NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 27 – 30, 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 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: Asteroids Approaching!
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg,** Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

They're coming! They're coming! It's not *if* but only *when* rocks from space collide with the Earth. There are tens of thousands of these potential missiles roaming the Solar System. The majority orbit the Sun between the paths of Mars and Jupiter. Most behave; however, there is a special group known as *Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)* which occasionally put our planet in their crosshairs. We have clear evidence that in our planet's long history some of these space rocks have changed the very nature of life on Earth. Just as recently (in geological time) as 66 million years ago, an asteroid as wide as Manhattan extinguished over 70% of all life forms on Earth. 50 thousand years ago a huge 50-meter meteorite smashed into the American southwest and sent a shockwave equivalent to 10 megatons. Another huge object exploded above the forests of the Tunguska River Valley in Siberia in 1908. And most recently, a twenty-meter object exploded over the Russian city of Chelyabinsk in 2013 with the force equal to 400-500 kilotons.

While it is true that a*steroids and other space rocks can bring death and destruction, some scientists also believed that they were the carriers of much of Earth's water and perhaps even the deliverers of the elements of life (if not life, itself).* There is no imminent threat as of this writing. I repeat – no imminent threat, but…

We will explore the history, characteristics, and the future potential threat of asteroids, comets, and meteoroids. We will learn the differences between meteoroids, meteors, and meteorites and why the latter may make some people very rich. As always there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: The Mamas & The Papas
Presenter: Marian Friedmann
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig,** Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

You know the songs, and you love the music, but how well do you know the iconic group behind it all? They sold nearly 40 million records worldwide and were the first group to knock The Beatles from the number one spot on the Billboard charts.

They are The Mamas & The Papas.

I am going to tell you their turbulent story and explore the distrust, dangerous passions, and complex entanglements behind their spectacular rise to fame.

If you remember the 1960s, grab your peace jewelry and love beads, be sure to wear some flowers in your hair. This will be a unique chance to re-live the era of flower power, psychedelic colors, bell-bottom jeans, and the brave new world of free love, drugs, and rock and roll. This is your chance to take another wild and wonderful ride with the group whose music defined a generation.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Trivia Contest
Presenter: Maureen Berman & Arlynn Greenbaum
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,** Andrea Irvine

Join us for a lively trivia contest covering history, geography, science, pop culture and many other topics. You'll team up to answer questions and compete for prizes. Who knows? You may even learn a thing or two**.**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **PROFILES IN COURAGE**
Subject: César Chávez and Robert Parris (Bob) Moses
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter,** Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

Cesar Chavez and Bob Moses are heroes for anyone who values "making good trouble." But did they manifest great courage or flawed courage? Chavez put his life on the line for the humblest of California's farm workers and gave them a cause they were willing to die for, yet some of his closest comrades found him enigmatic and baffling.

The same could be said for Moses, who put himself in the crossfires of the KKK in Mississippi and devoted the second half of his life to educational reform, and in both spheres challenged his allies as fiercely as his adversaries. Although I wish we had their like today, they remain enigmatic figures.

In this presentation we'll explain why and ask what you think.

Course: **THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV**
Subject: Part III (Books 7–9)
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,** Andrea Irvine, Ellie Schaffer, Ellen Shapiro

Two deaths define this section: the saintly Father Zosima and the sinful Fyodor Karamazov. Zosima's body decays, and the miracle everyone hoped for never comes. This stuns his followers and delights his detractors. Then Fyodor is murdered, and chaos erupts: Dmitri is accused of patricide (is he guilty), Ivan wrestles with reason and guilt, and Grushenka's heart is torn. Through it all, Alyosha moves amid the turmoil.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART AND PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**
Subject: Levittown: The American Dream and Its Shadow
Presenter: Sharon Katz
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Debbi Honorof,** Sharon Katz**,** Victor Brener
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Pete Weis

Located in Nassau County on Long Island, Levittown was developed between 1947 and 1951 by Levitt & Sons as the first large-scale, planned suburban community in the United States. It was designed to provide affordable housing for returning World War II veterans and quickly became a symbol of the American Dream. The development featured over 17,000 homes, along with schools, parks, shopping centers, and community facilities. Levittown communities were built in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and France. In spite of its outward success, Levittown was greatly criticized for its uniformity and restrictive racial covenants that shaped American housing policy. The initial leases for Levittown homes contained restrictive covenants that prohibited the sale

or occupancy by "any person other than members of the Caucasian race." This discriminatory practice reinforced racial segregation.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The NYT v. Sullivan – One of the Most Important Supreme Court Cases in Recent Memory
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner,** Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

One subject under the radar in the whirlwind of Supreme Court activity is the potential that the Court may down the road overrule a 60-year-old precedent — New York Times v Sullivan. It is no exaggeration to state that this is the leading precedent in the Court's First Amendment and Constitutional Defamation Law jurisprudence. The presentation will review this precedent and focus on two very important governmental actors: Clarence Thomas and Donald Trump.

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 continue our new cycle of scenes including *Death of a Salesman* directed by Yona Rogosin, *A Doll's House* directed by Mary Beth Yakoubian, *The Phantom* an original play by Ruth Ward, and *Plunger* an original play by Lisa Bu. An active discussion will follow each scene presentation. New members are welcome.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS**
Subject: Les Fables de La Fontaine
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward,** Donna Basile

Les Fables de La Fontaine

La fable «La Cigale et la fourmi» de Jean de La Fontaine montre le contraste entre l'insouciance de la cigale, qui vit au jour le jour en profitant de l'instant présent, et la prévoyance de la fourmi, qui travaille dur pour assurer son avenir. Est-ce La Fontaine nous avertit de prévoir pour éviter les difficultés plus tard? Nous allons en discuter avec des exemples de nos propres vies.

Jean de La Fontaine's fable "The Ant and the Grasshopper" contrasts the carefree nature of the grasshopper, who lives day by day enjoying the present moment, with the foresight of the ant, who works hard to secure his future. Is La Fontaine warning us to plan ahead to avoid difficulties later on? We'll discuss this with situations from our own lives.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course:	**HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject:	Great Arrival: Italian Immigration to United States 1880 – 1924
Presenter:	Anne Marie Gussman
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

Between 1880 and 1924 over 4 million Italians immigrated to the US most of them coming through Ellis Island into NYC. During this period most Italians came from the south, particularly from regions like Sicily and Campania. In this presentation, we will explore why they came, the challenges they faced and the lasting cultural and social impact this vibrant community has made on the United States.

Course:	**MORAL TALES FOR OUR TIMES**
Subject:	To Kill A Mockingbird
Room:	15-17
Format:	In-Person Only
Coordinators:	**Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support:	**Bob Reiss**

We will begin our discussion of *To Kill A Mockingbird* with Part I, the first eleven chapters of the book. Atticus Finch is the moral center of the novel. What does he tell his children about why he must defend Tom Robinson? How does he show his deep understanding of and compassion for all the people he comes in contact with in his small southern town? Like all great novels, even minor characters in this book are important and add to its

richness and meaning. What role does Calpurnia play in the lives of the children? Why does Atticus admire Mrs. Dubose? What is the relationship between Jem and Scout?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Motive, Means, and Mystery
Presenter: Donna Ramer
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only **(Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.)**
Coordinators: **Helen Saffran**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

In this Crime Writing workshop, we'll explore how mystery, motive and misdirection can transform your storytelling through tension, compelling suspects and building satisfying twists to sharpen our personal writing craft. And we'll answer the question of why Ken Bruen said that *"*crime fiction is the new rock 'n' roll"*?* So, bring your curiosity *and* your best alibi!

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share or not. You may bring in writing you have done at home in any genre — prose (no longer than 750 words), poetry or plays — and the group will offer constructive responses. Please bring in 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. Need some inspiration? Try writing about "The Unexpected Knock" or "The Small-Town Secret."

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 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 finish reading aloud and discussing the play beginning with Act IV, Scene 3.

Save the date of 12/3. Kate Kohler Amory, who directed *Comedy Of Errors* at Shakespeare & Co. in 2024 and set the play in Coney Island, will talk about her production which was excellent and great fun. Come and enjoy.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Life–Time–Consciousness
Presenter: Gil Santiago
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine,** David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Life, time, and consciousness. Easy-peasy as topics to tackle in one presentation.

If looking at the origins of life is not enough, let's talk about time as well as human consciousness; as the universe looks at itself through us, with our senses and minds. Join me for a discussion on such things as **What Is Life, What Is Time** and **What Is Consciousness**; perhaps sing a song about all three and what they mean to us and nature?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Halloween celebration

Sweet treats, prizes for best costumes, in the Lunchroom. Brought to you by the Social Committee.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. An Officer and A Spy (Marian Friedmann)
2. Munich (Hedy Shulman)
3. The Lives of Others (Donna Basile)

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 two films are streaming on Apple or Amazon.

An Officer And A Spy – Marian Friedmann
R/T 85 - new release. To Stream: Search Thru Google; type in Plex as search engine; and showing at New Plaza Cinema, 15 W. 67 St.

On January 5th, 1895, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a young Jewish French Officer, was degraded for spying for Germany and was sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil’s Island. (Director Roman Polanski).

Munich – Hedy Shulman
R/T 84 (Part of our Espionage Series). Amazon, Apple

After Black September's assassination of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972, Prime Minister Golda Meir okays a covert operation to hunt down and kill all involved.

The Lives Of Others – Donna Basile
R/T 92 (Part of Espionage Series). Amazon, Apple

Lucy, in 1983 East Berlin, a dedicated Stasi officer, Gerd Wiester, doubting that a famous playwright is loyal to the communist party, receives approval to spy on the man and his actress lover. But examining the circumstances, Wiester becomes unexpectedly sympathetic to the couple.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Subject: Books 18 & 19
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,** Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

Heartbroken by Patroclus's death, Achilles cries out to his mother. His grief is so deep that Thetis rises from the sea with her sister goddesses to comfort him. She brings new armor forged by Hephaestus—the magnificent shield whose scenes of peace and war have inspired artists for centuries. People through the ages have tried to recreate that shield, with its "city of peace" and "city of war." In class, we'll look closely at Homer's 200-line description and consider what it reveals about the world Achilles carries into battle.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 2:45 PM

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

Join us 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 30 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Remembering Stan Raffes
Presenters: Frieda Lipp and Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg,** Frieda Lipp**,** Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

This week we will read the poems of Stan Raffes, a former member of Quest, now deceased, whose work moved and entertained Quest members over the years. Quest has many wonderful poets, but we think Stan's poems are unique. He was a true New York character and had a great gift of letting us into his life and that of his colorful Bronx family through his story poems. He wrote about the famous musicians and artists who were a part of the city but also about an unknown trumpet player who chased away the blues in Harlem and an older tango dancer who saved her red tango dress in tissue paper.

His poetry reflected the city he loved, and he can truly be described as a poet of the New York School.

Copies of the poems will be sent prior to the class and will also be available in class. No prior reading is required.

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: The Civil War
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Joy Sabella,** Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine, Michael Wellner**

There are few periods in American history that have resulted in such significant changes to our country as the Civil War. Today we'll take some time and examine some widely circulated myths about this conflict, not the least of which was the inevitability of the outcome. Come and learn about this fascinating story.

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 30 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories:
1. A Taste of Heaven by Banu Mushtaq (Susannah Falk Lewis)
2. A Story by Raymond Carver (Frieda Lipp)

Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. A Taste of Heaven by Banu Mushtaq. Presented by Susannah Falk Lewis.
Banu Mushtaq won the 2025 International Booker Prize for her book *Heart Lamp,* the first time the prize was given to a short story collection. Banu Mushtaq is a Muslim writer, activist and lawyer from southern India. She has focused on the challenges that Muslim women face due to religious conservatism and a deeply patriarchal society. The story we will read gives a lively picture of a Muslim family and has a delightful sense of humor.

2. A story by Raymond Carver. Presented by Frieda Lipp.
Carver (1938 –1988) was an American short story writer and poet. He published his first collection of stories, *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* in 1976. His breakout collection, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981), received immediate acclaim and established Carver as an important figure in the literary world, followed by *Cathedral* (1983), which is widely regarded as his masterpiece

Links for the two stories have been sent separately to all Questers via QuestBusiness email. Note the new location for printed copies: Now in the Quest Office. Any questions, please email Nancy at **nancyrye9@gmail.com**.

Course: **WORLD OF RELIGIONS**
Subject: Spirituality and Dance in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
Presenter: Ze'eva Cohen
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss,** Ruth Ward

How people dance during religious services and rites is determined by powerful attitudes towards the body that are shaped by religious beliefs. I'll discuss the use of dance in the three monotheistic Abrahamic religions. Each of the religions has a different view on the attainment of spiritual bliss through the dancing body. You'll see this in the video samples and in comments made by religious authorities, journalists, practitioners, and dance scholars.

Come and feel the bliss.

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