



THE TRICORN

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY THE NEW ENGLAND ♦
LONG ISLAND ♦ PHILADELPHIA GREAT BOOKS COUNCILS

FEBRUARY 1997

Great Books Foundation News

As part of its fiftieth anniversary celebration the Great Books Foundation in Chicago plans to publish nine anthologies in 1997, each addressing a different theme: *Love and Marriage*; *Parent and Child*; *Living with the Past*; *Order and Chaos*; *Politics, Leadership and Justice*; *Clashes of Culture*; *Identity and Self-Respect*; *Happiness and Discontent*; and *The Evil and the Guilty*. Each volume will contain both classic and contemporary selections from fiction, drama, poetry, and philosophy and will recommend novels on the same theme. The six or seven readings per volume will reflect the cultural diversity of today's society. The Foundation expects to release the first three volumes in May, the rest in September and December. A guide for discussion groups, *How to Discuss a Book*, will also be available in 1997.

To promote the Great Books program more aggressively, Chicago plans to work with the American Library Association and businesses. People trained as Junior GB leaders will be encouraged to start adult groups. Ongoing support for groups and councils include training and annual meetings of a National Advisory Committee to allow councils and regional representatives to exchange ideas with each other and Chicago. The Foundation's new web site will facilitate communications: <http://www.greatbooks.org>.

50th Anniversary Series

Love and Marriage

I.B. Singer	The Spinoza of Market Street
Søren Kierkegaard	Either/Or
Josef Skvorecky	Emöke
English Folktales	Tom-Tit-Tot <i>and</i> Caporushes
Yukio Mishima	Patriotism
Plato	Symposium

<i>Poetry</i>	Shakespeare	Sonnet #116
	Sylvia Plath	The Applicant
	Gregory Corso	Marriage
	Gwendolyn Brooks	To Be in Love

<i>Novels</i>	Virginia Woolf	<i>To the Lighthouse</i>
	Vladimir Nabokov	<i>Lolita</i>

Parent and Child

A.B. Yehoshua	The Continuing Silence of a Poet
Jamaica Kincaid	Gwen <i>and</i> Somewhere, Belgium
Euripides	Iphigenia at Aulis
William Faulkner	Barn Burning
Andrea Lee	New African
Franz Kafka	Letter to his Father <i>and</i> The Judgment

<i>Poetry</i>	W. B. Yeats	Among School Children
		A Prayer for My Daughter
	Randall Jarrell	The Lost Children
	Sharon Olds	Exclusive
David Walcott	Letter from Brooklyn	

<i>Novels</i>	Jane Austen	<i>Persuasion</i>
	Heinrich Böll	<i>Billiards at Half-past Nine</i>

THE 4ST ANNUAL
Wachs Great Books Summer Institute
at Colby College

August 3 through 9, 1997

A week of reading, discussion, fun, and friendship
on the beautiful campus of Colby College in the hills of Waterville, Maine

~ THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING ~

Fifty years ago, the Great Books Foundation invited the adult public to join in the "conversations across time," the conversation with the great writers of history that addresses, but never quite answers, questions of most singular significance to the human experience: What is Truth? Beauty? Justice? Love? Reality? Knowledge? Virtue?

To commemorate that event, this year at the Colby Summer Institute we will discuss six of the eighteen selections that were discussed nationwide in that first year. They are:

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* *
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; *The Birds*; *The Clouds*
Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1

St. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* *
Montaigne, Selected Essays
Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Books I and II

*selections

And What Is a Great Books Discussion?

A group of readers, sharing their understanding of a stimulating work of literature or philosophy in a well-conducted discussion, can reach a level of insight rarely achieved by those who read alone. Great Books is for people who love to think and talk about the world's great ideas and whose greatest pleasure is to spend time with others who share that joy.

Cost: \$420 per person covers dormitory room (single or double), meals, discussions, and books, as well as swimming, tennis, a film, group social activities, the warm hospitality of the Colby staff, and a real Maine clambake at Johnson Pond. Boating, golf, music, and summer theater are nearby.

Application and refunds: A \$120 deposit per person is required with application, \$45 of which is refundable for cancellation before July 1. The balance is due at registration on August 3. Books and additional information will be sent upon receipt of deposit.

We can accommodate children between the ages of 4 and 14. Children over 14 are registered in the adult program. If there is sufficient interest among the younger children, a discussion program will be arranged for them. If there is not, we will arrange for the college to provide care for the children while you attend your discussion group. Please contact Sylvia Eusebi, 914-238-5283, to express your interest.

Mail Application to: Colby Summer Institute
680 Elton Street
Riverhead, NY 11901-2585

Any questions may be directed to Dan Kohn, 516-727-8600.

APPLICATION (Make checks payable to Colby Summer Institute)

Please Print

Name (Last name first) _____

Address _____

Notes and comment _____

Please list additional names on the other side.

Prefer leaderless group []

Reg. # _____ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY LY. _____

Reg. Grp. # _____ Deposit \$ _____

Status Code _____ Bal. at Reg. _____

Bks. Shipped _____ How _____

NEW ENGLAND NEWS

Spring Institute

Well, almost spring. Those who were turned away from Spring Institute last year have another chance to escape to Newport. See the flyer (p.4 of this Tricorn) for details on the weekend of "Still Lives," portraits of a modern French expatriate, a medieval Italian monk, and diverse contemporary Americans.

Theater Event

Spring may be a bit early, but winter will be quite late. "Winter Event" has moved to late spring to avoid nasty weather and accommodate our mailing schedule. We will attend a matinee performance of George Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman* at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge on Sunday May 11. Early registration is required since unsold tickets must be returned before the end of March. The Andover local group will discuss the play at 7:30 p.m on April 29, Lexington at 7:00 p.m. on June 3. All are welcome to attend the discussion at either library. Other local groups planning to discuss the play may list their meeting time and place on the Council's new web site.

New Officers and Directors

After leading the Council for the past four years, Deirdre Skiffington has stepped down as president but will continue to serve as a director. We thank Deirdre for her efforts on behalf of the Council and look forward to her further contributions. With six new board members and three officers in new positions, we anticipate dynamic growth and development in the Council. Our new officers are Pres: Jean McGreehan, VP: Alice Colby, Chair: Diana Pieters. Barbara Barton continues as Secr. and Rachel Gallant as Treas.. Our new directors include Abbi Deeran, Richard Ffrench, Ruth Greene, Ellie Mamber, and Richard White. Continuing as directors are Carroll Ann Botinno, Jane Mudge, and Vincent Stanton.

Web Site and E-mail Address

Thanks to Abbi Deeran who worked with Anne Gendler of the Foundation and Klaus Traumann in Delaware the Council now has a Web site and E-mail address. Check the Web site for a listing of Council events and information on local groups. Local libraries provide public access to the Internet for those who are not on-line but want the latest information.

Web site <http://members.aol.com/NewEngGbks/index.htm>
E-Mail NewEngGBks@aol.com (Reaches Abbi Deeran)

Publicity

The Lexington group attracted an impressive 32 new members this fall in response to Chris Wilkins's annual publicity campaign of one press release sent to multiple newspapers and listings at local cable stations. Not one to stop at an overflow crowd, Chris accepted an invitation from Lexington Cablevision to record public service announcements and a short video on the GB program. Since the announcements would be offered to regional cable outlets and even CNN, reinforcements were brought in from the two Newton groups, the board, and the Council before taping the first discussion. For technical reasons individual testimonials to the program produced more usable footage than the taped discussion. With a lot of help from the Cablevision staff Chris and Jean McGreehan edited tapes and wrote scripts for voice overs.

Jean McGreehan

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Still Lives

**New England
Great Books Council
Spring Institute**

AT THE DoubleTree ISLANDER HOTEL,
GOAT ISLAND, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
MARCH 14 TO 16, 1997

The Fall, a novel by ALBERT CAMUS
"Fra Lippo Lippi," a poem by ROBERT BROWNING
Six Degrees of Separation, a play by JOHN GUARE

The town's the same; the hotel is different. DoubleTree is on Goat Island, just a few minutes' walk from historic downtown Newport. Visit Newport's famous summer mansions; walk the beaches; enjoy fun and fellowship with old friends and new who savor the joy of reading and discussing great books and great ideas.

The cost of the weekend is \$225 per person double occupancy and \$295 per person single occupancy. Prices include books, discussions, lodging, five meals, gratuities, and all social activities. Commuting is an option at \$65, which covers books, discussions, and all social activities. Commuters may also sign up for meals; a price list and signup sheet will be sent with commuters' books. A fund is available to pay part of the cost for those who would otherwise not be able to attend.

For information, write the Spring Institute Committee at the address at right, or call Mac Snodgrass at 401 683-5260.

To register, mail the form below with a deposit of \$125 per person for double occupancy or \$195 per person for single occupancy, or the \$65 fee for commuters, to:

The Spring Institute Committee
P.O. Box 545
Harvard, MA 01451-0545

Registration deadline is February 1, 1997. Make checks payable to the Spring Institute Committee. If you cancel by March 8, 1997 your deposit or commuter's fee, less the cost of books and mailing, will be refunded.

Register before the new year and save!
Earlybird reduced rates: \$219 per person double occupancy and \$289 per person single occupancy when your registration payment or deposit is postmarked before December 31, 1996.

REGISTRATION

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____
street p.o. box or apt. #

_____ city state zi

TELEPHONE (____) _____ SINGLE OCCUPANCY ___ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ___ COMMUTER ___

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____ ROOMMATE PREFERENCE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____ PLEASE LIST ADDITIONAL RESERVATIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM.

Notes, Comments, Special Requests _____

Editor: Norma Oser, 7919 Heather Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027
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THE FOURTH SEASON

There is in death a letting go.
A leaf lives less, less than a year
from its springtime show of yellow.
A green hand grows from a mouse's ear
withers somber-toned in disbelief
twists free to a dry brown falling.
Three seasons the life of a leaf
and the fourth? The wind comes calling.

Chuck Ferrara

LONG ISLAND NEWS

Spring Institute Theme: THE WORLD OF ART

The Readings:

THE BLOT AND THE DIAGRAM an essay by Sir Kenneth Clark

The forms and future of modern art as seen from the perspective of the famous art critic and historian who uses the metaphors of *the blot* and *the diagram* as the basis for his analysis.

WHAT'S BRED IN THE BONE a novel by Robertson Davies

Davies explores the mysteries of an artist's growth and personality as shaped by heredity, culture and accident (with nudges from "the spiritual") in a joyous display of his own art as a novelist.

DATE AND PLACE

Sunday, June 8, 1997, at The Bailey Arboretum, Locust Valley, New York, a former North Shore Estate featuring a collection of trees and shrubs from other lands. The discussions will be held, and lunch served, in the main house, built in the mid-1800's. Enrollment will be limited because of the size of the facilities.

The Cost:

\$25.00, includes readings, travel directions, coffee at registration, lunch and post-discussion refreshments.

Mail to: Long Island Great Books Council, P.O. Box 821,
Port Washington, NY 11050.
(Please send before April 1, 1997)

Please reserve _____ places at the Long Island Institute at \$25.00 each, enclosed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

PHILADELPHIA NEWS

Celebrating Our Fiftieth

The Anniversary Committee, chaired by Bob Blumenthal, has several things in the cooking stage. If these events become our celebration stars, 1997 will be memorable indeed. An open meeting on a Sunday in October would feature a guest speaker and panel discussion on the topic "The Relevance of Great Books in Today's Society," and a party in April is being described as a masked costume ball. Naturally more information will follow.

Mine Your Memory

Our 50th anniversary will be further observed with the publication of anecdotal material culled from our half-century of Great Books experience. Please tap your long-term and short-term memories and send any funny, moving, or strange tales to either Betsy Galante, 81 Runnymede Ave., Jenkintown, PA 19046, or to Clark Simons, 269 Mather Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046. We're counting on your submissions!

Fred W. Friendly and the Federalists

On a mid-December weekend the Fred W. Friendly Seminars were in Philadelphia to tape a TV series which should air in spring, 1997, on PBS stations. The sessions were held in Congress Hall, which (at least at daybreak) is literally in the shadow of Independence Hall. Since the theme was Federalism and the Federalist Papers, the producer offered the Great Books Foundation 8 seats for each of the 4 sessions. The Foundation, in turn, offered the seats to the Philadelphia Council.

Wow! What a treat!

Each panel had 13 to 15 people who were assigned roles to enact. The first seminar, "Whose Law? Whose Order?" posited a meeting between U.S. Attorney Dick Roberts and Sheriff Jim DuPont of Montana to discuss who pays for enforcement of the Brady Bill. Other panel members in roles assigned by the moderator were Sen. Boxer (D. Cal.), Sen. Thompson (R. Tenn.), Rep. Schumer (D. N.Y.), and Assoc. Justice Scalia, as well as ACLU president Nadine Strosser and "Buck" Revell, former deputy director of the FBI.

The second session, "The Price of Politics," related to the physical, psychic, moral, and economic costs of getting elected to Congress and then keeping the victor's various constituencies happy enough to keep the seat. In the mythical community of "Crossroads" former HEW secretary Califano, Jeff Greenfield of ABC and several other panelists were gadflies, advisors, activists, and so forth. Others were publishers of rival newspapers, and Justice Breyer was a voice of reason in the storm who gave us a final wrap-up.

Saturday morning featured "The Constant Combatants" in the ongoing battle between the President and Congress over foreign policy. "President" Califano and "Senator" Rudman were variously assisted or undermined by Alexander Haig, Bill Gray, Kati Marton, and Leslie Gelb, in various roles. The final session on privacy starred Nadine Strosser, Zoe Baird, and Justice Breyer.

Law professors from Harvard and Stanford moderated superbly, Congress Hall was the perfect venue, Fred W. couldn't have been more Friendly, and both Sylvia and I feel this was one of the most splendid weekends we've ever spent.

David Perelman

Spring Theatre Festival

The Temple University Theatre will be giving the Macbeths one more chance to clean up their act. We will attend the matinee performance February 22, but we fear that we'll witness Macbeth and his lady choosing their usual path amid ghastly ghouls, nasty necromancy, overweening ambition and multiple murders. Can rue, guilt and fearful retribution be far behind? Shakespeare's superb tragedy has been thrilling audiences for nearly four centuries, and it will never cease to grip the mind and soul.

The 2:00 p.m. performance on February 22 will be followed by refreshments and discussions.

Attended free parking is on Diamond Street, east of 13th (adjacent to the theatre door).
Information: Fritzie Green, 215-978-7828.

Bargains!! Inventory Sale!!

Thirty-one copies of The Birthday Boys, the 1996 Philadelphia Spring Institute selection, are available at 1/2 price. Any group(s) wishing to discuss this fascinating novel by Beryl Bainbridge based on the Polar expedition of Capt. Robert Falcon Scott can order copies from Clark Simons, 269 Mather Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046, 215-576-8836. Purchasers will receive an equal number of copies of "Sur," the companion piece by Ursula Le Guin, free of charge.

Philadelphia's 38th Annual Spring Seminar

Lighten Up!

A pair of light, but fully satisfying plays: Tom Stoppard, inspired by a unique combination of circumstances, based his *Travesties* on Oscar Wilde's smashing, century-old *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Witty banter, outrageous punning, clever parody, in fact, every sort of word-play except knock-knock jokes, make the plays delightful reading. Wilde and Stoppard, Stoppard and Wilde; we promise both playwrights will leave you beguiled.

The lowdown for lovers of literature
who like to laugh:

Sunday, May 18, at Chestnut Hill Academy,
500 W. Willow Ave., opposite Philadelphia Cricket Club
\$28 fee covers books, lunch, snacks

Please send your check for \$28 per person, payable to Philadelphia Great Books Council,
to Clark Simons, 269 Mather Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Information: Bill Meiers, 215-953-0147.

Registration for Philadelphia's 38th Annual Spring Seminar, May 18, 1997

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

MACBETH !

Tickets \$13 each. Mail checks payable to
Philadelphia GB Council - Fritzie Green
2401 Penna Ave., #10-B21,
Phila., PA 19130

Reserve _____ seats @ \$13. Enclosed \$ _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Mark if you will _____ won't _____ attend discussion

Tickets at door. Check is your receipt.

WILMINGTON (DE) SPRING SEMINAR

Friendships + Lives + Lies² + Loves = Families

Transport yourself into the Poland of three decades before World War I; you are in the world of I.B. Singer's *The Brothers Ashkenazi*. Then zip up to Canada one decade after World War I; now you are in the territory of *Marsh Hay*, the play by Merrill Dennison, the runaway hit of the 1996 Shaw Festival.

Date: Saturday, April 5, 1997

Place: First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Rd., Wilmington, Delaware

Cost: \$25 for books, lunch, and refreshments

Information: Lois Myoda, 302-762-4938,
or Ocie Lindh, 302-633-4088.

WILMINGTON SPRING SEMINAR

Saturday, April 5, 1997 - Make out \$25 check to GB Council of Delaware and mail to: Lois Myoda, 1224 Evergreen Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Attention: Bi-Coastal Types

If you would like to receive the newsletter of the San Francisco Great Books Council, write to Laura Holt Rubin, Coordinator, C/O Wallis Leslie, 27240 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022.

Philadelphia Online Committee: Great Books on the Internet

Since the electronic age is upon us, we are making use of its quick and easy sharing of information. News of several Great Books councils are now on some of the 50 million pages that make up the World-Wide-Web:

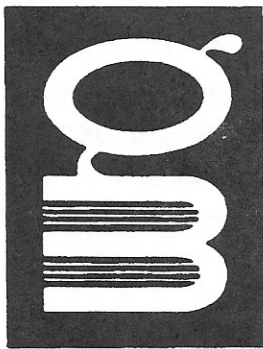
G.B. Foundation information (with links to all Regions): <http://www.greatbooks.org> (see p.1)

New England Council news: <http://members.aol.com/NewEngGbks/index.htm> (see p.3)

Philadelphia, Delaware, and Colby news: <http://www.dol.net/~greatbooks/gbevents.htm>

Nationwide calendar of Great Books events: <http://www.dol.net/~greatbooks/newslett.htm>

Questions? e-mail to greatbooks@dol.net (Klaus Traumann's e-mail address) or call 302-478-4058.



**GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL
OF PHILADELPHIA**

A. & R.

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Philadelphia, PA 19135

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