

## Long Novel Weekend 2019

Dates: July 27-28, 2019

Venue: Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park, California

We will discuss

# The Brothers Karamazov By Fyodor Dostoevsky

**About the book:** Freud called *The Brothers Karamazov* “the most magnificent novel ever written.”

*The Brothers Karamazov* is regarded among the greatest literary works of all time. Vonnegut, in *Slaughterhouse Five*, wrote that “...there is one other book, that can teach you everything you need to know about life. It’s *The Brothers Karamazov*, by Fyodor Dostoevsky.” Einstein considered *The Brothers Karamazov* to be “the supreme summit of all literature” and said that he had learned more from Dostoevsky than any other thinker. The book was also hugely inspirational to a number of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century, including Freud, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, and Camus, the last of whom declared that Dostoevsky, not Marx, was the great prophet for the 20th century.

### Guest Speaker: Dr. Nancy Ruttenburg

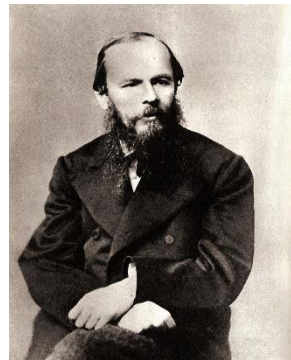
Dr. Ruttenburg is the William Robertson Coe Professor of American Literature at Stanford and holds courtesy appointments in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Stanford and taught at Harvard, Berkeley, and NYU. Her research interests lie at the intersection of political, religious, and literary expression in colonial through antebellum America and nineteenth-century Russia. Prof. Ruttenburg is the author of *Dostoevsky’s Democracy* (Princeton UP, 2008) and is currently working on a comparative piece entitled



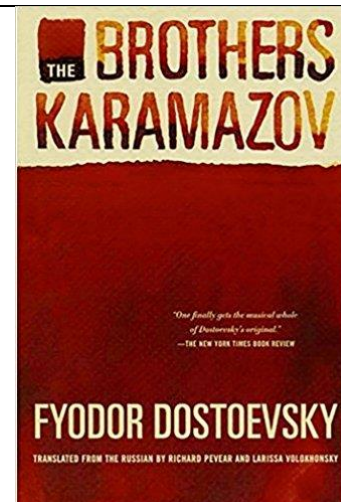
*Dostoevsky And.*

### About the Author: Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821-1881)

was a Russian novelist, short story writer, essayist, journalist and philosopher.



Dostoevsky’s literary works explore human psychology in the troubled political, social, and spiritual atmospheres of 19th-century Russia, and engage with a variety of philosophical and religious themes. Dostoevsky was influenced by a wide variety of philosophers and authors including Pushkin, Gogol, Augustine, Shakespeare, Dickens, Balzac, Hugo, Poe, Plato, Kant, Hegel, Schiller, Sand, and Hoffmann. He influenced many other writers including Russians like Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Anton Chekhov as well as philosophers Friedrich Nietzsche and Jean-Paul Sartre.



We will use the Farrar, Straus and Giroux paperback with award-winning translation by Pevear and Volokhonsky (1st edition) published June 14, 2002.

This translation was the Winner of Pen/Book- of-the-Month Club Translation Prize.

ISBN-13: 978-0-374-52837-9  
ISBN-10: 0-374-52837-3 (pb: alk. paper)

Please purchase only this edition from your bookseller. (*The book is available in new and used versions on Amazon.com.*)

Dostoevsky wrote,  
**“Man is a mystery: if you spend your entire life trying to puzzle it out, then do not say that you have wasted your time. I occupy myself with this mystery, because I want to be a man.”**

(Letter to his brother, 1839)

**For further information:** Contact Event Coordinator Caroline Van Howe at [carolinevanhowe@comcast.net](mailto:carolinevanhowe@comcast.net) or 415.453.1014. Registration form on page 2 of this flyer and available online at: [www.greatbooks-sf.com](http://www.greatbooks-sf.com)

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*Dates: July 27-28, 2019*

**Venue: Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**The Location:** The Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park is located on a ten-acre site that was originally built during the Civil War period. The center includes meeting rooms, a dining room, accommodation and ample free parking. Participants will be housed in single or double rooms with en-suite bathroom. Delicious meals with local produce, including vegetarian and gluten-free options, are included in the registration fee.

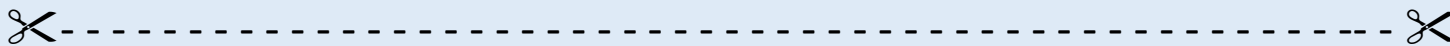
*Please note: The Vallombrosa Center is not ADA-compliant. For details on accessibility, please contact Jaynie Fedele at: [jaynie@vallombrosa.org](mailto:jaynie@vallombrosa.org).*

**The Weekend:** Please arrive about 9:15 a.m. on Saturday. There will be three discussion periods, four fine meals, a wine and cheese reception and the showing of the 1958 movie version directed by Academy Award-winning Richard Brooks, and starring Yul Brynner, Lee J. Cobb, Claire Bloom, Maria Schell, Albert Salmi and William Shatner. The program will conclude after lunch on Sunday.



The Vallombrosa Center  
[www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org)

**For further information:** Contact Event Coordinator Caroline Van Howe at [carolinevanhowe@comcast.net](mailto:carolinevanhowe@comcast.net) or 415.453.1014.



## REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Food Needs: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roommate Preference: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Different \_\_\_\_ Same \_\_\_\_ Discussion Group  
 New to the Long Novel Weekend? Yes / No

## Weekend Cost Per Person

**Please register early to save disappointment. Spaces are limited.**

Double Occupancy Rooms	<b>\$230</b>
Single Occupancy Rooms	<b>\$250</b>
Commuter	<b>\$200</b>

*Refunds: Refunds will be handled after the event and might have to be prorated due to our obligations with Vallombrosa Center. We hope that our participants will consider the unpaid portion as a donation to the Great Books Council of San Francisco.*

## Two ways to register:

**Mail this form and check to:**

Great Books Council of San Francisco  
 Brian Mahoney, Registrar  
 800 Cherry Way #10, Hayward, CA 94541

**Register online:**

[www.greatbooks-sf.com/events/longNovel.htm](http://www.greatbooks-sf.com/events/longNovel.htm)