

PALAC ... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS WINTER/SPRING 2020

PALAC offers continuing liberal arts education to adults of the San Gabriel Valley. If you enjoy the excitement and stimulation of discussing ideas in a new learning situation, whatever your educational background, you're welcome in any of PALAC's programs.

JOIN US PALAC offers additional advantages and activities to members. Membership subscription is just \$30 per person or \$50 per couple per calendar year. Call 626 797-2380 for details or mail your registration and check to PALAC, 1015 N. Lake #108, Pasadena, CA 91104-4574.

REGISTER To register, submit a completed registration form and a check to the PALAC office.

Most groups are limited to 13-15 participants. This provides a comfortable, intimate atmosphere for discussion. Early registration will help assure you a place in your selected group. If you register close to the time the group begins, please contact the office to verify group openings.

You will receive confirmation of your selected group(s) by email if you have email.

Get your registration form in ASAP. Please! Once again we will use a lottery system to allow those living outside Pasadena a chance to get in their chosen groups. For those discussion groups and safaris that are over-subscribed, the office will hold a lottery one week after a designated "outlier" receives her program. Be sure to get your registration form to the office before the lottery! And don't forget dues for 2020. Dues-paying members receive priority.

We will order books three weeks before each group begins. If you plan to drop a group, please let us know before then, or we will not be able to refund you for the cost of the book.

If you're the detail-oriented type, the office is looking for you. Volunteer shifts are one afternoon a week for two hours. Please call Linda at 626 797-2380 to learn more.

New leaders and hosts are the life blood of PALAC. Please call the office to volunteer. 626 797-2380

DATES TO REMEMBER

Annual Meeting Saturday January 25
Program Brunch Saturday March 14

WINTER SESSION 2020

101 *Upheaval* by Jared Diamond

Diamond's new book, *Upheaval*, gives an analysis of the ways in which half a dozen modern countries that he knows well – Finland, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Germany and Australia – have coped with crises. He notes that these crises show the fragility of democracy. It explores the imperatives of taking responsibility without scapegoating, of honest natural national self-appraisal, a willingness to learn from other nations and a capacity to compromise, sometimes, indeed, to swallow the unpalatable.

ISBN-13: 978-0316409131

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5

Leader Steve Crane

Members \$30

Host Jane Crane

Non-Members \$40

Place Pasadena

102 *There There* by Tommy Orange

Tommy Orange, a Native American, provides a vivid picture of the daily details of blasted lives. The author links these details to a historical sense of outrage of how America has treated its native people. The story is told through many interrelated stories that culminate in a common undertaking—although brought about by individuals whose goals vary greatly.

ISBN-13: 978-0525520375

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 9, 16

Leader Susan Trauger

Members \$18

Host Fran Blackwell

Non-Members \$28

Place Pasadena

103 Studies in Isaac Bashevis Singer

Winner of the Nobel Prize and National Book Award, Singer selected 47 of his favorite stories written between 1957 and 1981, in *The Collected Stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer*, supplementing the now-classic original collection *Gimpel the Fool* published in 1957. They include supernatural tales, slices of life from Warsaw and the shtetls of Eastern Europe, and stories of the Jews displaced from that world to the New World, from the East Side of New York to California. If you have seen the movie *Fiddler on the Roof* or *Yentl*, you have a feel for the world of this great writer.

ISBN-13: 978-0374517885

Fridays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7

Leader Stanley Oropesa **Members** \$18

Host Faye Langholz **Non-Members** \$28

Place Pasadena

104 Hotel du Lac by Anita Brookner

In the novel that won her the Booker Prize, Anita Brookner finds a new vocabulary for framing the eternal question "Why love?" It tells the story of Edith Hope, who writes romance novels under a pseudonym. When her life begins to resemble the plots of her own novels, however, Edith flees to Switzerland where she finds herself sequestered at the hotel with an assortment of love's casualties and exiles. Brookner at her most stylish and potently subversive.

ISBN-13: 978-0679759324

Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 14, 21

Leader Sue Komarek, Coralie Whitcomb **Members** \$22

Host David Whitcomb **Non-Members** \$32

Place Glendale

105 The Doomsday Machine: Confession of a Nuclear War Planner by Daniel Ellsberg

Daniel Ellsberg is a former U. S. Marine Corps officer, economist, and high-level defense analyst. In this book he recounts his experience in the late Eisenhower and early Kennedy years in secret U. S. government nuclear strategy and war planning. This topic has continued relevance to U. S. policy today.

ISBN-13: 978-1608196739

Wednesdays, 7 – 9 p.m., January 15, 22, 29, February 5

Leader Richard Horns **Members** \$28

Host Nancy Sullivan **Non-Members** \$38

Place Pasadena

106 Great Decisions 1

The Foreign Policy Association, an independent, non-profit organization, yearly publishes *Great Decisions*, a series of 8 in-depth articles by policy experts and global thinkers. Through this national program we are provided background information, news and context for anyone seeking to understand global issues and eager to discuss them. Come join our lively discussions.

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12

Leader Ed Washatka

Members \$41

Host David Whitcomb

Non-Members \$51

Place Glendale

107 The Attention Merchants by Tim Wu

In nearly every moment of our waking lives, we face a barrage of efforts to harvest our attention. It began in the 1800s, when Benjamin Day discovered he could get rich selling newspapers for a penny. Since then, from radio to television to the Internet, each of these industries have attained immense riches by turning itself into an advertising platform. The basic business model has never changed: free diversion in exchange for a moment of your time, sold in turn to the highest bidder.

ISBN-13: 978-0804170048

Mondays, 2 – 4 p.m. January 27, February 3, 10, 17

Leader Jane Crane

Members \$25

Host Steve Crane

Non-Members \$35

Place Pasadena

108 Absalom Absalom! by William Faulkner

Absalom, Absalom! (published in 1936) recounts the epic tale of Thomas Sutpen, who rises from a childhood of poverty to ownership of a hundred-square-mile plantation near a small Mississippi town. Race collapses Sutpen's dreams into tragedy and condemns his family to ruination. Faulkner uses stream of consciousness and a structure that is complex and fragmented, very much like the American south of the time. This book has been described as "the most serious attempt by any white writer to deal with the madness of race in America", and "prose of exceptional vividness."

ISBN-13: 978-0679732181

Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., January 28, February 4, 11, 18

Leader Bill Butler

Members \$25

Host Susan Trauger

Non-Members \$35

Place Altadena

109 The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare

A theater party to see the February 13 7:30 p.m. show of *The Winter's Tale* at A Noise Within preceded by 2 meetings to review the play and talk about the characters and speeches we liked best so that we can get the most from the Shakespeare evening! If we have 10, we will get a discount on tickets. Optional dinner before the show.

ISBN-13: 978-0743484893

Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m., January 30, February 6 (meetings), February 13, 7:30 p.m. (show)

Leader Deborah Fox

Members \$15

Host Deborah Fox

Non-Members \$25

Price does not include theater ticket

Place Meetings: South Pasadena

Show: A Noise Within, 3352 E. Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena

110 *Circe* by Madelyn Miller

The author tells the story of Circe, a Greek mythological nymph, daughter of Helios, sun god. Her power of the occult and independent spirit, which defies family rules, move Zeus to banish her to an isolated island. Over time she encounters other Greek mythological figures. She engages in adventures and relationships with Daedalus, Minotaur, Medea and Odysseus. In addition, Circe is confronted with issues of morality, the nature of gods and mortals, family rivalry, love, loss and loneliness.

ISBN-13: 978-0316556347

Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. February 4, 11, 18, 25

Leaders Marylouise Lau, Helen Baatz **Members** \$29
Host Helen Baatz **Non-Members** \$39
Place Pasadena

111 *The Beautiful Cure* by Daniel M. Davis

The immune system holds the key to human health. In *The Beautiful Cure*, leading immunologist Daniel M. Davis describes how the scientific quest to understand how the immune system works – and how it is affected by stress, sleep, age, and our state of mind – is now unlocking a revolutionary new approach to medicine and well-being.

ISBN-13: 978-0226371009

Wednesdays 2 – 4 p.m., February 12, 19, 26

Leader Gay Bruveris **Members** \$29
Host Gay Bruveris **Non-Members** \$39
Place Pasadena

112 *Best American Science and Nature Writing in 2019*

New York Times best-selling author of *How to Be a Good Creature*, *The Soul of an Octopus*, *The Good Good Pig*, and more, Sy Montgomery, selects the year's top science and nature writing from writers who balance research with humanity, and, in the process, uncover riveting stories of discovery across the disciplines. This will be the sixth session of this great series for PALAC members.

ISBN-13: 978-1328519009

Mondays, 2 – 4 p.m., February 24, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Leader Dave Whitcomb **Members** \$25
Host Coralie Whitcomb **Non-Members** \$35
Place Glendale

113 *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

On April 29, 1986, a disastrous fire consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more at the Los Angeles Public Library. More than 30 years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library – and if so, who? Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries; studies arson; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the actor long suspected of setting the fire. ISBN-13: 978-1476740195

Wednesdays 2 – 4 p.m., March 4, 11, 18

Leader Bob Diller **Members** \$23
Host Ruth Judkins **Non-Members** \$33
Place Altadena

114 *Atonement* by Ian McEwan

From McEwan's masterly depiction of English country life, reminiscent of E.M. Forster, to the crime whose repercussions *Atonement* follows through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century, the reader is rewarded with a brilliant narrative about childhood and class, love and war, and guilt and forgiveness.

ISBN-13 9780-385-721790

Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m. March 10, 17, 24, 31

Leader Susan Trauger **Members** \$24
Host Fran Blackwell **Non-Members** \$34
Place Pasadena

115 & 116 Laemmle Theatre Groups

The Laemmle Theatre always has some interesting films showing. With your input we'll choose the best, meet for an afternoon matinee, stroll to a nearby restaurant for a drink, snack, and a discussion of the movie. Several days ahead of time, your leader will send you instructions about where and when to meet. Drink, food and movie ticket not included.

115 Laemmle Wednesday afternoons, January 8, 22, February 12, 26

116 Laemmle Thursday afternoons, January 9, 23, February 13, 27

Wed. Leader Carol Criqui **Members** \$10

Thu. Leader Audrey Vaughan **Non-Members** \$15

Place Laemmle Theatre, 673 E. Colorado Bl., Pasadena

117 San Francisco Holiday Feast

Join us for a holiday celebration that includes Cioppino and Bay Area favorites. The halls will be decked at the Fox family home with dinner favorites provided by our trio of chefs: Fran, Coralie and Deborah. The evening includes background holiday music and a discussion of the traditions behind the dishes served. Come dressed to celebrate the season with your PALAC friends!

Sunday December 15, 2019, 5 – 8 p.m.

Hosts Deborah Fox, Coralie Whitcomb **Members** \$40
Fran Blackwell **Non-Members** \$50

Place South Pasadena

118 Armchair Traveler

Norway: Above the Arctic Circle

Norway – the traditional folk culture, the majestic fjords of the coastal mountains, the northern lands beyond the Arctic Circle, and the native Sami peoples of Norway and Finland.

Wednesday, January 8, 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.

Leader Brice Harris **Members** \$10

Host Esther Ames **Non-Members** \$15

Place Villa Gardens, 5th floor, 842 E. Villa St., Pasadena

119 Armchair Traveler

Putin's Russia: Is it Back to the USSR?

Photographs from a 2018 journey into Russia's history and culture, seeking answers to questions that might explain the country's relationship with the west.

Wednesday February 19, 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.

Leader Michael Several **Members** \$10

Hosts Esther Ames, Brice Harris **Non-Members** \$15

Place Villa Gardens, 5th floor, 842 E. Villa St., Pasadena

SPRING SESSION 2020

201 *Elastic: Unlocking Your Brain's Ability to Embrace Change* by Leonard Mlodinow

This local Caltech scientist and popular science author weaves the latest scientific findings about our brain with stories of people, events and the natural world to suggest how we can understand and respond to our world. From psychological factors to personality traits and the latest discoveries on how our minds respond to novelty and change, as well as what keeps us tied to old ideas, we will look at the possibilities of tapping into our human potential to get the most from our lives.

ISBN-13: 978-1101970164

Mondays, 2 – 4 p.m., April 6, 13, 20, 27

Leader Deborah Fox **Members** \$21

Host Deborah Fox **Non-Members** \$31

Place Pasadena

202 *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World - And Why Things Are Better Than You Think* by Hans Rosling

In an era of "fake news," our problem is that we don't know what we don't know - and even our guesses are informed by unconscious and predictable biases. When asked simple questions about global trends, we systematically get the answers wrong. "Factfulness" is the habit of only carrying opinions for which you have strong supporting facts. The author discusses why we're so often wrong and points out that the world is in a much better state than we might think.

ISBN-13: 978-1250123824

Tuesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., April 7, 14, 21, 28

Leader Carla Barnes **Members** \$27

Host Fran Blackwell **Non-Members** \$37

Place Pasadena

203 *An Excess Male* by Maggie Shen King

China's one-child policy and its cultural preference for male heirs have created a society overrun by forty million unmarried men. By the year 2030, more than 25 percent of men in their late thirties will not have a family of their own. *An Excess Male* is the story of one such leftover man's quest for love and family under a state that seeks to glorify its past mistakes and impose order through authoritarian measures, reinvigorated communist ideals, and social engineering.

ISBN-13: 978-0062662552

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., April 15, 22, 29, May 6

Leader Gay Bruveris **Members** \$32

Host Gay Bruveris **Non-Members** \$42

Place Pasadena

204 *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

Dickens felt that *Great Expectations* was his best work. It depicts the personal growth of an orphan nicknamed Pip. It is set in Kent and in London in the early to mid-1800's and contains some of Dickens' most memorable scenes. *Great Expectations* is full of extreme imagery – poverty, prison ships and chains, and fights to the death – and has a colorful cast of characters. Dickens' themes include wealth and poverty, love and rejection, and the eventual triumph of good over evil.

ISBN-13: 978-1512-308846

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., April 16, 23, 30, May 7

Leader Jane Crane **Members** \$22

Host Steve Crane **Non-Members** \$32

Place Pasadena

205 *Fasting Around the World*

In *Fasting*, Jentezen Franklin, a Christian pastor, discusses the types of fasts described in the Bible, the connection between fasting and prayer, the essential components of a successful fast and what to expect physically, mentally and spiritually. This group will welcome all questions and opinions and will seek to compare the practices and values of fasting in various religions, including Christian and Muslim. The group meetings will take place during Ramadan. The third meeting will be followed by a meal provided by Esma and Yasmeen in which the group will choose the main dish.

ISBN-13: 978-1599792583

Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., April 30, May 7, 14

Leader Esma Ali **Members** \$23

Host Yasmeen Kahn **Non-Members** \$33

Place Pasadena

206 *An Audience of One* by Tony Poniewozik

In *Audience of One*, New York Times chief television critic James Poniewozik traces the history of TV and mass media from the Reagan era to today, explaining how a volcanic, camera-hogging antihero merged with America's most powerful medium to become our forty-fifth president. In the tradition of Neil Postman's masterpiece *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, *Audience of One* shows how, by interweaving two crucial stories, American media have shaped American society and politics.

ISBN-13: 978-1631494420

Mondays, 2 – 4 p.m., May 4, 11, 18

Leader Peggy Norman **Members** \$39

Host Peggy Norman **Non-Members** \$49

Place PALAC conference room, 1015 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena

207 Seven Brief Lessons on Physics by Carlo Rovelli

This international best seller gives the reader a wonderful perspective on the complex and mysterious universe and the part humans play in it. It is beautifully written and, with easy to read and understandable vivid clarity, explains every major aspect of science from relativity to black holes.

ISBN-13: 978-0399184413

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., May 14, 21, 28

Leader David Whitcomb **Members** \$26
Host Coralie Whitcomb **Non-Members** \$36
Place Glendale

208 & 209 Great Decisions 2 & 3

For description see that for 106, *Great Decisions 1*. Note that each leader uses the same 2020 edition of the annual journal.

208 Great Decisions 2

Fridays, 3 – 5 p.m., March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15

Leader Bhargav Oza **Members** \$41
Host Sue Hogan **Non-Members** \$51
Place Pasadena

209 Great Decisions 3

Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m., May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25

Leader Brice Harris **Members** \$41
Host Suzanne Diller **Non-Members** \$51
Place Pasadena

210 & 211 Laemmle Theatre Groups

For description see 115 & 116.

210 Laemmle Wednesday afternoons, April 15, 29, May 13, 27

211 Laemmle Thursday afternoons, April 16, 30, May 14, 28

Wed. Leader Carol Criqui **Members** \$10
Thu. Leader Audrey Vaughan **Non-Members** \$15
Place Laemmle Theatre, 673 E. Colorado Bl., Pasadena

212 PALAC/Caltech Connection

A Caltech Student will make a short presentation to PALAC members on some work they have been doing or a subject that interests them. The floor is then open for questions, answers, discussion and opinions. We anticipate that a program will take place, probably in the spring, but have not yet obtained a date, time or subject. Watch for an email announcing this program and sign up if it intrigues you.

Date and time TBA

Leader TBA **Members** \$10
Coordinator Marie Slonski **Non-Members** \$15
Place Caltech Y, 505 S Wilson Ave., Pasadena

SAFARIS

S01 Don't Miss the Music: A Trip to the Grammy Museum

The Grammy Museum aims to educate individuals about the history and cultural significance of American music, and to inspire the next generation to explore and create new forms of music using the roots that have existed in this country for centuries. The Museum accomplishes this through innovative programming, cutting-edge interactives, and exciting exhibitions. LA live is surrounded by high rise buildings, Staples Center, movie theaters and bowling. Lunch will follow at one of its many “delectable” restaurants. Those who want to stay for bowling or the movies are welcome to do so. Admission \$13 payable at the museum.

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Leader Carolyn Karpin **Members** \$10
Non-Members \$15

Meeting Place Carpool from the PALAC parking lot,
1015 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena

S02 Gamble House

Admire a mansion's-worth of woodwork at the Gamble House, an Arts and Crafts-style residence that today belongs in the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene for David Gamble of Proctor & Gamble fame, finished in 1908, the home boasts extensive gardens, a fully wooden exterior, and a host of decks, awnings, and outdoor patios. Join a docent-led tour to explore the house's ornate interior, marvel at the decorative furnishings and spacious rooms. One flight of stairs to climb. Flat shoes only – no heels. No host lunch at a nearby restaurant after the tour.

Tuesday, January 28, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Leaders Margaret Hostrup, Suzanne Gati **Members** \$25
Non-Members \$35

Meeting Place 4 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena

S03 Huell Howser Archives

HE IS CALIFORNIA GOLD! Safari to Chapman University Library (City of Orange) to the Huell Howser Archives. First a one-hour docent tour about Howser's career in television. Then, you select episodes from 12 years of “California's Gold” to view on a computer. Relive or experience for the first time the Rubble Castle in Glendora, a Polish restaurant in Eagle Rock, every California Mission, seals, whales, light houses, and more, including the first place gold was discovered in California – Santa Clarita.

Saturday, May 2, 12 noon - 5:30 p.m.

Leader Robert Gorski **Members** \$10
Non-Members \$15

Meeting Place Carpool from the PALAC parking lot,
1015 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena

S04 Los Angeles Central Library

Enjoy a docent tour of the art and architecture of the 1926 Bertram Goodhue Building with its distinctive sphinxes and rooftop pyramid. Wander through the 1993 Tom Bradley Wing, designed by architect Norman Pfeiffer, and gaze at the 8-story atrium with its whimsical chandeliers. Learn about the library's comprehensive collections. Visit the Maguire Gardens, one of downtown Los Angeles' favorite outdoor spaces with its parklike grounds and public art. No-host lunch across the street at Lemonade afterwards.

Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Leader Bob Diller

Members \$10

Non-Members \$15

Meeting Place Sierra Madre Villa Metro Gold line station in front of the fare machines. Metro fare is not included in the cost. Free parking in station structure.

Option to purchase books yourself

The Board has decided that all books purchased for our groups will be sent directly from Amazon to your homes. However, if you wish to support another bookseller by purchasing your books there, the cost of any group will be \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members (unless there is a ticket or other expense involved). We have included the ISBN in our group descriptions to ensure that you purchase the correct edition of the book.

In our program brochure, PALAC publishes the cost of each discussion group. This includes the price of the book, convenient delivery to your home, and office overhead. If you choose to buy your own book rather than using the office's book delivery system, we request that you follow these simple steps:

- When completing your registration form, check the option that says "I will be responsible for buying my own books."
- Jot a note to yourself to remind yourself to order or buy the book. Be sure to order your book early, to give the bookstore or online service time to check availability!
- Keep the ISBN in the brochure handy when ordering online or shopping at a store. This ensures you will have the same edition of the book as the rest of the group.
- When filling out your registration form, adjust the price to \$10 for members or \$20 for non-members.

(Note: Buying your own book may end up costing you more than if the office orders the book for you.)

PALAC Board Policy Statement

Agreed upon November 29, 2018

Membership Terms of Service

With regard to Board terms of service, the PALAC By-Laws state that Board terms are three years and that a member may request to serve additional terms.

However, it is the consensus of the Board that members should serve no more than three consecutive terms for a total of nine years. An exception can be made to allow members who have essential hard-to-replace skills to serve more than the three-term limit. These policies strengthen the organization by protecting its organizational memory, while at the same time bringing in new people with fresh approaches and ideas.

The Board's Nominating Committee recommends a slate of prospective new members, as well as those members wishing to run for a second or third term. At the Annual Meeting the membership at large votes on the slate of Board officers and members.

Nominating Committee Consideration for Prospective Board Membership

The Nominating Committee will select candidates based on:

- Commitment to the mission of PALAC demonstrated by past service to the organization by serving on committees, and/or having a continuing record of group discussion leadership, assisting in organizing safaris and other functions, and/or being active in any other supportive areas.
- Demonstrating an ability, usually through participation in or leadership of discussion groups and/or committees, to work collaboratively and productively with others.
- Membership in the organization for a minimum of 2 or 3 years depending upon level of participation.
- Commitment to attend Board meetings on a regular basis.

Agree to pay an annual fee of \$50. minimum for the Directors' and Officers' Errors and Omissions insurance policy.

NB: PALAC members who would like to become board members may indicate this to any current board member. These names will be considered by the Nominating Committee.