

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 8 –11, 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: 899 9142 8608

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 15-17

Meeting ID: 890 4628 0269

Passcode: 252525

ROOM 27

Meeting ID: 874 2995 4279

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.

**ALL NEW MEMBERS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND SAVE THE DATE**

**Join Your Fellow New Members at
The Welcome New Members Meeting**

SEPTEMBER 17 @ 12:00 – 12:50 PM AT 25 BROADWAY

On Wednesday, September 17 at noon there will be a welcome meeting of all new members of Quest who are joining us for the 2025 - 2026 year, including members who joined in the spring and summer of 2025.

This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet other new members, ask questions, and start to learn about all of what Quest has to offer. We hope all new members will join us. **Bring your lunch. Snacks will be provided.**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Failures of the Famed
Presenter: Peter Dichter
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

Oh, those fabulous musicals that dazzled on Broadway year after year. Good luck getting a seat. Oh, those legendary teams that created them: Rodgers & Hart, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Kander & Ebb, Lerner & Loewe, the Gershwin Brothers, Harnick & Bock, etc. — they could do no wrong.

Wrong! Yes, even the giants had their flops. But their shows that bombed were still created by geniuses. So what went wrong? And were the failures total failures? Some of them were first efforts that showed enough promise to allow the teams to go on to create subsequent masterpieces. Some were just book miscalculations that contained a thrilling song. We will analyze these flops and listen to selected moments from them and judge their “faults” by ourselves.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Complete Short Stories Of Mark Twain*, Bantam Edition
The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County – page 1
A Dog's Tale – page 588
A True Story – page 114
Facilitator: Harriet Finkelstein
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Mark Twain's short stories showcase significant variety, shifting from early, broadly humorous frontier tales like "*The Notorious Jumping Frog*" to later, darker, and more satirical works like "*The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg*" while also featuring observational humor and fictional diaries like "*The Diary of Adam and Eve*." This diversity reflects his masterful use of wit, irony, and penetrating insight into human folly across a wide range of settings and themes.

Mark Twain was not only brilliant but bold in seeing fit to explore and expose what others of his era, and indeed this era, may have called taboo. Join us as we delve into the wit and wisdom of one of America's greatest writers.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEYS**
Subject: What's at the Museum – Fall Season
Presenters: Sheryl Harawitz and Andrea Irvine
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

The fall season is upon us, and with it comes a burst of energy across the art world in New York City and beyond. Several beloved museums are emerging from major renovations and reopening their doors, ready to show off new spaces and fresh exhibitions. At the same time, the city's galleries and cultural institutions are unveiling ambitious shows, from classics re-imagined to cutting-edge contemporary work. We'll take a look at what's happening across the region — what's new, what's back, and what's not to be missed this season.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, AND ACTORS**
Subject: Cinema's Most Impactful French Directors
Room: Auditorium
Presenter: Paul Adler
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter, Michael Wellner**

The history of French movie directors began with the pioneer Lumière brothers in the late 19th century, progressing through movements such as poetic realism and social commentary in the '30s and '40s, to the revolutionary French New Wave of the '50s and '60s, and continues today with diverse directors such as Luc Besson and Jacques Audiard. Join us for a journey through the rich panorama of French cinema featuring some of the most memorable movies we've had the pleasure of viewing over the years.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: People We Should Know But Don't
Presenter: Sandra Abramson
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

Some people "rise to the top" and we know their names and what they've done to become known. Those who don't rise might have done similar things but somehow they and their names remain hidden or unknown. Who are these people? What did they do that we should know them? Why don't we know them? A little teaser: there is one man who had an enormous impact on New York City and almost no one knows who he is or what he did! Join us to discover some of these people.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: The Rockefeller Family as Collectors
Presenter: Paul Adler
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**

Coordinators: Linda Downs, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: Bob Reiss, Victor Brenner, Ellen Shapiro

The Rockefeller family has made a monumental and wide-ranging contribution to art through their patronage, philanthropy, and diverse collections, which helped shape major institutions and movements. Their support spanned collecting modern, folk, and primitive art, the restoration of historical sites, and the establishment of new museums. Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, in particular, was the driving force in the family, passing on her enthusiasm to her sons Nelson and David, who carried on her passion for collecting. We'll take a look at the history of the Rockefeller family and the extraordinary legacy they left behind for us all to learn from, and appreciate, today.

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

1. Some Notes on Attunement by Zadie Smith from the December 9, 2012, issue of The New Yorker.
2. You're Being Alienated From Your Own Attention by Chris Hayes from The Atlantic website, January 22, 2025.

Copies of these essays will be distributed in advance of the class through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Course: CALLING ALL MET SCAVENGER HUNTERS
Presenter: Susan Diehl
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Susan Diehl, Linda Downs, Frank Montaturo, Marian Friedmann

Grab your lunch and join us in room 19 for a meeting to share your experience with the hunt — what worked, what didn't work. Everyone who tried this is welcome! And those who found all 20 objects will receive a prize. There is still time to find those last remaining objects, so email Susan Diehl (sdiehl@nyc@gmail.com) for more hints. (Please note that the *Se Habla Español* course will be meeting in room 19 on Tuesdays of B-week for the rest of the fall semester.)

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FEDERALIST PAPERS: A PRIMER ON CONSTITUTIONALISM**
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sandy Kessler**, Andrea Irvine
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

Our overall goal for our class this term is to understand what the Framers of the Constitution meant by constitutional government and to assess how close or far away our government now is to their ideal. In our first class, we will discuss the authorship of The Federalist Papers, how the Framers understood human nature, and what they meant by republican government and federalism. We will, as always, relate our discussion to current events.

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**

In this course we will see the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, comedies, and film excerpts. Films are selected both on their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Emmy Noether and Symmetry in Mathematics and Physics
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

The work of Emmy Noether (1882 – 1935), one of the greatest mathematicians of any era, continues to have a profound influence on both mathematics and physics well into the 21st Century. Her insights are also an excellent starting point for understanding the

important role the concept of symmetry plays in both mathematics and physics. This talk will combine an overview of her achievements with some interesting biography -- for example, while still young and relatively unknown, she was asked to help resolve a problem mystifying Einstein in formulating his General Theory of Relativity; not only did she resolve the problem, but her approach opened up a whole new way of thinking about all of physics.

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: The Upcoming Mayoral Election
Presenters: Marian Friedmann, Ann O'Shea, Ilene Winkler, Howard Salik, and Laura Lopez
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

No matter what your political preferences may be, we are sure you'll agree that this has to be one of the most interesting and important city elections in a long time. In this first class of the term, we'll look at each of the candidates and leave time for what promises to be a lively discussion thereafter.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 12:00 – 12:50 PM

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED in the lunchroom. **All Questers are invited.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Andre Aciman
Kenneth Leedom/Peter Cott Memorial Speaker
Subject: *Roman Year: A Memoir*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss,
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Andre Aciman is an author and teacher best known for his book, *Call Me By Your Name*, which became an award-winning film. He will discuss his latest memoir, *Roman Year*, and his recently published collection of three novellas, *Room on the Sea*. Born in Alexandria, Egypt, he and his family moved to Rome when they were exiled.

His other books include *Find Me*, *Out of Egypt*, *Eight White Nights*, *False Papers*, *Alibis*, *Harvard Square* and *Enigma Variations*. He teaches comparative literature at the Graduate Center of CUNY and is the editor of *The Proust Project*.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: GEOGRAPHY**
Subject: Madagascar
Presenter: Judith Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

The fourth largest island on the planet is located close to the continent of Africa (across the Mozambique channel), so you might expect that the wildlife and people, including their language and culture, would be similar and derived from Africa. But (surprise!) they are all very different. Come and hear about the unique flora and fauna that live on this island, as well as the origin, customs, language and cultures of the diverse people who live there.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: The Greeks
Facilitator: Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**

Poetry was so highly honored in ancient Greece, that they even had a Muse for the art: Calliope, the Muse of epic poetry and heroic song. She is considered the leader of the Muses and the most honored of them all. Homer was said to be directly inspired by Calliope.

We will revel in the poetry of other great poets like Sappho of Lesbos, Pindar, Callimachus of Cyrene, Hesiod, Lasus of Hermione and Tellesilla of Argos. We have selected a sampling from each of these poets to have their works read aloud by us. But before that,

we will give each of them an introduction encompassing their backgrounds and influences and some overview of the world they lived in.

THURSDAY, SEPT 11 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN**
Subject: Identity Through Neuroscience and Literature
Facilitator: Tuan Cassim, Clinical Neuropsychology PhD Candidate, University of Utah
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Elaine Martin**, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**, Tamara Weinberg (on Zoom)

What makes us who we are? How do we remain ourselves as we change? Is the self a single voice — or a chorus of contradictions?

Join us for an illuminating journey that weaves neuroscience, psychology, and literature into a conversation about the self. From the poetic introspections of Virginia Woolf to the neural signatures of memory, emotion, and identity, this talk explores the beauty and tension of the human mind.

With brain science made accessible and real clinical stories, we will reflect on the hidden architecture of the mind — and see our own internal world with fresh eyes.

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE**
Subject: *Other Minds* by Peter Godfrey-Smith
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: **Larry Shapiro**

This summer, while healing from surgery for a broken wrist, I fell under the spell of *Other Minds*, a book about the evolution of subjective experience in a surprisingly intelligent creature that doesn't break bones because it doesn't have a skeleton. The creature, of course, is an octopus. It also doesn't have language or a world view and has evolved a different way to be intelligent.

Peter-Godfrey Smith, a philosopher of science and scuba diver, attempts to explain the how and why of our separate evolution. When I wasn't pondering the how and why of my wrist fracture, I thought about the questions he raises, which was a better use of my time. I'd like to share his thoughts and some of mine and hear your reactions.

I've chosen two key chapters, one to discuss at the September 13 class which I'll distribute via Quest Business, and the other for a later class. I'll begin each class with a summary of the chapter.

Course: **POETS' WORKSHOP**
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Judith Winn**, Judy Hampson, Helen Saffran

Write a poem using the cue word “remember” 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.

CULTUREQUEST

**The CultureQuest Tour of Radio City is Sold Out
and
The Waitlist Is Closed at This Time.**