

Institute of World Culture

September 2025

Concord and Community



Institute of
World Culture
Concord House
Concord Hall
1407 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara, CA
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Sacred Sites as Portals

Forum: Saturday, September 6, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00 PM PDT
[Livestream](#) and In Person, Free Event

Concord Hall, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA
Christopher Brown

The magical wardrobe to Narnia, the Gate to the Upside Down in *Stranger Things*, the alien wormhole in *Stargate*—portals to alternate dimensions are a familiar trope in the worlds of science fiction and fantasy. But spiritual traditions from around the globe attest to the actual existence of sacred portals that transport visitors to distant times, places and realities. This presentation will examine the writer Patrice Chaplin’s account of a Cabalistic initiatory tradition that leads seekers on a journey through portal sites in Northern Spain and Southern France, as well as Chumash oral narratives that identify “doorways” to other worlds in lake, mountain, and coastal regions of greater Santa Barbara.

Despite originating in different times and places, both of these traditions bear witness to the difficult and sometimes dangerous ordeals experienced by those who wish to enter a portal, often under the instruction of an experienced guide or shaman. Those who survive the experience return fundamentally altered, perceiving their lives as part of a tapestry that connects the past with the present, the living with the dead, and the temporal with the eternal. Exploring the connections between these traditions can deepen our appreciation of the ways that sacred places contribute to concord and community across different cultures and time periods, as well as the importance of preserving these sites for future generations.

Webcast begins @ 2:00 P.M. PDT. Click the following link to view the program:
www.youtube.com/@iwcinsantabarbara/streams

A recording will be available after the program for future viewing at the above link.



Christopher Brown is Associate Professor of English at Santa Barbara City College. He holds a PhD in Rhetoric and Composition and an MA in English Literature, and has published and presented research on the foundational role of belief in the teaching and practice of critical thinking. Over the past two years, he has traveled to pilgrimage sites in Israel, Spain, and France. His current research focuses on sacred sites and spiritual traditions in Santa Barbara and surrounding regions.



Timeless Tales

Living Systems: Symbiosis, Storytelling and the Blue Economy

Monday, September 22, 7:00 - 8:00 PM PDT

Concord Hall, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara
In Person and [Livestream](#)
Ian Kellett

What if the story of coral is also the story of us? Join ocean-preneur, filmmaker, and science communicator Ian Kellett for a compelling look at how ocean health and human health are deeply intertwined. He will explore how our ecosystems and bodies mirror one another in complexity, vulnerability, and potential for healing. Drawing on his work in kelp restoration, sustainable mariculture, and science communication, Ian will share real-world stories and discuss how innovation, clear communication, and collaborative action can spark transformation and meaningful change for our blue planet.

Ian Kellett teaches environmental communications at UC Santa Barbara's Bren School and leads the Coastal Media Project. His work blends curiosity, adventure, and a passion for connecting people to the living seas.

IWC Study Circle

Tuesdays, 7:30 PM PDT, beginning September 9th
Concord House, 1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara
In Person and Zoom

Moderator: Robert Moore

This month the Study Circle will seek the therapy found in T.S. Eliot’s poetic work – *The Four Quartets*, published between 1936 and 1943. This was a difficult time in history; perhaps we can find clarity and solace in Eliot’s philosophical meditations. (*The titles of the Quartets refer to localities. It is not clear to me what their significance is.*)

“Do not let me hear of the wisdom of old men, but rather of their folly,
Their fear of fear and frenzy, their fear of possession,
Of belonging to another, or to others, or to God.”

9/9/2025 Quartet No. 1: Burnt Norton
“The light is still
At the still point of the turning world.”

9/16/25 Quartet No. 2: East Coker
“Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to matter.”

9/23/2025 Quartet No. 3: The Dry Salvages
“For most of us, there is only the unattended
Moment, the moment in and out of time,
The distraction fit, lost in a shaft of sunlight.”

9/30/2025 Quartet No. 4: Little Gidding
“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”

If you are new to the Study Circle, to receive a link please email Robert Moore at redwardmoore7@gmail.com. Thank you!

For more information, please visit www.worldculture.org.

Global Anniversaries and Observances

September 2025

6th Jane Addams, American progressive reformer, one of the founders of the U.S. Settlement House movement, Nobel laureate b.1860
7th Queen Elizabeth I, Queen of England and Ireland b.1533
9th Luigi Galvani, Italian physician, physicist b.1737
9th Leo Tolstoy, Russian author, essayist b.1828
11th Vinoba Bhave, Indian scholar, social reformer, writer b.1895
14th Dante Alighieri, Italian poet d.1321
18th Samuel Johnson, British author b.1709
21st Kwame Nkrumah, African politician, leader of Ghana b.1909
22nd Michael Faraday, British physicist, chemist b.1791
25th Dmitri Shostakovich, Russian composer b.1906
26th T.S. Eliot, British poet, playwright, Nobel laureate b.1888
29th Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish novelist, playwright, philosopher b.1864
29th Enrico Fermi, Italian physicist, Nobel laureate b.1901
30th Jalal-al-din Rumi, Persian mystic, poet b.1207

Observances

1st (2025) Labor Day celebrated in the U.S. established in 1882 to honor work
2nd Adoption of the Gregorian calendar by England in 1752
3rd French Civil Code renamed Code Napoléon in 1807
6th Mayflower leaves England carrying English Separatists to America in 1620
8th International Literacy Day established by the U.N. in 1965 and celebrated annually
16th Celebrates Mexico's independence from Spain, 1810
17th Constitution Day celebrates the final draft of the U.S. Constitution which was approved for submission to the States by the Constitutional Congress in 1787
21st International Day of Peace established by the U.N. in 1981
22nd Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 declaring the freedom of American slaves in the Confederate states
22nd (2025) Autumnal Equinox, 11:19 AM PT
22nd (2025) Rosh Hashanah begins; Jewish New Year and beginning of High Holy Days
23rd Planet Neptune discovered by the German astronomers Gall, Adams and Le Verrier in 1846
25th Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, 1981
30th First astrophotography of the Orion Nebula taken in 1880

IWC Youtube Channel

IWC's Youtube channel can be found at the following link:
<https://youtube.com/@iwcinsantabarbara/streams> which shows the library of recorded live streamed programs. Note the navigation bar offers choices, such as videos (e.g., Zoom) or live streamed recordings.

For more information, please visit the IWC [website](http://www.worldculture.org).
If you would like information about how to become a member, or if you would like to update your email information, please email gerry@worldculture.org.
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