



The Barbara McConnell Asilomar Great Books Weekend

Friday, April 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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Sunday, April 14, 2024 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.

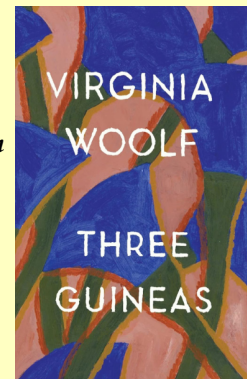
Please check out the special pricing and discounts available!



We'll kick off the Asilomar weekend with an evening of intense and challenging poetry discussions featuring works by UK poets **Wilfred Owen** and **Virginia Woolf** along with US poets **Louise Glück** and **Thomas Centolella**.

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

On Saturday morning, we'll continue with our non-fiction discussion – **Virginia Woolf's** provocative and serious treatise on the prevention of war and the introduction of feminism, **Three Guineas**, is as relevant today as it was on the eve of WWII. From the New Yorker - *If you are a woman or anti-war or both, read it!*

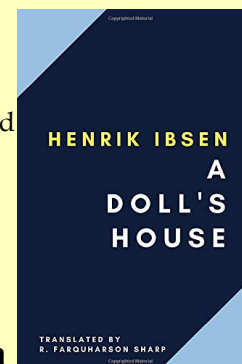


Before dinner, starting at 4:30 pm, we will have a catered Meet & Greet where long-time bookies can welcome new attendees, and share experiences about their local groups, and best reads while enjoying local brews, bottlings, and a generous spread of snacks.



After dinner, we'll continue with our fiction discussion. **C. S. Lewis's** *Till We Have Faces* is a brilliant retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche from her sister Orual's perspective. His last and considered by many to be his most accomplished work brought *new meaning, new depths, new terrors* according to The Saturday Review.

Wrapping up on Sunday morning, our play this year is *A Doll's House* by **Henrik Ibsen**. Written in 1879, it has been praised for its groundbreaking depiction of a woman's personal struggle for independence and identity causing noted critic, James Huneker to write - *That slammed door reverberated across the roof of the world.*



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

TWO-STEP REGISTRATION PROCESS AND PRICES

There are two steps to the complete registration process. **Step 1** is to register for the conference at rates from \$110 a person, \$60 for seniors and Free students and first-time attendees. Free rates require onsite Asilomar accommodations.

Step 2 is to reserve either an Asilomar room for 2 nights including 7 meals for \$634.38 (single) or \$420.76 (double). Additionally, there are a few offsite tickets available for \$50 and meals can be purchased separately.

Once you have completed **Step 1**, you will be emailed instructions to complete **Step 2**. After completing both steps, you will be emailed your registration confirmation and instructions on how to acquire the readings.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Please note the schedule for the April 12th to 14th 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	Three Guineas 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	Till We Have Faces Discussion
Sun. 7:30 - 9:00 am	Breakfast
Sun. 9:30 - 11:30 am	A Doll's House Discussion
Sun. 12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch

WEEKEND NOTES

The poetry will be provided to you electronically once your 2-step registration is completed. We will also provide you with the specific ISBNs of the essay, 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. All discussion rooms this year have excellent overhead lighting.