SATURDAY NOV. 19. 1:30pm—via ZOOM---SDIS Monthly Lecture

WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Historical discoveries related to the role of women in the early Church

By John Rigoli

John Ignatius Rigoli’s experiences as both a cradle Catholic and former US Naval officer who served in Vietnam, informed his world view in a rather unexpected manner, opening his eyes to the proposition that those who seek power are the last people who should hold it.

John is an unabashed social justice advocate, outspoken liberal, and a patriot – and he sees no dichotomy in this. As a talented and inquisitive amateur historian, John became interested in the stories of the earliest women in the Church, and how they have been erased.

Though a work of historical fiction, The Vatican Chronicles takes its inspiration from the real women throughout history who toiled unacknowledged alongside their brothers.

John has written three historical fiction books, two audiobooks, and two children’s books on Amazon compelling evidence that women held leadership and ministerial roles in the early Church. Inscriptions and images found on papyri, tombstones, frescos and mosaics show early Christian women serving their communities as apostles, bishops, priests, deacons, prophets and teachers of theology.

About 100 tombstones for female deacons survive today, leading experts to estimate their total number in the thousands. These inscriptive testaments demonstrate the patronage, power, and unequivocal status of female deacons and presbyters within an emerging Christianity in the first centuries CE, well into the early Medieval period.
The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego Independent Scholars.

SDIS strives to promote opportunities for active learning and scholarship, for its members and for the San Diego community.

Public service activities of SDIS include free public lectures and cooperative educational projects with other organizations. SDIS members enjoy a variety of regular discussion groups, presently via Zoom.

SDIS, established in 1982, was instrumental in the founding of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, an organization that unites eight similar organizations and has international membership.

For more information see https://sdscholars.org or contact sdisask@gmail.com

There will be no general meeting/lecture in the month of December. Enjoy the holidays!
SDIS Study Group Reports

BIOSCIENCES GROUP

1:00 p.m.---Friday-----November 11-----via Zoom

In October, the Bioscience Group discussed recent data suggesting that sleep participates in the forgetting of certain memories. Since this forgetting was reported to occur predominantly during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and since REM sleep is also associated with dreams, the November meeting will examine dreaming.

We will also review the properties of REM sleep, how it differs from deep sleep, and how those differences might influence our attitudes toward REM-mediated dreaming. The agenda for discussion will include questions like:

1. Which of the following interpretations of dreaming do you think is most strongly supported by current evidence? Are dreams:
   a. Reflections of repressed desires or other powerful forces,
   b. Windows into the unconscious mind,
   c. The chaff left over after memory consolidation has claimed what it considers important,
   d. Representations strong enough to withstand the forgetting reported for REM sleep,
   e. Sources of novel associations and creativity,
   f. Mental noise caused by randomly arising memories,
   g. Personal ink blot tests that are fun to interpret,
   h. Something else?

2. How do you interpret lucid dreaming? Might it confer practical advantages, or might it interfere with important mechanisms of memory consolidation or forgetting?

Join us from 1:00 - 2:00 on Friday, November 11. For the Zoom link or further information, contact Dorothy Parker

Dorothy Parker

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COLLOQUY CAFE

1:30 p.m.— Wednesday — November 16 — via Zoom

"Marriage" is the concept to be analyzed by the devoted members of this group at its November 16 meeting, the usual third Wednesday of the month at 1:30, via Zoom. It seems direct, but for Colloquy discussants nothing is as simple as it sounds.

What happened at the October session is a case in point; the analysis of “Gender” proved to be full of angles and new meanings. From the difference between gender and sex to the complications and difficulties of trans, members sometimes tentatively and sometimes eagerly, dived in.

Because the third Wednesday of December falls on the 21st, members at the November meeting will decide whether to meet that day or whether to cancel, deferring to Christmas.

Gerry Horwitz
At our last meeting on Wed., Oct, 26, and the preceding three meetings, we developed the quantization of the Dirac fields, as per our text Peskin and Schroeder. First we developed the Dirac Equation (for electrons or any spin 1/2 particle) in free space - i.e., with no interaction, and discovered the solutions for particles with definite momentum and spin. In constructing these we discovered that in addition to the electron, we were forced to acknowledge solutions that were for its antiparticle, the positron. From the electron and positron solutions we could then construct the general wave functions in space and time.

The next step was to quantize these wave functions so that they became Operators in an abstract space (Hilbert Space), whose solutions represented the creation and annihilation of electrons and positrons in varying numbers and with varying characteristics. This constitutes quantum field theory for the spin 1/2 particles. We quickly discovered that the quantized fields could not be expressed in terms of the ordinary commutation rules of quantum mechanics, but instead, in terms of anti-commutation rules. This in turn, guaranteed that the solutions were totally antisymmetric in nature, thus obeying Fermi Dirac statistics, instead of Bose Einstein statistics as the Klein Gordon field did. In this abstract space the solutions (states of the system) and the Operators transformed under Lorentz transformations via Unitary operators, in a way that mimicked the Lorentz transformation of space and time, and the underlying Dirac Equation. Unitary operators guarantee that states are juxtaposed to one another (scalar product) in the same way in the transformed system as the original.

In addition to the "proper" Lorentz transformations, which cover all rotations and changes in velocity, we examined the discrete transformations: Parity (spatial inversion), Time reversal (what happens when t goes to - t) and Charge Conjugation (what happens when all electrons of a given spin and momentum are transformed into Positrons with the same spin and momentum). As it turns out Parity, Time Reversal and Charge Conjugation are conserved in Electro-Magnetic and Strong Interactions, but not so in the Weak Interactions. However the Product of all three, CPT, is always conserved. This last is a fundamental requirement of quantum field theory.

We then started Ch. 4 of Peskin and Schroeder, looking at the effects when interactions are included, which will be summarized next time. We continue to zoom meet every two weeks on Wed. at 2:00pm, and our next meeting will take place on Nov. 9. If anyone would like to inquire about Physical Sciences Group please contact Alvin Halpern-

Alvin Halpern
WORKS IN PROGRESS

3 p.m.— Thursday — November 17 — via Zoom

The SDIS Works in Progress (WiP) Group met online at 3 pm on Thursday, October 20th. John Rigoli presented a discussion of how he worked with a team of people to produce the novel, *The Anonymous Scribe*, an historical thriller involving a mysterious ancient manuscript by a man who travelled with Jesus and reported on his behavior to the high priest in Jerusalem.

Using Power-Point, John explained how he came up with the plot and with the help of editors and a co-writer, produced the book. He also shared with those attending how he had researched the era in which much of the book is set. Group members had been sent the first fifty pages of *The Anonymous Scribe*, but many of those who came to the meeting—some of whom were new to WiP—had already read the entire work. The group posed questions and offered John favorable comments on the book.

In our next meeting, on Thursday, November 17 at 3 pm, Diana Withee will share a chapter of her work in progress on the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch, whose works from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries continue to amaze and haunt viewers today. A copy of the chapter will be sent to all members of the group. All SDIS members are welcome to attend: Please contact Dorothy Parker to obtain a copy of Diana's chapter and receive the link to the Zoom session.

Ken Krauss and Dorothy Parker

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READING EXPERIENCE

10 a.m. — SECOND Monday — November 14 --- via Zoom

The November meeting has been moved forward, from the usual third Monday to the second Monday, Nov. 14. Members will convene, as usual, by Zoom at 10 a.m., to discuss the second in our current series, “Little-Known Authors.” The author is the late Joseph Mitchell; his book is McSORLEY'S WONDERFUL SALOON, now out of print but accessible in a volume titled UP IN THE OLD HOTEL. The latter is also a work by Mitchell, but we will only address the first 325 pages of the former.

The October session of the group examined a memoir by the little-known Judith Moore, FAT GIRL. Moore was a former editor of San Diego’s weekly, *The Reader*, when that paper was a source of frequently impressive writing. As the title indicates, FAT GIRL depicts the author’s fraught relationships: with food and with her mother. Various members had varying reactions to Moore’s memories and feelings.

Future Reading Experience meetings, beginning December 19, will return to the third Monday of each month.

Gerry Horwitz
FILM GROUP

10 a.m. PROMPTLY — First Wednesday —November 2— via Zoom

The Film Group will meet Wednesday, November 2 at 10 am to watch 1941’s movie musical "Buck Privates." This film was scheduled for October but had to be rescheduled for November.

Following is from the October Notebook: (This is) one of many films that reflected Roosevelt's reinstitution of the peacetime draft. For Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, this was their first motion picture in which they received top billing, and they were allowed to add improv to their most famous vaudeville routines, including "Who's on First?" Four musical numbers are performed by the Andrew sisters, whose "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Apple Blossom Time" went on to top the charts. Their "Bounce Me Brother, With a Solid Four" features the most famous filmed Lindy Hop number, performed by amateur dancers from L.A., which the studio edited to remove all suggestive content. The peacetime draft musical, filled with fun, fails to anticipate the dire turn the War would take eleven months later after Pearl Harbor.

Film Group—December Meeting

10 a.m. PROMPTLY — First Wednesday —December 7— via Zoom

Our December meeting is Wednesday, December 7 at 10 am to see Immortal Beloved, a 1994 film loosely based on happenings after the death of Ludwig Beethoven, with frequent flashbacks. Beethoven’s will left his estate to his "immortal beloved" without specifying who that person was. This film tells of the search by his biographer for that woman. We will be treated with parts of over a dozen Beethoven works, with music provided by the London Symphony and conducted by Georg Solti.

Barbara Heckler and Ken Kraus

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INSIDE POLITICS

10 a.m. — Second Saturday--November 12 — via Zoom

Our next SDIS Inside Politics Study Group will meet on Zoom on Saturday November 12 at 10:00 a.m. This class promises to be filled with lively discussions because it follows the 2022 Mid-Term Elections held earlier that week on Tuesday November 8.

The results of the Mid-Term will decide the shape of the Congress for the next two years, as well as many state governments around the country. At the present time, the House of Representatives is controlled by a slim margin by the Democrats, with the U.S. Senate split 50/50, with V.P. Kamala Harris casting the tie breaking vote. All of that could change as a result of the Mid-Term Elections.

I invite all members of SDIS to click on the Zoom Link on Saturday November 12 a few minutes before 10:00 a.m. to participate in or simply watch and listen to our class discussing and analyzing the results of what President Biden is calling perhaps the most important mid-term election in our lifetime. We will also cover our usual mixture of the other hot political issues of the day, both nationally and internationally.

Al Korobkin
**November 2022**

SDIS meetings and events listed are via Zoom

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