

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 17 - 20, 2025
This Is an A 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, FEBRUARY 17

**Quest Closed in Honor of
Presidents' Day**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE CLUBHOUSE**
Facilitator: Steve Allen (discussion leader)
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Jim Brook, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg, Pete Weis

We'll look at the mounting evidence that birth rates are falling below replacement level almost everywhere in the world, examine some of the possible consequences for society and for individuals, and consider proposed theories to explain this trend.

For those who want to do some reading in advance, an article will be circulated through QuestBusiness.

Course: **SUPREME COURT**
Subject: The Constitutional Right to Privacy and Personal Autonomy: What Remains After Dobbs?
Presenter: Robert Belfort
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner

The Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v. Wade, ending nearly 50 years of constitutional protection of abortion. Roe was part of a long line of Supreme Court decisions that relied on similar legal theories to establish other privacy and personal autonomy rights relating to child rearing, sexual preferences and marriage. This session will trace the development of the legal claims underlying these rights and evaluate whether they are likely to survive in the wake of Roe's demise.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: DÉJEUNER FRANÇAIS
Presenter: Richard Elrauch
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Ruth Ward, Donna Basile

Une Situation intrigante

Une situation sociale/émotionnelle intrigante sera décrite et discutée. Le texte français décrivant la question sera distribué et lu au début de la réunion, suivi d'une discussion en petits groupes et, vers la fin, d'un échange parmi tous les participants.

An Intriguing Situation

An intriguing social/emotional situation will be presented and discussed. The French text describing the issue will be distributed and read at the beginning of the meeting, followed by small group discussion and, toward the end, an open exchange among all participants.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Lynnel Garabedian, Sandy Kessler
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine

After discussing Chapters 10-12 which we did not cover in our first class, we will go on to Chapters 13-21. Over the course of these chapters, what do we perceive about Miss Havisham in her encounters with Pip and with Joe? How does Pip feel about being apprenticed to Joe? In what way does Pip feel guilty with regard to the assault on his sister? What do we learn about Biddy as she and Pip develop a close relationship? After four years of his apprenticeship, Pip learns that an anonymous benefactor has provided him with a large amount of money to be educated as a gentleman. What are the different feelings Pip, Joe, and Biddy have in response to this unexpected event? What happens when Pip goes to London and is acquainted with Jaggers, Wemmick, and Herbert Pocket?

Course: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP
Subject: Descriptive Writing
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3:00 p.m.)

Coordinators: Helen Saffran, Judy Hampson, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: None Assigned

In this class we are going to create a piece of descriptive writing and then expand it, using the Octopus method. This is a fun way to experiment with different techniques. We'll begin by describing one day, imaginary or real.

As always, the class begins with a ten-minute writing response to a prompt, which you can choose to share with the group or not. You may bring in writing what you have done at home in any genre, in 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 14 copies of at-home writing to share with the class. At a loss for a topic? Try: I remember ...

Course: HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY
Subject: The Erie Canal
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid (To be Recorded)
Coordinators: Ilene Winkler, Susannah Falk-Lewis, Penelope Pi-Sunyer, Michael Wellner
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg, Michael Wellner, Ilene Winkler

Few of us think about it today, but the Erie Canal was the driving force that transformed our fledgling country from 13 states hugging the Atlantic Coast to the beginnings of a continent-spanning superpower. Join us as we learn the fascinating story of the building of the Erie Canal.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: POWER: THE GLORY OF IT
Subject: Elon Musk & His Corporate Babies
Presenter: Gil Santiago
Room: Room 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Andrea Irvine, David Bartash, Marion Schultheis
Tech Support: Tamara Weinberg

Elon Musk never explicitly says his companies are his "babies." There are several instances where he has used language that conveys a similar sentiment, often describing his ventures with a strong sense of personal attachment and dedication, essentially treating them like his own children. This presentation will give a quick overview of his main companies. Each of his companies could easily fill up a lecture. Let's review the tech of his companies and the future potentials and problems of those companies that might make **The World's First Trillionaire?**

Course: **SHAKESPEARE: CORIOLANUS**
Presenters: Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary**, Jim Brook, Ellie Schaffer
Tech Support: **Ellie Schaffer**, Bob Reiss

Jim Brook will discuss how a director might deal with various issues, e.g., period or modern costumes, thrust or proscenium stages, and how conversations with designers would be impacted. Ellie Schaffer will discuss Republican Rome's political nature as demonstrated in its suppression of human desires (Eros), and elevation of valor (Thumos). This dynamic plays out in the play's lack of lyrical poetry and in the Roman family and religion.

Members of the class will read Act I aloud and there will be ample discussion.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 12:10 – 12:55 PM

Course: **Smartphone Photography**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Frank Montaturo**, Tamara Weinberg

Are you an amateur photographer with a Smartphone full of photos? Would you like to improve your picture-taking skills, and see the images other Quest members are capturing? We hope to inspire each other to upgrade the quality of our Smartphone photography. In each class we will share photos, offer constructive criticism, and suggest interesting exhibits around town. Frank and Tamara will then introduce a theme to focus on for the sharing portion of the next class.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CINEMA QUEST: CURRENT & CLASSIC**
Films : 1. When Harry Met Sally (Sandra Abramson)
2. Juror #2 (Karen Levin)
3. Wicked (Arlynn Greenbaum)
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Howard Salik**, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Bob Reiss

Today's films. It's a triple feature extravaganza you won't want to miss!

First up, Our Classic Comedy. We've got **When Harry Met Sally**, the classic that proves men and women can't be intimate and still be friends ... or can they? Sandra Abrahamson's here to dissect this timeless tale of love, lust, and lingering glances over deli sandwiches.

Next, 2024's **Juror #2**. Prepare for a moral dilemma that'll leave you wondering! This tale throws family man Justin Kemp into the legal crucible, where he must decide the fate of an accused murderer. Karen Levin has the inside scoop on this suspenseful thriller that'll keep you guessing till the very end.

Finally, it's time to defy gravity with **Wicked**. Arlynn Greenbaum's here to unravel the magical friendship between Elphaba, the misunderstood green girl, and Glinda, the popular princess. Get ready for a journey to Oz filled with witches, wizards, and enough drama to make your head spin!

There's still time! Don't miss your chance to be part of our Oscar Contest! If you've submitted your entry but forgot to include your Best Director pick, simply send us a note by March 5. If you win, and can't make it, please let us know!

And remember, you can find the theater or streaming pathway by going online to *"Just Watch ... the Streaming Guide."*

Course: **TIMELESS WRITINGS: THE ILIAD**
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Mary Ann Donnelly, Judy Hampson, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

In Book 2 of Homer's *Iliad*, Zeus, aiming to honor Achilles, sends a deceptive dream to Agamemnon suggesting that a full-scale assault will lead to Troy's capture. To test his army's resolve, Agamemnon proposes abandoning the campaign and returning home.

The troops eagerly move to depart, but Odysseus, with Athena's guidance, intervenes to restore their commitment to the war. During this episode, Thersites, a common soldier, boldly criticizes Agamemnon's leadership and the prolonged conflict. What gave Thersites the strength to stand up?

The book also features the "Catalogue of Ships," detailing the Greek forces, their leaders, and places of origin. What is the significance of the "Catalogue of Ships"?

Mark your Calendar. Join us on Saturday, February 22, at 11am for a Fun Foray to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to explore Greek art and its connections to The Iliad. Afterwards, we will have lunch and discussion.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 @ 2:45 PM

Course: **SOLE MATES**
Format: In-Person Only
Room: Gather in the lobby of 25 Broadway at 2:45 p.m.
Coordinators: **Andrea Irvine, Marian Friedmann**

Andrea and Marian will lead us on a walk along the Hudson River. They will start at Battery Park and head north ending at a "rest" stop for a glass of wine, a cup hot soup, socialization. It is up to you how far you walk. No signups – no commitments just serendipity – community and a healthy heart. A great way to end a week of Questing.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **CONTEMPORARY POETRY**
Presenter: Steve Koenig
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ellen Rittberg, Mary Ann Donnelly, Karen Millard, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Three poets, working in different styles but with one thing in common: an influence from, and interaction with, jazz.

Vernon Frazer has written more than thirty books of poetry, three novels and a short story collection. Working in multi-media, Frazer has performed and recorded his poetry with jazz musicians.

Barry Wallenstein is an emeritus professor of literature and creative writing at City College (CUNY), an editor at American Book Review, the author of more than a dozen books of poetry and is founder of the Annual CCNY Poetry Festival. His poetry has been recorded with jazz accompaniment.

Steve Dalachinsky was an American downtown New York City poet, active in the music, art, and free jazz scenes. Dalachinsky authored numerous books including a compendium of poetry written while listening to saxophonist Charles Gayle perform throughout New York City, and a collection of poems which focused on his time as a superintendent at an apartment building in Soho.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: The BBC a Century on Air by David Hendy
Presenters: Vince Grosso
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Bob Gottfried**, Vince Grosso, Hedy Shulman, Mary Beth Yakoubian
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Tamara Weinberg

There is nothing like The British Broadcasting Corporation (The BBC) anywhere else in the world. It has been a preeminent broadcaster in the UK and around the world for the past 100 years. It has been a constant source of information, comfort, and entertainment through both war and peace, feast and famine. Come to Questers Choice to learn about the BBC.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **CONTEMPORARY SHORT STORIES**
Stories: 1.Post (Alice McDermott)
2.Girl in Blue with Brown Bag (Edith Pearlman)
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Nancy Richardson**, Mary Buchwald, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Stories to read:

1. Post by Alice McDermott. Presented by Kathy Cook

Author Alice McDermott (born in 1953) is a best-selling and award-winning writer who won the National Book Award in 1998. She is most commonly known as a novelist who is a chronicler of the Irish American family. However, in **Post** she is dealing with a completely

different topic, the struggle of living through the Covid-19 outbreak in Williamsburg and dealing with its aftermath.

2. Girl in Blue with Brown Bag by Edith Pearlman. Presented by Steve Allen

This story is from Pearlman's *Binocular Vision*, a 2011 collection of short stories which "lifted her out of relative publishing obscurity to make her an instant if belated literary star at the age of 74." She lived most of her adult life in the Brookline suburb of Boston. "She refined her craft over four decades, publishing more than 200 short stories." Her "characters tend to have dark secrets and sharp wits, and their lives are transformed from the ordinary to the unexpected in a moment" (all quotes from the *New York Times* obituary)

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 lunchroom,

Any questions, please email Nancy at nancyrye9@gmail.com

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

Write a poem using the cue word "patience" 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: **WORLD OF RELIGIONS**
Subject: Zoroastrianism
Presenter: Paul Golomb
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Buddha, Confucius, the Hebrew prophets and Zarathustra all lived within a century of each other and undoubtedly had some impact on each other. If we add the pre-Socratic philosophers, we have an intellectual and spiritual communication flowing between Greece and China. In the geographical middle is Persia and the origin of Zoroastrianism. Although a very tiny community today - mostly in India and the US - their practices and thoughts continue to reflect a religious spirit inherent in Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism.

CULTUREQUEST

MoMA Tour: Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern

In-person Tour

Led by Deborah Goldberg, PhD

Friday, February 28, 2025, 11:20 AM - 12:30 PM

MoMA would not be what it is today without Lillie Plummer Bliss. In 1929, after years of advocating for modern art in New York, Bliss, together with Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Mary Quinn Sullivan, founded The Museum of Modern Art. When she died, at 66, just two years later, Bliss left a large part of her art collection to the museum—a visionary act that fundamentally changed MoMA's trajectory.

Lillie P. Bliss and the Birth of the Modern brings together 40 works from Bliss's collection, including paintings and works on paper by Paul Cézanne, Odilon Redon, Georges-Pierre Seurat, and Pablo Picasso.

Deborah A. Goldberg earned a Ph.D. from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU. She teaches in the Art History and Fine Arts Departments at the School of Visual Arts in NYC, and lectures regularly at The Met and MoMA.

- **When:** Friday, February 28, 2025. Please arrive by 11:00. The tour will begin promptly at 11:20 a.m.
- **Where:** Meet at Group Tours desk at Museum of Modern Art
- **Cost:** \$20 – Limited to 25 participants. Please leave a check made out to Quest Lifelong Learning in our CultureQuest mailbox. Checks due in the mailbox in the office by Thursday February 20th at 2:30 or we will go to waitlist.
- **To Reserve:** Put "MoMA Tour" in the subject line of your email and send it to bobreiss42@gmail.com.