

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**March 23 – 26, 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.

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**MONDAY, MARCH 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**  
**Subject:** The Roar of the Greasepaint, and the Smell of the Crowd  
**Presenter:** Susan Diehl  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

This musical was written in 1964 by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse. After a brief national tour, it opened on Broadway in May 1965 and closed that same December. It starred Anthony Newley and Cyril Ritchard, and the score was nominated for a Tony Award. It has never been revised on Broadway nor was it ever made for television or for a movie. So why are we diving into a musical that only lasted a few months? The music. We will hear seven of the songs you are likely familiar with that have been recorded by many famous artists including Tony Bennett, Nina Simone, Sammy Davis Jr, and Barbra Streisand.

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**  
**Subject:** Slouching Towards Bethlehem by Joan Didion  
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux edition)  
This session we will read pages 84-128:  
Slouching Towards Bethlehem  
**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**

In the eponymous essay of "Slouching Towards Bethlehem," Joan Didion provides a general description of the decadence and decay of the hippie era of the late sixties Haight-Ashbury scene. She concludes her essay with a description of a three-year old child in a dilapidated warehouse whose parents regularly dose him with LSD and methamphetamines. Didion, who was in her 30s at the time, describes her work as the first time she dealt directly and flatly with the evidence of atomization, the proof that all things fall apart.

**MONDAY, MARCH 23 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Course:** **NOONTIME MEDLEY**  
**Subject:** Music and Art  
**Presenters:** Andrea and Sheryl  
**Room:** 5-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

What happens when we place a piece of art beside a piece of music?  
Does one deepen the other? Shift it? Complicate it?

We'll begin with a few curated pairings—then turn things over to you. In small groups, you'll explore connections between sound and image: music inspired by art, art inspired by music, or unexpected combinations that simply feel right.

No expertise required—just curiosity. Bring your phone, your lunch and your imagination. We'll share discoveries together and see where the conversation leads.

**MONDAY, MARCH 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**  
**Play:** The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler  
**Cast:** June Jacobson, Yona Rogosin, Mary Beth Yakoubian, and Frieda Lipp  
**Presenter:** Frieda Lipp  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**

Ms. Ensler, born in 1953, is a playwright, author, performer, and feminist. Her activism has involved her in many causes around the world including the issue of violence towards women.

The Vagina Monologues was first performed in a Greenwich Village basement in 1996 and has since been translated into 48 languages and performed in over 140 countries. In 2006, Charles Isherwood of the New York Times called it “probably the most important piece of political theater of the last decade.”

**Course:** **POWER OF PLAY**  
**Subject:** Seniors at PLAY: Fun Has No Expiration Date!  
**Presenter:** Lynne Scheurer-Foster  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Carole Blane**, Candy Johnson, Joe Aboulafia  
**Tech Support:** **Felix Pina**

Welcome to an exploration of the joyful aspects of PLAY at any age!

Together we will look at some foundational information about the impact of PLAY in the lives of seniors. We will share our ideas of preferred activities in pursuit of PLAY.

We will present some potential pathways to a more PLAYFUL approach to life during our senior years. Quest is a beautiful place of learning and expanding our minds all day, every day. It is great for us to remember that learning need not be serious to have a positive value and meaningful impact. Learning comes in so many forms. Most of all, in this session, Questers are invited to tap into our younger, more PLAYFUL selves. An attitude of openness to having some simple, silly FUN together is your perfect passport! If fun and joy sound appealing, then Seniors at PLAY might be a great “fit” for YOU! All are welcome.

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** The Barnes Collection  
**Presenter:** Babette Ceccotti  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Ellen Shapiro

The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia houses over 800 works of art collected by Albert Coombs Barnes (1872-1951), a local businessman-turned-art-collector in the early 20th century. The collection is renowned principally for holdings of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and modern works, as well as many works of African art. In the 1920's, Barnes established the Foundation —then located in a wealthy Philadelphia suburb-- to promote the study of art under John Dewey's principles of civic life through education and democracy. While he developed a comprehensive educational program for art students based on his collection at the Foundation, he was otherwise guarded to the point of obsession regarding access to his storied collection, and his relationship with the art establishment was marked by continued conflict during his lifetime.

Following Barnes' death, due to highly restrictive provisions in his will, dwindling resources put the Foundation--and its collection-- in a precarious state, plagued by controversy. Pivotal court rulings to save the Foundation from financial ruin drew Philadelphia's art world, public officials, universities and an angry suburban neighborhood into battle. Eventually, a court ruling backing a financial rescue from the very art establishment Barnes had once scorned brought the collection to Center City, Philadelphia. In its new location, Dr. Barnes's final 1951 arrangement of the collection is still on view—per his instructions—but now enhanced by a wide variety of special exhibitions, public programs, classes for adult learners, and special access for thousands of local school children. The class presentation will cover the story of this remarkable art collection.

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

**Topics:**

1. *Who My Child Was and Will Be* by James Marcus from The New Yorker, November 3, 2025
2. *The Multiculturalist Misunderstanding* by Kwame Appiah from The New York Review of Books, October 9, 1997

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness

**TUESDAY MARCH 24 @ 12:00 Noon– 12:50 PM**

**Meeting:** **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Leslie Goldman**, Tracey Lee (co-chairs), John Davis, Vince Grosso, Laurie Spiegel, Ken Sasmor (QPAL coordinator)

**Who can attend:** All new members (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026) are invited to attend each spring meeting.

- Meet other new members
- Learn ways to meet and interact with other Quest community members
- Find out about available resources at Quest
- Ask questions and share experiences.

**TUESDAY MARCH 24 @ 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:** Papua New Guinea ... A Land Apart  
**Presenter:** Madeleine Brecher  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Mary Beth** Yakoubian, Anne Moses, Karen Cullen  
**Tech Support:** Steve Chicoine

Papua New Guinea offers Questers a vivid glimpse into one of the world's most culturally rich and geographically dramatic nations—a place where over 800 living languages shape daily life, volcanic highlands tower over untamed rainforest, and bustling cities like Port Moresby navigate a moment of economic transformation.

As the country builds on its 50th year of independence, it's channeling new energy into security and sustainable growth, all while preserving traditions that stretch back thousands of years. From the kaleidoscopic masks of the Sepik River to the rugged Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea remains one of the last places on Earth where ancient cultures and modern ambitions meet in such striking, unforgettable contrast. It offers a depth of stories few places can match. Exploring its art, rituals, biodiversity, and evolving modern identity gives an audience a rare window into a world that feels both deeply rooted and endlessly surprising. Come along with me as I tell you, first-hand, about the most astonishing travel adventure I have ever experienced.

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**  
**Subject:** New York City Subway System  
**Presenters:** Andrew Bata  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**

The New York City Subway system is now over 120 years old. Since conception, it has been operating 24/7 and has served this city well, facing many challenges, technical, social, financial and political. This presentation by Andrew Bata, a retired MTA executive, will delve into the history, development and continuous evolution of this magnificent system. The presentation will also offer an insider's look how the Subway actually works with many elements that are generally not known or understood by the public

**Course:** **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**  
**Subject:** Bone(s): A Look Inside  
**Presenter:** Bob Majeska  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis  
**Tech Support:** **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

We appreciate that bones are essential for support, protection and locomotion, yet we tend to think of them as largely inert, like planks or girders. This presentation seeks to provide a highlights tour of bone considered as a living, dynamic tissue. It will focus on the materials that give bone its unique structure and material properties, the cells of bone and how they operate, the basis for bone loss with aging and disease, and finally efforts over recent decades to prevent and possibly reverse those changes.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM**

**Event:** **CANDIDATES' FORUM**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Steve Chicoine (Treasurer) and members-at-large Lynn Vairo, Marty Green, Vince Grosso (incumbent) and Ellen Rittberg. Candidates will also be speaking on Thursday March 26, Monday March 30 and Tuesday March 31.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**  
**Speaker:** Jonathan Mahler  
**Subject:** *The Gods of New York*  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer  
**Tech Support:** Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

Jonathan Mahler's new book, *The Gods of New York: Egoists, Idealists, Opportunists, and the Birth of the Modern City: 1986-1990*, has been called "a rip-roaring, sweeping essential work of history. A must read" by Jonathan Eig. It chronicles four tumultuous years that changed the city forever and anticipated the forces that would soon divide the nation. Featured in book are a cast of outsized characters including Ed Koch, Donald Trump, Al Sharpton, Spike Lee, Rudy Giuliani and Larry Kramer.

Jonathan Mahler is a staff writer for The New York Times Magazine and the author of the bestselling *Ladies and Gentlemen, The Bronx is Burning* which was adapted as an ESPN miniseries. He also wrote *The Challenge: Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* and *The Fight Over Presidential Power*.

Our format will be an onstage interview by Arlynn Greenbaum followed by Q&A.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **EARTH: HISTORY**  
**Subject:** The Age of Dinosaurs  
**Presenter:** Dr. Sunny Hwang  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Judy Weis, Pete Weis  
**Tech Support:** Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

Dinosaurs first appeared around 240 million years ago, a few million years after the biggest mass extinction in Earth history. But it wasn't until a subsequent mass extinction at the Triassic-Jurassic boundary 201 million years ago that they took over the planet. Dinosaurs lived on every continent (including Antarctica) and in almost every environment



(with the exception of aquatic realms). They ranged from pigeon- to whale-sized; ate plants and meat and everything in between; and lumbered, ran, and flew over the land. Their great diversity was cut short 66 million years ago by a giant asteroid, but one lineage survives to this day: birds.

**Course:** **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**  
**Subject:** Political Poetry of Protest and Resistance  
**Class Leaders:** Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter**

The Peterloo Massacre occurred on 16 August 1819 in Manchester, England, when cavalry charged into a crowd of around 60,000 people who had gathered at St Peter's Field to demand parliamentary reform. The result was deaths and hundreds of injuries. The massacre caused public outrage and became a defining moment for democratic reform. Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote *The Masque of Anarchy* as a direct and angry response to those events, a poem some have called the greatest poem of political protest ever written in English. We will read the long poem in assigned quatrains with repressed anger, as aware of the fragility of democracy as Shelley was.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26 @ 12:10 - 12:50 PM**

**Event:** **CANDIDATES' FORUM**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Candidates for Quest Council will speak briefly and answer questions. The candidates speaking at today's session are Karen Cullen (incumbent - Secretary) and members-at-large Ken Sasmor, Art Spar and Lynn Vairo. Candidates will also be speaking on Monday March 30 and Tuesday March 31. You may [view their bios](#) on the Quest website.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**  
**Subject:** Great Arrival: Italian Immigration to United States 1880 – 1924  
**Presenter:** Anne Marie Gussman  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Joy Sabella, Bob Gottfried**  
**Tech Support:** **Konstantin Dolgitsier, Pete Weis**

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:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**  
**Subject:** The Philosophical Implications of Artificial Intelligence  
**Facilitator:** Steve Allen  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

Gideon Lewis-Krauss of the New Yorker published a fascinating article titled "What Is Claude? Anthropic Doesn't Know Either." Claude is one of the three dominant artificial intelligence engines available to the public (along with Open AI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini). The firm Anthropic appears to invest far more than its competitors in experimenting with the philosophical implications of its AI model, exploring fundamental understandings of consciousness, agency, and ethical behavior. This New Yorker article takes a close look at how the firm approaches these issues and contains several direct references to topics and authors we have previously explored in our philosophy discussion group.

During the class discussion, we will provide summaries of the philosophical essays that are relevant to this topic, but we would urge members to read the New Yorker article for themselves prior to the discussion. As usual, we will circulate this article and a few other optional readings through QuestBusiness.

**THURSDAY MARCH 26 @1:00 – 3:00 PM**

**Course:** **POETRY WORKSHOP**  
**Subject:** Creating Poetry  
**Presenter:** Helen Saffran  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM**)  
**Coordinators:** **Judy Hampson**, Helen Saffran, Linda Schwartz

We will begin by reading a poem together and discussing it. What are the poetic elements in the poem? How does it make us feel?

There will be a writing prompt related to the poem, and an opportunity to share.

Members who choose to bring in poems written at home will read them to the class and get feedback.

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## **CULTURE QUEST**

### **PARK AVENUE ARMORY IN-PERSON TOUR**

**Friday, March 27, 2026, 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission describes the Park Avenue Armory as the “The single most important collection of nineteenth-century interiors to survive intact in one building.”

The restored meeting and administration rooms positively glow!

This historic edifice contains important nineteenth-century interiors by legends such as Stanford White and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Designed in the Gothic Revival style by Charles Clinton for the 7th New York Militia Regiment, the Park Avenue Armory was completed in 1880, with two expansions in the early 20th century. Since 2006, it has been the home of the Park Avenue Armory Conservancy. The Armory is known for presenting ambitious, large-scale performing and visual arts. The building features Drill Hall, a 55,000 sq-ft industrial performance space and historic restored Gilded Age period rooms.

**WHEN:** Friday, March 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM  
**WHERE:** 643 Park Ave. NY, NY  
**COST:** \$25 per person limited to 25 people. There will be a waitlist.  
**TO RESERVE:** Send an email asap to: Carole Kolber [cark4848@yahoo.com](mailto:cark4848@yahoo.com)

You will be notified if you make the cut. When you do, please write a check or pay through Zelle. Checks are made out to Quest Lifelong Learning and are due in the CultureQuest box in the Office by Wednesday March 18 by 2:00 PM. If you pay through Zelle, you send it to Quest’s Zelle email address at

[Q25broadway@gmail.com](mailto:Q25broadway@gmail.com)

before Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 PM. You must include: CULTUREQUEST. PARK AVE. ARMORY TOUR to credit it correctly. Again, the amount is \$25. If we do not receive payment by the due date, please understand that you will go to the waitlist.

**NOTE:** Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on a "future waitlist only" for following CQ events. Thank you for understanding.

## **CULTURE QUEST**

### **INNOCENCE FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL**

**Metropolitan Opera House  
Friday, April 3, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Depicting the wide web of trauma left in the wake of a school shooting, the late, great Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's final opera is a raw and unflinching cri de coeur in response to the senseless violence of our modern age. Captivating with its eerie, darkly beautiful sound-world and diverse vocal styles, ranging from traditional opera to expressionistic speak-singing to Scandinavian folk music, *Innocence*, with libretto by prominent Finnish author Sofi Oksanen and Aleksis Barrière, was greeted upon its 2021 premiere by awestruck reviews.

For its Met premiere—in Simon Stone's powerfully direct original production—the cast is anchored by mezzo- soprano Joyce DiDonato and Finnish ethno-pop singer Vilma Jää as a grieving mother and the daughter she lost in the shooting, as well as soprano Jacquelyn Stucker and tenor Miles Mykkanen as a young couple whose wedding, a decade after the tragedy, uncovers buried secrets and reopens old wounds.

Come join fellow Questers for the wonderful experience of witnessing a final dress rehearsal.

**WHEN:** Friday, April 3rd at 10:30 AM  
**WHERE:** Metropolitan Opera. Please arrive no later than 10:00 AM  
**COST:** FREE – Limited to 50 participants  
**TO RESERVE:** Contact Estelle Selzer at [Eselzer19@gmail.com](mailto:Eselzer19@gmail.com) ASAP to secure a reservation. Put *Innocence Rehearsal* in the subject. Your email will be acknowledged ASAP. We will have a waitlist.

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