



The Barbara McConnell Asilomar Great Books Weekend

Friday, April 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA

One of the major events of the year for the Great Books Council of San Francisco is the Spring weekend at the Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, California, named in honor of beloved Great Books leader Barbara McConnell. During the weekend there are discussions of poetry and works of nonfiction, drama, and fiction. Join us at this uniquely beautiful retreat and immerse yourself in a weekend of provocative readings, engaging discussions, and in-person camaraderie!

This year we will again discuss controversial yet timely works and poetry selections that span centuries of writing but explore enduring issues. *Please check out the special pricing and discounts available!*



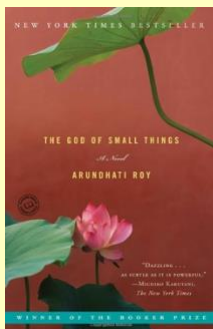
We'll kick off the Asilomar weekend with an evening of intense and challenging poetry discussions featuring works by Randall Jarrell, John Donne, Pablo Neruda, and Rebecca Foust.

These poems will be provided as a PDF attachment with your registration confirmation in order that you can easily print them.

On Saturday morning, we'll continue with our non-fiction discussion. Two essays by **Ayn Rand - *How Does One Lead A Rational Life In An Irrational Society* and *Racism***, should prove no less stimulating than your favorite morning brew. *These essays will also be provided as a PDF attachment with your registration confirmation in order that you can easily print them.*

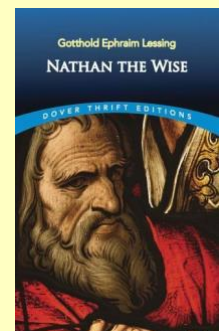


Before dinner, starting at 4:30 pm, we will be having a catered *Meet & Greet* where long-time bookies can welcome new attendees, and share experiences about their local groups, and best reads while enjoying local brews, bottlings, and a generous spread of snacks.



After dinner, we'll continue with our fiction discussion. **Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*** – a brilliant yet disturbing 1997 novel that opens the door wider for conversations about India's "Love Laws" and the after-effects of the caste system on religion, society, and economic opportunity. Read why Arundhati Roy received the Booker Prize for her poetic debut novel.

Wrapping up on Sunday morning, our play this year is *Nathan the Wise* by **Gotthold Ephraim Lessing**. While written in 1779 and never performed during Lessing's lifetime, this fervent plea for religious tolerance has been performed at the Vatican and is taught today in international conflict courses worldwide.



**Visit www.greatbooksncal.org/asilomar
For Further Details, Prices, and Registration**

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Please note the schedule for the April 28th to 30th weekend:

Fri. 3:00 - 5:30 pm	Check-in
Fri. 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner
Fri. 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Poetry Discussion
Sat. 7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast
Sat. 9:30 - 11:30 am	Ayn Rand Essays Discussion
Sat. 12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
Sat. 1:30 - 4:30 pm	Explore local area / Free Time
Sat. 4:30 - 6:00 pm	Meet and Greet Catered Social
Sat. 6:00 - 7:30 pm	Dinner
Sat. 7:30 - 9:30 pm	The God of Small Things Discussion
Sun. 7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast
Sun. 9:30 - 11:30 am	Nathan the Wise Discussion
Sun. 12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch

WEEKEND NOTES

The poetry and essays will be provided to you electronically once your 2-step registration is completed. We will also provide you with the specific ISBNs of the novel and play for your separate purchase. We request that everyone acquire these specific versions as consistent translations and page numbers are critical to the discussion.

Check-in begins at 3 pm on Friday at the Registration Desk. Once checked in, please pick up your conference packet at Kiln across Asilomar Ave near Sinex Ave. Underground parking near your room is free and accessible from Asilomar Ave.

Check-out time is 11 am. Please check out before the Sunday morning discussion.

If you are staying offsite, you have the option to purchase meals individually. Meal tickets may be purchased at the Registration Desk.

Discussions will be held in groups of 10-15 attendees including one who will facilitate the discussion. All must have read the work to participate. The discussion rooms do not have classroom lighting. As two of the discussions are at night, please consider bringing your booklight if you need extra illumination.