
RADCLIFFE CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

JANUARY EVENTS 2016

Culinary Adventures: San Francisco: Wednesday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. *Taste of Jiangnan*, 332 Clement (at Fifth), San Francisco. Chinese restaurants are branching out! Used to be we ate Cantonese, Hunan or Szechuan, just a small sampling of the food regions of China. Recently we've seen the cuisines of X'ian, Shaanxi and Shandong join the old guard. The Jiangnan region, south of the Yangtze River, includes Shanghai and Nanjing, but the cooking at this restaurant focuses on the Wuxi region (get out your maps) from whence the owners recently came. Most dishes will be familiar – but different – from the Hong Kong style we're most accustomed to, and many offer some real palate stretching experiences. We don't call ourselves "Culinary Adventures" for nothing! Buses 1, 2, 33, 44, and the 38 Geary. RSVP to Pat Bourne, 415.474-0212 or patriciabourne@post.harvard.edu.

Book Group: Sunday, January 10, at 3 p.m., at the home of Ann Merrill, 1300 Clayton Street, San Francisco, CA 9414. To RSVP call Ann at 415-863-8239 or amerrill@sonic.net. The book for January will be VOICES FROM CHERNOBYL by Svetlana Alexievich, who was awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize for Literature. "A chorus of fatalism, stoic bravery, and black, black humor is sounded in this haunting oral history. . . . The result is an indelible X-ray of the Russian soul." —Publishers Weekly "Shocking accounts of life in a poisoned world. And what quintessentially human stories these are, as each distinct voice expresses anger, fear, ignorance, stoicism, valor, compassion, and love. Alexievich put her own health at risk to gather these invaluable frontline testimonies, which she has transmuted into a haunting and essential work of literature that one can only hope documents a never-to-be-repeated catastrophe." —Booklist (starred review)

The book group will not meet in February. The book for March will be THE SECRET HISTORY OF WONDER WOMAN by Jill Lepore. "On the one hand, the story [The Secret History of Wonder Woman] relates has more uplift than Wonder Woman's invisible airplane or her eagle-encrusted red bustier. It's a yea-saying tale about how this comic book character, created in 1941, remade American feminism and had her roots in the ideas and activism of Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. On the other hand, The Secret History of Wonder Woman is fundamentally a biography of Wonder Woman's larger-than-life and vaguely creepy male creator, William Moulton Marston. . . . [Lepore] fully tells Marston's history for the first time, as well as the complete history of how so many crisp feminist ideas made their way into Wonder Woman comics. It's complicated material that she capably explores. . . . There are many profitable detours in this book: the history of female cartoonists; the moral panic over comics and juvenile delinquency; a history of the feminist movement." —Dwight Garner, The New York Times.

Film Group: Saturday, January 23 at 1 p.m., at the San Francisco Towers home of Ellie Zuckerman, 1661 Pine Street, # 511, San Francisco CA 94109. We will watch THE HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY, a delightful film starring one of our favorite actresses, Helen Mirren, (who has been nominated for a Golden Globe award this year for this role). Mirren plays Madame Mallory, the icy proprietress of a one star Michelin starred restaurant, who is iron bound by the traditions of fine French cuisine, elegant surroundings, and discreet behavior. Her goal is to achieve two star status. Her lovely world is disrupted by an Indian family, headed by "Papa", who arrives in her rural French village, and opens up a traditional Indian restaurant directly opposite Madame Mallory. An inevitable conflict arises, encompassing commercial, class, and racial differences. The resolution of these conflicts results in a wonderfully satisfying film experience. RSVP to Ellie at 415-447-5695 (home) or 925-876-8261 (cell) or elz@post.harvard.edu. Parking is available if Ellie is notified ahead of time.

Museum Dates: Guests welcome! Please arrive 10 minutes early. Join us afterwards for coffee or lunch at the museum café. RSVP to Alison Boeckmann at alison_boeckmann@post.harvard.edu or 415-661-5849 (home), 415-317-2150 (cell). Send check (made out to Alison Boeckmann) to Alison Boeckmann, 1536 Willard Street, SF 94117. Museum events are joint with the Harvard Club of San Francisco.

Sunday, January 24 at 9:45 a.m. Asian Art Museum Looking East: How Japan Inspired Monet, Van Gogh, and other Western Artists. Looking East explores the craze for all things Japanese that changed the course of Western art after Japan opened its port to international trade in the 1850s. Juxtaposing masterpieces of Western art and design with rare works by prominent Japanese artists, the exhibition reveals the interplay of new styles and themes inspired by Japan. Organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Looking East consists of more than 170 objects, including decorative arts, paintings, prints, drawings and textiles. The Asian Art Museum is the final stop on this exhibition's international tour. Private Docent tour. Meet afterwards in the café. Cost: \$10 per person for the docent. Members of the Asian and their guests are free. Non-members pay at the door. Adults \$25, seniors \$20.

Sunday, March 20 at 9:45 a.m. at the Asian Art Museum. Pearls on A String: Artists, Patrons, and Poets at the Great Islamic Courts. Journey to the Islamic worlds of 16th-century Mughal India, 17th-century Safavid Iran, and 18th-century Ottoman Turkey. Pearls on a String vividly evokes an early modern world rapidly changing with the global movement of people, ideas, and technologies. Private Docent Tour with admission to the museum before the general public. Join us afterwards for coffee or lunch at the museum café. Kathy Henschel will try to arrange for us to have exclusive use of the beautiful Peterson room and garden. Cost: No cost for docent (Kathy's membership benefit). Members of the Asian and their guests are free (we have lots of free passes, thanks also to Kathy.) Non-members pay at the door. Adults \$15, seniors \$10.

If you have a change of address, please contact Janet Taber-Coppola at 415-515-5646 or janettabercoppola@gmail.com