

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**April 15 - 18, 2024**

**This is an A 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.

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**MONDAY, April 15 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ROCK AND ROOTS ALBUMS**  
**Album:** "Hackney Diamonds" by The Rolling Stones (2023)  
**Presenters:** Wayne Cotter, Steve Koenig  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Steve Koenig, Wayne Cotter  
**Tech Support:** Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter, Victor Brener

If you thought two octogenarians could never create a chart-topping rock 'n' roll record, then we guess you haven't heard "Hackney Diamonds" by the Rolling Stones. Yes, last year Mick Jagger and Keith Richards got the old band back together and released the group's first studio album of original material in 18 years. The LP was both a critical and commercial success.

The album's 34-year-old producer, Andrew Watt, who hails from Great Neck, is credited with helping the Stones recreate the rawness and energy of some of their masterpieces from the '60s and '70s. Most of the album was recorded in the legendary Electric Lady Studio in Greenwich Village. The album, which reached #1 in Britain and #3 in the United States, features guest appearances by Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Elton John and Lady Gaga.

We rarely cover LPs released in the 21st Century in this course, but for this instant classic, we have made an exception. It's only rock 'n' roll, but we like it!

**Course:** **ALL THE KING'S MEN**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler  
**Tech Support:** Bob Reiss

We will finish discussing Chapter 8: Jack's confrontation of Judge Irwin and Jack's confused feelings at his mother's revelation and Judge Irwin's death. Chapter 9 is the climax of the book. Jack gradually alters his view of the world and his work. What does he tell Willie? Willie's desperation grows when he realizes he cannot control events. He feels forced to give the building contract to Gummy Larson. Tom is gravely injured in a football accident. After some irrational behavior, Willie seems to come to more conscientious and reasonable plans. What does he decide with regard to Lucy, Anne, and the Larson contract? What leads Adam to his irrational act of violence? What does Willie say to Jack in the hospital?

**MONDAY, April 15 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Important Event:** **CANDIDATES' FORUM**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Peter Fleischman (treasurer – incumbent) and three candidates for member-at-large positions: Roy Clary, Judy Winn (incumbent) and Tamara Weinberg. These three member-at-large candidates will also be speaking on Wednesday April 17.

**MONDAY, April 15 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: A BRAVE NEW WORLD?**  
**Subject:** AI's Evolving Impact on Consumer Scams: How to Spot One and What to Do About It  
**Presenters:** Claire Rosenzweig, CAE, President & CEO, Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Metropolitan New York; and Brian Rauer, Executive Director & General Counsel, BBB of Metropolitan New York  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Wayne Cotter**, Leslie Goldman, Michael Wellner  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

Artificial Intelligence is nothing new, but it is evolving at lightning speed. Generative AI technology is becoming more sophisticated and more accessible to a new generation of cyber-savvy scammers, making it possible to generate virtually authentic images, voices, materials and videos. The use – and misuse - of this technology is rapidly increasing. While consumers and businesses can certainly benefit from such technology, there are alarming pitfalls when abused. Our two presenters from the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York will share tips and best practices to enhance detection and use AI responsibly.

AI-generated scams are fast on the rise; learn how to better protect yourself before falling prey.

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**Course:** **DAISY MILLER & WASHINGTON SQUARE**  
**Book:** Washington Square by Henry James  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Patricia Geehr**, Susan Keohane, Sheryl Harawitz  
**Tech Support:** Sheryl Harawitz, Steven Chicoine

Participants in the class are encouraged to finish the novel in preparation for our final class when we will view the 1949 movie *The Heiress*, based on *Washington Square*, starring Olivia de Havilland. Dr. Sloper, Catherine's father, was mathematical in his approach to life. He tells his sister that he is interested in locating the limit of Catherine's affection. Where was her limit in this power struggle, and the limit of Dr. Sloper himself as well as that of her suitor, Morris Townsend and her aunt, Mrs. Penniman? In the final scene, has Catherine achieved her revenge, her freedom, or self-realization?

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**TUESDAY, April 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**Subject:** Israel Before 1948  
**Presenter:** Bob Reiss  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Bob Gottfried**, Sandy Frank, Glenn Johnston  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener

The present state of affairs in Israel is bleak. This talk is *not* about the current situation. In fact, it is not about anything in the region *after* the establishment of the State of Israel. However, the talk does attempt to provide context for the current situation by reviewing 4 thousand years of history from about 2000 B.C.E. to 1948. Can this be done in 1 ¼ hours? Probably not but come and see me try.

**Course:** **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**  
**Subject:** One new essay and one classic essay  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Ellie Schaffer, Larry Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

1. "The Terrible Costs of a Phone-based Childhood" by Jonathan Haidt from *The Atlantic* (2024)
2. "How to Shoot an Elephant" by George Orwell (1936)

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

**TUESDAY, April 16 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Important Event:** **CANDIDATES' FORUM**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Bob Gottfried (vice president) and three candidates for member-at-large positions: Laura Lopez, Vincent Grosso and David Bartash. These three member-at-large candidates will also be speaking on Thursday April 18.

**TUESDAY, April 16 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FOLK MUSIC AND MELLOW ROCK**  
**Subject:** Burt Bacharach: The Man and His Music  
**Presenters:** Bob Gottfried (In Person)  
Developed by: Sandy Frank & Glenn Johnston (via Zoom)  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Bob Gottfried**, Michael Wellner  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**

Burt Bacharach was one of the last of the great popular songwriters of the 20th Century. Together with Hal David, Carole Bayer Sager, and other lyricists, he created songs that became standards in their own right. They were classy, catchy, commercial, and musically complex, and scores of them became hits during a career that lasted more than 50 years. His songs transcended the rock era, never fashionable but never out of fashion.

**Course:** **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**  
**Subject:** Tools of Discovery – Part 2  
**Presenter:** Michael Hamburg  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Hamburg**, Vickie Costa  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

This presentation is a continuation of Tools of Discovery Part 1 but this afternoon we will focus on the various missions science has sent to the worlds of our very own Solar System. We will examine a wide range of tools that have greatly increased our understanding of the Solar System, including the Moon and every other major and many minor bodies all the way out to the beginning of interstellar space. Spacecraft have flown by, orbited, and most exciting of all, landed on extraterrestrial worlds such as Venus, the Moon, Mars, and Titan. We are well on our way to having a more complete picture of the next frontiers of science paving the way for boots on the ground in the near future. As always, questions and comments are most welcome!

**Course:** **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**  
**Subject:** Using Character Traits to Build a Believable Character  
**Presenter:** Helen Saffran  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.**)  
**Coordinators:** **Helen Saffran**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer  
**Tech Support:** None Assigned

What is a character trait? Why is it important to include traits when describing a character? The many character traits including loyalty, self-control, persistence, impatience, and greed, give us a clue as to how the character will affect and be affected by different situations in a story. In this class, we will discuss character traits and create characters who react to a situation because of their traits. Feel free to bring your own ideas, or present techniques that have worked for you.

As always, we'll start with a 10-minute exercise using a prompt, and leave time to share our prose, poetry or other script written at home. Reminder: prose pieces should not exceed 750 words and plays should be about 5 minutes. Need some inspiration? How about A Subway Experience. And please bring 15 copies of your at-home writing to **share** with the group.

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**WEDNESDAY, April 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **QUESTER'S CHOICE**  
**Subject:** Albert Einstein Sings the Great American Songbook  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid

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

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

This original musical revue is a whimsical introduction to a hero, a mental Hercules -- Albert Einstein -- who lived a well-lived life and changed human history.

Starring June Jacobson as Harvard cosmology professor who's lecturing on Relativity, Peter Dichter as Young Einstein, and Stephen Rosen as Elderly Einstein who both banter and flirt with her about white holes, black holes, dark energy, the Big Bang, and gravitation.

Live music performed by David Caldwell from the Great American Songbook. Original book and lyrics by physicist Stephen Rosen.

**Course:** SHAKESPEARE: CYMBELINE  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Roy Clary, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer  
**Tech Support:** Ellie Schaffer, Bob Reiss

As the Class reads aloud and explores Act IV, we will be reminded of the “Perils of Pauline” as the heroine, in this case, Imogen, escapes from attempts of murder, rape, and poison. However, we will also note that the Act includes one of the most beautiful songs Shakespeare ever wrote. The class will also learn about the period’s “Bawdy Court” where Shakespeare undoubtedly found a source for some of his rawest language.

**WEDNESDAY, April 17 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Important Event:** CANDIDATES' FORUM  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid (To be Recorded)

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Karen Cullen (secretary) and three candidates for member-at-large positions: Tamara Weinberg, Judy Winn (incumbent) and Roy Clary.

**WEDNESDAY, April 17 @ 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

**Course:** CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC  
**Films:** 1. *Annie Hall* (Howard Salik)  
 2. *Origin* (Sandra Abramson)

3. *Duck Soup* (Kathy Cook)  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

**“Annie Hall”**  
**Alvy Singer Meets (“La-De-Da”) Annie**  
**To**  
**“Origin”: A Caste System In India??**  
**(Nope) It’s America & The Rest Of The World!**  
**To**  
**“Duck Soup” The Three (Make That Four) Marx Brothers**  
**& Margaret Dumont**

**“Annie Hall”** 1977 Presented by Howard Salik (R/T: 97/92) Alvy Singer, a forty-year-old twice divorced, neurotic, intellectual Jewish New York City stand-up comic, reflects on the demise of his latest relationship with Annie Hall, an insecure, flighty, Midwestern WASP aspiring nightclub singer. Streaming: Apple, Prime. 1 hr. 33 min

**“Origin”** 2023 Presented by Sandra Abramson (R/T: 83/97) The unspoken system that has shaped America and chronicles how a hierarchy of human divisions defines lives today. Based loosely on “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent” by Isabel Wilkerson. Streaming: Apple, Prime 2hrs. 15 min.

**“Duck Soup”** 1933 Presented by Kathy Cook (R/T: 91/91) Rufus T. Firefly becomes the dictator of bankrupt Fredonia and declares war on a neighboring country over the love of his wealthy backer, Mrs. Teasdale (Margaret Dumont). Meanwhile, he must also deal with two bumbling spies. Streaming: Apple, Prime, Vudu (Fandango at Home) 1 hr. 10 min.

**Course:** **WOMEN SPIES**  
**Subject:** Ancient, Global and Closer to Home  
**Speaker** Penelope Pi-Sunyer  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Penelope Pi-Sunyer**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer, Tamara Weinberg  
**Tech Support:** **Tamara Weinberg**, Steven Chicoine

Spying is as dark and timeless as the hills. Women were engaged in this underworld of spying, just as dark and ancient as that of men, but even more hidden. Courageous women, from ancient Rome to civil wars in England, to hoop skirts in the Confederacy, to China and Japan and farther. They overcame male distrust and used particular skills for espionage and sabotage. Who were they? How were they recruited and operate as



women or disguised as men? How do we know about them today? Come explore a few of these women and their causes, opening old and new records of their exploits.

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**THURSDAY, April 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**  
**Subject:** In Pursuit of Longevity  
**Presenter:** Brenda Wilder  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Tamara Weinberg

Time is the ultimate currency. History is awash with attempts to increase lifetime. Currently, physicians treat the symptoms of aging but not its underlying causes. Recent advances in scientific tools and techniques have made it possible to get to the roots of the aging process. Gerontologists are predicting a future where we will get older without “getting old.”

**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**  
**Subject:** Contemporary Poetry  
**Presenter:** Frieda Lipp  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Ellen Rittberg**, Martha Drezin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

Frieda Lipp will be covering poetry of both famous and anonymous poets who were in prison in the past and currently in prison including Jean Genet.

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Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are three candidates for member-at-large positions: David Bartash, Vincent Grosso, and Laura Lopez.

**THURSDAY, April 18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **WATER**  
**Subject:** The Gulf Stream  
**Presenter:** Joyce Hinote  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Steve Chicoine

The Gulf Stream is the fastest current globally and its effects on the climate of North America and Northern Europe are enormous. Is it in danger of stopping? It has stopped in the past so what were the effects when this happened? What would the effects of a stoppage be now? Many scientists believe it will stop before the end of this century and some by 2050. This issue will be discussed in the context of the interconnections of all the global currents.

**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**  
**Stories:** 1. *A Way with Bea* (Gloria Peropat)  
2. *“Hostel”* (Anita Hunter)  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

**Stories to read:**

**1. “A Way with Bea” by Shanteka Sigers** Presented by Gloria Peropat

**Shanteka Sigers** lived most of her life in Chicago. When asked why she wanted to re-create that particular reality in fiction, she responded: “I suppose it naturally shows up as a comfortable setting for characters to roam about in, and as I traveled back and forth to my mother’s home, I would see so much to preserve and so much that needed to be rewritten.” Ms. Sigers lives in Austin, Texas, and her work has appeared in such prestigious publications as *The Paris Review* and *The O. Henry Best Short Stories* of 2022.

**2. “Hostel” by Fiona McFarlane** Presented by Anita Hunter

Can you resist a story that begins with the following: “I’ve never told my husband this story, but I suppose I will eventually, on some sticky night in say, February, as we lie naked in bed with the ceiling fan set at its highest speed.” So begins “Hostel,” Australian writer Fiona McFarlane’s story in the *New Yorker*.

Links for the two stories have been sent 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.

If you have any questions, please email Nancy at [nancyrye9@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrye9@gmail.com)

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Course:</b>       | <b>ACTING WORKSHOP II</b>       |
| <b>Room:</b>         | Auditorium                      |
| <b>Format:</b>       | In-Person Only                  |
| <b>Coordinators:</b> | <b>Roy Clary</b> , Donna Kerren |
| <b>Tech Support:</b> | None Assigned                   |

Members will continue to rehearse Potpourri II which will be presented on May 15.

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## **CULTUREQUEST**

**Sutton Place Homes and Gardens**  
**Friday, May 3, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**(In-Person Tour)**

Join us for a tour of the Sutton Place neighborhood with its beautiful views of the East River and beyond. You’ll be introduced to the history of the area, from the first houses built, to the decline of the area, to its rebirth in the 1920’s by a group of ground-breaking women. The tour will begin with a visit to the Sutton Place Parks led by a volunteer gardener from the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy who will introduce the Spring Garden and the native plants and shrubs that thrive in the New York City environs. After the tour of the gardens, we’ll visit the architecturally noteworthy homes and buildings that line Sutton Place and adjoining streets, as well as other noteworthy features of the neighborhood.

**MEET THE TOUR:** East 57<sup>th</sup> Street & Sutton Place

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**COST:** \$5.00 donation to the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy.  
Please bring \$5.00 in cash with you.

The tour is structured to meet the needs of all levels of walkers and is limited to 15 participants.

To reserve your place, please send an email to Maureen Berman at [bermanmaureen@gmail.com](mailto:bermanmaureen@gmail.com).

First come, first served. We'll have a waitlist.

Following the morning's house and garden tour, we'll have lunch in a local restaurant (to be announced). Following lunch, you'll have several options for additional excursions, including taking the tram to Roosevelt Island and having drinks on the top floor of the Graduate hotel; taking a walk on the recently opened East River Greenway, or enjoying a shopping excursion to T.J. Maxx and Trader's Joe's.

**(Due to costs and other planning complications, CultureQuest has decided to cancel the tour of the Glass House in Connecticut on May 3.)**