



SDIS member **Grace Johnson** served as the Curator of Latin American Collections of the San Diego Museum of Man for 31 years and is still active as Curator Emerita. She has presented lectures at all major universities of San Diego, several professional societies, schools and community organizations. Besides receiving numerous fellowships and grants, she has created 34 museum exhibitions, published in or edited 12 publications and led multiple tours to various localities in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador and Peru.

We are exceedingly lucky that Grace will join us on May 16 and use her broad experience to interpret the pottery of Mata Ortiz within both archaeological and modern cultural perspectives

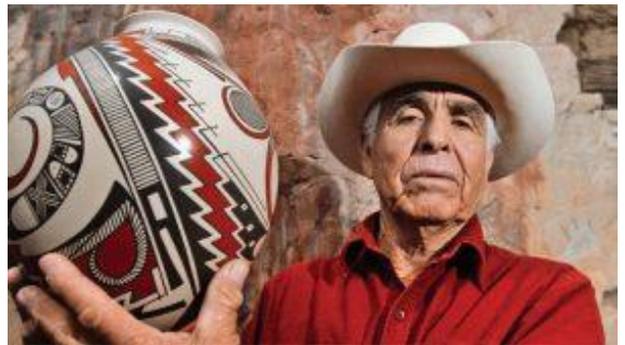
Saturday, May 16, 1:30 pm
via Zoom

*The Desert Speaks:
Clay Artists of Mata Ortiz*

a 28-minute documentary movie
introduced and interpreted by

Grace Johnson

Mexican artist **Juan Quezada**, who uses traditional materials and ancient techniques to produce striking contemporary art works.



Announced at the May 16 meeting:

- Hawkins Grant Awards for 2020
- SDIS Officers for 2020-2021



The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego independent Scholars (SDIS), a nonprofit organization founded in 1982.

The mission of SDIS is to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, both for its membership and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include: (1) monthly public lectures presented during the academic year; (2) discussion groups held in public libraries or by Zoom (3) small grants awarded on a competitive basis for research projects and (4) co-operation with other groups to foster learning and scholarship.

More information about SDIS and its activities is available at www.sdscholars.org. Questions: sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com

The Scholars Notebook welcomes contributions by SDIS members, including Letters to the Editor, which should be sent by the middle of each month to the Editor, Dorothy Parker, at dorothyparker@gmail.com.

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SDIS Membership

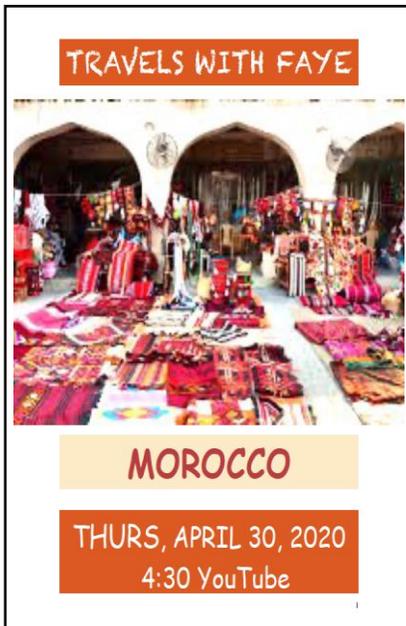
Application Form 9

Extra SDIS activities during the summer

Although some restrictions related to Covid-19 are likely to ease in the coming months, we guess that many persons older than 70 or those with medical risk factors are likely to practice a degree of social isolation until a successful vaccine or clearly effective therapeutic agent is developed for the causative virus.

For this reason, SDIS plans to continue several online activities during the summer, to try to make life a bit more interesting and less lonely for SDIS members and friends who are self-isolating. Most SDIS Study Groups have converted entirely to Zoom meetings and will continue their regular monthly online schedules through the summer unless otherwise specified. In addition, several SDIS members have stepped forward to

volunteer other online options. The first were Faye Girsh and Ken Watson, who have organized weekly online U-tube showings at **4:30 on Thursday** afternoons.



On **April 30 at 4:30 pm**, they will present Faye's photos from her **recent trip to Morocco**. Coronavirus became an unwelcome visitor to Morocco during her visit, but she has returned safely and is cleared after a 2-week quarantine period. Tune in and learn about her adventures.

On **May 7 at 4:30 pm**, Ken's U-tube showing will be a video that he made of a lecture by **Herbert York**, a physicist who was the first director of the UC Radiation Laboratory at Livermore, the first director of Defense Research and Engineering, the first Chancellor of UC San Diego and later a board member of the Council for a Livable World, a nonpartisan arms control organization. Dr. York's presentation covers H-bomb development (in which he was a major player) and other aspects of **nuclear weaponry, giving an interesting historical perspective on these events**. Dr. York asked for about 10 copies of Ken's video for distribution.

Look for email announcements of other new activities

Several other ideas for additional activities have been suggested and will be implemented as sufficient interest appears. Please email dorothy.parker@gmail.com if you would like to participate in:

- **DIGITAL SCRAPBOOKING** – Don Bamber's book for his mother, which describes her birthplace in Sweden, combines family photographs with aerial and street-view images taken from the web. Dorothy Parker has a booklet recording a trip to South Africa. Others have expressed interest in sharing their family or genealogical albums or learning how to make digital scrapbooks.
- **MUSIC** -- Barbara Heckler and Grace Johnson have suggested a showing of "Tocar y Luchar," a 76-minute film describing the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra System – a network of hundreds of orchestras and choruses within most of the country's villages and towns, including slum areas. Besides bringing joy, teaching discipline and fostering appreciation of music, the system has trained several world-class musicians, including **Raphael Payare, conductor of the San Diego Symphony** and **Gustavo Dudamel, conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic**.
- **DIGITAL THEATRE MATINEES** – Proposed by Ken Krauss
- **HISTORY DOCUMENTARIES** or ***SUGGEST YOUR FAVORITE TOPIC***

Study Group Reports

Neuroscience -- 1:30 pm, 2nd Friday of month.

Leadership of the Neuroscience Group is now distributed to include several members: Committee Chair, Bea Rose; Discussion Leader, Arlene Gilbert; Resource Person, Richard Schulman; Zoom Master: Dorothy Parker. Among the authors and books being consulted are Lasse Rouhiainen (*Artificial Intelligence – 101 things you must know today about our future*), John Brockman, (*Possible Minds – 25 ways of looking at AI*) and George Gilder, (*Life After Google*).

On April 10, the group began its discussion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by considering the vocabulary commonly used in describing AI. The agenda for the next Zoom meeting at 1pm on May 8 is as follows:

1. Review the vocabulary lists previously sent to members.
2. **Attempt to come to an understanding of what AI is and how machines “think.”** If an AI machine can see, hear, and process enormous amounts of data in seconds, and act upon it--is that machine “thinking”? And what are “neural networks” in machines?

When we feel clear about basic issues, we can proceed in future meetings to discuss other, perhaps more intriguing, questions.

For example:

From Stuart Russell, in *“Possible Minds,”* -- *We may face the prospect of super-intelligent machines--their actions ...unpredictable by us and their ...objectives conflicting with our own--whose motivations to preserve their existence to achieve their objectives may be irresponsible.”*

This is highly debatable: In the same book, Steven Pinker says -- *There is no law of complex systems that says that intelligent agents must turn into ruthless megalomaniacs.”*

Arlene Gilbert

Inside Politics -- 10am, 1st Saturday of month.

On Saturday morning, April 4, at 10:00 a.m., SDIS Inside Politics held its first Zoom class, combined with a brief Zoom tutorial. Dorothy Parker operated the Zoom system and Al Korobkin led the discussion of the hot political issues of the day. We discussed topics such as: (1) who Joe Biden will select to be his Vice Presidential running mate, (2) should stay-at-home coronavirus orders be a federal or state decision, and (3) what is the political effect of President Trump’s daily White House briefings.

Approximately twenty people attended this inaugural SDIS Inside Politics class online and everyone seemed to agree it was very successful. This kind of political discussion class succeeds only if the participants are willing to express their opinions on the often-controversial topics contained in the Agenda for the day. Luckily, members of SDIS are well read and articulate members of the community, and many are eager to talk about the political issues they often see discussed in the major newspapers, cable TV stations, and on the internet. The two hours of class seemed to fly by quickly. One of the aspects I enjoyed the most was getting to “meet” some SDIS members for the first time.

Our next SDIS Inside Politics Zoom class will be held on Saturday morning, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. I suggest you mark this class on your calendar now. Prior to the class you will receive an email invitation to join the Zoom meeting, with a blue link to click on. Follow the easy directions and you will suddenly see all classmates live on your computer screens. I hope to “see” all of you soon.

Al Korobkin akorobk1@san.rr.com



Various faces of Alec Guinness in "Kind Hearts and Coronets"

Film Group -- 9:45 am, 1st Wednesday of month.

The Film Group will hold its first Zoom meeting on Monday, May 6 at 9:45 am, following directions distributed by email.

May's film is "**Kind Hearts and Coronets**," a 1949 dark comedy from the Ealing Studios, England. Louis Mazzini, son of an opera baritone and his aristocratic wife, who was entirely abandoned by her family after her marriage, wreaks revenge for his mother's life in poverty by eliminating them one by one, eventually becoming the heir to the family title of Duke of Chalfont. He almost gets away with his crimes until a romantic tug of war leads him to leave his memoirs, in which he reveals his creative assassinations, in a place where they will quickly be made public. Dennis Price, Valerie Hobson, and Joan Greenwood deliver hilarious performance, but are all upstaged by Alec Guinness who appears as all victims of the Chalfont clan.

Future films will be chosen from a list of films that are currently in the public domain. Ken Krauss has drafted an extensive list of films for us to pick from. One of Ken's criteria is the quality of the print available. To be added to contacts for this group, contact bheckler@san.rr.com or dorothyparker@gmail.com.
Barbara Heckler and Ken Krauss

Reading Experience – 10am
3rd Monday of month

DUBLINERS, a short story collection by James Joyce, was discussed at the Reading Experience group's first Zoom meeting April 20. Together, the stories form a portrait of middle-class life in the Dublin of the early 20th century.

The next Zoom "meeting" will occur Monday May 18; the subject will be Elena Ferrante's MY BRILLIANT FRIEND, which takes place in Italy's Naples in the 1950s and will move the group from its present theme "Where and When" into the next theme, "Friendship".

Gerry Horwitz

Colloquy Cafe – 1:30, 3rd Wednesday of month.

“Redemption” was the topic for our April 15 Zoom meeting. Even for those participants who thought of “redemption” in other contexts, the religious aspect of the term brought more enthusiastic discussion and was the principal focus of the meeting.

According to one group member, the original meaning of the term, in the Middle Ages, was freedom, or release, from slavery. The concept thus came to mean the “redemption” from suffering, which in Christianity was often the result of sin. Suffering could be the fear of being unworthy of entering heaven after death. Redemption thus always involves payment, literally or figuratively. “Payment” consists of a correction of past conduct by means of a positive action, doing something to make the situation better, to achieve forgiveness.

Another participant brought up the concept of Atonement in the Jewish tradition, which not only involves admitting, and regretting, a misdeed but apologizing to its victim, seeking forgiveness. Someone asked if there is a difference between forgiveness and redemption. The latter, came the answer, always involves either actual or virtual payment of some kind.

The discussion became involved and somewhat wandering. The now-obsolete collecting of Green or Blue-Chip stamps, which could be redeemed for prizes, for example. Or the redemption of a winning lottery ticket for cash, or the cashing in of one’s chips after winning at the game of poker.

The novelty of the meeting via Zoom was as interesting as the consideration of the subject.

Next month’s meeting will be the usual third Wednesday, May 20, at the usual time, 1:30.

The topic will be “enough.”

Gerry Horwitz

General Relativity – 10am Wednesday, week of month varies.

The General Relativity group met at 10:00am on April 29 via Zoom. All were in attendance.

We discussed Ch. 22 in Hartle, which presents the full-blown Einstein equations of General Relativity. Basically the Einstein curvature tensor equals a constant times the energy stress tensor, where the latter includes all forms of energy, as well as the cosmological constant term which is equivalent to a constant vacuum energy density. This very compact statement contains a huge amount of physics, and involves six non-linear equations, whose full solution in principle gives the metric, and curvature of space-time. everywhere in the universe, as well as energy density and energy flow, of all types, everywhere in the universe.

Of course, calculable solutions actually exist for a variety of approximate situations. One of the most important is for the time evolution of the universe in a homogeneous isotropic energy environment. Another is behavior of space-time outside a spherically symmetric mass (orbits of planets) behavior of a black hole, etc. Some of these solutions were discussed in earlier meetings where the solution for the metric was assumed, and consequences explored.

The next meeting will be by Zoom on Wed. May 13, at 10:00am, when we will look at solutions not yet discussed by Hartle in *Gravity*, including the generation of gravitational waves by orbiting heavy masses.”

Alvin Halpern

North County Events Open to SDIS Members

To better serve its members in North County , SDIS has established a relationship with North County Village (NCV) such that members in each organization can visit activities of the other during a trial co-operative period. Events of NCV are currently via Zoom. RSVP: Inga.Liden9@gmail.com

What is North County Village? The Village community model combines aging in place with the type of interdependent living that helps make aging alone for longer possible. A nonprofit, grassroots solution that's governed by its members, villages have become the way of life for thousands of urban and suburban seniors across the US, with a help-each-other philosophy. The Village movement is now over 350 Villages strong, with 230 Villages that are operational and 130 in development.

Weds, May 13, 2pm – Memoir Writing. *"I want to write my life story, but I don't know where to start."* Your life is a story. Come preserve it with us! We have all been on an odyssey of unending storms, dreams, laughter and tears. This is your chance to test out creating a memoir out of it all.

This group is an introduction to the journey of life writing. It will offer supportive guidance in the inspired company of others who will help you find, write and share your life's stories. This is your opportunity to touch into the hidden rewards of memoir in the safety of a writer's circle as you begin to write your memoir.

Weds, May 6, 3:30pm -- NCV Book Club. *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. A mix of Hitchcockian suspense, Agatha Christie plotting, and Greek tragedy," *The Silent Patient* is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's act of violence against her husband—and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive.

Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word.

Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London.

May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	Inside 2 Politics 10 am
3	4	5	Film 6 Group 10 am	Faye & 7 Ken Utube 4:30 pm	Neuro- 8 science 1:30 pm	9
10	11	12	General 13 Relativity 10 am	Faye & 14 Ken Utube 4:30 pm	15	Public 16 Lecture 1:30 pm
17	Reading 18 Experience 10 am	19	20 Colloquy Cafe 1:30	Faye & 21 Ken Utube 4:30 pm	22	23
24	25	26	27	Faye & 28 Ken Utube 4:30 pm	29	30

Looking Forward

Summer: Events in the calendar continue at the same day of each month. To inquire concerning options for visiting, contact sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com.

1:30 pm, September 19: A Look at China. Dr. Weiyi Shi, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UCSD. China's economic system, state political controls and objectives, implications for international trade and trade wars.

1:30 pm, October 17: What's in the Air We Breathe? Dr. Vicki Grassian, Chair of Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCSD. Aerosols, defined as solid or liquid particles suspended in air, are important components of the Earth's atmosphere and can travel long distances, impacting the Earth's climate and human health, including virus transmission.

SDIS Board Meetings. 10 am June 8, August 10, October 12 ...
(2nd Monday, alternate months)

SDIS New Member Form and Optional Library Card Form

UCSD Library Cards:

- If you are 65 or over, affiliation with SDIS entitles you to a discounted UCSD Library card, with Level 2 (graduate student) privileges, except for inter-library loans.
- For members 65 and over, your SDIS library card is \$25 with this membership form. SDIS will match your \$25. (For cards acquired at this time, UCSD charges SDIS \$50.)

Tax-Deductible Contributions to SDIS are encouraged and welcome .

MEMBERSHIP: Dues paid in September through March apply to the current fiscal year (Sept-Sept). Those paid from April through August also apply to the subsequent year.

PLEASE provide ALL information for our Directory. Print, or write very clearly.

Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Alt Phone: _____

Email: _____

Field(s) of Interest, (maximum of three)

APPLICATION FOR OPTIONAL UCSD LIBRARY CARD
Effective for Academic Year Beginning October 1

I assume responsibility for lost, damaged, or overdue materials borrowed on my UCSD/SDIS library card:

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

PAYMENTS

Make checks payable to SDIS. Please mail entire form with payment(s) to
David E. Parker, 8773 Caminito Abrazo, La Jolla, CA 92037

Tax Deductible SDIS Dues (\$40/single, \$55/couple)	\$ _____
Library Card (Optional - \$25)	\$ _____
<u>Tax Deductible Contributions</u> (Optional)	
Operations	\$ _____
Helen Hawkins Research Fund	\$ _____
Jane Ford Book Fund	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____