SATURDAY January 20, 1:30 pm via ZOOM
SDIS Monthly Lecture:

Can We Successfully Resolve the Climate Crisis?

Dr. Tom English

Dr. Tom English managed high-level nuclear waste programs for President Carter’s Office of Science and Technology Policy; the Government of Sweden; NASA; and the California Energy Commission. At the U.S. EPA, he directed an $80 million per year Energy & Environment Program. He is the President of the Earth Restoration Team, and a Creation Care Educator for the Presbyterian Church USA. He is ranked in the top 0.1% of the Climate Reality Project’s speakers’ program. He is co-editor of a book: *Witness for the Earth: Coalescing the Religious Environmental Movement*.

For your convenience, click the following link to join the zoom webinar; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716864012?pwd=bUhjSUIrRFpDYmVKTRGRMUExjRFZhdz09

What is the most serious threat facing our world now?

Dr. English describes the 2 biggest threats to humanity today that could drive to extinction more than half of the plant and animal species of the planet. It would be caused by a combination of two crises: Climate change, and Destruction of tropical rainforest.

As Dr. English explains, both of these crises are avoidable with existing technologies and by shifting the way we do things.
The Scholars Notebook is issued monthly during the academic year, except December, by the San Diego Independent Scholars. Editor: Arlene Gilbert

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
BIOSCIENCES and WORKS IN PROGRESS Groups
Joint Meeting

January 18, 2024, at 1-2:30 pm
North University Community Library
8820 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

The Works in Progress Group is inviting the Biosciences Group to its next meeting, a presentation by Jaime Pineda, who belongs to both groups and will be presenting material of interest to both.

Dr. Pineda, a Professor Emeritus of Cognitive Science at the University of California San Diego, is well known for his research in the neuroscience of human social behavior and cognition. He has also studied various contemplative philosophies, including Buddhism. His talk on January 18, “A Science and Contemplative Perspective on Wellbeing,” will describe his synthesis of those two viewpoints, with an emphasis on creativity and wellbeing.

Works in progress is exploring the effect of holding its monthly sessions in the North Community Library, with the dual goals of making its presentations more readily available to the larger San Diego community and of obtaining feedback from a more diverse population. However, participants may also elect to describe their projects in closed meetings of Works in Progress members only.

In his latest book, Dr. Pineda describes how anxiety and incessant thinking reflect uncontrolled creativity, and how, using time-tested techniques and our own mental abilities, we can recover our creative nature and live a flourishing life.

Dorothy Parker

Jaime Pineda
INSIDE POLITICS

The year 2024 is immediately intriguing politically because it is a presidential election year. That means we are guaranteed presidential debates, primary elections, political conventions, press conferences, TV Specials, Town Halls, and include in the mix perhaps the most controversial Presidential candidate ever, former President Donald J. Trump.

Add to all of that the fact there are 91 state and federal criminal charges pending against Trump, all of which are currently scheduled to take place during this already packed political year, and you can see how the SDIS Inside Politics Zoom Study Group promises to be the most exciting in its short history. It is not too late to join with us on the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to cover a new political Agenda sent out to you a few days in advance, along with a Zoom Link the day before class.

In addition to the above, the Agendas will continue to include two major wars currently taking place, both in Ukraine against Russia and in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas. There will be no shortage of Agenda topics to come out of these two major areas of political interest alone, and add to them the elections of the entire House of Representatives and one third of the U.S. Senate, and you have enough to keep us busy for more than 2024. If you are a political junkie, you will not want to miss a minute of the action.

Al Korobkin

READING EXPERIENCE

10 a.m. 3rd Monday --Jan. 15-- via Zoom

A new experience is being tried by members of this group: each member will have an opportunity to lead the discussion and report on a different photographer.

Having concentrated for the past three meetings on “Photography”, participants have learned about various approaches to the subject by, in turn, Susan Sontag, Sally Mann and Vivian Maier. But with the realization of the almost infinite number of photographers worth our attention, each of us will select a photographer, past or present, and briefly inform the others: Why was that particular one chosen? What is unique about that one? Why does that one merit our attention? In this way we can extend our look at photography, its practice and its history, at least cursorily.

The meeting at which this will occur is the usual third Monday of the month, which in January will be the 15th, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Non members are welcome; contact me for directions. As usual a Zoom Link will follow, closer to the meeting.

Gerry Horwitz

COLLOQUY CAFÉ

1:00 p.m. — Wednesday, January 17

“The best laid plans of mice and men oft go agley” said the Scottish poet, and “agley” they did go for this discussion group when Covid again raised its ugly head. Having left Zoom to again meet in person, successfully and happily for several months, thereappearance of Covid influenced a postponement of the December meeting. So December’s plans turned to January, Wednesday the 17th to be exact, when at 1 p.m. group members will convene to analyze “forgiveness”.

Gerry Horwitz
FILM GROUP

The Film Group will meet Wednesday, January 3, at 10 am

On Wednesday, January 3 at 10 am the Film Group will continue its journey through the American musical with a movie that was a box office success in 1953. Starring busty cinema goddess Jane Russell and an up-and-coming starlet still a contract player at 20th Century Fox, it was loosely based on Anita Loos’s successful 1920s novel and a Broadway version that launched the career of Carol Channing and was directed by Howard Hawks.

GUESS*

If you can complete the following lyric, you know the film from which it comes: “A kiss on the hand may be quite continental, but…”

Often imitated but never equaled, Marilyn Monroe in hot pink steals the scene in a hot pink evening gown. Featuring a number of character actors and in vivid Technicolor, “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” is a wild and frequently hilarious romp across the Atlantic to midcentury modern Paris.

*Diamonds Are A Girl’s Best Friend, a song from the film “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes.”

PHYSICAL SCIENCES GROUP

2 p.m. — Wednesday — January 17 — via Zoom

The Physical Sciences Group is continuing its review of the material in our text, Peskin and Schroeder. In our last session on Wed. Dec. 6, and the session before that, we reviewed the S (Scattering) Matrix, which generates the scattering amplitude for all scattering processes that can take place. This leads directly to the cross sections for such processes.

We redeveloped the Feynman Diagram rules for the S matrix, and dealt with the various subtleties in fermion vs boson particles. We then explored various lowest order scattering terms for boson boson self-scattering, as well as for boson fermion scattering under the Yukawa interaction. Next time we will continue with the fermion electromagnetic field interaction, and then move on to specific scattering examples, including: electron muon scattering, Compton scattering, pair annihilation into two photons, etc. Our next meeting will take place on Jan. 17, after a hiatus for the holiday period.

Have a great New Year

Alvin Halpern

Ken Krauss and Barbara Heckler
# January 2024

Some meetings and events listed are via Zoom.

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*Note: Some events may be held via Zoom.*