

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

September 22 – 25, 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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*
Presenter: Ellie Schaffer
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

The Music Man is not a simple depiction of Willson's small-town mid-Western upbringing. It reflects a 30-year musical career including years as a flutist with the New York Philharmonic, one of his many musical accomplishments. We will look briefly at Willson's extraordinary career and then explore his unique approach to musical storytelling. From the opening scene where salesmen on a train speak in the rhythm of its motion, to rapid-fire patter songs and soaring ballads, to the growing unity of the townsfolk expressed through barbershop quartet harmonies — we marvel at the musical's authenticity and charm. Come experience the delight of Meredith Willson's creation!

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*
Bantam Classics Edition
Cannibalism in the Cars – page 11
The Stolen White Elephant – page 237
Facilitator: Ruth Ward
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Harriet Finkelstein, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: Ruth Ward, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

Twenty-four Congressmen walk into a bar. There's a snowstorm and they can't leave for seven days. Who do they eat first? Mark Twain's short story *Cannibalism in the Cars* takes place in a train, but there's still cannibalism — don't you worry.

The Stolen White Elephant is a Mark Twain short story satirizing bureaucracy, human incompetence, and misplaced societal values through the comical investigation into a stolen white elephant.

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: NOONTIME MEDLEYS
Subject: Book Chat
Presenter: Kathy Cook
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine

It was a long, hot summer. I am sure, like me, many of us escaped the heat outdoors by reading in delightfully air-conditioned rooms. No doubt, some of the books we have read are wonderful. So let's share great book suggestions and talk about them. This is a great opportunity for readers who are seeking new titles and authors or simply enjoy talking about books.

If you are tired of book groups or would never dream of joining one, Book Chats is for you. If you are in a wonderful book group, Book Chats is also for you. In other words, it is for everyone who enjoys reading and discussing great books we have read.

Read the suggested books or not. It's up to you. Book Chats is casual and fun. Readers of all genres are welcome. Be sure to bring your lunch!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 @ 1:00-2:30

Course: GREAT PLAYS
Play: Vita and Virginia
Cast: June Jacobson – Vita
Frieda Lipp – Virginia
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter

The play is an adaptation by the English actress and playwright, Dame Eileen Atkins, and is based on the letters and diaries written by the literary luminary, Virginia Woolf, and the prolific novelist, poet, journalist, and garden designer, Vita Sackville-West. The women met in 1922 and wrote to each other until Woolf's suicide in 1941. The letters reveal their love affair and enduring friendship — by turns loving, witty, jealous, teasing, funny, and ultimately shockingly tragic.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: America's First Political Dynasty, John and John Quincy Adams
Presenter: Toni Dickenson
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

John and John Quincy Adams, our 2nd and 6th presidents, had profound influence in shaping America's political development, in our country's struggle for independence and in determining the contours of our democracy. They were resolute in their dedication to public service, and in their steadfast resolve of never giving in to popular opinion when it conflicted with their principles. Their importance to the history of this country is immeasurable. While both father and son were often unappreciated during their lifetimes, the Adams presidencies left an extraordinary and enduring legacy.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Quest Closed — Rosh Hashanah

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The Scientists Who Discovered the Nature of Energy and Atoms
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsner

Thermodynamics, the scientific theory of energy and heat, is one of the most important foundations for understanding the nature of the universe and of life on earth. This talk will tell the story of those scientists who made the key discoveries that created this theory and how closely these breakthroughs were connected with revealing the invisible world of atoms. We'll look at some of the profound puzzles that these pioneers had to grapple with, some of which still raise intriguing questions for current scientific inquiry.

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: The Effects of Cellphones On Our Nation's Children
Presenter: Michael Wellner
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

How many times, when riding the bus and/or subway, or eating in restaurants, do you notice how many people — of ALL ages — are staring at their phones? I have seen children well before they can walk, holding phones (or similar devices) in their carriages on the street. And families at dinner where no one is talking to each other because they are all staring at their phones. Think we'd all agree that this has to have an effect, particularly on young children. This morning we'll look in detail at Jonathan's Haidt's book "The Anxious Generation," and explore in some details the effects cellphones are having on the latest generations. It's not a pretty picture.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Subject: Local History: Creating the Skyscraper Museum
Speaker: Carol Willis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, , Estelle Selzer, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Carol Willis is the founder, director and curator of the Skyscraper Museum, created in 1996. She is also an adjunct associate professor of Urban Studies at Columbia University.

She will give a “show and tell” about the Skyscraper Museum and the history of lower Manhattan, and, even more locally, the Financial District since the mid-1990’s.

Carol graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Boston University with a B.A. in Art History. She studied architectural history at Columbia University in the Department of Art History and Archaeology.

She wrote *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*. The book received an AIA book award and the “Best Book on North American Urbanism” in 1995 by the Urban History Association.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: GEOGRAPHY**
Subject: Indonesia
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

Indonesia, with the Earth's 4th largest population, consists of 17,000 islands, some with active volcanoes, others with extensive jungle. The result of all these islands (and, thus, the concomitant isolation) is 300 ethnic and language groups and an incredibly diverse biology – more than 15,000 species of plants, 380 endemic (found only there) species of birds, and a very diverse marine life. New species are discovered every year.

Progress for Indonesia is, unfortunately, involving deforestation and extensive mining operations, threatening the livelihood of some ethnic groups and some of the exotic biota in this tropical Eden.

An attempt to cover all of this will include personal observations that we shall share with you.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Poetry of Ancient Mesopotamia
Presenters: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

Mesopotamia “the cradle of civilization”: Babylon, Assyria, Sumer, Akkad — visions of these Biblical empires include Hanging Gardens, Cuneiform, Hammurabi, Nebuchadnezzar, Sargon, the Ishtar Gate — renowned, yes, but the really vital lasting contribution is in Mesopotamian poetry — among the earliest known literature in human history. The amazing Epic of Gilgamesh with its fascinating parallels with the Old Testament. Love poems like The Love Song for Shu-Sin, and the creation epic Enuma Elish explore themes of heroism, spirituality, and the human condition. We are still — thousands of years later — awed by the religious hymns of the first known author, priestess Enheduanna and her Exaltation of Inanna. Reading some of this poetry aloud will help transport us to the glories of this bygone “cradle.”

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 @ 12:20 – 12:45 PM

Course: CHAIR MEDITATION
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 22
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Donna Ramer

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation every Thursday afternoon.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN
Subject: The Sleeping Self: Night as Mirror
Presenters: Tuan Cassim, Clinical Neuropsychology PhD Candidate, University of Utah, (on Zoom), Elaine Martin, Donna Ramer
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Elaine Martin, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: Felix Pina, Donna Ramer

A dichotomy? Sleep isn't a blackout — it's a nightly stage where the self splits, argues, and sometimes reconciles. In this talk, we'll bridge aging and the vulnerability of sleep, trace the brain's rhythms between action and surrender, and travel through NREM's order and REM's paradox. Drawing on neuroscience, clinical insight, and literature, we'll explore dreams as dialogues — inner child vs. adult, ego vs. shadow — where forgiveness, regret, and meaning are rehearsed. We'll consider how sleep and dreaming change with age, inviting life review and deeper integration. Come curious, leave more whole. Who are you when no one is watching — even yourself?

Course: EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject: Daniel Dennett
Facilitator: Steve Allen
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Larry Shapiro, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: Steve Chicoine, Larry Shapiro

Over the past 40 years, philosopher Daniel Dennett has been one of the most prominent public intellectuals advocating for utilizing scientific findings concerning evolution and

natural selection in addressing traditional philosophical problems such as the nature of consciousness and free will. Following on Dennett's death last year, this would be a good time to take a look at this approach and its critics. For our reading, I have chosen an eloquent 2017 New Yorker essay by Joshua Rothman, "Daniel Dennett's Science of the Soul." Reading it in advance of the class will greatly enhance our discussion and I think you will also appreciate its literary quality.

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

Write a poem using the cue word "ugly" 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 Culture Quest Tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine
is Sold Out
and
The Waitlist Is Closed at This Time**