

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 16 – 19, 2026
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, FEBRUARY 16

**Quest Closed in Honor of
Presidents' Day**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: "The Genetic Book of the Dead: A Darwinian Reverie" by Richard Dawkins
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Gil Santiago, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Pete Weis

In this term's Science Clubhouse, we will be featuring a number of reports on fascinating science books. For our second session on Tuesday, February 17, we will have a presentation on Richard Dawkins's 2024 book *The Genetic Book of the Dead: A Darwinian Reverie*. A review by science writer Philip Ball said: "Richard Dawkins's new book is a glorious affair. Profusely illustrated in color by Jana Lenzova, it is arguably his most joyous ode to the wonders evolution has wrought in the animal world. It should leave the reader in no doubt about the delight that Dawkins himself takes in natural history – a passion that has ignited his prose for almost half a century and made him arguably the most important writer in modern popular science." Our presentation will feature many of the illustrations from the book.

No advance reading is needed, but for those who are interested, a few attachments have been distributed through QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: What's Left of the Voting Rights Act ... And Why it Matters
Presenter: Bob Belfort
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Sandra Abramson, Babette Ceccotti
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 to ensure that all black Americans could actually exercise their right to vote. In 2013, though, the Supreme Court struck down the law's most powerful weapon. Now, a decision the Supreme Court is likely to issue in the next few weeks could largely eviscerate what is left of the Voting Rights Act, with significant implications for the political landscape.

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

We will continue developing new scene projects for Spring 2026. Troupes led by Mary Beth Yakoubian and Yona Rogosin will produce scripted scenes from famous plays. Troupes led by Ruth Ward, Lisa Bu and Donna Ramer will produce short original plays. Volunteers are invited to prepare and present monologues. New members are welcome. We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 12:00 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NEW MEMBER MEETING**
Room: 27
Format: In Person Only
Coordinators: **Leslie Goldman, Tracey Lee (co-chairs)**, John Davis
Vince Grosso, Laurie Spiegel, Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)

All fall 2025 and spring 2026 new members (red lanyards) are invited.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

Une Situation éthique délicate.

Nous vous invitons à vous joindre à nous pour une discussion animée par Richard Elrauch sur une situation éthique délicate.

A Delicate Ethical Situation

We invite you to join us for a discussion led by Richard Elrauch on a delicate ethical situation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: What is Poetry?
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 talk about how poetry is different from prose, and experiment in our writing with turning poetry into prose, and vice versa.

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: *I admire ()'s poetry because it makes me feel...*

Course: **HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY**
Subject: The Roaring Twenties
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Ilene Winkler**, Sandra Abramson, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Pete Weis, Michael Wellner

So many things come to mind when we hear this phrase: the stock market boom; or was it the stock market crash? The Charleston. The Flappers. And how about Prohibition? And "speakeasies"? Or finally granting women the right to vote? The end of World War I and hope for peace "forever." Mayor Jimmy Walker, and so many others. Join us as we examine a decade in New York City that was truly like no other.

Course: **TWO NOVELS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF**
Subject: Mrs. Dalloway
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian**, **Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

We will begin by continuing with the material we did not finish during our first class and follow Peter Walsh after he has visited Clarissa. The reading goal is about another third

of the book which concludes with several pages about Elizabeth Dalloway and Miss Kilman. The three main characters of the book, Clarissa, Peter, and Septimus Smith are haunted by vivid memories from their pasts. How do these memories impact their present life? What do we learn about Septimus from Woolf's simply written back story? How does the author portray Dr. Holmes and Sir William Bradshaw? One of the major themes of the book is the difficulty or inability of people to intimately communicate with each other. Notice instances of this in the relationships among the main characters.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: HAMLET**
Subject: Act I
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**, Joan Lambe, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward

Our exploration will include:

- Selected passages
- Elizabethan Spy System
- Inciting Action
- The Ghost and his demands
- Iambic pentameter and its impact on understanding and appreciating the text

As time permits, scenes from the 1948 Laurence Olivier film of Hamlet will be shown.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: Friday the Thirteenth
Presenter: Sheila Krilov Sasmor
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

This NWAQ was sent to you on Friday, February 13. Why do some people consider Friday the 13th a bad luck day? Does every year have a Friday the 13th? What is the maximum number of Friday the 13ths in a given calendar year? We will look at some simple mathematics, using only 7 numbers, to answer these questions. Bring your curiosity and a pencil or pen to explore the mystery of Friday the 13th.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 12:10 –1 2:50 PM

Course: **STREETWISE TIPS: SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY NYC DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION**
Room: 5-17 (Hybrid)
Presenter: Samantha Carter, Senior Program Coordinator, NYC Dept of Transportation Safety Education & Outreach
Facilitator: Donna Ramer

This lunchtime presentation was created by the NYC Department of Transportation's Office of Safety Education and Outreach to help older New Yorkers protect themselves in the city's traffic environment. This is especially important to older adults. New Yorkers over the age of 65 make up only 15% of NYC population but account for up to 50% of the pedestrian fatalities.

So bring your lunch and learn how to understand NYC's Vision Zero Traffic Safety Initiative and dangerous driving behavior and provide pedestrian safety tips and best practices. And, of course, Samantha will answer your related safety questions.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films :
1. *Out of Africa* (Sandra Abramson)
2. *The Mastermind* (David Judlowitz)
3. *Is This Thing On?* (Wayne Cotter)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**, Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

Oscar ballots are still available. send us your name & email address; print it, check off your selections and deposit it in our office file.

Our Robert Redford series continues. Sandy Abramson reviews Sidney Pollack's acclaimed "***Out Of Africa***" (Streaming Apple, Amazon Prime) with Redford and Meryl Streep, who as Karen Blixen, a woman embarking on a new life running a plantation in Africa. The film follows her through a marriage of convenience to Bror Blixen, a deep romance with Denys Finch-Hatton, and the many challenges of colonial life, including war, education, and personal hardships, including VD from her husband

Next is "***The Mastermind***" (Streaming HBO, Max) reviewed by David Judlowitz. Set in a quiet Massachusetts suburb in the 1970s, this film delves into the psyche of an unemployed family man who turns to crime for excitement. His reckless choices threaten

to upend his mundane existence and those around him, as he continually dares himself to push the limits.

Finally, Wayne Cotter explores the trials of a male midlife crisis in “**Is This Thing On?**” Directed by Bradley Cooper. (Streaming Buy Only \$19.99) As their marriage unravels, Alex (Will Arnett) faces the realities of middle age and divorce, seeking a new purpose in the New York Comedy scene. Meanwhile, his wife (Laura Dern) wrestles with the sacrifices she’s made for their family, forcing them to confront co-parenting and rediscover identities.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE CANTERBURY TALES**
Subject: The Miller’s, Reeve’s, and Cook’s Tales
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

For our second session, please read *The Miller’s Tale*, *The Reeve’s Tale*, and *The Cook’s Tale* (about 35 pages total) from *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Here the voices shift decisively downward in social rank: from the elevated ideals of knightly love to earthy comedy, rivalry, trickery, and humor. These fabliaux delight in overturning authority — of age, class, and moral pretension — and offer a sharp, often unsettling portrait of everyday life. We will be joined by **Nancy Bisaha**, Professor of History and Director of Medieval & Renaissance Studies, and we look forward to her joining the conversation.

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Joan Lambe, Ruth Ward

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 2:45 PM

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

Take a break and join other members for an easy walk along the Hudson River. These informal get-togethers combine light exercise, fresh air, and good conversation - no registration needed.

All welcome – no commitments – fresh air and community.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **BEETHOVEN: THE LATE YEARS 1815-1827**
Subject: Beethoven and the Cello
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Arlene Hajinlian**, Jim Hopkins, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Joan Lambe, Tamara Weinberg

Our focus on Beethoven's last creative transformation provides an opportunity to get better acquainted with his writing for cello, especially the two magnificent sonatas of 1815 for cello and piano. Beethoven had written beautifully for the cello in the past and had done more than anyone to bring it forward as a solo instrument, yet in this period his age, health and family issues seemed to diminish his output, his originality, even his talent. (Biographer Louis Lockwood called it Beethoven's twilight zone.) In class we'll discuss the turning point onto a new path that can be heard in the 1815 sonatas. We'll also take note of the trusted friends who inspired him and advised him--imagine Beethoven taking advice from anyone! — and we'll watch videos of memorable performances.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: The New York School of Poets
Presenter: Ellen Rittberg
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

The New York School of Poets were part of a larger group of contemporary art-makers. Their lives intersected with and were influenced by abstract and pop artists and other art forms. They lived, worked and were steeped in the energy, verve, flow and what one poet termed *personism* of life in the City in the 1950's and 60's. Often witty, they referenced specific places, daily activities and the cultural milieu and adapted more loose and informal poetic language. We will explore the poetry of John Ashbery, Kenneth Koch, James Schuyler, Frank O'Hara, Barbara Guest and how their work fits into the poetry timeline of the second half of the twentieth century. Participants are encouraged to bring in a favorite poem from the second half of the 20th century and on.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Mitzvah (Frieda Lipp)
2. My Flamboyant Grandson (Steve Allen)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. *Mitzvah* by Tod Goldberg. Presented by Frieda Lipp

The protagonist here leads an interesting double life. He's a respected Las Vegas Rabbi who as a non-Jew has been faking it for fifteen years. And he's a foul-mouthed mobster on the run from the law whose varied chores include laundering dead bodies. It's irresistible, a sometime laugh-out-loud trip into literary lunacy.

2. *My Flamboyant Grandson* by George Saunders. Presented by Steve Allen

George Saunders, born in 1958, is an American writer best known for his short stories and his novel *Lincoln in the Bardo* (2017), which won the Booker Prize and which will be the basis for an opera coming to the Met in the 26-27 season. Saunders' short stories have been published as several collections, including *CivilWarLand In Bad Decline* (1996), *Tenth of December* (2013) and *Liberation Day* (2022). His short stories have won numerous awards. He teaches creative writing at Syracuse University. *My Flamboyant Grandson*, published in *The New Yorker* in 2002, imagines a dystopian future in which attention to advertising has become a legal obligation.

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 location change for printed copies.

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

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE I**
Subject: Detroit, the Comeback City
Presenter: Ruth Ward
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian, Vince Grosso**
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Detroit has been called the "Paris of the Midwest" due to its French fur trading post roots, its historic Beaux-Arts architecture, and its grand tree-lined boulevards. During the late 19th century this elegant metropolis, with its Electrified Gilded Age building design, rose along with the burgeoning automobile industry to become a 20th-century "Motor City" powerhouse. However, a combination of industrial decline, suburban flight, and long-term debt caused it to fall into bankruptcy. Detroit's current revitalization, driven by a mix of public-private partnerships, federal funding, and philanthropic efforts, is now turning this municipality into a welcoming, multicultural high-tech urban center. Want to know more? Come and see why Detroit can truly be called a "comeback city."

CULTUREQUEST

IN-PERSON TOUR OF TEMPLE EMANUEL

Friday February 27, 2026
10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Temple Emanuel, located at 1 65th street is one of the oldest, largest and most beautiful and prominent Reform Synagogue in the world. Many Eastern European immigrants were attracted to Reform Judaism, as it reflected modernity in their new American homeland. Its history began in 1845, when 33 German immigrants gathered in the Lower East Side to establish the first Reform Temple in America.

In 1925, the congregation purchased the opulent mansion of Mrs. William B. Astor. In 1930 they completed the construction of this, now landmark revival building, known for its stunning Art Deco Romanesque design. The massive sanctuary can seat over 2,500 families. The mosaic gilded ceiling seems to reach to the sky. There are 60 plus stained-glass windows. The sanctuary organ has over 10, 000 pipes. We will visit and learn about the Bernard Museum of Judaica located inside the building. The Synagogue espouses liberal and progressive ethics, welcoming inter faith marriage and a diverse membership.

WHEN: Friday February 27, 2026, at 10:45 AM-12:30 PM.
The Tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM.

WHERE: One East 65th Street (entrance on 65th St.)

COST: \$10.00

TO RESERVE: Send an email to loisnataliek@gmail.com with Temple Emanuel on subject line.

The tour is limited to 20 people. We will have a wait list. 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 Feb. 18, 2026, by 2:30PM. Zelle payment is also accepted. If you pay through Zelle, send it to Quest's Zelle email address, q25broadway@gmail.com.

NOTE: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who does not show without cancelling will be placed on a waitlist for future CultureQuest trips. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch (optional): Cognac 517 Lexington Ave (at 70th St.) Bring cash to facilitate payment.
