

THE JAMES JONES

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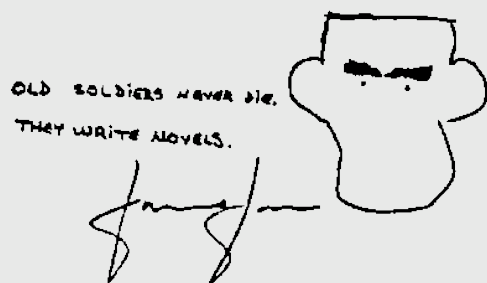
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Gloria Mosolino Jones memorial services July 2

By Dave Nightingale, JJLS board

Memorial services for Gloria Mosolino Jones, widow of late author James Jones, will be held July 2 at 5 p.m. at the Jones home, "Chateau Spud," on Sagg Main in Sagaponack, NY. James Jones Literary Society members are invited to attend.

Final rites will be conducted at the Sagaponack Revolutionary War veterans' cemetery located near the Jones home, with Mrs. Jones's interment next to her husband's grave. The cemetery services will be private.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, any donations should be made to The James Jones First Novel Fellowship, c/o Department of Creative Writing, Wilkes University, 84 W. South Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18766.

Mrs. Jones, 78, died in Sagaponack on June 9 following a long illness. She is survived by daughter Kaylie of New York City; a son Jamie of Alexandria, VA; granddaughter Eyrna and son-in-law Kevin Heisler of New York City; and daughter-in-law Beth and grandson James and granddaughter Beth of Alexandria.

Mrs. Jones, a native of Pottsville, PA, and herself an author and a motion picture stand-in for Marilyn Monroe, was introduced to Jones in New York by author Budd Schulberg and the two were married two weeks later, in February, 1957, in Port au Prince, Haiti. The couple lived in Marshall, IL; New York, London, Paris and Miami, before moving to Sagaponack in 1975, where Jones worked on his final novel, *Whistle*, before passing away on May 9, 1977.

THE JAMES JONES LITERARY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 15, No. 1

Spring 2006

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The James Jones Society Newsletter is published quarterly to keep members and interested parties apprised of activities, projects and upcoming events of the Society; to promote public interest and academic research in the works of James Jones; and to celebrate his memory and legacy.

Submissions of essays, features, anecdotes, photographs, etc., pertaining to the author James Jones may be sent to the editor for consideration. Every attempt will be made to return material, if requested upon submission. Material may be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. Send submissions to:

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Writers' guidelines are available upon request and online at the James Jones Literary Society web page at:
<http://jamesjoneslitsociety.vinu.edu>

2006 symposium

There is more than Illini football Nov. 11 in Champaign, Illinois

By Ray Elliott, JJLS President

Even if you're coming to Champaign, Ill., for a college football game on Nov. 11, there's plenty more to do that weekend. I don't even know who's playing football against Illinois at Memorial Stadium. And I won't go into all the great things there are to do here in the breadbasket of the world besides see the Illini play. That would take more space than is available.

But the 16th annual James Jones Literary Society symposium is going to be held at the Virginia Theatre on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10-11, to view and to discuss the film adaptations of some of James Jones' war-related works, *From Here to Eternity* and *The Thin Red Line*.

In addition to screening these films and discussing the process by which best-selling novels are made into film, *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, based on Jones' daughter Kaylie's novel, will also be shown, along with the documentary about Jones' life, *James Jones: From Reveille to Taps*.

Hosted and cosponsored by the classic Virginia Theatre that has been revived, in part, by lifetime Society member Roger Ebert and his Overlooked Film Festival held in the theater each April, and the Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette. Ebert selected *A Soldier's Daughter* to screen at his festival in 2003, and it proved to be a crowd favorite.

Additionally, the original manuscript of *From Here To Eternity* and other Jones material, including a copy of the novella, *The Pistol*, that the author signed to Judy Garland, all housed in the University of Illinois Rare Book Library Collections, will be displayed at the theater. And a former Rare Book Room librarian and Society board member will discuss the research potential of the James Jones collection to scholars and writers vying for The George Hendrick Research Award for books about James Jones.

(Continued Page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

2006 Symposium

During the Saturday morning program, the \$10,000 James Jones First Novel Fellowship Award will be presented to the 2006 winner, who will read from his/her work. Other Society writing awards presented in the year will be noted and recognized. Those awards include the James Jones Short Story Awards in the Illinois Center for the Book's Emerging Writers Competition, which will be presented by Kaylie Jones at the Illinois Authors Book Fair in Springfield on Nov. 18.

Other awards are the James Jones Lincoln Trail Award for residents of Clark and Crawford counties to be awarded in Robinson at Lincoln Trail College prior to the fall theater presentation; and the Robinson and Marshall high school winners of the recently started essay contest for the Jones short story, "The Valentine."

Special guests for the 2006 symposium are continuing to be recruited to participate on the panels that will discuss aspects of the films, their cultural impact and the process by which they are made. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ray Elliott at tales@soltec.net.

Also during the symposium, an exhibit area in the Virginia Theatre will display period letters, photos and other memorabilia from the Mahomet, Ill., Early American Museum's World War II collection. As always, the symposium is free of charge and open to the public, although the three feature films will each have a \$5 admission charge, with the proceeds being split with the Virginia Theatre for its ongoing restoration efforts. The Virginia has waived rental charges for the symposium and the JJLS.

For more information about the James Jones Literary Society, the First Novel Fellowship Award or any of the other writing competitions, visit the JJLS Web site (<http://jamesjoneslitsociety.vinu.edu/>).

Tentative symposium schedule

Friday evening

7:30 p.m. - **A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries** ... Panel discussion after the screening.

Saturday

8-8:50 a.m. - **Registration (coffee and donuts)**

9-9:45 a.m. - **Annual Society Board Meeting**

10-10:30 a.m. - **Awards Recognition and Presentations**

Winners High School "The Valentine" Short Story essay

James Jones Lincoln Trail College Short Story Award Recognized

James Jones Emerging Writers Short Story Award (Illinois Center for the Book)

2006 \$10,000 First Novel Fellowship Award

Reading by First Novel Fellowship winner

10:45 - 11:15 a.m. - **"James Jones and the Illinois Connection"**

Barbara Jones, Former Rare Book and Special Collections librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

11:20 - 11:30 - ***The Search for Lowney Handy***

A ten-minute trailer from Dawn Shapiro's Handy Colony documentary.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - **Lunch on your own**

1-2:20 p.m. - ***James Jones: From Reveille to Taps***

A 58-minute documentary on James Jones' life by JJLS board member Mike Lennon followed by a brief discussion.

2:30- 5 p.m. - ***From Here To Eternity*** ... Panel discussion after the screening.

7:30 pm. - ***The Thin Red Line*** ... Panel discussion after the screening.

*Marshall, Ill proclaims James Jones Day***Plaque honors James Jones and Handy Writer's Colony**

May 18 was a beautiful day in Marshall, Illinois for James Jones Day and the dedication of a plaque honoring Jones and his part in the founding of the Handy Writer's Colony. The day's activities were in conjunction with JJLS President and Illinois Roads Scholar Ray Elliott's presentation of "James Jones: The Evolution of a Soldier and Writer" at the Marshall Public Library for members of the Dewey Institute for Lifelong Learning.

The institute is a non-profit membership organization affiliated with Indiana State University and is open to all adults in the greater Wabash Valley area. Nancy Claypool, the local Friends of the Library president and director of the Marshall Public Library, coordinated the event with Dewey Society members, local officials and the James Jones Literary Society.

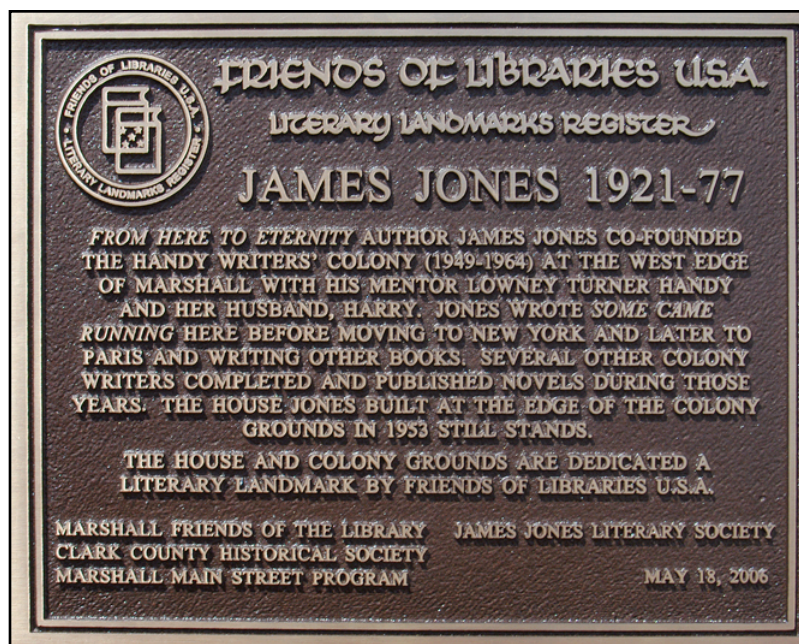
Highlight of the day was the placement and dedication of a Friends of Libraries U.S.A. Literary Landmark plaque honoring Jones and the Handy Writer's Colony. The plaque, co-sponsored by the James Jones Literary Society, Marshall Friends of the Library, Clark County Historical Society and Marshall Main Street Program, is located just outside the visitor center, a restored log cabin. Prior to the dedication Marshall Mayor Kenneth R. Smith proclaimed the day James Jones Day.

Other activities included a showing of the film *James Jones: From Reveille to Taps*, a documentary on Jones's life by JJLS board member Michael Lennon, a special display of Jones and Handy Writer's Colony memorabilia at the library and another arranged by JJLS board member Dwight Connelly at the Clark County Historical Museum. Connelly's display tells the story of the Colony with photos, magazine articles, copy he has written about the history of the Colony and a number of books Jones and Colony members published. Dawn Shapiro of Woodlawn Avenue Productions, Chicago, also presented a trailer from the video documentary about the Handy Writer's Colony she is now filming.

One of James Jones Robinson High School 1939 classmates, Rosemary Bahr, was there for the event and told interesting about being in English class with Jones. She said that often the teacher would allow Jones to take over discussion in the class because he was so well read.

JJLS web master Richard King, treasurer Dave Nightingale, newsletter editor Doug Lawhead, and BOD members Dwight Connelly, Dr. Jim Turner, Mike Mullen and Bruce Swann, several JJLS members and relatives of Lowney Turner Handy also attended the day's events.

Additional photos of the day's activities are on pages 6 and 7.



JJLS, Illinois Center for the Book team up

First Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition announced

By Ray Elliott, JJLS President

The James Jones Literary Society and the Illinois Center For the Book (ICB) have teamed up to offer the first annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, James Jones Short Story Award. This competition, named for the Illinois novelist and short story writer, is open to Illinois residents age 18 and older.

The purpose of the contest is to promote creative writing, encourage Illinois writers and provide a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new talent, which is in keeping with what Jones often practiced in his lifetime. Daughter and author Kaylie Jones will be the final judge of the three awards and will present them Nov. 18 at the Illinois Authors Book Fair at the Gwendolyn Brooks Illinois State Library in Springfield.

Cash prizes will be awarded for three entries: \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$100 for third place. In addition, entries will be submitted for possible publication in Downstate Story Magazine and Ninth Letter Magazine.

Entries must be original, unpublished short stories. Writers who have published books are not eligible. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on June 30 with a \$20 entry fee, payable to Illinois Center for the Book. The competition is not open to writers who are judges, officials, Secretary of State employees, JJLS members and ICB board members and members of their immediate families are not eligible.

Entries must be typed, double-spaced and one-sided and may be up to 3,000 words in length. Three copies of the short story, title page and cover are to be submitted to Illinois Center for the Book, c/o Secretary of State and State librarian Jesse White, James R. Thompson Building, 100 W. Randolph St., Suite 5-4000 Chicago, IL 60611.

For more information and for entry forms for the James Jones Short Story award or the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, see the ICB's Web site at <http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org>.

James Jones Lincoln Trail Creative Writing Contest

Robinson, Ill. area residents with an interest in creative writing have an opportunity to win \$500 as part of the James Jones Lincoln Trail Creative Writing Contest.

Submissions for what was formerly known as the James Jones Literary Society Creative Writing Award must be original, at least 1,500 words, typed and include the required cover page. The author's name is to appear on the cover page only, not on the manuscript. All pages are to be numbered and include the short story title on the top left of every page.

To be considered for the award, writers must be: a high school senior or at least 18 years old or older officially residing in Crawford or Clark County, Illinois; or an LTC graduate. Students who have already earned LTC credit, high school seniors graduating this spring who will attend LTC at least part-time during the next academic year and current LTC students are particularly encouraged to enter their stories.

Applicants cannot have been published professionally (meaning received payment).

Submissions must be turned in to Danelle Hevron in the LTC Marketing Office no later than June 30, 2006. Cover pages are available from the LTC Marketing Office, LTC Eagleton Learning Resource Center, area high school English teachers, Robinson Public Library, other Crawford County libraries, Clark County high schools, Marshall Public Library and online at www.iecc.edu/ltc. JJLS reserves the right not to award the \$500 should there be an insufficient number of entries or no entry is judged acceptable.

For more information, call Lincoln Trail College at (618) 544-8657, ext. 1123.

Photo highlights of Marshall's James Jones Day June 18

Right, Society President Ray Elliott discusses James Jones, the Evolution of a Soldier and a Writer at the Marshall Public Library. Middle left, Marshall Mayor proclaims the day James Jones Day. Middle right, Dawn Shapiro, producer of a documentary on the Handy Writer's Colony, talks with Mr. and Mrs. O.A. "Bud" Prior of Robinson. Bottom left, Gracie Deisher poses with the Handy Colony sign she has in her antique shop in Marshall. The sign is not for sale. Bottom right, Terry Crawford, Sally Ramsey, Susan Halt and Dr. Jim Turner, all whose aunt was Lowney Turner Handy, pose with the plaque placed at the Marshall Visitor's Center.





Marshall library, museum displays

Left, Nancy Claypool, Marshall Public Library director, closes the display of James Jones and Handy Writer's Colony items at the library. Middle, JJLS President Ray Elliott and wife Vanessa Faurie and JJLS board member Dwight Connelly view the Handy Colony display Connelly arranged at the Clark County Historical Society Museum. Below left, the display at the library includes a letter from President Bill Clinton to board member Dr. Jim Turner thanking Turner for sending Clinton Willie Morris's book, *James Jones, a Friendship*. Shortly before his death, Morris visited Clinton at the White House. Below right, Lowney Handy's typewriter is included in the display at the Clark County Historical Society Museum.

Photos by Doug Lawhead



Memories of the Handy Writer's Colony through a child's eyes

Editor's note: Susan Turner Halt of Montgomery, AL and a niece of Lowney Turner Handy presented the following memories of the Handy Writer's Colony during James Jones Day at Marshall, IL.

By Susan Turner Halt

As a child we went to the Colony with our Dad, Andy Turner. Daddy was Aunt Lowney's youngest brother.

Today you would call her exocentric. She drove a white Cadillac convertible with a red leather interior. She lived in a little green house on the Colony Grounds. It had books everywhere. She never saw us that she didn't have money for us. She also brought us Indian jewelry from Arizona. She would be termed a free spirit in today's world.

Aunt Lowney had Daddy bring us to the Colony on the Fourth of July to see the fireworks. They were being shot off at the fairgrounds which was close to the Colony. We always had a good time.

Jim Jones and my dad were also good friends. Jim loved children and had Daddy bring us, my sisters Terry and Sally and my twin cousins Lauren and Judy, out to the Colony often.

Jim gave us trampoline lessons. We learned front drops, sit drops, sit to sit drops, back drops, front flips and back flips. We wore a special belt when doing flips. He had other writers from the Colony be the spotters around the trampoline. Jim was very talented on the trampoline. He could do a braina which was a back flip while twisting in the air.

He also taught us how to dive in the pool. The Colony had a concrete pool that the writers built but it did not have a filter system so it was more like a concrete pond.

Overlooking the pool was the ramada. It was a large screened building with a large kitchen and tables and chairs where everyone ate their meals.

It also had a huge fireplace which they used in the winter when they closed the sides of the ramada.

The Colony was fascinating to a child. It had cabins all over the property. The cabins had a small kitchenette, a bed and a desk to write on. The grounds were in a beautiful wooded area.

Jim's house was like a celebrity's home. He



had a great room with a giant fireplace and bookshelves on both sides. He had a chess table set up on his coffee table. He gave us our first chess set and taught us how to play.

His bathroom had a naked lady etched in glass on the shower door. He also had a bidet in the bathroom. We kids liked to flush it and watch the water shoot up. We thought it was some kind of fountain.

Upstairs he had an exercise room. It had wooden stretch bars all up and down the walls. It had a boxing bag and also had a bar at the end of the room. Behind the bar was a secret button that opened a door in the back wall of the bar that went to a secret room that we kids liked to hide in. It was probably really used to hide liquor.

Jim was always happy to see us and was always kind. My sister Sally thought he was a movie star.

We have very fond memories of the Colony and our Aunt Lowney and Jim Jones.

*Editor's Notebook***News of interest from JJLS members and friends**

The good times just keep rolling for Anne Campisi, writes JJLS board member Dave nightingale. Campisi is the 2005 winner of the \$10,000 James Jones First Novel Fellowship for her still unpublished opus "The Lime Tree," a tale of the forced emigration of prisoners from the British Isles to Sydney Cove, Australia, in the late 18th Century.

Campisi, who lives in St. Paul, MN, also won a \$6,000 grant from the Minnesota Arts Board in February and has just finished a writing residency at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, MN.

For good measure, Anne's husband Evan was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.

The two will travel most of the rest of 2006 in Europe and Asia and will end their tour in Sydney, where she will finish detail research for her novel and complete a final revision. She also has plans to meet with Australian author Thomas Kenneally, the author of "Schindler's Ark" (later published worldwide, of course, under the title of "Schindler's List.")

Campisi says: "Things are really going well and I must say it's mostly thanks to the Jones Society (award), which brought me back from the land of the lotus eaters. I'm not done yet (with *The Lime Tree*) because I am the slowest writer I know. But I'm working really well and am resolved to finish before the end of the year. I think it's going to be really good....(and) believe me, when I'm done, I will send up fireworks. Be watching the skies come December."

JJLS President Ray Elliott was given the Edgar R. Barstow Award as the Marine of the Year in the newly formed Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League #1231 at the Officer's Installation Dinner in late May. Elliott was instrumental in

forming the new detachment after attending the 60th Anniversary Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima for research on his soon-to-be-published novella, *Iwo Blasted Again*.

World War II Marine Ed Barstow fought on Iwo Jima with the 4th Marine Division and also participated in the island campaigns on Roi Namur, Saipan and Tinian. The formation of the league gave Ed a psychological lift after the death of his wife, and he made a substantial contribution to get the detachment started. The award was given in the form of a Commemorative 60th Anniversary Iwo Jima Ka-Bar knife with the award information printed on the blade.

The league was named after Richard L. Pittman, an Urbana-Champaign native who was a Para-Marine and Marine Raider (before those units were disbanded) and participated in campaigns on Guadalcanal where James Jones fought with the 25th Army Division, and other campaigns, including New Georgia and Bougainville, and finally on Iwo Jima with the 28th Regiment of the 5th Marine Division where he was killed at the foot of Suribachi on Feb. 21, 1945. Some 6,821 men, mostly Marines and some sailors and army personnel were lost in the 36-day battle for Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest campaigns in the 230-year history of the Marine Corps.

Elliott's Iwo Jima-related novella will be published later this year. *Iwo Blasted Again* is a realistic slice of life about a former Marine who has carried the horror of combat and the loss of his young wife and his buddies with him for the past 60 years. Now, in the last 36 hours of his life in a hospital intensive care unit, he revisits those aspects of his life and grapples with his long-suffering questions about fate and self-doubt through a psychological phenomenon known as sundown syndrome.

First winners of Valentine essay contest

Ashtin Blagrove of Robinson High School and Cody Hutchinson from Marshall High School were selected as the winners of the society's first annual "The Valentine" essay contest. Entrants were required to read James Jones's short story "The Valentine" then write an essay about it and how it applies to youth today. The winning essays begin below.

By Ashtin Blagrove, Robinson High School

What significance do the social classes have in this story and how would that change the story today? In "The Valentine" it is clear to see that social classes play a key role all throughout the

story. For the

most part

John

Doesn't

even realize

that he is

judging

people by

their social

class, but

this is most

likely be-

cause of the

era he grew

up in.

The first

time that we

see John

bring up

social

classes is

when he is



talking about working at the Newsstand; John himself comes from more of a wealthy family. We can tell that John isn't really picking on anyone because of their social class, but he does know that there is an apparent difference between the classes and may have presuppositions about many of the people. Towards the end of the story it is very obvious that John does indeed have presuppositions. He receives two valentines from girls that sit in the back of the class, and once he realizes who they are from he says that he doesn't like them because they are from "sacktown," not smart and dirty. We would think that since John didn't

like the girls that were poor that he wouldn't like Margaret, but she is different. Her family may be poor, but she is not. In the middle of the story John talks about all the nice clothing and other items Margaret has, all thanks to Mrs. Carter, and this is what keeps Margaret out of the lower social class.

Would we be able to see the distinction between the social classes if this story took place today? I don't think that we would see the distinction nearly as much, simply because society has changed. Today we don't stop to really look at people's background the way that society did back then. Often today students don't know much about their classmate's family life unless they are friends with each other. Another thing to consider is people all dress according to his or her personality and not so much their social status or class. Today there are students who look like they don't come from a family as well off as they really do basically because of the way that they dress. In the era that the story originally took place many times children and even young adults dressed according to how much money his or her family had. Since dress wouldn't be such a factor I think that John might have noticed the girls at the back of the class a little more. If John had noticed them, then I think that John would have had greater self-esteem before giving the valentine to Margaret, which would then lead to a whole new ending. More than anything I think John would not have been as embarrassed because he would've known that he had the other girls that he could turn to.

Without the distinction of social classes this story would be nothing. Jones probably didn't even realize this when he wrote the novel, or if he did he knew that it was a necessity in the story. This story would be entirely different if it were to take place in today's society.

By Cody Hutchinson, Marshall High School

Awkward moment, the prickle of disappointment, the hero that walks away empty-handed; definitely not the storybook ending, making it even harder to accept how many universal theme's James Jones's "The Valentine" holds. It just makes you uncomfortable to read it, but why is that? Because no matter who you are it relates to you in some way. Everyone has to suffer through junior high, and no one gets it right the first time. That's why they invented high school.

Though no one likes to admit it, or even remember it, they all were in junior high at some point in their lives. At that time in your life, you don't know who you are and you most certainly don't know what you want. The Problem is everyone seems to have an idea, so you try to imitate him or her, but the truth is that they don't have a clue either. So you just stumble around in the dark hoping to get things right. In such a situation it's no wonder that people get stubbed toes and feelings hurt, everyone is bound to do something foolish. Their bodies are waking up to adult feelings, but their minds still only have the knowledge of a kid.

However, I find it hard to feel sympathy for the heartbroken John Slade. I know he hurts a lot, but so do those two girls from Sacktoswn whose valentines he threw to the side with hardly a second glance. Did he put himself in their shoes to see how it would feel to be treated as if you were nothing? No, but he landed in them anyway when Margaret Simpson (such a beautiful, lovely name) so unceremoniously (and similarly) discarded his affections only a few minutes later. Am I supposed to sympathize with him because he went through so much trouble to purchase her valentine? He knew how much razzing he would endure, for falling in love like everyone else, but he did it anyway. No, he does not deserve any more empathy than the next kid. Did he not say himself that he knew how much humiliation he would endure for such an offense because he had doled out the punishment so many times before? It's the oldest rule in the book: what goes around comes

around. However, in junior high you are just discovering your own emotions, so it would be ridiculous to expect you to be aware of the feelings of others. Thus, the poor souls of junior high students are condemned from the start, to wallow in all that they dish out: mortification, uncertainty, and most prevailing awkwardness.

One might hope that things might have changed in seventy years. That we now live in a society of such openness and harmony that such a situation would never crop up again. However, anyone who is attending junior or senior high school would inform you to the contrary. Things most certainly have changed in the last seven decades: races have come together, walls have come down, and revolutions have changed the world, but not human nature. The transition to adulthood remains painful as ever: girls as coy and unreadable as ever, and boys who are cracking under peer pressure.

Ultimately, everyone is subject to this incapable fate. Human nature calls for us to desire to be wanted, consequently making the fear of rejection one of the most basic and wide-spread fears throughout all cultures. Yet, we are all doomed to suffer the sting of the bitter blade of rejection, which cuts down so many hopeful hearts. One can only hope that you crawl through it with as much dignity as possible, and pray that everyone else has the decency to block it from his or her memory as well.



Join or renew

The James Jones Literary Society

Membership / Contribution Form

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

☐ **\$15 Annual Individual** ☐ **\$25 Annual Couple**

☐ **\$50 Four-Year Individual** ☐ **\$250 Life Individual**

☐ I / We wish to join or renew membership in the James Jones Literary Society and have enclosed the

appropriate dues payment.

☐ I / We wish to support the activities of the James Jones Literary Society and would like to make a contribution. Enclosed is a check for \$ ____.

(Please indicate how you would like your contribution to be used.)

☐ To support The James Jones First Novelist Fellowship Award honoring promising new fiction authors.

☐ To support The James Jones Literary Society General Fund.

The logo features the text "THE JAMES JONES" in a large, serif font, with "THE" in a smaller font above "JAMES". A horizontal line is drawn below "JAMES JONES". Below this line, the words "L I T E R A R Y S O C I E T Y" are written in a smaller, spaced-out serif font.

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