

Philadelphia's 54th Annual Great Books Fall Institute

Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086

November 8 - 10, 2024 Theme:
Individuation



- *Selected Poems*
- *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens
- *The Road from Coorain*, Jill Ker Conway
- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan

This year, Rutgers eliminated outside groups reserving their facilities on weekends. Instead, we discovered Pendle Hill { <https://pendlehill.org/> }, a twenty-four acre Quaker retreat, west of Philadelphia, midway between Swathmore and Media. Cost has been significantly reduced: Single Occupancy \$420; Double Occupancy \$380; Commuters \$250. All rooms and buildings are non-smoking. Alcohol is not served, but BYOB is allowed in individual guest rooms and private rented spaces.

We will provide libations for Saturday night's social activity. Parking and WiFi are complimentary. There are no televisions. Check-In is Friday after 3:00 pm; rooms available after 4:00 pm. Currently, no Covid restrictions apply. Yet, we will adhere to up-to-date protocol recommendations from the CDC and Pennsylvania.

Accommodations: There are six rooming houses. A few rooms have ensuite bathrooms while others share family style. For more information please consult: { <https://pendlehill.org/host/preparing-for-your-stay/> } and { <https://pendlehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Campus-Accessibility-2023.pdf> }. Food, for the most part, is made from scratch, with organic fruits and vegetables used extensively. All meals include gluten free and vegetarian and vegan options. The kitchen can offer plain chicken or tofu, boiled eggs, tuna, or hummus: { }.

Friday night, we will explore poems addressing coming of age and individuation. Saturday morning brings *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. This classic novel traces the growth of Philip Pirrip (Pip), from a boy of shallow dreams to a man with depth of character. As Pip unravels the truth behind *great expectations* in his quest to become a gentleman, the mysteries of the past and the convolutions of fate through a series of thrilling adventures serve to steer him towards maturity and his most important discovery of all - the truth about himself.

Saturday afternoon, we will discuss Jill Ker Conway's memoir, *The Road from Coorain*. We learn the story of her astonishing journey into adulthood—a journey that spans immense distances and encompasses worlds, ideas, and ways of life that seem a century apart. She ultimately became a historian and first woman president of Smith College. It is a story of childhood as both Eden and anguish, and of growing up as a journey toward individuation.

Sunday morning, we will address Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*. With wit and sensitivity, this novel examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, relations become more tangled, and more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. These contemporary lives of complexity and mystery also confront the struggle for individuation.

Travel: The facility is within a 10-20 minute walk of the SEPTA Regional Rail in Wallingford which travels along the Media Wawa Line into Philadelphia, as well as the SEPTA trolley which goes to the Springfield Mall, 69th Street, and Philly along the 101 Route. For other travel directions:

{ <https://pendlehill.org/stay/dining-room-meals/> } Local attractions include the walking path at Pendle Hill, the stunning Swarthmore College campus, and the quaint towns of Swarthmore and Media with their cafes, restaurants and shops.

Registration

We have had a significant decrease in our registration costs. Fees are very reasonable for a two-night stay with good accommodations, six meals, pleasant conference rooms, and delivery of books.

Cost: \$380 per person for double-occupancy; \$420 per person for single-occupancy; and \$250 for commuters. On request, we can try to arrange roommates.

Cancellation: Anyone who cancels before October 4, 2024 will only lose (\$50), which would cover the cost of books and mailing.

Registration Limit: Only the first forty-five applicants are guaranteed. Therefore, please register as soon as possible.

Information: John Dalton (610) 608-7711, jd5258875@aol.com &
John Taylor (215) 283-7351, john.taylor219@verizon.net

Registration Form: This year, given the decrease in registration cost and complications with holding registration onsite, we have opted for the full payment as deposit. Make checks payable to:

Fall Institute. \$380.00 per person double occupancy; \$420 per single occupancy; \$250 per commuter.

Complete and mail with payment to: **John Dalton, PO Box 424, Newtown Square, PA 19073**

Print Name (s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ **Cell:** (____) _____

Email: _____

Roommate Preference _____ **Special**

Requests (if possible):

_____ **Emergency**

Contact:
