



The TRICORN

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

February 1999

COUNCIL NEWS

NEW ENGLAND

Spring Institute

The New England Great Books Council is hosting its Spring Institute in Newport, Rhode Island, from March 19 through 21. You will find complete information and a registration form in this issue of *The Tricorn*. Space is filling up rapidly, so let us hear from you as soon as you can.

Fall One-Day Event

On October 24, the New England Great Books Council sponsored the Fall One-Day event. We discussed "The Old Man and the Sea" and several poems of the sea. Attendance was lacking owing to a late start getting organized. However, I personally thought the event was a success because we took a different approach; that is, rather than one champion doing all the work, we had five volunteers who probably did an average of eight hours' work each.

During the Fall One-Day we had our Annual Meeting, at which Ann Killough was newly elected to the post of Vice President and Dick White gave a financial report indicating no major changes.

Special thanks go out to Mary Alice Stanton, Paula Williams, Ruth Green, Marilyn Lynch, and Diana Pieters, who volunteered their time, as well as to anyone else who assisted in the Fall One-Day.

We want to make sure that we get an early start for the Fall 1999 One-Day. There are a variety of tasks for volunteers to choose from, including: event, facility, reading, leader, or food coordinator, as well as registrar, or Colby Representative. Each task should require fewer than 10 hours of effort, and your help will not only go to a worthy cause but will be greatly appreciated.

Plans for Training Course and Special Event

In addition to organizing next year's Fall One-Day, for the coming year the Council is hoping to initiate

a training course and a special event. The training course would be prepared in Power Point and would cover the three essential parts to training: (1) leadership styles; (2) participant styles; and (3) volunteer opportunities. For our special event we would like to sponsor a discussion on the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

Wanted: Volunteers!

We will need a variety of coordinators and discussion leaders to help with these events. Anyone interested is asked to please contact Richard Ffrench at 617-332-1514, or to one of the Council members. These are prime opportunities to reach out to new members and to do something worthwhile for the New England Great Books Council.

Housekeeping

Local group leaders should send their reading schedules for the remainder of the year for publication on our Web page to:

Abbi Deeran
40 Maple Street
Marblehead, MA 01945
781-631-1197

And local group leaders should send their participant lists for database update to:

Bill Thurston
P.O. Box 299
Harvard, MA 01451-0299

Richard Ffrench, President

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LONG ISLAND

In November, Arlene Stock, our new *Tricorn* editor, became a member of the Council, joining Curt Boddie, June and Chuck Ferrara (Secretary and

Continued on page 3.

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THE GREAT BOOKS FOUNDATION

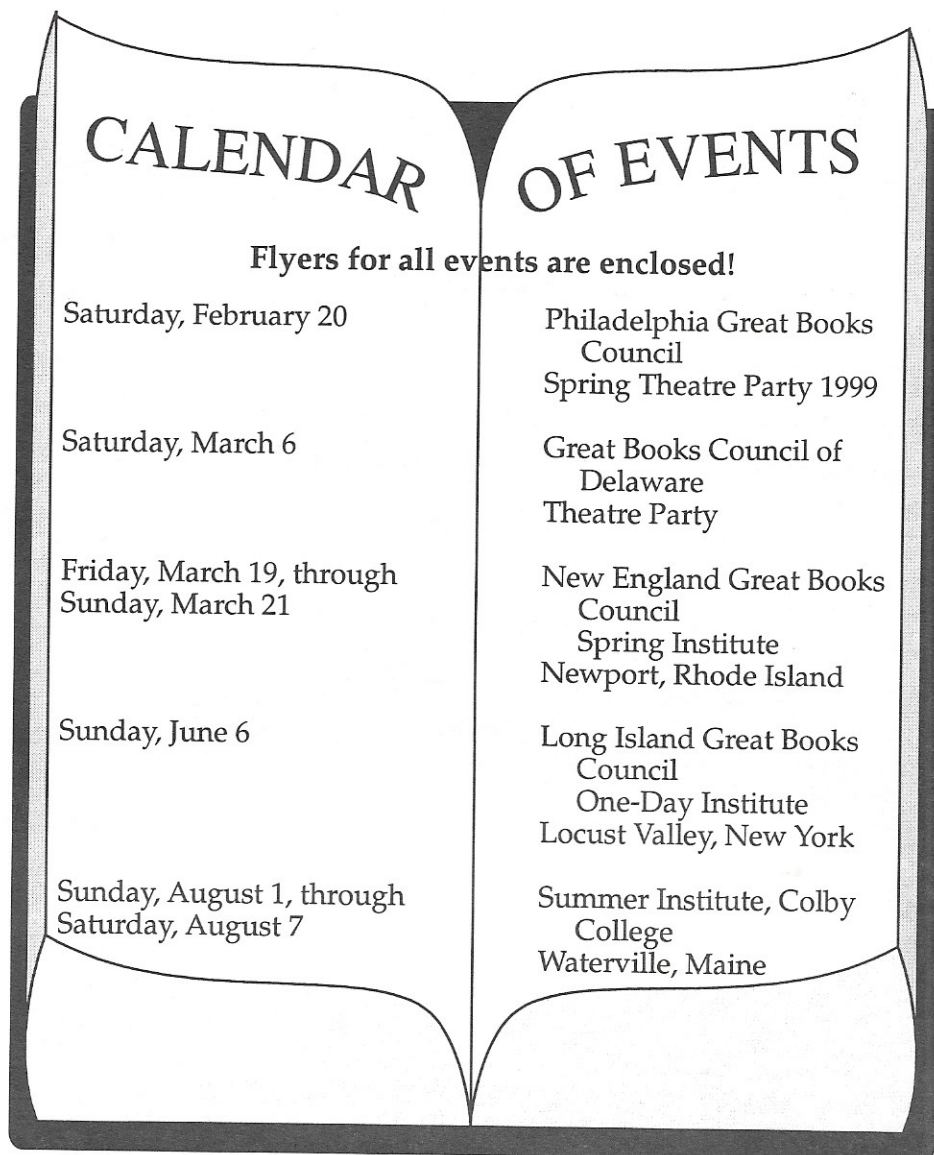
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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

**Great Books Foundation information with
links to all regions:** www.greatbooks.org
Nationwide calendar of Great Books events:
www.dol.net/~greatbooks/newslett.htm
New England Council news:
members.aol.com/NewEngGbks/index.htm
Philadelphia, Delaware, and Colby news:
www.dol.net/~greatbooks/gbevents.htm



The Tricorn

Official Semi-Annual Publication
GREAT BOOKS COUNCILS OF NEW ENGLAND, LONG ISLAND, AND
PHILADELPHIA

February 1999

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Council News - Continued

President), Grahme Fischer, Lucretia Harrison (Treasurer), Kemp Randolph, and Pearl and Lester Steinberg.

The list of Long Island and New York City groups is being updated. Discussion Leaders are being asked to send in revisions to their participant list — names and addresses to be added or deleted — so that our membership list can be maintained.

After much discussion, the Council voted to add the option of a vegetarian luncheon at the Spring Institute. Chicken will also be served, but no lunch-hopping will be allowed — either one or the other. Two readings were also selected, no options.

Chuck Ferrara, President

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PHILADELPHIA AND DELAWARE

Philadelphia Council Celebrates UDHR-50

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Philadelphia Great Books Council held a moving candlelight ceremony in the beautiful City Hall Courtyard the evening of December 10. Amidst the splendor of the City's Christmas display, we inaugurated the coming year's outreach program, "And Justice for All," with a public reading of the Declaration. A proclamation by Mayor Edward G. Rendell was presented in commemoration of the anniversary.



Candlelight ceremony, 50th Anniversary Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Philadelphia Great Books Council: Dec. 10, 1998.

While local programming has not yet been developed for 1999, the opportunity to bring attention to the UDHR at 50 could not be overlooked. Philadelphia's ABC-TV affiliate carried a clip on the late news.

We read by candlelight as a tribute to Eleanor Roosevelt, who was greatly responsible for the creation and passage of the Declaration and about whom Adlai E. Stevenson said, "She would rather light candles than curse the darkness and her glow has warmed the world."

A lit candle graphic has become the logo for our forthcoming program, underscored by the slogan, "Greak Books light the way to human rights."

Sonya Calabrese

Spring Theatre Party

The Philadelphia Great Books Council is hosting its Spring Theatre Party on Saturday, February 20, at 2 p.m. Participants will attend a performance of Brian Friel's "Translations," followed by light refreshments and discussion groups led by Great Books leaders. Full information and a registration form appear in this issue of *The Tricorn*.

1999 Spring Seminar

Continuing with the "theater" theme, on March 6 the Great Books Council of Delaware has arranged for Great Bookies to attend a Delaware Theatre Company performance of "Spunk," based on "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neal Hurston. Following the performance, dinner will be served at Cyra Gross' home. Look for the flyer elsewhere in this *Tricorn*.

Spring Institute

Save the date — May 16, 1999 — for the Philadelphia Great Books Council Spring Institute. The readings will be announced shortly. For further information at this time, call or write:

Olga Wallace
9504 Milner Street
Philadelphia, PA 19114
215-637-3238

Housekeeping

Philadelphia Region group leaders are again urged to send reading schedules to Klaus Traumann for publication on the Philadelphia Great Books Web page:

<http://www.dol.net/~greatbooks/philadel.htm>
Klaus can also be reached by mail at 502 Whitby Drive, Wilmington, DE 19803-2217, or by telephone at 302-478-4058.

Cyra Gross, President

Continued on page 4

100 BEST WOMEN NOVELISTS OF THE 20th CENTURY

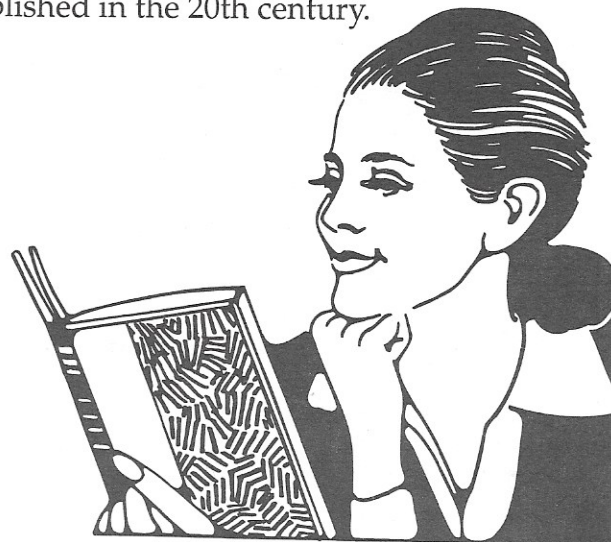
By Nancy W. Reifenstein

Much notoriety has been given the recently-published list by Modern Library of the 100 best novels in English published in the 20th century. The list includes many authors (and titles) we've read for Great Books — Joyce, Fitzgerald, Faulkner, Ellison, Vonnegut, Forster, Hemingway, Conrad, etc. However, only eight women made the list — Virginia Woolf, Carson McCullers, Edith Wharton (two selections), Willa Cather, Muriel Spark, Elizabeth Bowen, Iris Murdock, and Jean Rhys.

In response to this imbalance, according to a recent article by Erica Jong in *The Nation* (11/16/98), she has assembled a list of the 100 best women novelists, created from responses by 250 female and 30 male writers and critics. The result is not necessarily a "Great Books" list; the most repeatedly named books were Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, and Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*. While the list includes books by all of the above eight women, some of which have been selected for Great Books events, there were many other authors (though not necessarily the specific book) we have also read — Gordimer, Lessing, Lee, Walker, Hurston, McCarthy,

Morrison, Porter, Allende, Proulx, Stein, etc.

Jong considers this a list in progress and welcomes further suggestions from readers. Her E-mail address: jongleur@pipeline.com. Your favorite selection(s) for each author needs to be identified, but remember that the author must have written the selection in English and that it has to have been published in the 20th century.



Continued from page 3

WESTCHESTER

At its Second Annual Awards Dinner, held in October of 1998 at the Maison LaFitte Restaurant in Briarcliff Manor, the Westchester Great Books Council honored a retired teacher and a high school student.

The Guardian of Civilization Award went to Sister Eileen O'Gorman, Professor Emeritus at Manhattanville College, for her work in teaching the classics. Sister Gorman, an expert in James Joyce, has taught the James Joyce course for over fifty years. Also honored was Erika Zauner, of Briarcliff Manor, a senior at Hackley School, in Tarrytown, for her book donation project. Keynote speaker Hugh Van Dusen, of Ossining, Executive Editor at Harper-Collins Publishing, discussed publishing in the 21st Century.

The Guardian of Civilization Award was created to honor individuals who have devoted themselves to keeping the classics alive and to fostering respect for great literature. The first such award was bestowed upon Dr. Joseph Hankin, President of Westchester Community College.

Stanley Goldstein, President

SOLUTION

By Ruth G. Cohen

"The unexamined life is not worth living."
Old Plato said it and we all believe it.
Tough questions to my group I'm always giving,
To find the TRUTH as they can best perceive it.

But what strange fate keeps me forever *asking*,
While Great Bookies argue weighty matters,
Leaving my *own* views repressed and masking
My opinions, as the group still chatters.

One day I'll stop *asking* and start *talking*,
Cease to bite my tongue and make them hear me,
Give my viewpoint even though they're balking,
Awe them with my wisdom — so they'll cheer me!

If they have no answers to my queries,
Should they seek *my* knowledge, I'll reply,
When of outside chitchat the group wearies
Then the leader will THE WORD supply!

(Ruth G. Cohen, formerly a member of the Long Island Great Books Council and the Colby Committee, now resides in San Diego, where she and her husband, Nat, are still actively involved in Great Books discussions.)

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Proclamation

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

The people of Philadelphia affirm the rights of all people to be free, equal and to live in dignity. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security.

Disregard, contempt and violation of human rights continues to afflict people in many places and lands of the world. We believe all peoples and all nations must strive to respect these rights and to secure their worldwide recognition and observance.

THEREFORE . . .

I, Edward G. Rendell, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim Thursday, December 10, 1998, as

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

in Philadelphia and urge all citizens to recognize the 50th anniversary of this document which promotes the rights of all people to be free.



Edward G. Rendell
Mayor

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of Philadelphia, this tenth day of December, one thousand, nine hundred and ninety-eight.



THE PHILADELPHIA GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL'S
SPRING THEATRE PARTY 1999 Presents

Brian Friel's TRANSLATIONS

at Tomlinson Theatre, Temple University
1301 W. Norris St. (1 block off N. Broad)
with free parking adjacent to the theatre

GREAT BOOKS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, February 20, 1999, 2:00 pm

Followed by refreshments and lively discussions

Brian Friel, award winning author of over 15 plays, including PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! and DANCING AT LUGHANSA, is one of the premier living Irish playwrights today. This Temple University Theatre production of TRANSLATIONS is a poignant historical drama which focuses on a turbulent period in Irish history over 150 years ago. It is a funny and bitter portrait of Irish peasants caught in the midst of a quiet social upheaval.

Set in Donegal just before the potatoe famine of the late 1830's, Friel's play maps the uprooting of local traditions by a troop of British military surveyors, with the loss of meaning through translations his subject and principal metaphor. The richness of the script highlights the social and moral dilemmas that beset the characters, and allows us to focus on what is truly important in the Irish-British conflict: the human factor--how people are affected by events, political and otherwise. Friel encourages us to stretch beyond the realm of this conflict and into the generalized realm of the human spirit.

Following the performance there will be light refreshments and discussion groups led by Great Books leaders, to add to the afternoon's pleasures. Seats at \$13.50 each are limited; early response with a check is a must by Feb. 13th. Tickets will be held at the theatre lobby's Great Books reservation table.

-----REPLY FORM-----

Please reserve _____ tickets @ \$13.50 each. I enclose a check for a total of \$ _____, made payable to the Phila. Great Books Council.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

GUESTS: _____

Send Reply Form and check to: Marney Hague, Phila. Great Books,
2018 Green St., Phila., PA 19130. (Call 215/977-7873 for queries.)

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD.

• ZORA NEAL HURSTON



• 1999 Spring Seminar • March 6
Great Books Council of Delaware

2-4 pm

Delaware Theatre Company
Performance of "SPUNK" based on
THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD
200 WATER STREET
WILMINGTON DE 19801
(302) 594-1100

5-7 pm

Cyra Gross' home
Supper
101 Delview Drive
(DIRECTIONS WILL BE SENT)
WILMINGTON DE 19810
(302) 475-3914

7-9 pm

Book and/or play discussion

* THERE IS NO BOOK MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN THIS ONE" ALICE WALKER
DIRECTIONS ON BACK. QUESTIONS? CALL SUSAN BLEIBERG (302) 762-0222

YOUR NAME _____ STREET _____

CITY, STATE ZIP _____ PHONE () _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE(S): PERFORMANCE \$22 _____
SUPPER \$5 _____
YOU MAY REGISTER FOR ANY COMBINATION BOOK (DELIVERED) \$10 _____

PLEASE SEND CHECK "GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL OF DELAWARE"
c/o SUSAN BLEIBERG
303 WEST 37TH STREET
WILMINGTON DE 19802-2014

CHARISMA

THE GREAT GATSBY, F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

THE PRINCE, NICCOLO MACCHIAVELLI

AUTUMN OF THE PATRIARCH, GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ

NEW ENGLAND GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL SPRING INSTITUTE

AT THE DOUBLETREE ISLANDER HOTEL, GOAT ISLAND, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
MARCH 19-21, 1999

The DoubleTree Hotel 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 \$245 per person double occupancy and \$320 per person single occupancy. Prices include books, discussions, two nights' lodging, five meals, gratuities, and all social activities. Commuting is an option at \$80, which covers books, discussions, all social activities, and opening reception. 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 \$145 per person for double occupancy or \$220

per person for single occupancy, or the \$80 fee for commuters, to:

The Spring Institute Committee

P.O. Box 545

Harvard, MA 01451-0545

Registration deadline is February 12, 1999. Make checks payable to the Spring Institute Committee. If you cancel by February 22 1999 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: \$234 per person double occupancy and \$309 per person single occupancy when your registration payment or deposit is postmarked before December 31, 1998.

REGISTRATION

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____
street _____ p.o. box or apt. # _____
city _____ state _____ zip _____

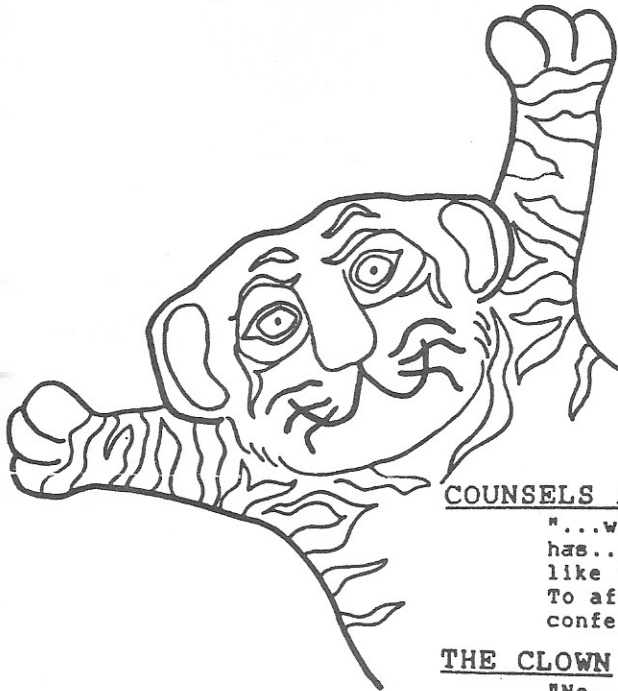
TELEPHONE (_____) _____ SINGLE OCCUPANCY _____ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY _____ COMMUTER _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____ ROOMMATE PREFERENCE _____

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

Notes, Comments, Special Requests _____

The LONG ISLAND GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL invites you to a One-Day Institute, Sunday, June 6, 1999, to discuss in philosophy and fiction,



Happiness & Hypocrisy

COUNSELS AND MAXIMS(excerpts)-- SCHOPENHAUER

"...what a man contributes more to his happiness than what he has... Most of the glories of the world are mere outward show, like the scenes on a stage: there is nothing real about them... To affect a quality, and to plume yourself upon it, is just to confess that you have not got it."

THE CLOWN -- HEINRICH BOLL (Nobel Prize 1972)

"No... If I was going to be a hypocrite, I wanted to be a successful hypocrite and get as much fun out of it as possible... I could describe heroic moments and hang them around my neck like a decoration... but to cling to the past is hypocrisy... No, the safest hypocrisy, and the one I would enjoy the most, was to "gamble on the Catholic card." There every number was a winner."

The discussions and luncheon will be in the Main House of the Bailey Arboretum, Locust Valley, New York,. This North Shore Estate, built in the 1800's, features a collection of trees, shrubs and gardens inhabited by a variety of native wild birds (as smugly blinkered against the contradictions of their sexual flittings as elected officials).

Informally conducted discussions encourage a free and open exchange of interesting ideas and viewpoints among small but diverse groups of participants.

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY
 9:15-10:00 Coffee and Registration
 10:00-12:00 Counsels and Maxims Discussion
 12:00-1:30 Lunch & Garden Stroll
 1:30-3:30 The Clown Discussion
 3:30-4:30 Punch, Post-Discussion,
 Fried Chicken Sale, & Farewell.

For additional information call June Ferrara 516 581 5082

Send your check or money order for \$30.00 per person before April 1st to:
 Long Island Great Books Council
 PO Box 821
 Port Washington, New York 11050

Name(s) _____

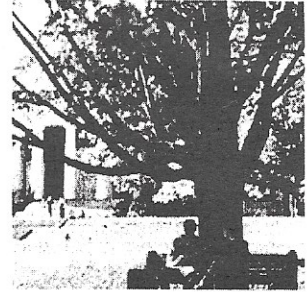
 Address _____

Fee includes readings and road map (sent upon registration), refreshments and lunch (PLEASE INDICATE PREFERENCE: VEGETARIAN__ OR CHICKEN__)

The 43rd Annual
Wachs Great Books Summer Institute
at Colby College

August 1 through 7, 1999

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



~Do Unto Others~

An examination of the nature of morality, in theory and practice, fact and fiction. The readings:

Moliere - *Tartuffe*
Kant - *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysic of Morals*
Philip Hallie - *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*
Nietzsche - *Beyond Good and Evil*
G.B. Shaw - *Major Barbara*
Dostoevsky - *The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*

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: \$438 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 lobster bake at Johnson Pond. Boating, golf, music, and summer theater are nearby. The cost for commuters is \$135 (including the lobster bake).

Application and refunds: A deposit of \$138 per person is required with application, \$63 of which is refundable for cancellations before July 1. The balance is due at registration on August 1. Books and additional information will be sent upon receipt of deposit.

We can accommodate children between the ages of 4 and 15 at a reduced fee. Children over 15 are registered in the adult program. If there is sufficient interest among the children, a discussion program will be arranged for them. In any case, activities will be planned while you are in your discussion groups and at other times during the week. A fact sheet about the junior program is available from Kim Beam, (978) 526-4262, who can also answer any questions.

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

Any questions may be directed to Dan Kohn, 516-727-8600; FAX 516-727-7592; or by e-mail to Cheryl Groeneveld at wachsworks@hotmail.com.

APPLICATION

(Make checks payable to Colby Summer Institute)

Please Print

Name (Last name first) _____

Address (with zip) _____

Phone () _____

Notes, comments, additional names on the other side. Prefer self-directing (leaderless) group

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reg. # _____

L.Y. _____

Reg. Grp. # _____

Deposit \$ _____

Status Code _____

Books Shipped _____ How _____

Bal. at Reg. _____

What is it like to spend a week at the Wachs Great Books Institute?

Have you ever closed a book after finishing the last page, and wished you had someone to discuss it with? Someone who had also read it, and was as eager as you to talk about it and try to discover what it meant, what it had to say to him or her? Every summer, readers gather for one week at Colby College in Maine to discuss six works – some long, some short, sometimes including plays and poetry – and to enjoy the company of others who have at least these six readings in common. This alone is a wonderful basis for friendship, relaxation, discovery, and a unique and meaningful experience.

Participants live in the Colby residences, eat together in a College dining room, and are assigned to a discussion group for the week. “Formal” discussions take place in the morning, and follow the rules of the Great Books shared inquiry method – no outside sources are allowed! The emphasis is on the reader and the text. Most discussion groups are assigned a leader; leaders rotate, so that although you will stay with the same discussion group all week, you will have a different leader every day. Participants may also request a “leaderless group.” Informal discussions go on over bridge, after tennis games and out at the lake. There is a wide variety of planned and unplanned activities, from a talent show (strictly voluntary) that often proves that a love of reading is not a predictor of musical or theatrical ability, to a clambake, a movie related to the week’s theme, and sporadic sing-a-longs. The Great Books Institute takes over a section of the Student Union each night for the “Wachs Works” (named after our founding father, Is Wachs), our version of a neighborhood pub, used for socializing, bridge and various other activities.

Living arrangements at Colby are very comfortable, and various amenities (like fans or bedboards) are available. Participants have private rooms; towels and linen are provided. The food is good and plentiful. Special arrangements can be made for participants with special needs.

Books are mailed to participants soon after registration. Most people have already read the texts when they get to Colby, which leaves more time for all the other activities offered. Colby College has a great library, art museum, and bookstore, as well as first-class athletic facilities, all of which are at the disposal of participants. The Maine countryside is lovely, and the College has facilities at a nearby lake, which are frequently used by Great Books participants. For those without a vehicle, rides are always available.

Many of the participants in the Institute have returned to Colby for decades, but there are also many newcomers, people of all ages and from all walks of life. Everyone is welcome and, in discussion, everyone is equal. The goal is shared inquiry, shared laughter, and shared experience. The results are often friendship and fun, and sometimes even glimpses of the truth.

Wachs Great Books Summer Institute

at Colby College

August 1 through 7, 1999

~Do Unto Others~

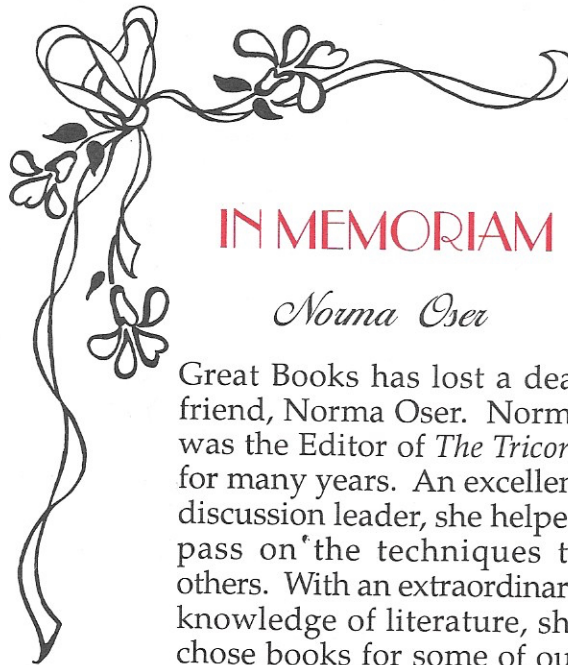
There is a science, lately formulated,
Whereby one's conscience may be liberated,
And any wrongful act you care to mention
May be redeemed by purity of intention. *Tartuffe*

“The spectacle of the Tartuffery of old Kant, equally stiff and decent, with which he entices us into the dialectic by-ways that lead (more correctly mislead) to his “categorical imperative” – makes us fastidious ones smile, we who find no small amusement in spying out the subtle tricks of old moralists and ethical preachers.” *Beyond Good and Evil*

The Tricorn
c/o Dynamic Management Services, Inc.
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3025
New York, New York 10176-3099



LLUCRETIA HARRISON
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PORT WASHINGTON, NY 11050



IN MEMORIAM

Norma Oser

Great Books has lost a dear friend, Norma Oser. Norma was the Editor of *The Tricorn* for many years. An excellent discussion leader, she helped pass on the techniques to others. With an extraordinary knowledge of literature, she chose books for some of our most memorable times. We will miss her.

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