

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 11 - 15, 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, MARCH 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CLASSICAL MUSIC**
Subject: Music and Psychiatry
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Sol Makon**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis,
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Victor Brener

We will play videos of Richard Kogan, MD, a distinguished psychiatrist and concert pianist. Dr. Kogan has gained renown for his lecture/concerts that explore the role of music in healing and the influence of psychological forces and psychiatric illness on the creative output of the great composers. A master storyteller, he has captivated audiences at medical conferences, music festivals, universities and scholarly symposia throughout the world. He is known for his exquisite playing ... linking short musical excerpts to depressive and manic moods, Dr. Kogan seeks to isolate the actual sounds of psychiatric disorder. It's a lesson in medico-musical listening.

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

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Part I, sections 4 & 5: John Bergson's death is followed by three years of farming success for his family, and then three years of drought. Discouraged, brothers Lou and Oscar dream of escape, but their prescient sister Alexandra insists, "Someday the land itself will be worth more than all we can ever raise on it." After talking to the experienced farmers of the rough and hilly neighboring river farms, Alexandra assures her brothers that if their family buys every acre they can, in ten years they will be independent landowners.

Part II, sections 1 & 2: Thirteen years later, Alexandra's farm is prosperous. Lou and Oscar are married, and younger brother Emil has come home from college. Alexandra defends Ivar, an eccentric, God-fearing naturalist she took in as a family member, from the desires of her older brothers to send him to an asylum. And then . . . ? Come to class to unearth what happens next.

MONDAY, MARCH 11 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: What's in the Museums
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**
Tech Support: **Sheryl Harawitz**

Join us for a fun presentation on exhibitions currently in the museums. Additionally, we'll share a printed list of ongoing exhibitions to guide you through the Spring Cultural Scene. Do you have a recommendation of a currently running exhibition you would like us to include? If so - please send the details to me at SherylInyc@gmail.com

And don't forget to bring your lunch!

MONDAY, MARCH 11 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT PLAYS**
Play/Playwright: *Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney
Cast: Frieda Lipp, Roy Clary
Presenter: Frieda Lipp
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward**

It's a simple story - a man and woman write letters to each other. They begin writing as children and continue over their lives for the next fifty years. And it's a simple production -the playwright A. R.Gurney asks only that the two performers sit and read their letters and listen - she to look at him only once at the end. And yet this play, which premiered in 1988 in New Haven, has been performed continuously ever since in the States, in Canada and Europe, even in Moscow. The roster of actors who have flocked to do it are a who's who of luminaries from the stage and screen too numerous to delineate - suffice to say, they will be impressed.

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: Quantum Computing
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only

Coordinators: Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

The topic of quantum computing has been appearing quite frequently in science news over the past several months. It has both (1) been hailed as having great potential benefits in fields such as drug discovery, chemical compounds, and improving manufacturing processes and (2) raised fears about its potential disruption of existing security measures for personal data, electronic communications, and financial transactions. We'll explore the fascinating science that drives quantum computing, the controversies over its practical feasibility, and the measures already being taken to enhance current security processes in anticipation of this potential disruption.

As always, we look forward to a lively and wide ranging discussion of this and whatever topics pop up!

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK
Subject: Oceanic Art: Wood Carvings by the Asmat People of Western New Guinea
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

The Asmat people live in Western New Guinea where dense forest and mangrove swamps cover 85% of its area and parts of the interior remain unexplored. They live in small villages separated by hundreds of rivers choked with mangrove trees that frequently change course with the tides. Even as late as the 1960's, most had never seen a Westerner, nor did they have metal, paper or even rocks. They were headhunters and cannibals until the practice was banned by the Indonesian government in the mid-1970's. Yet these people produced some of the most beautiful wood carvings of any island in the Pacific. Most of their artwork in the Met was collected by Michael Rockefeller until he vanished on one of his expeditions in 1961. Join me for a look at this fascinating culture and their art (and by the way, what DID happen to Michael Rockefeller?)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**
Subject: Sharing memories in Spanish
Presenter: Richard Elrauch
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg, Richard Elrauch**

Richard Elrauch will be leading a spirited discussion about childhood memories we remember most vividly; regrets/ what we might have done differently and (for those of us who attended public school (most of us), our worst memory of it. Share how much or how little you wish (or just listen) and, as Richard says below: it will surely be an animated discussion or perhaps even therapeutic.

Hoy contemplaremos y hablaremos de uno o más (como usted desea) de los tres siguientes cuestiones:

La memoria mejor de tu niñez
El lamento mayor de tu vida
Tu memoria peor de escuela pública
Puede estar seguro que la conversación será animada (y quizás terapéutica!)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 @ 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, dramas, documentaries, and comedies selected on their artistic merit and the probability of producing lively discussion.

Course: **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
Subject: Aaron Douglas
Presenter: Ann Goerdt
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Richard Byrd, Stuart Parker**
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**

If you Google Aaron Douglas, you immediately get phrases such as: *played a leading role in the Harlem Renaissance*; widely acknowledged as one of the most accomplished and influential visual artists of the Harlem Renaissance; *and* revolutionized African-American art. In addition to being looked upon as the Father of Black American Art, he is credited with making a lasting impact on American Modernism. If you have visited the Harlem Renaissance show at the Metropolitan Museum, you already know how unique the work of Aaron Douglas is.

Aaron Douglas began studying art when he was in high school in Kansas. He worked to go to college, and when he was in college, but always found the time to study art. When he arrived in Harlem his artistic ability was recognized, and he achieved success rapidly. But he continued to study art. He was exposed to various styles of art, and was stimulated by the discussions of art and philosophy in Harlem. This presentation will look at the many cultural and artistic influences of the early twentieth century that Aaron Douglas absorbed and used to create his own art that would reflect the true heritage of the Americans whose ancestors came from Africa.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**
Subject: *Lab Girl: A Memoir* by Hope Jahren
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Like other great love stories, *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren offers drama, suspense, humor and surprise, and some puzzles the reader may not understand on first reading. (I've read it twice and hope I'm not done yet.) To describe it in one sentence, I'll say it's the memoir of a brilliant scientist who from childhood was more comfortable in her father's laboratory than in the world outside it, including her home--and eventually got over it. Many reviewers have praised the book, but the best description is the words of Helen Keller that Jahren quotes as an epigraph: "The more I handled things and learned their names and uses, the more joyous and confident grew my sense of kinship with the rest of the world." In class, I'll have more to say about her important scientific work, and what makes *Lab Girl* a love story and the unique, funny and endearing person she is.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: The Origins of the U.S. Conservative Movement
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

In this session, we'll cover some of the most influential thinkers, writers and politicians in the Conservative Movement. We'll start with Edmund Burke from the 18th Century who stressed that civilization depends on the rule of law provided it is written into the social fabric of society.

We'll also cover Alexis de Tocqueville and Friedrich Hayek as well as William F. Buckley, Barry Goldwater and Ayn Rand.

Come find out why Barry Goldwater, who was roundly defeated by Lyndon Johnson in the 1964 presidential election, is considered by many to be the most consequential loser in the history of American politics.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13th @ NOON – 12:50 PM

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

**In-Person Only
Room 19**

This meeting, the second in a series of four this semester, will provide new members with valuable information about various aspects of the Quest experience.

At the meeting you will:

- Meet Arlynn Greenbaum - Head of the Distinguished Guest Lecture Series and Chair, Encores24 Committee
- Meet Ruth Ward - Editor-in-Chief, QReview and past President of Quest
- Meet Gale Spitalnik - Consulting Editor, QNews
- Meet Howard Salik - Chair, Nominating and Elections Committee and past President of Quest
- Be able to ask questions about any aspect of Quest's activities
- Engage with other new members

Who is invited:

- Spring 2024 and Fall 2023 new members
- Coordinators: Susan Keohane (co-chair), Renee Woloshin (co-chair), John Davis, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB**
Book: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*
Author: Lisa See
Presenter: Joan Vreeland
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

This historical novel was inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15th-century China. Born into an elite family, Yunxian is raised by grandparents who encourage her education. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine. But when Yunxian enters an arranged marriage, she is expected to give up medicine and behave like a proper wife - - embroider bound-foot slippers, recite poetry, give birth to sons, and stay cloistered forever within the walls of the family compound. The book follows Yunxian's struggle with the conflicting impulses to either be an obedient wife or to use her knowledge to heal those in need. Joan Vreeland will be presenting.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER**
Subject: *Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism*
Lecturer: Brooke Kroeger
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Brooke Kroeger is a journalist, professor emerita at NYU, where she served on the faculty from 1998 to 2021, and the author of six books, the latest of which is *Undaunted: How Women Changed American Journalism*, published by A.A. Knopf. Her earlier books are *Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist Fannie: The Talent for Success of Writer Fannie*

Hurst; Passing: When People Can't Be Who They Are; Undercover Reporting: The Truth About Deception and The Suffragents: How Women Used Men to Get the Vote.

At NYU, she was department chair from 2005 to 2011 and founding director of NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. Early in her career, she was UN Correspondent for *Newsday* and deputy metropolitan editor for *New York Newsday*. Over eleven years with *United Press International* (in its Scripps Howard days), Brooke reported from Chicago, Brussels, London and Tel Aviv, where she was bureau chief (1980-83) before returning to London to become the agency's division editor for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (1983-84).

This is Women's History Month.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS
Subject: Hoboken
Presenter: Mary Beth Yakoubian
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

Hoboken, the "Mile Square City," is not merely another city out of hundreds worldwide of similar size. It is a special place that holds a unique position in history. For many years, it was an important seaport and gateway to America, one of the crossroads of the world. Hoboken's founders were pioneers in water and rail transportation, and its transatlantic liner passenger trade once rivaled New York City's. It has an outstanding history to look back upon – as long as the history of the nation itself.

Course: YOUNG BEETHOVEN
Subject: Beethoven's early years in Vienna
Presenter: Larry Shapiro & Arlene Hajinlian
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Arlene Hajinlian, Larry Shapiro

Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

After his early studies in Bonn, Beethoven made a permanent move to Vienna and began to make connections with the Viennese aristocracy while studying with Haydn. At that time in Vienna, there was the highest standard of music-making, so this was the perfect place for him to make his name as a pianist, an improviser, and as a composer.

Larry will discuss the history of this time, and Arlene will give background on the development of pianos, and using Quest's keyboard, explore his first piano sonatas presented publicly to the world - the three sonatas of Opus 2. Please join us!

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR
Subject: Construction in the Water
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Ruth Ward

No, we're not talking about the Lincoln Tunnel or offshore wind or deep sea drilling. We're talking about construction by the animals that live in the water. They build amazing shells, reefs, even gemstones - pearls. They can change the appearance and color of their bodies, make complex burrows. And a great variety of different nests for their eggs to develop in. From single-celled plankton to large fishes, the diversity of things constructed is amazing. Come learn about it!

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

In this session, we will discuss pragmatism's approach to moral issues and contrast it with a more traditional philosophical position. The pragmatism approach will be represented by Richard Rorty, who advocates basing moral reasoning on reflective discussion about our existing moral intuitions. The traditional philosophical position will be represented by

Peter Singer, one of the most influential contemporary moral philosophers, who rejects the role of existing moral intuitions and advocates discovering proper moral principles through abstract reasoning. We will examine advantages and disadvantages of both approaches.

Readings from both Rorty and Singer will be distributed in advance through questbusiness. Their views will be summarized at the beginning of class to allow discussion participation by members who have not had a chance to do these readings or have read only a part of them.

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 "curious" 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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather in lobby area by elevators on 7th floor at 2:45 p.m.
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedmann

Andrea & Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River ending at a rest stop for refreshments/eats and socialization. It's up to you how far you walk - no sign-ups - no commitments. And we'll help with transportation directions home. A Great Way to End a Week at Quest.

CULTUREQUEST
Virtual Tour

Jewish Museum
March 15, 11:00 AM

Arte! Arte! Arte!
Marta Minujin
Argentina's Answer to Andy Warhol

Colorful, imaginative, energetic, vibrant, octogenarian Marta Minujin is the Taylor Swift of South America. You may have walked through her huge installation "SCULPTURE of DREAMS" last November in Times Square.

Marta, a Buenos Aires native, was born to a prominent Russian-Jewish family that came to Argentina in the 1890s. Ms. Minujin began her career in the late 1950s. During the 1960s, she experimented with mattresses, creating soft sculptures, painted in striped patterns with fluorescent colors, which became her signature style. Marta claims, "Half of your life takes place on a mattress", you are born, die, you make love on a mattress, "that's why mattresses are important." She started with mattresses in the sixties, for 40 years, and then started again in 2007.

She has also drawn attention to her Jewish identity, the history of the war, and the Holocaust in her work. You may recall "The Parthenon" (1983), a monumental artwork of books that protests attempts to censor and abandon books that focus on Jewish, black, queer, and trans experiences. The exhibit showcases works from the artist's archives along with private and institutional collections, sculptures, fluorescent large-scale paintings, psychedelic drawings, performances, and rarely seen photographs.

If you wish to attend this virtual tour, please email dena@kerren.us, and I will send you a password.

CULTUREQUEST

Metropolitan Opera Working Rehearsal
Friday, March 22nd

***La Rondine* by Giacomo Puccini**

Puccini's bittersweet love story makes a rare Met appearance, with soprano Angel Blue starring as the French courtesan Magda, opposite tenor Jonathan Tetelman in his highly anticipated company debut as Ruggero, an idealistic young man who offers her an alternative to her life of excess. The Art Deco-inspired staging transports audiences from the heart of Parisian nightlife to a dreamy vision of the French Riviera.

WHEN: Friday March 22nd, 10:30 AM until 1:00 PM
WHERE: The Metropolitan Opera House
We will meet at 10:00 AM to get your ticket.
COST: No charge. Limited to 35 participants
TO RESERVE: Send an email ASAP to Estelle Selzer at eselzer19@gmail.com.
Please put *La Rondine* in the subject line of your email.

NOTE: Priority will be given to those members who have not attended the fall Met Opera event with CultureQuest.

Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on future waitlists, only, when they **sign up to attend live CultureQuest events**.
Thank you for your understanding.