

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 19 – 22
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: 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, OCTOBER 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**
Subject: The Southern Sky
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Michael Hamburg**, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**

Unless we travel to the Earth's equator or below it, we residents of the Northern Hemisphere never get the opportunity to view the wonders of the Southern sky. However, in this presentation we will explore the myriad objects that adorn the skies over Australia, New Zealand, southern Africa, and Antarctica. We will visit their major observatories, and the research scientists are conducting there. In addition, we will learn about the rich knowledge and stories of the Aboriginal people and the place these ancient people's contributions are making to modern education. As always, all questions and comments are welcome.

Course: **IT AIN'T JUST ROCK 'N' ROLL**
Subject: Tom Paxton: America's Folk Balladeer
Presenters: Debbi Honorof
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Steve Koenig
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

As one of America's most enduring and influential folk voices, Tom Paxton has influenced generations of musicians and listeners alike. Emerging from the vibrant Greenwich Village folk scene of the early 1960s, Paxton built a career with songs that blend sharp social insight, gentle humor, and a deep love of storytelling. His countless classic songs, including "The Marvelous Toy," "Ramblin' Boy," "Last Thing on My Mind," "Bottle of Wine," and "Can't Help But Wonder Where I'm Bound," have become standards of the folk repertoire, recorded by artists across genres and continents.

Come and enjoy Tom's exceptional music and lyrics.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEY
Subject: Name That Tune
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

It's time for *Name That Tune* No. 9!! You know the song, but you may not know the beautiful verse that introduces it. Many American standards and songs in musicals begin with a verse, but most performances and recordings omit it.

I'll first play the introductory verse to each of 10 songs. You guess the song. I'll then play an audio or video clip of the rest of the song with posted lyrics for you to sing along. I'll also say a bit about each of these iconic tunes. Come, enjoy, and sing your hearts out.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: GEORGE SAND AND EMILE ZOLA
Subject: Finish *Indiana*
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Tatyana Chernomaz, Andrea Irvine, Ellen Shapiro

We're heading into the second half of *Indiana*, and Sand is certainly not going to let anyone settle comfortably into married life, romantic love, or good intentions. Finish the novel and see where Indiana, Raymon, Ralph—and poor Colonel Delmare—finally land.

Course: PROFILES IN COURAGE
Subject: Alice Paul and Her Battle for Women's Right to Vote
Presenter: Judy Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To Be Recorded)
Coordinators: Wayne Cotter, Tracey Lee, Ken Sasmor
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Steve Chicoine

While well-behaved women had been advocating (unsuccessfully) for the right to vote since 1848, it took the militant and impolite actions of Alice Paul and the National Women's Party in the 19-teens to win over President Wilson (including picketing in front of the White House and chaining themselves to the gates) and finally achieve "votes for women" in 1920.

Raised in South Jersey, Alice Paul spent most of her life in Washington DC as an activist for women's rights, working out of the National Women's Party headquarters, which is now a National Monument (next to the Hart Senate Office building). Paul spent her later years in a senior residence in Moorestown, New Jersey, where today's presenter was privileged to have met her.

She is also honored in the musical "Suffs," which will be featured in a few weeks at Quest in the "Give My Regards to Broadway" course.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Subject: The Book *When Brains Dream* by Antonio Zadra & Robert Stickgold
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Gil Santiago, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Joan Lambe

What are some of the latest findings in dream science? How does that compare with what Freud and Jung had to say about dreams? Why do we dream? Does every person dream? Do dogs dream? What is the evolutionary function of dreaming? Can dreams contribute to creativity? The answer to these and many other questions will be discussed.

We'll also reserve a little time to examine the turmoil in the mathematics community that has been triggered by the release of a staggering number of previously unsolved math problems that have just recently been solved by artificial intelligence.

Some optional reading material will be distributed in advance of the class through QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: Trump vs. the United States
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Sandra Abramson, Babette Ceccotti
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Felix Pina

One of the very significant cases that have been decided by the Supreme Court in the last couple of years is Trump v United States. The case held that a former President has immunity from criminal prosecution for most if not all of his official acts. This was the first criminal prosecution in the nation's history for actions taken during the course of a presidency. It afforded the court an opportunity for a serious expansion of presidential power. We will carefully examine the majority opinion of Justice Roberts and the principal dissent by Justice Sotomayor. We will also consider the question of how this decision may play out in future developments.

Course: THEATERWORKS WORKSHOP
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Art Spar, Mary Ann Donnelly, Donna Ramer, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Wayne Cotter

TheaterWorks will continue rehearsals and presentations by the five troupes:

- Yona Rogosin is producing a scene from "The Odd Couple," the female version.
- Mary Beth Yakoubian is producing a scene from "Doubt."
- Donna Ramer is producing & directing an original play by Nancy Dobi, "A Guilty Pleasure."
- Ruth Ward is producing an original play "The Reluctant Presenter."
- Art Spar is producing an original play "Ain't Dead Yet."

Come one, come all! We need actors, directors, playwrights, and stage crafters. In particular, we need an audience for those who like to watch. Active discussions will follow each presentation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER ET PARTAGER
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Vive la cuisine française !

Nous allons découvrir l'histoire de la cuisine française dès le XIVe siècle avec le premier livre de recettes de cuisine en France jusqu'à nos jours - nous allons explorer les plats les plus connus de la gastronomie française et les chefs qui ont créé ces plats délicieux, aussi bien que leur fameux restaurants.

Long Live French Cooking!

We will discover the history of French cuisine beginning in the 14th century with the first cookbook of French recipes up to modern times - we will explore the best-known dishes of French gastronomy and the chefs who created these delicious dishes, as well as their famous restaurants.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **OPERA UNCORKED!**
Subject: Mozart/DaPonte Trio
Presenter: Frieda Lipp
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian, Peter Dichter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Joan Lambe**

One of opera's all-time great collaborations — **Marriage Of Figaro, Don Giovanni** and **Così Fan Tutti** — almost didn't happen. The productions we will deal with were first produced and brought to contemporary light about forty years ago by the director, producer and teacher, Peter Sellars, with a stellar cast. Time will only permit a sampling of the operas and the creative genius and talents involved. Hopefully we'll whet your appetite for more. Purists beware.

Course: **TWO NOVELS BY VIRGINIA WOOLF**
Subject: *To the Lighthouse*
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

We will discuss Sections XIII – XVII. We learn more of the interior thoughts of the characters as they interact and observe each other. What does Lily think about the Ramsays as she sees them together? What happens when Minta Doyle, Paul Rayley, Andrew, and Nancy go to the beach? How does Mrs. Ramsay's remark about two rooks she has named affect Jasper's game of trying to shoot birds.

Section XVII is the longest section in the book and describes the dinner party Mrs. Ramsay has planned for so carefully? How is she feeling as she takes her place at the head of the table? What are the many tensions and negative thoughts and feelings among the guests as the dinner proceeds? How do things gradually change and resolve? What is Mrs. Ramsay thinking and feeling as she leaves the dining room at the end of the dinner?

Course: **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**
Subject: Fiction/Nonfiction
Presenter: Donna Ramer
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.**)
Coordinators: **Helen Saffran**, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer

There is a discernible line between fiction and nonfiction, often a dotted one on which historical fiction delicately balances. In this class, we will look at how easily we, as writers, can cross from one genre to another by using a little imagination, a few facts or a lot of research.

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 writing a profile of your favorite character whether they are fictional or real.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **DISCOVERY**
Subject: Mysteries of Easter Island
Presenter: Marion Schultheis
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine**, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**

It's not just about the heads! Discover the many mysteries of this remote island; what's fact, what's fiction. From the giant statues to the collapse of its civilization, new research sheds light on these mysteries.

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: THE MAN AND HIS WORKS**
Subject: Shakespeare in Translation
Facilitator: Jim Brook
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook, Paul Golomb**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Felix Pina

Shakespeare's works have been translated into more than one hundred languages. We can start with a discussion of the art of translation in general and then with respect to Shakespeare's works in particular. I will then present some examples of how a translation might be seen on the page or heard from the stage.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. The Christophers (Vince Grosso)
2. Calle Malaga (Carol Rubin)
3. The Candidate (Sheila Sasmor)
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**, Michael Wellner

Get ready to be swept away by three intellectually charged films that promise to stir your emotions! All are streaming on Apple or Amazon Prime

1. First up: **The Christophers**. Presented by Vince Grosso:
Ian McKellen dazzles in a career-defining role in Steven Soderbergh's gripping drama, where the children of a once-famous artist recruit a master forger to unlock their father's unfinished masterpieces—and perhaps their own fortunes. Twists, deception, and electrifying performances await!

2. Next: **Calle Malaga** Presented by Carol Rubin.
Journey to Tangier, Morocco, as 79-year-old Maria Angeles fights to protect her beloved home from being sold. As she battles for her past, she discovers unexpected joys—rekindling her sense of love and sensuality. Heartfelt, inspiring, and full of surprises!

3. Finally: **The Candidate** Presented by Sheila Sasmor.
Celebrate Robert Redford in this razor-sharp political classic! Watch a leftist lawyer navigate the tricky balance between ideals and political reality—witty, suspenseful, and as relevant as ever.

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE TALE OF GENJI**
Subject: Chapters 7, 8, and 9
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine

Everyone remembers Oedipus — mistaken parentage, and we know how that turned out. Murasaki gives us her own version.

We also have two women experiencing pregnancy and birth very differently. What emotions surround motherhood? And when Rokujō's spirit takes over Aoi, are we in the supernatural world — or somewhere very close to the subconscious? What is simply human here, and what belongs particularly to the world of *Genji*?

The chapters were sent through QuestBusiness. If you need another copy, email me at sherylnyc@gmail.com.

Course: **YOU CAN DO POWERPOINT**
Room: Computer Lab
Format: In-Person only
Coordinators: **Tamara Weinberg**, Tracey Lee

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.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Subject: Poetry Reading with Jan C. Grossman
Presenter: Ellen Rittberg
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg**, Frieda Lipp, Karen Millard
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Ruth Ward

Have you ever been to a Poetry reading? Have you ever wanted to? Even if the answer is no, give it a try. Jan C. Grossman, a widely published NYC poet will be reading some of her published poems. Poetry readings have a pretty standard format: the poet introduces the poems briefly and reads a number of them. No two poetry readings are ever the same because no two poets are identical or even close in terms of their writing. We get insights into both the subject matter of the poems as well as the poet's life itself. Any serious poet makes an effort to regularly attend poetry readings or, if unable to attend in public, to watch them on Zoom. The same is true for aspiring poets. Come and experience. There will be time left for questions of all sorts, as is always the case in this discussion-oriented class.

Course: **HOW THINGS WORK**
Subject: Planes, Sailboats, and Automobiles
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Marty Green**, Tamara Weinberg
Tech Support: **Tamara Weinberg**, Pete Weis, Joan Lambe

Ever wonder while you're flying, *what the hell keeps this thing up?* It's not all that complicated. So, we'll keep it simple and understandable. How does a sailboat move against the wind? Another imponderable but readily explained. Finally, the mystery of the internal combustion engine that has powered automobiles for more than a century will no longer be mysterious. Nor will bridges, that allow cars to cross rivers.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 12:10 – 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, OCTOBER 22 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1. Living Room (Nina Sanders)
2. Take Me to Kirkland (Karen Millard)
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Susannah Falk Lewis**, Steve Allen, Frieda Lipp, Lynn Vairo

1. *Living Room*, by Tod Goldberg Presented by Nina Sanders

Living Room is a story from the collection, *Other Resort Cities*, by Tod Goldberg. A man, Jason, appears to be coping with the departure of his wife and children by taking drastic measures to restore a sense of normalcy in his life. But what is really going on? Let's gain some insights from the group discussion about Jason's strange decisions.

Tod Goldberg, born in 1971, is a professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside. He founded and directs the low residency MFA program in creative writing there. He has written sixteen books, three of which are books of short stories. *Other Resort Cities*, a book of dark yet humorous stories, was published in 2009.

2. *Take Me to Kirkland* by Sarah Anderson Presented by Karen Millard

Sarah Anderson's short story *Take Me to Kirkland* employs a whimsical idea — the narrator's belief that Kirkland (inspired by Cosco brand) is a magical, real place — to cope with loss, explore childhood thinking and address the stories people invent to survive experiences they cannot explain.

Originally published in 2024 in the digital literary journal *Joyland*, it was selected by Celeste Ng for inclusion in The Best Short Stories 2025, a sign of critical acclaim for this emerging author.

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 Susannah Falk Lewis at susannah49@gmail.com

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE I**
Subject: From Rags to Riches
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Ruth Ward

No one in 1975 would have ever believed that NYC would ever rebound. It had nearly defaulted on its debt and faced formal bankruptcy. The Federal government refused to come to its aid and the *Daily News* headline of 10/30/75 read, "FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD." No one could have predicted that the new mayor elected in 1977, Ed Koch, could do anything that would enable the city to return to the capital markets in 1985, less than 10 years later. Learn how the city came back and what Koch did in 1985 to change the face and neighborhoods of the city.

CULTUREQUEST

Impact: The End of the Age of Dinosaurs October 30, 2026

On Friday October 30, Michael Hamburg and Marion Schultheis will lead 20 members on a tour of the popular exhibit at the iconic American Museum of Natural History about the mass extinction that a giant asteroid caused 66 million years ago, which resulted in the disappearance forever of 75% of all species on Earth. Each participant will be given a radio headset in order that all commentary can be clearly heard.

We will first be introduced to the rich biodiversity of the Late Cretaceous Era, then witness the devastation to our planet by a massive rock from space. But Nature is resilient—life recovers! We will walk through the ever-unfolding evolution of biology from soon after the impact to the present time. Near the end of the walk-through each participant will have the opportunity to defend our home from a potential impactor with a choice of tools. As always, questions are welcome.

Join us for lunch after the event at La Pecora Bianca on 77th Street and Columbus Ave.

- **When:** Friday, October 30, 2026, at 11:00 AM
- **Where:** American Museum Of Natural History
- **Cost:** FREE, limited to 20 people. There will be a waitlist.

To Reserve: Send an email asap to: Andrea Pastor, Alpastor19@gmail.com. You will be notified if you make the cut. Please indicate whether you will join us for lunch when you reply.

Important Note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who does not show or cancels will be placed on a "future waitlist only" for following CQ events. Thank you for your understanding.