

68th Annual Great Books at Colby College
Waterville, Maine
July 21 – July 27, 2024

THEME: *Love & Passion*

William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*
Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
Charles Baxter, *The Feast of Love*
Françoise Sagan, *Bonjour Tristesse*

Join us this July for our annual lively week of discussions on the picturesque campus of Colby College. You may find yourself gaining insights rarely achieved while reading alone. Connect with fellow book lovers and make lifelong friends, as you enjoy the beauty and splendor of summertime Maine.

This unforgettable vacation brings together readers who love great literary works and provides an opportunity to associate with those sharing that enthusiasm. We eat all our meals together on campus and participate in formal discussion groups that meet for two hours each morning, Monday through Saturday, in campus classrooms.

Come explore the complexities attendant to *Love & Passion* that confront people as they proceed through the vicissitudes of life.

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.

Our week at Colby is now enhanced with the option of staying in air-conditioned dorms at Alford Main Street Commons, in downtown Waterville. Last year was our first time staying in the new high-rise dorm and people were very appreciative of this new modern accommodation which contains elevators, suites with separate bedrooms, full kitchens, a lounge and two restrooms with showers, as well as free laundry rooms in the hallways. The college also provides a free parking lot adjacent to the new dorm and frequent, round-the-clock shuttle service from the dorm to a central location on campus. Downtown Waterville itself has become nicely gentrified, and there is a mall behind the downtown dorm, a pharmacy a block away, and fine restaurants across the street from the dorm.

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 for free. In addition to an informative opening night orientation and the ever popular 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, excellent athletic facilities with an Olympic- sized swimming pool, tennis courts, and an arboretum with hiking trails. 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 20th) and/or at the end of the week (July 27th). Those opting to reside in the air-conditioned dorms at Alford Main Street Commons stay in the four or six bedroom suites mentioned above.

Colby food is delicious and plentiful. 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 at the Dana Dining Hall and attend the Lobster Bake. Breakfast and dinner for commuters are optional for additional fees.

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. There are private bedrooms in suites for four or six 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 John Dalton (jd5258875@aol.com) 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.
- **Please prepay for additional nights with your registration deposit.**
- Cancellations before June 8, 2024 cost (\$90).
- Cancellations from June 9 to July 21, 2024 incur a loss of half of your deposit.
- After July 21, 2024, you are liable for the required deposit.
- The balance of registration is due at Colby on **Sunday, July 21, 2024, and must be either Cash or Check.**

A previous attendee registering any family or individuals 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 2024.

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

Accommodations						
Fees	On Campus		Air-Conditioned Dorms Waterville		Commuters*	
	Fee	Deposit	Fee	Deposit	Fee	Deposit
Adult Age 16+	\$750	\$350	\$830	\$400	\$480	\$250
Non Participant	\$630	\$330	\$680	\$380		

* Includes Commuters Lunch and Lobster Bake: Breakfast & Dinner can be purchased.

Optional Saturday Nights to Attend the Atlantic Music Festival's Concert:

Extra nights, **On Campus:**

Saturday, July 20th (\$125, lodging, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch) and/or

Saturday July 27th (\$120, lodging, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast).

Extra nights, **Waterville Dorms:**

Saturday, July 20th (\$140, lodging, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast and lunch) and/or

Saturday July 27th (\$135, lodging, Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast).

Concerts are free. Please prepay for additional nights with your registration deposit.

----- DETACH HERE - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY -----

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

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 20 for \$125; July 27 for \$120.</p> <p>Extra night choice, Waterville Dorms:</p> <p>July 20 for \$140; July 27 for \$135.</p>
<p>Emergency Contact (NOT at Colby) Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____</p>	

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.

Readings (delivered by mail)

Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* is both a light and serious comedy about two romantic couples. The romance between one couple is nearly ruined by false accusations of a villain while the second courtship proceeds with much wit and banter. By means of a misunderstanding over a crucial word, one couple confesses their love for each other, while the other is tricked into believing a damning denouncement. The title's play on words references the secrets and trickery that form the backbone of the play's comedy, intrigue, and action. Though a comedy, this popular play is a cautionary tale as well.

Pride and Prejudice is an 1813 novel of manners by Jane Austen in which the repercussions of hasty judgments and the difference between superficial and actual goodness are examined. Austen's sparkling dialogue, romantic denouement and lively heroine make this novel a perennially popular one. The love story highlights the search for happiness and self-knowledge in a world of strict social rules where a woman must marry well to survive.

Wuthering Heights (1847) by Emily Brontë concerns two families of the landed gentry and their turbulent relationships with a foster son. The novel was influenced by Romanticism and Gothic fiction. Brontë's depiction of impossible desires, betrayal, vengeance, violence, and transgression is a masterpiece of intense, unsettling power.

The Age of Innocence (1920) by Edith Wharton is set in upper-class *Gilded Age* New York City. A classic love triangle develops, and the three parties find themselves drawn into a poignant and bitter conflict between love and duty. Wharton beautifully captures the complexities of passion, independence, and fulfillment, and how painfully hard it can be for individuals to truly see one another and their place in the world.

The Feast of Love, a modern novel published in 2000 by Charles Baxter, is a sumptuous work of fiction about that which most distracts and delights us. Through vignettes in the spirit of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, men and women speak of and desire their ideal mates; parents seek out their lost children; adult children try to come to terms with their own parents and, in some cases, find new ones. Crafted with subtlety, grace, and power, *The Feast of Love* is a masterful novel.

Bonjour Tristesse by Françoise Sagan is a 1954 novella centered on an endearing but self-absorbed seventeen-year-old daughter who exhibits untroubled amorality. She cherishes the free-spirited moments she and her wealthy philandering single father share, while plotting her own sexual adventures. But the arrival of her late mother's best friend intrudes upon her carefree pleasures which sets in motion her plan to stave off adult responsibility. This internationally beloved story is beautifully composed and a wonderfully ambiguous celebration of sexual liberation.