



DISCOVER SDIS
san diego independent scholars

SCHOLARS NOTEBOOK

November 2018

**Next Meeting: Nov. 17
at 1:30pm**

**THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
VI, 8515 COSTA VERDE BLVD**

Trump and the Mid-Term Elections

Long-term political trends and the public's reaction to Donald Trump's surreal presidency are converging to make the 2018 midterm elections the most sweeping and divisive national referendum on any administration at least since the Great Depression.

In this talk, Jacobson will review the major trends that have gradually transformed midterm elections in to highly nationalized, president-centered events, locate the Trump presidency in these currents, document Trump's dominance of the Republican Party base, analyze how public reactions to his presidency contributed to the election's outcome, and consider some implications of the results for the future of American politics and the Republican and Democratic parties.

November's meeting of SDIS will be held at the Vi, 3515 Costa Verde Blvd. There is free valet parking and no tipping is allowed. Check in at the front desk and you will be directed to the elevator to the bottom floor, where we will meet. The meeting is free and open to the public. A question/discussion period follows the talk. Future meetings will be back at UCSD.



About Our Speaker Gary Jacobson

Gary C. Jacobson is Distinguished Professor of Political Science Emeritus at the University of California, San Diego, where he taught from 1979 to 2016. He received his A.B. from Stanford in 1966 and his Ph.D. from Yale in 1972.

He specializes in the study of U.S. elections, parties, interest groups, public opinion, and Congress. He is the author of *Money in Congressional Elections*, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, *The Electoral Origins of Divided Government*, *A Divider, Not a Uniter: George W. Bush and the American People* and the forthcoming *Presidents and Parties in the Public Mind*, and coauthor of *Strategy and Choice in Congressional Elections*, and *The Logic of American Politics*, as well as more than 100 research articles.

WHO WAS JANE FORD?

Current Jane Ford Fund Book Donations

Jane Ford was a founding member of SDIS and a prolific scholar. Upon her death in 2007, donations in her memory were used to create the Jane Ford Fund, enabling SDIS to donate members' books to local libraries. The publications, in order to qualify as such gifts, must have been written while their authors were SDIS members.

Our current 2018 gifts to the UCSD library system and to the San Diego public library system are four works by three SDIS members.

"The New Science of Consciousness" by Paul L. Nunez explores the complexity of brain, mind, and self. He is an Emeritus Professor of Biomedical Engineering and owner of a firm specializing in brain research.

"The Army of the Roman Republic" by Michael M. Sage traces the development of Rome's forces from clan-based units to the legions of Julius Caesar. The author is a historian whose research and publications have focused on early Christianity and on Greek and Roman warfare. He has taught at Canadian and United States universities.

Wayne Fanebust is the author of two studies. "Outlaw Dakota" examines the trials, both figurative and literal, of frontier judge Peter Shannon; and "Chasing Frank and Jesse James" tells of the brothers' botched bank robbery and their ensuing flight. Fanebust, who lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is a retired attorney and a historian of the American West.

These works illustrate the variety and versatility of SDIS members, as do the contributions of Jane Ford. She served the organization as Treasurer, as chairman of the Literary Group, and as a periodic speaker.

Her research centered on literature, psychology and literary history, and her articles about such figures as James Joyce and Joseph Conrad appeared in scholarly journals. Her study, "Patriarchy and Incest from Shakespeare to Joyce", was published by the University Press of Florida in 1998 and resides in both local library systems. I recommend that you check it out.

Gerry Horwitz

QUIZ: Does SDIS Belong to NAS or NCIS?

Our SDIS email received an invitation last month to attend the October meeting of NAS in New York City. My first reaction was "Oh dear, NCIS changed its name and I didn't even know it...I've really got to get on the ball".

I initially interpreted the email to mean that we were a member of NAS. National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) is similar in name to National Association of Scholars. But an internet search shows just how different they are.

SDIS is an affiliate of NCIS. We pay yearly dues which are based on the number of members we have. We are listed on their website. One of their staff adds our Scholars Notebook under our name in the list of Affiliates, and by clicking on our name, the current Notebook appears.

NCIS is an international organization of independent scholars and scattered affiliate organizations. It gives research grants and has its own journal. There's a wealth of information on its website at www.ncis.org.

NAS is quite different. It is a “political” organization which hopes to influence legislation relating to liberal arts colleges. The National Association of Scholars was founded to “confront the rise of campus political correctness...”

If you’re not confused yet, how ‘bout this? NCIS is also the name of a very popular and long running TV series, standing for National Criminal Investigative Service. There’s also NAIS, or the National Association of Independent Students, which focuses in independent schools.

Barbara Heckler

Addendum: NCIS Partner Organizations

Independent Scholars' Association of Australia
Institute for Historical Study (San Francisco)
Minnesota Independent Scholars
Northwest Independent Scholars Association
Princeton Research Forum
San Diego Independent Scholars

STUDY GROUPS

Colloquy Café

The group’s October discussion began with the question “What is poetry?” All agreed that traditional definitions of poetry including rhythm and rhyme no longer suffice.

Modern poetry often is written in paragraph form; does that make it prose rather than poetry....i.e., is form a defining factor? Can poetry exist without a “poem” as we know it?? If a poem is an art object, is the distinction between traditional and modern formless “poetry” the difference between art and craft?

Culture One

Culture One regrets to inform you that we are cancelling our November 8 meeting due to related constraints.

In the meanwhile, consider current developments from the perspective of cultural change.

Several original poems were shared by a group member, and “Rhythm” was selected for the next discussion. Because the usual 3rd Wednesday meeting date conflicts with Thanksgiving, the next meeting will occur Monday, November 19, at 1:30 in the Vi apartment of Sonia Rosenberg.

Contact Peter Lisbon at plisbon@gmail.com for information about attending.

Gerry Horwitz

For further information, email rosnersue@gmail.com.

Sue Rosner

Film

We will meet Wednesday, November 7 at 10 am to watch *Ida*, a 2013 Polish drama about a young woman, about to take vows as a Catholic nun, who discovers that her parents were Jewish. The film details her search, along with an aunt, for the fate of their family. Winner of the 2015 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, it was later named 55th on list of best films of 21st century in a poll of world-wide film critics.

Our December 5 film, in keeping of our December tradition of a music-related theme, will be *A Late Quartet*, a moving 2012 drama about the interactions of a famous string quartet after one of its members is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

October's scheduled film, *Tracks*, was changed because Netflix recently dropped it from its streaming catalog. Our last minute substitute was the 2015 NOVA documentary, *Inside Einstein's Mind: The Enigma of Space and Time*.

The documentary serves as an introduction to Einstein's thought processes and his development of the General Theory of Relativity. He was a discipline problem in school and only a moderate student in university.

General Relativity

The General Relativity Group met Oct. 30 at John Alexander's home. At that meeting we discussed the Schwarzschild Solution to Einstein's Equations, which works when there is a large spherically symmetric mass (such as a star) and there are no masses, or only relatively small masses, nearby. We looked at the

mathematical predictions for this situation, which include the gravitational red shift (of

By 1902 at the age of 23, he worked in the Swiss patent office and whipped through applications. He had a tolerant boss who let him fill out the day working on his physics papers (at this time theoretical physics was a new concept).

He began to understand the link between gravity and acceleration and eventually realized that they were the same. He then formulated a new theory of gravity.

Einstein made a crucial mistake by writing down an incorrect equation when developing his general relativity theory. He struggled with the theory because of its unworkability before finally correcting his error, after one of the most intense periods of work in the history of science. In 1915 he was able to present General Theory of Relativity. After his theory was published and understood by other scientists, he became an icon of genius. He later moved to the US and took a position at Princeton after the rise of Hitler and Nazism.

The most important prediction resulting from his theory was the Big Bang Theory, and a close second was related to Black Holes.

Barbara Heckler

light frequencies) due the mass of the star, the perihelion rotation of planetary orbits, such as mercury about the sun, and the bending of light passing near a star, among others. The group will meet next at 10:00am on Dec. 4, at the same venue, when we will examine the ingenious and difficult experiments that have verified the predictions mentioned above."

Alvin Halpern

Neuroscience

The next meeting of the Neuroscience Group is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 2 pm in my apartment at the Vi. Visitors are welcome as always but please call me to check on space availability.

Our reading assignments are multiple:

1. We will be concentrating on Chapter 14 in Michio Kaku "*The Future of the Mind*" titled 'The Alien Mind' which is a fascinating read far different from the fantasizing imaginative theories in the previous chapter 'The Mind as Pure Energy'. This chapter explores the search for planets with habitable alien populations basing many extrapolations on physical evidence (and theories) known or accepted by current scientists. Although the theories and time frames are pretty far-fetched, they are at least believable.

2. The New York Times on Friday, October 19, 2018 presented a special report on 'Artificial Intelligence'. As has happened before in our learning adventures, we are fortunate to have access to publicly published relevant current literature. This report contains several articles about AI that are interesting and fun to read.

3. On 10/15/18 The New York Times published an article by Carl Metz about an engineer/neuroscientist named Jeff Hawkins titled "A New View of How We Think". The article is an easy read. Hawkins' thinking and approach to the working of the mind is interesting; it is as if he is somehow tuned into the sub-cortex of our brain. If you can't access the article let me know and I will try to send it to you.

4. Arlene Gilbert came across an article in The Atlantic, October 218 titled "The Pentagon Wants to Weaponize the Brain - What Could Go Wrong". Arlene will email copies to those who are interested.

Bea Rose

Just Lunch

Save the date: We'll meet Monday, January 28 at 11:45 am at China Max, 4698 Convoy Street in Kearny Mesa. This Chinese restaurant has become an SDIS favorite which we visit each year in January.

I preselect the menu and we share all of the dishes and divide the total price among all of us.

You'll receive an email about two weeks ahead of time so you can make a reservation.

Barbara Heckler

Supper With Scholars

We are meeting on the first Thursday of each month, at 6 pm. Thus, we will meet next on Thursday, November 1. If you plan to attend, please RSVP, stating whether you are coming alone or bringing friend(s).

There will be no meeting in December.

We meet at Humphreys La Jolla Restaurant, 3299 Holiday Court. Meals from the menu (www.humphreyslajolla.com) are Dutch Treat. Group discussion is based on suggested topics that have particularly interested the attendees in the last month. If possible, we select a question that can be addressed from the viewpoints of various diverse areas of expertise.

Dave Parker

Looking Forward

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 8

12-3 pm

At John Alexander's Bay Park home

Catering by French Gourmet

General Meeting

January 19, 2019

Our January 19 meeting will be back at UCSD in Room 111A.

Our speaker will be Martin Rosen, Registered Professional Architect. His Lecture is "Chicano Park and Its Amazing Murals".

Helen Hawkins Grants

Applications will be available **January 2, 2019** to SDIS members who joined at least one year ago. Contact bheckler@san.rr.com after January 2.

SDIS CALENDAR

Colloquy Café

November 19, 2018

At Vi

Contact: Peter Lisbon

plisbon@san.rr.com

Culture One

November Meeting Cancelled

Contact: Sue Rosner

rosnersue@gmail.com

Film Group

November 7, 2018

December 5, 2018

10 am

At Barbara's home

Contact: Barbara Heckler

bheckler@san.rr.com

General Relativity

December 4, 2018

10 am

At John Alexander's home

Contact: Alvin Halpern

alvin.halpern@gmail.com

Neuroscience Group

November 20, 2018

2:00 pm

At Bea's home at the Vi

Contact: Bea Rose

beabe@me.com

Just Lunch

January 28, 2019

11:45 am

China Max

4698 Convoy Street

Contact: Barbara Heckler

bheckler@san.rr.com

Supper with Scholars

November 1, 2018

6 pm

No December Dinner

Humphreys

In the Sheraton La Jolla

Contact: Dave Parker

parkerd1954@gmail.com

General Meetings

November 17, 2018 at Vi

January 19, 2019

February 16, 2019

March 16, 2019

April 20, 2019

May 18, 2019

President

Barbara Heckler

Send information for

SDIS Notebook to bheckler@san.rr.com

SAVE THE DATE
HOLIDAY PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8