

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 14 – 17, 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: 831 2470 2819

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 859 5495 1087

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279

Passcode: 252525

Meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms are also listed above in case such information is needed. 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.

When joining Quest classes on Zoom, please make sure that your full name is displayed for security purposes. If you need help displaying your name, please contact a Technology Committee Member.

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 SEPTEMBER 14 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

Carousel has no comment to make on anything of topical importance. The theme is timeless and universal: the devotion of two people who love each other, complicated in this case by the wayward personality of the man, who cannot fulfill the responsibilities he has assumed. Billy Bigelow is a bum, but *Carousel* recognizes the decency of his motives. Julie Jordan's independence is to be admired. There are no slick solutions in *Carousel*, but the music is sublime, the ballet scenes extraordinary and the story poignant.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD: HEMINGWAY & GARCIA MARQUEZ**
Subject: *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
(Hemingway Library Edition 2020 – Scribner)
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Room: 27
Format: In Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This session we will read the Introduction, Forward, and Pages 1-20.

The Old Man and The Sea delivers a powerful message about human resilience, stating that "man is not made for defeat ... a man can be destroyed but not defeated."

Hemingway's writing is highly regarded for its minimalist style, direct prose, and ability to convey deep emotion and complex themes.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: What's Coming to New York's Museums and Galleries?
Presenters: Andrea Irvine Sheryl Harawitz
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

New York's fall art season is beginning. Join us for a preview of what's coming to museums and galleries around the city — from major exhibitions at familiar museums to smaller shows and galleries you may not have heard about.

We'll look at what's opening, what might be worth a visit, and perhaps discover a few places to explore together

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: HISTORY, DESIGN AND PRACTICE**
Subject: James Renwick, Jr., 19th Century Architect Extraordinaire!
Presenters: Glenn Johnston, Sandy Frank
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Victor Brener, Debbi Honorof
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

James Renwick Jr., the architect extraordinaire, was one of the most successful, prolific, and versatile American architects in the latter half of the 1800s. He designed high-profile buildings such as the Smithsonian "Castle" and St. Patrick's Cathedral. His great success was especially noteworthy given that he was a hobbyist with no formal architectural training, nor did he need to work to support himself. Yet, he rose to the top of his field on the strength of his engineering background, historical knowledge, and artistic flair.

Renwick's illustrious career was not limited to his bold designs for churches, museums, and civic institutions. Fortunately for us, many of his designs are a prominent part of our NYC architecture, especially in Greenwich Village. Join us as we explore this highly accomplished architect and his work, who the Encyclopedia of American Architecture calls "one of the most successful American architects of his time."

Course: **COMPELLING THEATER AND CINEMA: FROM PAGE TO PERFORMANCE**
Subject: Hollywood Censored
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

Censorship is a key ingredient in understanding how films were made during the studio era (1927 – 1948) and is vital in any analysis of their content or structure. From the early 1930s to the mid-1960s, every story considered, script written, and film produced was subjected to a thorough cleansing by industry censors before reaching the screen. The presentation will sample some of the controversial movies shown during the “pre-code” era which led to a powerful censorship movement. It will recount adoption of the “Hays code” and sample instances where popular movies were revised to comply with the code. A special guest will reenact a scene that censors deplored.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART OF THE WORLD: PREHISTORY THROUGH GOTHIC ART**
Subject: First Masters: Global Prehistoric Art
Presenter: Nancy Seng
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Bob Reis, Ellen Shapiro

Did artists working thousands of years ago have anything like our concept of “art”? We’ll look at remarkable objects that anchor the story of our first image makers and let you weigh the evidence. Global in scope, varied in material and still being debated today. Come see how much the textbooks left out.

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

Topic: (1) "The End of Reading is Here" by Rose Horowitz from the August 2026 edition of the *Atlantic Magazine*, (2) "Did a Chatbot Write a Prize-Winning Story? Does it Matter?" by Katy Waldman from the website of *The New Yorker* on June 10, 2026

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Steve Allen, Lois Klein, Marsha Porcell
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner, Konstantin Dolgitsier

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: **POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF JOHN LOCKE**
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sandy Kessler, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: Andrea Irvine

During the next few months we are going to assess the claim that John Locke is uniquely "America's political philosopher." In our first class session we will consider Locke's view of human nature as it appears in Chapters One through Four of *The Second Treatise of Government* in relation to our self-understanding as Americans today.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: Desire Has No Expiration Date – Part II
Presenter: Lynne Scheurer-Foster
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Mary Beth Yakoubian, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: Felix Pena

"Desire Has No Expiration Date: Part II" is here! Whether you attended Part I, in February, or not, you're welcome to join us for another explicitly candid conversation celebrating senior sexuality, intimacy and aging. Single, divorced, married or widowed, you are absolutely enough! We'll explore the premise that sexuality doesn't need to end for seniors; instead, it evolves. We'll include medical advances and updates on biology/anatomy and examine fantasy, feelings, foods and more — a full menu! We'll create a fun, relaxed, SAFE setting to discuss an otherwise sensitive topic! Expect an informative

dialogue for one and all. Come to listen and participate, If you'd like to learn more about this ever-fascinating subject! Your curiosity, positivity and contributions are cordially invited.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 @ 2:45 PM

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

Andrea & Tamara will lead us to the Hudson for an easy walk and good company. Some of us walk fast, some linger. We start with a stroll and may end with a story – or maybe a drink. All welcome plus help with transportation queries home – no signups, no commitments – fresh air and community.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: First Language Acquisition: Looking Under the Hood
Presenter: Anna Szabolcsi
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Jim Brook, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Konstantin Dolgitsier

How children acquire their mother tongues is familiar to most of us. But much of the process is invisible to the naked eye (ears), because speech production significantly lags behind pattern detection and comprehension. Clever experiments reveal that, way before they start speaking at all, children confidently distinguish speech sounds and identify abstract patterns like AAB vs. ABA and can tell apart subject and object in English sentences at the stage when they only utter single words. Figuring out the meanings of words, which children do mostly without caregiver help, is another challenge that requires some solid heuristics.

In addition to the above, we touch on the critical period for first language acquisition, a window that closes around 6 or 7 years of age. Critical periods for first exposure also apply to the development of the visual system and to birds' acquisition of species-specific songs.

Course: UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
Subject: A Hard Look At What's Really Wrong With America
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Michael Wellner

Many of us at Quest would probably agree that the current state of our country is not very good, to put it mildly. In this, our first class of this term, I'd like to explore in some detail, with your help and input, several items that I think present some long-term challenges for our children and grandchildren. (Hint: there are no easy fixes!) Join us for this critical discussion.

Course: IMPROV FOR ALL
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Bob Shick, Susan Diehl, Gordon Gilbert, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Pete Weis?

Are you curious about Improv? Performers have traditionally used it to loosen up, explore new ideas, and enhance their creative abilities. Our workshop will follow one of the fundamental mottos of Improv – to learn, have fun, and enjoy yourself! People who take Improv report they are more flexible in their thinking, do things they never thought they could do, and can appreciate when new things come along. All the games in the Workshop will be explained and demonstrated. And participation is voluntary. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of Improv.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 @ 12:00 NOON

BACK TO SCHOOL LUNCH

Hosted by Quest Social Committee

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Judith Viorst
Subject: *Making the Best of What's Left*
Room: Auditorium (also on Zoom)
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Wayne Cotter

We are happy to start the Fall semester with our Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Guest Speaker – Judith Viorst, whose latest book is *Making the Best of What's Left: When We're Too Old to Get the Chairs Reupholstered*. With her signature wit and wisdom, she will discuss the trials and tribulations of the “final fifth” – ages 80 to 100.

Viorst is the author of over 40 books for children and adults including the beloved *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* and *Necessary Losses*. She has written humorous books of poetry for every decade starting with *It's Hard to Be Hip Over 30*. She and her late husband Milton had three sons and seven grandchildren. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: WHATS ON TOP**
Subject: The Biosphere
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Bob Reiss

Life, as we know it, needs water and oxygen. These are found in the hydrosphere and the atmosphere – with the hydrosphere covering 70% and the atmosphere covering 100% of our Earth's surface. They interact with each other, allowing life in various forms on the various forms of the geosphere. They interact to affect our weather, making various areas more or less habitable. The hydrosphere is 97% salty (oceans), and of the remaining 3%, 70% is frozen. We shall describe the various forms of hydrosphere and how they support life with the essential interaction of the atmosphere

Course: **NONFICTION GEMS**
Subject: *William Cooper's Town* by Alan Taylor
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Carole Blane, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Joan Lambe, Felix Pina

William Cooper's Town, which was published in 1995, shook up what I thought I knew about the American Revolution and the unsteady first years of the new republic. The book won the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes, and I assume most readers found it as captivating as I did. William Cooper, who founded a town in 1786 that he named after himself, rose from obscure poverty to wealth and became a would-be power broker in upstate New York. Although he was at best an indifferent bystander to the struggle for independence, he aspired to be remembered as one of the nation's founding fathers. His oversized personality, with its erratic blend of benevolence and self-interest, reminds me of a succession of shapers of American political history, sometimes for good, but always with a downside. You wouldn't be surprised to find him running for office today.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 @ 12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

Course: **CHAIR YOGA**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Lisa Levine

Quest members are invited to join Lisa Levine for chair yoga. Chair yoga is an overall stretch, strength and breathing practice done in street clothes and wearing shoes if you choose. Expect to increase flexibility, find balance, improve muscle tone, reduce stress and increase body awareness. We will focus on simplicity and safety while creating a challenge for experienced yogis.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: *A Path to Human Happiness Laid Out* by Aristotle and Jonathan Lear (In memoriam Jonathan Lear, 1948-2025)
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: Joan Lambe

I sometimes think about Jonathan Lear saying that "dealing with life's issues is not preliminary to living a happy life; it is a happy life." Lear had a definition of happiness that is rooted in Aristotle and doesn't sound like pop psychology. "*Even here*", Lear would say, with reference to our world today, "philosophy will arise" and with it, the possibility of a flourishing life. In that spirit, I'd like to discuss Lear's essay "Exemplars and the End of the World." From the start it brings in Aristotle and Homer and later, Kierkegaard, but also an experience from Lear's childhood that has shaped his understanding of how we learn and how learning affects the persons we become. A lot of this is vintage Lear — his theories of imagination, mourning, play, of a culture's ability to transmit its values. Because mentoring is a theme, I've added a short reminiscence by Agnes Callard, who was his undergraduate student and later his colleague, both at University of Chicago. I'll transmit these essays via Quest Business.

Course: HUMAN BIOLOGY
Subject: Your Body –The Ultimate Team – Everything is Connected
Facilitator: Marion Schulteis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Mark Cardillo, David Bartash, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: Konstantin Dolgitsers, Pete Weis? Michael Wellner?

Your body is the most remarkable machine you will ever own. Every second, its organs, tissues, and trillions of cells are communicating, solving problems, and working together to keep you alive.

In this first class, we'll take a fascinating preview of the human body, its systems and organs, that we'll explore throughout the course. Along the way, I'll share some of the surprising discoveries I made while researching each system — and a few things about your body that may surprise you.

Course: POETRY WORKSHOP
Subject: Poetry Can Be Fun
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3.00pm)
Coordinators: Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran, Linda Schwartz

You don't have to be a poet to write poetry. Poems surround our everyday world in whatever we see, do and think. They can express our deepest emotions, or just a fleeting thought in our heads. As poetry editor for Q Review, I am lucky to receive beautiful poems from so many of you, that are very moving. They are special because they arise from some idea or emotion that inspired the writer. They do not have to rhyme or follow a special pattern or format. Unlike prose, punctuation and capitalization are flexible. The

most eloquent poems often spring from a reflection that brings up previously unspoken words.

We encourage you to bring in poems of your own to read to the class, or you can just listen to what others have written. There will be a writing prompt to stimulate ideas, and an opportunity to share. Suggested prompt for this week: Think about this summer, places you have visited, memories you have shared, friends you have talked to. What was special?