

PALAC ... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS WINTER 2022

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.

PALAC remains vital despite the COVID-19 pandemic! In fact, with vaccines available, we are once again offering some groups in homes! Nine of the multi-session groups are meeting in person. But since we can never be sure about the evolution of the pandemic, our plans regarding holding groups on Zoom, in-person indoors or outside might change. The locations for all groups appear after the discussion group's description and meeting details. For outdoor groups, if the weather is bad, the leader may choose to hold the session for that day on Zoom rather than outdoors. For all in-person sessions **full vaccination is required**:

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 Ave., suite 108, Pasadena, CA 91104.

Now is the time to pay your annual 2022 membership dues, good for January through December.

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

Most groups are limited to 9-12 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 give everyone an equal chance to get in their chosen groups. For those discussion groups and safaris that are over-subscribed, the office will hold a lottery two weeks after the program brochure is published. Be sure to get your registration form to the office before the lottery! And don't forget, 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.

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 22
Program Brunch Saturday March 19
Both will be on Zoom.

WINTER SESSION 2022

101 *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley

In his final collection of essays, Eiseley, a scientist whose reflections on current issues in science, anthropology, and cosmology are rooted in the tradition of Emerson and Thoreau, is celebrated for the richness of his language; his ability to portray the slow passage of time and the meaning of the past in the present; his portrayal of relationships among all living things; his concern about the future; and his awareness of how man's idolization of the machine was changing the world. ISBN-13: 978-0156849098

Mondays, 10 a.m., January 3, 10, 17, 24

Leader Stanley Oropesa

Members \$32

Host Bill Butler

Non-Members \$42

Place Altadena

102 *Tales of Henry James, 2nd edition* by Henry James. Wegelin and Worsham, editors.

Henry James is one of the major figures of trans-Atlantic literature and has been called America's greatest novelist. His works frequently juxtapose characters from the Old World (Europe), embodying a civilization that thinks itself beautiful, corrupt, and alluring, and from the New World (United States), where we are taught to be brash, open, and assertive of our liberties, forming the basis of what we call our unique moral character. ISBN-13: 978-0393977103

Mondays, 7 p.m., January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Leader Stanley Oropesa

Members \$39

Host Nancy Sullivan

Non-Members \$49

Place Pasadena

103 *The Red Badge of Courage* by Steven

Crane

This is the classic fictional story of a young boy in a Civil War battle who learns the meaning of fear and courage. ISBN-13: 979-8516750304

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., January 4, 11

Leader Steve Crane

Members \$17

Zoom

Non-Members \$27

104 *Four Quartets* by T. S. Eliot

T. S. Eliot was one of the most important poets of his time. *Four Quartets* is a series of meditations on our relationship as humans with time, aging, loving, and death and of our constant, obsessive and often fruitless search for meaning in our lives. These poems are difficult, but they contain the beauty of language that only the greatest poets bring forward. ISBN-13: 978-0156332255

Wednesdays, 2 p.m., January 5, 12, 19, 26

Leader Bill Butler

Members \$22

Host Susan Trauger

Non-Members \$32

Place Altadena

105 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 the cost of the movie rental. Movies may or may not be the same as Laemmle Movies, Thursday. The group will meet at El Portal patio in good weather and Zoom or at the leader's home in poor weather.

Wednesdays, 3 p.m., January 5, 19, February 2, 16, March 2, 16

Leader Carol Criqui

Members \$10

Non-Members \$15

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena

106 Laemmle Movies, Thursdays

Together we will choose the best of the films offered by Laemmle, watch them ahead of time, and be ready for a lively discussion. We may also include movies currently rentable from other sources. Participants will pay for the rental of the film. The discussions will take place outside on the patio of the El Portal Restaurant across the street from the theatre. The group will decide the venue for sessions with inclement weather.

Thursdays, 2 p.m., January 6, 20, February 3, 17, March 3, 17

Leader Audrey Vaughan

Members \$10

Non-Members \$15

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena

107 *All the Shah's Men* by Stephen Kinzer

This is the first full-length account of the CIA's coup d'etat in Iran in 1953—a covert operation whose consequences are still with us today. This book is based on documents about the coup (including internal CIA reports) that have now been declassified. Stephen Kinzer's compelling narrative is at once a vital piece of history, a cautionary tale, and a real-life espionage thriller. ISBN-13: 978-0470185490

Thursdays, 2 p.m., January 6, 13, 20, 27

Leader Tom Wright

Members \$25

Zoom

Non-Members \$35

108 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., January 9, 23, February 6, 20, March 6, 20

Leader James Liu

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$15

109 Sunday Movie Group B

See Sunday Movie Group A.

Sundays, 2 p.m., January 16, 30, February 13, 27, March 13, 27

Leader James Liu

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$15

110 Sunday Movie Group C

See Sunday Movie Group A.

Sundays, 4 p.m., January 9, 23, February 6, 20, March 6, 20

Leader James Liu

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$15

111 *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., January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4

Leader David Whitcomb

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$20

112 *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century* by Jessica Bruder

From the beet fields of North Dakota to the National Forest campgrounds of California, employers have discovered a new low-cost labor pool of older Americans who can't survive on Social Security, are underwater on mortgages, or are casualties of the Great Recession. Bruder hits the road to get to know the people she writes about and exposes a dark underbelly of the American economy and the precarious financial conditions many seniors face. ISBN-13: 978-0393356311

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., January 18, 25, February 1, 8

Leader Carla Barnes **Members \$24**

Host Audrey Vaughan **Non-Members \$34**

Place Altadena

113 *Great Decisions, Group 1* by Foreign Policy Association

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

Thursdays, 7 p.m., January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

Leader Brice Harris **Members \$44**

Zoom **Non-Members \$54**

114 *Great Decisions, Group 2* by Foreign Policy Association

See *Great Decisions, Group 1*.

Sundays, 2 p.m., February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3

Leader Bhargav Oza **Members \$44**

Zoom **Non-Members \$54**

115 *Great Decisions, Group 3* by Foreign Policy Association

See *Great Decisions, Group 1*.

Tuesdays, 2 p.m., February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12

Leader Ed Washatka **Members \$44**

Zoom **Non-Members \$54**

116 *The Vanishing Half: A Novel* by Britt Bennett

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of the Vignes family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Bennett created a novel that's both a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking beyond issues of race, this novel considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores why people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins. ISBN-13: 978-0525536291

Fridays, 10 a.m., February 11, 18, 25, March 4

Leader Donna Jaffee **Members \$30**

Zoom **Non-Members \$40**

117 *Black Paper* by Teju Cole

One of the most celebrated essayists of his generation, Cole here plays variations on the essay form, modeling ways to acknowledge experience—not just to take in but to think critically about what we sense and what we don't. Wide-ranging but thematically unified, the essays address ethical questions about what it means to be human and what it means to bear witness, recognizing how our individual present is informed by a collective past. ISBN-13: 978-0226641355

Mondays, 2 p.m., February 14, 21, 28, March 7

Leader Bob Diller **Members \$33**

Host Ruth Judkins **Non-Members \$43**

Place Altadena

118 *From the New Yorker*

Each week we will discuss articles (both fiction and non-fiction) from the prior week's *New Yorker*. Articles in pdf format will be emailed to participants.

Thursdays, 2 p.m., February 17, 24, March 3, 10

Leader Charles Schufreider **Members \$10**

Zoom **Non-Members \$20**

119 *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant

A story of sacrifice and betrayal with a heroine who thrives under a patriarchal society. Vivid images evoking Florence at the time of the Medicis under the fanatic Savonarola and the artistic ferment of the Italian Renaissance, encompassing creativity against destruction, hope against fanaticism. The constricted roles of women and gays are explored. ISBN-13: 978-0812968972

Wednesdays, 2 p.m., February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23

Leader Sue Komarek **Members \$26**

Zoom **Non-Members \$36**

120 *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates

The problems, the solutions we have and the breakthroughs we need to avoid a climate disaster are analyzed. Bill Gates sets out a practical and accessible plan for how the world can get to zero greenhouse gas emissions in time to avoid a climate catastrophe. With facts from experts in the fields related to climate change he explains how we can work toward net-zero emissions. It will not be easy or simple but possible if we follow his plan. ISBN-13: 978-0385546133

Tuesdays, 7 p.m., March 1, 8, 15

Leader Linda & John Huetinck
Zoom

Members \$28
Non-Members \$38

121 *The Noise of Time: A Novel* by Julian Barnes

In 1936 the brilliant composer Dmitri Shostakovich, just thirty years old, recalls the first of three interactions with Soviet power. Stalin has denounced the young composer and this denunciation could result in his death or imprisonment. How can this great artist be honest to himself and to his art? Julian Barnes was awarded the Booker Prize for this fictional biography. The London Times: calls *The Noise of Time*, "A great novel. Barnes's masterpiece." ISBN-13: 978-1101971185

Mondays, 2 p.m., March 14, 21, 28

Leader Bill Butler
Host Susan Trauger
Place Altadena

Members \$28
Non-Members \$38

122 *The Fight for Free Speech: Ten Cases That Define Our First Amendment Freedoms* by Ian Rosenberg

A must read for anyone of any age to understand the stakes for the amendment America's founding fathers chose to put first, because without it representative democracy dies. The magic of this book is that it is written clearly and concisely and with the dynamism vital to make its lessons stick. A great and powerful read. That this book should be released at a time when the First Amendment is under sustained attack makes it all the more valuable. ISBN-13: 978-1479801565

Tuesdays, 10 a.m., March 15, 22, 29

Leader Jane Crane
Zoom

Members \$41
Non-Members \$51

123 *The Simple Art of Murder* by Raymond Chandler

One NY book reviewer said "the prose rises to heights of unselfconscious eloquence and we realize with a jolt of excitement that we are in the presence of not just a mere action tale teller, but a stylist, a writer with a vision." Join me for eight short stories in classic noir and 1930s Los Angeles as we rediscover Chandler with his own intro essay. ISBN-13: 978-0394757650

Thursdays, 2 p.m., March 17, 24, 31

Leader Deborah Fox
Host Deborah Fox
Place South Pasadena

Members \$24
Non-Members \$34

124 Winter Subscription Zoom Series

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 Rocking-Horse Winner" by DH Lawrence – Short Story

Wednesday, January 5, 10 a.m.

Jane Crane jcrane5465@aol.com

"Puppy" by Richard Ford -- Short Story

Wednesday, January 12, 11 a.m.

Sandra Browne sandrabrowne@att.net

Bang the Drum Slowly with Michael Moriarty & Robert De Niro -- Movie

Thursday, January 27, noon

Charles Schufreider cschufreider@yahoo.com

"A Hunger Artist" by Franz Kafka -- Short Story

Thursday, February 3, 2 p.m.

Liz Green lizgrn@gmail.com

"A Cask of Amontillado" by Edgar Allan Poe -- Short Story

Tuesday, February 8, 10 a.m.

Stanley Oropesa stanoropesa@hotmail.com

"Break it Down" by Lydia David -- Short Story

Wednesday, February 9, 11 a.m.

Sandra Browne sandrabrowne@att.net

"The Killers" by Hemingway -- Short Story

Wednesday, February 16, 10 a.m.

Tom Wright tdwright2360@gmail.com

"Stories behind the Songs!" Members pick songs to discuss -
- Interactive Song Group

Wednesday, February 16, noon

Carolyn Karpin carkar48@gmail.com

My Cousin Vinny with Marissa Tomei & Joe Pesci -- Movie
Monday, March 7, 4 p.m.

Coralie & David Whitcomb Coraliewhitcomb@gmail.com

“What We Talk About When We talk About Love” by

Raymond Carver -- Short Story

Thursday, March 10, 10 a.m.

Donna Jaffee laballetgirl@gmail.com

“In the Cart” aka “The Schoolmistress” by Anton Chekov --

Short Story

Monday, March 14, 2 p.m.

Liz Green lizgrn@gmail.com

“Cathedral” by Raymond Carver -- Short Story

Wednesday, March 16, 10 a.m.

Tom Wright tdwright2360@gmail.com

“Battling the High Hill Fire--A Real Life Thriller” Atlantic

October 2021 -- Short Story

Wednesday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Bill Urban bill.urban@gmail.com

SAFARIS

S01 AI and Its Application in Self-Driving Cars

James Douma, an AI expert, will discuss its implementation in self-driving autos, machine learning, real world training, handling of special circumstances, and the differences in approach between Tesla and others such as Waymo and Uber. He will also explain some of the as yet unsolved problems and discuss the reasons behind some of the high-profile and newsworthy incidents reported in the press and being investigated by NHTSA.

Monday, 2 p.m., February 7

Leader Bob Diller

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$15

S02 How Fantasy Baseball Changed the Major Leagues

Participants will watch the movie Moneyball on their own, then attend a 90-minute discussion of the movie, followed by an explanation of sabermetrics, which is the empirical analysis of baseball, especially baseball statistics that measure in-game activity. The session will include a Q&A.

Wednesday, 2 p.m., February 16

Leader Jeff Jaffee

Members \$10

Zoom

Non-Members \$15

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 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 than if the office orders the book for you.)