

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 6 – 10, 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, APRIL 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Broadway Musicals of the 1960s: Before the Parade Passes By
Presenter: John Kenrick
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

A decade that began with Broadway celebrated as "The Main Stem" of show business ended with it suddenly demoted to a side street. What changed in society and in popular culture? And which record breaking musicals packed the final years of musical theater's first "golden age"? From *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Hello Dolly* to *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hair*, a joyous celebration of the musicals born in a turbulent time.

Entertainment historian John Kenrick has worked in the theatre at every level from amateur to Broadway, eventually serving as personal assistant to six Tony Award winning producers. He is also a wonderfully entertaining presenter.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux edition)
This session we will read:
On Keeping A Notebook – p. 131
On Self-Respect – p. 142
I Can't Get That Monster – p. 149
Facilitator: Ruth Ward
Room: Room 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

In *On Keeping a Notebook*, Didion asks: "Why did I write it down? In order to remember, of course, but exactly what was it I wanted to remember?" In her seminal 1961 essay *On Self-Respect*, she defines self-respect as a discipline, habit of mind, and the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life. *I Can't Get That Monster* critiques 1960s Hollywood for its lack of originality and rigid, self-policing conformity.

MONDAY, APRIL 6 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: AI Experiment
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

We will run a small experiment to discuss at Noontime Medley. Ask your favorite AI (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) one of two questions: either “What are you, really?” or design a presentation or course for Quest. You may refine the question and work with the AI to shape the response. Submit what you and your AI create together (200 words max, no links) to SherylInyc@gmail.com. We will compile the results and see what the machines produce—and what we produce with them—on April 6. Remember to Bring Your Lunch.

MONDAY, APRIL 6 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Plays: *The Workhouse Ward*
Lost In Music
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

The Workhouse Ward by Lady Gregory. Lady Gregory was an Anglo-Irish Dramatist and theatre manager. Along with William Butler Yeats, she was one of the co-founders of the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre and wrote short works for both. The play, published in 1909, features two long-time antagonistic neighbors—Miskell and McInerney—who find themselves sharing a room in a dingy Irish workhouse. Their days are filled with verbal battles, but then Miskell’s sister arrives with an intriguing offer.

Cast: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Maryann Donnelly

Lost In Music by Seamus Scanlon who is an award-winning author from Galway, Ireland. He is a recipient of a MacDowell Colony residency and a Fellowship at the Center for Fiction in NYC. He is also the CWE Librarian. Last Spring, two of his plays were presented at Quest. They featured the character of Victor, a member of the IRA. This play brings further insight into Victor.

Cast: Roy Clary, June Jacobson

Course: **POWER OF PLAY**
Subject: All We Really Need to Know We Learned in Kindergarten
Presenter: Ellen Shapiro
Room: Rooms 22 and 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carole Blane**, Candy Johnson, Joe Aboulafia
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

We all know the saying, "Kids learn by playing." But what learning is it?

We'll meet in room 22 for some fun! We shall play in small groups at various activities—nothing threatening—and then discuss what we felt, thought, and learned. Then we'll switch rooms for a short presentation on the history of kindergarten—the development of the concept of learning by playing. We'll look at photos of kindergarten children at play, discuss the children's deep learning and link this up with our earlier experiences. Maybe we'll take home more questions than we started.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: El Anatsui
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Ellen Shapiro

El Anatsui is the first African artist to have his works top the million-dollar mark—even a small piece fetches hundreds of thousands of dollars—and was included in *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2023. It all started when he found a bag of bottle caps in his hometown in Nigeria. He had been a successful artist and professor of sculpture for 30 years but was intrigued with what he could do with this ordinary medium. So, at the age of 60, he ended up creating a new art form that challenged the classifications of painting, sculpture, tapestry and abstraction. He is now 82 and has two studios in Africa, both the size of a football field, that create massive metal wall hangings that can be seen in museums and galleries all over the world. Come see the amazing works this man has created, and equally amazing, how they are done.

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

Topic:

1. *The End of Children* by Gideon Lewis-Krauss from *The New Yorker*, February 24, 2025
2. *Fear is at the Heart of All Bad Things* by Freddie deBoer from his Substack, November 17, 2025

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness

TUESDAY APRIL 7 @ 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: Sounds of Klezmer Through the Ages
Presenter: Carol Rubin
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Anne Moses, Karen Cullen
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

From the lively streets of 18th century Eastern Europe to the vibrant stages of modern concert halls, this presentation traces the remarkable journey of Klezmer music - a sound that carries laughter, longing, exile and celebration all at once. We'll follow the musicians who shaped it, the migrations that transformed it and the cultures it absorbed along the way. You'll hear echoes of vanished worlds and rediscovered traditions, as a once forgotten music finds new life in our own time. Whether familiar or entirely new to you, this is an invitation to listen closely—not just to the notes, but to the stories they tell.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: How Conservative Talk Radio Hijacked the Republican Party and Upended Democracy
Presenters: Wayne Cotter with special guests Mike Barry and John Shyer
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

Before there was Fox News and before Donald Trump turned to politics, there was talk radio. For nearly three decades leading up to the 2016 election, conservative talk radio—and its provocative, right-wing hosts—helped shape the Republican Party’s agenda and, many argue, the party itself, with far-reaching consequences for American political life.

How did right-wing radio, and its most influential voice, Rush Limbaugh, so successfully weave their way into American politics? Why did the left struggle to build comparable alternatives? And why were millions of Americans drawn into such strong, personal bonds with these radio personalities?

Wayne Cotter, joined by radio-savvy guests Mike Barry and John Shyer, will explore these and many more questions in a wide-ranging discussion of the conservative talk radio phenomenon. If you—like many Quest members—have never ventured into the world of conservative talk radio, this presentation promises to be an eye-opening look at a powerful and often overlooked force in modern American politics.

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Health Effects of Climate Change
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

Floods, droughts, supercharged hurricanes and tornadoes, wildfires, sea-level rise – all are occurring in greater number and are considered to be a result of human activity induced climate change. There are serious effects on the populations of most countries. Loss of livelihood, displacement from home (leading to migration), and health issues. The last can be measured in disability-adjusted life years and in years of life lost – and are especially problematic in the Global South. Tropical diseases are now occurring in non-tropical areas.

Investing in mitigation of climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and increasing renewable energy technologies could improve health in the near-term. These all need money, but the savings will be substantial — a good investment for the whole world.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: CREATIVE NONFICTION**
Book: *When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion*
Author: Julie Satow
Presenters: Lynn Vairo and Carole Blane
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carole Blane**, Debbi Honorof

When Women Ran Fifth Avenue by Julie Satow is a creative non-fiction book about the golden age of American department stores, focusing on three pioneering women who led them: Hortense Odlum (Bonwit Teller), Dorothy Shaver (Lord & Taylor), and Geraldine Stutz (Henri Bendel) The book details how these women, through glamour and grit, transformed retail, championed American designers, and navigated personal and professional challenges, making department stores powerful centers of female independence and fashion innovation. It's described as a stylish, compelling read filled with personal drama and business secrets. It was a *New York Times* bestseller and named a best book of 2025 by several publications.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Steven Ujifusa
Subject: *The Last Ships from Hamburg: Business, Rivalry, and the Race to Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Steven Ujifusa is a historian who chronicles the American experience, with special interests in business, social, and maritime history.

His book, *The Last Ships from Hamburg: Business, Rivalry, and the Race to Save Russia's Jews on the Eve of World War I*, tells the story of Eastern European Jewish immigration to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Steven is the recipient of the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence from the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York, a MacDowell artist residency, and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia's Literary Award for non-fiction. He has appeared on National Public Radio, CBS Sunday Morning, and numerous other media outlets.

A native of New York City and raised in Chappaqua, New York, Steven received his undergraduate degree in history from Harvard University and a master's degree in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman School of Design. An amateur singer, he is a long-time member of the Orpheus Club of Philadelphia.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: HISTORY**
Subject: The Evolution of Homo Sapiens
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Judy Weis, Pete Weis**
Tech Support: **Pete Weis, Bob Reiss**

Bipedalism is a key adaptation separating hominins (humans and our extinct relatives) from apes. 7,000,000 years ago, the earliest putative hominin evolved from a common ancestor with chimpanzees. Although known only by a cranium, teeth, two partial ulnae and a femur, it was probably still arboreal (long forearms) with a chimp-sized brain. Walking on two legs freed the forelimbs to carry things. Tool development and food foraging followed. Our genus, Homo, arose 2.7 million years ago (mya), when other bipedal hominins coexisted, mainly in Africa. While all the others faded away, Homo continued to evolve. By 2 mya, H. erectus appeared with a larger brain. By one mya Neanderthals and Denisovans, with brains equivalent in size to ours, were in Eurasia. When H sapiens migrated out of Africa ~ 300,000 ya, they found their cousins waiting. And the rest is history!

But why did only we H. sapiens survive to take over the Earth?

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: The Poetry of War
Presenters: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

War has long figured as a theme in poetry—some of the world's oldest surviving poems are about great armies and heroic battles. Maybe Homer idealized his combatants and revered their incessant fighting, but the treatment of war in poetry has grown increasingly more complex since then. Subsequent poets concentrated their writing on the horrifying impact of war on civilians. Numerous conflicts over the centuries produced poets who turned their pens to documenting the tragic grotesqueries of war and their cries against them. The use of vivid imagery, irony, and personal experience in these poems helped readers outside the battlefield grasp the profound costs of war. We will pursue some riveting anti-war poetry of wars.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: German Americans: Their History, Culture, and Influence in the United States
Presenters: Glenn Johnston, Sandy Frank
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Joy Sabella**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Konstantin Dolgitser**, Pete Weis

In the vast narrative of immigration that has shaped the United States, German immigrants occupy a significant chapter. They've played an important role in our history from the 17th century to the present. In the years in between, they moved into nearly every corner of the U.S., tried their hand at nearly every trade and pursuit, and helped shape some of the fundamental institutions of American life. Germans were aboard the first boats that came ashore at Jamestown and were among those who built the rockets that took men to the moon. They've been military leaders, politicians, and giants in business, technology, medicine, and the arts. Please join us in exploring this complex and accomplished group.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: Machiavelli Reconsidered
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

After reviewing the state of our nation in light of *Democracy/A Very Short Introduction* by Bernard Crick in a recent class, we might want to consider whether and how an impaired state can be restored. You might think that the writings of Machiavelli would be a bad place to look for insights, but I propose we give it a try. We'll begin by discussing excerpts from *The Prince* and then move on to a book most of us have never looked at, *The Discourses on Livy*. We'll find that in addition to advice on how to vanquish your rivals and enemies, Machiavelli raises questions about governance, ethics and human nature that deserve our attention. I'll send out excerpts from these books and two supplementary essays via Quest Business.

Course: **POETRY WORKSHOP**
Subject: Creating Poetry
Presenter: Helen Saffran
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3.00pm)
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 10-minute writing prompt related to the poem.

Members who choose to bring in poems written at home will read them to the class and get feedback. Please bring 10 copies of your at-home writing to share with the class. Need an idea for writing poetry at home? Try: Thoughts on Writing Poetry.

CULTUREQUEST

NYC ART DECO WALKING TOUR

Friday, April 24, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Sold out

Thank you for your interest