

PALAC

... where people and ideas meet

STUDY DISCUSSION PROGRAMS SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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.

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.

If your selected group becomes over-subscribed your reservation is placed on a waiting list and you will be notified by phone. PALAC members on the waiting list receive first priority.

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.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Spring Pot Luck
Program Brunch
Fall Retreat**

*Sunday May 20
Friday June 22
Saturday October 27*

SPRING SESSION 2018

101 *Dark Money* by Jane Meyers

This book addresses the influence that wealthy donors and powerful organizations have made on the fabric of the American political system and the subsequent impact on democratic processes across the entire spectrum of science, education and industry. ISBN-13: 978-0307947901

Mondays, 2-4 p.m., April 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader David Whitcomb
Host Coralie Whitcomb
Place Glendale

Members \$18
Non-Members \$28

102 *Othello* by William Shakespeare

We will read and discuss Shakespeare's *Othello* and watch a video of the Metropolitan Opera's production of Verdi's *Otello*. We will see how Verdi's librettist, Arrigo Boito, adapted the play for his opera libretto, and in our fourth meeting, compare Shakespeare's use of words with Verdi's use of music to convey great drama. An opportunity to compare one of the greatest dramatic works with one of the greatest operas. ISBN-13: 978-0451526854

Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Leader Bill Butler
Robert Gorski
Host Susan Trauger
Place Altadena

Members \$11
Non-Members \$21

103 *Grant* by Ron Chernoff

A very exciting biography of General Grant from boyhood through the Civil War which shows Grant's great military successes and his early failure in farming and business. ISBN-13: 978-1594204876

Tuesdays, 7 – 9 p.m., April 3, 10 17, 24, May 1

Leader Steve Crane
Host Jane Crane
Place Pasadena

Members \$32
Non-Members \$42

104 *Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville

Melville puts us inside of the world of Ishmael, a young whaler who becomes more and more entranced by the beauty of the animals he is paid to kill while slowly realizing that he and his shipmates are pawns of a sociopathic captain whose irrational fury threatens all on board. Melville's environmentalism, critique of fundamentalist religion, exploration of Hindu thought, and reflections on race and democracy make him the most contemporary of writers. ISBN-13: 978-0143105954

Wednesdays, 7 – 9 p.m., April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2

Leader Stanley Oropesa **Members** \$20

Host Joan Stafford **Non-Members** \$30

Place Pasadena

105 *A Call to Action* by Jimmy Carter

A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power documents a system of discrimination against women and girls that extends around the globe. This system is based on the presumption that males are superior to females and is supported by male religious leaders who distort the Bible and other religious texts. This topic is particularly timely because of the #MeToo movement. ISBN-13: 978-1476773964

Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m., April 18, 25, May 2, 9

Leader Reiko Sakata **Members** \$15

Host Reiko Sakata **Non-Members** \$25

Place Monrovia

106 *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy* by Cathy O'Neil

We live in the age of the algorithm. Increasingly, the decisions that affect our lives are being made not by humans, but by mathematical models. In theory, this should lead to greater fairness, but this urgent and necessary book reveals that the opposite is true. Models are propping up the lucky and punishing the downtrodden, creating a “toxic cocktail for democracy.” Welcome to the dark side of Big Data. ISBN-13: 978-0553418835

Thursdays, 7 - 9 p.m., April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24

Leader Marie Slonski **Member** \$20

Host Suzanne Diller **No-Member** \$30

Place Pasadena

107 *Three Floors Up* by Eshcol Nevelli

Skillfully woven narratives about three Israeli families vividly depict the grinding effects of social and political ills played out, often in unexpected ways, in the psyches of flawed, compelling characters. “You can never tell what goes on with people behind their reinforced metal doors” says the author in his contemporary Israeli novellas. Your host invites you to enjoy brunch as you discuss this compelling book. ISBN-13: 978-1590518786

Fridays, 10 a.m. – noon, April 13, 20, 27

Leader Coralie Whitcomb

Members \$18

Host Coralie Whitcomb

Non-Members \$28

Place Glendale

108 *Armchair Traveler: Sicily*

Explore the Italian island at the cultural and geopolitical crossroads of the Mediterranean with Greek temples, Roman estates, Byzantine mosaics, Arab-Norman architecture as well as modern Italy with the Mafia, African migrants, and the life and future of a family farm in rural Sicily.

Thursday, April 12, 7:15 p.m. – 9:15

Leader Brice Harris

Members \$5

Host Esther Ames

Non-Members \$10

Place Pasadena

109 & 110 Laemmle Theatre Groups

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

109 Laemmle Wednesday afternoons, April 4, 18, May 2, 16

110 Laemmle Thursday afternoons, April 5, 19, May 3, 17

Leaders Carol Criqui

Members \$5

Audrey Vaughan

Non-Members \$10

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

SUMMER SESSION 2018

201 *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner

In Faulkner's harrowing odyssey, the Bundren family journeys across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, their wife and mother. Narrated in turn by each of the family members (including Addie) in stream-of-consciousness, Faulkner shows how human minds work and how intimate thoughts and emotions reveal themselves. The novel ranges in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos. Considered one of the most influential novels in American fiction in structure, style, and drama, *As I Lay Dying* is a true 20th-century classic. ISBN-13: 978-0679732259

Mondays, 2 – 4 p.m., July 2, 9, 16, 23

Leader Jane Crane **Members** \$20
Host Jane Crane **Non-Members** \$30
Place Pasadena

202 *Scalia Speaks: Reflections on Law, Faith, and Life Well Lived* by Antonin Scalia and Christopher J. Scalia

This collection of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's finest speeches covers topics as varied as the law, faith, virtue, pastimes, and his heroes and friends. This timeless book is perfect for any reader interested in a mannered mind that helped shape our nation. "*If our friendship encourages others to appreciate that some very good people have ideas with which we disagree, and that despite differences, people of goodwill can pull together...I will be overjoyed.*" from the introduction by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. ISBN-13: 978-0525573326

Mondays, 7 – 9 p.m., July 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader Bill Urban **Members** \$28
Host Clara Richards **Non-Members** \$38
Place South Pasadena

203 *Everybody Lies: Big Data, New Data and What the Internet Can Tell Us About Who We Really Are* by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz

The amount of data available from the internet is staggering, and can tell us a great deal about human behavior and the conscious and unconscious decisions we make. Does where you go to school affect how successful you are? Do violent films affect the crime rate? Do parents secretly favor boy children over girls? The author explores the power of "digital truth serum" and its potential to reveal biases, information we can use, and questions we're afraid to ask. ISBN-13: 978-0062390851

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

Leader Carla Barnes **Members** \$16
Host Fran Blackwell **Non-Members** \$26
Place Pasadena

204 *Song of Myself* by Walt Whitman

"Loafe with me on the grass, loose the stop from your throat..." from *Song of Myself*. We'll meet in a beautiful, quiet garden in Altadena and "loafe" together "loosing the stop from our throat," reading poems from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*. Each of us will chose the poems we want to read during the group meetings. And we'll discuss the poems, although the emphasis will be on our public readings. ISBN-13: 978-0140421996

Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m., August 7, 14, 21

Leader Bill Butler **Members** \$17
Host Karen Rogers **Non-Members** \$27
Place A home garden in Altadena. Leader will provide the address.

205 *Engaging Africa through Literature*

We'll read *The River Between*, ISBN-13: 978-0435905484 *Weep not Child*, ISBN-13: 978-0143106692 and *Devil on the Cross* ISBN-13: 978-0143107361, three African Novels by Kenyan (James) Ngugi wa Thiong'o, about life on the eve of the British occupation, life during the British occupation, and life after or now.

Tuesdays, 7 – 9 p.m., July 3, 10, 17, 24

Leader Brice Harris **Members** \$35
Host Deborah Fox **Non-Members** \$45
Place South Pasadena

206 *Suspended Sentences*

Patrick Modiano, a Nobel Prize winner in literature in 2014, has compiled a trilogy of his related novellas in *Suspended Sentences*. The setting is post WWII Paris with a population of uprooted people in search for their own identities, lost parents, families, and neighborhoods within an unfamiliar Paris, now changed forever. The characters live in an environment haunted by loss, mystery, confusion and uncertainty. Modiano himself was born in 1945 and writes that postwar times haunt his memories and inspire his writings. ISBN-13: 978-0300198058

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m., July 18, 25, August 1

Leader Marielouise Lau **Members** \$17
Host Judy Jacobs **Non-Members** \$27
Place Alhambra

207 *Complete Stories* by Flannery O'Connor

Set in the deep South during Martin Luther King's call for racial justice, O'Connor's stories are built around the complex and often tragic consequences for the whites who cannot adapt. Her stories are shocking, disturbing and hilarious. ISBN-13: 978-0374515362

Wednesdays, 7 - 9 p.m., August 1, 8, 15, 22

Leader Stanley Oropesa **Members** \$18
Host Linda Huetinck **Non-Members** \$28
Place Alhambra

208 *Sons of Wichita: How the Koch Brothers Became America's Most Powerful and Private Dynasty* by Daniel Shulman

The Koch brothers, from the second richest family in America, inherited most of their wealth from their father, a prominent member of the John Birch Society, and obtained the rest by corrupt business practices. They adopted their father's extreme view of libertarianism, hatred of government and dislike of any form of regulation. The author chronicles the many dramas of business clashes, their severe sibling rivalry and their present activities. Limit: 10. ISBN-13: 978-1455518722

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., July 5, 12, 19, 26

Leader Carol Emerson

Members \$17

Host Barbara Blowers

Non-Members \$27

Place Pasadena

209 *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Canadian author Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel demands our attention, especially in today's society and political environment. This brilliant and frightening exploration of the deeper aspects of politics and sex set in the Republic of Gilead (formerly the USA) is not for the faint-hearted. Topics of feminism, patriarchal societies and environmental concerns beg our exploration. ISBN-13: 978-0385490818

Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., August 9, 16, 23, 30

Leader Helen Baatz

Members \$16

Host Sharon Larman

Non-Members \$26

Place Altadena

210 *Armchair Detective: Murder in Mytilene, a Murder Mystery Dinner Evening*

This evening we return to the Golden Age of Athens when ancient Greece first established the importance of man as thinker. At the Temple of Aphrodite the priestesses, who have a self-sufficient community on Mytilene, have gathered in the evening before the dawn boat departures to celebrate a bountiful harvest and prepare for subsequent "love" offerings, when murder most foul occurs in the perfect world. Marina leads the group in trying to solve the mystery using a new idea, the Socratic method of asking questions to discover truth! Fifteen female participants (or less) will be sent mini-scripts which they can share or not. Group members will each supply a dish for the Grecian potluck dinner. Prizes will be given for the best costume and best mystery solution. (Some help is available for costumes.)

Wednesday, June 27, 5 – 8 p.m.

Leader Deborah Fox

Members \$15

Host Fran Blackwell

Non-Members \$25

Place Pasadena

211 & 212 Laemmle Theatre Groups

See description for 109 and 110.

211. Laemmle Wednesday afternoons: July 11, 25, August 8, 22

212. Laemmle Thursday afternoons: July 12, 26, August 9, 23

SPRING AND SUMMER SAFARIS 2018

S01 Sam Maloof Foundation

Maloof was one of the great furniture makers in the 20th century. Visit exhibition space as well as his self-built home with his hand-made furniture and surrounding gardens. No-host lunch afterwards at a nearby place to be determined. Wear comfortable walking shoes – no heels. Limit: 15

Wednesday, April 4, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Leader Susan Trauger

Members \$20

Non-Members \$25

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

S02 Amazon Fulfillment Center

Come see what happens after you click "Buy." The largest internet retailer in the world fills orders from distribution centers like this 1.2 million sq. ft. facility in San Bernardino that operates 24/7 and employs 3,000 people. See how products are located, combined, boxed, and prepared for delivery. Walking tour with flight of stairs. No purses; only keys, wallet & cell phone permitted. No photography. Wear flat, closed-toe shoes. Drivers urgently needed. Please indicate on your registration if you are willing to drive. \$10 per non-driver attendee will be collected at the meeting place to reimburse drivers the cost of gasoline. Please have the exact amount. Minimum: 15.

Tuesday April 17, 11:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Leader Carla Barnes

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

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

S03 Guided Harbor Cruise of Long Beach Port

Aboard the 90-minute narrated excursion, you will get close to operations at the second-busiest port in the nation. See towering cranes, the most advanced and green terminal in the world, new infrastructure projects such as the Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement, and possibly even catch a glimpse of local marine life. You will also learn about the variety of groundbreaking green programs the Port has implemented to reduce the environmental impact of operations. No-host lunch at Parkers Lighthouse. Drivers urgently needed. Please indicate on your registration if you are willing to drive. \$7 per non-driver attendee will be collected at the meeting place to reimburse drivers the cost of gasoline. Please have the exact amount. Tour will validate parking. Limit: 15

Saturday, May 19, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Leader Louis Rubenstein

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

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

S04 Federal Reserve Bank

The Federal Reserve Bank is the central bank of the United States. It establishes national monetary policy, regulates banking institutions, and provides a variety of financial services. Come see the cash vault, check processing operations, and historical currency collection of the local Federal Reserve Bank. You can even play the Fed Chairman game - unless the Prez says, "You're fired!" This is a 90-minute walk with some stairs. We'll lunch nearby after the tour. Registrants need to bring a Government-issued photo ID that matches participant's name as it appears on PALAC's official reservation list. If you bring a cell phone, it will be held by the Federal Reserve Bank for the tour duration. Cost excludes metro travel, parking and no-host lunch. Minimum: 15 people; Maximum: 30. Registration deadline: June 8.

Tuesday, June 26, 8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Leader Carla Barnes

Members \$5

Non-Members \$10

Meeting Place Del Mar Gold Line station at Raymond and Del Mar in Pasadena. Park in the station parking structure for a small fee. We'll travel by light rail on the Gold Line – seniors (62+) with metro cards pay 75¢ or 35¢ (9 am – 3 pm) per ride.

S05 Classic Neon Cruise

Join us for a nighttime 3½ hour bus (top deck) tour of neon signs, movie marquees and permanent installations of contemporary neon art. From the classic movie marquees of downtown Los Angeles' theater district to the glittering lights of Hollywood and the glowing pagodas of Chinatown, you will see outstanding examples of contemporary neon art as well as innovative electrical advertising on this award-winning tour. The tours help support The Museum of Neon Art located on Brand Boulevard in Glendale. The tour is extremely popular with limited ticket availability, so please respond quickly. Registration deadline is March 23. No refunds if you cancel. We will meet at 5:30 promptly to carpool.

Saturday, August 25, 5:30 pm – 11:15 pm

Leader Susan Trauger

Members \$60

Non-Members \$65

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

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 \$5 for members and \$15 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 semi-annual 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 \$5 for members, or \$15 for non-members.

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

Important change to registering for a group

The postal service cannot deliver everyone's mail the same date and time: Those who get their PALAC schedules before others, and those who hand-deliver their checks, are able to be among the first to sign up for groups. PALAC would like to give everyone an even chance. Therefore, this brochure season we will try something different: the PALAC office will hold all checks for seven days after our outlying members receive their brochures in the mail before signing anyone up. Then, if a group is over-subscribed, we will pull names from a hat to fill the group to its maximum. All remaining names will be put on a waiting list in the order pulled. Nonetheless, PALAC members whose dues are current will receive priority over non-members. And, of course, the only real guarantee that you will get in a group is if you are that group's leader or host. Volunteering is a great thing!

PASADENA AREA LIBERAL ARTS CENTER

1015 N. Lake Ave., Suite 108
Pasadena, CA 91104-4574

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

palac.office@gmail.com

PALAC

Where people and ideas meet



Visit us at www.palac-pasadena.info or

Call **626 797-2380**