

THE 3RD BIENNIAL JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY CONFERENCE, Oct. 1-4 2014

Celebrating the Society's acquisition of The John Updike Childhood Home

Sessions hosted by Alvernia University, Reading Pa.

Receptions hosted by Alvernia University and Albright College

Official hotel: The historic Abraham Lincoln, Reading, Pa.

Conference directors: Sue Guay and Maria Mogford

PROGRAM (pp. 1-3)-REGISTRATION (pp. 4-5)-TRAVEL/HOTEL (pp. 5-8)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

7:30 – 9 pm—Registration and reception (Abe Lincoln)

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

8 am—Shuttle from the Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

8 – 8:30 am—Registration/refreshments (Francis Hall Atrium)

8:30 – 9:30 am—Plenary Session: Jack De Bellis (*John Updike's Early Years*)
interviews Updike classmates (Francis Hall Auditorium)

9:45 – 11 am—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

11:15 am– 12:15 pm—Lunch w/ticket (Student Center Cafeteria)

12:15 pm (optional)—Shuttle available for return to Abe Lincoln Hotel; will not return until 6:15 pm

12:30 – 1:45 pm—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

2 - 3:15 pm—Plenary Session: Presentation by Updike family member(s) (Francis Hall Auditorium)

3:30 – 4:45 pm—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

5 pm—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

6:15 pm—Shuttle to Alvernia University

6:30 – 8 pm—Alvernia Welcoming Reception, hosted by Alvernia University and Dr. Tom Flynn (Bonaventure Room)

8-9 pm—Keynote Speech: Chip Kidd, the Knopf artist responsible for numerous John Updike book designs (Francis Hall Auditorium)

9:15 pm—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

FRIDAY, OCT. 3

8 am—Shuttle from Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

8 – 8:30 am—Registration/Refreshments (Bernardine Hall Lobby)

8:30 – 9:30 am— Plenary Session: Ward Briggs and Biljana Docjinovic discuss the autobiographical elements of Updike’s “The Bulgarian Poetess” (Bernardine Lecture Hall)

9:45 – 11 am—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

11:30 am—Shuttle to The John Updike Childhood Home

11:45 am – 2:45 pm—Large group will be broken up into three smaller groups for 1) “A Soft ‘October Afternoon’ in Shillington” walking tour, 2) a tour of the house, and 3) a picnic-style boxed lunch in the side yard of the Updike house at 117 Philadelphia Ave.

2:45 pm—Shuttle to the Reading Public Museum, which Updike wrote was a profound influence on him, where members can tour the museum on their own and view a special exhibit of objects described by Updike that were brought out of storage especially for this occasion

3 – 5:30 pm—Tour of museum and gardens (including *The Drinking Girl*); Remarks on John Updike’s connections to Albright College by Prof. Richard Androne at a receptionn hosted by Albright College

5:45 pm—Shuttle to Abe Lincoln Hotel

6:00 or later—Dinner **on own** at restaurants within walking distance of hotel; restaurant suggestions will be provided, among them the Peanut Bar, where Updike hung out when he worked at the Reading Eagle

SATURDAY, OCT. 4

8 am—Shuttle from Abe Lincoln Hotel to Alvernia University

8 – 8:30 am—Registration/refreshments (Bernardine Hall Lobby)

8:30 – 9:15 am—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

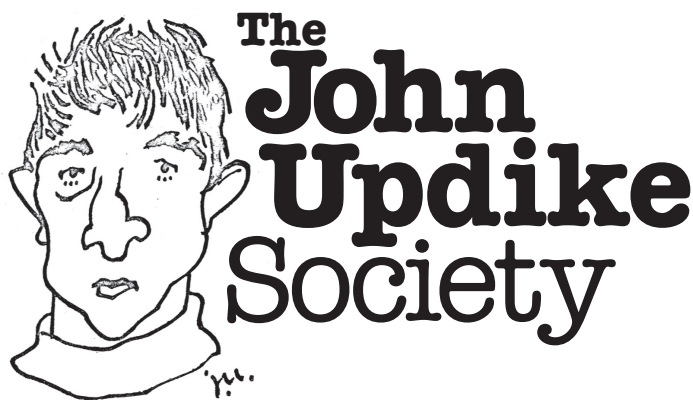
9:30 – 11 am—Academic Sessions (Classrooms TBA)

11:15 am – 3 pm—Local flavor bus tour (still being mapped out). Will include brief stops at Plow Cemetery, the Pagoda, a drive past the Poorhouse wall, City Park and local cemetery, and MAY include a drive through Amish country, a look at local historic covered bridges and hex barns, a pretzel factory tour, and/or sites mentioned in *Rabbit, Run*. Lunch on the road, on your own.

3:45 pm—Return to Abe Lincoln

4 – 5 pm—All welcome to attend The John Updike Society Annual Membership Meeting (Abe Lincoln Hotel, room TBA)

6 pm—Closing dinner at the historic Abe Lincoln Hotel, with Keynote Speaker Adam Begley, author of the recently published biography *Updike*.



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**REGISTRATION \$145 (increases to \$165 after
September 3)**

Membership is required to attend the Third Biennial John Updike Society Conference, but a member who brings a guest (spouse, friend, relative) does not have to pay membership dues for that guest.

Name:

Academic or Business Affiliation (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

Email:

Telephone:

As we have done with our first two conferences, the on-campus plenary sessions involving family and friends and the Chip Kidd keynote will also be open to local residents and students, but full conference participation requires registration AND membership.

_____ Conference registration (\$145, includes all sessions, tours, lunches, receptions, and closing dinner at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel; registration increases to \$165 after September 1)

_____ John Updike Society membership (if not already paid for 2014; \$25 regular, \$20 for students and retirees)

_____ TOTAL (Make check payable to The John Updike Society; sorry, but no credit cards accepted. Contact James Plath to make other arrangements if check is difficult/impossible)

Send your registration and payment to: James Plath, The John Updike Society, 1504 Paddington Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704

In addition, so that we may reserve enough space, please indicate which events below (included in the registration price) you will attend, and let us know your preferred size for The John Updike Childhood Home t-shirt that everyone will receive (also included in the registration price)

_____ Yes, I will ride the bus to The John Updike Childhood Home (Friday, 11:30-2:45)

_____ Yes, I will ride the bus to the Reading Public Museum tour and reception (Friday, 2:45-5:45)

_____ Yes, I will ride the bus and take the local flavor tour (Saturday, 11:15-3:00)

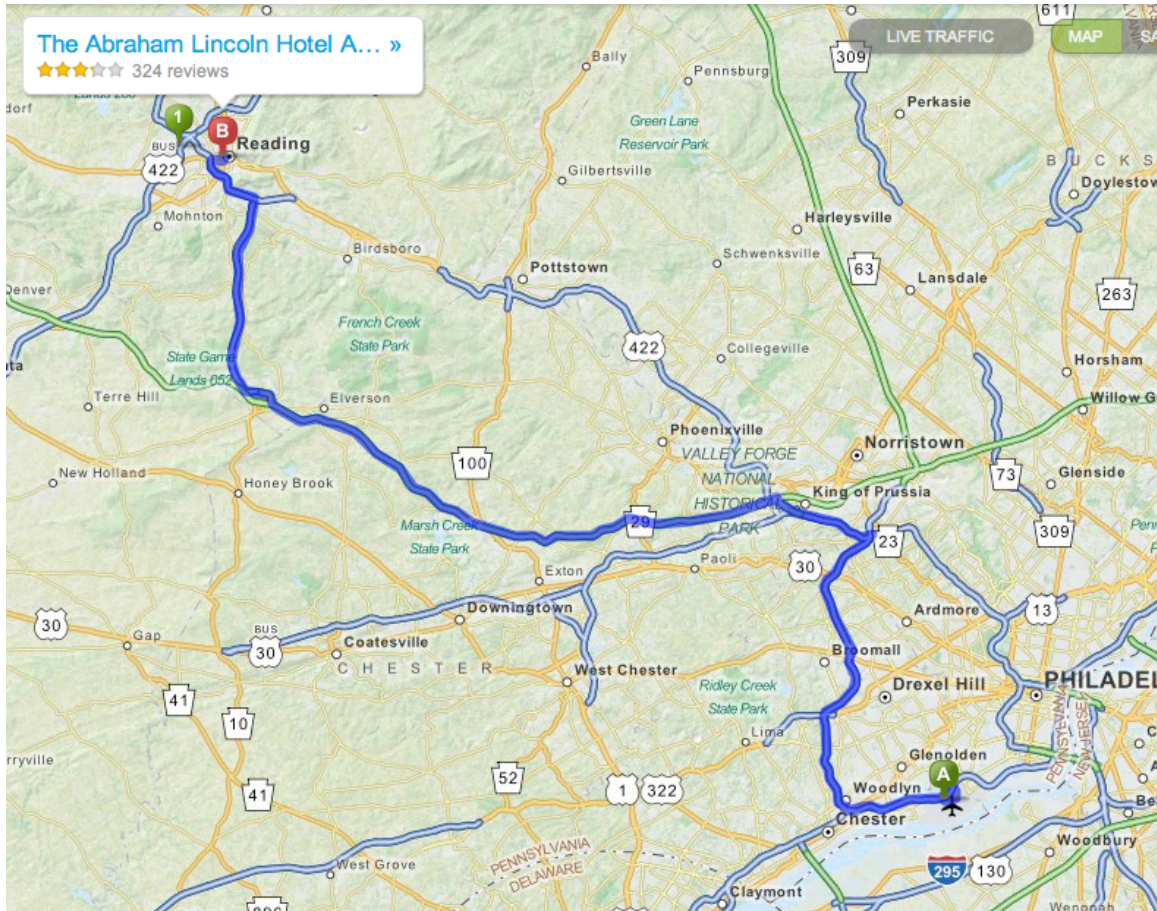
_____ Yes, I will attend the closing dinner at the Abe Lincoln

Preferred t-shirt size: _____ Small
_____ Medium
_____ Large
_____ Extra Large

TRAVEL & HOTEL INFORMATION

Berks County has a population of 373,638, and Reading is the county seat. Overlooking the city is Mount Penn (called Mount Judge in the Rabbit novels). Reading, “The Pretzel City” and home to the Reading Phillies, is also the birthplace of artist Keith Haring, poet Wallace Stevens, and country singer Taylor Swift. Daniel Boone’s birthplace is near Reading, and in 1932 the March King, John Philip Sousa, died at the historic Abraham Lincoln Hotel—the official hotel of The 3rd Biennial John Updike Society Conference. Crystal Cave Park, the most popular natural attraction in Pennsylvania, is in nearby Kutztown, and it’s a short drive to Amish country, where we’ll take a day trip. Average temperature for this time of year is high sixties, but bring an umbrella.

The Reading/Shillington area is about a one-hour and fifteen-minute drive northwest of Philadelphia, the closest major airport. There are no regional buses, so you’ll need to rent a car or make arrangements with other conference goers to share rides. It’s Pennsylvania Dutch country, and conference participants will enjoy the drive.



DIRECTIONS from Philadelphia International Airport (A on map) to The Abraham Lincoln—A Wyndham Hotel, 100 N. Fifth St., Reading (B on map):

1. Merge onto I-95 S via ramp on the left toward I-476/Delaware (5.7 miles)
2. Keep right to take I-476 N via Exit 7 toward Plymouth Meeting (16.3 miles)
3. Merge onto I-76 W via Exit 16B toward Valley Forge ; toll (33.4 miles)
4. Merge onto Morgantown Expressway/I-176 N via Exit 298 toward PA 10/Morgantown/Reading; portions toll (11.7 miles)
5. Merge onto US-422 W/Conrad Weiser Pkwy/Benjamin Franklin Hwy W via Exit 11B on the left toward Reading (3.5 miles)

6. Merge onto US-222 Business N/US-422 Business E toward Penn St./Reading (.7 miles)

7. Turn left onto N 5th St./US-222 Business N (.1 mile) (Note: N 5th St. is just past N. 4th, where there's a McDonald's on the corner; if you reach N 6th you've gone too far)

8. 100 N. Fifth Street is just past Washington St.; if you reach Walnut St. you've gone too far.

There is also a smaller regional airport at Allentown which places you 51 minutes from Reading, or Reading itself, but flights into those airports are limited. It's easier flying into and obtaining rental cars in Philadelphia, and cheaper as well.

Conference participants wishing to coordinate rides might start a discussion on the Society's Facebook page (accessible on the left menu of the website, <http://blogs.iwu.edu/johnupdikesociety>) or use the comment feature on the website story announcing these program details.

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN HOTEL

Website: http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/pennsylvania/reading/the-abraham-lincoln-a-wyndham-hotel/hotel-overview?hotel_id=17550&cid=whg_wyn_msn_br&wid=ps:br_whg&mkwid=HPVIwUTK&002=2197838&004=1671457005&005=38423260655&006=3724700018&009=e&011=the%20abraham%20lincoln%20hotel%20reading%20pa

**100 N. Fifth St.
Reading, PA 19601
(610) 372-3700**

The official hotel for The 3rd Biennial John Updike Society Conference is The Abraham Lincoln—A Wyndham Hotel. The Society has reserved a block of rooms, and members can book rooms at any time until September 3 by phoning (610) 372-3700. Mention The John Updike Society in order to get the conference rate. Parking is included, but breakfast is free only on

Saturday and Sunday mornings. The conference rate for standard/executive room is:

\$89/night (plus 11 percent tax, for a total of \$98.79/night)

\$109/night for a two-room suite (\$120.99/night, including taxes)

\$119/night for a Jacuzzi Suite (\$132.09/night, including taxes)



It's a beautiful facility that's conveniently located a safe walking distance from downtown restaurants and pubs—including The Peanut Bar, where Updike hung out when he worked at the *Reading Eagle*—and there's also a restaurant and bar inside the hotel. Parking is included with the cost of the hotel room.