NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

April 20 – 23, 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.

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MONDAY, APRIL 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: Impact
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg,** Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss, Tamara Weinberg

Impact! The Day the Dinosaurs Died. Sixty-six million years ago, an asteroid slammed into Earth and changed the history of life forever. Earth was having a very normal day, and then it experienced the worst day ever!! Dinosaurs were stomping, pterosaurs were swooping, mammals were quietly minding their own business and hoping no one stepped on them. And then —KABOOM.

In this talk inspired by the Impact exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History, we'll explore the science behind the catastrophic event that ended the age of dinosaurs. What was life like before; during; and minutes, days, and years after the impact—and how did this disaster eventually open the door for mammals, and ultimately us?

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: Doo-Wop: The Story of Street Corner Harmonies
Presenter: Mary Beth Yakoubian
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Steve Koenig,** Wayne Cotter, Mary Ann Donnelly
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

Yip yip yip yip mum mummum mum. Da doo ron ron. Wop bop a loo bop a lop bam boom Dip da dip da dip. Shoo doo din shoo be do. Doo wop doo wah. Sha na nah nah sha na nah na nah. Duh duh dun dun dun dah. Sha lang a la lang a la lang. Ram a lam a ding dong.

MONDAY, APRIL 20 @ 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Questers will be treated to lunch at 12 noon in the lunchroom. Let's celebrate all of our Quest coordinators.

MONDAY, APRIL 20 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Book Chats
Presenter: Kathy Cook
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

We had a long and cold winter. Because of that, many of us spent time indoors reading. No doubt, some of the books we read are wonderful. Let's share great book suggestions and engage in a lively discussion about them. This is an opportunity for readers who are seeking new titles and authors or who simply enjoy talking about a book they have enjoyed and would recommend to others.

Book Chats is for everyone who enjoys reading and discussing great books they have read.

There's no required reading. Book Chats is casual and fun. Readers of all genres welcome + bring your lunch!

MONDAY, APRIL 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **BALZAC: A DESERTED WOMAN**
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,** Tatyana Chernomaz, Andrea Irvine, Ellen Shapiro

For our penultimate class, we will read and discuss *A Deserted Woman* by Balzac (sent out via QuestBusiness).

At dawn, in dramatic silence, Madame de Beauséant leaves Paris in a closed carriage after her lover of many years announces his marriage. What happens next? She had been at the very center of Paris society — her balls the pinnacle of success — and then she disappears. Balzac gives us the answer. A commanding figure in *Père Goriot*, she now reappears far from Paris. What becomes of her when that world is gone?

Course: **PROFILES IN COURAGE**
Subject: Bella Abzug: Bold Hats and a Bold Legacy
Presenters: Sandy Frank and Glenn Johnston
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter,** Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

Stumped about what to do in this messed up world? Just get to know Bella Abzug, one of the boldest, most uncompromising activists in the twentieth century. She was one tough outspoken lawyer and politician from the Bronx who, with her spitfire personality, rallied against war and corruption, Jim Crow, Joe McCarthy, and Pres. Nixon. She challenged a system wedded to militarism all while shaking up politics along the way.

Bella was a warrior for every social justice movement of her day. She fought for building a real democracy based on equality, not hypocrisies. Bella rewrote the rules for women's equality and gay rights making it clear that equality wasn't something to politely request. Gloria Steinem often remarked: "Ask yourself, what would Bella do?" Join us in exploring this remarkable woman who embodied courage, fortitude, and a whole lot of chutzpah!

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TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: Seaweed: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Discussion Leader: Judy Weis
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen,** Jim Brook, Gil Santiago, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Pete Weis

Has anyone paid any attention to seaweed? Maybe you step over some of it on the way into the water from the beach and don't think about it at all. But some of it plays an important role in the ecology of the oceans, and some of it can cause major problems in tropical areas when it arrives on beaches. Let's talk about it.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Supreme Court and Labor
Presenter: Ann O'Shea
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner,** Sandra Abramson, Babette Ceccotti
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

The rise of American industrialism brought with it the beginnings of the labor movement. Throughout its history, organized labor has faced challenges in the courts. The class presentation will cover Supreme Court cases that have shaped the course of the labor movement.

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 to rehearse our scene projects for Spring 2026. Teams led by Mary Beth Yakoubian and Yona Rogosin will produce scripted scenes from famous plays. Teams 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, APRIL 21 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

Une Discussion intrigante
Il y aura une discussion sur un sujet intrigant. Garantie!

An Intriguing Discussion
There will be a discussion on an intriguing subject. Guaranteed!

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: How to Create Dynamic Characters
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

How can we make our characters more dynamic? We'll do an exercise on expanding the description of people in our stories to make them jump off the page.

As always, the class begins with a 10-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share or not. Also, you have the option of bringing in a piece you've written at home (any genre: 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 15 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try observing someone in a restaurant or from a park bench. Describe what they look like, imagine where they live, and invent an unusual hobby they may have.

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

NYC has had many famous Mayors. Among them, perhaps none is more famous or revered than Fiorello LaGuardia who served as the 99th Mayor from 1934-1946. We will look at how LaGuardia and President Franklin D. Roosevelt (a former Governor of NY) worked together to pull NYC out of the depths of the depression. Together they created what was essentially a new city by combining Federal money with NY ingenuity and vision.

Course: **TWO NOVELS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF**
Subject: *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

In our last two classes of the term, we will discuss Michael Cunningham's 1999 Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Hours,* which relates to *Mrs. Dalloway* and follows three women during the course of one day. This novel is easier and quicker to read than *Mrs. Dalloway.* We will cover about half the book, ending with a chapter on "Mrs. Woolf" for our class on April 21. Cunningham envisions a modern-day Clarissa living in New York. What is similar and different between his depiction and that of Virginia Woolf's? Can you recognize other characters that relate to those of Woolf's? Cunningham imagines a young woman, Laura Brown, who is struggling to accept her role as a suburban wife and mother. How does reading *Mrs. Dalloway* and her knowledge about Virginia Woolf affect her? Virginia Woolf is also a character in the book, and Cunningham cleverly includes facts about her with what he imagines she might have thought and felt as she wrote *Mrs. Dalloway.*

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: HAMLET**
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Paul Golomb, and Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer,** Joan Lambe, Bob Reiss

We will cover the last two scenes of Act III and **the first six scenes in** Act IV.

1. Paul Golomb and Jim Brook will discuss the new format for next semester's Shakespeare class.
2. Ellie Schaffer will present an analysis of Hamlet as a prince caught between the clash between the two different moral universes of classical antiquity and Christian Europe, with radically different understandings about revenge, suicide, women, **politics**, and the afterlife.
3. We will read selected passages and watch several videos, including Claudius's confession of murder and Hamlet's reaction, the "closet scene" between Hamlet and his mother in her chambers, and Ophelia's madness.

Course: **TIME: THE WONDER OF IT**
Subject: The Seasons of a Man's Life (1976)
The Seasons of a Woman's Life (1996)
Presenter: David Bartash
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine,** David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

Daniel Levinson's groundbreaking studies of adult development, which challenged the notion that growth ends with adolescence. The result of nearly 30 years of work with teams of fellow psychologists, psychiatrists and sociologists at Yale, his landmark findings that adult life is marked by age driven, alternating periods of stability and transition led to the popularization of "The Mid-Life Crisis". And importantly, that both men and women share these highly predictable "seasons", and they do so across social, economic and educational boundaries.

Has your life followed these seasonal patterns? How did your 'Chasing the Dream' work out for you?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: FICTION**
Book: How to Read a Book
Author: Monica Wood
Presenter: Joan Vreeland
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Jan Goldstein,** Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

In this novel, an encounter at a bookstore brings together a young female ex-con recently released from prison where she was serving time for a fatal drunk driving accident, a handyman whose wife died in that accident, and a retired English teacher who runs the book club at the prison. Deceptively easy to read but layered with sharp observations, hard truths and sly wit, it's never saccharine.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. Hamnet (Susan Keohane)
2. Bugonia (Paul Adler)
3. Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid (Joan Vreeland)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter,** Bob Reiss, Michael Wellner

Susan Keohane offers an insightful review of *Hamnet*, a film in which the author reimagines Shakespeare and his wife as parents to a young son. This fresh perspective compels the couple to confront the fragility of life in poignant new ways. Streaming on Amazon Prime or Apple.

Paul Adler takes on *Bugonia,* the story of two conspiracy theorists who kidnap a powerful pharmaceutical CEO, convinced that she is an alien plotting to destroy the earth. The film reunites Poor Things director Yorgos Lanthimos with Oscar winner Emma Stone. Streaming on Amazon Prime or Apple

Joan Vreeland continues the tributes to Robert Redford by spotlighting the legendary film *Butch Cassidy And The Sundance Kid*, based on the true story of two notorious outlaws. The movie captures their infamous fast draws, daring escapes, and unforgettable adventures in the Wild West and Bolivia. Streaming on Amazon Prime and Apple TV.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE CANTERBURY TALES**
Subject: The Physician, the Pardoner, and the Wife of Bath
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz,** Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

For our penultimate session, we turn to three strikingly different tales: the Physician, the Pardoner, and the unforgettable Wife of Bath. Each offers a distinct moral lens—but the Wife steals the stage. Bold, funny, and unapologetically candid, her take on marriage still feels surprisingly modern, even centuries later.

To bring her voice alive, we'll also watch a performance by Jean "Binta" Breeze, whose vibrant rendition in Brixton Market captures the Wife's wit, energy, and authority in a wholly contemporary setting.

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, APRIL 22 @ 2:45 PM

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

Call it exercise, call it social hour on foot. We walk along the Hudson, swap stories, and end up somewhere with a menu—coffee, wine, food, whatever fits the day. No pressure, no pace to keep—just fresh air and community.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

In our second session on Beethoven late string quartets, we will explore the two that complete the set of three commissioned by Prince Galitzin and composed in 1825.The quartet in A minor, Op.132, prompts us to examine Beethoven's belief in the healing power

of music and his practice of music therapy. The next quartet, in B-flat Major, Opus 130, is a six-movement work with a final fugal movement that is larger than the preceding five movements combined. Please join us for our exploration of this astounding and wonderful music.

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: The Poetry of Irish-American Poet Derek Mahon
Presenter: Bernadette Cullen
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg,** Frieda Lipp**,** Karen Millard, Linda Schwartz
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Born in Belfast in 1941, Derek Mahon graduated from Trinity College, Dublin and subsequently worked as an editor, screenwriter, journalist, and lecturer while writing six books of poetry. A recipient of the Scott-Moncrieff Translation Prize, he has translated plays of Moliere and Euripides among other works. A coeditor of *The Penguin Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry,* his achievements include an Irish-American Foundation Award, a Lannon Foundation Award and a Guggenheim fellowship. Of his *New Selected Poems (*Gallery Books, 2016*),* Seamus Heaney wrote: "There is a copiousness and excitement about these poems that is to be found only in work of the highest order." High praise, indeed!

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Old Babes in the Wood (Susannah Falk Lewis)
2. Deal Breaker (Anita Hunter)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

1. *Old Babes in the Wood* by Margaret Atwood. Presented by Susannah Falk Lewis.

Margaret Atwood (born 11/18/39) is a well-known Canadian writer and inventor. In this story, Nell is mourning her husband Tig. Her feelings are conveyed through her loving descriptions of the objects in their family home, which also carry memories of her family of origin in its bones.

2. *Deal Breaker* by Allegra Goodman. Presented by Anita Hunter

Deal Breaker is one of 17 short stories in Allegra Goodman's latest novel *"This Is Not About Us."* Maureen Corrigan, reviewing the book on NPR's Fresh Air said, "This novel about family drama is so good, you may want to read it again immediately. Story focuses on Pam, who is in her early 50s, still single. She's realized that the man she loves will always put his ex-wife and teenaged daughter first. Is it a deal breaker? What do you think?

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.

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

Course:	**QUESTER'S CHOICE I**
Subject:	Le pays Cathare
Presenter:	Trudy Deweese
Room:	27
Format:	**Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators:	**Mary Beth Yakoubian,** Vince Grosso
Tech Support:	**Steve Chicoine**

Le pays Cathare is a place where I lived for 4 years gathering information and pictures. It is a place where the inquisition succeeded and the crusading Army failed. This medieval time should not be overlooked since many of the Cathars beliefs are with us today. This is a memory still being researched by scholars.

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CULTUREQUEST

NYC ART DECO WALKING TOUR

Friday, April 24, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Sold out
Thank you for your interest