# NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

## October 20 – 23, 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.

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## MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

**Course:** **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
**Subject:** *Kiss Me Kate ... er, Lilli ... er, Kate*
**Presenter:** Paul Golomb
**Room:** Auditorium
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
**Coordinators:** **Peter Dichter**, Arlynn Greenbaum
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brener**, Wayne Cotter

*Kiss Me Kate* has been immensely popular, revived on Broadway and the West End London a number of times since its opening in 1948. It is especially clever, subversively bawdy, and surprisingly subtle. Like *Taming of the Shrew,* its presentation can challenge or reflect the role of women in society.

**Course:** **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
**Subject:** *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*
*Short Stories of Mark Twain*
Bantam Classics Edition
*Some Learned Fables for Good Old Boys and Girls* - page 126
*The Story of the Bad Little Boy* - page 7
**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**

*Some Learned Fables for Good Old Boys and Girls* is a satirical story that humorously critiques scientific expeditions and the human tendency to misinterpret findings. One could call this a reverse fable in the sense that the animals of the woods discover items made by human beings.

*The Story of the Bad Little Boy* satirizes moralistic children's tales by depicting a boy named Jim who consistently avoids punishment for his wicked deeds. The story highlights the contrast between the expected outcomes in Sunday-school books and the reality of Jim's life.

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 20 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

**Course:** **NOONTIME MEDLEYS**
**Subject:** A Toast to Pam and Her Coffee Crew
**Room:** 15-17
**Format:** In-Person Only
**Coordinators:** **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Come celebrate our morning ritual — the coffee that jumpstarts our Quest days! Join us as we honor **Pam**, our esteemed "chief barista," and her **merry band of volunteers** who keep the coffee flowing come rain or shine. Together we'll explore the s**ocial magic of a shared cup,** the **surprising health benefits of coffee**, and the joy it brings to our community.
Expect **music, merrymaking, and good cheer** — just don't forget your lunch (and maybe your favorite mug).

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Course:** **GREAT PLAYS**
**Play:** Love/Hate Letters
**Cast:** Roy Clary, John Davis, June Jacobson, Dorothy Kiara
**Room:** Auditorium
**Format:** In-Person Only
**Coordinators:** **Roy Clary,** Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp
**Tech Support:** **Wayne Cotter**

The presentation includes letters from Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Harry Truman, Zelda Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, George Bernard Shaw, Vita Sackville West, and James Thurber, as well as a fan letter to Elvis. As our culture speeds toward faster and more convenient forms of communication, there is still something powerful in patiently scripted words as they flow slowly on to a sheet of paper.

The presentation was arranged and adapted by Roy Clary

**Course:** **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
**Subject**: Radiology and the X-ray
**Presenter:** Ron Kolber
**Room:** 27
**Format:** Hybrid
**Coordinators:** **Mary Beth Yakoubian,** Bob Gottried, Vince Grosso
**Tech Support:** **Steve Chicoine**

**Radiology and the X-ray: The Good, the Bad, and the Very Bad**
A potpourri of science, history, American culture, rabbit holes, and lots of trivia.

The discovery of the X-ray brought about momentous changes in the understanding of the atom and introduced rapid advances in science and technology. It had profound influence upon the history of the 20th century, including two world wars, workplace conditions and in understanding the science behind the technology that we use to this very day.

We encounter many rabbit holes along the way, making for an unpredictable journey.

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## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

**Course**: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
**Subject:** A New Presentation of African Art
**Presenter**: Ann Goerdt
**Room:** Auditorium
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
**Coordinators:** **Linda Downs**, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro
**Tech Support:** **Victor Brenner,** Ellen Shapiro

The Michael C. Rockefeller Wing of the Metropolitan Museum now presents a greatly expanded view of African art. It presents about 500 works from its collection, a fourth of which had never been shown. These works cover an extended time frame, with enhanced descriptions of what they mean within their specific cultures. Much of the new information is based on research on African art over the past 40 years, since the Rockefeller wing opened in 1982. There is also more variety in the works; *e.g.*, more textiles, costumes, and videos to illustrate their use.

This presentation will briefly describe some of the new aspects of the exhibit and provide an overview of works from the countries that are best known for the use of different forms of art in their cultures. There is much to say about this new exhibit, and those of you who

have seen it will be welcome to point out what I miss. Those who have not seen it, will hopefully be motivated to do so!

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

**Topic:**
1. Was the Civil War Inevitable? by Adam Gopnik from The New Yorker, April 21, 2025,
2. Heir Ball by Jay Caspian Kang from The New Yorker, June 23, 2025

These essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness prior to the class

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

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

**Lento pero constante se gana la carrera**
¿Recuerdas la fábula de Esopo "La liebre y la tortuga"? ¿Cree usted que la perseverancia, en lugar de la velocidad o aún el talento natural es el mejor camino hacia el éxito a largo plazo? Veremos una representación de este cuento clásico y luego hablaremos de situaciones relacionadas de nuestra vida personal.

**Slow and Steady Wins the Race**
Do you remember Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare?" Do you think perseverance rather than speed or even natural talent is a better path to long term success? We'll see an enactment of this classic tale and then discuss related situations in our own lives.

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

In this class we will discuss how the framers of the U.S Constitution understood the role of Congress in our political system. We shall consider the differences between the House and the Senate, the role of Congress in our system of checks and balances, specific powers of Congress such as the power to declare war, the impeachment power, the tax and spend powers, and others. We will also focus on how well Congress is functioning during 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.

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## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

**Course:** **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
**Subject:** The Human Endocrine System
**Presenter:** Larry Shapiro
**Room:** Auditorium
**Format:** Hybrid
**Coordinators:** **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
**Tech Support**: **Pete Weis,** Konstantin Dolgitser

Like many of my presentation topics, this originated in personal experience, a medical event that made me wonder what was going on behind the scenes. I've explored the history of scientific study of the endocrine system and the rise of endocrinology as a medical practice, and newer research topics like gut hormone regulation and behavioral endocrinology. I may have learned enough to answer some questions or at least recommend some reading.

**Course**: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
**Subject:** Constitutionally Protected Free Speech Rights in the Trump Era
**Presenters:** Madeleine Brecher, Stu Parker and Michael Wellner
**Room:** 15-17
**Format**: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
**Coordinators:** **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
**Tech Support:** **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

The first Amendment to the Constitution states, in part, that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Yet we are now witnessing nearly daily assaults on these rights, such as we have not seen in our lifetime. Join us as we examine America's Political Division and what it holds for our future.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ Noon – 12:45 PM

**Meeting**: **NEW MEMBER MEETING**
Lunch Provided
**Room**: 27
**Format:** In-Person Only
**Coordinators:** Leslie Goldman, Tracey Lee (co-chairs), John Davis, Vince Grosso, Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)

New members are invited to join us for lunch and conversation with Quest President, Donna Ramer and Quest Co-Chair Technology Committee, Wayne Cotter.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Course:** **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
**Speaker:** Frank DiLella
**Subject:** The Current Broadway Season
**Room:** Auditorium
**Format:** **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
**Coordinators:** **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
**Tech Support:** **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

Frank DiLella is a seasoned journalist with over two decades of experience covering New York City's vibrant entertainment community. His weekly interview program, ON STAGE, on Spectrum News NYI, is a must-watch for theatre lovers.

Frank will give us an in-depth look at what's playing on and off Broadway during the 2025-26 season.

Over the years, Frank has conducted interviews with many legendary artists including Nathan Lane, Liza Minelli, Bette Midler, Hugh Jackman, Lin-Manuel Miranda, James Earl Jones, Jane Fonda, Angela Lansbury, Kristin Chenoweth and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

In January 2022, he produced and hosted the PBS documentary "Reopening: The Broadway Revival" about how the Broadway community survived the COVID-19 pandemic. A graduate of Fordham University at Lincoln Center, Frank now teaches entertainment journalism there.

Please join us for this special presentation.

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## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

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

This talk will address many fascinating aspects of Japan, a country with the 5th highest GDP, 2nd highest life expectancy, and the 12th largest population. It will highlight Japanese geography, climate, history, and culture. It will spend considerable time discussing a wide variety of topics unique to Japanese culture including festivals, traditional arts, cuisine, major industries resulting from the post–WWII economic miracle, Shintoism, Geishas, Samurai swords, communal baths, and finally, Godzilla. The goal is to make the audience as fascinated about Japan as the speaker is.

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

The origins of written Egyptian poetry go back as far as 4th century BCE. And of course, the oral tradition precedes that. There are religious hymns inscribed into the walls of the tombs of kings, coffin texts, funerary spells written on the coffins of the wealthy, Wisdom literature — akin to limericks and proverbs, response poems about agriculture and a

treasure trove of wonderful love poetry. Join us in listening to and/or reading one of these cultural gems.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 @ 12:20 PM – 12:45PM

**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, OCTOBER 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

**Course:** **EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN**
**Subject:** The Value of Values
**Presenter:** Donna Ramer
**Room:** 15-17
**Format:** Hybrid
**Coordinators:** **Elaine Martin,** Donna Ramer
**Tech Support:** **Felix Pena,** Donna Ramer

We typically don't think about our values, yet every decision we make is driven by them. So the question is: what, exactly, are values? How have they been inculcated into our subconscious psyches and manifested themselves in our daily lives? How do we know if we're being driven by the momentum of unhealthy inauthentic ones that really no longer work for us and, if so, is there a way to evolve them into healthy, authentic ones that better support our true beliefs?

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

Most of us have probably encountered some version of the "trolley problem" in our reading or in popular culture — is it right to divert a trolley that is about to kill five people onto a track where it will kill only one person? What few of us probably know is that this problem

became prominent due to a 1976 paper in the Yale Law Journal by Judith Jarvis Thompson, a distinguished professor of philosophy. In this session, we will look at this type of problem from the vantage point of both philosophy and literature. From a philosophical angle, we will discuss whether exploring imaginary hypothetical situations that are highly unlikely to arise in real life provides real insights into ethical issues. From a literature angle, we will discuss the 1996 short story "The Night in Question" by the acclaimed author Tobias Wolff, in which he explores the emotional dimensions of contemplating a question of this type.

Readings for the course will be distributed in advance through QuestBusiness.

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

Write a poem using the cue word "wandering" 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.

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## START PLANNING YOUR COSTUME FOR THE QUEST HALLOWEEN BASH

**Wednesday October 29**
**12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM in the lunchroom**

**Lots of Treats**
**Prizes for Best Costumes**

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# CULTUREQUEST

## THE BROOKLYN SELTZER MUSEUM

### Factory Tour and Tasting

**Friday, October 24, 2025**
**12:30 – 1:50 PM**

Take a step into the past. Tucked away in Brooklyn is the last remaining seltzer shop in New York. In fact, it is only 1 of 3 in the nation, keeping alive a centuries-old craft dating back 2400 years. Learn the art and mechanics of making seltzer, and view the old machinery still being used today. Experience its history and cultural impact and discover what makes it kosher! Did any of you notice those blue antique Czechoslovakian glass bottles on your kitchen table when you were a kid?

Effervescent is a word used to describe seltzer…a carbonated, mineral-free, bubbly refreshing drink, no calories, no salt, and often used in mixed drinks. At the end of the tour, you will be treated to a delicious chocolate egg cream, made the "Old Fashioned" way!

- **WHEN:** Friday, October 24,2025. Please arrive by 12:10 PM . The 80-minute tour begins at 12:30 sharp.

- **WHERE:** Brooklyn Seltzer Museum, 474 Hemlock St., Brooklyn, NY. We will meet inside. Please save an hour to reach the Museum from midtown Manhattan

- **RESERVE:** Send an email ASAP to Sharon Pretto (schatzykatzy@aol.com). Kindly put "Seltzer Tour" in the subject line of the email. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days. We can accommodate 20 persons on this tour. We will have a waitlist.

- **COST:** $25.00

When I email that you made the cut, please either write a check to Quest Lifelong Learning which is due in the CultureQuest box in the office by Wednesday, October 15th at 2:30 PM OR you may pay through the Quest Zelle address at

**q25broadway@gmail.com**

by the same due date, October 15 at 2:30PM. Please Include "CultureQuest seltzer tour" on the check or the Zelle receipt. If we do not receive your payment by the due date, we will go to the waitlist.

**OPTIONAL LUNCH:** For lunch, we will go to Daruchini Café and Restaurant, just a few steps away. When you email me to reserve the tour, please tell me if you wish to join us for lunch.

**NOTE:** Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on future waitlists only when they sign up to attend future CultureQuest events. Thank you for your understanding.