

PALAC ... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS SUMMER/FALL 2020

PALAC has prevailed! Because we miss our PALAC family, we found ways to offer a robust summer and fall 2020 schedule despite the coronavirus pandemic. Most discussion groups will be Zoom meetings, and a few groups will be held in members' backyards. The Board decided that no in-home meetings, safaris, or movie groups will be scheduled until 2021.

- **Zoom Meetings:** Zoom meetings will typically be two hours, and leaders will decide on the group size. If you need Zoom training, email Donna Jaffee (laballetgirl@gmail.com). Let her know whether you'll be using a computer with camera and microphone (Mac or PC), a tablet, or an iPhone or Android phone. (If you don't have this type of equipment, you may be able to participate by telephone, where you'll be able to hear others' views and share yours, but you won't be able to see one another.)

- **Backyard Meetings:** We will follow physical distancing guidelines from the Governor, LA County and Pasadena. Meetings will include up to eight participants and last up to 90 minutes. Backyard groups will take place mornings or early evenings to avoid the summer heat. The leader will set rules regarding face masks, participants will respect physical distancing guidelines, and bathrooms may not be available. Participants should bring their own beverage or snack.

REGISTRATION

To register, mail a completed registration form and check to **SUE HOGAN**, 2460 Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91104-4937. A big shout out to Sue for volunteering for offsite office duties!

(PLEASE NOTE: The office is temporarily closed, so please do not call or send US mail to the old office. Instead, you can email us at palac.office@gmail.com.)

POSTPONED SPRING GROUPS: Those of you who registered and paid for the spring groups that were postponed have been notified by office staff, and have been carried over to the summer session. Therefore you do not need to list these groups in your registration. We did it for you!

Send in your registration and checks ASAP! Over-subscribed groups will be filled using the lottery process unless the leader agrees to a second or augmented group. We encourage all of you to respond to Sue *within a week*. Dues-paying members have priority (and most of you have paid dues for the 2020 calendar year),

New leaders and hosts are the life blood of PALAC. Please email the office to volunteer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

If we can safely hold these events, this is when they would be, but it is unlikely that we will be able to have them.

Program Brunch	<i>Saturday September 5</i>
Fall Retreat	<i>Saturday October 24</i>
Annual Meeting	<i>Saturday January 23</i>

SUMMER SESSION 2020

208 Great Decisions 2

The Foreign Policy Association, an independent, non-profit organization, yearly publishes **FULL** Great Decisions, a series of 8 in-depth articles by policy experts and global thinkers.

Fridays, 1 - 3 p.m., May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 17

Leader Bhargav Oza
Zoom

Members \$41
Non-Members \$51

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, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., July 1, 8, 15, 22

Leader Gay Bruveris
Host Gay Bruveris (backyard)
Place Pasadena

Members \$25
Non-Members \$35

Two openings left in this group.

209 Great Decisions 3

The Foreign Policy Association, an independent, non-profit organization, yearly publishes **FULL** Great Decisions, a series of 8 in-depth articles by policy experts and global thinkers.

Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m., July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20

Leader Brice Harris
Zoom

Members \$41
Non-Members \$51

Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m., October 1, 8, 15, 22

Leader Jane Crane	Members \$21
Zoom	Non-Members \$31

402 Election Meltdown - Dirty Tricks by Richard L. Hasen

Voter suppression, incompetent election administration, foreign and domestic misinformation campaigns, inflammatory rhetoric – in his new book, *Election Meltdown: Dirty Tricks, Distrust and the Threat to American Democracy*, UC Irvine law professor Richard L. Hasen uses riveting stories to illustrate four factors contributing to distrust in the fairness and accuracy of US elections. Then, we will watch on YouTube, the discussion of Hasen and Kristen Clarke, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, on what it will take to restore trust in U.S. elections before the democratic process is completely undermined. Moderated by UCLA law professor Adam Winkler. ISBN-13: 978-0300248197

Fridays, 2 - 4 p.m., October 2, 9, 16

Leader Louis Rubenstein

Members \$30

Zoom

Non-Members \$40

403 The Last Painting of Sara De Vos by Dominic Smith

A rare 17th-century painting links three lives on three continents over three centuries. Gliding gracefully from grungy 1950s Brooklyn to the lucent interiors of Golden Age Holland to the streets of contemporary Sydney, this novel is a story of art, beauty, deception and the harshest kinds of loss. ISBN-13: 978-1250118325

Mondays, 10 - 11:15 a.m., October 5, 12, 19, 26

Leader Donna Jaffee

Members \$21

Zoom

Non-Members \$31

404 The Body: A Guide for Occupants by Bill Bryson

The whimsical and ever-curious Bill Bryson, the popular author of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, uses his own body as his story here, exploring it from tip to toe, inside and out, to clarify how the body works so brilliantly. One reviewer characterized it by saying, "Extraordinary stories about the heart, lungs, genitals...plus some anger and life advice - all delivered in the inimitable [very readable] Bryson style." ISBN-13: 978-0385539302

Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m., October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3

Leader Carla Barnes

Members \$30

Zoom

Non-Members \$40

405 AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley and the New World Order by Kai-Fu Lee

Kai-Fu Lee is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities on AI. As the former CEO of Google-China and an expert on Silicon Valley, he is well positioned to assess the major changes in the world in terms of technology, economic order and the subsequent impact on humans in the near future. ISBN-13: 978-1328546395

Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m., October 7, 14, 21, 28

Leader David Whitcomb

Members \$26

Zoom

Non-Members \$36

406 The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border by Francisco Cantu

This memoir is a personal look at border life from the perspective of migrants and border agents. Francisco Cantu, initially a border patrol member whose job was to haul in the dead and deliver survivors to detention camps, later becomes plagued with this dehumanizing enterprise, leaves the patrol and becomes a writer. He has earned awards and recognition from this work, including being named the author of a Top 10 Book of 2018 by NPR and the Washington Post and a finalist for the National Book Critics' Nonfiction Award. ISBN-13: 978-0735217737

Thursdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m., October 8, 15, 22.

Leader Marylouise Lau

Members \$22

Host Helene Jacobs (backyard)

Non-Members \$32

Place Los Angeles

407 Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

The story of Katherine and Heathcliff is a complex, brilliant, terrifying novel of passion and obsession set against the windswept Yorkshire moors of late 1700s England. The substance of this perplexing work has been debated for two centuries: Is it a love story? A ghost story? A tale of revenge? We will decide ourselves and then hear what famous critics and authors have said. We will watch the classic 1939 movie version starring Laurence Olivier on You Tube and then discuss it in our last session. ISBN-13: 978-1509827800

Mondays, 2 - 4, October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9

Leaders Bonnie Brown

Members \$21

Zoom

Non-Members \$31

408 American Conservatism

By popular demand, another round of discussions of articles from The National Review, a bi-weekly journal of contemporary news and analysis from the conservative point of view. Let's discuss the topics covered in two issues for a broader and more critical perspective. Expect surprises.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon, October 14, 28

Leader Brice Harris

Members \$24

Zoom

Non-Members \$34

114 Atonement by Ian McEwan

From McEwan's masterly depiction of English country life, 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: 978-0385721790

Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., October 29, November 5, 12, 19

Leader Susan Trauger

Members \$24

Host Susan Trauger (backyard)

Non-Members \$34

Place Altadena

409 *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Tara's quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her far from Idaho to Harvard and Cambridge University, and away from her fundamentalist father and much of her family. Eye-opening view of the rural life and two sides to the power of belief. ISBN-13: 978-0399590504

Mondays, 10 - noon, November 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader Bill Urban

Members \$27

Zoom

Non-Members \$37

410 *Dark Matter and Dark Energy: The Hidden 95% of the Universe* by Brian Clegg

Our theoretical understanding of what makes up the universe is in trouble. It seems that we require mysterious concepts that we call dark matter and dark energy. What observations were made to require them and what theoretical ideas might explain them? Are they really anything at all? Do any of the theories make sense? Brian Clegg explains these puzzles and looks at how scientists are trying to find explanations for them. ISBN-13: 978-1785785504

Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m., November 10, 17

Leader Bob Diller

Members \$24

Zoom

Non-Members \$34

SAFARIS

Because of the pandemic there is no way for us to safely get to the safari location either by public transit or by car pool.

As a result we cannot schedule any safaris until the situation changes. The four safaris that were to be included in this edition of the brochure are the Los Angeles Central Library (rescheduled from the spring), a Biltmore Hotel walking tour, a tour of the historic Judson Studio and its nearby workshop, and the Sam Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts. We will schedule these at the earliest safe opportunity and will inform everyone by email at that time.

Option to purchase books yourself

All books purchased for our groups will be sent directly from Amazon to your homes about three weeks before your group starts. 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 filling out your registration form, adjust the price to \$10 for members, or \$20 for non-members.
- 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.

(Note: Buying your own book may end up costing you more, and may take longer to obtain than if the office orders the book for you.)