

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

October 6 – 9, 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.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22 @ 12:00 – 12:50 PM, ROOM 27

All Spring, Summer, and Fall 2025 New Members Are Invited to Attend

Lunch Will Be Provided

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: Broadway to Cabaret, Part 2
Presenter: Steve Allen
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: **Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter**

In this talk, we'll take a second look at how songs from Broadway musicals create material for cabaret performers (and, more broadly, performers in song recitals). Once again, we hope to demonstrate that the musicals focus on songs driven by specific characters and plots enriches cabaret. We'll also see how cabaret can give new life to Broadway songs (and Broadway shows) that might otherwise be forgotten. The performances we present as evidence, with no repeats from Part 1, should entertain as well as enlighten.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*
Bantam Classics Edition
The \$30,000 Bequest - page 598
The Five Boons of Life - page 565
Facilitator: Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Harriet Finkelstein**, Larry Shapiro, Ruth Ward
Tech Support: **Ruth Ward**, Larry Shapiro

NO ADVANCE READING REQUIRED

The \$30,000 Bequest is a story about a couple who, upon hearing of an impending inheritance embark on a luxurious dream life, only to realize their dreams are more valuable than the actual money.

The Five Boons of Life is a fable where a man fails to find happiness by choosing fame, love, riches, and pleasure, only to realize these are curses in disguise and not the true gifts they appear to be.

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, OCTOBER 6 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEYS**
Subject: "A Musical Soiree"
Presenters: Owne Xayboury and Erin Daniels
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz**, Andrea Irvine

Join us as we welcome Owne and Erin to Quest - students at Manhattan School of Music who will perform for us and engage in discussion about their chosen instruments, their studies, their musical paths.

Bring your lunch, your ear and your questions as we create a welcoming environment for these two young musicians.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS, ACTORS**
Subject: Ingmar Bergman
Presenter: Bob Reiss
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Wayne Cotter**, Roy Clary, Frieda Lipp
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

Ingmar Bergman: "Film as dream, film as music. No form of art goes beyond ordinary consciousness as film does, straight to our emotions, deep into the twilight room of the soul."

Martin Scorsese: "If you were alive in the 50s and the 60s and of a certain age, a teenager on your way to becoming an adult, and you wanted to make movies, I don't see how you

couldn't be influenced by Bergman it's impossible to overestimate the effect that those films had on people."

This presentation will explore some of Bergman's landmark films to see why they have had an everlasting impact on subsequent filmmakers.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: The Barnes Foundation
Presenter: Babette Ceccotti
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Vince Grosso, Bob Gottried
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**, Michael Wellner

The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia houses over 800 works of art collected by Albert Coombs Barnes, a local businessman-turned-art-collector in the early 20th century. The collection is renowned principally for holdings of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works, as well as many works of African art. In the 1920's, Barnes established the Foundation — then located in a wealthy Philadelphia suburb — to promote the study of art under John Dewey's principles of civic life through education and democracy. But controversy plagued the Foundation in the decades following Barnes' death in 1951. Pivotal court rulings to save the Foundation from financial ruin drew Philadelphia's art world, public officials, universities and an angry suburban neighborhood into battle. The class presentation will cover the story of this remarkable art collection.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: American Indian Art
Presenter: Debbi Honorof
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Ellen Shapiro**, Victor Brenner

Discover the profound artistry and cultural heritage of Native American communities through art and crafts that span centuries, from intricate beadwork and pottery to evocative masks and textiles. We will gain a deeper insight into how these creations embody the traditions, beliefs, identities, and stories of Native peoples across the United States. We'll explore totem poles, wood carvings, pottery, jewelry, beadwork, basketry,

and textiles, many of which are on permanent display at NYC museums. We will also meet a new generation of Native American artists who are continuing the traditions of their ancestors.

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

Topics:

1. "How the Gay Movement Radicalized and Lost its Way" by Andrew Sullivan, guest essay in *The New York Times*, June 26, 2015,
2. "A Farewell to the Future that Was" by Robert Hughes in *Time Magazine*, February 16, 1981

Both essays have been distributed through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)**
Presenter: Donna Basile
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Ruth Ward**, Donna Basile

Comenzaremos el nuevo año escolar con una charla en español sobre estereotipos, centrándonos en las personas diferentes a nosotros. ¿Las vemos con prejuicios? ¿Cómo nos ven? Únase a nosotros para intercambiar opiniones sobre este tema tan relevante.

We will kick off the new school year with a discussion in Spanish on stereotypes, concentrating on people who are different from us. Do we view them through prejudiced eyes? How do they see us? Please join us to exchange views on this timely topic.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **FEDERALIST PAPERS:**
Subject: A Primer on Constitutionalism
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: **Andrea Irvine**

In our second class, we will finish our discussion of James Madison's understanding of the causes of faction and political violence and how the Framers of the Constitution sought to deal with it. We will then turn to Madison's discussion of the separation of powers as a constitutional mechanism for preventing tyranny. Our goal in this class will be to assess both the soundness of Madison's reasoning and how well our Constitution is functioning in the Trump era.

Course: **FILM FOR THOUGHT**
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Steve Allen**, Lois Klein, Ellen Waldman
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, 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 OCTOBER 8 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The Anti-vax Movement
Presenter: Pete Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitser

Hardly a week goes by without seeing yet another headline about RFK, Jr., and/or his appointees announcing another action against mandatory vaccination. Ever since the process of vaccination was conceived two and a half centuries ago, there has been

resistance and misinformation about the procedure, even though the prevalence of many morbid and mortal diseases has been reduced or even eliminated by this method of prevention.

The history of and the biological basis of vaccination, along with the near-immediate rise of resistance to the procedure, will be presented. The ten myths that continue to be promulgated will be dissected. Discussion about religious objection and government overreach will be encouraged.

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: Crime and Criminal Justice
Presenter: Emily Mines
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Michael Wellner, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: Michael Wellner, Wayne Cotter

Since our recent national election, and even before, the topics of **Crime and Criminal Justice** have moved to the forefront and are now a major issue in our next NYC mayoral election. In today's class we'll discuss some relevant facets of this complex issue: How technology helps prevent and solve crimes, while simultaneously introducing concerns regarding privacy; How possibly well intentioned changes to our laws involving youth, bail and discovery may have contributed to increases in recidivism in crime and may actually threaten public safety; and Have Jessica Tisch's approach and actions as Police Commissioner been effective, and at what cost, and will the next mayor keep her? Please join us for this critically important discussion.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **BOOK CLUB: CREATIVE NONFICTION**
Book: *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail*
Author: Ben Montgomery
Presenter: Carole Blane, Vince Grosso
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Carole Blane, Debbi Honorof

Join us for the first Creative Nonfiction Book Club where we will discuss creative nonfiction books. Creative nonfiction, also known as narrative nonfiction, is a genre that brings true stories to life through the techniques of fiction writing, including vivid descriptions, character development, and engaging narratives. These books are designed to both inform and entertain, presenting factual information in a compelling, novel-like manner.

On October 8th at noon we'll be discussing *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail*, the remarkable story of the 67-year-old woman who was the first female Appalachian Trail through hiker.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: Neal Shapiro, President and CEO of WNET
Subject: Behind the Scenes at THIRTEEN
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Neal Shapiro is an award-winning producer and media executive with a 30-year career spanning print, broadcast, cable and online media. As CEO of The WNET Group, he oversees the operations of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and the network NJ PBS, reaching a combined monthly audience of approximately 9.5 million.

The WNET Group produces such acclaimed PBS series as *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Nature*, and *Secrets of the Dead* and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and news and cultural offerings available on air and online. From funding to programming, see how this beloved institution has navigated the profound changes in culture and media to serve lifelong learners for 62 years.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: GEOGRAPHY**
Subject: The Geography of Crete
Presenter: Larry Shapiro
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitsier

The island of Crete is the most adventurous place I've ever toured on a bicycle. It would be hard to say anything about the island without emphasizing the landscape and the weird

feeling it induces of traveling back in time. The authors of The Making of The Cretan Landscape (a great book!) write "The mountains have written the history of Crete." I would add the gorges ("land of 100 gorges") and high-altitude plains and craggy coastline. And the winds! I'll have more to say in class, I hope much of it in response to your questions.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Poetry of Ancient India
Class Leaders: Joyce Hinote
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter

Ancient Indian literature is a treasure trove of knowledge and culture, showcasing the thoughts, beliefs, and stories of a civilization that dates back thousands of years. This literature includes sacred texts like the Vedas, philosophical works such as the Upanishads, and epic tales like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. These works have not only shaped Indian culture but have also influenced many other cultures around the world. Understanding these texts gives us insight into the values and ideas that have stood the test of time.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 12:20 – 12:45 PM

Course: **CHAIR MEDITATION**
Presenter: Ken Sasmor
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Donna Ramer

Please join us for lunchtime chair meditation every Thursday afternoon Thursday, A and B weeks, in Room 19 which is adjacent to the cafeteria. The meditation is from 12:20 to 12:45. Hope to see you there.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN**
Subject: Fear and Anger: A Venn Diagram
Facilitator: Elaine Martin
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: Elaine Martin, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: Felix Pena, Donna Ramer

Addressing the dichotomy of FEAR AND ANGER is challenging but a challenge we all face every day...And since these two emotions are so interconnected, I will tackle them by using a Venn Diagram...In fact a triple Venn Diagram with regard to their expanding tendencies to bleed into another emotion: HATE.

How best to understand these emotions in today's parlance? How best to recognize these emotions when they surface in ourselves and in others? And... Is there an effective way to manage these emotions when confronted with them?

Course: **EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE**
Subject: "Our Minds and Others"
Facilitator Larry Shapiro
Room: 27
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Larry Shapiro**, Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support: **Larry Shapiro**

Continuing our discussion of the evolution of intelligence in humans and octopuses, we'll consider chapter 6 of Other Minds, which deals with how language became part of "the machinery of thought," a huge step in the capacity of humans to think. The evolutionary path of octopuses didn't provide this, but we'll take a side-glance at what they got instead. I sent a pdf of the chapter via Quest Business on September 26. If you can't find my message in Quest Business and would like to read the chapter, send me an email at larryfhs89@gmail.com.

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

Write a poem using the cue word "water" 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 Town Hall
Friday, October 10, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
(In-person tour)

Founded in 1921, The Town Hall has been the host to over a century of landmark performances. It was founded by The League for Political Education, a group of suffragists, seeking to build a space where the people could be educated. The Hall was designed by renowned architects McKim, Mead, and White to reflect the democratic principles of the League. Noted political activists who have appeared there include Margaret Sanger, famously arrested on The Town Hall's stage during a public meeting on birth control, Emma Goldman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Coretta Scott King, Norman Mailer, and Joseph McCarthy. Legendary performers include Pablo Casals, Paul Robeson, Andres Segovia, Billie Holiday, Sergei Rachmaninov, Sammy Davis, Pete Seeger, and countless others. Come and hear some of the untold stories embedded in this hallowed hall.

- **When:** Friday October 10, 2025. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM
- **Where:** Town Hall 23 W. 43rd St, NYC
- **Cost:** \$10.00
- **To Reserve:** Send an email ASAP to bobreiss42@gmail.com with **Town Hall** in the subject line

The tour is limited to 25 participants. We will have a waitlist. You will be advised by return email if you are registered for the tour.

If registered, please leave a check for \$10.00, made out to Quest Lifelong Learning, in the CultureQuest mailbox in the office no later than Tuesday, September 30 at 2:30 PM. Zelle payment is also accepted. If you pay through Zelle, send it to Quest's Zelle email address, q25broadway@gmail.com, before Tuesday, September 30 at 2:30 PM. Please note CultureQuest Town Hall tour when sending Zelle payment.

Note: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who does not show without canceling will be placed on a waitlist for future CultureQuest trips. Thank you for your understanding.

Lunch (Optional): Havana Central, 151 West 46th St
Bring cash to facilitate payment