

PALAC ... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS SUMMER 2026

PALAC offers continuing liberal arts education to adults in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. 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.

The locations for all groups appear after the discussion group's description and meeting details. For outdoor groups, if the weather is bad, the facilitator may choose to hold the session for that day on Zoom rather than outdoors. For groups that are in a park, please bring your hat, chair, snack, and drink. **For all in-person sessions, up-to-date vaccinations are encouraged.**

JOIN US PALAC offers additional advantages and activities to members. Half-year membership is just \$15 per person or \$25 per couple for the remainder of the 2026 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.

REGISTER **If you haven't already paid your 2026 membership dues, allowing you to pay for groups at the discounted membership rate, do so now.** Please send your dues and group payments in with your Summer registration form.

Most groups are limited to 10-15 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 give everyone an equal chance to get in their chosen groups. For those discussion groups and safaris that are oversubscribed, the office will hold a lottery on June 22nd. Be sure to get your registration form and payment to the office before the lottery. And don't forget, dues-paying members receive priority.

We will order books approximately 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 the cost of the book.

New facilitators and hosts are the lifeblood of PALAC. Please call the office to volunteer: 626-797-2380.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Program Planning Meeting for Winter and Spring 2027

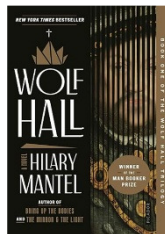
Tuesday, September 15, 9 am – 1 pm
Altadena Community Center
730 E Altadena Dr, Altadena, CA 91001

Fall Retreat

Tuesday, October 20, 9 am – 3 pm
Altadena Community Center
730 E Altadena Dr, Altadena, CA 91001

RESCHEDULED FROM SPRING

219 *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel



England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe oppose him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell: a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist, astute in reading people, and implacable in his ambition. But Henry is volatile: one day tender, one day murderous. Cromwell helps him break the opposition, but what will be the price of his triumph? *Wolf Hall* won the Man Booker Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, 2009. In inimitable style, Hilary Mantel's New York Times bestselling *Wolf Hall* is "a darkly brilliant reimagining of life under Henry VIII. . . . Magnificent." (The Boston Globe). ISBN-13: 978-1250806710 *There is very limited parking at the host's location; car pooling is strongly suggested.*

Tuesday, 10 am, Sep 1, 8, 15, 22

Facilitator John Swain

Host John Swain

Place Pasadena

Members \$23

Non-Members \$33

SUMMER SESSION 2026

301 Wednesday Current Movies - Group A



As a group, we will choose the films either from a local theater or from a streaming source. We will watch them independently and then meet at El Portal Restaurant in Pasadena for discussion. Participants will pay for movie tickets or rental. Please only sign up if you anticipate being available for a majority of the meeting dates. *Also note that Groups A and B meet on alternate Wednesdays. Both groups are run the same way and often choose the same movie to watch.*

Wednesday, 3 pm, Jul 8, 22; Aug 5, 19; Sep 2, 16

Facilitator Lane Dolan **Members \$10**
Non-Members \$20

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena, inside or outside

302 Wednesday Current Movies - Group B

See 301 Wednesday Current Movies - Group A

Wednesday, 3 pm, Jul 15, 29; Aug 12, 26; Sep 9, 23

Facilitator Susan Phifer **Members \$10**
Non-Members \$20

Place El Portal Restaurant, Pasadena, inside or outside

303 Classic Literature Through Short Stories

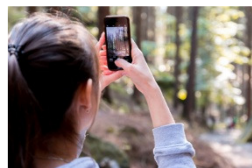


Explore classic world literature through short stories by renowned authors. These concise works, compared to novels, vividly illuminate universal human experiences.

Monday, 12 noon, Jul 6; Aug 3; Sep 7

Facilitator Prakash Shrivastava **Members \$10**
Zoom **Non-Members \$20**

304 Developing an Eye for Life Using Photography



A photo journey into our lives. Each participant will submit up to three photos, taken in the prior two weeks, of things that catch their eye. Our goal is to really look at our world and

improve our photography skills. The photos will be emailed to the facilitator, to be shown in large format on a TV with group discussion. Time permitting, any extra photos sent in will be shown after the initial three.

Friday, 12 noon, July 10, 24; Aug 7, 21

Facilitator Gay Bruveris **Members \$10**
Host Gay Bruveris **Non-Members \$20**

Place Pasadena

305 Movie STARS, Summer 2026 - Group A



Discuss critically acclaimed and notable films from various eras and countries, viewed online before each meeting. Streaming options include free, subscription, or pay-per-view formats, with costs covered by participants. Links to films, reviews and interviews are provided. For examples of movies from past seasons, contact the facilitator.

Monday, 4 pm, Jul 13, 27; Aug 10, 24; Sep 7, 21

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

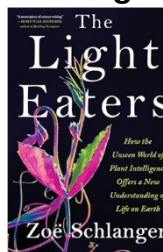
306 Movie STARS, Summer 2026 - Group B

See 305 Movie STARS, Summer 2026 - Group A

Monday, 7 pm, Jul 13, 27; Aug 10, 24; Sep 7, 21

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

307 Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth by Zoe Schlanger



The contemporary world of botany is divided over the matter of how plants sense the world and whether they can be said to communicate. Research in recent decades has prompted the question: Are plants intelligent? Schlanger writes about scientists who are studying how plants change their shape and respond to sound, how they use electricity to convey information, and how they send one another chemical signals. The book's focus is on the researchers themselves. It doesn't force people or their findings into narrative engines. Instead, the field of botany itself functions like a character, one undergoing a potentially radical change, with all the excitement, discomfort, and uncertainty that transformation brings. The book's power comes from showing a field in flux and reminding us that ideas have their own life cycles, from crackpot theory to utter embarrassment to real possibility to the stuff of textbooks. ISBN-13: 978-0063073869

Tuesday, 10 am, Jul 14, 21, 28

Facilitator Bob Diller **Members \$28**
Non-Members \$38

Place Pasadena parks and/or gardens, Outdoors

308 Civil Eats "Civics and the Food System: The Federal Government's Role in What We Eat, and What's Happening as the System Is Being Pressure-Tested"

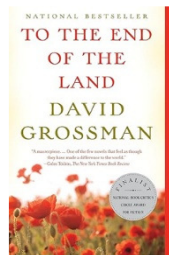


This course examines the different federal agencies that oversee, regulate, and shape food policy and practice. It explains the biggest food policy levers, including the Farm Bill, the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, and others, along with actions states can take. It also reviews changes implemented and proposed since the start of Trump's second administration, including key provisions of Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill. This is a four-part email course (\$20). Each participant will independently enroll and complete the email course before the group meets to discuss the materials.

Thursday, 11:30 am, Jul 23, 30
Facilitator Carla Barnes
Host Fran Blackwell
Place Pasadena

Members \$10
Non-Members \$20

309 To the End of the Land by David Grossman



Just before his release from service in the Israeli army, Ora's son Ofer is sent back to the front for a major offensive. In a fit of preemptive grief and magical thinking, so that no bad news can reach her, Ora sets out on an epic hike in the Galilee. She is joined by an unlikely companion, Avram, a former friend and lover with a troubled past, and as they sleep out in the hills, Ora begins to conjure her son. Ofer's story, as told by Ora, becomes a surprising balm both for her and for Avram. ISBN-13: 978-0307476401

Wednesday, 10 am, Aug 5, 12, 19, 26
Facilitator Carla Lazzareschi
Host Audrey Vaughan
Place Altadena

Members \$31
Non-Members \$41

310 Six Great Modern Plays by Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, et al.



Both Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams have written American classics which have won Pulitzer prizes and been received with standing ovations across the nation and overseas. We will discuss both *The Glass Menagerie* by Williams and *All My Sons* by Miller from *Six Great Modern Plays*. If there is interest in any of the other modern classics in the book, we can decide whether to visit them. ISBN-13: 978-0440379843

them. ISBN-13: 978-0440379843

Thursday, 2 pm, Aug 6, 13, 20, 27

Facilitator Sarah Hunter

Host Margaret Hostrup

Place Pasadena

Members \$20

Non-Members \$30

311 The Economist magazine



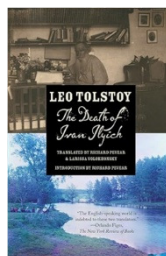
A review and discussion of selected articles from *The Economist* magazine. Participants are sent copies of articles about events and people around the world and they are expected to relate their views on each article.

Friday, 2 pm, Aug 7, 14, 21, 28; Sep 4, 11

Facilitator David Whitcomb
Zoom

Members \$10
Non-Members \$20

312 The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy



An intense and moving examination of death and the possibilities of redemption, here is a powerful translation by the award-winning Richard Pevar and Larissa Volokhonsky. Ivan Ilyich is a middle-aged man who has spent his life focused on his career as a bureaucrat and is emotionally detached from his wife and children. After an accident, he

finds himself on the brink of an untimely death, which he sees as a terrible injustice. Face to face with his mortality, Ivan begins to question everything he has believed about the meaning of life. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* is a masterpiece of psychological realism and philosophical profundity that has inspired generations of readers. The link to the translated 64-page text will be provided to participants prior to the first meeting.

Tuesday, 2 pm, Aug 11, 18

Facilitator Jake Broderick

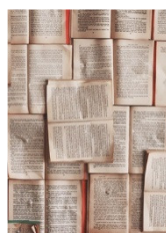
Host Jake Broderick

Place Pasadena

Members \$10

Non-Members \$20

313 Two Short Stories by George Saunders



One of the most important and blazingly original writers of his generation, George Saunders is an undisputed master of the short story. We will be reading two of his short stories, "Tenth of December" and "The Falls". George Saunders is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of thirteen books

and story collections. He has received fellowships and awards from many distinguished national organizations. He teaches in the creative writing program at Syracuse University. Copies of the short stories will be provided to participants.

Monday, 11:30 am, Aug 24 and 11 am, Aug 31

Facilitator Beth Mael

Host Fran Blackwell

Place Pasadena

Members \$10

Non-Members \$20

314 Two Masters of the Short Story



John Cheever (1912-1982) and Raymond Carver (1938-1988) are generally recognized as masters of their genre. But each had a very distinct style and explored a very different subject matter: button-down shirts and loafers for Cheever; blue-collar and construction attire for Carver. We will discuss Cheever's "The Enormous Radio" (*The New Yorker*, May 17, 1947), and Carver's "Elephant" (*The New Yorker*, June 9, 1986). Copies of the short stories will be provided to the participants approximately two weeks before the session.

Thursday, 2 pm, Sep 3

Facilitator Charles Schufreider

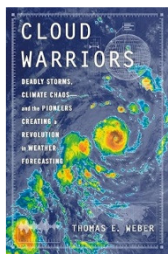
Host Suzanne Diller

Place Pasadena

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

315 Cloud Warriors by Thomas E. Weber



In this tale of innovation and perseverance in weather forecasting, we learn the inside story of people pushing boundaries of science and technology to build better weather forecasts. We learn how anyone can become more weather literate to protect ourselves in emergencies. ISBN-13: 978-1250280541

Thursday, 2 pm, Sep 10, 17, 24

Facilitator Gay Bruveris

Host Gay Bruveris

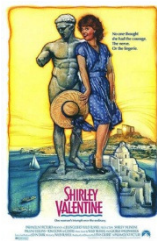
Place Pasadena

Members \$27

Non-Members \$37

SUMMER SESSION SAFARIS

S11 The *Shirley Valentine* Experience



Watch *Shirley Valentine*, a thoughtful, enjoyable movie, on your own or with friends or family (cost \$3.99 on some services and free on others). Then, join us at Father Nature Lavash Bistro in Old Town Pasadena to share thoughts on this 37-year old film that covers issues that still exist today. We will be meeting on the top floor

(about 16 steps up) of this little Mediterranean eatery, where we will have a lovely space to talk.

Tuesday, 1 pm, Aug 25

Facilitator Carolyn Karpin

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

Place Father Nature Lavash Bistro, Pasadena

S12 Arkansas and the Total Solar Eclipse



Come and experience an exciting slideshow of Adrienne's photos of her trip to Arkansas. Arkansas is a hidden gem, a beautiful state with lovely landscapes, world-renowned

museums and the perfect location to have seen the solar eclipse in April 2024. Lively music will accompany the slides and have your toes tapping.

Tuesday, 7 pm, Sep 22

Presenter Adrienne Bass

Host Gaye Shepard

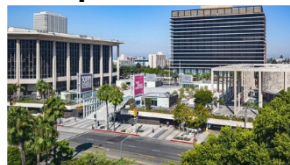
Place Villa Gardens, 842 E. Villa Street, Pasadena

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

S13 Los Angeles Music Center Theater

Complex



Join us on a docent-led tour of the Music Center's four theaters: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, and Walt Disney Concert

Hall. Learn the history and architecture of these theaters and open spaces, find out about shows and performances, and view artwork including sculptures, painting and antiquities. Meet in the Disney Hall lobby. Optional lunch following. Take the A line from Pasadena or carpool. Parking is \$10 at Disney Hall with validation at the event.

Friday, 10:30 am, Jul 17

Facilitator Adrienne Bass

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

Place Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, 90012

Filling Out the Registration Form

Online

Both the brochure and the registration form are on the PALAC website. Go to the How to Participate page to find the links to both.

<https://palac-pasadena.info/how-to-participate/>

You may fill out the form online. After you have filled out the form, a pdf file will be generated which you can save and then email as an attachment to the PALAC office. If you pay by Zelle, you can both register and pay without printing or mailing anything! Note that you are not registering online, just filling out the form. You won't be registered until both your registration form and your payment (check or Zelle) are received by the PALAC office.

Of course, you may also print out the form at the end of this brochure (also available on the website), fill it in by hand, and mail it in.

Payment Options

You can continue to pay by check, but you can now pay by Zelle. The way PALAC is identified on Zelle is by its tag name, **pasadenalac**. Enter that tag in the place where you usually type a name, a phone number, or an email. (Banks may or may not ask for a name in the first step and entering Pasadena Area Liberal Arts Center is fine. Just do not enter a phone number or email.) If you pay by Zelle, you must still send your registration form to the PALAC office either by US mail or by email. The payment amount, date and the name on the Zelle account you are paying from are sent to our bank and we have a record of that instantly. Please use the optional Zelle memo field to describe what the payment is for: programs, membership, fall retreat, etc. **Your use of Zelle does not affect your position in any lottery queue just because it arrives so quickly.**

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.)