

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 24 - 27, 2025
This Is a 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: 861 6851 3691

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 886 0175 9047

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 872 5172 0128

Passcode: 252525

Also given are meeting IDs and passcodes for the three meeting rooms. 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.

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, FEBRUARY 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Stephen Sondheim - A Musical Tribute
Presenter: Sol Makon
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum, Sol Makon
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

Stephen Sondheim is recognized as the musical genius who radically transformed the state of musical theater during the 2nd half of the 20th century. He dismissed what had been the traditional musical approach of writing songs with hummable melodies and simple lyrics. Instead, Sondheim wove complex harmonies and intricate lyrics into his songs, ensuring that each character's inner thoughts and motivations were made clear to the audience. He treated his songs as short one-act plays.

We will use film clips to present songs from Sondheim musical productions included in the time period from **Saturday Night (1954)** until **Passion (1994)**. Some of the performances are from the original productions.

"Stop worrying if your vision is new. Let others make that decision—They usually do. You keep moving on". Sunday in the Park with George.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Billy Budd*, Sections 5-9 & Benjamin Britten Opera
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

We will read aloud and discuss Sections 5 through 9.

Benjamin Britten's opera version of *Billy Budd*, with a text co-authored by E.M. Forster, presents the story in music and language so powerful that some prefer it to Melville's original. We'll watch excerpts that introduce Billy Budd and his shipmates, and hint at the drama to come.

Quote from *Billy Budd*: "Who in the rainbow can draw the line where the violet tint ends and the orange tint begins? Distinctly we see the difference of the colors, but where exactly does the one first blendingly enter the other? So with sanity and insanity."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Salute to Our Coordinators
Presenter: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Join us for a special noontime celebration honoring our exceptional coordinators - the cornerstone of Quest Lifelong Learning. Their dedication and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the vibrant community that defines Quest. This event offers all of us an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledge their countless contributions - don't forget your lunch.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT PLAYS**
Play: Interview with Playwright/Director Serena Norr
Presenter: Wayne Cotter
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

Serena Norr is an accomplished writer, director, and playwright. Her works have been performed at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, the New Deal Creative Arts Center, the Westchester Collaborative Theater, the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, and the Omaha Fringe Festival.

Earlier this year, Norr's latest play *Agency for the Lost* was presented at The Tank, an Off-Off Broadway venue on W 36th Street. In Norr's imaginative tour-de-force, a depressed young woman seeks out the Agency for the Lost to help her reconnect with her father, a man who disappeared decades ago and has probably entered the "lost dimension." The play weaves themes of alienation and fulfillment within the context of one woman's bittersweet search for life's true meaning.

In this session, we'll watch a brief video of a Norr production and then Wayne Cotter will explore with her the challenges and rewards of playwriting and directing during these difficult times. Following the interview, Quest members are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments.

Course: **WOMEN LEADERS**
Subject: The Mothers of Midwifery
Presenter: Donna Ramer
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Laura Lopez**, Joan Vreeland
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Midwifery's roots date back to prehistoric times so in this class we'll take a look at nine women who have changed the course of this ancient practice, starting with Shiprah and Purah (featured in Exodus 1:15:21) and closing with Ina May Gaskin, who is known as the "mother of modern midwifery."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: Nudes in Masterpieces of Art History as Reflective of Culture and Society
Presenter: Sandy Gordon
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Susan Diehl**, Ellen Shapiro

The favorite subject in art has been the form of the female nude. For us, they give insight into the culture and society of each historical period. Seeing these works, and understanding their historical contexts, reveals the female nude perceived as Biblical Eve, Idealized Venus, and Contemporary woman.

Course: **NEW & CLASSIC ESSAYS**
Subject: "Stumbling can be lovely" by Devin Kelly and "Waste Your Time, Your Life May Depend on It" by L. M. Sacaras.
Presenter: Robert Belfort
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Martha Drezin, Larry Shapiro

"Stumbling Can Be Lovely" by Devin Kelly from the March 7, 2024 edition of the Longreads website, "Waste Your Time, Your Life May Depend on It" by L. M. Sacaras

from the May 12, 2023 edition of the *Convivial Society* Substack. Articles will be distributed in advance of the class through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Richard Elrauch, Ellen Rittberg

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 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, Pete Weis

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: ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY
Subject: Poems of Joy and Despair
Class Leader: Joyce Hinote
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: None

Poetry is a powerful means for expressing complex and deep emotions in ways that resonate with our personal shared experiences. Joy, with its vibrant energy, is often captured in light, rhythmic language, using vivid imagery and exultant tones. It can evoke feelings of celebration, beauty, or hope. Its counterpart, despair can be conveyed through somber, poignant language, often embracing darkness, loss, or longing.

The beauty of poetry lies in its ability to find the right words, sounds, and rhythms to convey the full spectrum of human emotion – in ways prose cannot quite duplicate. We will hear these sounds and rhythms read aloud in poems that evoke both happiness and sadness through perfectly chosen words that inspired the deep humanity of the great poets.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Benjamin Franklin, Scientist
Facilitator: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

When we think about Ben Franklin what naturally comes to mind is his being one of the Founding Fathers, and of his role as a diplomat, representing the colonies and then the fledging nation in England and France during the Revolutionary War period. And then there's the kite. Of course, the kite. Seems quirky and something like a fun fact. What was he thinking? In fact, he was carrying out an important experiment as a serious and accomplished scientist. He was anything but a dilettante or just a guy who played around in his backyard with a kite - during a thunderstorm - in his spare time.

This presentation explores his place in the scientific community of his day. Did he really invent daylight savings time?

Course: **UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN VALUES**
Subject: What Impact Will the Next Four Years Have on American Institutions? (or Can Trump do That?)
Presenter: Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks & Michael Wellner
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Maureen Berman, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

We're less than two months into the second Trump administration, with many concerns already being raised about the future of our American Democracy. Most importantly, can our Constitution survive if we no longer have three independent, functioning branches of government?

In our first class of the Spring semester, we'll begin by reviewing key takeaways from the 2024 election and the multitude of promises Trump made during the campaign. Key questions loom: why is Trump more popular now than at any time in his first administration? What factors may affect his future standing among the electorate? Can

there be an effective resistance to the expansion of Presidential powers? What, if anything, can you do to help American democracy as we have known it survive in these challenging times?

As always, there'll be plenty of time for discussion and airing of views.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NEW MEMBERS MEETING**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Susan Keohane**, John Davis, Marian Friedmann, Vince Grosso, Arlene Curinga

The New Member Committee invites everyone who joined Quest in spring 2025 and fall 2024 to attend a bagel lunch. This is an opportunity to meet and greet new members and members of the committee.

Who is invited: Spring 2025 and Fall 2024 new members.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Subject: Book Publishing: The Inside Scoop from a Top Editor
Speaker: Neil Nyren
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Bob Reiss, Karen Levin, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

What do Tom Clancy, Carl Hiaasen, Daniel Silva and Ken Follett all have in common? Their editor is Neil Nyren, former Executive Vice President, associate publisher, and editor-in-chief of G.P. Putnam's Sons. He has edited more than 300 *New York Times* bestsellers and is the winner of the 2017 Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America and the 2025 Thriller Legend award from the International Thriller Writers.

Besides still editing two of his longtime authors, he now writes about crime fiction and publishing for *CrimeReads*, *BookTrib*, *The Big Thrill*, and *The Third Degree*, among others, and is a contributing writer to the MWA's Anthony/Agatha/Macavity-winning *How to Write a Mystery*.

Neil will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the publishing process. Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: NYC & ITS ENVIRONS: PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS
Subject: Ridgewood
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid (To Be Recorded)
Coordinators: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Sandra Abramson
Tech Support: Paul Golomb, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitsers

My first visit to Ridgewood was to search for a Vietnamese restaurant that had moved for the third time, in each case to a location more obscure than the last. (Is Ridgewood in Brooklyn or Queens? Yes.) Walking the streets, I encountered a neighborhood of families whose people had been living there for generations, also recent arrivals from other countries and other parts of this city. I saw traces of a history extending back to the colonial era, and an architecture that preserves the look of 100 years ago. It seemed like a rarity, a neighborhood updating itself without changing its essence. In the years since, I've been back to look and shop and hang out, and I'd like to share some of my impressions.

Course: OLD TESTAMENT AS LITERATURE & IN THE ARTS
Subject: Influential Women of the Old Testament
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: Ruth Ward

We talk about Adam and Abraham and Moses and David and Joseph as if they were the only movers and shakers in the Old Testament. Why? Because the Bible is ostensibly patriarchal. Sure, their impacts are unquestionable. But, as has been noted since pre-Biblical times, behind those famous men were some very noteworthy women. Their influences ranged from subtle to brazen, from supportive to scheming. Maybe their love thwarted a man's violent impulses. Or maybe it was their violent impulses that needed thwarting. Maybe their sex appeal drove men to stray from righteousness. Maybe it was the way they manipulated their children or spouses. Spoiler alert: if Eve hadn't convinced her husband to eat forbidden fruit, Questers would be meeting in Eden.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: The implications of declining fertility rates.
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Larry Shapiro

There is mounting evidence that fertility rates are falling below replacement level almost everywhere in the world. Looked at from a philosophical viewpoint, what are the implications of this, both positive and negative, for society as a whole and for the individual.

We will distribute in advance of the class through QuestBusiness, two essays that address this issue, along with the first chapter from the novel *The Children of Men* by P.D. James, which takes a literary look at how people would react to the extreme situation in which no new children would be born.

Course: **JAZZ: YESTERDAY AND TODAY**
Subject: Miles Davis
Presenter: Mary Ann Donnelly
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Sol Makon**, Debbi Honorof
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**

Trumpeter, bandleader, and composer, Miles was one of the most influential, innovative and respected figures in the history of jazz in the 20th century. The players who took the stage with Miles are a who's who of jazz history. He was at the forefront of jazz's major stylistic developments. During his career, he moved in a variety of directions including bop, cool jazz, modal jazz, free jazz and fusion. In the words of Miles Davis "If anyone wants to keep creating, they have to be about change."

In this class we'll learn about this musical genius and listen to the different sounds and styles of Miles.
