

Sixth Biennial John Updike Society Conference



CELEBRATING

- The Grand Opening of The John Updike Childhood Home*
- Dedication of the Pennsylvania Historic Marker*
- Unveiling of a National Registry of Historic Places Plaque*
and (let's face it) a chance to finally meet again!

Conference host: Alvernia University

Conference hotel: Courtyard Marriott Reading

Conference director: Sue Guay

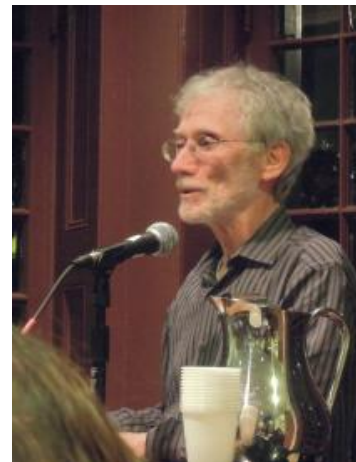
COVID PRECAUTIONS: All conference registrants must be vaccinated and masks will be required for indoor sessions

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Grand Opening of The John Updike Childhood Home, with a reception at the house later in the day so conference attendees can peruse two floors of exhibits and socialize at the same time
- Opening keynote address by James Schiff, who will talk about the Updike letters project and his forthcoming publication
- Closing keynote talk by Max Apple, an award-winning writer whose works include *The Oranging of America*, *Free Agents*, and *The Jew of Home Depot and Other Stories*
- Plenary session on “The Truth Behind *The Maples Stories* Fictions,” a panel featuring Elizabeth Updike Cobblah, David Updike, Michael Updike, and Miranda Updike
- Plenary session on “Updike’s First Wife,” featuring Mary Ann Moyer, Updike’s “stage wife” in two plays at Shillington High School
- Plenary session on “Remembering John & Linda Updike,” featuring Updike family friend and society member Carole Sherr
- Walking tour of Shillington Updike sites and a bus tour of area Updike sites, including stops at the Pagoda, Plow Church and Cemetery, and Weaver’s Orchards to see the Plowville farmhouse



James Schiff is well known to Updike scholars as vice-president of The John Updike Society and editor of *The John Updike Review*. But soon he will be in the spotlight as the editor of John Updike's selected letters. Jim will talk about the letters project and offer insights into the author that he gleaned from the process. Jim has published six books on contemporary American fiction, including *John Updike Revisited*, and his writings have appeared in *American Literature*, *The Southern Review*, *Tin House*, *Critique*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and elsewhere.



Max Apple taught creative writing at Rice University in Houston for 29 years and currently teaches at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Apple is an award-winning writer who turns up in many of the same anthologies and “Best of” collections as John Updike. Five of his books have been *New York Times* Notable Books, and his stories frequently appear in *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *Esquire*. His books include three collections of stories (*The Oranging of America*, *Free Agents*, *The Jew of Home Depot*), two novels (*Zip*, *Propheteers*) and two books of nonfiction, *Roommates* (which was made into a film) and *I Love Gootie*. Apple also holds a Ph.D. in 17th-century literature.

LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

Keynotes and plenaries are set, but papers on ANY aspect of John Updike's work or life are still sought for the academic sessions. Especially appropriate topics include:

- Updike's Pennsylvania fictions, poems, and play
- Rabbit Redux*, which celebrates a 50th anniversary in 2021
- Rabbit Is Rich*, which celebrates a 40th anniversary in 2021
- In the Beauty of the Lilies*, which celebrates a 25th anniversary in 2021
- Golf Dreams*, which celebrates a 25th anniversary in 2021
- The Complete Henry Bech*, which celebrates a 20th anniversary in 2021
- Coming of Age / Aging in Updike's Fiction

Final Proposal Deadline: August 12, 2021

One-page proposals for 15- to 20-minute papers on all aspects of Updike's life and work and especially suggested topics should be sent, along with a brief one- or two-paragraph bio, to James Plath: jplath@iwu.edu

Successful proposals will be acknowledged within one week of receipt. To present a paper or moderate a panel at the conference, participants must be members of The John Updike Society and sign up for the full conference registration. Those who have papers accepted can join when they register for the conference.

For membership information and additional information about The John Updike Society, see the society's website at <http://blogs.iwu.edu/johnupdikesociety>. For general questions about the society, contact James Plath, jplath@iwu.edu

SCHIFF TRAVEL GRANTS

Thanks to the generosity of The Robert and Adele Schiff Family Foundation, the John Updike Society will award up to FOUR \$1500 travel-to-conference grants for scholars under 40 to be able to attend the conference. Applicants need not be members at the time, but must join before grants can be paid.

In addition, up to THREE \$1000 travel-to-conference grants will be awarded to society members needing assistance to be able to participate in the conference. Both grants are merit- *and* need-based, and interested scholars should **apply by August 12, 2021**.

To apply, send a one-page proposal for a 15- to 20-minute paper appropriate for the conference, along with one paragraph about yourself, what grant you are applying for,

and why the grant is important to you, to society president James Plath (jplath@iwu.edu). Applicants will be notified of the decision within several days

CONFERENCE FEES

Full Registration—\$100

Includes all academic sessions, tours, receptions, box lunch, and two dinners.

Membership—\$30 regular, \$25 for students and retirees

Required in order to present or moderate at the conference, but everyone is encouraged to join the society. Membership includes all issues of *The John Updike Review* published during the calendar year. The society is inclusive and welcoming, with both academic and non-academic members.

Social Registration—\$85

Intended for spouses and traveling companions who accompany a society member to the conference and do not want to attend academic sessions, but would like to join the registrant for social events and tours.

Late Fee (after Sept. 2)—\$30 per person

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

(Especially subject to change because of COVID)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30—COURTYARD MARRIOTT READING

No registration or planned events; people on their own for drinks and late dinner; possible updated “get-together” clipboard that the front desk can show conference attendees when they arrive, so they can see where people are and copy contact info.

FRIDAY, OCT. 1—ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY

Hotel breakfast on own; bus to Alvernia leaves at 8:15 a.m.

8:30 a.m.—Registration, coffee, social time

8:45 a.m.—Plenary Session: “Remembering John & Linda Updike,” Carole Sherr

9:30 a.m.—Plenary Session: “Updike’s First Wife,” Mary Ann Moyer, who was Updike’s “stage wife” in two class plays

10:30—Bus Leaves for Tour of Area Sites / Box Lunch. Stops will include Plow Church and cemetery, Weaver’s / Plowville farmhouse, Pagoda, and cemetery above Shillington

1 p.m.—Bus Return to Hotel, where people can rest or freshen up; people not staying at the hotel can explore West Reading or relax in the lobby area

2:30 p.m.—Bus Alvernia leaves for Alvernia

3 p.m.— Private Showing of *Rabbit, Run* (1970, Dir. Jack Smight, starring James Caan & Carrie Snodgrass)

4:45 p.m.—*Rabbit, Run* Panel Discussion, Moderator: Peter J. Bailey (St. Lawrence Univ., JUS secretary)

6 p.m.—Cocktail Reception hosted by Alvernia University

7 p.m.—Group Dinner, Alvernia University.

Keynote talk: “The John Updike Letters Project,” James Schiff (Univ. of Cincinnati, JUS vice president)

SATURDAY—JOHN UPDIKE HOME / GOV. MIFFLIN SCHOOLS

Breakfast on own; bus to JU Childhood Home leaves at 8:30 a.m.

9 a.m.—Academic Sessions, Gov. Mifflin Schools; also, volunteers helping with house tours meet to get instructions

10:15 a.m.—Academic Sessions, Gov. Mifflin Schools

11:15 a.m.—Lunch on Own (recommendations provided, some within walking distance—volunteers will help prepare for the dedication ceremony)

1 p.m. —Open-to-the-Public Historic Pennsylvania Marker Dedication Ceremony
(with reserved seats for conference attendees and special guests)

2-3:15 p.m.—Open-to-the-Public Tours, with some members helping; others can go on walking tour of Shillington-area sites or have free time

3:30 p.m.—Updike Family Panel: “The Truth Behind *The Maples Stories* Fictions.”
Elizabeth Cobblah Updike, David Updike, Michael Updike, and Miranda Updike.
Gov. Mifflin Schools. Moderator: James Plath

5:00 p.m.—Reception (Drinks and Light Snacks) at the Updike house, hosted by The John Updike Society, with ample time for conference attendee self-guided tours and informal discussions

6:30 p.m.—Bus Return to Hotel

7:00 p.m.—Cocktails at the Hotel (cash bar—not included)

8 p.m.—Group Dinner, Courtyard Marriott Reading

SUNDAY—COURTYARD MARRIOTT READING

Breakfast on own

8:15 a.m. —JUS Board Meeting

8:30 a.m.—Academic Sessions (if needed)

9:30 a.m.—Membership Meeting

10:30 a.m.—Keynote Speaker: Max Apple (Univ. of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia)
Like Updike’s, his work also was adapted for the screen. Of Apple, the *Jewish Journal* wrote, “Max Apple’s people are the folks you might see having lunch at a local diner . . . a John Updike without Protestants.”

11:30 a.m.—Closing Remarks, followed by Max Apple booksigning; people are on their own for lunch, as some may need to leave for the airport

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Phone

Address (street, city, state/country, zipcode)

Email

Dietary restrictions

Please indicate number of registrations and amount for each, then total.

_____ Full Conference Registration (\$100/person)

_____ Membership (\$30 regular, \$25 students/retirees; required to present or appear on a panel at the conference)

_____ Social Registration (\$85, intended for spouses and traveling companions who accompany a society member to the conference and do not want to attend academic sessions, but wish to join the registrant for receptions, tours, and dinners).

_____ Late Fees (\$30/person after September 2)

TOTAL _____ (sorry, no checks not drawn on U.S. banks)

Make **check** payable to John Updike Society and send to: James Plath, 1504 Paddington Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704. Via **PayPal**, send payment to johnupdikesociety@iwu.edu

IMPORTANT: Please include a photo/scan of your Covid vaccination card with your registration

So we can plan shuttle needs, please indicate here if you will have a car at the conference _____

LODGING INFORMATION

COURTYARD MARRIOTT READING—The conference hotel is located at 150 N. Park Road, Reading, in a lively walkable area close to The Works at Wyomissing and Bldg 24 Late Night Entertainment & Restaurant—two popular local eateries and watering holes—and also Go Fish Seafood Market & Sushi Bar and Winedown Café & Winebar. Closer to “home,” the hotel has a lounge and bistro of its own, as well as a fitness center with weights and cardio equipment.

Reservations—The John Updike Society rate is \$134 per night for a single room, and members should make their own reservations **BEFORE** SEPTEMBER 2 in order to get that rate...or a room, for that matter. There are two major events happening in Reading during our conference, so rooms could be at a premium. For reservations, call 1-888-236-2427 and mention The John Updike Society rate, OR you can use this link for online reservations: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1627309846957&key=GRP&app=resvlink>