

Scholar's



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September 2009

Generational Shifts:
Aging, Work, and Retirement

Saturday, September 19, 2009
1:30 p.m.

Room 111-A Chancellor's Complex, UCSD Campus
Program
James W. Walker, Ph.D.

While much attention has been given characteristics of the younger generations X and Y, the Baby Boomer generation continues to change the American landscape as it matures. For many compelling reasons, boomers are redefining retirement, with the result that individuals and organizations face difficult choices.

Jim Walker is a consultant, speaker, and author on human resource strategy and contemporary workforce management issues. He has taught in executive development programs at The Wharton School and is co-author with Linda Lewis of *Work Wanted: Protect Your Retirement Plan in Uncertain Times* (Wharton School Publishing, 2009). The work is a research-based guide to the choices that Baby Boomer professionals must make today.

Dr. Walker is Chairman of The Riford Center in La Jolla, which offers learning, health and fitness, and social activities for adults 50 and older. Jim and his volunteer colleagues are working to reinvent the traditional "senior center" to meet the very different needs of the Baby Boomer generation.



Summer Garden Party

Once more this year Gerry Horwitz generously hosted SDIS at her delightful Point Loma home. Social networking is one of the benefits of SDIS membership, and it was much in evidence on Saturday, July 25th. As always, the book exchange was a wonderful success as many books found new life in the avid interest of readers who might otherwise never have found the treats hidden between the covers of these treasures. And Gerry's culinary treats pleased everyone.

STUDY GROUPS

Works in Progress

Works in Progress is mourning the loss of its long time leader, **Alice Goldfarb Marquis**, whose kind heart, inquiring mind, incisive thinking, and devoted leadership will be difficult to replace. An ad hoc committee will be meeting during the next month to think about the study group, its nature, procedures, etc. If you have a suggestion about WIP as a group, or if you have an idea or a project to discuss, even if it is not well-defined, please contact one of the committee members: Cathy Blecki, Harry Boyle, Jean Mayer, or Pat Terry.



Colloquy Café

Colloquy Café will next meet on **Wednesday, September 16, 2009 from 1 to 3 p.m.** Contact Sam Gusman at sagus@sbcglobal.net for the details about the location. The topic for the meeting will be *Anxiety*.



Literature

The Literary Group next will meet **Monday, Sept. 21 at 10:30 a.m.** in the home of **Janet Kunert** at Carlsbad-by-the-Sea, 2855 Carlsbad Blvd., Apt. S-236, Carlsbad. A selection of poems by Thomas Hardy will be discussed. The session will be introduced by Betty Cortus. Contact: harryboyle@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Science (aka Brain Study Group)

The next meeting of the Science Group (aka Brain Study Group) is scheduled for **Friday, September 4, 2009, at 3 pm** at the home of **Bea Rose**, 8515 Costa Verde Blvd., #1909, San Diego. The group will be discussing the final chapters of Stephen Hawking's *A Briefer History of Time*, an adventure in learning somewhat different from their interest in neuroscience but very exciting. The members will bring the books they propose for future reading. After review and discussion, the choice will be made by consensus.

Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Bea Rose at (858) 458-9263 or email: bea.rose@sbcglobal.net.



From the President

What a year! Since last September we've survived an election, an inauguration, a new Supreme Court Justice swearing in, and we might even outlive the health care debate. I find that magnificent and humbling: our social edifice trembles with seismic activity, yet it remains intact. The bedrock of that stability is our people, particularly people like independent scholars rich with curiosity and integrity who nurture and preserve their intellectual lives.

Lately I've been hearing quakes and shakes along the lines of how I can get to know more such people, how I can participate in great mind-expanding discussions. If you're part of that shaking, you're in the right place. Pick a topic about which you are curious; let's gather together a couple more inquisitive people, find a locale, bring a cup of coffee and a brown bag – let's do it. Give any of the board members a call; we'd love to help grow a new study group – or two.

A little business... you probably have your membership renewal form. Be on the lookout for your questionnaire. When you get those items, don't set them aside. Fill them out and send them back. We want to hear from you.

-- Donna Boyle

Editorial

As Donna notes above, it is membership renewal time again, and soon you will receive a questionnaire seeking your input on what you would like SDIS to be. SDIS serves several constituencies.

- Scholars who seek a sounding board for the development of their ideas as they progress with their research efforts;
- Thinkers who enjoy the exchange of ideas and who like to sharpen their understanding and opinions through discussion;
- People with inquiring minds who look for opportunities to learn;
- Members eager for the social interaction that accompanies learning.

In preparation for the membership questionnaire, think of how SDIS can best serve you. Where do you feel at home in SDIS? How can it be more welcoming for you? We want your input to shape an organization that meets your needs.

We also want to be sure that the Scholar's Notebook is all that you would like it to be. Do you want it to continue as a newsletter with announcements of forthcoming gatherings and brief accounts of those completed? Would you like it to include thought provoking articles on topics of scholarly interest? What about publishing articles written by members on topics of particular interest?

Are you satisfied with internet delivery of the Notebook? Or would it be more useful for you to receive a mailed copy? The postage and printing costs we save is of no value if you don't read it.

-- The Editor

Tools for Scholars

You may recall the presentation last year by UC San Diego Librarian Brian Schottlaender who spoke of the digital resources increasingly available to scholars. Think of the value of having access to all out-of-copyright books in Harvard's Widener Library; and that's just the beginning. Increasingly, scholarship has gone digital; for independent scholars to remain at the forefront of their fields, digital access is essential.

If you have yet to sample what is possible, take a look at the Jane Austen resources available when you click on <http://books.google.com/books?q=jane+-austen&btnG=Search+Books>. Every item listed as "full view" is available in its entirety exactly as though you traveled to Cambridge or Ann Arbor or Palo Alto and went to the respective libraries there in person.

The statistical resources available for social scientists are no less impressive. A good place to start is with the Statistical Abstract of the United States which can be accessed in its entirety at <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>, where the material is far easier to work with than would be the case with a print copy of the abstract.

If you have yet to take advantage of the virtual library in cyberspace, you are in for a treat and your scholarly research and ability to elevate thinking in your chosen field of interest will be immeasurably enhanced.

October Meeting

Sandford A. Lakoff, Ph.D. will speak
on "America as a State of Mind."

October 17, 2009

About SDIS

San Diego Independent Scholars (SDIS) supports unaffiliated writers and researchers and welcomes everyone who appreciates creative and intellectual activities in the humanities, science, and the arts. SDIS is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars.

Donna Boyle, President, dboyle101@cox.net

Scholar's Notebook is the newsletter of SDIS. Please send your news for the *Notebook* to **Jack Cumming**, the *Notebook* editor: jbcumming@aol.com or by mail to 2855 Carlsbad Blvd., N116, Carlsbad, CA 92008. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior to publication date.

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