

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

February 23 – 26, 2026
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, FEBRUARY 23 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**
Subject: My Fair Lady
Presenter: Judith Weis
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: Peter Dichter, Arlynn Greenbaum
Tech Support: Victor Brener, Michael Wellner

After other writers/composers including Rodgers and Hammerstein had given up on the idea of writing a musical based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," Alan Jay Lerner and Frederic Loewe took up the challenge and created "My Fair Lady" starring Rex Harrison, (who was not a trained singer) as Henry Higgins, the speech expert (phonetician), and new English actress/singer Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, the cockney flower girl, who, after speech lessons, could pass as royalty, the show was one of the biggest hits of the 1950s.

There have been different ways that the ending can be presented or interpreted, although Shaw himself was clear about what he wanted. However, the audiences of the 1950s did not generally feel the way that Shaw did.

Course: **WONDERFUL BOOKS OUT LOUD**
Subject: *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion
(Farrar, Strauss and Giroux edition)
This week we will read:
John Wayne: A Love Story pp 29-41
Where the Kissing Never Stops pp 42-60
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

John Wayne: A Love Story examines the iconic actor as a symbol of personal code, order, and lost American idealism. Visiting a movie set in Mexico, Didion contrasts Wayne's mythical persona with the fragility of reality.

Where the Kissing Never Stops is a 1966 profile of folk singer and activist Joan Baez. The piece examines Baez's Institute for the Study of Nonviolence in Carmel Valley, California.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 12:10 -12:50 PM

Course: **NOONTIME MEDLEY**
Subject: "Music & Art"
Presenters: Andrea & Sheryl
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Sheryl Harawitz, Andrea Irvine**

What happens when we place a piece of art beside a piece of music? Does one deepen the other? Shift it? Complicate it?

We'll begin with a few curated pairings—then turn things over to you. In small groups, you'll explore connections between sound and image: music inspired by art, art inspired by music, or unexpected combinations that simply feel right.

No expertise required—just curiosity. Bring your phone, your lunch and your imagination. We'll share discoveries together and see where the conversation leads.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **GREAT PLAYS**
Presenter: Roy Clary
Room: Auditorium
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Roy Clary, Wayne Cotter, Frieda Lipp**
Tech Support: **Wayne Cotter**

Plays:

Jo and Stew's Theatre of Love and Financial Success by Jacquelyn Reingold
This comedy is set in an off-off Broadway theatre where two cockroaches, a brother and sister, emerge from the destruction of their home to establish a new and more meaningful one. Cast: Roy Clary and Dorothy Kiara

A Sure Thing by David Ives
This comedy is a hilarious riff on boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl, over and over and over. Cast: Roy Clary and June Jacobson

Course: **POWER OF PLAY**
Subject: The Serious Side of Play
Presenter: Candy Johnson
Room: 15-17
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Carole Blane**, Joe Aboulafia, Candy Johnson,
Tech Support: **Felix Pina**

Play is more than fun—it's a way we make meaning. This presentation explores play through the work of scholars who have studied how play shapes learning, culture, and identity. We'll look at some key theories, frameworks, and types of play while experiencing a few playful moments ourselves.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK**
Subject: The Pre-Raphaelites
Presenter: Ann Goerdt
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Linda Downs**, Lynnel Garabedian, Bob Reiss, Ellen Shapiro
Tech Support: **Victor Brener**, Ellen Shapiro

What do you think of when someone mentions the Pre-Raphaelite painters? When was the last time you saw an example of their work? You know this group lived after Raphael, so what were they trying to do in their paintings? Go back to the religious images of the Middle Ages? Maybe include scenes of daily life? Landscapes? Maybe you recall paintings of beautiful women with long hair and pretty dresses? If you come to this presentation, you will see what the Pre-Raphaelite painters actually produced during the second half of the 19th century in Victorian England.

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

1. "An Education While Incarcerated" by Hua Hsu from *The New Yorker* December 13, 2021,
2. "Norman Maclean Didn't Publish Much, What He Did Contains Everything" by Kathryn Schulz from *The New Yorker* July 1, 2024

Copies of these essays will be distributed through QuestBusiness.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

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

We continue with the best of contemporary short documentaries, dramas, and comedies selected for their artistic merit and the probability of producing a lively discussion.

Course: **QUESTER'S CHOICE II**
Subject: The Black Swan – The Impact of the Highly Improbable
Presenter: Karen Cullen
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Mary Beth Yakoubian**, Karen Cullen, Anne Moses
Tech Support: **Steve Chicoine**

What is a Black Swan? Nassim Taleb says it is an event (positive or negative) that is highly improbable, has a massive impact, and is explained after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. He argues that history, markets, culture, and our lives are dominated by black swans that we systematically underestimate. He also says that our cognitive biases in favor of certainty and sensible narratives cause us to misinterpret the past and make us terrible at predicting the future. 9/11? Definitely a black swan. The Beatles? Maybe. The 2016 election of Donald Trump? Um... Let's discuss!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **AMERICAN UPHEAVALS**
Subject: The Enterprise of Baby Making
Presenter: Emily Mines
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Michael Wellner**, Terri Hicks
Tech Support: **Michael Wellner**

One thing we can all agree on: Things have changed a lot since we Questers were in our reproductive years and it isn't, in all cases, necessarily for the better. Our country's fertility rate has now dropped below the needed rate for replacing ourselves and for some, this is of great concern.

We will cover contributing factors and what the implications of this reduction of offspring means for our society. Further topics include Assisted Reproductive Technologies (Egg Freezing, IVF, surrogacy), the Pronatalist Movement (Elon, JD) and the growing influence of tech/AI on the mating of young people.

This talk will be a large meander and will offer many opportunities for discussion. Please join us.

Course: **SCIENCE & SCIENTISTS**
Subject: Gold!
Presenter: Jim Brook
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Jim Brook**, Steve Allen, Judy Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Konstantin Dolgitsier

Gold is number 79 of the 94 naturally occurring chemical elements. But, as we all know, it's not just some run-of-the-mill element. This presentation will begin with a look at the element in the purely scientific sense. It will then move on to the question of how gold is found. Panning for gold or refining gold ore. Finally, consideration of the uses of gold. As a conductor of electricity, store of wealth and of course its use for ornamentation. Feel free to bring your gold to the class. We will all enjoy giving it the once-over.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE SERIES**
Speaker: John Avlon
Subject: *The Good America*
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Arlynn Greenbaum**, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: **Bob Reiss**, Wayne Cotter

John Avlon is an award-winning journalist, author and historian. He is a former CNN anchor and analyst and previously served as the editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast as well as chief speechwriter to the Mayor of New York during the attacks of 9/11. His books include *Independent Nation*, *Wingnuts*, *Washington's Farewell*, and *Lincoln & the Fight for Peace* as well as the *Deadline Artists* anthologies. He also created and hosted the "Wingnut of the Week" segment on CNN.

John was the 2024 Democratic nominee for Congress in NY-01 and currently hosts the podcast "How to Fix It" on The Bulwark and serves as the Chairman of Citizens Union of New York. He lives in New York with his wife, Margaret Hoover, and their two children.

Please join us for this special presentation.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **EARTH: HISTORY**
Subject: How the Earth Evolved
Presenter: Michael Hamburg
Room: 15-17
Format: **Hybrid (To Be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Judy Weis**, Pete Weis
Tech Support: **Pete Weis**, Bob Reiss

Today the Earth appears to be a perfect place for all the life that inhabits it. This has not always been true. This presentation will trace the evolution of our home planet from its very beginnings in a vast cloud of gas and dust 4.6 billion years ago to the point in time perhaps just as little as 500,000 years later when conditions became conducive to the emergence of life. We will explore the changing anatomy of the Earth based on all the geological studies that have appeared for the past few centuries.

We will also definitely examine some of the possible explanations for the origins of water — the very key to life, itself. Some of our present knowledge of Earth's evolution may be very useful in our search for habitable planets elsewhere in the universe.

Course: **ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY**
Subject: Political Poetry of Protest and Resistance
Presenters: Joyce Hinote, Peter Dichter
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only
Coordinators: **Joyce Hinote**, Peter Dichter

If you think of poetry as merely lovely musical word play inspired by Nature and Imagery, think again! If you think of Prose as the only way to express Political Convictions, think again! Political poetry is verse that engages with social, current, or political events, aiming to protest, raise awareness, inspire change, or reflect on power, justice, and human conditions like racism, war, or inequality, using powerful language to challenge norms, give voice to the marginalized, and connect individual struggles to broader historical contexts. Allons enfants! This is not a class for the faint of heart!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 @ 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Course: **ERAS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**
Subject: Jewish Immigration to the United States
Presenter Bob Gottfried
Room: Auditorium
Format: **Hybrid (To be Recorded)**
Coordinators: **Joy Sabella**, Bob Gottfried
Tech Support: **Konstantin Dolgitser**, Pete Weis

Jewish people have lived in what is today the United States since 1654. Although never a large number, Jews have had an outsized impact on the country in science, business, sports, philanthropy, music, the performing arts, and politics. Come to our class to learn how Jewish people thrived and survived from the sixteenth century to the 21st century.

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

Our readings for the February 26 class are a short story by the wonderful Rivka Galchen and an essay by the also-wonderful Ed Yong. In Galchen's story, *Unreasonable*, a scientist and mother of two daughters experiences a day of stresses in her family and career which she attempts to resolve in a "reasonable" way. "The nearness of bees, and other things that agitate most people, calms me," she observes. Science journalist Ed Yong's essay "Beautiful Waves of Giant Booty-Shaking Bees" might have interested Galchen's character because bees are her primary research area ... and for other reasons. Sometimes fiction and journalism can be stand-ins for philosophy. I'll send the story and essay via Quest Business.

Course: **POETRY WORKSHOP**
Subject: What is a Poem?
Presenter: Judy Hampson
Room: 19
Format: In-Person Only (Note: This class ends at 3:00 PM)
Coordinators: **Judy Hampson**, Helen Saffran, Linda Schwartz

We will discuss "What is a Poem?", then read a poem by a well-regarded poet. We will discuss the poetic elements in the poem and the mood the poet is expressing. How does it move us? What elements help us perceive this is a poem? We will discuss the language and the impact it makes on the reader.

There will be a writing prompt related to the poem, and an opportunity to share. Members who choose to bring in poems written at home will have the chance to read them to the class and get feedback if they wish

CULTUREQUEST

IN-PERSON TOUR OF TEMPLE EMANUEL

Friday February 27, 2026

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Tour Is Sold Out and the Waitlist is Closed
Thank you for your overwhelming interest