The Worldwide Search 
For a Peaceful Death 

Dr. Faye Girsh 

Saturday: October 16, 1:30 — via ZOOM 
Monthly Lecture 

In this talk I will explore laws for assisted dying in other parts of the world, especially in Canada, and compare them with the law we have in California. Some controversial issues in these laws include: assistance to people with dementia, to children, to those who can’t swallow, to the mentally ill, and one model where no laws or doctors are required. It will be interesting to know how the SDIS audience feels about those issues, which are generating discussion worldwide. I will also mention the documents necessary to achieve your end of life wishes.

Faye Girsh was President of the Hemlock Society USA in Denver from 1996 to 2004, following its founder, Derek Humphry. In 1987 she began the Hemlock Society of San Diego and was president from 1987 to 1996 and again from 2006 to 2019.

She was also President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies. She initiated the Caring Friends program at Hemlock, which has become the Final Exit Network, where she serves on the Advisory Board. She is on the board of ERGO (Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization). For many years she was a board member and Newsletter Editor for the World Federation of Right to Die Societies and is Past President.

In 2003, she was awarded Hemlock’s Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2016 she was the recipient of the Marilyn Sequinn award from the World Federation of Right to Die Societies (shown in photo).

Dr. Girsh received her doctorate in Human Development from Harvard University. She was Associate Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department at Morehouse College for nine years. From 1974-78 she was a Research Associate at the University of Chicago and also taught at Roosevelt and Northwestern Universities. For 18 years she practiced as a clinical and forensic psychologist in San Diego. She has lectured extensively in the U.S. and abroad and appeared in numerous radio and TV shows.
The Worldwide Search for a Peaceful Death

About SDIS

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  Works in Progress
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  Film Group
  Physical Science Group
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SDIS Events Calendar
Friends & Neighbors, Events

Membership Application

Reminder: it is SDIS membership renewal time!

We appreciate a timely response so that we can update the SDIS Directory and distribute it soon. In addition to responding to the letter that has already been mailed to you, you have two options:

(a) complete the attached renewal form and mail it, with your check, to the SDIS Treasurer, Edwina Curtis, at the address on the form, or

(b) fill out an online form available at sdsscholars.org and pay with either a credit card or PayPal.
The group is adopting a new name (Biosciences) and new meeting time, starting this October. The time is still being determined, based on members’ preferences, and will be emailed to group members and interested persons shortly.

Because various group members have expertise in different fields, we like to choose topics amenable to interdisciplinary discussions that consider a single topic from diverse viewpoints. This autumn we are investigating “cognitive biases,” systematic mental patterns that deviate from rationality, a topic that has been studied in both psychology and neuroscience but also pertains to social issues and even to comparisons with artificial intelligence.

In September, the focus was “confirmation bias,” defined as “the tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that confirms or supports one’s prior beliefs or values”. After first reviewing various hypotheses concerning this all-too-human tendency, the conversation became especially animated and questioning as it turned to the role that confirmation bias plays in our own lives and thinking.

Two points of view were most frequently expressed. (1) Isn’t it important to know which person’s interpretation is right and which is wrong? To make decisions, isn’t it necessary to decide what is true and what is false? (2) Because confirmation bias acts to reinforce our initial interpretations at the expense of other ones, each of us has an incomplete, skewed picture of any situation. Realizing this situation may make it easier to negotiate novel solutions that incorporate the important aspects of opposing views.

In October, we will explore concepts from Thinking Fast and Thinking Slow by Daniel Kahneman, a psychologist who was awarded the Nobel prize (in Economics!!) for research into short-cut approximations that likely help the human brain make rapid decisions that, in earlier times, favored survival but can be maladaptive in modern life. These approximations work well for many aspects of living, but can be catastrophic in financial matters and economics, for example.

Join us on October 8 for what should be an informative, and maybe financially useful, discussion.

DOROTHY PARKER
FORMING NOW! -- Works in Progress --

A New Study Group

- The group will share scholarship written by members, offer responses to their works in progress, and discuss various aspects of their texts. You can serve as a reader or a sounding board for projects in various areas of expertise and also find feedback from other writers regarding your own work.

- In October, we will send an email describing the pilot project and announcing an informational meeting to discuss how the group will operate.

- At this time, due to the pandemic restriction, the group will meet online via Zoom and distribute texts via email.

- If you are interested in participating, contact Ken Krauss or Dorothy Parker (addresses in SDIS Directory)
Colloquy Café
1:30 — Wednesday — October 20 — via Zoom

At the group’s mid-September meeting, members wrestled with the timely but difficult topic “pandemic”. The individual who had suggested we discuss it took it, and us, back to the 1500s when a devastating and very long-lasting disease swept across much of the world. But, another individual reminded us, the worldwide population was much smaller then; science, communication and travel were in their infancy compared to today.

Typhoid, cholera and typhus are only some of the maladies responsible for killing multitudes. When what begins as an “epidemic”, often unrecognized and/or misunderstood, spreads to another continent, it becomes a “pandemic.”

As today’s significant virus has spread from community to country to the entire world, it has taken over our lives. We react with anger and frustration. A new member of the group said the word “pandemic” is too soft to adequately describe this disease and its consequences.

Two current books address—at least in part—this issue: “The Premonition” by Michael Lewis and “Peril” by Bob Woodward and Bob Costa.

The October meeting, as usual on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month, will occur at 1:30 on the 20th when members will analyze the role of the military in a democracy….again, a particularly timely subject.

GERRY HORWITZ

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Film Group
9:45 a.m.—Wednesday—October 6

The Film Group will meet to view Foreign Correspondent, the 1940 Alfred Hitchcock film about a reporter who tries to expose spies before the outbreak of World War II. Nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, it lost to another Hitchcock film that year: Rebecca. It is considered one

Al Jolson, in The Jazz Singer
of his top films, but not in the very top tier. Hitchcock was undoubtedly one of the most famous directors of the 20th Century. Yet the biggest prize eluded him. He was nominated 5 times by the Academy as Best Director for these films: 

Rebecca; Lifeboat; Spellbound; Rear Window; and Psycho. Many consider the biggest insult was his 1960 loss for Psycho to William Wyler, who won for Ben Hur.

I started the film group eleven years ago, in October 2010. This is the very first Hitchcock film we have watched. What an oversight!

BARBARA HECKLER

More About Film

The Film Group enjoyed the September screening of Frida, Julie Taymor's 2002 biography of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, the final film in a series of films directed by women over a fifty-year period. Members commented on the Oscar-winning score, which added to the emotional impact of many of the scenes, and appreciated the entire visual approach, in which many of the painter's works informed the composition and colors of the photography. Overall, this may have been the most positive response to this series.

In November, a new series will begin: Starting with what is generally considered the first "talky," The Jazz Singer (1927), the group will be watching a hundred years of Hollywood musicals. While Al Jolson's rendition of the title role has become something of a landmark performance, the film also offers telling evidence about 1920s American culture and somehow predicts some of the stereotypes that would become staples of decades of studio production.

KEN KRAUSS
READING EXPERIENCE
10 a.m.—Monday—October 18—via Zoom

September’s Reading Experience was a discussion of “The Rainbow Comes and Goes”, an email correspondence between journalist Anderson Cooper and his mother Gloria Vanderbilt. The two began the exchange in order to share feelings and experiences they had previously hesitated to address in person.

Continuing the present theme of Mother and Child, October’s meeting will address “A Confederacy of Dunces” by John Kennedy Toole on Monday.

GERRY HORWITZ

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PHYSICAL SCIENCES

2 p.m.—First and Third Wednesdays—via Zoom

We continue to work our way through chapter 7 of our text, Griffiths' "Introduction to Elementary Particles". We have now developed the tools necessary to carry out Feynman Diagram calculations for such processes as electron-electron scattering, electron-positron scattering, electron positron pair production (from two photons) and annihilation (into two photons) and other processes as well.

These Feynman Diagrams represent probability amplitudes for the processes to occur, which in turn allows calculation of measurable cross sections that can be tested by experiment. Calculations such as these were among the first to usher in the age of Quantum Field Theory and ultimately the Standard Model, which explains all known phenomena involving the Strong, Weak, and Electromagnetic forces, with amazing accuracy. At our meeting on Sept. 30, we plan to actually calculate some of the above Feynman Diagrams.

ALVIN HALPERN
The September Meeting of our SDIS Inside Politics Study Group featured a number of Agenda topics related to the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, particularly the chaos that resulted at the airport during the actual exodus from the country and the failure to withdraw all of the Americans and Afghanistan allies prior to the departure of all American troops. The October meeting will focus much more on the domestic political issues facing the Biden administration, as well as other topics covered by the cable TV channels we all watch every day.

The summer has not been kind to President Biden from a political point of view, and we will be discussing many of the issues that have contributed to his significant drop in the popular political opinion polls. Some of those topics involve the rise in Covid cases as a result of the Delta Variant, confusion among the experts in the FDA and CDC relating to the issue of who should receive vaccine booster shots and when, inflation pressures in the economy, and thousands of former Haitian refugees illegally crossing into the United States at the Texas border and living in squalor conditions under a bridge there. We will also discuss the current battle taking place between the Democrats’ progressives and moderates, and whether this dispute will take a toll on the Biden agenda.

Other more unique topics include whether the Gabby Petito case raises the question why missing persons of color do not receive the same degree of media attention, and why the FBI failed to investigate molestation of U.S. women gymnasts.

Any members of SDIS who wish to join the SDIS Inside Politics Study Group may contact me directly and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about our class. Contact information is in our SDIS Directory.

AL KOROBKIN
## OCTOBER 2021
### SDIS meetings listed are via Zoom

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Inquiries: (sandiegoindependentscholars@gmail.com)
SDIS Meeting site: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716864012?pwd=bUhjSUlrRFpDYmVKTGRMUExjRFZhdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716864012?pwd=bUhjSUlrRFpDYmVKTGRMUExjRFZhdz09)
SDIS YouTube site: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7zSUtp6Z6Gkb3NwZ-vAgwA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7zSUtp6Z6Gkb3NwZ-vAgwA)
**SDIS Membership Form:** Paper version

An online version of this form, for online payment, is at [https://sdscholars.org](https://sdscholars.org). Instructions: see the website above or a cover letter, if this form was mailed to you.

- **You may join as an individual ($40 per year) or as a household ($55 per year)**

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**Application for Optional UCSD Library Card**

Effective for an academic year beginning October 1. See website or cover letter for details.

I assume responsibility for lost, damaged, or overdue materials borrowed on my card:

Signature ________________________ Print Name ________________________

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Make checks payable to the San Diego Independent Scholars. Please mail entire form with payment(s) to Edwina Curtis, 908 Monterey Court, Chula Vista, CA 91911

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- **Tax Deductible Contributions** (Optional)
  - Operations $______________
  - Helen Hawkins Research Fund $______________
  - Jane Ford Book Fund $______________
- **TOTAL ENCLOSED** $______________