

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

March 25 - 28, 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 25 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CLASSICAL MUSIC**
Subject: The Recently Rediscovered Florence Price
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Sol Makon, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Bob Reiss, Victor Brener

Recently Rediscovered Florence Price

Several years ago, I started hearing (on the internet broadcasts I listen to) compositions by Florence Price. Who is she, I wondered, and started to investigate. An interracial prodigy, she (and family), to avoid Jim Crow, moved north in the Great Migration and became part of the Chicago Black Renaissance.

How she was forgotten, almost lost, then recently rediscovered, is a story worth recounting. A composer of more than 300 works in several genres, she is now being performed by major orchestras in several countries.

Her compositions were influenced by both halves of her roots. Several examples will be played.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *O Pioneers!* Part II, Neighboring Fields - Chapters 3-6
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

Following her disturbing conversation with Ivar, Alexandra invites her brothers to dinner to ask them about the threats Ivar says they made to him. Oscar has little to say, while Lou brings his wife, "who is more or less always preoccupied with her clothes." Lou airs his many suspicions and grievances, which are not limited to Ivar.

After dinner, a stranger arrives. It is Carl, Alexandra's friend from years past who moved back East. It is surprisingly easy for Alexandra to talk to Carl about matters that weigh on her. And for all her success, many things weigh on her.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **LUNCHTIME ACTIVITY**
Subject: Book Chats
Presenter: Kathy Cook
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Sheryl Harawitz

As those of you who have participated in previous meetings know, this is not your typical book group! We join together to talk about books we've enjoyed and share suggestions with each other.

Casual and Fun. Readers of any and all genres welcome. Bring lunch.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT PLAYS**
Play: *Meeting of Minds*
Playwright: Steve Allen
Cast: Wayne Cotter, Vince Grosso, June Jacobson, Jennifer Jolly, and Art Spar
Presenter: Wayne Cotter (and cast)
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward

Quest member Vincent Grosso has apparently discovered a way to channel some of history's greatest luminaries through four Quest volunteers. For this special production, Teddy Roosevelt will be channeled through Art Spar, Cleopatra through June Jacobson, Father Thomas Aquinas through Jennifer Jolly, and Tom Paine through Wayne Cotter.

Come hear these four historical figures offer their unique insights into war, democracy and the nature of leadership as they discuss the ups and downs of their careers. What does Cleopatra think about America's concept of democracy? What prompted Tom Paine to write Common Sense? How did Father Thomas Aquinas view heaven and hell? Did Teddy Roosevelt consider himself anti-capitalist? Find out the answers to these questions and more during this Meeting of Minds.

(Please note that the author of Meeting of Minds is Steve Allen, the late, great entertainer, musician and talk show host. It is not Quest member Steve Allen.)

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

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, MARCH 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: British Art of the 20th Century: Reaching for the Edge
Presenter: Sandy Gordon
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

British art in the 20th century was based on a return to an English view of their own culture, society, landscape and priorities. The English artist was no longer seeking approval from the continent, but sought inspiration in their own milieu, their own personal convictions. Contrary to the fashionable trends of post-impressionism and cubism, they were asserting their own styles and techniques. Let us join them in Reaching for the Edge

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish Conversation)**
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Richard Elrauch

Nuestras celebraciones de la Pascua

La Pascua es una celebración alegre en todo el mundo. Gran parte del simbolismo de la Pascua Cristiana también está relacionado con la Pascua Judía, y ambas celebraciones ocurren en un periodo de tiempo similar. Veremos una presentación sobre cómo se celebra la Pascua en varios países y luego, en grupos pequeños, hablaremos sobre nuestras propias experiencias de la Pascua Cristiana o de la Pascua Judía.

Our Easter or Passover celebrations

Easter is a joyful celebration around the world. Much of its symbolism is related to the Jewish celebration of Passover, and both celebrations take place during a similar period of time. We will watch a presentation on how Easter is celebrated in various countries and then, in small groups, we'll talk about our own Easter or Passover experiences.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Subject: Award winning films
Presenters: Donna Bastile, Ellen Waldman, and Lois Klein
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jane Lubin**, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

Join us as we continue viewing the best award-winning short films, documentaries, dramas, and comedies selected on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course : **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**
Subject: Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement
Presenter: Richard Byrd
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Richard Byrd**, Stuart Parker
Tech Support: **Steven Chicoine**

The class will delve into the similarities between the 1920's Harlem Renaissance and the 1960's Black Arts Movement as well as the parallels in the literary and performance arts during the two periods. Similarities in the two eras will be discussed i.e. The emphasis on black culture, the New Negro during the Harlem Renaissance, and Black is Beautiful during the Black Arts Movement. Other examples will include Pan Africanism, and armed self- defense as opposed to passive resistance.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**
Subject: *It's Not TV: The Spectacular Rise, Revolution, and Future of HBO*
by Felix Gillette and John Koblin
Presenter: Paul Golomb
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Most of us can clearly remember a time when television came into our homes by means of an aerial. Us New Yorkers were privileged to receive as many as seven channels, while much of the country got three at most, if they could get a signal at all. The development of cable transmission initially allowed the steady reception of broadcasts into otherwise remote homes. It was, however, the same TV. HBO changed that all.

It's Not TV, a tagline employed by Home Box Office, for many years, is subtitled *The Spectacular Rise, Revolution and Future of HBO*. The authors focus mostly on behind the scenes, both the corporate and creative decision-making of the company's leadership. Of particular note, however, is that the book covers HBO's history all the way up to the creation of Warner Brothers Discovery, and in doing so, relates not only the history of a relatively small media operation, but also of the entire history and fate of cable TV.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: Education in America today
Presenter: Emily Mines
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Public and Private schools, and education in general, have certainly made news headlines lately. In today's class, we will review the history of public education, including both state and federal legislation supporting it, and its long period of expansion. From there, we will look at various ways that individuals and organizations (think of churches and synagogues) have separated themselves from public education, and the consequences of those decisions.

Our topics for discussion will include homeschooling, charter schools, parochial schools, private schools, and lotteries along with vouchers programs that are moving huge sums of public money into private hands. And we'll also examine how politicians are involving themselves in these critical matters.

And, as with any change, we will discuss and debate the positive and negative consequences of all of the above.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER**
Speaker: Adam Gopnik, Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker
Subject: *The Real Work: The Mystery of Mastery*
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

In his nearly three decades with the New Yorker, Adam Gopnik has written fiction, humor, memoirs, and critical essays. He has received three National Magazine awards, the George Polk Award, and the Canadian National Magazine Gold Medal Award.

His many books include *The Real Work: The Mystery of Mastery*, *All That Happiness Is, a Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventures of Liberalism* and *Paris to The Moon*. Adam Gopnik is a witty and erudite speaker with striking insights into modern life and culture. Malcolm Gladwell has called him “a dazzling talent – hilarious, winning and deft.

Please join us for this special presentation.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 @ 2:45 PM- 4:00 PM

QUEST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Everyone is invited to remain in the auditorium after the conclusion of our guest speaker's presentation for our Annual Memorial Service, honoring Marcia Friedland, Phil Gisser, Bobbie Gold, and Eva Shatkin.

And we invite anyone who'd like to say a few words in memory of any of them to please do so. The program will begin by 2:45 PM and should end around 4:00 o'clock. It will be on Zoom; Use the auditorium link.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Take the #7 train from Grand Central for 10 minutes and get off at 46th street. If you go south from Queens Blvd., you'll find yourself in the neighborhood where we first lived 62 years ago and is now a very mixed Hispanic neighborhood of small apartment buildings. What was once our local bagel bakery is now a Peruvian restaurant and the movie theater is now the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Did you know that there is a Paraguayan cuisine. If you go north from Queens Boulevard, you can visit our second home – Sunnyside Gardens. This was MetLife's first venture into homes for the working class, built in 1924-28, and inspired by the English Garden City movement. Backers included William Sloane Coffin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Because of the community-related shared resources, it attracted various degrees of Leftists. Please join us for a photographic tour down Judy's and my Memory Lane.

Course: **YOUNG BEETHOVEN**
Subject: Beethoven Composing Amid His Life as a Young Musician in Vienna
Presenters: Arlene Hajinlian, Penelope Pi-Sunyer and Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

At our March 28 class, we'll discuss how Beethoven organized his life during his early years in Vienna--his dual career as performer and composer, his apartments, his friends, his love life and, increasingly, his fragile health. We'll also look at the changing political climate of Vienna and Bonn in the aftermath of the French Revolution. Arlene will play and discuss another piano work. Penelope Pi-Sunyer will introduce us to the delights of Beethoven's music for woodwind ensemble. From wind band marches in 1790 to charming dinner entertainment pieces to valued concert hall ensembles in 1800, Beethoven composed a prolific and innovative variety of music for winds as he moved

from Bonn to Vienna. These early compositions slowly gained recognition over the decade, and previewed melodies and techniques for his later larger orchestral symphonies like the Eroica and Pastorale symphonies.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 @ 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Course: **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**
Subject: Gemstones: Making Rocks Sparkle
Presenter: Andrew Epstein
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Ruth Ward

What do the Apollo Laser Ranging Retroreflector, 3M Scotchlite, and the Kohinoor diamond have in common? They all manipulate reflections and refractions; they sparkle. We will learn about the art and science of gem cutting. Becoming a skilled gem cutter can be a lifelong pursuit, but in a short time you can appreciate the fundamentals. There will be no distribution of samples during this talk.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY**
Subject: *The Liberalism of Fear* by Judith Shklar
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

On March 28 we'll discuss Judith Shklar's essay "The Liberalism of Fear." Shklar (1928-1992) was a political philosopher and World War II refugee, and her personal experience and study of history are reflected in everything she wrote. "Liberalism," she observed, "has been very rare both in theory and practice in the last two hundred odd years." Richard Rorty cited her writing as an influence on his political thought and in class we'll explore that connection. Many today know her name because of the Netflix series *The Good Place*, where in the final season, her ideas help rescue humanity from imminent destruction. This essay is a good introduction to what she thought and why she is considered relevant to the present.

I've placed copies of the essay in the B Week folder at the back of the lunchroom. I'll also send a link via Quest Business.

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

Write a poem using the cue word “robust” 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, MARCH 28 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather by the elevator on the 7th floor at 2:45 PM
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedman

Andrea and Marian will again lead us on a walk along the Hudson River starting from 25 Broadway. It's up to you how far you walk - no sign-ups - no commitments. We'll end at a “rest stop” to socialize, share a glass of wine, cuppa soup and always helping with transport directions home.

A great way to end a week of Questing.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE LAVISH NY “WONDER THEATERS”?

**Tour the United Palace Showpiece with
CULTUREQUEST**

**Friday April 12, 2024
10:30 AM - 12 Noon**



It's tough to impress New Yorkers! But there is one theater on upper Broadway that has been dropping jaws for nearly a century. (Currently, it's racking up "likes" on Instagram as well.) It's YOUR chance to step inside the "Palace" to see what all the hoopla is about; believe it or not, it has Byzantine-Romanesque-Indo-Hindu-Sino-Moorish-Persian-Rococo AND Deco architecture!

Led by their charming Events Coordinator, we will explore the landmarked United Palace, one of the five Loew's Wonder Theater deluxe movie palaces built in New York City between 1929 and 1930. We promise you a unique experience at this important architectural masterpiece.

**Join Our Adventure in Washington Heights for the Tour
and a local Dominican Lunch!**

WHEN: Friday, April 12th. Please arrive by 10:15 AM

WHERE: United Palace Theater, 4140 Broadway at 175th Street, NYC. Take the A train to 175th Street. It's a one block walk to Broadway.

COST: \$20 for the tour.

TO RESERVE: The tour is limited to 25 participants. For a reservation, follow these two steps:

1. Send an email as soon as possible to Madeleine Brecher at madbrech@gmail.com. Put UNITED PALACE in the subject line.
2. Put a check made out to Quest for \$20 in an envelope marked CultureQuest. Place it in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office by Thursday March 28th or risk losing your reservation.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a bit of walking and some stairs on the tour.

LUNCH: Optional. Please advise if you will be joining us for lunch after the tour at Malecon Dominican Restaurant (El Rey del Pollo=King of the Roast Chicken) across the street from the theater.