



# Scholars Notebook

San Diego Independent Scholars (SDIS) May 2021

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## Immigration Policy: from Trump to Biden

Tom K. Wong, PhD

Saturday, May 15, 1:30 p.m., Zoom  
SDIS Monthly Lecture

*This talk provides an overview of major policy changes that we can expect to see under the Biden administration, viewed with respect to broad social issues.*



Dr. Wong is an associate professor of political science and the founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at U.C. San Diego. He served as an advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders under the Obama administration, where he co-led the immigration portfolio. Later he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to serve on the State of California 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. He is also Co-Director of the Human Rights and Migration program.

His research focuses on the politics of immigration, citizenship and migrant “illegality.” As these issues have far-reaching implications, his work also explores the links between the politics of identity and immigration, race or ethnicity. His first book, ***Rights, Deportation, and Detention in the Age of Immigration Control***, analyzes the immigration control policies of twenty-five Western immigrant-receiving democracies (Stanford University Press, 2015). His second book, ***The Politics of Immigration: Partisanship, Demographic Change, and American National Identity*** (Oxford University Press, 2017), represents the most comprehensive analysis to date on the contemporary politics of immigration in the United States. His research has been used by policymakers both in the U.S. and in Mexico. It also has influenced organizations that serve immigrant communities and lawsuits concerning DACA, family separation, and child detention, among others.

➤ **To be placed on the mailing list for SDIS Zoom activities, contact [sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com)**



**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 online; (3) small grants awarded on a competitive basis for research projects; and (4) various cooperative educational and other projects with local organizations.

More information about SDIS and its activities is available at [www.sdscholars.org](http://www.sdscholars.org). Questions: [sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com).

✓ **VOTE -- SDIS Election: check your email and vote soon after May 4.**

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***Beatrice Kartus Rose, MD MPH***

***June 3, 1915 – April 24, 2021***

On Saturday April 24, Beatrice K. Rose, age 105, passed peacefully in her apartment and in the presence of long-time friends. Dr. Rose was a pillar of the San Diego Independent Scholars for over a quarter century and participated in its activities until the day of her death. Soon after she and her husband relocated to San Diego in 1994, she became the SDIS newsletter editor and later served in many other SDIS Board positions. She led SDIS in its Millennial Project, which marked the transition from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and contained writings from several SDIS members. In 1996 she founded the SDIS (Neuro)Science Group, which she coordinated and hosted in her home for 24 years before she had to relinquish that role when in-person gatherings became unwise during the pandemic of 2020-2021. However, she remained an active participant in the Zoom meetings of that and other SDIS activities until her passing, a few weeks short of her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday. During the entire time that she belonged to our organization, she was a kind and wise mentor to numerous SDIS members. We especially remember her thoughtful comments and witty poems.

Thank you, Bea -- for being a warm friend, insightful leader, and source of inspiration. We will miss you deeply even as you remain a permanent part of SDIS through your influence on all of us and on the organization. Rest in peace.



### Colloquy Cafe

Now 2:30 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month -- **next is May 19**

“**Wisdom**” was the subject discussed in March, and according to one member, it’s a quality with no sharp edges, an attitude of equanimity akin to maturity. Further consideration defined it as based on experience and achieved rather than innate. Never complete, it’s always dependent on context as well as the point of view of the observer.

April’s meeting was occupied with “**patriotism**”, now a very timely issue.

Is “my country right or wrong” the desired attitude of the patriot? Various members quoted various public figures: Samuel Johnson claimed that “patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.” And according to John Kerry, protest is also patriotism. One member reported that historian Howard Zinn believed dissent to be the highest form of patriotism. A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government; challenging the government when it is wrong is real patriotism, said Ron Paul. Remember Adlai Stevenson? He believed that patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

Several snags occurred in April because the meeting’s date had been changed, resulting in agreement that it will not happen again. May’s meeting will occur on Wednesday the 19th, at 2:30, when the topic for discussion will be “free speech”.

Colloquy Cafe will continue throughout the summer, always meeting (via Zoom) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and always at 2:30 p.m.

Gerry Horwitz

## **Documentaries by Ken and Faye**

12:30 every Saturday – next is May 1

To get on the list for announcements and Zoom info, contact [KMW@ucsd.edu](mailto:KMW@ucsd.edu)



### **Gene Editing in Plants**

**12:30 May 1**

Gene editing offers the potential to make agriculture more resilient to global warming, more adaptive to drought, and able to yield more food per acre.

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### **Presentations in April were:**



**Sri Lanka, April 3**



**Hoarding Disorder, April 10**



**Immunotherapy, April 24**



**Infrastructure, April 17**

## FILM GROUP

10:00 a.m., 1st Wednesday of month -- next is May 5.

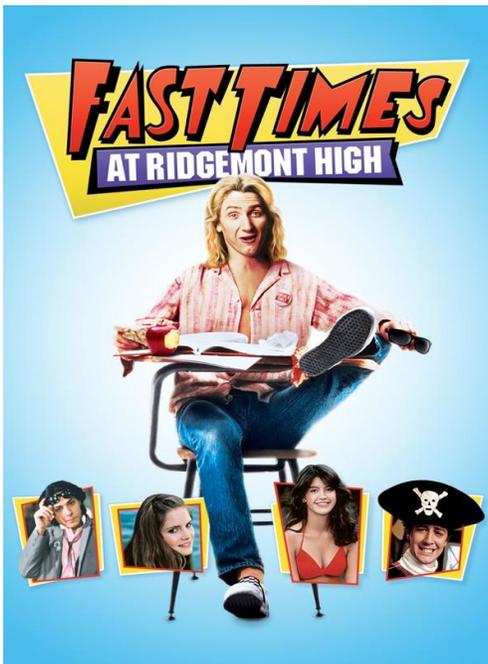
The film group will meet on Wednesday, May 5 at 10 am to view *On the Basis of Sex*, a 2018 biographical drama about Ruth Bader Ginsburg's years as a student at Harvard Law School and her unsuccessful early attempts to get hired by a law firm after graduation...unsuccessful because she was a woman. Her first job was teaching "Sex Discrimination and the Law" at Rutgers Law School. Her career took a leap when her husband asked her to help with a tax law case which she framed as a challenge to the law based on gender discrimination.



In March we viewed *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*, a 2019 documentary which was released a few months before her death at age 88. Morrison was interviewed extensively for this film. The film was produced as part of PBS's "American Masters" series. Morrison faced a lot of criticism of her earlier published works, some saying she should have included whites in her stories. Her first book, *The Bluest Eye*, eventually became one of the most challenged or banned books in the US because of language and sexually explicit descriptions. One mother even brought a lawsuit against it.

Other criticism of her work included *Paradise* being banned in a Texas prison because of fears that it would cause a riot. Her Pulitzer Prize for Literature was criticized as being "politically correct". The film was a wonderful look at this hard working and dynamic woman. We strongly recommend it! **(continued page 7)**

## FILM GROUP (continued)

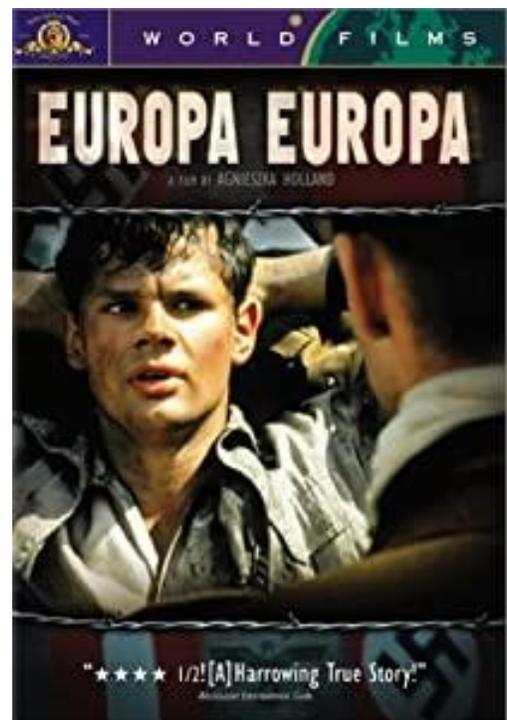


Our April film, the fourth in a series of movies directed by women, was *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, the first feature by Amy Heckerling, whose later works included "Clueless" and TV episodes of "The Office" and "Gossip Girls." "Fast Times," shot in 1981 and released the following year, was based upon Cameron Crowe's book about the year he spent back in high school incognito at San Diego's Clairemont High, observing the lives of students. The film, now something of a cult classic with memorable moments and broad comedic strokes, received a fair share of laughter from the group. Some audience members were somewhat stunned by how utterly different high school was in the late seventies than when they attended, particularly

the more open attitudes toward sex, drugs, and dating culture. One spectator compared the film's farcical representation of teenage life to the more complex psychology apparent in *The Outsiders*, Francis Ford Coppola's film released a year later.

The next film in this series by women directors will be in June, when Agnieszka Holland's *Europa, Europa*, her 1991 cinematic version of Solomon Perel's boyhood memoir of surviving the Holocaust by pretending to be a German-born Hitler youth, will be screened.

The group will continue to meet throughout the summer on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am. Email Barbara at [bheckler@san.rr.com](mailto:bheckler@san.rr.com) to be put on the contact list.



## Inside Politics

10:00 a.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month **next is May 1 (Immigration)**

SDIS Inside Politics participants always receive an Agenda a few days before our monthly Study Group meeting. The Agenda usually consists of a cross section of the hot button political issues which arose during the preceding month. Sometime in the middle of March, I decided to experiment with this format during the next two months by doing the following: focusing the Agenda issues on the general topic of Race during our regular meeting on April 3, and then focusing all of our Agenda issues on the general topic of **Immigration** during our regular meeting on May 1. After this two-month experiment has been completed, I will solicit input from participants in our Study Group to determine whether to continue with the experiment, return to our regular format, or try a combination of both.

On Saturday, April 3, we opened the SDIS Inside Politics Study Group meeting, dedicated to the general discussion of racial issues, by discussing whether George Floyd's family would receive justice in Officer Derrick Chauven's murder trial. The discussion expanded into other issues related to the trial, such as whether Officer Chauven could receive a fair trial, and whether Floyd died from excessive force or drug and heart disease. Other issues discussed during our usual lively political exchange included whether African-Americans should receive reparations for America's original sin of slavery, and whether major league baseball should have moved the 2021 All Star game out of Atlanta due to Georgia's new election law. The two-hour time period for our class went by so quickly that we were able to discuss only about half of our Agenda topics, which is often the case with our very active and informative group.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 1, and Agenda topics will focus on the general issue of Immigration. I expect another fascinating discussion because our participants are willing to share their real-life experiences and their reading of all kinds of materials with everyone in the study group.

The SDIS Inside Politics Study Group will continue to meet at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month during the summer, and we welcome anyone who is interested in discussing the political issues of the day. All political views and opinions are welcome. The anticipated dates this summer are June 5, July 3, August 7, and September 4.

Al Korobkin

## Physical Science Group

2:00 p.m. Thursday, biweekly --  
**next is Thursday May 13, 2 p.m.**

The Physical Sciences Group has been meeting every 2 weeks in March and April. Over that period, we have covered chapter 4 and a part of chapter 5 in Griffiths' book, and supplementary related materials.

Topics in Chapter 4 included symmetries and groups, including rotation, angular momentum, spin angular momentum, the SU2 group and its Lie algebra generators, and quantum addition of angular momenta, and associated Clebsch-Gordon Coefficients. We also extended these ideas to isospin multiplets in particle physics, which allows for the obtaining relations between various scattering amplitudes. (The magnitude of the amplitudes, squared, is proportional to the probability of a particular outcome of a particle scattering experiment). We also discussed discrete symmetries, including parity (reflection symmetry) time reversal symmetry, and charge conjugation symmetry (particle - antiparticle symmetry). The violation of parity in the weak interactions was discussed, as was charge conjugation violation.

In Chapter 5, we discussed the foundational development of quantum mechanics and the development of the Schrodinger Equation and the time evolution of wavefunctions (states of the system). Finally, the solution for the hydrogen atom wavefunction was developed, and its energy states determined. The same solutions were then applied to such non-relativistic systems as positronium (electron positron pair moving under coulomb attraction).

At our next meeting we will try to apply the same techniques to quarkonium, where we have a quark and antiquark combination bound in some approximate "strong force" potential field, as well as explore baryon states, which are composites of three quarks.

## Reading Experience – a theme-based reading and study group

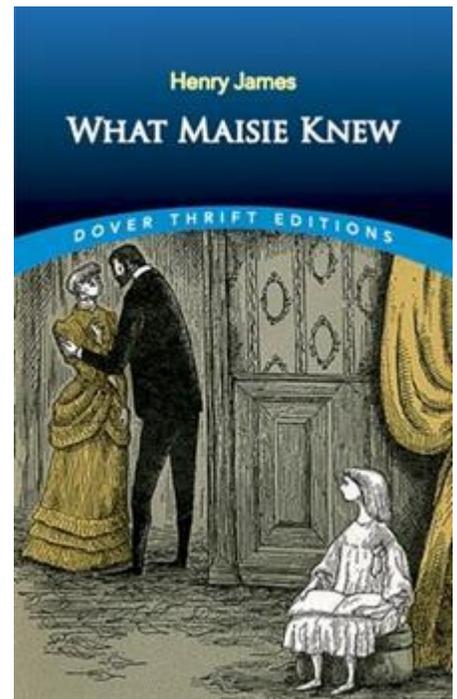
10:00 a.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month -- next is May 17

The Reading Experience study group has been concerned with the theme “**Deception**”. In March we discussed the novel *Restless* by William Boyd, about a young woman who is persuaded to become a spy for Britain during World War II, is betrayed by her spymaster, and then, fleeing, lives for thirty years under an assumed name and a new existence, but is consumed by the belief that she is in danger. April’s discussion was about the non-fiction *A Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal* by Ben Macintyre. Philby was a member of the so-called Cambridge Five, a group of spies recruited while students there during the 1930s, as communists and agents for the Soviet Union; the five operated as counter-agents while working for Britain’s very secret M16 and M15 before and during World War II. Philby deceived his closest friends and his three wives as well as Britain’s Secret Service.

May’s meeting, Monday the 17th at 10a.m., will be concerned with Henry James’ novel *What Maisie Knew*, which is the first in the study group’s new theme, “**Childhood.**” Maisie is a young girl whose parents are divorcing and using her as a pawn; this told through her point of view and written in the late 19th century.

Reading Experience will continue to meet via Zoom through the summer, always at 10a.m. and always on the third Monday of each month.

Gerry Horwitz

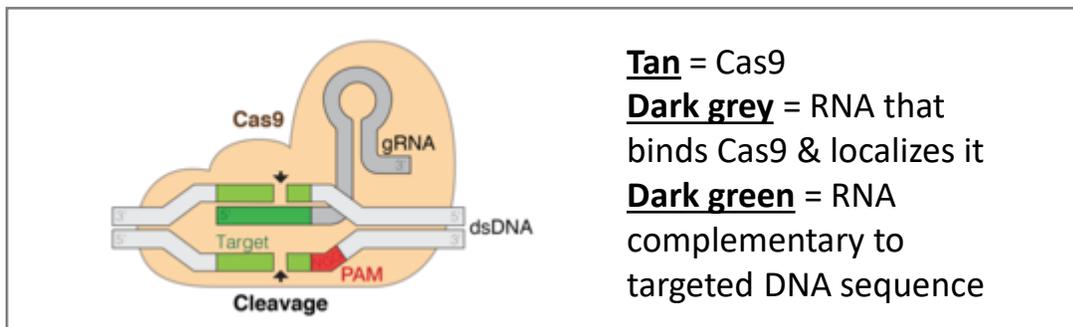


## Science Group

1:00 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month -- next is **May 14**

As part of our interest in genetics, our last meeting on April 9 focused on CRISPR-- a technology that can be used to edit genes. This method finds a specific bit of DNA inside a cell and edits that gene, usually by altering that piece of DNA. However, CRISPR has also been adapted to turning genes on or off without altering their sequence.

CRISPR “spacer” sequences are transcribed into short RNA sequences capable of guiding the system to matching sequences of DNA. When the target DNA is found, Cas9 – one of the enzymes produced by the CRISPR system – binds to the DNA and cuts it, shutting the targeted gene off.



The relationship of CRISPR to species saving or altering has been discussed in an article by Elizabeth Kolbert, “The Control of Nature,” in the January 18, 2021, issue of The New Yorker. Group members will receive links to that article and to a basic article, “What Is CRISPR?” by Aparna Vidyasagar, for discussion.

Any SDIS member who wishes to attend a Science Group session is always welcome. Please contact Arlene Gilbert with your email information so that she can send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

We meet on Zoom. At the May 9 meeting we will continue our consideration of gene editing.

Arlene Gilbert

National Council of Independent Scholars (NCIS) Grant Lecture  
11:00 am Pacific Time, May 15, 2021

**Gloria R. Montebruno Saller, Ph.D.**

## **Chronology of a Transnational Social Movement: Japanese-American A-Bomb Survivors and Their Community Newspaper (RAFU SHIMPO)"**

**Abstract:** The majority of Japanese American Hibakusha were born on the West Coast of the United States and Hawaii. They were in Hiroshima during World War II and returned to the USA between 1948 and 1956. To provide a chronologically accurate timeline of these survivors' social and political activities, I chose the Rafu Shimp to help me in my endeavor. Through the Rafu Shimp's correspondents' articles, I will: (1) build a chronology of the Japanese American Atomic Bomb Survivors' political and social activism from the 1960s through current times; (2) bring to light how these Japanese American Atomic Bomb Survivors confronted both the USA and Japanese governments to obtain medical relief/ benefits; (3) show how Japanese American Atomic Bomb Survivors contributed to the peace movement and the movement to abolish nuclear weapons through community engagements and peace talks in North America; and (4) ensure that these Japanese American Atomic Bomb Survivors' personal narratives can be employed to support the argument against the use of nuclear weapons in any conflict.

**Speaker:** Gloria R. Montebruno Saller is an Independent Research Scholar in Japan Studies. She was awarded an NCIS Research Grant in Fall 2020 to support this project. She was able to continue research despite pandemic-related restrictions and is keen to present this work-in-progress to gain valuable feedback and crystallize her research question in light of the data collected so far.

Born in Italy, Dr Saller received a doctoral degree in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California. She taught courses in Japanese language and culture, Women's Studies, and Global Studies at the University of Southern California; California State University, Long Beach; California State University, Fullerton; University of California, Riverside; and at the University of La Verne in California. She has presented her research at conferences worldwide and published in several academic journals. Dr. Montebruno Saller's current research focuses on the history of Japanese and Japanese American Atomic Bomb survivors residing in the United States and their social activism through CABSUS (Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors, United States) and ASA (American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors).

➤ **For the Zoom code**, please email [info@ncis.org](mailto:info@ncis.org) by Friday 14 May latest. Cite the lecture title or presenter in the subject line.

Northwest Independent Scholars Association (NISA) Lecture

**7:00 pm Pacific Time, Wed, May 5, 2021**

**Martha Bailey**

**Science, Skepticism, and the Unknown:  
Educating Community College Students about Science**

**Abstract:** Science education has had its ups and downs across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Many students arriving at the community college today have not had sufficient education in and about science to understand scientific procedures and findings, much less make good judgments about information that purports to be scientific. They are unable to separate science from pseudo-science. This is true in the general student population and even among students taking their first science classes at the college level. This talk will discuss one class that seeks to address the issue, PHL 195 at Portland Community College, and the challenges educators have today, in countering the anti-science rhetoric in the broader culture.

**Speaker:** Martha Bailey holds degrees in Geophysics, Philosophy and Religion, and teaches Philosophy and Religious Studies at Portland Community College and Clackamas Community College. She also serves as Lead Trainer for the Tualatin, Oregon, Community Emergency Response Team.

➤ **For the Zoom code**, contact [margaretdelacy@comcast.net](mailto:margaretdelacy@comcast.net)

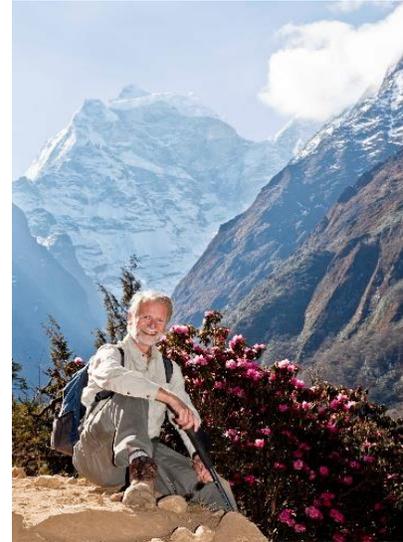
# *Darwinian Tourism Revisited*

## **Oceanids Sounding Board**

Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 12 noon

**Christopher Wills, PhD** Professor of Biological Sciences Emeritus, UCSD

**Abstract:** In my book “**The Darwinian Tourist**” (2010), I used photographs and text to put the biology and geological history of some of the world’s most amazing places — coral reefs, rainforests, active geological zones — in an evolutionary context. Much has happened since then, especially in our understanding of the evolution of our own species. During this talk, I’ll bring these evolutionary stories up-to-date



Dr. Wills received his B.A. and M.Sc. in biology from the University of British Columbia, and a Ph.D. in genetics from the University of California at Berkeley. He was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley from 1965-66, an assistant professor of biology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut from 1966 to 1972, and associate and full professor of biology at UCSD from 1972 until his retirement in 2010. His research interests include the maintenance of genetic variability in human populations, the forces that maintain variation in complex ecosystems such as rainforests and coral reefs, the evolution of diseases, and the evolution of our species.

Dr. Wills received the Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1999. His book on human evolution, “*The Runaway Brain*” (1993) was translated into every major language. His 1998 book “*Children of Prometheus: the Accelerating Pace of Human Evolution*” was a finalist for the 2000 Aventis Prize, the most important English prize for science books. A more recent book, “*The Darwinian Tourist: Viewing the World Through Evolutionary Eyes*” (2010) was called “probably the year’s most important travel book” by Condé Nast Traveler.

*Link to join:* <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/2392094686>

## ***North County Events Open to SDIS Members:***

Even before the pandemic, several SDIS members living in North County found it difficult to attend events in La Jolla because of traffic congestion, time constraints or other factors. To better meet their needs, SDIS has established a cooperative relationship with North County village (NCV), a non-profit grassroots organization that emphasizes interdependent, help-each-other living. The goal of NCV is to make aging at home easier.

NCV and SDIS have agreed to allow each other's members to visit their activities during a trial cooperative period. All NCV events currently are offered on Zoom, although Happy Hour is resuming live gatherings this month.



### **North County Village (NCV)**

### **North County Village Activities for May 2021**

5/12 – 4:00 - Happy Hour – Live at “The Landing”! –

RSVP [jek123@msn.com](mailto:jek123@msn.com)

5/18 – 2:00 – Memoir Writing -- RSVP [rigdoncurrie@mac.com](mailto:rigdoncurrie@mac.com)

5/19 – 3:30 – Book Club – “The Bohemians” by Jasmine Darznik

RSVP [jek123@msn.com](mailto:jek123@msn.com)

5/26 – 3:30 – Film Club – film TBD – RSVP [jek123@msn.com](mailto:jek123@msn.com)

# May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						Inside Politics 1 10 am <hr/> Ken & Faye 12:30
2	3	4	Film 5 10 am ----- NISA 7 pm	6 Oceanids Lecture noon	7	8 Ken & Faye 12:30
9	10	11	12	13 Physical Science 2 pm	14 Science- Genetics 2 pm	NCIS 15 11 am <hr/> Immigration SDIS lecture 1:30 pm
16	17 Reading Experience 10 am	18 NCV Memoir Writing 2:00 pm	19 Colloquy Cafe 2:30 pm	20	21	22 Ken & Faye 12:30
23	24	25	26	27 Physical Science 2 pm	28	29 Ken & Faye 12:30
30	31 Memorial Day					

# 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, Level 2 (graduate student) privileges, except for inter-library loans.
- Your SDIS library card is \$25 with this membership form. SDIS will match your \$25. That is, for cards acquired at this time, UCSD charges SDIS \$50.

Tax-Deductible Contributions to SDIS are encouraged and welcome . Your dues are also tax-deductible.

**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/Mobile 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  
Edwina Curtis, 908 Monterey Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911

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