

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**September 9 - 13, 2024**

**This Is a B Week**

There are three links 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.

Below are given the links (in red), meeting IDs, and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. If Zoom is installed on your computer, you can enter any hybrid class by clicking on the appropriate link:

### **AUDITORIUM**

**Meeting ID: 861 6851 3691**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 15-17**

**Meeting ID: 886 0175 9047**

**Passcode: 252525**

### **ROOM 27**

**Meeting ID: 872 5172 0128**

**Passcode: 252525**

Alternatively, you can enter a class using your browser by going to <https://zoom.us/join> and typing in the Meeting ID for the room of your class along with the passcode. Also, you can attend classes via 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, SEPT 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**  
**Subject:** 10 Musicals that Changed Broadway  
**Presenter:** Peter Dichter  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon  
**Tech Support:** Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

What a challenge! In the roughly 150 years the Broadway musical became a beloved form of entertainment; thousands of musicals have been produced. Many have been hits. Many more have bombed. But as wonderful as the winners have been, only a handful have evolved the concept, impacted audiences in novel ways, and demonstrated that extra something special.

What are the benchmark Broadway musicals that broke new ground and shaped the evolution of this unique art form? Let's examine 10 of the familiar titles that have advanced the Musical by altering our perception of it. There are more, of course (though not that many), but these are universally acknowledged as game-changers. Each in a different way for a different reason. Enjoy!

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**  
*Dubliners* by James Joyce  
**Subject:** *The Sisters*, Page 1 in the Penguin Classic edition  
*The Boarding House*, Page 56 in the Penguin Classic edition  
**Facilitator:** Harriet Finkelstein  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Facilitators:** Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

James Joyce's *Dubliners* is a vivid and unflinching portrayal of Dublin at the turn of the twentieth century.

After a brief bio of James Joyce and some essential background for *Dubliners*, we will take turns reading aloud and discussing *The Sisters* and *The Boarding House*. In the "Age of COVID," sharing books is not a good idea; please bring your own book to class.

*Dubliners* is a fabulous read - join in the James Joyce experience!

**MONDAY, SEPT 9 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Course:** **MONDAY NOONTIME MEDLEY**  
**Subject:** What's in the Museums  
**Presenter:** Sheryl and Andrea  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**  
**Tech Support:** **Sheryl Harawitz**

Join us for a presentation on current exhibitions in the NYC area. This Fall brings exciting new shows, and we'll share a curated list of ongoing exhibitions to guide you through the Fall Cultural scene. If you have a recommendation for an exhibition currently running that you'd like included, please send the details to [Sherylnyc@gmail.com](mailto:Sherylnyc@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you AND don't forget to bring your lunch!

**MONDAY, SEPT 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**  
**Subject:** Diane di Prima  
**Presenter:** Karen Millard  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp**  
**Tech Support:** **Felix Pina**

Writer, feminist, activist and teacher, Diane di Prima (1934-2020), the most prominent woman among the Beat poets, left an elite college to immerse herself in NYC's bohemian writing community where she developed relationships with counterculture poets such as Amiri Baraka, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. She became a virtual dynamo forging ahead with her art, her numerous literary endeavors, her political, social and ecological causes, all while experiencing motherhood on her own terms which included writing and having her forty books published.

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter, Ruth Ward**

Because it is not possible to select a play, assemble a cast, and rehearse prior to the beginning of a new Quest semester, our first session will feature Zero Mostel in a TV

interview with Dick Cavett where he performs several numbers including “If I Were a Rich Man.” In addition, a rarely seen TV appearance from 1962 in which he “describes” an airplane trip from Boston to New York will be shown. It is all fascinating, enlightening, and fun. Come and enjoy!

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## **TUESDAY, SEPT 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** Metropolitan Museum European Art Collection: Look Again  
**Presenter:** Marian Friedmann  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)  
**Coordinators:** **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

The Metropolitan Museum of Art reopened 45 newly installed European Paintings Galleries on November 20, 2023, Galleries 600–644 following the completion of an extensive 5-year skylight renovation project that began in 2018. *Look Again: European Paintings 1300–1800* displays more than 700 works from the Museum’s world-famous holdings offering fresh dialogues and new thematic groupings. The stunning reconfigured galleries including recently acquired paintings and significant loans are displayed under new skylights. *My talk will focus on the Gateway Gallery, 600*, located at the top of the Great Hall staircase, featuring three monumental paintings by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, *and room 601*, with works from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century alongside the 20<sup>th</sup>-century work of Max Beckmann and Francis Bacon.

**Course:** **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**  
**Presenter:** Steve Allen  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**, Pete Weis

We'll focus on two topics: (1) recent developments in solar energy, and (2) the science of opinion polls. Some articles that will be part of the discussion will be circulated about a week in advance through QuestBusiness. As always, we look forward to lively and wide-ranging discussions of these and whatever topics pop up!

**Course:** **WORLD OF THEATER**  
**Subject:** The Genius, Wit and Wisdom of George Bernard Shaw  
**Presenter:** Guest Presenter David Staller  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Yona Rogosin**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Cullen, Lauren Gee  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

Join us as we begin this exciting season of World of Theatre with David Staller, Artistic Director of the Gingold Theatrical Group of NYC that performs Shaw's works and subscribes to Shaw's ideals of humanism, feminism and political activism.

An engaging speaker and professional actor as well as director, Staller will give an overview of Shaw's plays with a focus on "The Devil's Disciple." He will discuss Shaw's writing style and themes, critics' reviews of his work and his influence on other playwrights and society. Several Gingold Theatrical Group members also will be on hand and video clips will be shown. You will learn why the works of this prolific Nobel Prize dramatist are as relevant today as they were over a century ago. Introduction by Ellen Rittberg.

**TUESDAY, SEPT 10 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

**Course:** **LUNCHTIME SPANISH**  
**Presenter:** Sheilah R. Sefardi  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Richard Elrauch**, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** **Ruth Ward**

Lunchtime Spanish affords participants the opportunity to informally and in a safe and friendly atmosphere converse in Spanish. Anyone who enjoys speaking Spanish and/or wants to improve their Spanish is welcome. Participants are encouraged but not required to give a short presentation once a semester on a subject of their choosing dealing with current events, culture, food or the Spanish language.

**TUESDAY, SEPT 10 @ 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **FILM FOR THOUGHT**  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Jane Lubin, Ellen Waldman  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Felix Pina

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:** **IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE, CAN IT?**  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler**  
**Tech Support:** **Ellen Shapiro**

Despite a possible earlier change causing confusion, this course will meet Tuesday afternoons of B week as listed in the Quest catalog.

We will be discussing the first fifteen chapters of Sinclair Lewis's novel, *It Can't Happen Here*. Our discussion will focus on the two main characters of the book, Doremus Jessup and Berzelius "Buzz" Windrip. We learn quite a lot about both characters from the reading. Who are their family, friends, and supporters? What is the vast difference between their interests, beliefs, principles, and actions? In this 1935 fiction book Lewis describes what he feared could actually happen in the United States after he learned about Hitler's fascist policies in Germany.

**Course:** **JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY**  
**Subject:** Scott Joplin and Ragtime  
**Presenter:** Judy Weis  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Sol Makon, Debbi Honorof**  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**

Ragtime was a distinct form of popular music, which originated within the Afro-American community, and was performed in America, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Its musical style emphasized syncopation and can be considered to be the predecessor of jazz. Scott Joplin, pianist and composer, was known as the "King of Ragtime," and he is recognized today, also for his opera, *Treemonisha*, for which he posthumously received the Pulitzer Prize in 1976. Much of his music was lost and forgotten for decades, but he was rediscovered in 1973, when his music was included in the film score for the movie, "The Sting."

The presentation will talk about (what is known of) his life, his career, and the development of ragtime. Many YouTube musical excerpts will be played, including parts of *Treemonisha*.

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**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**  
**Subject:** *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War* by Erik Larson  
**Presenter:** Bob Reiss  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)  
**Coordinators:** **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

At the heart of this story is a mystery that still confounds. How on earth did South Carolina, a primitive, scantily populated state in economic decline, become the fulcrum for America's greatest tragedy [the Civil War]? And even more bewildering, what malignant magic brought Americans on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line to the point where they could actually imagine the wholesale killing of one another?

**Course:** **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**  
**Subject:** The Upcoming Election  
**Presenters:** Maureen Berman, Michael Wellner  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Felix Pina

Whatever your political leanings may be, the upcoming election is sure to be one for the ages! We will start this class by taking a poll of everyone present asking for your prediction about the election outcome ... and more! Join us as we review all that's taken place since we last met, and contemplate the next sixty days, and the possible outcomes of the election, and what they mean for the future of our country.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM**

**Course:** **BOOK CLUB**  
**Book:** *James*  
**Author:** Percival Everett  
**Presenter:** Joan Vreeland  
**Room:** 27

**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

Longlisted for the Booker Prize, *James* is a brilliant reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*-- told from the point of view of the enslaved Jim. The story echoes *Huckleberry*, but Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light. This slyly humorous novel is a delight on its own; don't worry if it's been more than half a century since you read *Huckleberry*!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**  
**Subject:** WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES: How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time  
**Speakers:** Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** Hybrid **(To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among the Muslim and Jewish communities. In their book, *We Refuse to Be Enemies*, they share their vision for reconciliation, offering concrete principles for building an alliance in support of religious freedom and human rights.

Sabeeha Rehman is a public speaker, blogger and author of the memoir, *Threading My Prayer Rug*. Walter Ruby is a journalist and former director of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding of Muslim-Jewish relations.

Sabeeha and Walter will have a conversation on stage, followed by Q&A and book sale/signing. Please join us for this timely presentation on the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

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**THURSDAY, SEPT 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **BEETHOVEN: THE MIDDLE YEARS**  
**Subject:** Recap Young Beethoven, Opera Fidelio and Waldstein Piano Sonata  
**Presenters:** Larry Shapiro, Linda Downs, Arlene Hajinlian  
**Room:** Auditorium



**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**

For our first class on Beethoven's Heroic Middle period, Larry will speak briefly about what Beethoven carried over from his early learning years in both Bonn and Vienna to his compositional mastery from 1803 and on. Linda Downs will lead us in a 'tour' of *Fidelio*, the only opera he composed. Arlene will talk about and demonstrate what makes the Waldstein piano Sonata #21 so great. Hope to see you there!

**Course:** **NYC AND ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS**  
**Subject:** New York City Bridges  
**Presenter:** Bob Reiss  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** Hybrid (**To be Recorded**)  
**Coordinators:** **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson  
**Tech Support:** **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss

We are a city of islands. Four of our five boroughs are situated on islands. Other islands serve a multitude of purposes. To function as a city, these islands must be interconnected by bridges, tunnels, ferries and even a tram This talk focuses on our world-famous network of bridges, their history, engineering, architecture, and cultural significance.

**THURSDAY, SEPT 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE**  
**Subject:** The vices and virtues of meritocracy and competitiveness.  
**Facilitators:** Steve Allen, Larry Shapiro  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

We'll look at three essays:

**(1) *The dark side of meritocracy*** by philosopher Michael Sandel. Sandel argues that meritocracy, which began as a principle that seemed to offer an alternative to inequality, has become instead a justification for inequality.

**(2) *A more perfect meritocracy*** by philosopher Agnes Callard. Callard, in response to the argument of Sandel and other similar views, contends that we can advocate for a more just society without giving up on merit.

(3) **Performance enhancing vices** by philosopher and athlete Sabrina Little. Little examines the question “Does it take a bad person to be a good athlete?”

**Course:** **POETS' WORKSHOP**  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only (**Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM**)  
**Coordinators:** **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran  
**Tech Support:** None Assigned

Write a poem using the cue word “intention” or a word of the poet’s choice. Authors will read their poems and bring copies of each poem to the class for a second reading by a classmate. A discussion of the poem will follow.

**Course:** **THE TWILIGHT ZONE**  
**Subject:** Books and Burgess Meredith  
**Presenters:** Tamara Weinberg, Marian Friedmann  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Tamara Weinberg**, Marian Friedmann  
**Tech Support:** **Tamara Weinberg**

Do you wish you had all the time in the world to be left alone to read? What would you do if books no longer existed? During class we will watch two episodes of the classic TV show in which Burgess Meredith is facing those questions. Our discussion can range from what events in the late 1950’s prompted the topics explored in these episodes, to how relevant those topics are today, to cinematic techniques and whatever other directions the class wants to travel as we all enter *The Twilight Zone*.

### **THURSDAY, SEPT 12 @ 2:45 PM**

**Course:** **SOLE MATES**  
Our Fortnightly Event in B Week  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Meet:** By elevators on 7th floor  
**Coordinators:** **Andrea Irvine**, Marian Friedmann

Marian and Andrea will lead us along the Hudson River. Leaving Quest at 2:45, we will proceed to Battery Park and then head North. It is up to you how far you walk - lots of transport options in the Oculus Train Station which we’ll help you with AND an option of ending at a ‘watering hole’ for good cheer before heading home.

No signups, no commitments - just serendipity, community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a B Week of Questing.

## **CULTUREQUEST** **Sugar Hill in Harlem: A Walking Tour**

**Friday, September 13 11 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**This is an in-person tour led by Hank Orenstein**

Join us for a walking tour of Harlem's magnificent Sugar Hill neighborhood, named for the "sweet life" enjoyed by the African American middle class. Historic architecture abounds, including free-standing mansions and elegant townhouses.

On this tour, we'll learn about former residents who were important participants in the Harlem Renaissance, including Duke Ellington, who invited us to "Take the A Train" to Sugar Hill in Harlem. We'll visit Sylvan Terrace, a charming block of restored wooden townhouses built in 1882. And no tour of Sugar Hill is complete without Manhattan's oldest house, the Morris-Jumel Mansion. You'll learn about Eliza Jumel, a fascinating woman with connections to many historic individuals, including George Washington and Aaron Burr. Since 2013, Hank Orenstein has hosted a Meetup walking tour group with more than 8,000 members. He is a Licensed NYC Tour Guide, Licensed Real Estate Broker, and a former MSW Social Worker.

- WHEN:** Friday, September 13, 2024. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11 AM
- WHERE:** Riverbank State Park, Main Entrance, 679 Riverside Drive at 145th Street
- COST:** \$12 – Limited to 20 participants. Please leave a check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in our CultureQuest mailbox in the Office by Thursday, September 6.
- TO RESERVE:** Send an email ASAP to Debbi Honorof at [dhonorof@gmail.com](mailto:dhonorof@gmail.com)

### **NOTES:**

- **Please put Sugar Hill Tour in the subject line of your email.** Your email will be acknowledged within a few days. We will have a waitlist.
- **Please sign up only if you intend to come.** Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on 'future waitlist only' when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.

- **Lunch (optional):** Hilltop Park Restaurant, which is a 7-minute walk from Jumel Mansion, the end point of the tour. When you RSVP, please let us know if you plan to join us for lunch.