



GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Stephen Hoadley

**"The US Election
as a Geopolitical
Turning Point"**

Dr. Stephen Hoadley is an Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland. He gained a doctorate in political science in California and taught at universities in St Louis, Hong Kong and Kobe before settling in New Zealand in 1972. Foreign and security policies of New Zealand, Asia, the United States and Middle East, the politics of trade and International human rights institutions are areas of current research. President Donald Trump has shown himself to be an impulsive and unpredictable leader. The American election is in progress, the world awaits the outcome!

NOTICES

Special Interest Groups

All members should be part of at least one special interest group. If there is a talk on in one of the groups that you would like to attend phone the convener and see whether they are happy for you to attend.

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers No report this month.

Archaeology No report this month.

Art History

Our talk on Zoom was about the life and works of Marc Chagall (1887 – 1985). He was born a Russian-Jew in Vitebsk, Belarus, which was then part of the Russian Empire. To further his art, he moved to St. Petersburg then to Paris but had to escape to New York during World War 11. As well as his many paintings, he designed beautiful stained glass windows and was also commissioned to design tapestries. A famous painting of his is *The Fiddler*, which was the inspiration for the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, 1912. Some of his beautiful stained glass windows are in the synagogue of the Hebrew University's Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, and also in the Fraumünster church in Zurich, Switzerland. His most famous tapestries are located in the reception hall of the Knesset, the Parliament, in Jerusalem.

Art Potpourri

Group members met at the Orewa Estuary Arts Centre for coffee and then a thought provoking viewing of their *Overwintering* exhibition. Artworks in a wide variety of media depicted local migratory birds such as godwits and wrybills on the estuary as well as tuis and other birds found in the locality. One disturbing photo showed a tui with the head of a rat superimposed. Habitats and food sources are threatened. Forest and Bird had information

about this and ways of encouraging birds e.g. with tui feeders displayed but examples of predators as well.

Book_Group

It was good to be able to meet again rather than Zoom. Books we discussed this month included: *The Good Killer* and *The Man in the Crooked Hat* and *Bad Things Happen* by Harry Dolan; *The Girl in the Mirror* by Rose Carlyle; *The Good Turn* by Dervla McTiernan; *The Survivors* by Jane Harper; *Levi's War* and *Rachel's Legacy* and *The Keeper of Secrets* by Julie Thomas; *The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories* and *Sleep no More: six murderous tales* by P D James; *Long Range* by C J Box; *Darkest Fear* by Harlan Coban; *This Was a Man* by Jeffrey Archer; *The Midnight Line* by Lee Child; *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt; *The Singing Line* by Alice Thomson; *A Nice Cup of Tea* by Celia Imrie; *Tightrope* by Simon Mawer; *The Girl in the Painting* by Tea Cooper; *Liberation* by Imogen Kealey; *The Janus Stone* and *The Crossing Places* and *A Room Full of Bones* and *The House at Sea's End* by Elly Griffiths; *The Cloud Leopard's Daughter* by Deborah Challinor; *Blunt Force* by Lynda La Plante; *A Traveller at the Gates of Wisdom* by John Boyne; *The Liberation of Brigid Dunne* by Patricia Scanlan; *The Single Ladies of Jacaranda Retirement Village* by Joanna Nell; *One Amazing Thing* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and *England's Queens: from Catherine of Aragon to Elizabeth II* by Elizabeth Norton

Books and Beyond

Thelma reviewed Hazel Gaynor's "The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter", a novel inspired by true events. It is centred on Grace Darling and her courageous rescue of shipwrecked survivors in 1838, and Gaynor has

interwoven the story of a fictitious character, a girl sent to the States in disgrace in 1938. Her life and that of Grace run parallel; as a deadly hurricane approaches the lighthouses where they live, the two women, living a century apart, are linked by their acts of courage and love. The book is a sweeping historical novel with a surprising twist at the end.

Tied in with this review, the challenge for our members was to read a book with the theme of 'courage.' We discussed Margaret's observation that there are two types of courage - when people rise to the occasion, and when people who don't have to act but still do even against social mores - and then heard about nine books, four fiction and five nonfiction, that demonstrated courage in one form or the other.

Next month the challenge is to read, and talk about, a book about 'families' or 'family backgrounds.'

Classical Music

Nine members attended at Quentin's place. A DVD about the famous conductor entitled "Leonard Bernstein, Larger than life" gave an interesting picture of his life, with old black and white clips of his early conducting and interviews. More modern colour clips, given by friends, and interviews with some of his children were put together to make a good idea of his rise and gradual decline at the end of his life. Some of Vivaldi's Four Seasons concluded our session.

Creative Audio Visual No report this month

Creative Writing

Our subject this month was "The Prisoner".

From Brenda we saw a successful business man who through pride and desperation, succumbed to temptation, a sad but familiar story .the subject of which will be the last person to forgive himself. Ellen tells an all too familiar story of a lifetime spent without educational or emotional support, destined to live the life he has always known over again and again. Kathy described a distressing case of not being heard; innocent but without a voice. Given his usual companions is he likely to repeat the lesson? Irene's story tells of the man who is in denial, a repeat offender with endless reasons why he shouldn't be blamed! The prisons are full of such people many without the motivation to change.

Current Affairs No report this month.

Cycling

This month there was no doubt the U 3A monthly cycling trip would go ahead led by Suzanne... a stunning summery day for 9 to enjoy a relaxed ride around the Hobsonville cycle trail . Cruising down the Greenhithe bridge, onto the ferry terminal and Bomb Point areas before social coffee time at Catalina cafe was a welcome respite from Level 3 and allowed us time to reconnect.

Film Appreciation

This month's Film Group presenter was Joan who gave us some insight into Joan Crawford as a person and then showed us the film "Mildred Pierce" a 1945 suspense movie with an unexpected twist at the end. Joan Crawford won the best actress award for this film which in 1996 was deemed "culturally, historically, or

aesthetically significant" and was selected for preservation in the USA Library of Congress National Film Registry.

Although not many of us have been going to the movies regularly of late, Joan recommended the film "Romantic Road" currently showing at the Bridgeway. It is about a couple in their sixties who drive 5000 miles across India in their 1936 Rolls Royce. The film covers a unique expedition, a love story 35 years in the making and a reminder to never stop embracing the possibilities of life.

Next meeting Friday 20th November

This will be the last meeting of the year. We will meet at "The Settlers" for a film then go to Centre Court restaurant for lunch.

Français pour rire

Hurrah. For our September meeting we were able to meet in person, and thanks to Fay Weatherly for the use of her home. Heather Howarth took us on an intimate tour of Montmartre in Paris including the narrow winding streets with its cafes and windmills(!), the nightclub area and of course the Sacre Coeur Basilica positioned on the highest hill in Paris. Fay led us on a comprehension piece (in French of course) about the problems the film industry in Hollywood had due to Covid-19 including how now films are coming out on the net soon after release in cinemas, but at a price!

And Gareth led us through a French reading where our friends in Brittany are playing indoor games until the sun unexpectedly comes out. As it was a weekend, Français pour Rire was hosted by Trish Keating at Settler's Village, and we were pleased to welcome a new member, Marg Read. Cecily told us where there was an

annual straw sculpture festival in Northern France, Gareth described some of the more interesting aspects of his visit to Lorraine in eastern France where he visited the remains of the only Nazi concentration camp in France, the city of Nancy with its wonderful buildings and squares and, in Pont au Mousson, an outdoor orchestral concert in the town square and a July 4th firework display over the River Moselle. Fay showed off her new t-shirt picturing in French the many feelings one can have - and we had to translate the feelings into English with the pictures as clues. We finished by reading our text where in this case a young man failed very badly to pick up a young woman in a park in Paris. But we learned some useful words!

Next month we will be back in the Sherwood Room in Glen Road when Penny will talk to us about French boat building before we go off to Coatesville for our Christmas Lunch.

International Studies across Countries

Geoff gave an overview of two of the East African countries--- Uganda and Kenya. East Africa has been touted as having the earliest known species of Humanoids ,from which it is strongly assumed, homo sapiens evolved. Each country has a similar history through their occupation by the British from the mid 19th Century and their gaining independence in the early 1960s. Kenya is the wealthier of the two countries. Corruption is rife in both as is poverty. Both though, have stunning scenery and wildlife, and tourism plays a big role in their economies.

Next month Bill will talk about Albania ; do join us, as you will find our meetings a marvellous opportunity to learn about a country you may never have the chance to visit

Inventors and Inventions

Our first live meeting since March was held on Tuesday 20 October when Heather Howarth gave an excellent presentation with maps and slides on Thomas Telford, and his contribution to the design and construction of the UK's bridges, aquaducts, and canals in the late 1700's to early 1800's. He became the first president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, which he held for 14 years, and is remembered with a town named after him both in the UK and the USA. Terry Dale then showed a video on the design and engineering sophistication of the 2021 AC 75 America's Cup boats. At 75 feet (23m) long they will race at in excess of 90 Km /hr.

Local History

Due to the Covid restrictions on rooms for meetings we have not had any meetings for several months. Our last meeting for the year, 9th. November will involve an outing. For information please phone Bill.

Mah Jong No report this month.

The Maori World No report this month.

Medical Science and History

Another ZOOM meeting but unfortunately some difficulties in presenting a video but a good lesson in problem solving and perseverance! Brief topic discussions included: ME (Tapanui Flu), COVID biomarkers linked to flare ups from sweat, the paramedic "Rocket Man", first Corneal Transplant from stem cells and stem cell growth of retinal tissue.

Modern History

It was great to meet face to face after several months. Trish made an excellent presentation on the life of Thomas Edison. A very complex person who was home schooled and an avid book reader. His first endeavour was producing a newsletter sold on the local railroad. Joined the railroad as a telegraphist then set up his own company inventing many unsuccessful machines including a vote counting machine. In his life he registered 1093 patents in the USA. He was viewed either as a genius or a fraud as he tended to make improvements to existing items such as the electric light bulb. He was called the Wizard of Menlo. Menlow was where his factory was. He had close friendships with Henry Ford, and Harvey Firestone.

Music Appreciation and History

Our group this month was treated to a DVD documentary "The Song Keepers" mainly about how Australia's remote indigenous populace kept the choral hymns originally brought to the area by German Lutheran missionaries alive. 140 years later the Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir travel to Germany to sing them back to the Germans in their own tribal languages. A joyous ode to cross-cultural collaboration as the planet's oldest culture helps to keep some of humanity's oldest sacred songs alive.

Music - Mainly Classical

At our October meeting we focused on Johannes Brahms - his life, personality, and music - referring to a recent biography by Jan Swafford. We then heard his Hungarian Dances, 2 Intermezzi for the piano, op. 117 no.2 and op. 118 no.2 (played by Jill), and some of his beautiful violin

concerto which we could only listen to as Youtube would just not co-operate!

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes

Heather presented us with a challenge to arrange all the dominoes in a star pattern. We all need to bring a pencil and eraser for this sort of thing.

Can you think of an English word of 9 letters which meets these conditions? Take away one letter leaving another English word. [Don't alter the order]. Keep doing this. At each step the word is still valid until you get down to one letter. [Thanks to Geoff Haycock for this puzzle]

Melting ice [due to global warming] in Norway is revealing artifacts left by bronze age [and later] people crossing a mountain pass. Preserved in the ice was a woolen tunic. How did it get there and who left it. Going by a modern reconstruction it would have been extremely valuable and the owner would not have parted with it easily. No human remains have been found in the area.

We had a go at a game brought by Ian consisting of a series of puzzles. We thought that many of these little puzzles were unsatisfactory and hope that Ian is going to edit the whole game!

At our Zoom meeting August we welcomed new member, David Bentham. Great to have you aboard, David. We have plenty of space for new members and we would love to see you.

Penny outlined old remedies for various maladies - for a cold, rub all over with a wet towel as soon as you get up!
Ian showed a TED talk on our brain Executive functions. Then we were put "on the spot" by various

puzzles including Ditloids e.g. 3 = BM [3 blind mice] 3 = S to H [3 steps to heaven].

Think about the time before 1960 - What comes to mind when you see? WG? [W. G. Grace] RLS? [Robert Louis Stevenson].

To crown all [from John Ewen] - what is the reason for putting the numbers 0 - 9 in this order? 8549176320 ?.

Renaissance No report this month.

Travel No report this month

Ukulele

This month the Ukulele group have tackled a wide range of music with selections of song titles starting with the letter "F" like "Fly me to the Moon" to the letter "I" eg "I'm a believer" by the Monkeys. We alternate weekly sessions between a live meeting and a Zoom meeting. The regular attendees have benefitted in expanding their chord repertoire. With a catalogue of 3000 Ukulele charts and a growing list of play along backing tracks with lyrics, chording and original singers, there are enough resources for beginners and established players to easily fit in and progress. The learning resources have been gathered and are on www.ukulele.u3a.nz

Walking

Friday November Hobsonville. Meet at the Catalina Cafe on Buckley Avenue, Hobsonville Point for a walk around the Coastal Walkway, for about one and a half hours. Coffee afterwards at the Catalina Cafe. **Friday November Centennial Park.** Meet at the Beach Road. Walk through various tracks. Could be some Spring flowers around.