



The Barbara McConnell Asilomar Great Books Weekend

Friday, March 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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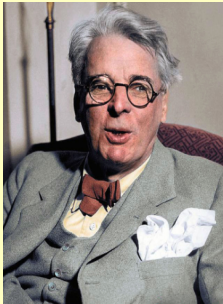
Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM

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!

Please check out the available special pricing and discounts!

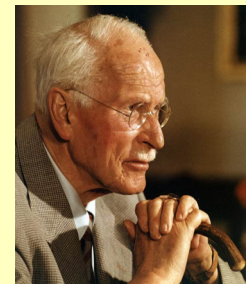


We'll kick off the Asilomar weekend with an evening of intense and challenging poetry discussions featuring works by **William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost, William Butler Yeats** and **Châtillon Coque**.

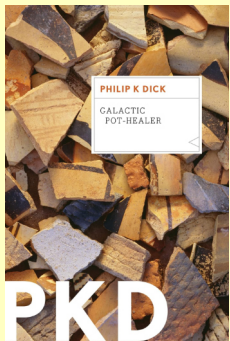
These poems will be provided as a PDF attachment with your completed registration in order that you can easily print them.

On Saturday morning, we'll continue with our non-fiction discussion of **Carl Jung's** provocative and serious essay *The Spiritual Problem of Modern Man*. While examining the crux of modern man having moved beyond the collective unconscious that once unified humanity with nature and cosmic rhythms, Jung explores how to achieve spiritual happiness in a world that embraces consciousness while largely ignoring the unconscious mind.

This essay will also be provided in the PDF attachment with your completed registration.

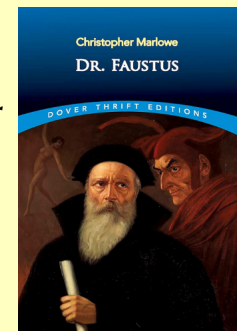


Before dinner, starting at 4:30 pm, we will be having a catered *Meet & Greet* where long-time bookies can welcome new attendees, and share experiences about their local groups, and best reads while enjoying local brews, bottlings, and a generous spread of snacks.



After dinner, we'll continue with our fiction discussion. **Phillip K. Dick's** *Galactic Pot-Healer* is not as well-known as his Library of America selections, including *The Man in the High Castle* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* It begins as an all-too-near-future parody that leads to questions of predetermination and the battle between forces of good and evil. This quixotic adventure and its implications validate PKD's acclaim as one of the most visionary writers of the twentieth century.

Wrapping up on Sunday morning, our play this year is *Doctor Faustus* by **Christopher Marlowe**. Written in the late 1580s, with immense poetic skill and psychological insight that foreshadowed the later work of Shakespeare and the Jacobean playwrights, Marlowe retains much of the rich phantasmagoria of this epic myth's origins in creating one of the first true tragedies in English.



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

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Please note the schedule for the March 14th to 16th 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	The Spiritual Problem with Modern Man 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	Galactic Pot-Healer Discussion
Sun. 7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast
Sun. 9:30 - 11:30 am	Doctor Faustus Discussion
Sun. 12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch

WEEKEND NOTES

The poetry and essay 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 must be purchased online and in advance and not on site. You will receive an email after you have successfully registered and about a month before the event with purchase instructions and prices.

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 have excellent overhead lighting as two of the sessions will be after dark.