

## NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

**April 28 - 31, 2025**

**This Is a B Week**

There are three links (given in red below) 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.

### **AUDITORIUM**

**Meeting ID: 861 6851 3691**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 15-17**

**Meeting ID: 886 0175 9047**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 27**

**Meeting ID: 872 5172 0128**

**Passcode: 252525**

Also given are meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If you don't have Zoom installed, you can still enter a class using your browser by clicking on

<https://zoom.us/join>

and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with the passcode.

In addition, you can attend classes on your 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 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**  
**Subject:** An American in Paris  
**Presenter:** Estelle Selzer  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon  
**Tech Support:** Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

The movie An American in Paris premiered in 1951. Almost 65 years later it was revived as a captivating musical for Broadway. The romantic story of a young American soldier, a beautiful French girl, and the City of Lights are at the heart of the four Tony-awards winning production. With a book by Craig Lucas and thrilling choreography by Christopher Wheeldon it has a fresh look. We will learn about the Gershwins and the actors as well as listen to the music and lyrics, while viewing some of the beautiful dancing from this timeless classic.

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**  
**Subject:** *Billy Budd* Sailor Sections 22-25  
Larry Shapiro's Special Supplement: "The Year 1797"  
**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**

We will read aloud and discuss Sections 22-25.

Special Supplement: What led Herman Melville to set Billy Budd back in 1797, "in the time before steamships," as his first sentence begins? Melville never hesitates to trouble his readers, and maybe this story from the past is his way of troubling our minds about the present. What is it about "the year 1797" that should do this? As we read Sections 22-25, some possibilities will present themselves.

**MONDAY, APRIL 28 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Course:** **NOONTIME MEDLEY**  
**Subject:** What's at the Museum?  
**Presenters:** Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

With summer on the horizon, museums are unveiling fresh exhibitions guaranteed to spark your curiosity and fill your calendar. From thought-provoking installations to hidden gems, there's something for everyone. Join us for a lively lunchtime presentation as we explore what's new, what's surprising, and what you won't want to miss at the museum this season!

**MONDAY, APRIL 28 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**  
**Plays:** Readings of *The Long Wet Grass* and *Boys Swam Before Me*, two one-act plays by Seamus Scanlon  
**Presenter:** Wayne Cotter  
**Cast:** Roy Clary, June Jacobson, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** Wayne Cotter

Quest is pleased to participate in the **2025 Origin Theater Irish Festival** this April. Since 2008, the Origin Theater Company has introduced over 400 Irish-inspired playwrights to New York City audiences through its annual festivals. This year, Festival productions were staged at the Irish Repertory Theatre, the 59E59 theaters, and various other NYC venues.

This session of Great Plays will feature readings by Quest members of two one-act plays, authored by Seamus Scanlon. As many Quest members know, in addition to being an award-winning playwright, Seamus works as the librarian for the Center for Worker Education on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor of 25 Broadway.

The two plays in this afternoon's performance are part of Scanlon's "*The McGowan Trilogy*," which focuses on the encounters of Victor McGowan, a fictional Northern Ireland assassin. Roy Clary and June Jacobson will be featured in "*The Long Wet Grass*," while Wayne Cotter and Mary Ann Donnelly will present "*Boys Swam Before Me*."

In addition, playwright **Seamus Scanlon** will also be there to provide background about the two plays and answer your questions. Please join us for this special presentation of Great Plays.

**Course:** **WOMEN LEADERS**  
**Subject:** Dr. Ruth Westheimer  
**Presenter:** Elaine Martin  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Laura Lopez**, Joan Vreeland  
**Tech Support:** **Felix Pina**

Dr. Ruth has been called “The Voice of ‘Sexual Literacy,’” a pioneer, a cultural icon, an industrious marvel, and even a “schnorrer.” It was this very petite, positivistic woman, with her strong German accent, who was a revolutionary Woman Leader\_in the 1980s when birth control, planned parenthood, HIV/AIDS were not publicly discussed. Dr. Ruth raised awareness and normalized healthy discussions around human sexuality. People trusted her.

Come hear how Karola Ruth Siegel ... An “orphan of the Holocaust,” a trained Israeli army sniper, doctoral graduate from Teachers College, broadcast trailblazer with the 1984 radio call-in program, “Sexually Speaking,” a TV show talk host, and author of 45 books ... evolved to be ... “This is Dr. Ruth Westheimer. You're on the air!”

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**TUESDAY, APRIL 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** Gustave Caillebotte and Pierre Bonnard  
**Presenter:** Paul Adler  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Ellen Shapiro**, Susan Diehl

Gustave Caillebotte and Pierre Bonnard both primarily painted views of bourgeois life in late 19th c. and early 20th c. France. Both created beautiful and alluring works featuring their family and friends, at home and at play in intimate settings. A recent show at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris of Caillebotte's work «Painting Men», now at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, has brought renewed interest in this genre. We will explore their backgrounds, and influences, that led them to create these lasting images of a moment in time.

**Course:** **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**  
**Subject:** Two Recent Essays  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Larry Shapiro

1. "The Woman Who Spent Five Hundred Days in a Cave" by D. T. Max from the January 21, 2024, issue of *The New Yorker*,
2. "The Case Against Travel" by Agnes Callard from the June 24, 2023, issue of *The New Yorker*.

Copies of these essays are being distributed through QuestBusiness.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29 @ NOON – 12:45 P.M.**

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

Algo Interesante

Vamos a hablar de algo interesante. Garantizado. Dinero devuelto si no 100% satisfecho.

Something Interesting

We're going to talk about something interesting. Guaranteed. Money returned if not 100% satisfied.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FILM FOR THOUGHT**  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Pete Weis

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

**Course:** **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**  
**Subject:** Poems of Nature and Civilization  
**Class Leaders:** Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

Poets often turn to nature to explore themes like beauty, impermanence, solitude, renewal, and the sublime. The rustle of leaves in a forest, the golden glow of a sunset, the dance of waves on a shore — all of these can stir deep emotions and spark powerful imagery. Actually, it is a no-brainer to see a flower-filled garden or a field of doves winging their way through a blue sky and feel the poetic thrill of the moment. But it is a true poet who can also be inspired by human creations like cities, industry, transportation, or dead civilizations. It is a true poet who can begin a poem, “Hog Butcher for the World.” Celebrate with us the wide spectrum of poetic inspiration.

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**WEDNESDAY APRIL 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**  
**Subject:** The Curie Family (especially Marie)  
**Presenter:** Pete Weis  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

Five Nobel Prizes in the family and many, many other awards!

Marie was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and remains the only person to be awarded the Prize in two different sciences. Her husband Pierre shared the first one with her, and their daughter Irene shared one with her own husband, becoming the second woman to earn the Prize. All this was with substantial difficulty at a time when women were not encouraged to study science. This was also at a time when the dangers of exposure to radioactivity was not understood, and they all paid the price from their overexposures.

This presentation will present some science and a lot of personal history of all the Curies, including the poverty from which the family arose, some scandal, and the heroism in World War I.

**Course:** **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES**  
**Subject:** Oh, America: (Para)Military Violence in the Cinema of Paul Schrader  
**Presenter:** Martin Woessner, CWE Professor  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

The American filmmaker Paul Schrader has often spoken of his penchant for telling stories about “lonely men in empty rooms.” In scripts he has written and films he has directed, there is often a scene with a lone white male, sitting at a table, writing in a journal, a drink nearby. Each of these characters is a version of Dostoevsky’s Underground Man: anxious, rigorously self-reflexive, and ready to explode. But the explosions are not always the result of existential brooding; sometimes they stem from structural flaws in American life, such as racism, inequality, religious hypocrisy, or military violence. Closely examining Schrader’s depiction of one subset of these “lonely men” — (para)military veterans — my talk shows how Schrader’s decades-long investigation of the underbelly of the American Dream has produced films that are often as prescient as they are problematic.

I will offer a brief overview of Schrader’s career, but will focus specifically on the films *Taxi Driver* (dir. Martin Scorsese, 1976, script by Schrader), *Rolling Thunder* (dir. John Flynn, 1977), *First Reformed* (2017), *The Card Counter* (2021), and *Master Gardener* (2022) to show how racist, imperialist violence continues to shape the life of “lonely men in empty rooms,” the men who seem to surround us on all sides today.

### **WEDNESDAY, April 30 @ NOON – 12:50 PM**

**Event:** **NEW MEMBERS MINGLE**  
**Format:** In-person only  
**Room:** 19  
**Coordinators:** Susan Keohane (chair), Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso  
**Who is invited?** Spring 2025 and Fall 2024 new members only

The New Member Committee invites only new members to attend a mingle. The purpose is to learn more about Quest committees. Committee members Marian and Vince will share their experiences. Please bring your questions. We will include time to talk about some of our personal experiences with committee membership.

Descriptions of all of Quest’s standing committees can be found on the Quest website [here](#).

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 @ 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

**Spring 2025 General Meeting and Reception**

Our semi-annual general meeting will be a celebration of Quest's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during which we will unveil new projects, hear updates from several committees, and get a sneak peek at our fall 2025 courses. And, immediately following our Q&A session, we'll continue the celebration with a drinks-and-snacks reception courtesy of our Social Committee.

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**THURSDAY, MAY 1 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS  
**Subject:** Great Neck and Port Washington  
**Presenter:** Sybil Cohen  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid (To Be Recorded)  
**Coordinators:** Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson  
**Tech Support:** Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

Great Neck and Port Washington: North Hempstead's North Shore from the 1600s to the present.

The Gold Coast's East Egg (Sands Point) and West Egg (Kings Point) across the Manhasset Bay, were featured by F. Scott Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* one hundred years ago.

How are these historic towns so distinguishable from others around? What contributed to the growth and development of these communities?



**Course:** **OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS**  
**Subject:** Natural Phenomena in the Old Testament  
**Presenter:** Joyce Hinote  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

There are many events in the Old Testament that are caused by or affected by natural phenomena or even contradict nature as we know it. These include earthquakes, volcanoes, comets, walls falling down, stopping the sun, parting the sea, floods and many more. After reading these thrilling passages and reviewing the backgrounds of their appearances, we will explore the science (geology, archeology, astronomy, meteorology) behind each of these and the significance of their occurrences within the framework of the Old Testament.

**THURSDAY, MAY 1 @ 12:20 – 12:45 PM**

**Course:** **CHAIR MEDITATION**  
**Presenter:** Ken Sasmor  
**Room:** 22  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinator:** **Donna Ramer**

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation **every** Thursday afternoon.

**THURSDAY, MAY 1 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**  
**Subject:** Judith Shklar's essay "The Ambiguities of Betrayal" from Ordinary Vices (1984)  
**Facilitator:** Larry Shapiro  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort  
**Tech Support:** **Larry Shapiro**

"Republics, and liberal democracies especially, rely on political trust between governments and citizens to an unusual degree." This essay is related to two others by Judith Shklar that we've discussed, "Putting Cruelty First" and "The Liberalism of Fear," and unfortunately it seems especially relevant now. Like everything Shklar wrote, it draws on her interest in history and literature and indirectly on her experience as a refugee. This

is a long essay, and when I distribute it via Quest Business, I will suggest places to skip for readers who are pressed for time. If you do have the time, I hope you'll read it all and mark it up as heavily as I did.

**Course :** **JAZZ : YESTERDAY AND TODAY**  
**Subject:** Jazz Dance II: From the Swing Era to Hip Hop  
**Presenter:** Ze'eva Cohen  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinator:** **Debbi Honorof**  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**

From the lively social dances of the Swing Era — celebrated with the big band jazz music of the early 1940s — to contemporary professional performances and hip-hop, we will examine jazz dance samples that reflect cultural shifts in the USA. We will delve into works from Broadway, film, concert dance, and social and street dancing, highlighting contributions from iconic dance artists such as Bob Fosse, Jerome Robbins, and Gregory Hines. We'll also explore the new hybrid movement language evident in today's theater dance performances, which showcases the rich diversity of urban cultures and transcends the traditional boundaries between "high" and "low" art.

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**The CultureQuest Walking Tour of  
Little Italy on Friday, May 2, Is**

**Sold Out!**