

67th Annual Great Books at Colby College
Waterville, Maine
July 16 – July 22, 2023

THEME: *The Journey*

Joseph Campbell, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*
Gilgamesh
Homer, *The Odyssey*
Virginia Woolf, *The Voyage Out*
William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Ulysses & Selected Poems*

We believe that just as *the examined life is worth living*, so too, we all participate in a journey. Join us this July for our annual lively week of discussions on the picturesque campus of Colby College. Our meeting will comply with all required safety protocols so you can comfortably join us *in-person*. Currently, the College requests that all attendees be fully vaccinated. You may find insights rarely achieved while reading alone. You can connect with fellow book lovers and make lifelong friends, as you enjoy the beauty and splendor of summertime Maine. Our theme is *The Journey*. Come explore the complexities that confront people as they proceed through the vicissitudes of life. Our week at Colby is now enhanced with the option of staying in air-conditioned dorms at the Alford Main Street Commons, in downtown Waterville

This unforgettable vacation brings together readers who love great literary works, and provides an opportunity to associate with those sharing that enthusiasm. On campus, we eat meals together, and participate in formal discussion groups that meet for two hours each morning, Monday through Saturday. Books are mailed once registration deposits are received, and people are expected to have read them before arriving. Readers develop insights through the Great Books Foundation's *Shared Inquiry Method*. Not quoting outside sources facilitates an egalitarian discussion wherein the emphasis is truly on readers and the text. Discussion leaders are assigned, moving from group to group during the week. A *leaderless* group is available upon request for experienced participants if preferred.

People attending Colby Great Books vary in age, background, education and interests, but all share a love of reading. Some have come to Colby for decades, but many newcomers arrive each year. Everyone is welcome and embraced as full and equal participants. The goal is shared inquiry, shared ideas, shared laughter, and shared experience. Results are often friendship, fun and sometimes even glimpses of truth.

After discussions, participants are invited to use the many recreational, athletic and cultural opportunities available on campus. In addition to an opening night orientation and a Thursday evening Talent Show (strictly voluntary and always a lot of fun), there are a wide variety of activities. Colby's beautiful campus features an impressive, classic library with a fascinating Rare Books Collection, a highly rated Art Museum, superb athletic facilities with an Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis courts, an arboretum with hiking trails, and access to waterfront property at a nearby lake. In addition, our week of Great Books at Colby is scheduled in conjunction with the Atlantic Music Festival (www.atlanticmusicfestival.org), also held on campus, which provides a series of excellent free classical concerts and recitals.

Registration covers books and discussions, as well as lectures, films, group social activities, use of athletic facilities and tennis courts, and a real Maine Lobster Bake. On campus registration includes a single or double dormitory

room (six nights: Sunday through Friday night) and all meals. For a nominal additional fee, you may stay over Saturday night either before (July 15th) and/or after the week (July 22nd). Dining is at Dana Dining Hall, newly renovated with air conditioning, which offers a variety of distinctive locally grown and organic foods in an all-you-can-eat buffet and provides many options for vegetarians. Commuters participate in all activities, but live on their own, off-campus, and receive lunch each day and the Lobster Bake at the Dana Dining Hall. Breakfast and dinner for commuters are optional for additional fees.

Colby food is delicious and plentiful. Living arrangements are in comfortable dorm rooms. Fans and reading lights are available. On campus there are no air-conditioned dorms, but Colby has made their air-conditioned dorms, Alford Main Street Commons, in downtown Waterville available this year. We have private bedrooms with shared bath facilities. All buildings are smoke-free. The school provides towels and bed linen, although some prefer to bring their own towels. You might want to bring a mirror. Arrangements can usually be made for people with special needs. If you have special medical or other needs, please include that on your application. That information is forwarded to Sylvia Eusebi (Sylvia@softhands.net) who assigns rooms and oversees accommodations.

Participants make their own travel arrangements. Many arrive by car, but there is air service to Portland, Bangor, and Augusta ME; Manchester, NH; and Boston, MA. Rental cars, buses and limousine service are available from these key locations. There is also a Greyhound bus terminal in Waterville right outside the campus. For those without cars, rides with other participants can sometimes be arranged. Coordination of carpooling can be made by emailing participants. There is also a Facebook page for sharing ride info:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wachs-Great-Books-Summer-Institute-at-Colby-College/156086481080727?ref=ts>

See all details and history at GreatBooks-atColby.org and check out the photos of our participants in action.

Registration and Refunds: A deposit for each person is required with registration. Cancellations before May 15, 2023 incur the cost for books and mailing (\$100). Cancellations from May 16 to July 9, 2023 incurs a loss of half of your deposit. After that, you are liable for the required deposit. The balance of registration is due at Colby on **Sunday, July 16, 2023, and must be either Cash or Check.** A previous attendee registering anyone new to Colby, is eligible for a \$25 discount, unless already receiving discount by scholarship. You must register by mail. Some people previously rolled over their deposit when Great Books at Colby was virtual and naturally that still applies for 2023.

Registration Details: Checks are payable to: **Great Books at Colby.** Mail registration and deposit to: **Great Books at Colby, PO Box 424, Newtown Square, PA 19073.**

Fees	On Campus		Air-Conditioned Dorms Waterville		Commuters*	
	Fee	Deposit	Fee	Deposit	Fee	Deposit
Adult Age 16+	\$720	\$360	\$800	\$400	\$450	\$250
Non Participant	\$600	\$300	\$680	\$340		

* Includes Lunch and Lobster Bake: Breakfast per meal, \$10; Dinner per meal, \$15

Optional Saturday Nights to Attend the Atlantic Music Festival's Concert: Extra nights, **On Campus:** Saturday, July 15th (\$100, lodging, dinner, breakfast, and Sunday lunch) and/or July 22rd (\$95, lodging, dinner and breakfast). Extra nights, **Waterville Dorms:** Saturday, July 15th (\$135, lodging, dinner, breakfast, and Sunday lunch) and/or July 22rd (\$130, lodging, dinner and breakfast). Concerts are free. Please prepay for additional nights with your registration deposit.

For more information or additional flyers visit our website at www.GreatBooks-atColby.org.

You can also direct questions to John Dalton at 610-608-7711, or email him at jd5258875@aol.com

At this time there is no Children's Program for those under sixteen. For now, email John Dalton (jd5258875@aol.com) with any questions.

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

----- (Detach Here) -----

Mail to: Great Books at Colby, PO Box 424, Newtown Square, PA 19073

<p>APPLICATION (Make checks payable to Great Books at Colby)</p> <p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip code _____</p> <p>Phone () _____</p> <p>Cell Phone () _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Rooming with _____</p> <p>Rooming near (if possible) _____</p> <p>We are commuting (names) _____</p> <p>*Nota Bene: We will have an adult group dedicated to maximizing conditions for hearing others while they speak.</p>	<p>Please circle your choices.</p> <p>Lobster Bake: [Circle choice]</p> <p><i>Lobster Steak Halibut Vegetarian</i></p> <p>Previously attended Colby Great Books:</p> <p>Yes or No</p> <p>Prefer Leaderless Group: Yes or No</p> <p>Prefer Better Hearing Group*: Yes or No</p> <p>Need Handicapped Access: Yes or No</p> <p>Extra night choice, On Campus:</p> <p>July 15 for \$100; July 22 for \$95.</p> <p>Extra night choice, Waterville Dorms:</p> <p>July 15 for \$135; July 22 for \$130.</p>
<p>Emergency Contact (NOT at Colby) Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____</p>	

Covid Protocols: Currently, Colby request that **everyone be fully vaccinated.**

Readings (delivered by mail)

Joseph Campbell's *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* explains how and why the universal hero journeying forth undergoes transformation and in potentially achieving transcendence represents a fundamental thread across all human cultures. This master of mythology weaves together on his timeless loom strands colored by cultural anthropology, art, comparative literature, history, philosophy, psychology, and religion, thereby creating an interpretive tapestry that illustrates the essential role of archetypal myths and symbols in the core of human minds.

Gilgamesh is a story recognized as the world's oldest to date; an epic poem 2,000 years old that suggests the myth of the hero stems from a basic need to spiritualize and idealize life. The text was first discovered in the nineteenth century on unearthed cuneiform tablets. It now appears that over two millennia, across various regions and in different languages, the inspiring humanitarian maturing of mighty King Gilgamesh has been embraced in many iterations. In his 2006 English version, Stephen Mitchell presents *Gilgamesh* in an easily accessible form that lends itself to personal insight for the reader.

Our translation of *The Odyssey* by Robert Fagles renders Homer's acclaimed epic in a straightforward, plain-talking manner. Following the prolonged Trojan War, the gods single out Odysseus for revenge and throw one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after another in his attempt to reach home where his faithful wife and loyal son patiently await him. By his imaginative wit, cunning, and wily arsenal of skills, Odysseus overcomes each of the gods' attempts to delay and waylay him, thus revealing his powerful, quick intelligence, strength of character and unrelenting, iron resolve. Odysseus has come to represent the quintessential hero. It is fair to claim that many cultural heroes stand in his archetypal shadow.

Virginia Woolf's *The Voyage Out* presents the ambivalent odyssey of a sheltered female toward her own conception of womanhood in a patriarchal hierarchy. It is explored through stream-of-consciousness writing and gender infused symbolism. This poignant, coming-of-age search for love and sexual fulfillment teeters between *woman*, as men would have her, and *woman*, as women would have her if free of patriarchal intimidation and subjection. The bildungsroman of Woolf's modern heroine presents the epic struggle of females in Western societies for their own self-definition independent of the values of men.

In *As I Lay Dying* William Faulkner employs a multi-perspective style whereby characters are actively engaged in their own tangled, conflicted inner philosophical searching. The novel provides insights about dying and loss solely by means of stream-of-consciousness writing which fortifies its place as one of the more important and influential novels of the twentieth century. By revealing the inner richness of humbled humans Faulkner lays out the basic existential journey that we all, sooner or later, must undertake.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Ulysses & Selected Poems*: The poems in our small anthology complement our theme of *The Journey*: William Cullen Bryant; C.P. Cavafy; Emily Dickinson; Kahlil Gibran; John Keats; Mary Oliver; Robert Service; Alfred, Lord Tennyson; and William Butler Yeats.