

Reading Matters

SAN FRANCISCO GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL
Serving Northern California

Famed Novelist Jane Smiley to Speak at Long Novel Weekend

Long Novel Weekend just got a lot more enticing. Pulitzer prizewinning novelist Jane Smiley has accepted our invitation to give an after-dinner talk on the life of Charles Dickens, author of the book we will discuss, *David Copperfield*. The book is largely autobiographical. Smiley has written that it is perhaps Dickens's greatest book.

This year the Long Novel Weekend moves to the Vallombrosa Center, a Catholic retreat in Menlo Park.



VALLOMBROSACENTER

Charles Dickens: A Life, by Smiley, a critical biography published in 2002, has been reissued in a Penguin paperback this year to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Dickens's birth.

Smiley is the author of thirteen novels, several non-fiction books, and many articles and essays. She was awarded the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for fiction following publication of her novel *A Thousand Acres*. The story, based on Wm. Shakespeare's *King Lear*, was adapted into a film of the same title. Her novella *The Age of Grief* was made into the 2002 movie, "The Secret Lives of Dentists."



Further information about this year's Long Novel Weekend, to be held August 18-19, and a registration form can be found inside.

Excellent and comprehensive video tours of the Vallombrosa Center, including its lovely grounds, are found at <http://vallombrosa.org/retreats-conferences-programs/photo-tour-2/>

Asilomar 2012: Theme suspicion confirmed

By Rob Calvert

Mysterious fogs at the start of this year's Great Books Asilomar Weekend were dispelled during lively and insightful discussions, leading to a brighter, clearer outlook.



Asilomar Beach

Members of the Asilomar Secret Theme Committee were elusive and noncommittal as usual, refusing to be named or quoted for this article, but a careful examination of our texts revealed that the theme of this year's event was surely epiphany. Dr. Herrigel's milestones on the path to mastery in *Zen in the Art of Archery* and Gabriel's decision that he must go westward in "The Dead" illustrated how reflection and realization change our perceptions of who we are. In the poetry, knowledge blazed from Rilke's Archaic Torso of Apollo and glimmered in the depths of Robert Frost's well in "For Once, Then, Something." The additional commandments in the Amichai poem reminded us that yes, we must change, lighting the way to epiphanies of our own.

The time outside of the discussions was just as enjoyable as the more structured parts of the weekend. Making new friends over meals, exploring the beach or Mon-



terey area on Saturday afternoon, and socializing at the party filled the gaps in the literary part of the schedule.

The party featured Irish folk tunes sung by tenor Rob Calvert accompanied at the piano

by concert pianist and Great Books participant Bill Corbett-Jones (photo to left). Several songs illustrated themes in Joyce's story "The Dead." They were followed by classical lieder and Corbett-Jones's rousing solo piano performance of Chopin's popular "Polonaise Militaire."

Asilomar has done some remodeling since last year, including the addition of a delightful little café in the social hall and kitchen improvements in the dining hall. They're still struggling to resolve kinks in the dining hall workflow, causing meal lines that led us to wonder whether our sentence had been commuted from "No Exit" to "No Eating." By next year, we hope to enjoy a more moveable feast.



The editor, the tenor, the Joyce man: Rick White, Rob Calvert, Brian Mahoney

This year's participants included an unusually large proportion of second-generation bookies. In this era of Twitter, texting and IM, it was heartening to observe that there are still many of us who find joy and derive meaning from digging into texts, using shared inquiry to enhance their understanding.



Susana Conde, Julie Simpson, Barbara McConnell, Jan White, Brent Browning

Writers wanted! If you have a Great Books story idea or would be willing to write about an event you attend, please email the publisher at rwwhite@aol.com and let us know.

Picnic book *The Tortilla Curtain* confronts stubborn issue

T. C. Boyle's novel, *The Tortilla Curtain*, can be expected to generate a lively discussion at the GBSF annual meeting and picnic to be held in Berkeley's Tilden Park on Sunday, June 10. (See picnic details on full-page announcement nearby.)

Candido and his wife, America, are undocumented immigrants living in the canyons and brush areas of Southern California. Candido is hit by a car driven by Delaney, a writer for an environmental magazine, whose wife is a real estate broker. Candido hurries away from the scene for fear of being deported, but his injury temporarily prevents him from working.

Delaney and his family live near Candido in a prosperous community whose privileged residents are concerned about coyotes sneaking into their gardens and illegal aliens breaking into their homes. Delaney builds a tall fence to keep out both that becomes a subject of controversy in the neighborhood.



The narrative is presented in the alternating voices of Candido and Delaney until the two come together in a stunning conclusion. Without suggesting a solution, T. C. Boyle shows what can happen when two individuals from vastly different circumstances unexpectedly come into contact.

This account is based on reviews by Nancy Katz and Doug Vaughn at amazon.com. Any errors belong to the editor.

The picnic gets under way at noon. A hot barbecue grill is provided. Bring a dish to share, something to drink, and utensils. A short business meeting will follow with an annual



report and election of officers. The present slate is running for a second year. Nominations are open. All are welcome and there is no charge.

Historic confrontation:

James Joyce, Jean-Paul Sartre, Eugen Herrigel, and Jim Stabenau meet in a bar

By Rick White

The year was 2012. It was April and the weather was fine. Confusion reigned at the bar where Jim Stabenau found himself on that second Tuesday. Three old men were trying desperately to communicate. The bartender, who had no respect for scribblers, was no help. Stabenau wasn't much help either, as he stood speechless upon recognizing two of the three as Jean-Paul Sartre and James Joyce. It helped that Sartre (photo bottom) repeatedly used the word "Marxisme" and Joyce (photo left) insisted on posing heated objections in a language known only to himself. The third man, who spoke in heavily accented English, was later introduced as Eugen Herrigel. Jim recognized what he heard as "Oig'n," the German for Eugene and thought he recalled the full name from a youthful infatuation with Zen Buddhism.

The problem, Jim finally ascertained, was that the bar had no exit causing him to ponder how he had gotten in. He finally figured the others must be time travelers locked in the present. Mustering his courage and speaking in English, Jim hoped his charismatic personality would win them over. Thankfully his easy charm did seduce them and the conversation shifted into English.

Joyce, in summing up the situation, argued that it didn't matter since they were all dead anyway—except Stabenau, who really didn't count. Sartre demanded that they make sure Stabenau existed and grabbed for Jim's neck in an attempt to take his pulse. Herrigel, anticipating violence, intervened by asking everyone to calm down and empty their minds. He assured the group that a way was sure to reveal itself within the next six years. Since there was nothing to worry about, Jim recommended they all have a drink.

The bartender was glad to comply. Though he was ignorant of the fact that Jim had recently written a deep philosophical work, he responded with alacrity to Jim's request, "Pour these old men a dram of your strongest."



Ed. Note: This report continues a practice begun three years ago of reporting on Jim Stabenau's encounters in places of libation with great literary and scientific figures of the past. Jim has since moved to La Jolla, but he keeps us apprised of his adventures.

New Volunteers to Lead GB Discussions

By Kay White

Thanks to hostess **Barbara McConnell**, nineteen of us gathered for the Leader Training Workshop at Rossmoor, Walnut Creek on March 10. Along with Barbara, **Brent Browning**, **Karen Schneider**, and **Kay White** consulted with 15 Great Bookies who wanted to learn more about the shared inquiry method, and how to prepare for book discussions.

Advance copies of the Leader Workbook for Shared Inquiry provided the foundation for the training. Each person had a chance to lead a mini-discussion, receive individual feedback, tips, and encouragement.

By the end of the day, we had at least six new volunteers to lead: **Nicolee Borsen** (Oakland), **Jean Crane** (Danville), **Chris Hammer** (San Francisco), **Charles Head** (San Francisco), **Barbara Lane** (Fremont), and **Ginni Saunders** (Novato). After all is said and done, experience is the best teacher, so we encourage them to accept an invitation or offer to lead.

We enjoyed support from **Jim Hall** (San Francisco), and **Faye Alexander** (Capitola), who are experienced leaders.



Through the day's activities we got to know **Daniel Rooney** (Fair Oaks), **Gail DeLong** (San Francisco), **Mary Retzer** (Gualala), **Joyce Rodgers** (Walnut Creek), **Terry and Yale Abrams** (Santa Rosa), and **Vincent (Jim) Gravano** (Walnut Creek). Faye Alexander and Daniel Rooney won the drawings for two prizes, a Great Books coffee mug and a packet of photo note cards by Karen.

Karen Schneider, co-trainer, closed the workshop with a poem she wrote for the day (see next page). She is shown above with her mother, Kay White.

SPECIAL POETRY SECTION:

April is Poetry Month. The several poems that follow have emerged recently from our activities.

Leader's Quandary

By Karen Schneider

Shakespeare, Wolfe, Tolstoy, Twain,
We lead "Great Books"
But should refrain
From sharing "Answers"
Declaring "Truth"
Instead of listening to the group.

Don't be alarmed if early on
You can't get traction when you've gone
And laid your greatest question out
... It takes a while
For thoughts to sprout.

Homer, Oates, Tocqueville, Plato
A seating chart will help
But say so
If one intends to dominate
Be sure to find and
Nominate
Some complementary points of view
When the scholar of Albert Camus
Monopolizes, and corners too
The market on what's "right" and you
As leader want to find one who
Will harmonize and balance, too,
For as we know, the ebb and flow,
Of good discussions
On Cicero
Will percolate from interplay
Of observations from the day
Not from one
And not just any
But coming from
The minds of many.

Look out for those
With outside references
Which contravene our
Great Books preferences
For sticking to the text
To mine
On-Topic insights
And divine
The author's meaning
In this case
Regardless of
Biographical base.

Discussion leader—
Time to pounce
When one is talking
Without an ounce
Of reading any
Of the text
Cut him off!

Lest we be vexed
By pointless musings
Of ego flexed.

Faulkner, Mann, Flaubert, Walt Whitman
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman
We know consensus
Is not our goal
But keeping quiet
Can get old.
I ask you, Leaders,
To forbear,
The leading questions
And I Swear
An open-ended query will
Begin the journey
And the thrill
Of exploration
Of the book
Without set limits
From a schnook
Who seeks persuasion
Rather than
Illumination
Born of the clan.

Sir Thomas More, and Joseph Conrad,
Cather, Kafka, Kant and not bad
Poets like great Robert Frost,
And Billy Collins, all's not lost
When people like dear Theda Firschein
Lead us through the fog of their time.

Directing traffic
When it's rowdy
Can help our points
To not get crowded.

Dostoevsky, Baudelaire,
Coleridge, Joyce, Bukowski,
There
Will never be a leader
Stronger
Than she who listens
Always longer
Than she speaks
And guides and glistens.

Leading style that works most fine
Is not the one that keeps in line
Discussants' comments, quips and thoughts,
Oh no! Heck no! It's not! It's not!

The Key to all, the Shining Hoop,
Is Wisdom comes from
Within the Group.

GB poetasters feast on poetry in Berkeley

By Nina Gibson

Poetry is more than a state of mind. It can also feed the belly and the soul as experienced by our Great Books Poetry Group.

Our group, hosted by Carol Hochberg, meets on the first Thursday of the month at her home in Berkeley. Prior to meeting, each of the 12 members, who hail from all over the Bay Area, has chosen a poem and emailed it to the other members. At the meeting, each person reads his/her chosen poem and leads a lively discussion using the Great Books method of shared inquiry. Usually six poems are discussed during the two-hour meeting with unread poems scheduled for the following month.

At our meeting last December, we read and discussed poems by Kay Ryan, Hilda Doolittle, Larry Levis, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and my selection, a poem by Mark Strand entitled "Eating Poetry." Not surprisingly, it inspired a series of culinary/poetic events.

Eating Poetry

Ink runs from the corners of my mouth.
There is no happiness like mine.
I have been eating poetry.

The librarian does not believe what she sees.
Her eyes are sad
and she walks with her hands in her dress.

The poems are gone.
The light is dim.
The dogs are on the basement stairs and coming up.

Their eyeballs roll,
their blond legs burn like brush.
The poor librarian begins to stamp her feet and weep.

She does not understand.
When I get on my knees and lick her hand,
she screams.

I am a new man.
I snarl at her and bark.
I romp with joy in the bookish dark.

Mark Strand
1934-

From 2010. *Selected Poems*, 1979-1980. Also available in *The Poet Laureates' Anthology*, Elizabeth Hun Schmidt, editor, W. W. Norton & Company.

After savoring the poem's sensuality and pleasures it evoked of reading poetry, I asked permission to read aloud another poem by Mark Strand entitled "Pot Roast."

Pot Roast

I gaze upon the roast,
That is sliced and laid out
On my plate,
And over it
I spoon the juices
Of carrot and onion.
And for once I do not regret
The passage of time.

I sit by a window
That looks
On the soot-stained brick of buildings
And do not care that I see
No living thing—not a
bird
Not a branch in bloom,
Not a soul moving
In the rooms
Behind the dark panes.
These days when there is
little
To love or to praise
One could do worse
Than yield
To the power of food.
So I bend

To inhale
The steam that rises
From my plate, and I think
Of the first time
I tasted a roast
Like this.
It was years ago
In Seabright,
Nova Scotia;
My mother leaned
Over my dish and filled it
And when I finished
Filled it again.
I remember the gravy,
Its odor of garlic and celery,
And sopping it up
With pieces of bread.



And now
I taste it again.
The meat of memory.
The meat of no change.
I raise my fork
And I eat.

Mark Strand, *The Poet Laureates' Anthology*, Elizabeth Hun Schmidt, editor, W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Between eating poems and pot roast, the temptation was too great. We all agreed to come to Carol's house an hour early the following month for a potluck dinner to celebrate the New Year. I volunteered to bring pot roast, Strand's "meat of memory." Other members volunteered their favorite dishes. We were delighted to discover that Brussels sprouts, homemade poetry, and hilarity were also on the January menu.

The evening of January 5 began with champagne followed by a magnificent meal. Jean Circiello, Breda Courtney, Gene Erickson, Claudia O'Callaghan, Ginni Saunders, Roger Smith, Paula Weinberger, and Kay Cleveland White outdid themselves with a variety of appetizers, salads, vegetables and wine. The pot roast was devoured, but the showstopper was a Brussels sprouts dish prepared by Irene Rosenthal. We learned that Irene had not been a fan of Brussels sprouts. In fact, when her friend Daniel told her he was bringing a brussel sprouts dish to her Thanksgiving dinner, she wrote this verse to relieve her anxiety:



I do not like the sprouts au brussel
I never got what all the fussel
is about those dumb green things and hustle
far away to eat a mussel morsel;
far more fitting for our wassail.

However, after eating Daniel's Brussels sprouts, she had a change of heart and amended her poem.

Your sprouts au brussel are redeemed
by basking in the tangerine.
The spicy mixes you've conceived
Give this small cabbage its reprieve

(this is not easy to believe)

Not banished now from my abode,
All praise to them! And I am told
by others with a palate bold
that they are worth their weight in gold

(and fair as meadows to behold).

For all festivities we attend
with no complaining at this end
your brussel sprouts are safe and sound
from all attacks; from all around
as long as tangerines abound.

Irene Rosenthal, 2011

Irene's poem was distributed and read, and it was enjoyed with hilarity, good will, and praise, as were the Brussels sprouts. (You'll find the recipe at the end of this article.)

The meal concluded with two dessert extravaganzas: Judy Bertelsen's Danish apple cake covered in glorious whipped cream and Carol Hochberg's luscious Provençal persimmon flan. We all felt exceedingly grateful for the food and the poetic experience and unanimously concurred with Mark Strand's sentiment.



Irene Rosenthal's recipe: Brussels sprouts with tangerines

Caramelize 2 large coarsely chopped onions in a frying pan using adequate olive oil. Add small amounts of water as needed. Near the end, add some soy sauce and a generous amount of finely chopped garlic. Add this onion mixture to a baking dish containing a full layer of small or halved Brussels sprouts. Mix in approximately an equal amount of peeled/sectioned/pitted sweet tangerines including any pith. Mix in some carrot spears. Add salt and about 1.5 cups of water. (Water can also be added after baking a short while.) Bake at 400 degrees for about an hour. Distribute chopped up cheddar cheese on top, pressing in some pieces, and return to oven very briefly to melt the cheese.

Poetry by Paula Weinberger

Why Poetry is a Spiritual Practice

Poetry is the gush of wind,
the deep silence,
the expanding heart.
It is the restless quest for words
to tell their story.
Inviting play, it leads us
in joy or sorrow
to a place of truth and healing.

Poetry is the extended hand
at the beginning of a journey
and the closed palms at its end

sealing in what otherwise would be transient.

Its essence is unity;
its gift is illumination.

The Way of Opposites

Every moment holds its opposite.
Dark fading to light, light to dark,
all depending on where you start.
Goodness always has an edge of greed or envy
while inside fear, courage is born.
Fame fades, truths become falsehoods.
The path is littered with stones and petals.
There is no one to follow, to praise or to blame.

Beauty

Beauty is a perilous word.
Its face has sent
thousands to their doom.
Praised so often for its outer form,
it fails to recognize its reflection in
the sleeping caterpillar.
Taught to be brash and brazen,
it would be surprised to learn its essence
lies in the fallow, the dormant, the furred leaf.

* * *

Letter to the Editor

Any time a room arrangement consists of two separate groups, holding an open discussion simultaneously, those of us who are hearing challenged will find ourselves greatly frustrated. We shall be unable to participate adequately for the following reasons:

We depend upon facial expressions and lip movement, which means we need to face the speaker in adequate lighting. Sitting in a circle makes it difficult to know who is speaking unless a hand is raised before speaking. And, above all, the rest of the room must be quiet. Voices of others interfere with our limited ability to understand what the speaker is saying.



We require only one voice at a time in a setting with good acoustics. We need the speaker positioned so that we face him.

Robert S. Elkins,
Novato



Potpourri

By Rick White



“The best interviewers do their homework, put their own opinions aside, keep questions brief, and listen closely for possible follow-ups.” This is from a Wall Street Journal opinion editorial by Peter Funt in which he laments the state of television interviewing. We believe it aptly describes the style of an excellent Great Books discussion leader. Mr. Funt can be reached at www.candidcamera.com. Early television fans may remember Peter’s father Allen Funt, the creator of the hilarious Candid Camera TV show, which aired from the 1960s to the 1980s.

In earlier issues, this space has identified a “word of the year.” Sadly, this convention will have to be abandoned because of the virtual cascade of coined words coming into wider usage. The surging popularity of the “smartphone” and the zany political season are two good reasons.

Among this new crop of words, “narrative” is my favorite. Abandoning its literary roots, any current events topic can now be elevated to that designation.

Another disturbing phenomenon is the verbification of nouns and adjectives. To “finalize” a plan or a document is a long-standing example. To be “tasked with,” that is, assigned a task, bothered me when it came into common bureaucratic parlance several decades ago and is still in annoying use.

In fact, Shakespeare might have used that and other expressions commonly regarded as incorrect or as slang today. While not to malign Shakespeare—while they may have been acceptable in his day today we are more likely to think of words like “dissed,” which *Wiktionary* cites as originating in Jamaican vernacular English, as coming from American inner city streets rather than the Elizabethan stage.

Of course, to verify any of these notions, I would need to do a word search, another example of a technical phrase drifting into common parlance. I’m curious how long it will take for it to become the single word, “wordsearch.”

Finally, my last annoyance is the omnipresent neologisms “to friend,” to text” or “texting,” which are probably in dictionaries already. I doubt that Shakespeare used those.

WINE COUNTRY MINI-RETREAT:

Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*, book and movie, will be featured on October 6, 2012, at Calistoga Inn and Spa, Calistoga. See our website, www.greatbooks-sf.com for information.

Discussion Groups Blossom

By Jim Hall

We are on a mission to increase the number of local Great Books discussion groups in Northern California and meeting with some success. Jan Vargo, our excellent data keeper and census taker, found forty-three GB discussion groups this year, about a ten percent increase over last year's thirty-nine. Here is some info on some of our newer groups:

The **Great Books Discussion Group at Richmond Branch Library** in San Francisco has been meeting for over two years and we continue to have excellent attendance with twelve to twenty participants at each meeting. We just finished two discussions of the U. S. Constitution which were very enlightening with all that is going on at the Supreme Court and with a presidential election this year. Quite a few long time Great Bookies in San Francisco participate in this group.

The **Great Books Discussion Group at Main Library** in San Francisco started off slowly over a year ago with only three people showing up to discuss readings from the Introduction to Great Books series. We are now in the second book of that series and regularly have ten to twelve participants. Our discussion groups are now sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library so they publicize our meeting and we have one or two new participants each month. They don't all continue, but we have developed a solid core of regulars.

The Great Books Discussion Group at Noe Valley Branch Library in San Francisco has been meeting for one year and we have a regular group of six to eight participants who will begin next month the second book of the Introduction to Great Books series. This group also has new people attending each month from the publicity provided by the library and from our exposure on Meetup.com. We use a well lit, cozy room downstairs in the library. Parking is sometimes a problem, but most of our members live in the neighborhood.

The Great Books Discussion Group of El Cerrito meets at the home, with a marvelous view of the bay looking west, of one of our members. We are in the third book of the Introduction to Great Books series and have four to eight participants on a regular basis. We met at a local library for awhile, but the room was a bit too small. We get new people attending from exposure on Meetup.com and, more often, by word of mouth.

For many years there was a Great Books Discussion Group of Santa Rosa with six to ten people meeting at the Borders bookstore twice a month. That group is no more. When Borders closed we had to scramble for another place to meet and the group split into two groups, in Rohnert Park and Santa Rosa, and attracted many new participants as a result.

The Great Books Discussion Group of Rohnert Park meets at the Oak View Apartments community room

twice each month and we are about half way through the Great Books Foundation publication, *Citizens of the World: Readings in Human Rights*. Many residents of the apartment complex have joined us and we have ten to twelve participants at each discussion.

The Great Books Discussion Group of Santa Rosa meets at Friends House, a Quaker retirement facility, with very good meeting rooms. Due to the large number of new Great Books participants we started with the Introduction to Great Books series four months ago and we have twelve to sixteen participants meeting twice monthly. This group and GB Rohnert Park participated in the Big Read in Sonoma County this year reading and discussing "Bless Me, Ultima," by Rudolfo Anaya.

The Great Books Poetry Discussion Group of Berkeley was started just two years ago. (See article above.) Starting new discussion groups is the best way to increase discussions of Great Books and the Great Ideas contained therein. The Great Books Council of San Francisco hosts events throughout the year to discuss Great Books, but those meetings are rare compared to regular, local discussions where we can get together with people we know to enlarge our understanding of the stimulating, humanizing ideas in what we read. We at the Council have a simple program to offer for starting a Great Books discussion group and will assist anyone who wishes to do so.

Last Minute Chance to sign up for *John Adams* in the Gold Country

You can still sign up for the discussion of David McCullough's biography of John Adams, Saturday, May 19, in Auburn. It is beautiful this time of year, and we meet at the Mercy Center, 535 Sacramento Street, Auburn for the day. Lunch is included, and registration is \$35, but you need to sign-up before May 12.

Contact Donna Reynolds, Registrar, before May 12, at (916) 797-8561. Mail your check, name, and contact information to Donna at 1133 Ravine View Drive, Roseville, CA 95661.

Purchase the McCullough book, *John Adams*, published by Simon & Schuster, 2001. We are discussing Parts I and II only, through page 385, including the revolution, independence, and Adams's missions to France and to the Court of St. James. We will enjoy a movie covering John and Abigail Adams's roles after lunch. Check our website for more information, www.greatbooks-sf.com.

* * *

Shirley Mortensen died on April 27 of Alzheimer's. She was 85. She and Earl, who took care of her for the last several years, met and married in 1955 in Chicago when she was on tour as a dancer in the Broadway cast of "The King and I." They were active for many years in our programs and on the Executive Committee.

Long Novel Weekend

August 18 - 19, 2012

Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park, CA

Great Books Council of San
Francisco

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Great Books Council of San Francisco



Charles Dickens

Join us as we celebrate the 200th birthday of
Charles Dickens
and discuss his great novel
David Copperfield

The Location

Enjoy a Great Books weekend at the beautiful Vallombrosa Center conveniently located in a quiet corner of Menlo Park easily accessible by car or by public transportation. Each room at Vallombrosa has a private bath.

The Weekend

Plan to arrive about 9:00 AM Saturday. There will be three discussions of *David Copperfield*, four fine meals, entertainment and a party on Saturday evening and free time for exploring or relaxing. Our program will conclude after lunch on Sunday.

The Cost

\$160 per person.

Special Guest Speaker!

Jane Smiley, the Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and biographer of Charles Dickens, will join us at Vallombrosa. She will speak to us about David Copperfield's creator.

For more information,
contact Louise DiMattio,
Coordinator,
ladimat@aol.com or
415-587-0398.

Deadline for
Registration:
August 1, 2012

We will use the Penguin Classics edition of *David Copperfield* with an introduction and notes by Jeremy Tambling.
ISBN 0-14-043944-7

Please purchase only this edition from your bookseller.



Mail this form and check for \$160 payable to The Great Books Council of San Francisco to Registrar, 5938 Crossmont Circle, San Jose, CA 95120. LNWjsa

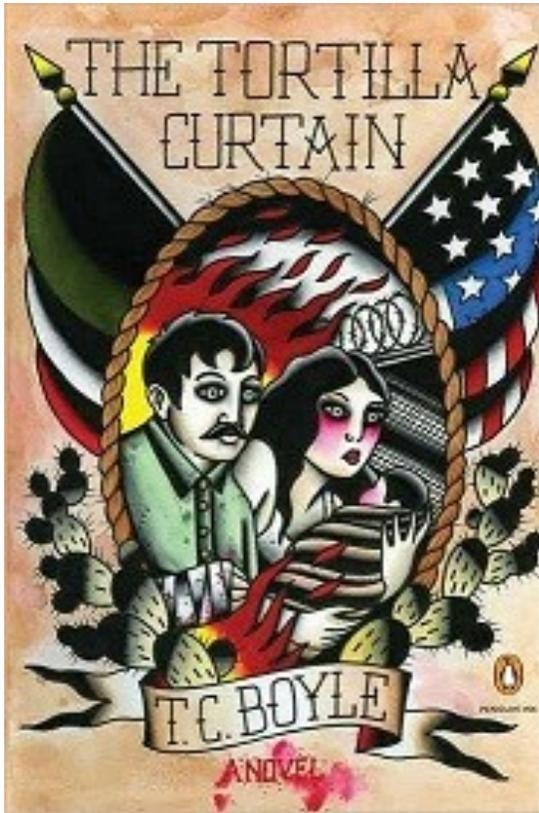
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ANNUAL PICNIC



SF Great Books Council
Picnic / Meeting / Book Discussion

Sunday, June 10, 2012
12:00 noon to 3:00 pm

TILDEN REGIONAL PARK
Padre Picnic Area

We will discuss:

THE TORTILLA CURTAIN

by T. C. Boyle

Published by Penguin (2011), ISBN-13 9780143119074

POTLUCK LUNCH

Bring a "dish" for four to share plus your own beverage, paper plate and utensils. Barbecue grills will be available.

You may also wish to bring a folding chair and a sun hat.

Need more info?
Contact Kay White
(415) 382-1927
kaycleveland@aol.com
or Laura Bushman
laurabushman@yahoo.com

Driving Directions from Central East Bay: Hwy 24 East through right bore of Caldecott Tunnel. Take Fish Ranch Road, first exit after tunnel. 0.7 miles to Grizzly Peak/Claremont. **RIGHT** on Grizzly Peak, 1.4 miles to Tilden Park south entrance. **RIGHT** on South Park Drive. Padre is 1/2 mile down on left. (Park map: http://www.ebparks.org/files/Tilden_map_south.pdf)

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Address correction: contact Jan Vargo, vargopack@cs.com

<p>GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO</p> <p>2012 CALENDAR</p> <p>MAY - DECEMBER</p>	<p>MAY</p> <p>May 5 – ExCom/RM Mailing. May 19 – Gold Country Mini-Retreat: <i>John Adams</i>, by David McCullough, followed by film. Contact Donna Reynolds pianogal@comcast.net.</p>	<p>JUNE - JULY</p> <p>Jun 10 – Picnic/Annual Meeting Tilden Park, Berkeley. <i>The Tortilla Curtain</i>, by T.C. Boyle. Contact Laura Bushman, laurabushman@yahoo.com.</p>
	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Aug 4 – Prediscussion for Long Novel. Aug 18-19 – Long Novel Weekend, Menlo Park. <i>David Copperfield</i>, by Charles Dickens. Contact Louise DiMattio, ladimat@aol.com.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Sep 3 – Deadline for Sep 29 <i>RM</i>. Sep 29 – ExCom/ <i>RM</i> Mailing Party.</p>

SAN FRANCISCO GREAT BOOKS COUNCIL, Serving Northern California: Marge Johnson, President; Rob Calvert, Vice President; Rick White, Secretary; Brian Mahoney, Treasurer; Jim Hall, Past President. *Reading Matters*: Editor and Publisher, Rick White; Line and Copy Editor, Paula Weinberger; Proofreader and Fact Checker, Carol Hochberg; Database, Jan Vargo. SF Website: www.greatbooks-sf.com Great Books Foundation: www.greatbooks.org