American Citizens as Survivors of the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb: Adding a Chapter to the History of the United States.

Dr. Gloria R. Montebruno Saller

Saturday: September 18, 1:30 — via ZOOM Monthly Lecture

In my presentation, I am going to introduce my research into the history of American citizens of Japanese ancestry who were in Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945 and lived through the detonation and aftermath of the first atomic bomb employed to end a conflict. In my work, I challenge the long-held assumption that US civilians (non-military personnel) did not experience the atomic bomb in WWII.

Although I am not the first historian to address the complex life experiences of Japanese American citizens who left the US before the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 to return to Japan, I am probably one of the few who has worked very closely with some of these survivors of the atomic bomb. These individuals opened their homes and their hearts to me to share their emotional experiences while in Hiroshima and while they embarked on rebuilding their lives in the US. These individuals agreed to have their stories recorded for posterity.

My work as a historian has been one of providing historical and social contexts to their life experiences which also include their active involvement in spearheading the social movement to obtain medical relief for their atomic bomb related illnesses from both the US and Japanese governments and to promote peace education around the world.

Currently, Dr. Montebruno Saller is writing her book *Japanese American Citizens as Survivors of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima*, which will be published by Routledge by the end of 2022.

Dr. Gloria R. Montebruno Saller is an Independent Research Scholar in Japan Studies. Born in Italy, Dr. Montebruno Saller moved to the United States to pursue her doctoral degree in East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Southern California from where she received her doctoral degree. She taught Japanese Language and Culture courses, Women’s Studies and Global Studies courses 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. She presented her research at conferences worldwide and published her works 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). She serves as Director and Historian of the American Society of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Survivors in Los Angeles, California.
**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.

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**SCHOLAR’S NOTEBOOK**

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  *(Includes events by North County Village—SDIS members are welcome.)*

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NOTE: Our Notebook will be online shortly.

Arlene Gilbert, Editor
Summer is Party Time for SDIS
Here we are at the home of John Alexander on August 14

Nina Gilbert provided a lecture and a sampling of chocolate:

“The flavor of chocolate we eat today was influenced by the Great Cocoa Blast of 1727. We’re not sure if it was a storm or a disease, but it destroyed the cacao crop in Trinidad, so farmers had to create new “Trinitario” hybrids to replace it.”
This autumn’s meetings will consider the ability of the human brain to simplify complex incoming perceptions into coherent mental models that are generally useful for daily functioning and survival. Sometimes these models even allow us to accurately predict the outcomes of actions by ourselves or others, but sometimes they err in ways inappropriate to modern living.

Research concerning various errors in this system provides valuable information to neuroscientists and psychologists – and is the grist for the group’s study and discussions this autumn.

This topic was chosen because of the availability of new results that pertain to many fascinating questions, such as:

1. Why and how do we become overly attached to certain mental models and ideologies (such as political ones), so that our thinking is overly rigid and cannot accommodate contradictory facts? What favors more flexible thinking?
2. What corrections can we make when the brain systematically makes specific types of errors in the interpretation or prediction?
3. How might these properties of human cognition influence the development and desirability of various types of artificial intelligence (AI)?

Two well-written articles that have been chosen for Sept. 10 will be sent to group members. As always, member input is welcome.

If you would like to be placed on the group’s mailing list, contact Dorothy Parker or email to sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com

Dorothy Parker
Colloquy Café

1:30 p.m.— Wednesday — September 15 — via Zoom

Meeting throughout the summer, members of this group had many a fascinating and lively discussion. Our topics were “free speech” in May, “homophobia” in June, “disinformation”, better known as “fake news”, in July, and most recently, “The Fourth of July” in August. Yes, as odd as it seems, each of us had a great deal to say about that holiday a month after its (annual) occurrence.

The session became a reflection, for each, on patriotism, on his/her childhood and on that individual’s memories of WW2. One member spoke movingly about his childhood memories of wartime in his native European country and of meeting friendly American servicemen there. He spoke of listening to American radio: classical music, what he called “hillbilly” music, and a series about “Johnny Dollar, insurance investigator”, all on the US Armed Forces Network.

Another participant spoke of growing up in Venice, California as part of a poor family, memories of listening to the radio as a family, and loving Fourth of July concerts, patriotic songs and marches, both then and now. Years after the war, a trip with his spouse to Normandy and to the American cemetery there proved to be an exceptionally moving experience.

Thoughts of July 4 always brought to mind the late film star Jimmy Cagney singing and dancing “I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy”, said another individual, who remembered her family listening to the radio together, and especially during WW2 newsman Edward R. Murrow’s broadcasts from London. She remembered her mother, who was from the UK, knitting socks for British servicemen.

“He literally kissed the ground” when he arrived in this country, said a fourth person, whose father was an immigrant from Austria and taught his family a very positive, if idealized, view of America. She said she is happy, lucky and proud to be American but regrets that voting has to do with money; candidates rely so much on fundraising.

A different member said her previous patriotism was much affected by the Jan. 6 riot in the Capitol and the recent testimony before Congress of the black police officer who cried while testifying about it. She related that watching those events made her reflect that many patriotic songs, for instance “This Land Is Made For You and Me,” do not really include black people.

The active conversations held by the participants in this Study Group will continue at its Zoom meetings on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month at 1:30. On September 15, the next session, the topic will be “pandemic.”

Gerry Horwitz
In August, a change in the spread of the pandemic encouraged us to meet via zoom again. Due to a technical glitch, however, we were not able to screen the announced film, and so watched another woman-directed feature made in the same year: Whale Rider.

This film takes a fanciful and sometimes serious look at how a young girl in a Maori settlement in New Zealand copes with her traditionalist grandfather, who in spite of her own worthiness, continues to believe that their group can be led by a female. Only after watching her save a beached pod of whales, one of which carries her out to sea, does he realize that she has proven beyond a doubt her mythic promise. She survives and with her grandfather, sails out in a long-boat rowed by men and women as part of an updated tribal ceremony.

Next month, the promised film, Frida, about the famous Mexican artist, will be shown, starring Selma Hayek and directed by Julie Taymor, which close the series of fifty years of films by women directors.

“Kahlo's work as an artist remained relatively unknown until the late 1970s, when her work was rediscovered by art historians and political activists. By the early 1990s, she had become not only a recognized figure in art history, but also regarded as an icon for Chicanos, the feminism movement and the LGBTQ+ movement. Kahlo’s work has been celebrated internationally as emblematic of Mexican national and indigenous traditions and by feminists for what is seen as its uncompromising depiction of the female experience and form.”

Frida Kahlo, 1932

Coming this fall, a new bimonthly series will begin with ten decades of movie musicals.

Ken Krauss
The SDIS Inside Politics Zoom Study Group continued to hold Zoom meetings on the first Saturday of every month during the summer. The reason for continuing all summer was simple: Politics never takes a vacation.

Proof of this truism can be found by examining the Agenda for our meeting on August 7. The first item we discussed that day was the first hearing of the House Select Committee investigating the January 6 Capitol Riot. We then proceeded to discuss the dramatic steps taken by the Democratic legislators in Texas: Fleeing the State to prevent passage of the Republican “voter integrity” bill.

Other issues covered included President Biden’s announcement that we should all resume wearing masks indoors, due to a surge of the Delta Variant, and the investigation report issued by the New York Attorney General confirming eleven sexual harassment allegations against Governor Andrew Cuomo. If we had been closed down during the summer, those issues would have been old news by the time we met again at the conclusion of the summer.

For those of you who may be thinking of joining our SDIS Inside Politics Zoom Study Group, I urge you to jump right in, because of two political developments promising some lively discussion during the next few monthly meetings. The sudden take over of Afghanistan by the Taliban created a chaotic scene at the Kabul Airport, bringing with it memories of the fall of Saigon in the 1970s. With thousands of Americans and Afghan allies still trapped in Kabul, this situation should provide fuel for discussion at our study group meetings for several months.

Also of great interest is the California Recall Election involving Governor Gavin Newsom on September 14. If Newsom is in fact recalled, our new Governor will be selected from the list of 46 candidates, most of whom you have never heard of. This would be only the third time in American history that a state governor has been recalled.

If you follow the political news on a regular basis, I hope you will consider joining this exciting discussion group. Participants always receive an Agenda a few days before our monthly Study Group meeting. The Agenda consists of a cross section of the hot button political issues which arose during the preceding month.

I also always send you the Zoom Link the day before our meeting, so you can automatically join the group discussion by clicking on the Zoom Link a few minutes before the meeting.

Al Korobkin
Physical Sciences Group

2 p.m. — First Wednesday — Sept. 1 — via ZOOM

The Physical Sciences Group has been meeting by Zoom every two weeks over the summer, most recently on Wednesdays at 2pm. We continue to work our way through Griffiths "Introduction to Elementary Particles". Over the last few weeks we have been studying the Free Particle Dirac Equation (the relativistic counterpart of the Schrodinger Equation). This includes finding the free particle wave functions which now involve 4 component Spinors, examining the transformation properties of these Spinors under Lorentz Transformations and Parity, and demonstrating that all the solutions naturally represent spin 1/2 particles.

Alvin Halpern

Reading Experience

10 a.m. — Third Monday — Sept. 20 — via ZOOM

This Study Group continued to meet during the summer, as usual; our themed series for those months was “Childhood,” perhaps more appropriately named “Girlhood”.

The first, in May, was Henry James’ novel “What Maisie Knew”, written over a century ago about a young daughter of divorced parents who fight over her custody, each not wanting Maisie but using her as a weapon against the other. June’s selection was Raymond Queneau’s “Zazie In the Metro”, translated from the French and written in mid 20th century. Zazie is a young adolescent, but a very daring, impish and foul-mouthed one whose mother leaves her in Paris for several days with her uncle, who is unable to fulfill his niece’s deepest desire: to ride the Metro, because it’s on strike.

Finally, Carson McCullers’ “Member of the Wedding”, which also takes place in mid 20th century, but in the American South. Its central character is 12-year old Frankie, motherless and totally fascinated with the idea of her older brother’s coming wedding. She imagines herself so involved in it that she will go with the bride and groom on their honeymoon and remain part of their marriage.

Our latest theme is “Mothers”. The August meeting concerned Amy Tan’s “The Joy Luck Club”, written slightly over thirty years ago and quickly having become a best-seller. The author very cleverly and movingly tells the stories of four women, all immigrants born and reared in pre-1949 China who have met in San Francisco and formed, with their husbands, a weekly club. Interwoven with the mothers’ backgrounds are the feelings and tales of their American born and raised daughters and the inter-generational relationships and expectations between them.

On September 20, our usual third Monday of the month date, at 10 a.m., our Zoom meeting will focus on “The Rainbow Comes and Goes” by newsman Anderson Cooper and his mother, heiress (and onetime “poor little rich girl”) Gloria Vanderbilt. It is a dialog in correspondence form written only a few years ago when the authors decided to ask and answer personal questions of one another which they had never before discussed. Both lives have contained great tragedy and unusual success.

Gerry Horwitz
### SEPTEMBER 2021
SDIS meetings and events listed are via Zoom

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<td><strong>Items preceded by N are by North County Village.</strong> Contact North County Village @ <a href="mailto:jek123@msn.com">jek123@msn.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Film Group</strong> 10 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Inside Politics</strong> 10 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Contact Faye and Ken @ <a href="mailto:KMW@UCSD.edu">KMW@UCSD.edu</a></strong> (Hint: their September 25 lecture isn't what you might think it is.)</td>
<td><strong>Physical Sciences</strong> 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Ken &amp; Faye</strong> 12:30 p.m. <strong>“Centenarians” In honor of Ken’s reaching age 100</strong></td>
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