

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 9 – 12, 2026
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: 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, FEBRUARY 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Hadestown
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

We will explore the unique path that Hadestown took to Broadway. From a semi-professional musical composed by folk singer Anais Mitchell and performed over two weekends in 2006 in small towns in Vermont, to a 2010 record album to a 2016 off-Broadway musical running for two months, to finally getting to Broadway in 2019 and showing no signs of slowing down. We'll look at the blend of musical styles from folk music to New Orleans jazz; the literary sources in the ancient Greek myths of Orpheus attempting to rescue Eurydice from the Underworld and the relationship between Hades, God of the Underworld, and his wife Persephone; and the vibrant, intimate production design.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*
(Farrar, Straus, and Giroux edition)
This week we will read:
Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream
Page 3 of the Farrar, Straus and Giroux edition
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Some Dreamers of the Golden Dream uses a sensational murder trial to critique the hollow promises of the American Dream and the corrosive effects of materialism and societal pressures in a specific time and place.

Does the golden dream cause people to do the inconceivable? Join us as we read aloud and discuss this provocative, somewhat enigmatic story.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Trivia Challenge
Presenters: Maureen Berman, Arlynn Greenbaum
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

What's your trivia IQ? Match wits with your fellow Questers at a fast-paced, fun-filled Quest Trivia Quiz. We will break into teams to answer questions on a variety of topics ranging from general knowledge to geography to popular culture. All are welcome to play. Prizes for members of the winning team.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: Akira Kurosawa: Legendary Director
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

Akira Kurosawa is regarded as one of the most important and influential filmmakers in the history of cinema. Many celebrated directors have been influenced by Kurosawa and have expressed admiration for his work including George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, Roman Polanski, Werner Herzog and others. We will show clips from some of his 30 films and demonstrate why he's considered a giant of filmmaking. And, finally, we'll learn what *Rashomon* is all about and why *Seven Samurai* is such a popular film.

Course: **POWER OF PLAY**
Subject: Got Play? Not Just for Kids
Presenter: Carole Blane
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Carole Blane, Joe Aboulafia, Candy Johnson,
Tech Support: Felix Pina

This opening session will present participants a definition of play, invite reflection through a brief play-style quiz, and include simple, accessible group activities designed to engage without pressure or embarrassment.

Come join us! No prior experience — and no “performance” — is required. Just curiosity, openness, and a willingness to explore what play might offer us!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Paul Gauguin: An Early Modern Artist
Presenter: Linda Downs
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Ellen Shapiro

Paul Gauguin has always been considered a controversial artist who has been criticized as a person who dismissed his bourgeoisie life in Paris, devoted himself to making art and through poverty was separated from his wife and children then painted in tropical Tahiti for the last thirteen years of his life seeking to capture the spirit of indigenous people.

The latest biography, *Paul Gauguin: Wild Thing* by Sue Prideaux, discussed in the new Non-Fiction Novel Book Group last semester, presented a very empathetic view of his life. This presentation will give greater focus to his artistic achievements and the aspects of his work that were critical in ushering in a modern conception of art where realism was abandoned in favor of symbolic use of color and images.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Bob Belfort, Nina Sanders, Larry Shapiro

The essays to be discussed are

1. *The Pain of Perfectionism* by Leslie Jamison from *The New Yorker*, April 4, 2025,
2. *Later* by James Surowiecki from *The New Yorker*, October 4, 2010

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Event: **LUNCHTIME MEMBERSHIP MEETING**
Subject: Q&A On Raising Quest's Membership Cap
Facilitators: Donna Ramer & Bob Gottfried
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

Resolution for open discussion: To increase the current membership cap from 270 to 285 members.

In December, a majority of Council members approved an increase in the membership cap from 270 to 285. Under Quest's bylaws, such increases must be approved by Quest's membership following two Q&A sessions. The first of these lunchtime sessions will be held today. Another session is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, February 11.

Bring your lunch, curiosity and questions as we discuss the why's and how's of increasing the cap on our membership. Feel free to attend one or both sessions. And remember to check your email on Thursday for the Survey Monkey link to cast your vote.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Lois Klein, Marsha Porcell, 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: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: Desire Has No Expiration Date: Celebrating Senior Sexuality
Presenter: Lynne Scheurer-Foster
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Mary Beth Yakoubian, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

As Valentine's Day approaches, welcome to "Desire Has No Expiration Date! An Explicitly Candid Conversation About Sexuality, Intimacy and Aging." We will be debunking myths and taking a new look at medical updates and biology/anatomy. We'll begin with the hypothesis that sexuality does **not** need to **end** for seniors; it **evolves**. We'll redefine sexuality, explore our senses, look at fantasy, meet Greta Garbo and review a couple of relevant films. And there will be resources to take away if you would like to continue to explore afterwards. There is a full menu to share. Your curiosity and positivity are cordially invited!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: Trump 2.0 Report Card 2025
Facilitatory: Terri Hicks
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

It's been one year since President Trump took office. A lot has happened. Polls indicate that many people approve of his job performance while others strongly disapprove.

Let's spend this class examining the major areas of government and evaluate the changes that have taken place.

I will not be giving a report. Rather, you will evaluate what went right and what went wrong. Are the changes permanent? Can we ever go back? What is the future of the republic?

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Jane Goodall
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Konstantin Dolgitser

Last fall, we lost this icon of science and conservation. As a young woman without a degree, she was hired by Louis Leaky to study chimpanzees to learn about their behaviors. As she very gradually approached closer to them over many weeks and was eventually accepted by the group, they allowed her to interact with them, and she observed behaviors that shocked the scientific community — tool use! As she learned

more about individuals and their different personalities, she revolutionized the study of primatology and animal behavior. Decades later, she turned her focus to conservation and started the Jane Goodall Institute, to further protection and conservation of animals. During the last few decades of her life, she traveled 300 days a year, bringing her message to different audiences around the world.

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Resolution for open discussion: To increase the current membership cap from 270 to 285 members.

In December, a majority of Council members approved an increase in the membership cap from 270 to 285. Under Quest's bylaws, such increases must be approved by Quest's membership following two Q&A sessions. This is the second and final session.

Bring your lunch, curiosity, and questions as we discuss the why's and how's of increasing the cap on our membership. Feel free to attend one or both sessions. And remember to check your email on Thursday for the Survey Monkey link to cast your vote.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Dr. Nir Barzilai
Subject: *How to Die Young at a Very Old Age*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Dr. Nir Barzilai is our Jan and Stuart Eisler Memorial Speaker for the 2026 spring semester. He is the Director of the Institute for Aging Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the President of The Academy for Health and Lifespan Aging Research (AHLS).

He is an Israeli geneticist and longevity researcher and will speak on *How to Die Young at a Very Old Age*.

Dr. Barzilai is a preeminent leader in geroscience, demonstrating in his studies that aging has its own biology that drives age-related diseases. At Albert Einstein College of Medicine, he is a professor in the departments of Medicine and Genetics, the director of the Institute for Aging Research, and the director of several Centers on the Basic Biology of Aging, as well as the author of over 350 papers.

He studied medicine at the Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology and received his MD in 1985.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

**Quest Closed on Thursday February 12
In honor of Lincoln's Birthday**

CULTUREQUEST

VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM

**Gabriele Münter: Expressionist Extraordinaire!
Friday, February 13, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

The Farmer's Almanac predicts cold and inclement weather for Friday, February 13th, so please stay cozy and tune in to our virtual tour at the Guggenheim Museum. The session will begin at 11:00 AM and will be led by the knowledgeable and talented gallery educator who led us for Pollock and Kandinsky will guide us through the works by the remarkable German Expressionist Gabriele Münter.

Münter was part of a small subgroup of artists active in transforming late-Impressionist, and Art Nouveau painting into what is now identified as Expressionism. Early on, Münter developed a great interest in landscapes. Münter's landscape paintings employ a simplicity with softly muted colors, and flattened forms. She was strongly influenced by Henri Matisse and Van Gogh.

Münter took refuge in the small Bavarian market town of Murnau, a village untouched by industrialization progress, and technology. Münter bought a house and spent much of her

life there. It was here she studied and lived with the painter Wassily Kandinsky. The garden and the countryside were a lucrative source of inspiration for Münter and Kandinsky.

Münter's landscapes are unusual in their use of blues, greens, yellows, and pinks; and color plays a large role in Münter's early works. Color is used to evoke feelings: picturesque, inviting, imaginative, and rich in fantasy. In Münter's landscapes, she presents the village and countryside as manifestations of human life, but there is a constant interaction and coexistence with nature. Kandinsky began to adopt Münter's use of saturated colors and abstract expressionist style. Münter and Kandinsky traveled throughout Europe together. It was during that time together Münter and Kandinsky helped establish the Munich-based avant-garde group called New Artists' Association. She contributed to a number of the most significant avant-garde exhibitions in Germany up until World War I.

- **When:** Friday February 13th, 2026. Please tune in by 10:45 AM. The tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM
- **Where:** Guggenheim Museum/Virtual Tour. We will send a pass code the day of the tour.
- **Cost:** \$10.00
- **To Reserve:** Send an email ASAP to dena@kerren.us. The tour is limited to 35 participants. We will have a cut off. You will be advised by return email if you are registered for the tour. If registered, please leave a check for \$10.00, made out to Quest Lifelong Learning, in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office no later than Wednesday, February 4th, by 3:00 PM. Zelle payment is accepted. If you pay through Zelle, send it to Quest's Zelle email address, q25broadway@gmail.com, before Wednesday, February 4th. Please note Guggenheim virtual tour when sending Zelle payment.

Note: Please sign up only if you intend to tune in. Anyone who does not show without canceling will be placed on a waitlist for future events.