

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

November 17 – 20, 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, NOVEMBER 17 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: A Chorus Line
Presenter: Estelle Selzer
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Wayne Cotter

A Chorus Line is a 1975 musical conceived by Michael Bennett with music by Marvin Hamlisch. The show was groundbreaking for its time, using actual taped interviews with dancers to create characters and stories, moving beyond dialogue to focus on athletic, modern dance and intense emotional experiences. Set on the bare stage of a Broadway theater, the musical is centered on seventeen Broadway dancers auditioning for spots on a chorus line.

It's a timeless class that was celebrated fifty years later with a sold out one night only tribute on Broadway this past summer.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *The Complete Short Stories of Mark Twain*
Bantam Classics Edition
The Man Who Corrupted Hadleyburg - page 419
Journalism in Tennessee – page 33
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

Hadleyburg is presented as a community renowned for its integrity, with a motto that underscores its commitment to avoidance of temptation. The story unfolds as a stranger, seeking revenge against the town's arrogance, devises a plot to expose its true nature.

In his very funny short story, *Journalism in Tennessee*, Twain conveys the power and comedy of the press by recounting his short visit to Tennessee. He shows that, for all the power which the press holds, what it turns out should be read with a tongue-in-cheek attitude.

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, NOVEMBER 17 @12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: Tracing Brooklyn's Roots: Founding Families and Forgotten Stories
Presenter: Dominique Jean-Louis
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

Dominique Jean-Louis, Chief Historian at the Center for Brooklyn History at Brooklyn Public Library, will speak about *Trace/s*, the Center's groundbreaking exhibition exploring the lives and legacies of Brooklyn's founding families. Drawing on rare archives, personal artifacts, and community histories, *Trace/s* examines how the lives of the Borough's earliest settlers intersect. She will discuss how this work reshapes our understanding of Brooklyn's origins.

So, bring your lunch and together let us welcome Dominique to Noontime Medley.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT PLAYS**
Plays: Three one-act plays by David Ives
Cast: John Davis, Peter Dichter, Vince Grosso, Yona Rogosin, Ruth Ward
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

Three One-act Plays by David Ives

We will present three one-act plays by David Ives: *Dr. Fritz Or: The Forces of Light*, *Time Flies*, and *Mere Mortals*. They are from a six one-act play collection that *The New York Times* called "ferociously funny." Ives is best known for his comic one-acts, but his writing includes dramatic plays, narrative stories, and screenplays. Come and laugh a little - we all deserve it.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE**
Subject: Maintaining Life Purpose: Studies on Thriving in Later Years
Presenter: Carole Kolber
Room: 27
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian, Bob Gottfried, Vince Grosso**
Tech Support: None Assigned

Research suggests that maintaining a sense of life *purpose* may promote better cognitive, psychological, and physical health outcomes—as well as longevity—among older adults. This presentation begins with an exploration of the concept of “purpose” through the perspectives of influential psychological theorists and philosophers. It then highlights findings from a range of current, evidence-based studies which examine this association, as well as suggest interventions that may enhance life *purpose* as individuals age.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: The Rockefeller Oceanic Collection at the Met Museum
Presenter: Linda Downs
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Bob Reiss, Lynnel Garabedian, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Ellen Shapiro

Three thousand years ago people followed the Great Migration out of Africa and sailed and settled on islands in the western to the eastern Pacific. The islanders centered their lives around the ocean, the canoe, their ancestors and families, trade of goods and stories, and complex spiritual beliefs that protected them against natural and supernatural forces. Without a written language they became expert sailors, artists, story tellers, musicians, dancers and warriors. The shared cultures throughout the islands were not disrupted until the 18th century when Western explorers first arrived. They were followed by colonists, missionaries, industrialists and international wars.

The Oceanic art collected by Nelson Rockefeller and now housed in memoriam to his son, Michael C. Rockefeller at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, represents extraordinary attempts of locating authentic sculpture collected just before Western influences. We will explore some of the most outstanding objects in this collection and discuss the latest attempts by people of Oceania to retrieve and care for their ancient heritage.

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

1. "This Old Man" by Roger Angell, *The New Yorker*, February 9, 2014.

2. "Against Joie de Vivre" by Philip Lopate, the title essay from his 1989 essay collection.

Both essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 @ 12:10 – 12:50 PM

Course: SE HABLA ESPAÑOL (Spanish conversation)
Presenter: Richard Elrauch
Subject: Una Situación intrigante
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Ruth Ward

Una Situación intrigante

Se describirá y discutirá una situación social/psicológica intrigante. El texto en español que describe el tema se distribuirá y leerá al comienzo de la reunión, seguido de una discusión en grupos pequeños y, hacia el final, un intercambio abierto entre todos los participantes.

An Intriguing Situation

An intriguing social/ psychological situation will be described and discussed. The Spanish text describing the issue will be distributed and read at the beginning of the meeting, followed by small group discussion and, toward the end, an open exchange among all participants.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: FEDERALIST PAPERS
Presenter: Sandy Kessler
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinator: Andrea Irvine

The Federalist Papers: A Primer on Constitutionalism

In our next class, we will continue our discussion of how the authors of the Federalist Papers envisioned the Presidency and then consider their thoughts on the Supreme Court and the principle of judicial review. As always, we will 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: **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, NOVEMBER 19 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: The Four Great Inventions of Ancient China
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

We all know that the "Scientific Revolution" took place during the 16th and 17th centuries. And it happened, of course, in Europe. The rest of the world appears to have just been running in place, awaiting the word of what had been going in the West.

But not so fast. Things were going on elsewhere, and perhaps even earlier. This presentation covers what are considered to be the four great inventions of China – papermaking, printing, the compass and gunpowder. When and how did the western world get the word?

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: Trump Administration Rulings That Could Undermine Our Democracy
Presenter: Hedy Shulman
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**, Wayne Cotter

Is our democracy in danger? The first 100 days of Donald Trump's second term have been an ongoing process of overturning established values and laws, slashing of research funds in government and universities, realigning voting districts and punishment of individuals who oppose the president's personal objectives. Should we be worried about the state of our democracy?

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 @ NOON – 12:45 PM

Meeting: **NEW MEMBER MEETING**
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Leslie Goldman, Tracey Lee (co-chairs)**, John Davis, Vince Grosso, Ken Sasmor (QPal coordinator)

All Spring, Summer, and Fall new members are invited.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Meeting: **QUEST GENERAL MEETING**
Facilitator: **Donna Ramer, President**
Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
Time: 1:00 – 3:15 PM
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

It's that time of the Year. You know, when we all get together for updates about our committees, get a sneak peek at our spring 2026 courses, and ask questions of Council.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 @ 2:30 – 3:30 PM

After the general meeting we will toast the members of Quest who are no longer with us.

Sadly, this year that includes **Lois Cardillo, Loretta Menger, John Spiegel, and Marilyn Weiss**. If you can, please remain in the auditorium for this service (45 minutes or so), after which we will have a reception right across the hall.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: GEOGRAPHY**
Subject: Russia-A Prisoner of Its Geography
Presenter: Karen Cullen
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Paul Golomb**, Bob Reiss, Konstantin Dolgitser

Stretching across eleven time zones and two continents, Russia is the world's largest country. Yet its vastness, and its frigid climate and defenseless western borders, have often served more as a constraint than a strength. From its frozen Arctic tundra and endless but resource-rich Siberian plain to its limited warm water ports, geography has shaped Russia's history, economy, and global ambitions. Is Russia's destiny determined by its land, or can it ever escape being a prisoner of its geography?

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

It's not for nothing that Medieval Scandinavia has been glorified by the Marvel movies rage. The thrilling tradition that reflects the culture, mythology, and values of the Viking Age are not only revealed by IMAX! Check out Norse poetry in its two key forms: Eddic poetry that focuses on myths, heroic legends, and moral themes — like tales of the gods. Skaldic poetry, by contrast, is more intricate and composed by named poets (skalds) who wrote elaborate praise poems for kings and nobles. Together, these poetic forms preserve the Norse worldview, blending history, heroism, and mythology into a powerful literary legacy. Coming soon to OIP!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **EMOTIONAL DICHOTOMIES WITHIN**
Subject: Explorers Guide to Guilt & Shame
Presenter: Nicholas Borg, guest lecturer
Room: 15-17
Format: Hybrid
Coordinators: **Elaine Martin**, Donna Ramer
Tech Support: **Felix Pena**, Donna Ramer

An Explorer's Guide to Guilt and Shame distinguishes between two emotional systems that shape human behavior. Essential guilt and shame are early, introjected emotional barriers – absorbed from caregivers and environments – that quietly block the development of genuine self-acceptance. They are protection strategies that outlive their purpose by eroding our self-esteem and authenticity. In contrast, existential guilt and shame are mature emotions arising from self-awareness and a well-functioning conscience. They promote accountability, humility, and connection. In this class, we look at which feelings were absorbed from the past, and which now serve as moral compasses for integrity and growth.

Nicholas Borg has spent decades exploring why people do what they do – and sometimes why they don't. He writes and teaches about transformation, recovery, and the fine art of becoming less delusional with age. A lifelong student of human contradiction, he explores how self-awareness and humor can coexist in recovery – and how a good question often outlasts any answer.

Course:	EXPLORATIONS IN PHILOSOPHY & LITERATURE
Subject:	Kafka at His Most Kafkaesque
Discussion Leader:	Paul Golomb
Room:	27
Format:	In-Person Only
Coordinators:	Larry Shapiro , Steve Allen, Bob Belfort
Tech Support:	Steve Chicoine , Larry Shapiro

In this centenary year of the publication of *The Trial*, we will look at a few of Franz Kafka's short and enigmatic "parables," including the famous excerpt from *The Trial, Before the Law*.

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

Write a poem using the cue word "fog" 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. Members of this workshop typically have no experience writing poetry. You may also attend as an observer without writing a poem.

**THERE ARE TWO CULTUREQUEST TOURS OFFERED BELOW:
NOVEMBER 21ST AND DECEMBER 5TH**

CULTUREQUEST

VISIT THE FRICK MUSEUM

**A Refined Collection in a Renovated Mansion
Friday, November 21st at 11am**

On Friday, November 21st, join Culture Quest for a special visit to the Frick Collection, one of New York City's most treasured cultural landmarks. Housed in the former Beaux-Arts mansion of industrialist Henry Clay Frick, the museum holds a world-renowned collection of European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts from the Renaissance through the 19th century.

Following its recent \$22 million renovation and expansion, the Frick offers visitors beautifully restored galleries and enhanced access to the original 1914 residence. Highlights of the collection include masterpieces by Rembrandt, Whistler, and Vermeer--including Vermeer's luminous Officer and Laughing Girl, one of only three works by the artist in the museum.

This is a rare opportunity to experience the elegance of a historic mansion and the brilliance of some of Europe's greatest artists—all within one of New York's most refined museum settings.

- **WHEN:** Friday November 21 - Please arrive by 10:45, the tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM
- **WHERE:** On the day of your visit, arrive via the entrance at 10 E 71st street. Note that this is not the main entrance but instead the group entrance around the block.
- **COST:** \$18:00
- **TO RESERVE:** send an email asap to dena@kerren.us Put Frick in the subject line
- **LUNCH:** Is optional, suggestions to be announced.

You will be advised by return email if you are registered for the tour. If registered, please leave a check for \$18, made out to Quest Lifelong Learning, in the Culture Quest mailbox in the office no later than Wednesday, November 12th @ 2:30 PM.

Zelle payment is also accepted. If you pay through Zelle, send it to Quest's Zelle email address at **q25broadway@gmail.com** before Wednesday November 12th. Please note "Frick 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.

CULTUREQUEST

THE RISE OF LIFE

American Museum of Natural History

Friday, December 5, 2025

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

"The Rise of Life" highlight tour with Michael Hamburg at the American Museum of Natural History traces the rise of life on the only planet where we know for certain that life exists. We will begin with the creation of the Earth and explore the various terrestrial conditions that supported unicellular life that began the long path of evolution four billion years ago. We will follow this development of this life as it diversifies into the myriad species in both the animal and plant kingdoms that have come and gone over millions of years. We will also take a look at some of the largest and oldest organisms that have ever existed. The dinosaurs roamed the Earth for more than 200 million years. What happened to them? What is their living legacy?

Next, we will examine the origins of our own species and look at the fate of our ancestors. Who was Lucy? Who were the Neanderthals? Why did Homo sapiens become the only survivor of all those other hominids who preceded us? Lastly, we will contemplate the future. Wither humanity? Are we to remain here or is our destiny in the stars? As always, questions are welcome along the way.

Many thanks to Michael Hamburg for arranging this tour for CULTUREQUEST.

- **WHEN:** Friday, December 5, 2025. Please arrive by 10:45. The tour will begin promptly at 11:00 AM. It should last about 75-85 minutes.
- **WHERE:** American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), 200 Central Park West, NYC. We should meet Michael at the main entrance to the Rose Center on 81st Street.
- **COST:** Free. Limited to 20 guests.

- **TO RESERVE:** Send an email ASAP to Madeleine Brecher at madbrech@gmail.com. Please put Rise of Life tour in the subject line of your email. Your email will be acknowledged within a few days. We will have a waitlist.
- **LUNCH:** Bodrum Turkish Restaurant, Amsterdam Ave. at 1:00PM. Please reserve when you RSVP; We too must reserve so please make that a commitment. (<https://www.bodrumnyc.com/menus/lunch>) Delicious!

NOTE: Please sign up only if you intend to come. Anyone who doesn't show or cancels will be placed on a "waitlist only" when they sign up to attend future tours.
