

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 26 – 29
This Is an 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, OCTOBER 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Broadway to Cabaret, Part 3
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

In this talk, we'll take another look at how songs from Broadway musicals create material for cabaret performers (and, more broadly, performers in song recitals). Once again, we hope to demonstrate that the musicals' focus on songs driven by specific characters and plots enriches cabaret. We'll also see how cabaret can give new life to Broadway songs (and Broadway shows) that might otherwise be forgotten. The performances we present as evidence, with no repeats from Parts 1 and 2, should entertain as well as enlighten.

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

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

This session we will read pages 53 – 82.

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, OCTOBER 26 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Think Burger: How to Talk to AI
Guest Presenter: Gillian Alex Ovid
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Join educator and creator Gillian Alex Ovid for a friendly, hands-on introduction to ChatGPT. Discover how to ask useful questions, explore ideas, and make everyday tasks easier — from choosing a watermelon to planning your day. Learn to use AI as a thinking partner, with your own curiosity and judgment leading the way. Bring your smartphone and come ready to try something new. No experience needed!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ARCHITECTURE: HISTORY, DESIGN AND PRACTICE**
Subject: Percival Goodman and Synagogue Architecture
Presenter: Paul Golomb
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Victor Brener, Debbi Honorof**
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Michael Wellner**

There is no definitive architectural style for a synagogue. Percival Goodman (1904-89), however, designed over 70 synagogues, thus having the greatest impact on Synagogue architecture in the United States. In a fashion similar to Frank Lloyd Wright, he took interest in the totality of synagogue design, both interior and exterior. Also, like Wright, he knew how to work within budget, creating distinctive structures even with modest means.

Course: **COMPELLING THEATRE AND CINEMA: FROM PAGE TO PERFORMANCE**
Play: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, adapted by Nelson Bond
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Cast: John Davis, Mary Ann Donnelly, Leslie Goldman, Yona Rogosin, Art Spar, Tamara Weinberg, and Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp, Bob Reiss**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward**

Most of you are familiar with *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's classic dystopian satire published in 1945, but did you know that Orwell's novella was adapted for the stage in 1964 by playwright/author Nelson Bond?

This session will feature a live reading of Bond's adaptation of *Animal Farm* by seven talented Quest actors. In writing *Animal Farm*, Orwell was inspired by the events leading to the 1917 Russian Revolution and the subsequent horrors characterizing the Stalin era of the Soviet Union. However, many of you may also notice similarities in Bond's play to our own political situation.

This production serves as a perfect companion piece to a November 2 session on George Orwell in the Profiles of Courage course.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ART OF THE WORLD**
Presenters: Linda Downs, Joyce West
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro

Linda Downs will present the most representative architectural monuments, ceramics and figural sculptures created in Classical Greece from the 8th Century BCE (Archaic Period) through the 1st Century BCE (Hellenistic Period) and their lasting meaning today.

Joyce West will focus on the Etruscans, who occupied the middle of Italy between the 8th and 3rd centuries BCE, producing art that was distinctly their own, albeit influenced by other Mediterranean cultures nearby. Much of our knowledge of this culture comes from their burials and today's lecture focuses on the wall paintings and gold and metal objects obtained from their tombs.

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

Topics:

1. "Did a Rowdy English Nobleman Mastermind the American Revolution?" by Adam Gopnik from the June 15, 2026, edition of *The New Yorker*,
2. "The Curious Career of 'The American Dream' " by Hua Hsu from the June 29, 2026, edition of *The New Yorker*

Copies of these essays will be distributed in advance through QuestBusiness

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Meeting: **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Tracey Lee**, Laurie Spiegel (co-chairs), Leslie Goldman, John Davis, Vince Grosso, Laura Lopez, Sheila Sasmor, Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)
Who can attend: All new members (Spring 2026 and Fall 2026) are encouraged to attend each fall meeting

Don't miss this special opportunity to:

- Hear a preview of exciting events for the remainder of the fall term
- Join a conversation with Quest President, Donna Ramer, and Technology Co-Chair former president, Wayne Cotter, to get an insider's view of Quest
- Connect and find common interests with other Quest new members

Bring your lunch and Join Us.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Marsha Porcell
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Victor Brener, Konstantine 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**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Andrea Irvine**

Our next class will begin to discuss John Locke's understanding of constitutionalism as it appears in the *Second Treatise of Government*. More specifically, we'll examine his views on the nature of the social contract, consent based limited government, and the doctrine of the separation of powers. As always, we'll consider Locke's political principles in relation to American government and politics today.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: 500 Years of Social Dance, Vol. II: 20th Century
Presenter: Carol Teten
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

DANCETIME! 500 Years of Social Dance takes audiences on a captivating journey from the Renaissance to the 1990s through the music, fashions, and social dances that shaped Western culture. Experience Volume II (20th Century) on October 27. For Questers, it is an exciting trip down memory lane.

Created by dance historian Carol Teten, this acclaimed two-volume set features 38 authentic dances, 60 memorable musical selections, and more than 100 stunning period costumes. Volume I (15th –19th Centuries) was presented on October 13.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 2:45 PM

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

Call it exercise, call it social hour on foot. We will wander 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Octopuses (not "octopi!")
Presenter: Judith Weis
Room: 27
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Konstantin Dolgitsers, Pete Weis

Although they are Mollusks and therefore closely related to clams (Pelecypods) and snails (Gastropods), which live in shells and don't seem to be particularly intelligent, the Cephalopods (octopuses and squids) do not live in shells (except when they enter an empty one to hide), can change their color and body texture instantaneously in amazing ways, and have remarkable behaviors and exceptional intelligences. The film "Remarkably Bright Creatures" made them more familiar to the general public. The title of the film was the final line and was the octopus's opinion of human beings.

Course: **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY**
Subject: Penn Station — Its place in urban history and concerns about its future
Presenter: Andy Bata
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

With coordination by Andy Bata, our own train daddy, we are pleased to announce this session on the history and current concerns for the future of Penn Station by the regional transit infrastructure thought leader and Chair of ReThinkNYC a regional think tank for the betterment of New York City. Sam Turvey will discuss the place of Penn Station in architectural and transit history, its demise in 1963 to 1967, and the provenance and details of present plans to transform it in an effort led by Andy Byford of Amtrak. Turvey is a 2025 City and State magazine Transportation Trailblazer. He has a BA. in Urban Affairs from Fordham College and a JD. Fordham University School of Law where he served as the associate editor of the Urban Law Journal.

Turvey will be joined by Karim Ahmed, a Senior Transportation Advisor, ReThinkNYC and the author of the proposed track implementation plan for Penn Station. Karim is a Principal of Reform Architecture, PLLC located in the South Bronx and has a B. Arch. from Cooper Union.

Dr. Robert Paaswell will also be part of the presentation. "Buz" as he insists on being called, is a Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering Emeritus at City College. He is

the former head of the Chicago Transit Authority and a Director Emeritus of the University Transportation Research Center, City College (DOT Region II); BA. Buz has a BS. From Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University

Course: **IMPROV FOR ALL WORKSHOP**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Bob Shick**, Susan Diehl, Gordon Gilbert, Arlynn Greenbaum

Are you curious about Improv? Actors 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 will be explained and demonstrated. And participation is voluntary. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of Improv!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 12:00 – 1:00 PM

QUEST HALLOWEEN SWEET TREATS

Wednesday Oct 28 12:00 – 1:00 in the Lunchroom
Costumes Welcome
Hosted by Quest Social Committee

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Meeting: **GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Facilitator: Donna Ramer, President

Your Invitation to the Quest Fall 2026 General Business Meeting

All Quest members are invited to attend this Fall's semi-annual general meeting, during which we will unveil new projects, hear updates from several committees, and get a sneak peek at our spring 2027 courses, after which you are invited to ask questions.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: WHAT'S ON TOP?**
Subject: Volcanoes
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Judy Weis, Pete Weis
Tech Support: Pete Weis, Felix Pina

Volcanoes have shaped both the physical landscape and the broader systems of our planet for millions of years. Formed when magma from beneath the Earth's crust escapes through vents or fissures, volcanic eruptions release lava, ash, and gases that can dramatically alter surrounding terrain — building new land, mountains, and even entire islands. Their impact extends far beyond the immediate eruption site: volcanic ash can disrupt air travel and bury crops, while gases like sulfur dioxide can influence global climate by reflecting sunlight and temporarily cooling temperatures. Yet volcanic activity enriches soil with minerals that support fertile agricultural regions. Entire civilizations have been obliterated by volcanic explosions so loud that eardrums would be punctured. How can we control their catastrophic destructive powers? We can't.

Course: **NONFICTION GEMS**
Subject: "1929" by Andrew Ross Sorkin
Presenters: Wayne Cotter, Art Spar
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Donna Ramer, Carole Blane, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: Joan Lambe, Felix Pina

"The United States that bounded full of hope and vigor into the fall of 1929 and the United States that emerged in the dark days of the 1930s were two very different nations."

— Andrew Ross Sorkin, "1929"

Andrew Ross Sorkin's *"1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History and How it Shattered the Nation"* is a fantastic exploration of the individuals and decisions that led this nation to the Great Depression and ushered in dozens of new regulations and social reforms.

In this session, presenters Art Spar and Wayne Cotter will introduce us to a host of colorful characters, most of whom have been long forgotten. We'll also explore the similarities between that era and this one. Could the Great Depression happen again? You be the judge.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 @ 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 29 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject: The Ethical Questions Raised by the "Noble Lies" of Scientists
Facilitatory: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: Joan Lambe

The official value system of the scientific community places heavy emphasis on truthfulness and openness. This is particularly important for scientists – their claim to public trust does not rest on faith or holy texts, but on a process that utilizes open and truthful dialogue to continuously improve on previous knowledge. But many scientists also feel the pull of a competing value, protection of the public good, which they may feel is best served by engaging in "noble lies" which stray from the truth but are designed to motivate desired action. In this discussion, we will see evidence of how this process often works, examine the resulting ethical issues for scientists, and consider how the knowledge of this could impact the behavior of those of us who want to "trust the science."

A few short articles on this subject will be circulated in advance of the class through Quest Business. While reading in advance is not necessary to fully participate in the discussion, doing the readings will contribute to a richer discussion.

Course: **HUMAN BIOLOGY**
Subject: The Biology of Cancer
Presenter: Susan Jormark
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mark Cardillo**, David Bartash, Marion Schulteis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

By the time we reach “a certain age,” most of us have been touched in some way by cancer. If we have not been so cursed ourselves, then via a friend or a family member. One day one is given a clean bill of health and then, seemingly out of nowhere, one is facing a life-threatening disease.

What could have gone wrong? Why have our previously normal organs / tissues / cells suddenly gone rogue, started to grow uncontrollably and traveled to other parts of our bodies, growing new tumors at sites far and wide?

The earliest descriptions of cancer date from ancient Egypt and attempts to understand it and fight it have been ongoing in the thousands of years since. As newer scientific techniques have evolved, so has the understanding of cancer grown exponentially and ever more sophisticated methods to treat it.

Today, there is an incredibly vast body of knowledge of the underpinnings of cancer and it is constantly growing. While a thorough understanding would require months to years of study, this talk is an attempt to explain some very basic mechanisms of cancer formation.

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

Fall is a feast of colors: trees, fruits, vegetables, flowers shine in reds, yellows, and oranges. We'll read Helen Hunt Jackson's poem, "October's Bright-Blue Weather," as an inspiration for brief in-class writing on colors, with the option of sharing with the class or not.

Poems written at home are welcome but not mandatory. The class will respond to writing from home with constructive feedback. Please bring 10 copies of your at-home writing to share with the group. We welcome those who haven't written poetry before to join us.

Suggested prompt for this week: A Childhood Memory

CULTUREQUEST

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

THIS TOUR IS SOLD OUT