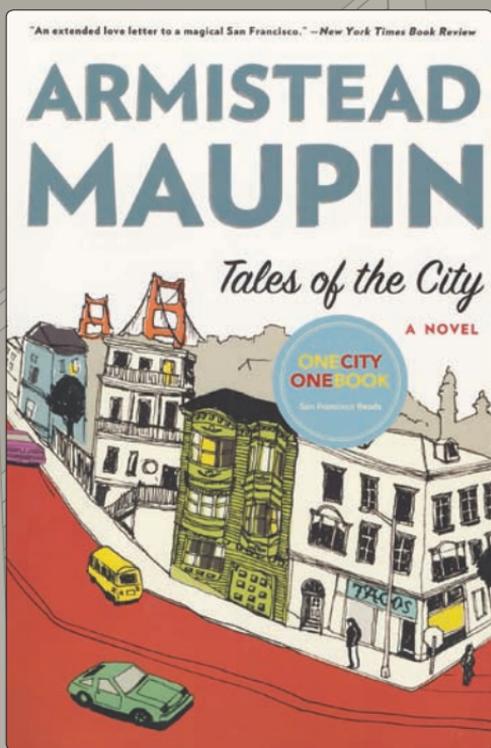


ONE CITY ONE BOOK

San Francisco Reads



Fall 2014

sfpl.org/onecityonebook

WELCOME



Dear Readers,

One City One Book is a terrific time in San Francisco. We see the same book all around town: on display in libraries and bookstores, on the side of MUNI buses and, most importantly, in readers' hands.

2014 is the 10th annual One City One Book in our city and it is a fitting time to have selected *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin. This

book has a significant history in San Francisco and in the world. It began as a serial published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the stories have gone on to symbolize a time in our city when anything seemed possible. We are currently in a time when many people are discussing the culture of San Francisco and we think reading *Tales of the City* will stimulate great discussions amongst readers, both re-readers and those who are discovering the book for the first time.

This fall, join in and explore San Francisco through a 70s lens while having a 21st century discussion. It was, and continues to be, quite an exciting time to live in San Francisco.

Read on,

City Librarian Luis Herrera



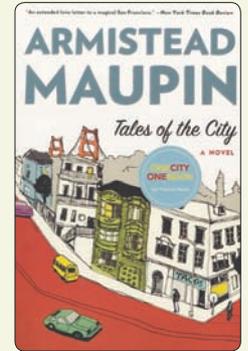
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TALES OF THE CITY

ABOUT THE BOOK

For more than three decades, Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* has blazed its own trail through popular culture—from a groundbreaking *San Francisco Chronicle* serial to a classic novel, to a television event that entranced millions around the world. The first of nine novels about the denizens of the mythic apartment house at 28 Barbary Lane, *Tales* is both a sparkling comedy of manners and an indelible portrait of an era that changed forever the way we live.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Armistead Maupin was born in Washington, D.C. in 1944, but grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he served as a naval officer in the Mediterranean and with the River Patrol Force in Vietnam.

Maupin worked as a reporter for a newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina, before being assigned to the San Francisco bureau of the *Associated Press* in 1971. In 1976 he launched his groundbreaking *Tales of the City* serial in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



Photo by Christopher Turner

Maupin is the author of nine novels, including the nine-volume *Tales of the City* series, *Maybe the Moon*, *The Night Listener* and, most recently, *Michael Tolliver Lives*. Three miniseries starring Olympia Dukakis and Laura Linney were made from the first three *Tales* novels.

Maupin lives in San Francisco and Santa Fe with his husband Christopher Turner.

AUTHOR EVENTS



Armistead Maupin in conversation with K.M. Soehnlein

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6 p.m.

Main Library, Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin St., (415) 557-4277
Limited seating is first-come, first-served
with doors opening at 5:30 pm.

K.M. Soehnlein is the author of the novels *The World of Normal Boys*, *Robin and Ruby*, and *You Can Say You Knew Me When*. He has been honored with the Lambda Literary Award and a Henfield Prize in fiction. His writing has appeared in the *Village Voice*, *Out*, *San Francisco Magazine*, *7x7* and other publications and anthologies. He is on the faculty of the MFA in Writing Program at the University of San Francisco.



Armistead Maupin at Book Passage: Ferry Building

Friday, Oct. 24, Noon

Golden Gate Meats will provide a box lunch, with two menu options, for those who order before the event. Seating is limited.
Call Book Passage at (415) 835-1020 for details.

Armistead Maupin at Books Inc. Market/Castro

Friday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m.

2275 Market St.

Reading and signing.
See booksinc.net for more details.

WALKING TOUR

Tours of the Tales

Saturday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meet at Aquatic Park at 9 a.m.
Concludes in Union Square at approx. 4:30 p.m.

Join a special walking tour featuring locations from Tales of the City. Capacity is limited and advance sign-up is required. Sign up by emailing tourguide@toursofthetales.com and find out more at www.toursofthetales.com/

We will visit locales at Russian Hill, North Beach, Telegraph Hill, Nob Hill and Union Square. We'll stop for a lunch break in North Beach.

The Tours of the Tales website shares with fellow fans of Armistead Maupin an organized way to visit the locales in the San Francisco Bay Area (and some further beyond) featured in his books and films.

Most of the tours, particularly those within San Francisco, are walking tours. Those further afield will require a car. Each of the tours is in PDF format and is easily downloaded to a computer and printed. Consider downloading the tours to a tablet or to your computer and then transferring them to your Kindle, Nook, or similar device for ease in carrying and accessing the tours. All tours now include a hyperlink to the Google Map for that tour. This is not only helpful for those actually walking the tours, but also those "walking the tours" virtually online.

Munchies Contest!

Saturday, Sept. 6, 3 – 4 p.m.

Omnivore Books on Food
3885 Cesar Chavez St., SF (415) 282-4712
FREE for contestants, \$5 for tasters-only.



We're celebrating like it's 1976! To enter, make your favorite munchies for everyone to try—at stake is a free copy of the book and half the door money, and the more entrants, the merrier. We welcome tasters, too, because you'll be judging your favorite and helping us pick a winner. Come one, come all, come ready to party.

EVENTS

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Mission Bay Branch, 960 Fourth St., (415) 355-2838

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.

Parkside Branch, 1200 Taraval St., (415) 355-5770

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m.

Eureka Valley Branch, 1 José Sarria Court
(415) 355-5616

A lively book discussion hosted by
the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

To sign up, please contact:
maricela.leonbarrera@sfpl.org
or call (415) 355-5616.



Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.

North Beach Branch, 850 Columbus Ave., (415) 355-5626

Thursday, Oct. 9, 12 – 1 p.m.

Main Library, Fifth Floor Learning Center Meeting Room
100 Larkin St., (415) 557-4277

Brown-bag book discussion. Bring your lunch!

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.

Sunset Branch, 1305 18th Ave., (415) 355-2808

Books, Inc. Discussions

**Friday, Oct. 3
7 – 8 p.m.**

Book discussion
accompanied by a
special *Tales of the
City* cocktail.

Opera Plaza
601 Van Ness

**Friday, Oct. 10
7 – 8 p.m.**

*My Tales of the City
Instagram Photo
Contest*
Select photo/captions
of San Francisco
scenes uploaded to
Instagram prior to
9/30 will be viewed
and discussed.

Laurel Village
3515 California St.

**Friday, Oct. 17
7 – 8 p.m.**

Book discussion
accompanied by a
special *Tales of the
City* cocktail.

The Marina
2251 Chestnut St.

TALKS

Janet Delaney

South of Market: 1978 – 1986

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room,
Main Library (415) 557-4567

South of Market is a photographic
portrait of a San Francisco neighbor-
hood in the throes of urban renewal.

In 1978, Janet Delaney moved to
San Francisco's South of Market district
because the location was central and
the rent was cheap. On the weekends
she photographed with her large
format camera at the nearby construction
site for the Moscone Convention Center.

South of Market is not a romantic represen-
tation of San Francisco's past, but rather a
testament to a vanished community made up
of blue-collar workers, small business owners,
families with children, artists, and gay men.



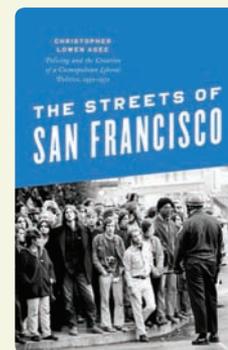
**The Streets of San Francisco:
Policing and the Creation of a
Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics,
1950-1972**

Saturday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m. – 12 noon

Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room,
Main Library (415) 557-4277

How did San Francisco's liberals reconcile
their desire for "law and order" with the
cultural dynamics of the 1950s and '60s?
Historian Christopher Lowen Agee will
discuss the crucial role the San Francisco
Police Department played during the city's
postwar shift in liberalism.

The California native is assistant professor
in the history department at the University
of Colorado Denver. A book sale and signing
will follow the talk. Book sales by Readers
Books.



EVENTS

GET CRAFTY

Make a Leather Cuff Bracelet

In this 1970's style cuff making workshop, Tiffany BlackDarquea of Hoof and Horn Leather Goods will teach you how to stamp, dye, and paint a leather cuff. Ages 12 and older. Advance sign-up at the branch is required.



Saturday, Sept. 13
2 p.m.

4th Floor Sycip Room
Main Library
100 Larkin St.
(415) 557-4525

Wednesday, Sept. 24
6 p.m.

Portola Branch
380 Bacon St.
(415) 355-5660

Thursday, Oct. 30
6 p.m.

Potrero Branch
1616 20th St.
(415) 355-2822

String Art Workshop

GoGo Craft teaches a string art workshop where you create wall art with just wood, nails, and string. A few templates will be available, but if you have something specific in mind bring a print out of the basic image. Image should fit within a 4" x 6" piece of oval pre-cut wood. All other materials and tips provided. Ages 12 and up. Advance sign-up at the branch is required.



Saturday, Sept. 20
3 p.m.

Presidio Branch
3150 Sacramento St.
(415) 355-2880

Friday, Sept. 26
2 p.m.

Bernal Heights Branch
500 Cortland Ave.
(415) 355-2810

Saturday, Sept. 27
2 p.m.

Ingleside Branch
1298 Ocean Ave.
(415) 355-2898

Modern Macrame Workshop

Learn to create a modern macrame plant hanger or wall hanging with GoGo Craft. Bring your own small plant holder to the workshop. All other materials, tips, and tricks provided. Ages 12 and up. Advance sign-up at the branch is required.



Thursday, Sept. 18
6:15 p.m.

Sunset Branch
1305 18th Ave.
(415) 355-2808

Saturday, Oct. 4
2 p.m.

Marina Branch
1890 Chestnut St.
(415) 355-2823

Saturday, Oct. 11
3 p.m.

Glen Park Branch
2825 Diamond St.
(415) 355-2858

Tie-Dye Workshop

Hands-on tie-dye class for all ages! Bring your own white, 100% cotton t-shirt or other article to dye or use the library provided squares. Library will provide all other materials.

Sunday, Sept. 28
2 – 4 p.m.

Western Addition
Branch
1550 Scott St.
(415) 355-5727

Saturday, Oct. 4
3 p.m.

Parkside Branch
1200 Taraval St.
(415) 355-5770

Saturday, Oct. 11
3 p.m.

Portola Branch
380 Bacon St.
(415) 355-5660



Monday, Sept. 15
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Visitation Valley
Branch
201 Leland Ave.
(415) 355-2848

Tuesday, Sept. 30
3:30 – 5 p.m.

North Beach Branch
850 Columbus Ave.
(415) 355-5626

Saturday, Oct. 4
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Chinatown Branch
1135 Powell St.
(415) 355-2888

Make a Dreamcatcher for Kids

Kids get to make a 70s craft too!

EVENTS



LARGE SCREEN VIDEOS

Thursdays at Noon

Koret Auditorium, Main Library
100 Larkin St. (415) 557-4277
New Cultures, or "We're Not in Kansas Anymore"



October 2

The Wizard of Oz (1939, 102 min., PG)



October 9

Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House
(1948, 94 min., NR)

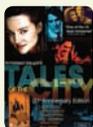


October 16

Footloose (1984, 107 min., R)

October 23

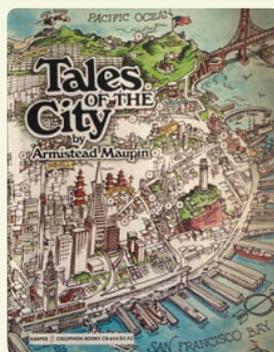
Blast From the Past (1999; 112 min., PG-13)



October 30

Tales of the City Season One Series Marathon
(1994, 360 min.)

There will be breaks after episodes two and four with some special activities.



EXHIBITION

"Dear, I have no objection to anything." A Look at the City in Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City

September 8, 2014 – January 8, 2015

James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center,
Main Library, Third Floor (415) 557-4277

Using quotes, events and locations from the *Tales of the City* as a guide, the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center explores what San Francisco was like in the late 1970s.

EVENTS

RELATED EVENTS

One City One Book and the Bookmobile at the Lit Crawl!

Saturday, Oct. 18

SFPL's Bookmobile will be parked along the Litquake Lit Crawl route. Check out books and DVDs and get a library card (wait, you don't have one yet!). Drop by throughout the evening for *Tales of the City* book giveaways and more.



STORYCORPS

Share Your Tale of the City!

Thursdays & Saturdays by appointment

Recording booth, near the Skylight Gallery,
Main Library, 6th Floor

StoryCorps®
@your library

StoryCorps is a national oral history project. StoryCorps' mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, preserve, and share their stories.

Please come share your tales of the city with StoryCorps! If you would like to make an appointment to record a story, please contact <https://storycorps.org/reservations/> or call (800) 850-4406.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 *Tales of the City* began in a daily newspaper serial in 1976 in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the short, episodic pieces were released as daily installments. How do you think this collection “reads” as a novel? Does it feel different than other books you’ve read? If so, how?
- 2 From a naive mid-Western secretary exploring San Francisco for the first time to a pot-smoking landlady with an elusive past, we meet a variety of different characters in the world of Maupin’s book. Who was your favorite character? Why? With whom do you most identify?
- 3 You could say that one of the most colorful characters in the book is the setting itself—San Francisco and the 1970s. Every chapter is laden with rich and vivid references to everything from macramé to est, from transcendental volleyball to rolfing. As a reader in 2014, did you find these references enhanced the story or distracted you from it? Were there any references you felt were too obscure or any that you simply didn’t understand?
- 4 The novel begins with Mary Ann’s phone call home, during which she tells her mother that she wants to start life anew in San Francisco. Although she doesn’t articulate exactly why she wants to leave Cleveland and resettle in California, Mary Ann states that she “hopes” the city and the move change her. What do you think Mary Ann is looking to achieve by this move? Do you think she does it by the end of this book?
- 5 Mrs. Madrigal continually refers to the residents of Barbary Lane as a “family.” Is this wishful thinking on her part, or do you feel that Mrs. Madrigal’s tenants are, indeed, a family?
- 6 When Mary Ann gets hired on at Halcyon, Mrs. Madrigal observes that “you always get what you want.” Is this how you would describe Mary Ann? Does she make things happen for herself or do things happen to and for her?
- 7 Edgar Halcyon is a completely different person with Mrs. Madrigal than he is with any other character in the novel. Why do you think he’s able to open up and share with her in a way he is unable to connect with any other character?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 8 Beauchamp is one of the only characters in the book for whom we do not see a softer side. He is opportunistic, surly and duplicitous. What, if anything, do you find redeemable about his character? Do you sympathize with or understand him any better by the end of the novel?
- 9 We never find out why Norman was investigating Mrs. Madrigal. There are a few clues along the way (her name is an anagram, for example), but we never find out what he was investigating or who hired him to do the investigating. What do you think he found out? What evidence do you think Mary Ann destroyed in the final chapter, and what secret is Mrs. Madrigal hiding?
- 10 Over the course of the novel, Mary Ann seems to become most comfortable with Michael. In fact, in the last chapter Michael serves as her confessor about Norman. Why do you think Mouse becomes her sole confidant and, in many ways, her closest friend? In what ways are they similar?
- 11 For most of the novel, Michael comes across as a confident, albeit newly-admitted gay man. His barbs are sharp, his witticisms dead-on, and he seems unapologetic in his sexuality. However, he becomes a very different person when his parents come to visit. How does your perception of Michael change when the Tollivers visit him from Florida?
- 12 When Mary Ann makes a startling discovery about Norman’s relationship with Lexy, her first reaction is to surround herself with “Art and Beauty” before confronting him. What do you think about her reaction, about the confrontation itself, and about what happens on the cliffs behind The Legion of Honor?
- 13 *Tales of the City* is the first of a nine-book cycle. Based on your experiences with this book, do you plan to read the others? What storylines are you most excited about seeing played out and which characters are you most excited to revisit in the latter books?
- 14 In your opinion, which character changes and grows most by the end of the novel?



MORE TO EXPLORE

Church of 8 Wheels

Want to take your roller skates for a roll? Get your skate groove on here 4 nights a week. 554 Fillmore St. (at Fell)
www.skategoldengate.com/churchof8wheels



Dining with Anna and Friends

www.toursofthetales.com/uploads/Dining_with_Anna_and_Friends.pdf



Mary Ann Singleton was twenty-five years old when she saw San Francisco for the first time. She came to the city alone for an eight-day vacation.

On the fifth night, she drank three Irish coffees at the Buena Vista, realized that her Mood Ring was blue, and decided to phone her mother in Cleveland.

As in the book *Tales of the City*, the opening scene of the “Tales of the City” mini-series was filmed at the Buena Vista at 2765 Hyde St.

The Buena Vista’s claim to fame is that Irish Coffee was introduced to the United States there as the result of a challenge between Jack Koeppler, the then owner of the Buena Vista, and Stanton Delaplaine, an international travel writer. After several attempts to recreate the famous Irish Coffee served at the Shannon Airport in Ireland (including a trip back to the Shannon Airport) and with help from the San Francisco’s mayor at the time, the current recipe for the Buena Vista’s Irish Coffee was perfected.

When visiting the Buena Vista, sit at the right end of the main part of the bar. From there you have a great seat for watching the bartender brew and blend order after order of the coffee.

MORE TO EXPLORE

A Map of the World of Barbary Lane

Features the locations mentioned in Armistead Maupin’s *Tales of the City* novels, and some of the locations seen in the miniseries:
www.armisteadmaupin.com/TalesMap.html



Read Original Serial from *The Chronicle*

Want to read the first installment of the serial that started it all? Here is the link to first installment of the original *Tales of the City* series. It appeared in *The Chronicle* on May 24, 1976.
<http://bit.ly/1xw5DUz>



“What about San Francisco?”

“What about it?”

“Did you like it?”

She shrugged. “It was O.K.”

“Just O.K.?”

She laughed. “Good God!”

“What?”

“You’re all alike here.”

“How so?” he asked.

“You demand adoration for the place. You’re not happy until everybody swears undying love for every nook and cranny of every precious damn —”

“Whoa, missy.”

“Well, it’s true. Can’t you just worship it on your own? Do I have to sign an affidavit?”

He chuckled. “We’re that bad, are we?”

“You bet your ass you are.”



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