

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**April 29 - May 3, 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.

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**MONDAY, APRIL 29 10:30 AM – NOON**

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

Since Peter Tchaikovsky's 2nd symphony, composed in 1872, had been acclaimed by the critics and the public, he was convinced that his symphonic music could also play a major role in fashioning a successful ballet. Tchaikovsky's new musical structure would incorporate precise symphonic musical phrases to correspond to the dance steps of the choreography. Music in combination with the dance, would develop themes and leitmotifs to advance the ballet's plot and action. Tchaikovsky composed the music for the ballet Swan Lake in 1876, followed by The Sleeping Beauty in 1889 and The Nutcracker in 1892.

We will explore Tchaikovsky's life, and his growth as a composer. Then, we will pay special attention to his three ballets. For each ballet, there will be a short introduction, followed by a YouTube segment explaining some of Tchaikovsky's musical objectives and methods. Finally, there will be a YouTube excerpt from a ballet performance.

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

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

Emil has returned from his adventures in Mexico in time to attend a wedding at the French church. Wearing a sombrero, he is an exotic presence amid the farmers and their families. Marie is still smitten with him while Frank lurks in corners trying to figure out who has stolen his wife's heart. Emil declares his love. Guiltily, Marie asks Emil to leave the community. Alexandra, feeling pride at how well her brother has turned out, seems unaware that his return is fomenting a tragedy.

**MONDAY, APRIL 29 @ 12:10 - 12:50 PM**

**Course:** **NOONTIME MONDAYS**  
**Subject:** Lunchtime Jazz  
**Presenters:** Stu Parker, Debbi Honorof, Richard Byrd  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine  
**Tech Support:** **Sheryl Harawitz**

Join us for a special jazz presentation and don't forget to bring your lunch. Stu will lead off with Louis Armstrong and Dixie Gillespie's "Umbrella Man." Debbi then will present Ella Fitzgerald and Louie Armstrong's "Stomping at the Savoy." Lastly Richard will bring us Milt Jackson and John Coltrane's "Bags and Trane."

**MONDAY, APRIL 29 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**  
**Coordinators:** **Roy Clary**, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**, Ruth Ward

Because CCNY advised that the Auditorium would be closed on April 29, Great Plays was canceled. Although CCNY has changed their schedule, it is not possible at this late date to select, cast, and present a play.

Great Plays will resume on May 13 with the following two plays presented by Ruth Ward: *New Life* and *The Last Can*.

**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. Some articles that will be part of the discussion will be circulated about a week in advance through QuestBusiness. As always, we look forward to lively and wide-ranging discussions of these and whatever topics pop up.

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** Manet/Degas  
**Presenter:** Ellen Shapiro  
**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 Metropolitan Museum of Art had a wonderful exhibition of the paintings of Edouard Manet and Edgar Degas last fall and winter. Manet and Degas, as the curators wrote, “forged one of the most significant partnerships in 19th century art. Their groundbreaking bodies of work would have been vastly different, if not unthinkable, without their “creative Exchanges.” Manet and Degas left next to no written records of their relationship. This exhibition was the first time their work was ever shown in direct close comparison.

This presentation will discuss some of the in-depth comparisons between the two artists’ works. This may lead to some important understandings: as the curators made the point, largely in response to one another, Manet and Degas invented modernism.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FILM FOR THOUGHT**  
**Presenters:** Jane Lubin  
**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 a lively discussion.

**Course:** **HARLEM RENAISSANCE**  
**Subject:** Langston Hughes  
**Presenter:** Bob Gottfried  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid

**Coordinators:** Richard Byrd, Stuart Parker  
**Tech Support:** Steven Chicoine

Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. Hughes is best known as the leader of the Harlem Renaissance. Come to the Harlem Renaissance class to learn about his illustrious achievements and listen to a reading of his most famous poem: *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*.

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**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**  
**Subject:** *The Algorithm: How AI Decides Who Gets Monitored, Promoted, and Fired and Why We Need to Fight Back Now*, by Hilke Schellmann  
**Presenter:** Wayne Cotter  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

In her 2024 book, Hilke Schellmann reveals how some of the country's largest corporations are using AI in their hiring, promotion, and firing practices. According to Schellmann, Big Brother is alive and well in today's workplace.

Can AI detect which employees are likely to stay and which will probably quit? Can your facial expressions or voice patterns really reveal the type of worker you'll become? How comfortable would you feel at a job interview conducted by a robot?

By the end of this session, we think you'll be thankful you no longer participate in the job market.

**Course:** **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**  
**Subject:** 2024 Elections: Six Months to Go  
**Presenter:** Maureen Berman  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Michael Wellner, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** Michael Wellner

We're just six months away from the 2024 Presidential Election that promises to have a major impact on the future of American Democracy. In this class, we'll review key findings from the Primary Elections results and look prospectively at the major issues likely to influence the Presidential election's outcome. We'll also preview key Senate and House races and provide practical information and resources on ways you can get involved in determining the election results.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** QUEST SPRING GENERAL MEETING  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Facilitator:** Donna Ramer, President  
**Tech Support:** Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

You are invited – encouraged – to join us for our semi-annual general meeting, during which we will unveil new projects, hear updates from several committees, and get a sneak peek at our fall 2024 courses. Quest members will then have an opportunity to ask questions.

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**THURSDAY, MAY 2 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS  
**Subject:** The Island of the Undesirables  
**Presenter:** Susan Diehl  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss  
**Tech Support:** Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss

Scattered along the East River are a set of islands — Roosevelt, North Brother, Randalls and Wards, Rikers, and Hart Islands — that have all been places where the tired, poor, sick, and criminal were sent to be treated, confined, or buried. These were the Islands of the Undesirables. As the city's population grew throughout the 1800's, the water served as a moat to physically separate these "undesirable" populations from the rest of NYC. There are many fascinating stories about these institutions and how these islands evolved — if they evolved — to be the parks and/or living spaces they are today. Although it

never housed undesirables, we will also take a brief look at the history of Governors Island and the other military outposts that were built to protect the city.

**Course:** **YOUNG BEETHOVEN**  
**Subject:** Heiligenstadt and the New Path  
**Presenters:** Arlene Hajinlian, Larry Shapiro  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**

In spring 1802, Beethoven withdrew to the village of Heiligenstadt for a period of rest his doctor hoped would reverse his increasing deafness. At first, there were many pleasant walks and enormous productivity, and a continuation towards his creative maturity that he called a New Path, in which each composition had a unique personality. Then came a sudden descent into despair, documented in the unsent suicide letter we now know as the Heiligenstadt Testament. He lost his capacity to experience joy, and only imagines a life and career blighted by deafness. What is the point of carrying on, he asks, and yet, he did, and this ability became an element of his music's greatness. Arlene will guide us through a few of these New Path masterpieces, and together we'll explore the context in which they came to be.

**THURSDAY, MAY 2 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **CONSTRUCTION: BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR**  
**Subject:** Windows on Nature: Art and Science of Museum Dioramas  
**Presenter:** Marion Schultheis  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Andrea Irvine**, Marion Schultheis, David Bartash  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**

Who hasn't stood in front of a nature diorama and said "WOW." About 150 years ago, museums created nature dioramas to educate visitors. Over time the art and science evolved to build even more lifelike depictions of wildlife and their habitats - they inspired awe and wonder in visitors. Marion will further explain why museums around the world are now rethinking their usefulness.

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE**  
**Subject:** When a Pragmatist Philosopher Thinks About Education  
**Facilitator:** Larry Shapiro  
**Room:** 27

**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen  
**Tech Support:** Steve Chicoine, Larry Shapiro

Casting his Pragmatist philosopher's eye at education in America in 1989, Richard Rorty observed a compromise between Left and Right in which primary and secondary education were conceded to the Right while the Left gradually took control of higher education. We can read Rorty's analysis of how this worked in his essay "Education as Socialization and as Individuation," which remains provocative and insightful, and relevant to education today. We'll also discuss E.D. Hirsch, author of the misunderstood call to action *Cultural Literacy*, and John Dewey, not only Rorty's forebearer in Pragmatism, but the dominant figure in American education in the last century. How do we understand Dewey and Hirsch today, and how could their ideas be of use?

There's a lot packed into this short essay, which I'll distribute as a pdf 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 "wonder" 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, MAY 2 @ 2:45 PM**

**Course:** **SOLE MATES**  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Room:** Gather in the lobby of 25 Broadway at 2:45 PM  
**Coordinators:** Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann

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.

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**FRIDAY, MAY 3 @10:30 AM**

## **CULTUREQUEST**

### **Sutton Place Homes and Gardens**

**Friday, May 3, 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon  
(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.

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

**To Reserve:** Please send an email to Maureen Berman at [bermanmaureen@gmail.com](mailto:bermanmaureen@gmail.com). First come, first served. We will have a waitlist.

**Time:** 10:30 AM

**Cost:** \$5 donation to the Sutton Place Parks Conservancy. Please bring \$5.00 in cash with you.

**Lunch:** Following the morning's house and garden tour, we'll have a Mexican lunch on the terrace of Morso Restaurant, 420 East 59<sup>th</sup> St. (Other food options are available.)

Please let me know if you'll be joining us for lunch.

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.

**NOTE:** Due to costs and other planning complications, CultureQuest has decided to cancel the tour of the Glass House in Connecticut that was scheduled for May 3.

## Our Glorious Underground Art Museum

**Friday, May 10 at 11:00 AM  
(In-person tour with Bob Reiss)**

The original mandate in building the New York Subway included that the subways be “designed, constructed, and maintained with a view to the beauty of their appearance, as well as to their efficiency.” MTA Arts & Design is committed to preserving and restoring the original ornament of the system and to commissioning new works that exemplify the principles of vibrant public art, relating directly to the places where they are located and to the community around them. This tour will sample some extraordinary examples found in our wonderful underground art museum.

### JOIN US

This tour is of moderate difficulty. There is a fair amount of walking when changing lines, and up and down several staircases. Please consider this before you RSVP.

**When:** Friday, May 10, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Please arrive by 10:45 AM

**Where:** Assembly point will be sent to those with reservations

**Cost:** Bring your Metro card or Omni

**Email:** [bobreiss42@gmail.com](mailto:bobreiss42@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

**Lunch:** TBA. Please note in your response if you wish to have lunch with the group. Suggestions for a lunch spot near Columbus Circle are welcomed.

### NOTE:

- 1. This tour is limited to the first 20 persons to make their reservation.** We are unable to accept any reservations until NWAQ has been sent to the entire membership. We will have a waitlist.
- 2. Sign up only if you intend to come.** Anyone who doesn't show and did not cancel will be placed on waitlists only when they register for future events.