



DISCOVER SDIS
san diego independent scholars

SCHOLARS NOTEBOOK

January 2019



Next Meeting

January 19 at 1:30pm

Room 111A, Chancellors Complex, UCSD

Chicano Park and Its Amazing Murals

Martin Rosen will talk about the history of Chicano Park and its beautiful murals. The park and murals are both inextricably linked to the community that has defined it since the 1880s: Logan Heights to Barrio Logan to one of the most prosperous Hispanic neighborhoods north of the border prior to World War II. Chicano Park and the murals arose later as an outgrowth of the late 1960's Civil Rights movement. The park and wonderful murals that adorn the large freeway columns and abutment walls within the park highlight this period, yet point the way to a brighter, more prosperous future. The park and murals are located within California Department of Transportation rights-of-way. During the 1990s and 2000s Caltrans applied for and received two federal grants to assist in the restoration of the park's hardscaping and landscaping, and to restore about 20 of the park's murals by its original artists.

About Our Speaker

Marty Rosen

Marty Rosen received his BA and MA in Anthropology from UCLA and is a registered professional archaeologist (RPA). He has over 45 years' experience as a cultural resource professional where he has worked extensively in southern California, and also in the Great Basin, the Southwest, and in Guatemala. He worked at ICF from 2010-2015, after a 30-year career as an archaeologist at Caltrans District 11 (San Diego and Imperial Counties), the last 10 spent as a senior cultural resources specialist. He was the District's Heritage Resources Coordinator from 1988 until his departure in 2010. He worked extensively on the District 11 state highway system and also had responsibility for working with Local Jurisdictions who had received federal funds to make sure these agencies fulfilled their cultural resources obligations under Federal and State law.

Rosen has over two dozen professional publications in his field and has served as an editor on ten volumes of the Society of California Archaeology's publication, *The Proceedings*. Additionally, he has delivered dozens of professional papers and presentations. He currently serves on two boards, one for the newly founded Transportation Museum of San Diego and Imperial Counties and for the 25-year-old San Diego Archaeological Center

STUDY GROUPS

Colloquy Café

"Rhythm" was the topic discussed at the group's November meeting. The concept is applicable to poetry, which was the center of the October discussion and led to its selection as the next subject. Most obviously, rhythm occurs in both music and poetry with many variations. Further analysis recognized its presence in such cyclical, or repetitive, happenings as the waxing and waning of the seasons, and day & night. The concept occurs also, with regularity, in certain functions of the human body— heart rhythm, for instance.

"Loss", the group's choice for its December meeting, took the discussion in a different direction. The session began with "loss" meaning death, of a beloved person. However, it was noted, an individual can be "lost" — a relationship ended— for other reasons such as a move or a quarrel. One

member read an original poem composed after the death of an adult son.

One can "lose" qualities such as patience, courage, focus, or interest; the Japanese consider "loss of face" undesirable, a disgrace. But some losses can be desirable: think of weight loss and of such "loss" as the overcoming of a fear or bad habit. Other losses can be the result of injury, illness, or aging: certain inabilities of movement, of strength or of memory. And loss can result from natural disasters such as hurricane, earthquake, or fire. Accidental loss of such items as jewelry, money, keys or other belongings seemed trivial compared to the other more life-changing varieties of "loss" and were hardly discussed.

The next meeting will be January 16; "Normal" is the chosen topic.

Gerry Horwitz

Culture One

Culture One ended this year at its December 13, 2018 meeting. First, attention was given to filling in information on Harari, author of "Homo Sapiens", "Homo Deus", by citing a current biography and a personal Harari interview, 2014. This provided the opportunity to share our opinions of his work.

Next, we turned to potential areas to serve as our next topic of interest, such as, changes in China's role; domination of US groups; other widespread shifts. Ultimately, we were impressed by a special report in the New York Times on "China Rules", which points out the discrepancy between the West's forecast of China's failure to develop on its own and its actual progress.

Turning now to the New Year, 2019, Culture One is focusing on "China Rules: The Land that Failed to Fail". A truly amazing account of progress, based on a mix of originality, power, nationalism, and fear. Our first meeting of the year, January 11th, 2019, will provide an overview of China's progress: "Five Takeaways from Our New China Project"; and an Introduction to "Growth of a Global Power". Copies of these readings will be available to Culture One Members and others by request early in January.

For further information, contact Sue R. Rosner, e-mail rosnersue@gmail.com.

Sue Rosner

Film

We will meet Wednesday, January 9 at 10 am to watch *Denial*, a 2016 British/American historical film about a British trial in which a Holocaust denier sued a Holocaust scholar for libel.

In November we watched *Ida*, a 2013 Polish drama about a young woman about to take vows as a Catholic nun. The bleakness of this Nazi era drama was emphasized by being filmed in black and white. Periods of silence and long lingering shots added to the emotional impact of the movie.

Ida unexpectedly discovers that her parents were Jewish and that she has a living relative, and aunt. The film details her search, helped with her aunt, to learn the fate of their family. Her parents and brother were shot in the woods by the village barkeeper, who

spared her because she was fair and only a few months old, and because of these traits, the Nazis would not know she was Jewish. 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 viewing was in keeping of our December tradition of a music-related theme. *Late Quartet* is a moving 2012 drama about the interactions of a famous string quartet after one of its members is diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. The film was inspired by Beethoven's Op. 131.

Barbara Heckler

General Relativity

In December the group briefly reviewed aspects of the Schwarzschild solution to Einstein's equation (Ch. 9 of Hartle) and in particular tried to deduce some results that the text proved using conservation laws, using only slowing of time and increasing of length as we move from far away to closer to a star. While we seemed to get the same results, we pondered these deductions and their legitimacy, and hoped to research the issue which not only

very closely matched Einstein's predictions to great accuracy, but also demonstrated that alternate theories to that of Einstein, had predictions that were not validated.

The next meeting of the group is on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 10:00am, at John Alexander's home.

Alvin Hapern

Neuroscience

At the December 18, 2018 meeting of the Neuroscience Study Group Kaku's Concluding Chapter, the Appendix, and an article from the Atlantic magazine "Weaponizing the Brain" was the subject of a very lively discussion and led to the conclusion that further discussion was needed. Plans were made to do that as well as start reading the Introduction and the first chapter in Michael S. Gazzaniga's new book "The Consciousness Instinct: Unraveling the Mystery of How the Brain Makes the Mind."

The date for the January meeting has not been determined for various reasons. However, plans are being made to see the movie "The Matrix" in the near future.

Visitors are welcome. Please contact Bea if you would to attend but call her first to ensure space is available

Bea Rose

Helen Hawkins Grant Award 2019

Applications are available from President Barbara Heckler and must be submitted by February 29. Awards are announced in April. Approval is based on the quality of the applicant's idea, its originality, merit, credibility, feasibility, and potential for solving or giving a new perspective on a significant problem or illuminating a social, literary or scientific phenomenon. At the May SDIS general meeting, winner will briefly describe the work and how the Hawkins Award is to be used. Upon completion of work, awardee will give a talk to a future SDIS general meeting. Applicant must have been member for one year.

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, January 3, 2019. If you plan to attend, please RSVP, stating whether you are coming alone or bringing friend(s).

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

General Meeting

February 16, 2019

Our February meeting will be at UCSD in Room 111A.

Our speaker will be SDIS member Diana Withee. Diana is a two-time recipient of the Helen Hawkins grant. Her talk will be "Finding Bosch: New Discoveries".

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

January 16, 2019

1:30 pm

At Vi

Contact: Peter Lisbon

plisbon@san.rr.com

Just Lunch

January 28, 2019

11:45 am

China Max

4698 Convoy Street

Contact: Barbara Heckler

bheckler@san.rr.com

Culture One

January 11, 2019

2:00 pm

At Vi

Contact: Sue Rosner

rosnersue@gmail.com

Supper with Scholars

January 3, 2019

6 pm

Humphreys

In the Sheraton La Jolla

Contact: Dave Parker

parkerd1954@gmail.com

Film Group

January 9, 2019

10 am

At Barbara's home

Contact: Barbara Heckler

bheckler@san.rr.com

General Meetings

January 19, 2019

February 16, 2019

March 16, 2019

April 20, 2019

May 18, 2019

General Relativity

January 15, 2019

10 am

At John Alexander's home

Contact: Alvin Halpern

alvin.halpern@gmail.com

Neuroscience Group

January Date to be Determined

2:00 pm

At Bea's home at the Vi

Contact: Bea Rose

beabe@me.com

President

Barbara Heckler

Send information for

SDIS Notebook to bheckler@san.rr.com