

PALAC ... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS SUMMER 2021

PALAC remains vital despite the COVID-19 pandemic! Nearly 100 folks are participating in groups via Zoom. Because the pandemic rules are in flux, so are our plans regarding holding groups on Zoom, in-person outdoors or possibly in-person indoors. As of now, for everyone's safety, most summer and fall discussion groups will be held via Zoom. However, because of the CDC's recent relaxation of COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Board has decided that some groups will be held in-person outdoors. The locations for these groups appear after the discussion group's description and meeting details. If it's too hot or if it's raining, the leader may choose to hold the session for that day on Zoom rather than outdoors. In-person outdoor sessions will follow these additional PALAC guidelines:

*PALAC Rules for Outdoor Groups During the Pandemic

Core group leader

- Decides to hold the sessions outdoors

Host

- Has an outside space that has sufficient shade to make it comfortable for participants to sit there for 1½ hours and can accommodate a dozen people, separated but not socially distanced by 6 feet
- Provides chairs for as many participants as possible; participants may be requested to bring folding chairs if needed
- Makes a bathroom with disposable towels and hand sanitizer available to participants

Participants

- Are fully vaccinated
- Aren't required to wear masks
- Are encouraged to bring a hat if it's sunny or a wrap if it's cool
- May bring their own snacks and drinks

If our plans change, all PALAC members will be notified; and those who have registered for upcoming groups will be asked if they still want to attend the groups for which they registered.

Zoom Group Discussions: Based on our experience with Zoom meetings, the length of a Zoom group discussion will be between 1¼ and 1½ hours, but it can go longer if the leader and the participants so choose. As a result, only starting times for groups are listed in this brochure.

If you need Zoom training, email James Liu (jkliu47@gmail.com). Let him 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 your own, but you won't be able to see one another.)

Because of the success of the short, one-session Zoom groups we introduced last year, more are planned for both summer and fall. To register for these groups, buy a "subscription" which will entitle you to pick any four sessions within the quarter. If you want to attend more than four such sessions, you can purchase an additional subscription.

REGISTRATION

If you have not yet paid your 2021 annual dues, please pay for the latter half of the year when you register for groups. This ensures you'll get the member discount on every group for which you register.

To register, mail a completed registration form and check payable to PALAC to the PALAC office at 1015 N. Lake Ave., Suite 108, Pasadena, CA 91104. There's a place on the registration form where you can indicate whether a couple will be attending on separate or shared screens.

We encourage all of you to mail in your form and check to the PALAC office *within a week*. Over-subscribed groups will be filled using the lottery system unless the leader agrees to hold a second or augmented group. Dues-paying members have priority, and this is the time of the year to pay your dues for the rest of 2021 if you have not already done so.

DATES TO REMEMBER

If we cannot hold our semi-annual program planning brunch in person in early September, we will email everyone asking you to propose new discussion groups, armchair travelers, and safaris for our winter and spring 2022 quarters.

The Fall Retreat may be either in person or on Zoom.

Fall Retreat

Saturday October 30

SUMMER QUARTER 2021

301 The Economist, selected articles

A continuation of the review and discussion of selected articles from The Economist Magazine. Participants are emailed copies of articles about events and people around the world and they are expected to relate their views on each article.

Fridays, 2 p.m., June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23

Leader David Whitcomb

Zoom

Members \$10

Non-Members \$20

302 *The Emperor's New Road: China and the Project of the Century* by Jonathan E. Hillman

A critical analysis of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which seeks to build new ports, railroads, and cables to reconfigure world trade and contacts. Do these lead to Beijing? Should US/West be concerned? The text is organized by specific areas and affected countries, which focuses the analysis, e.g. Central Asia, Russia, Central Europe, Pakistan, East Africa, etc. ISBN-13: 978-0300244588

Wednesdays, 10 a.m., June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28

Leader Brice Harris **Members \$36**
Zoom **Non-Members \$46**

303 *Armchair Traveler: The New Jerusalem in the Ethiopian Highlands: The Rock Churches of Lalibela*

As Islam spread across North Africa from the 8th century, Christian Ethiopia at Axum declined as it lost its economic and religious contact with Egypt and Jerusalem and re-emerged at Lalibela further into the highlands of North-East Africa. The Zagwe kings created a New Jerusalem with full-sized churches carved inside and out from the mountain rock. Also contemporary life and people. Most photos are mine.

Monday, 7 p.m., July 5

Leader Brice Harris **Members \$10**
Zoom **Non-Members \$15**

304 *Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich

A master story-teller, Erdrich writes with simple elegance about two families of the Chippewa nation of North Dakota. She is a member of the nation and writes with the confidence of personal knowledge. "The magical haunting in her writing reminds the various generations of the families of their basic identity. And, whether the haunting comes in the form of nightmares or supernatural powers, Erdrich convinces us that these people, sunk as low as imaginable, retain powers, the 'Love Medicine' of the title." (Kirkus Reviews) ISBN-13: 978-0061787423

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., July 6, 13, 20, 27

Leader Bill Butler **Members \$25**
Host Bill Butler **Non-Members \$35**
Place Altadena – see rules* for outdoors, page 1

305 *Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River* by David Owen

The Colorado River is an essential resource for a large part of the U.S., and every gallon that flows down it is owned or claimed by someone. Part road-trip documentary, part memoir, and part geopolitical and hydrology lesson, the book follows the course of the river, the water it carries, and the lives that depend on it. ISBN-13: 978-1594633775

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., July 6, 13, 20, 27

Leader Carla Barnes **Members \$26**
Zoom **Non-Members \$36**

306 *A Long Petal of the Sea: A Novel* by Isabel Allende

The novel spans decades across continents as two young people flee from the 1930's Spanish Civil War to arrive in Chile by a ship chartered by Pablo Neruda, the poet. He calls Chile "the long petal of sea and wine and snow." They face trials starting over in a new country and new continent. The battle between freedom and repression plays out across the world, which speaks to many elements of our current world. ISBN-13: 978-0593157497

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., July 6, 13, 20

Leaders Linda & John Huetinck **Members \$26**
Zoom **Non-Members \$36**

307 *Stalin's War: A New History of World War II* by Sean McMeekin

Stalin's War revolutionizes our understanding of the global conflict. Hitler's genocidal ambition may have helped unleash Armageddon, but as McMeekin shows, the war between the Axis and the West is the one Stalin wanted. So too did the Pacific War fulfill Stalin's goal of unleashing a war of attrition between Japan and the Anglo-Saxon capitalist powers he viewed as his ultimate adversary. ISBN-13: 978-1541672796

Wednesdays, 3 p.m., July 7, 14, 21, 28. August 4, 11, 18, 25

Leader Louis Rubenstein **Members \$45**
Host Audrey Vaughan **Non-Members \$55**
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308 Sunday Movie Group A

Discussion and review of critically acclaimed and notable movies from present and past and from all over the world. Movies selected will be available online in free, subscription or pay-per-view. Costs will be borne by viewer. A great way to spend time every other week with fellow PALAC movie fans! Same movies as groups B and C.

Sundays, 2 p.m., July 11, 25, August 8, 22, September 5, 19

Leader James Liu **Members \$10**
Zoom **Non-Members \$20**

309 Sunday Movie Group B

See Sunday Movie Group A.

Sundays, 2 p.m., July 18, August 1, 15, 29, September 12, 26

Leader James Liu **Members \$10**
Zoom **Non-Members \$20**

310 Sunday Movie Group C

See Sunday Movie Group A.

Sundays, 4 p.m., July 11, 25, August 8, 22, September 5, 19

**Leader James Liu
Zoom**

**Members \$10
Non-Members \$20**

311 *The Forest Unseen (A Year's Watch in Nature)* by David George Haskell

Visiting a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest almost daily for one year, biologist David Haskell, Pulitzer Prize finalist and Guggenheim fellow, traces nature's path through the seasons and brings the forest and its inhabitants to vivid life. ISBN-13: 978-0143122944

Mondays, 2 p.m., July 12, 19, 26, August 2

**Leader Gay Bruveris
Zoom**

**Members \$27
Non-Members \$37**

312 Laemmle Movies, Wednesdays

Together we will choose the best of the films offered by Laemmle, watch them ahead of time, and be ready for a lively discussion. Participants will pay for the rental of the film. Weather permitting, one or more of the discussions will take place outside on the patio of the El Portal Restaurant across the street from the theatre. The rest of the discussions will be on Zoom.

**Wednesdays, 3 p.m., July 14, 28, August 11, 25,
September 8, 22**

Leader Carol Criqui

**Members \$10
Non-Members \$20**

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena

313 Laemmle Movies, Thursdays

See 312 above. The movies may not be the same.

**Thursdays, 2 p.m., July 15, 29, August 12, 26,
September 9, 23**

Leader Audrey Vaughan

**Members \$10
Non-Members \$20**

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena

314 *People of the Book: A Novel* by Geraldine Brooks

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March* and *Year of Wonders*, the journey of a rare illuminated manuscript through centuries of exile and war. Inspired by a true story, *People of the Book* is at once a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity, an ambitious, electrifying work by an acclaimed and beloved author. ISBN-13: 978-0143115007

Fridays, 10 a.m., July 16, 23, 30, August 6

**Leaders Donna Jaffee & Coralie Whitcomb
Zoom**

**Members \$26
Non-Members \$36**

315 *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

The Old Man and the Sea is one of Hemingway's most enduring works. Told in language of great simplicity and power, it is the story of an old Cuban fisherman, down on his luck, and his supreme ordeal -- a relentless, agonizing battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. ISBN-13: 978-0684830490

Thursdays, 2 p.m., July 22, 29

**Leader Steve Crane
Zoom**

**Members \$22
Non-Members \$32**

316 *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America (Group 2)* by Colin Woodard

Colin Woodard suggests that we have never been one nation but actually eleven rival regional cultures which have come together at key times, such as our founding, to become America; and that has made all the difference for our past and future! We will consider the history and growing polarization of these distinctive areas against a backdrop of our 2020 national election. The many glowing reviews promise a greater understanding, if not appreciation, for our nation of nations. ISBN-13: 978-0143122029

Fridays, 4 p.m., July 23, 30, August 6, 13

**Leader Deborah Fox
Zoom**

**Members \$27
Non-Members \$37**

317 *Heart of Darkness and its Progeny*

Books and Film. We will discuss *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad's classic novella and two works which it inspired: William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* and Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now". In addition we will watch "Apocalypse Now" which will likely entail a streaming charge depending on available platforms. ISBN-13: 978-0486264646 and 978-0399501487

Thursdays, 10 a.m., August 5, 12, 19, 26, September 2

**Leader Charles Schufreider
Zoom**

**Members \$20
Non-Members \$30**

318 *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan

"This is storytelling at the height of its powers: the ache of wrongs not yet made right, the fierce attendance of history made as real as rain, as true as this minute. Hillary Jordan writes with the force of a Delta storm. Her characters walked straight out of 1940's Mississippi and into the part of my brain where sympathy and anger and love reside, leaving my heart racing. They are with me still." —Barbara Kingsolver. ISBN-13: 978-1565126770

Thursdays, 2 p.m., August 5, 12, 19, 26, September 2, 9

**Leader Tom Wright
Zoom**

**Members \$23
Non-Members \$33**

319 Selected Poems and Letters of Emily

Dickinson by Robert Linscott, editor

Emily Dickinson lived as a recluse in Amherst, Massachusetts, dedicating herself to writing a "letter to the world" – the 1,775 poems left unpublished at her death in 1886. Today, Dickinson stands in the front rank of American poets. These poems express her concepts of life and death, of love and nature, and of what Henry James called "the landscape of the soul." ISBN-13: 978-0385094238

Mondays, 10 a.m., August 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader Stanley Oropesa

Members \$20

Zoom

Non-Members \$30

320 Glittering Images: A Journey through Art from

Egypt to Star Wars by Camille Paglia

With visual data bombarding us, to make sense of it all our brains must adapt. Paglia returns to what made her famous, situating our visual environment within art history. With trademark audacity, she tours through the art and architecture that have transformed our world. From an Egyptian tomb to Jackson Pollock's abstract Green Silver to Renée Cox's daring performance of Chillin' with Liberty, she trains our eyes and declares the avant-garde tradition dead while praising George Lucas! ISBN-13: 978-0307278029

Mondays, 2 p.m., August 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader Stanley Oropesa

Members \$32

Host Bill Butler

Non-Members \$42

Place Altadena – see rules* for outdoors, page 1

321 Summer Subscription Zoom Sessions

Subscription to participate in up to four of the following short Zoom sessions. If you want to participate in more than four, get more subscriptions. Notify the leaders of the Zooms you select by email. Leaders will conduct lotteries for their oversubscribed groups if necessary.

Members \$10 Non-Members \$20

“The Road From Colonus” by E. M. Forster – short story

Wednesday, July 7, noon

Bonnie Brown 4bonitabrown@att.net

“China thinks it can avoid Middle Eastern traps that caught America” – article from the Economist

Monday July 12, 10 a.m.

Esma Ali esmasali@msn.com

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about CBD, a Chemical Found in Marijuana – Lecture given by Deven Jeckel with Q & A

Wednesday, July 14, noon

Carolyn Karpin carkar48@gmail.com

“Victory Over Japan” by Ellen Gilchrist – short story

Wednesday, July 21, 1 p.m.

Sandra Browne sandrabrowne@att.net

A short story or article from the New Yorker

Thursday, July 22, 10 a.m.

Charles Schufreider cschufreider@yahoo.com

“Yesterday” by Haruki Murakami – short story

Tuesday, July 27, noon

Sue Komarek suecarterk@yahoo.com

Two surprise science fiction short stories

Thursday, July 29, 10 a.m.

Bill Urban bill.urban@gmail.com

A New Yorker article TBA

Tuesday, August 3, noon

Donna Cunningham dsc422@gmail.com

Discussion of the movie *Nomadland*

Thursday, August 12, noon

Stanley Oropesa stanoropesa@hotmail.com

Twelve Angry Men – movie

Monday, August 16, noon

Coralie Whitcomb coraliewhitcomb@gmail.com

David Whitcomb Whitcomb_David@yahoo.com

Science fiction short story TBA

Wednesday, August 18, noon

Lynne Appel appellynne@gmail.com

“The Ice Palace” by F. Scott Fitzgerald – short story

Thursday, August 19, 10 a.m.

Tom Wright tdwright2360@gmail.com

Inherit the Wind – movie

Monday, August 23, noon

Coralie Whitcomb coraliewhitcomb@gmail.com

David Whitcomb Whitcomb_David@yahoo.com

“The Enormous Radio” by John Cheever – short story

Thursday, September 9, 10 a.m.

Tom Wright tdwright2360@gmail.com

“The Last Speaker of the Language” by Carol Anshaw – short story

Monday, September 13, 2 p.m.

Sandra Browne sandrabrowne@att.net

Stolen Art In History: Politics and Sociology – articles from the Economist

Wednesday, September 15, 10 a.m.

Katherine Gavzy kathgav@comcast.net

Post mortem on *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

Thursday, September 23, 10 a.m.

Bhargav Oza b_oza7@hotmail.com

SUMMER SAFARIS

S03 Mark Steven Greenfield – Making Art the First 50 Years

This power point presentation will cover the artist’s career and his work as an arts administrator and educator. Mark’s art depicts an appreciation for the European masters as well as his religious roots. In stark contrast to these images are his honest statements about his own experience of growing up black in America with the harsh history of America’s racial injustice. Mark is currently working on an L.A. Metro station mural.

Friday, 1 p.m., July 9

Leader Marylouise Lau

Zoom

Members \$10

Non-Members \$15

S04 Deborah Fox – A Virtual Tour of The Huntington's Chinese Garden

Journey back to 16th Century China when the Chinese Garden reached its full flower as a representation of the best of Chinese culture! Explore the historical and cultural perfection of its arts and literary traditions, in particular, the new addition. Deborah, a Garden docent, will show a video of her walking through the Chinese Garden and discussing it. Followed by Q&A.

Thursdays, 7 p.m., September 23

Leader Deborah Fox

Zoom

Members \$10

Non-Members \$15

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:

- On your registration form, adjust the price to \$10 for members, or \$20 for non-members.
- On 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.)

Pasadena Area Liberal Arts Center

Mail your check payable to PALAC to the office, 1015 N. Lake Ave., suite 108, Pasadena, CA 91104.

2021 Half-Year Membership Dues, July 1 through December 31, 2021

PLEASE LEGIBLY PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Family Membership with: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phones: hm/wk/cell _____ hm/wk/cell _____ hm/wk/cell _____

Email: _____

Individual membership \$15; Family Membership \$25

Donation

Summer and Fall Program Registration:

Use these lines to register for movie groups, armchair travelers, virtual safaris, and short, Zoom subscriptions

Program number	Title	Cost
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

SUMMER. Use these lines to register for up to **THREE** multi-session discussion groups for **SUMMER.**

Program number	Title	Cost
1		
2		
3		

~~**FALL.** Use these lines to register for up to **THREE** multi-session discussion groups for **FALL.**~~

Program number	Title	Cost
1		
2		
3		

Total Membership, Donation, and Programs

(Please make check payable to PALAC)

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If you and your life partner are both registering for the same program(s) do you want to be considered as an inseparable unit for the lottery? Circle one YES NO

I will share a screen with my partner when registered together. Circle one YES NO

I will be responsible for buying my own books (see previous page). Circle one YES NO