"

MONDAY, FEB 26 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Subject: Sam Shephard
Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

Please note that today's session will *not* feature a live performance, but rather a discussion of Sam Shephard's life and career. Shephard, who died in 2017, was a playwright, actor, director and screenwriter who wrote over 50 plays as well as several books. Shepard received the 1979 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play *Buried Child*.

The session will feature several videos containing interviews with Shephard and clips from some of his most famous works. If time permits, we'll also show an interview with the actor Ethan Hawke who discusses his long-time affinity for *True West*, one of Shepard's most well-known plays and one that has been performed in Great Plays multiple times over the past decade. There will be plenty of time for audience feedback throughout the session.

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: What's new in science
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

For our first class of the semester, we'll review some of the most interesting science developments over the last few months. As always, we look forward to lively and wide ranging discussions of these and whatever topics pop up!

TUESDAY, FEB 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Donald Judd
Presenter: Andrea Irvine
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

Donald Judd remains one of the most significant artists of the twentieth century. His radical ideas and work continue to provoke and influence the fields of art, architecture, and design.

He studied philosophy and art history at Columbia University and painting at the Art Students League. From 1959 to 1965, he worked as an art critic. Judd was a painter until the early 1960s, when he began making work in three dimensions which changed the idea of art. Throughout his lifetime Judd advocated for the importance of art and artistic expression. He wrote extensively on the importance of land preservation, empirical knowledge, and engaged citizenship.

TUESDAY, FEB 27@ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**
Subject: What We Did on our Winter Vacations
Presenter: Donna Basile
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Ellen Rittberg, Richard Elrauch

Whether you had a staycation or were a globetrotter or something in between, come and share your experiences in whatever level your Spanish is at. Former teacher Donna Basile will be leading the discussion. Our friendly group has different levels of proficiency and the only way one improves one's foreign language skills is by speaking it! Help is at hand as needed.

TUESDAY, FEB 27 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

We continue viewing the best of contemporary short films, documentaries, dramas and comedies selected on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course: **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
Subject: The Life, Times, and Contributions of Hubert H. Harrison
Presenter: Richard Byrd
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Richard Byrd, Stuart Parker
Tech Support: Steven Chicoine

My presentation will be about the life, times, and contributions of Hubert H. Harrison to the worldwide African liberation movement. Although not as well known today as his peers, W.E.B Dubois, Marcus Garvey, A. Phillip Randolph, etc. During the Harlem Renaissance, he was held in the same high esteem, as his aforementioned contemporaries.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**
Subject: *How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us* by Michael Pollan

Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Michael Pollan is best known for his best-selling books about plants and food. In *How to Change Your Mind*, Pollan explores the history and resurgence of interest surrounding psychedelic drugs and how they work. After decades of vilification, he makes a compelling argument for psychedelics to be taken seriously, particularly as tools for treating severe mental illness, depression and anxiety.

As *The New York Times Book Review* noted: "Gripping and surprising ... Makes losing your mind sound like the sanest thing a person could do."

Presenter Paul Adler will also talk about his personal experiences with psychedelics during the '60s.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: The Decline of the American Dream and the Rise of Trump Voters
Presenter: Maureen Berman
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

The Post World War II era was one of the greatest economic booms in our nation's history. Many – but certainly not all – Americans joined the growing Middle Class. Jobs paying good wages were available to blue collar workers, and the income differential between rich and the poor was far less than it is today. Optimism soared that future generations could expect to benefit from good economic times for many years to come.

What happened next? The era of broad-based economic prosperity proved to be short-lived. A convergence of factors resulted in declining economic opportunity for many Americans who now lost hope that their circumstances and the lives of their children would continuously improve.

In this class, we will explore the circumstances leading to the creation of a segment of the American populace who are angry, disaffected, and no longer expect to participate in the American Dream. How this world view affects their outlook on life, as well as their political beliefs and actions will also be examined.

WEDNESDAY, FEB 28 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER**
Subject: *PUBLIC/PRIVATE: My Life with Joe Papp at the Public Theater*
Lecturer: Gail Merrifield Papp
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Many of us remember waiting in line to see free Shakespeare in the Park and going to innovative shows like A CHORUS LINE, HAIR and FOR COLORED GIRLS at the Public Theater. Joe Papp, who founded both, was a theatrical legend and a creative genius. He produced over 600 plays and musicals that won more than 200 stage, film and television awards.

Gail Merrifield joined the N.Y. Shakespeare Festival in 1965, became Director of New Works Development for the Public Theater and worked closely with Joe Papp for 26 years until his death in 1991. They were married in 1976.

In her new memoir, *PUBLIC/PRIVATE: My Life with Joe Papp at the Public Theater*, she shares a behind-the-scenes look at their fascinating history. Arlynn Greenbaum will interview Gail on stage followed by a slide show, Q&A and book sale/signing.

We hope you will join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, FEB 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS**
Subject: Sutton Place
Presenter: Maureen Berman
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss

Once known as an exclusive enclave for the very rich, today's Sutton Place is a lively neighborhood, featuring a diverse population and a variety of retail and eating

establishments. Many neighborhood residents choose to live in the area for its proximity to the East River and the beautiful views seen from Sutton Place Parks. In this class you'll learn about the history of the area, from the first houses built for middle class citizens, to a serious decline in the early part of the 20th century with the construction of tenements, breweries, and other factories, to the revitalization of the area through the surprising arrival of a group of wealthy socialites.

You'll be introduced to the architectural gems that line Sutton Place and adjoining streets, as well as other noteworthy features of the neighborhood. Learn about the newest neighborhood attraction: the East Midtown Greenway – opened with much fanfare in December 2023. Running from 53rd Street to 62nd Street, the Greenway represents the next step in the grand strategic plan to revitalize Manhattan's under-utilized waterfront and to provide a continuous East Side thoroughfare from Lower Manhattan to the George Washington Bridge.

Course: **YOUNG BEETHOVEN**
Subject: Beethoven's Boyhood in Bonn and the German "Awakening"
Presenter: Linda Downs and Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

The natural beauty of the royal Rhineland town of Bonn – its coursing river of trade and pleasure, surrounded by hills thick with dense forests, vineyards, and fields of grain, fashionable Baroque and Rococo palaces and gardens, music and legends everywhere, —as well as exciting new ideas of the German "Awakening"—all this surrounded and shaped young Beethoven.

Linda will discuss the surroundings and ideas. Larry will discuss his early musical development.

THURSDAY, FEB 29 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**
Subject: Ticker Tape Parades Up the Canyon of Heroes
Presenter: David Bartash
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Ruth Ward

Q: What are those granite strips embedded in the sidewalks of Broadway stretching from Battery Park to City Hall? We walk on them every time we come to Quest.

A: They are there to commemorate each of the more than 200 ticker tape parades held on lower Broadway over the past 125 years! They are the markers for what is uniquely a New York tradition. These parades have honored Generals, Aviators, Dictators and Royalty as well as relatively normal people who have accomplished the extraordinary.

Join us as we explore this New York institution and the people who we have chosen for this singular honor.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY**
Subject: Pragmatism and Religion
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

In Richard Rorty's final words on the subject of Pragmatism, he identified anti-authoritarianism as its primary impulse and virtue. Where does that leave religion? Rorty's mentors, John Dewey and William James, disagreed about the legitimacy of religious belief. Guided by Rorty, we'll discuss their differences, and James's effort to reconcile religion and science. If Pragmatism is a form of intellectual liberation seeking to advance the human condition, does it allow a place for religious belief? Rorty has his own view, and so I expect does each of us, which can be part of our class discussion.

Rorty's essay "*Pragmatism and Religion*" will be distributed via Quest Business.

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.**)
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran
Tech Support: None Assigned

Write a poem using the cue word "sing" (or "singing") or a word of the poet's choice. Authors will read their poems and bring copies of each poem to class for a second reading by a classmate. A discussion of the poem will follow.

THURSDAY, FEB 29 @ 2:25 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather by the elevator on 7th floor.
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

And we're off again for our second walk of Spring Semester. We will head south toward the Battery - then along the Hudson River ending up at a "rest stop" for glass wine, cuppa soup, socialization. It's up to you how far you walk - lots of transportation options in Oculus Train station and we'll help with directions.

No signups, no prior commitment - just serendipity, community, and a healthy heart. Great way to end a week at Quest.

CULTUREQUEST

Subway Tour
Friday, March 1

This Tour is Sold Out