

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**October 13 – 16, 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.

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**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**Quest is Closed for Columbus Day –  
Indigenous Peoples' Day**

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**Subject:** The \$19B Project No One is Talking About  
**Presenter:** Sean Khorsandi, Guest Speaker  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Debbi Honorof**, Sharon Katz, Victor Brener  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis

While New York City's infrastructure often faces criticism, several major projects have been completed recently. Guest speaker Sean Khorsandi, Executive Director of Landmark West, will present highlights from these developments and discuss a \$19-billion project that remains largely unmentioned.

Sean Khorsandi is the Executive Director of LANDMARK WEST!, a 40-year-old preservation and land use nonprofit organization. Sean has a Bachelor of Architecture from Cooper Union and a Master of Architecture from Yale. He teaches seminars on Urban Design at NYU.

**Course:** **SUPREME COURT**  
**Subject:** The "Shadow Docket"  
**Presenter:** Babette Cecotti  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

The Supreme Court continues to make headlines with what many call its "Shadow Docket" rulings. The Court's authority to issue emergency rulings is not new, but the Trump Administration's frequent use of the Shadow Docket and the solid conservative majority on the Court are raising new questions about the use of the Court's judicial power. We will take a closer look at the increasingly important role of the Shadow Docket.

**Course:** **THEATERWORKS**  
**Subject:** Scene Rehearsals and Presentations  
**Presenters:** Mary Beth Yakoubian, Yona Rogosin, Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter, Lisa Bu  
**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 begin a new cycle of developing scenes from “Death of a Salesman” directed by Yona Rogosin and “A Doll’s House” directed by Mary Beth Yakoubian. Ruth Ward will continue developing her original short play with the help of her improvisational acting team. A new project will be led by Lisa Bu and Wayne Cotter who will be workshopping for an original short play. An active discussion will follow each scene rehearsal. Since we will be beginning a new cycle, new members are especially welcome.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Course:** **DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS**  
**Presenter:** Laura Lopez  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Ruth Ward**, Donna Basile

### **La Culture Française et Américaine**

Si vous avez voyagé en France, vous connaissez un peu la culture française. Nous allons partager un point de vue sur la culture française et la culture américaine. Nous vous invitons à partager vos opinions et vos expériences sur les deux modes de vie.

### **French and American Culture**

If you have travelled in France, you know something about French culture. We will share with you one point of view about French and American culture, and we invite you to share your thoughts and experiences about their two ways of life.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**  
**Subject:** A Beacon of Opportunity: Jewish Migration to NYC 1850 –1900  
**Presenter:** Debbi Honorof  
**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

In the latter half of the 19th century, waves of Jewish immigrants found refuge on the Lower East Side and in other NYC neighborhoods. They helped to shape — and were shaped by — the city that became their beacon of opportunity. In this presentation, we will explore the cultural, economic, and social contributions of Jewish New Yorkers, and gain insight into the challenges they faced in forging a new identity while maintaining their strong traditions. Through a lens of resilience and transformation, this talk illuminates a vital chapter in NYC history and the enduring legacy of its Jewish immigrants.

**Course:** **MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIMES**  
**Subject:** *I Am Malala*, Memoir by Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner  
**Presenter:** Lynnel Garabedian  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**

*I Am Malala* is the story of a 15-year-old girl so feared by the Taliban in Pakistan that an attempt was made to assassinate her. All of her book is interesting, but 300 pages is a lot to read for one class, so if so many pages is too much, I would like to suggest what I think are some of the most important chapters for understanding the development of Malala Yousafzai's character, extraordinary courage, and the result of her actions. The chapters are 1-4, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 17, 19, and 20.

Part Four, the last four chapters of the book describe in detail Malala's serious medical condition after being shot, and the necessity of transferring her to a special hospital in Birmingham, England where she and her family still live. They are interesting but less important in knowing her as a person. Do read the Epilogue.

**Course:** **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**  
**Subject:** Writing in a Fairy Tale Genre  
**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 fairy tale? Whether we grew up reading them or watching movies based on them, we're all familiar with the genre of fairy tales. In this class we'll learn what constitutes a fairy tale and the history of this fascinating literary form that began orally more than 4,000 years ago. We'll each use our imagination to write an original magical tale or do a take-off on an old favorite.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt which you can choose to read aloud or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any prose genre, poetry, essay or short play and the group will offer constructive responses. Writing that is read in class should be under 750 words, but longer pieces can be serialized and read over consecutive classes. Please bring in 15 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: A Conversation with a Stranger.

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### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 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**

The class will continue reading and exploring the play beginning with Act III. To deepen our appreciation of the play, we will continue to show scenes from the RSC 1977 production directed by Trevor Nunn and starring Judy Dench and Roger Rees.

**Course:** **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**  
**Subject:** That Was A Time! The Birth Of Rock And Roll  
**Presenter:** David Bartash  
**Room:** Room 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis  
**Tech Support:** **Tamara Weinberg**

Bill Haley, Little Richard, Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Chuck Berry and the music they created. What a revolution! What a time!

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 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...and recommend current photo shows.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**  
1. Don’t Let’s Go To The Dogs Tonight (Madeline Brecher)  
2. Burn After Reading (A Spoof) (Bonnie Franklin)  
3. Materialists (Estelle Selzer)  
**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’ll find that all three films are available to stream on Apple, Amazon, or Netflix. Don’t miss these highly rated films!

**Don’t Let’s Go to The Dogs Tonight – Madeline Brecher**

This film thrusts you into the tumultuous world of 8-year-old Bobo (cited as an Oscar nominee) on her family’s Rhodesian farm (now Zimbabwe) as the Bush War rages to its bitter end.

**Burn After Reading (A Spoof) – Bonnie Franklin**

(Fourth in our Espionage Series.) When two clueless gym employees (Francis McDormand and introducing Brad Pitt) stumble upon documents from ex-CIA agent John Malkovich, a ridiculous blackmail plot unfolds. (A Coen Brothers delight)

**Materialists – Estelle Selzer**

Lucy is a modern matchmaker to New York's elite, with potential clients, all of whom have ridiculous requirements for a potential mate, including Lucy herself.

**Course:** **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**  
**Subject:** Books 16 and 17  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

This week we turn from the endless battles to the most human story in the *Iliad*: the bond between Patroclus and Achilles. Their relationship, introduced in Homer, debated in Plato's *Symposium*, and re-imagined in Madeline Miller's *The Song of Achilles*, has inspired readers for centuries. Now we look to Homer himself, to see how the poet speaks of love, loyalty, and friendship in the midst of war — and form our own view of their timeless connection.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 2:45 PM**

**Course:** **SOLE MATES**  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Room:** Gather by elevator 7th Floor @ 2:45pm.  
**Coordinators:** **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

Join Andrea & Marian for 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.

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**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**  
**Subject:** Rosebud Ben-Oni  
**Presenter:** Karen Millard  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid

**Coordinators:** Ellen Rittberg, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz  
**Tech Support:** Felix Pina

Rosebud Ben-Oni is a vibrant, boundary-pushing poet whose work blends science, identity, and mysticism. A winner of the Alice James Award, her poems explore the intersections of Jewish and Mexican heritage, physics, and faith with lyrical intensity and intellectual daring. Her acclaimed collections, which include *If This Is the Age We End*, position her as a fearless voice in contemporary poetry, expanding what language and poetry can do. In our session, we will collaboratively explore the complexities and uniqueness of her poems, and extract meaning together.

**Course:** ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY  
**Subject:** World War I And Its Aftermath  
**Presenter:** Toni Dickenson  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid (To be Recorded)  
**Coordinators:** Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried  
**Tech Support:** Steve Chicoine, Michael Wellner

World War I is one of the most significant underrecognized events of our history. The violence of the War transformed the western world's power dynamic. The new order in the making became defined in large part by the United States. And the war also marked a watershed point in American lives, a time of chaos and innovation, that ushered the country into the modern era.

Problems with the economy, government laws and regulation, race relations, women's rights, xenophobia, free speech, and American foreign policy – all of these areas had their roots emerging from the first World War. In the War's turbulent aftermath, the rapid pace of change and the conservative pushback was in multiple ways a precursor to the social and political turmoil we are experiencing 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, OCTOBER 16 @ 12:20 –12:45 PM**

**Course:** CHAIR MEDITATION  
**Facilitator:** Ken Sasmor  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinator:** Ken Sasmor

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

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES  
**Stories:** 1. Taibele and Her Demon by Isaac Bashevis Singer (Frieda Lipp)  
2. Allah Have Mercy by Mohammed Naseehu Ali (Mary Buchwald)  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** Nancy Richardson, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** Felix Pina

**Stories to read:**

**1. “Taibele and Her Demon” by Isaac Bashevis Singer.** Presented by Frieda Lipp.

What happens when Taibele is abandoned by her husband, and the town prankster decides to play a trick on her? Singer (1902-1991), Polish/American master storyteller, Nobel Prize winner, prolific writer of novels, short stories, essays, children’s stories, - all originally written in Yiddish - here transports the reader to the *shtetl* world of the now lost times of Jewish Eastern Europe. Also read the attached autobiographical writing depicting Polish *Shtetl* life: by Frieda's father, Binyomin Lipp {1892-1991} (translated from the Yiddish by Barbara Ann Schmutzler).

**2. “Allah Have Mercy” by Mohammed Naseehu Ali.** Presented by Mary Buchwald

In “Allah Have Mercy,” Mohammed Naseehu Ali captures his childhood experience as a Black Muslim in the Zongo neighborhood in Kumasi, Ghana. A writer and musician, Ali teaches undergraduate fiction at New York University. Also, read Deborah Treisman’s attached interview with the author.

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. A few printed copies of the stories will be available in the **A-Week box in the Quest Office**. Note the location change for printed copies.

Any questions, please email Nancy at [nancyrye9@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrye9@gmail.com)

**Course:** **WORLD OF RELIGIONS**  
**Subject:** Near Death Experiences  
**Presenter:** Judy Hampson  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Ruth Ward

Cases of remarkable experiences on the threshold of death have been reported since ancient times. The medical world has generally ignored these “near-death experiences,” dismissing them as “tricks of the brain” or wishful thinking. Our culture has tended to view dying as the end of our consciousness. With medical advances in resuscitating dying patients, reports of NDEs are becoming more frequent. Does our consciousness die with our bodies, or is it possible that physical death is not the end of our existence?

## **CULTUREQUEST**

### **THE BROOKLYN SELTZER MUSEUM** **Factory Tour and Tasting**

**Friday, October 24, 2025**  
**12:30 – 1:50 PM**

Take a step into the past. Tucked away in Brooklyn is the last remaining seltzer shop in New York. In fact, it is only 1 of 3 in the nation, keeping alive a centuries-old craft dating back 2400 years. Learn the art and mechanics of making seltzer, and view the old machinery still being used today. Experience its history and cultural impact and discover what makes it kosher! Did any of you notice those blue antique Czechoslovakian glass bottles on your kitchen table when you were a kid?

Effervescent is a word used to describe seltzer...a carbonated, mineral-free, bubbly refreshing drink, no calories, no salt, and often used in mixed drinks. At the end of the tour, you will be treated to a delicious chocolate egg cream, made the “Old Fashioned” way!

- **WHEN:** Friday, October 24, 2025. Please arrive by 12:10 PM . The 80-minute tour begins at 12:30 sharp.
- **WHERE:** Brooklyn Seltzer Museum, 474 Hemlock St., Brooklyn, NY. We will meet inside. Please save an hour to reach the Museum from midtown Manhattan
- **RESERVE:** Send an email ASAP to Sharon Pretto (schatzykatzy@aol.com). Kindly put "Seltzer Tour" in the subject line of the email. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days. We can accommodate 20 persons on this tour. We will have a waitlist.
- **COST:** \$25.00

When I email that you made the cut, please either write a check to Quest Lifelong Learning which is due in the CultureQuest box in the office by Wednesday, October 15th at 2:30 PM OR you may pay through the Quest Zelle address at

[q25broadway@gmail.com](mailto:q25broadway@gmail.com)

by the same due date, October 15 at 2:30PM. Please Include "CultureQuest seltzer tour" on the check or the Zelle receipt. If we do not receive your payment by the due date, we will go to the waitlist.

**OPTIONAL LUNCH:** For lunch, we will go to Daruchini Café and Restaurant, just a few steps away. When you email me to reserve the tour, please tell me if you wish to join us for lunch.

**NOTE:** Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on future waitlists only when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.