

## **NEXT WEEK AT QUEST**

**December 9 - 12, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**  
**Subject:** Yiddish Theater's Influence on Broadway  
**Presenters:** Hedy Shulman & Debbi Honorof  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon  
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

From its beginnings, America's Yiddish theater intersected with the mainstream English-language stage. Reviews of Yiddish plays appeared in the English-language press as early as 1884. As the Yiddish theatrical establishment grew, English-speaking journalists and actors began to recognize that Yiddish theater offered something that was absent from uptown stage productions. The work of crossover actors, playwrights, and set designers helped to firmly situate the Yiddish theater as an important cultural phenomenon. Yiddish theater became part and parcel of the American theatrical experience which led to a profound influence on Broadway to this day.

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**  
*Dubliners* by James Joyce  
**Subject:** *The Dead*, Page 201-225 in the Penguin Classics 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. This session we will complete the reading and discussion of *The Dead*. 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, DECEMBER 9 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM**

**Course:** **NOONTIME MONDAYS**  
**Subject:** *The Iliad: Book One – A Dramatic Reading*  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**  
**Tech Support:** **Sheryl Harawitz**

Join us for a staged reading of *The Iliad*, Book One, where gods and mortals clash in a tale of pride, honor, and divine intervention. Using Emily Wilson's new translation, this performance brings Homer's timeless epic to life with a dynamic cast:

**Narrator:** Ellen Shapiro, **Zeus:** Jennifer Jolly, **Hera:** Judy Hampson, **Helen:** Arlene Curinga, **Briseis:** Anita Hunter, **Chryseis:** Martha Drezin, **Chryses:** Lynnel Garabedian, **Agamemnon:** Mary Ann Donnelly, **Achilles:** Art Spar, **Calchas:** Ethel Sheffer, **Thetis:** Tamara Weinberg

**Casting Director:** Andrea Irvine  
**Director:** Sheryl Harawitz.

This performance focuses on the searing conflict between Agamemnon and Achilles, a quarrel over women, that ignites the wrath of the gods and sets the stage for the Trojan War's tragic events. Experience the drama, poetry, and humanity of Homer's epic as it unfolds in this engaging and accessible interpretation. Don't miss this intimate look at the ancient world's most enduring story.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM**

**Course:** **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**  
**Subject:** Lisel Mueller  
**Presenter:** Jane Lubin  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Ellen Rittberg**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Martha Drezin, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** **Felix Pina**

Lisel Mueller was a German-born poet who escaped the Nazis to America. The winner of many major awards including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book award, the Ruth Lilly Prize and the Carl Sandburg award, she died in 2020. It took her a dozen years after seriously turning her pen to writing poetry to see her first book published, which is likely because at the time she had two small children. She described her poetry creation process and the things she observed as:

"Poems seem to strike me like lightning, or rather the idea for a poem. And I never know where they come from and I never know when they come. It's always a matter of

something connecting with something else. You know, seeing something, hearing something that at another time would not have meant anything, it would have just been a mundane experience. But for some reason or another at that particular moment I see it as something new, I see it as connecting with something else and therefore making a new idea, a new perception.”

She is the only German-born poet to win the Pulitzer poetry prize.

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**  
**Play:** *Meeting of Minds* by Steve Allen  
**Cast:** Wayne Cotter, Vince Grosso, June Jacobson, Jennifer Jolly, Art Spar  
**Presenter:** Wayne Cotter  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Roy Clary**, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**, Ruth Ward

Last spring, this same stellar cast presented an episode from Steve Allen’s award-winning PBS show *Meeting of Minds*, which aired in the late 1970s. *Meeting of Minds* featured actors playing historical figures interacting with each other in a talk show format. Steve Allen hosted the show, leading discussions on philosophy, religion, history, science, and many other thought-provoking topics.

In this episode, Charles Darwin (Art Spar), Emily Dickinson (June Jacobson), Galileo (Jennifer Jolly) and Attila the Hun (Wayne Cotter) will discuss their accomplishments and regrets, while offering observations on modern-day life. Vince Grosso will serve as our genial host.

*(Please note that the creator of Meeting of Minds was the late Steve Allen, the entertainer, musician and talk show host. It is not Quest member Steve Allen.)*

\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON**

**Course:** **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**  
**Subject:** Friendships, Rivalries, and Influences on Italian Renaissance Artists  
**Presenter:** Susan Diehl  
**Room:** Auditorium

**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** Susan Diehl, Ellen Shapiro, Tamara Weinberg

Art is never created in a vacuum. All artists are influenced/inspired by fellow artists who came before as well as those who are contemporaries. Political, religious and environmental factors can either be supportive or disruptive to the creative process. We will take a look at some of the most significant factors that influenced the Italian renaissance artists of the 15th Century.

**Course:** **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**  
**Subject:** What's New in Science?  
**Facilitator:** Marion Schultheis  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Steve Allen, Jim Brook, Marian Schultheis  
**Tech Support:** Steve Chicoine, Pete Weis

**1. BRAIN MICRO BIOME** – we know about our gut micro biome. But it seems as though our brain may also have a microbiome. Neuroscientists have been surprised to discover that the human brain is teeming with microbes, and we are beginning to suspect they could play a role in neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's

**2. STING THEORY** – The science of animal venom helped start the revolution in weight-loss drugs. What could it do next?

For those wanting to do some reading in advance, one article in each of these two topics will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

**Course:** **WORLD OF THEATER**  
**Subject:** The Perspectives of Quest's Creators of Theatre  
**Panelists:** Ruth Kovner; Frieda Lipp; Wayne Cotter; Gloria Peropat; Dorothy Kiara Lahm  
**Moderator:** Yona Rogosin  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Yona Rogosin, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Cullen, Lauren Gee  
**Tech Support:** Ruth Ward, Wayne Cotter

Quest theatregoers know what it is like to enjoy a play, let alone be transported to another time, mood or space. But what do we know about what it is like to be on the other side of "the fourth wall" as an actor, director, playwright or radio host? What do these professionals experience watching their ideas come alive as well as the mood, message and impact they hope to create on their audience? Our last session of this season will

pose these questions and others to a group of creators whose former professional activities in the performing and media arts will give you insights you may never have heard before.

Come join us for a fun and interesting time learning about the past lives of some of your colleagues that also will enhance your understanding of the theatrical experience.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ NOON – 12:45 PM**

**Course:** SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)  
**Room:** 19  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Richard Elrauch, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** Ruth Ward

We will discuss something interesting in Spanish. The "something" will be a surprise. Come and be surprised. Be bold. Mix it up with other Questie Hispanophones.

Discutiremos algo interesante en español. El "algo" será una sorpresa. Ven y sorpréndete. Sé audaz. Mézclate con otros Hispanófonos Questinos.

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 1:00 – 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

We will discuss the final two chapters of the book. How does Alvin's visit to the Roths erupt into a bloody fight between Herman and Alvin, demonstrating how families under duress can be at war with each other? After Lindbergh's silence on Walter Winchell's

death, his refusal to recognize the fear and chaos caused by his policies, and his disappearance, preposterous claims circulate causing Americans to react with protests and riots. What shocking story emerges about Lindbergh and his son? Why is Bengelsdorf arrested? What do Anne Lindbergh and LaGuardia do to attempt to restore America to reason and normalcy? The focus of Chapter 9 is on the tragic story of Seldon and his mother. How do Bess and Herman display enormous compassion and courage? How does Evelyn come into the story? How does Philip feel about the actions of his parents and about Seldon's plight?

**Course:** **JAZZ: YESTERDAY & TODAY**  
**Subject:** The Roots of Jazz Dance: From Southern Plantations to Tap Dance in Early American Films  
**Presenter:** Ze'eva Cohen  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** Hybrid  
**Coordinators:** **Sol Makon**, Debbi Honorof  
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**

This presentation will focus on the evolution of jazz dance from African slave dancing accompanied by homemade music in the Southern plantations, to its presence in the vaudeville and minstrel shows, and up to early tap dance, the distinctive hybrid American creation that was a mix of British, Irish, and Scottish step dancing and the rhythmically complex percussive foot dancing of Africa. We will also see how jazz dance eventually succeeded in breaking racial boundaries in audiences and venues.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 @ 3:00 PM**

**Course:** **SEIZA MEDITATION**  
**Presenter:** Rev Miki Nakura  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Coordinator:** **Donna Ramer**

This is a thirty-minute Seiza meditation class led by Rev. Miki Nakura of Higashi Hongan-ji temple in Kyoto, and the Jodo-Shinshu Shin Buddhist New York Sangha. Rev. Miki has been holding weekly chair meditation classes at CWE for about a year and at CCNY/CUNY for a few years.

More information about his approach at Miki Natura Senza Meditation. No pre-registration needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Course:** **FASCINATING NON-FICTION**  
**Subject:** Rachel Carson:  
Her Life, Her Legacy  
**Presenter:** Harriet Finkelstein  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Harriet Finkelstein**, Bob Reiss, Ruth Ward  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

**NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED**

Perhaps the finest nature writer of the twentieth century, Rachel Carson is remembered more today as the woman who challenged the notion that humans could obtain mastery over nature by chemicals, bombs and space travel than for her studies of ocean life. Her sensational book, *Silent Spring*, warned of the dangers to all natural systems from the misuse of chemical pesticides and questioned the scope and direction of modern science. *Silent Spring* was also very influential in initiating the contemporary environmental movement.

Will January 20, 2025, mark the beginning of the destruction of Rachel Carson's legacy as well as the work of thousands of dedicated environmentalists?

**Course:** **UPHEAVALS IN AMERICAN VALUES**  
**Subject:** Film as Philosophy in the Movies of Terrence Malick  
**Presenter:** CWE/CCNY Professor Martin Woessner  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks  
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Konstantin Dolgitser

Terrence Malick is one of American cinema's most celebrated filmmakers. His films — from *Badlands* (1973) and *Days of Heaven* (1978) to *The Thin Red Line* (1998), *The Tree of Life* (2011), and, most recently, *A Hidden Life* (2019) — have been heralded for their artistry and lauded for their beauty, but what really sets them apart is their ideas. Discussing his recently published book, *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life* (Penn Press, 2024), CWE historian Martin Woessner will survey Malick's career, showing how a young philosophy student searching for personal meaning at Harvard and Oxford in the 1960s eventually became a famous director of Hollywood pictures. Using Malick as a case study, Woessner will explore the idea that philosophy is perhaps best understood not as an academic subject, overseen by experts, but rather a way of life, open to each and every moviegoer.

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM**

**Course:** **BOOK CLUB**  
**Book:** *Kunstlers in Paradise*  
**Author:** Cathleen Schine  
**Presenter:** Debbi Honorof  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Jan Goldstein**, Susannah Falk Lewis, Joan Vreeland

At loose ends, twenty-something Julian goes to California to pay a visit to his grandmother Mamie, the feisty 93-year-old family matriarch. But when the Covid pandemic strikes and the lock-down is imposed, Julian ends up stuck there for the long haul. Over the ensuing months, Mamie recounts the family history Julian has never known, from the flight from WWII Europe to the bohemian emigree community in California, to the present day.

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

**Course:** **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**  
**Subject:** *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum:*  
*The Rise and Fall of An American Organized-Crime Boss*  
**Speaker:** Margalit Fox  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer  
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

In 1850, 25-year-old Fredericka Mandelbaum traveled to New York in steerage from Germany and worked as a peddler on the Lower East Side. By the 1870s, she was a widow with four children, a fixture of high society and an admired philanthropist. How did she do it? Margalit (Margo) Fox will tell us the amazing rags to riches story that she vividly recounts in *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall of An American Organized-Crime Boss*. It is a tale of the Gilded Age of New York where creative rogues and power brokers ran the show.

Margo retired from the New York Times in 2018 where she was a revered obituary writer of many famous people. She is also the author of *The Confidence Men*, *Conan Doyle for the Defense*, *The Riddle of the Labyrinth* and *Talking Hands*. She won the William Saroyan Prize for Literature.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

**Course:** **BEETHOVEN: THE MIDDLE YEARS**  
**Subject:** Piano Concerto #4 and an enigmatic farewell to Beethoven's Middle Period  
**Presenter:** Larry Shapiro  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Arlene Hajinlian**, Larry Shapiro  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**

Beethoven's fourth piano concerto is one of the glories of his Middle Period, a unique sound world among his major orchestral works. The same could be said about his opus 95 string quartet. It was composed at a time when his output had fallen off and some people wondered if he had lost his inspiration. Or could it be that this quartet indicates Beethoven was feeling his way toward his late style, a new "New Path?"

**Course:** **NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS**  
**Subject:** Encore Presentation on Central Park Given on March 30, 2023  
**Presenter:** Paul Golomb  
**Room:** 15-17  
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**  
**Coordinators:** **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson  
**Tech Support:** **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitsier

When it opened in 1858, Central Park was already an attraction. Today it competes with Times Square and the Las Vegas Strip as the most visited place on earth. Its size and the variety of offerings is notable, and while New York is relatively young as world cities go, Central Park is the oldest large public park anywhere.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Course:** **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**  
**Subject:** The Ethics of Using Computer Algorithms in Judgments Impacting Society and Individuals  
**Facilitator:** Steve Allen  
**Room:** 27  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen  
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

Many articles have been written about the dangers of using computer algorithms in making judgments impacting society and individuals, often focusing on how human judgments in creating the data set on which a machine is trained may perpetuate existing biases against minorities and other historically disadvantaged groups.

Cass Susstein, a distinguished legal scholar and author on topics in political philosophy, has recently written an article "*The Use of Algorithms in Society*" which argues for greater use of algorithms to correct for biases and other errors of reasoning in traditional human judgments. While Susstein's article identifies limits on where this approach can be useful, it is still heavily weighted in favor of algorithm use.

We'll begin the class with a summary of Susstein's arguments as well as published criticisms of his article and then have an open discussion of the topic. Prior to the class, a copy of Susstein's article will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

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

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

**Course:** THE TWILIGHT ZONE  
**Subject:** (Last) Time in *The Twilight Zone*  
**Presenters:** Marian Friedmann & Tamara Weinberg  
**Room:** Auditorium  
**Format:** In-Person Only  
**Coordinators:** Tamara Weinberg, Marian Friedmann  
**Tech Support:** Tamara Weinberg

For this semester's last session of *The Twilight Zone*, we will watch episodes of the iconic TV series dealing with time -- both controlling time and time travel. *A Kind of a Stopwatch*, from 1963, tells the tale of an overly chatty garment factory employee who annoys his boss and the patrons at his favorite bar. He strikes up a friendship with a stranger, and is rewarded with a unique stopwatch which can stop time -- will he use it for good or evil? In *The Odyssey of Flight 33*, from 1961, we join the passengers in a flight from London to New York. As the airplane inexplicably crosses the sound barrier, it ends up in New York but in a different time period.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 2:45 PM**

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

Our last walk of Fall Semester. Marian & Andrea will lead us along the Hudson River ending at a "rest" spot for refreshments, food, socialization. Up to you how far you walk and always help with transportation options.

No signups, no commitments - a fun & healthy way to end the semester.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 @ 12:00 NOON**

**QUEST LUNCHEON**

**Sicily Osteria**  
**330 West 46th Street (between 8th and 9th)**  
**Friday, December 13, at 12:00 Noon**

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOLIDAY CULTUREQUEST EVENT**

**Aida**  
**Final Dress Rehearsal**

**Friday, December 27, 10:30 AM – 1:45 PM**  
**Metropolitan Opera House**

Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida* returns to the Metropolitan Opera this season with a new production starring Soprano Angel Blue in her long-awaited Met role debut as the Ethiopian princess torn between love and country. The opera takes place in ancient Egypt in the time of the pharaohs. Michael Mayer's spectacular new staging brings audiences inside the towering pyramids and gilded tombs of ancient Egypt with intricate projections and dazzling animations.

- **When:** Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM
- **Where:** Metropolitan Opera. Please arrive no later than 10:00 AM
- **Cost:** Free. Limited to 50 participants.

**TO RESERVE:** Contact Estelle Selzer at [Eselzer19@gmail.com](mailto:Eselzer19@gmail.com) ASAP to secure a reservation. Put Aida Rehearsal in the subject. Your email will be acknowledged. We will have a waitlist.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:*** Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancel will be placed on "future waitlists only" when they sign up to attend future Culture Quest events. Thank you for your understanding.

\*\*\*\*\*