

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 15 –18, 2025
This Is an A 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: 899 9142 8608

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 890 4628 0269

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279

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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: The Electromagnetic Spectrum (All the Light We Can[not] See)
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

In this presentation we will explore the nature of light and learn that most of the light in the universe is invisible to the human eye. We will explore the familiar and not-so-familiar applications of this form of energy.

For a teaser, some facts about Light:

- Only light travels as fast as light (186,000 mps) and has no mass.
- White light is a mixture of all the colors.
- Most of the light in the Universe is invisible to human eyes.
- The further we look into the Universe, the older the light is we see

As always questions and comments are welcome.

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: New York State of Mind: New York Songs & Songwriters
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig**, Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

From its darkest corners to its most dizzying heights, New York City has long provided inspiration to countless songwriters and singers. In this session, we'll feature some of the most compelling New York songs from the mid-1950s to the early years of the 21st century.

We'll share songs and backstories from artists such as Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen, Ray Charles and Billy Joel. Moreover, each of our featured performers were either born in New York City or lived in the City for a portion of their lives. And regardless of which New York neighborhood you most treasure, rest assured that all five boroughs will be represented in this unique musical bouquet.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Name That Tune
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine

Welcome to the seventh “Name That Tune!” Here’s how it works.

You know the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces it. Many songs from musicals, the American Songbook, and standards, begin with a verse, but most performers and recordings omit it.

I’ll play 10 songs. I’ll play only the introductory verse. You guess the song. I’ll then play an audio or video clip of the rest of the song including posted lyrics for us to sing along. I’ll also say a bit about each of these iconic numbers. Come, enjoy, and help make beautiful music together!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **PROFILES IN COURAGE**
Subject: What is Courage?
Presenter: Tracey Lee
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

The stories of past courage can define the elements of courage – they can teach, they can offer hope, and they can provide inspiration. For our Profiles in Courage course, Quest members will be presenting profiles of individuals that they have chosen to exemplify courage, who they admire, and whose place in the course of recent history is important.

This introductory session will give a framework, drawn from philosophy and psychology, regarding the elements of courage and how we judge courageous acts. With this background we’ll be able to view the individual examples of courage with an eye to how we can understand their impact and learn from them.

Course: **THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV**
Subject: Read Part I of *The Brothers Karamazov* and meet the clan in all their messy brilliance
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

A reckless father, three wildly different sons, and a town full of onlookers set the stage for a drama that blends family feud with philosophical fire. Faith and doubt, love and lust, guilt and goodness all swirl together — before a crime is even committed. As we begin, we're not solving a mystery; we're stepping into one. Come ready to talk, question, and wrestle with the journey.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**
Subject: Beaux-Arts Architecture
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brenner
Tech Support: **Victor Brenner**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis

Beaux-Arts is an architectural style that developed in Europe in the 1830s and was popular until the first half of the 20th century. It had a long run, particularly in New York City. The form served as the setting for the events, people and places of “The Gilded Age.”

This presentation will first set out the characteristics of the Beaux-Art form. It will then look at some of the most iconic Beaux-Arts buildings in NYC. But only *some* of them. A listing of just the most important such buildings comes close to one hundred. Beaux-Arts is all around us if we only look.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: A Rogue President and A Rogue Supreme Court?
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

Since even before Donald Trump's assumption of power in January 2025, the Supreme Court has bent over backwards to decide cases in his favor, e.g. the presidential immunity case last year in which it found that Trump generally can't be prosecuted for official acts. Since January 20, 2025, *Litigation Tracker* has the following SCOTUS statistics: 14 Supreme Court stays or order to vacate lower court orders; 1 Supreme Court affirmation of lower court order. Essentially, SCOTUS is out of step with the lower courts. What does this mean? And how do we deal with it?

Course: THEATERWORKS
Subject: Scene Rehearsals and Presentations
Presenters: Mary Beth Yakoubian, Yona Rogosin, Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter, Bob Shick
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Art Spar, Mary Ann Donnelly, Ruth Ward, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter, Martha Drezin

We will continue developing scenes from "Anne of the Thousand Days" directed by Mary Beth Yakoubian and "On Golden Pond" directed by Yona Rogosin. Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter and Bob Shick will continue developing their improvisational scenes. New members are welcome. We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch. An active discussion will follow each scene.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Subject: Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme de Molière
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme

Avant la révolution française de 1789 la classe bourgeoise, enrichie par le commerce, était considérée inférieure à l'aristocratie riche – ou ruiné – de naissance. Dans cette pièce de théâtre Molière se moque d'un homme qui veut imiter le comportement et le genre de vie des nobles. De nos jours voit-on des exemples de personnes qui veulent faire partie d'une catégorie sociale supérieure ou plus prestigieuse que la sienne?

The Bourgeois Gentleman

Before the French Revolution of 1789, the bourgeois class, enriched by commerce, was considered inferior to the aristocracy by birth, whether rich or ruined. In this play Molière makes fun of a man who wants to imitate the behavior and the lifestyle of a nobleman. Do we see examples today of people who want to belong to a higher or more prestigious social category than their own?

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: Brooklyn
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Pete Weis, Ilene Winkler

Brooklyn from 1850-1900: from a lofty City to a Borough among others. It was an incredibly exciting time in the City of Brooklyn. We'll look at its physical and population growth, its changing demographics as a result of immigration, its transportation networks, its neighborhoods, the commerce that drove much of its growth, sports (particularly baseball!) and, finally, the dreaded consolidation.

Course: **MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIMES**
Subject: Act II of Robert Bolt's Play A Man for All Seasons
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

As Act II begins, two years have passed. Parliament has passed the Act of Supremacy establishing The Church of England with King Henry as Supreme Head but still with some ties to Rome. How does More at first try to justify to himself not openly denying this act? What does he do when the Bishops capitulate to Henry's will and sever all connection to Rome? Despite immense pressure from all major characters, including his family, More refuses to state his position and believes by keeping silent, the laws will protect him and his family. How is his silence interpreted by different people? What is More's reasoning when he feels it's okay for others to take the oath for the Act of Succession, but he cannot bring himself to do it, even facing execution for his refusal?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Adventurous Writing
Presenter: Judy Hampson
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

In this class we are going to explore the topic of Adventure, and how we can go outside our comfort zone when we write. We'll look at several ways we can do this, triggered by a writing prompt or using a picture to explore different ideas. As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share with the group or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre, in poetry or prose, and the group will offer constructive responses to it. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be read over consecutive classes. Please bring in 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: *The most adventurous thing I ever did was...*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: THE COMEDY OF ERRORS**
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

Our first class focused on Plautus, the Roman playwright whose comedy, *The Menaechmi*, was the model for *Comedy of Errors*. Prior to reading aloud and discussing Act I, the second class will provide an overview of Shakespeare, the evolution of British theater, and the city of London — which as a newly powerful commercial hub undoubtedly served as Shakespeare's inspiration for Ephesus, the city in *Comedy of Errors*.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Time for Numbers
Presenter: George Chung
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

There are numbers around us that help categorize and simplify our lives. But have you ever stopped to think about if there's a logic or reason for these numbers and patterns? After a delve into the history of numbers, let's decipher some of these numbers that touch our daily lives.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Smartphone Photography**
Room; 19
Format: In-person Only
Coordinators: **Frank Montaturo**, Tamara Weinberg

Come join a noontime conversation about photography ... specifically about the use of your smartphone in taking interesting photos. Our sessions might cover some tips and tricks for cellphone photography, although on an ongoing basis this is not intended to be a "how to" class. Hopefully, those among us with more expertise will share their knowledge. We will view one another's images ... respond thoughtfully ... recommend current photo shows and suggest fun assignments for future meetings

Course: **New Members Meeting**
Room: 15-17
Format: In Person Only
Coordinators: **Leslie Goldman, Tracey Lee (co-chairs)**, John Davis, Vince Grosso Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)

This is the first meeting of the semester at which we will welcome new members to our Quest community. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet other new members, ask questions and start to learn about all of what Quest has to offer. We hope all new members will join us. Bring your lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Who is invited? All new members who have joined in the Spring 2025, Summer 2025 or have just joined us for the 2025-2026 year.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films:
1. Lily (Arlynn Greenbaum)
2. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (Len Lavitt)
3. The Life of Chuck (Howard Salik)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Coordinators: Howard Salik, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

If you Google “Justwatch” and the name of the film, you’d know that all three films are streaming on Apple or Amazon. Don’t miss these gripping stories!

Lily — Arlynn Greenbaum

Watch the inspiring true story of Lily Ledbetter, portrayed by Patricia Clarkson, as she uncovers the deep-rooted injustices in her workplace—and fights back against a system rigged against her---this film resonates with anyone who believes in fairness and equality.

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy — Len Lavitt

(Second in our Espionage Series). Get ready for a masterclass in espionage! Immerse yourself in a world of Cold War intrigue and deception where every character may be hiding a deadly secret. With an all-star cast featuring Gary Oldman, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Colin Firth. This adaptation of John Le Carré’s classic is sure to keep you guessing.

The Life Of Chuck — Howard Salik

Experience the poignant journey of Charles “Chuck” Krantz, as Stephen King’s short story takes you through the spectrum of life’s experiences-love, loss, and everything in between. This poignant tale will leave you pondering the essence of existence itself.

Course: TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD
Subject: Books 12 and 13
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

The fight explodes at the Greek wall — Hector drives the Trojans forward, omens fall from the sky, and the barrier meant to hold back fate begins to crumble. Then, in Book 13, the gods themselves shift the field as Poseidon secretly fires up the Greeks for a counterattack. These chapters are full of thunder, daring, and reversals — where every moment feels like the battle could tip either way.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 2:45 PM

Course: SOLE MATES
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather by elevator 7th Floor @ 2:45 pm.

Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

Marian and Andrea will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River - ending at a "rest" spot for refreshments, food, socialization. Up to you how far you walk and lots of help with transportation options.

All welcome - no signups, no commitments - fresh air and community.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: The Art Form of Sound Text Poetry
Presenter: Steve Koenig
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz**
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Sound text poetry is an artistic form bridging literary and musical composition in which the phonetic aspects of human speech are foregrounded instead of more conventional semantic and syntactic values; "verse without words." By definition, sound poetry is intended primarily for performance.

No prior reading is required. No prior formal study of sound text poetry or poetry is required. The format of all of our classes includes a presentation and interaction/discussion.

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: WWII and the U.S. Home Front
Presenter: Debbi Honorof
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine, Michael Wellner**

This presentation will explore how World War II reshaped the American home front, from the mobilization of industries and the emergence of women in the workforce to the social and cultural shifts that began during the war and went on to define the post-war era. We will delve into the profound ways this global conflict transformed the United States and

learn about the resilience, innovation, and change that continue to influence American society and culture today.

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Bob Reiss, Ilene Winkler

Want to share your passion but don't know how to create a presentation? Come join our workshop and learn basic PowerPoint — all skill levels welcome! Each session will begin with a short presentation demonstrating how to create a slideshow and add images, text, and videos. Then you can work on your presentation with individual assistance. Bring your own laptop with PowerPoint installed or use a computer in the lab. If using a CCNY computer, bring a thumb drive with a USB-A connector to save your work. Experienced PowerPoint users are encouraged to join in to share their skills and learn more advanced techniques as time permits.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 @ 12:20 –12:45 PM

Course: **CHAIR MEDITATION**
Facilitator: Ken Sasmor
Room: 22
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: **Ken Sasmor**

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

Course: **NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE**
Subject: Medicare Open Enrollment
Speaker: Ellen Gottfried
Room: 27

Open enrollment for Medicare begins October 15 and ends December 7. During those few weeks you have the opportunity to select a new advantage plan, supplement plan and/or prescription drug plan, for 2026. It is advisable to review your coverage every year since your needs and plans change. I am a volunteer State Health Insurance Plan counselor, and I will be available to answer questions and provide guidance.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Staying Behind (Karen Millard)
2. Torching the Dusties (Steve Allen)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read.

1. **"Staying Behind" by Ken Liu.** Presented by Karen Millard

Explores the moral and philosophical implications of humanity's potential to upload their consciousness into a digital realm, leaving behind a physical existence. Story centers on narrator grappling with decision of whether to upload or remain in a deteriorating world, following a *Singularity* event where such digital immortality becomes possible. Explores such themes as faith, progress, tradition -- and the very definition of humanity, as well as questioning the value of physical existence and the potential consequences of technological transcendence.

2. **"Torching the Dusties" by Margaret Atwood.** Presented by Steve Allen

Margaret Atwood is one of the most revered, prolific and versatile authors of our generation – author of 17 major novels, 11 short story collections, and numerous poetry collections, children's books, and non-fiction books. Her writing has won many prizes, including her being one of only four authors to have won the Booker Prize twice. One of her motifs has been speculative fiction concerning an apocalyptic future, most particularly in the novels *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Oryx and Crake*. Consider how their visions of a dystopian society compare to that of her 2014 short story "*Torching the Dusties*".

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. Note location change for printed copies. Printed copies of these stories will now be available in the Quest Office.

Any questions, please contact Nancy at nancyrye9@gmail.com.

Course: **WORLD OF RELIGIONS**
Subject: Reconstructionist Judaism
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried

Tech Support: **Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward**

Reconstructionism is an approach to Judaism formulated in the 1930s by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan in his influential book, *Judaism as a Civilization*. Kaplan sought to “reconstruct” Judaism so as to render it relevant in the modern world. He hoped that his vision would lead to a unification of the liberal branches of Judaism. Although this has not come to pass, his disciples created a separate Jewish denomination, Reconstructionism, now recognized as the fourth Jewish denomination, along with orthodox, conservative and reform. About 100 synagogues in the U.S. including two in Manhattan now identify with the Reconstructionist movement.

This talk will discuss “classical reconstructionism” as Kaplan and his adherents articulated it 75 to 100 years ago.

CultureQuest
Cathedral of St John the Divine
Friday September 26, 2025
11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

In our city of skyscrapers, The Cathedral of St John the Divine impresses with its sheer size. It is the largest Gothic church in the world and, as such, is a global landmark. This Anglican house of worship, with its detailed façade, towers over Amsterdam Avenue and extends a full avenue block to Morningside Drive. The length of the Cathedral is a “record breaking” 601 feet. It opened its gorgeous doors in 1893, but to this day remains unfinished. The Cathedral, as well as being a feat of human engineering, continues to be a sanctuary for progressive education, culture, art, and music.

After the tour we have a reservation at the “tried and true” 70-year-old, family-owned V&T Italian Restaurant. Next to the V&T is the storied Hungarian Pastry café. One could stop there for a coffee and a sweet, if you come early for the Cathedral tour, or for dessert, after our lunch.

Meeting Point: The Cathedral is located at 1047 Amsterdam Ave.

Enter into the lobby to meet in the Visitor’s Center past security. We will be gathering at 10:45 AM. Just a cautionary note, there are stairs to enter the Cathedral. If you prefer a ramp, look for the accessibility signs outside to follow the ramp entrance.

Cost: The cost is \$14 per person.

We can accommodate 20 participants — We will have a wait list.

TO CONFIRM YOUR SPOT: SEND EMAIL to Lois Klein at loisnataliek@gmail.com ASAP. Please indicate if you plan to stay for lunch.

After receiving a confirmation from me:

- a. Make a check out to CultureQuest for \$14 and put in CultureQuest mailbox in the office.
- b. ZELLE: (\$14) — questlifelonginfo@gmail.com

Attention: Money must be received by September 17, 2:30 PM or you will be placed on the wait list.

Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who fails to cancel or show will be placed on a wait list for future CultureQuest trips.

Thank you for your understanding of this policy.