



A Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Education Corporation
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The Power of Cornography: How Corn Built America

Presented by : **Betty Fussell**

Thursday - February 5, 2015

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Valle Verde - Social Room

900 Calle de los Amigos, Santa Barbara

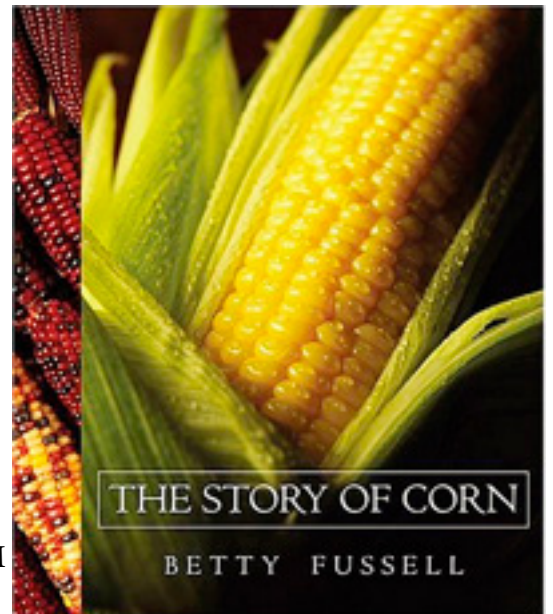
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Like its subject, The Story of Corn is a unique hybrid, drawing upon history and mythology, science and art, anecdote and image, personal narrative and epic, to tell the extraordinary story of the grain that built the New World. Indeed, corn transformed the way the whole world eats, providing both a hardy, inexpensive alternative to rice or wheat and cheap fodder for livestock. And, with its mercurial genetic structure, corn has found its way into everything from explosives to embalming fluid. As Fussell writes, "Corn made the whole world kin."

But the story of corn is essentially an American saga, entwining the histories—and often clashing cultures—of the indigenous peoples who first cultivated the grain and the European conquerors who appropriated and propagated it around the globe. With characteristic wit and passion, Fussell explores its roles as food and fetish, crop and commodity, to the people of the Americas, who for seven millenia have planted, consumed, worshiped, processed, and profited from it. If corn makes the whole world kin, Fussell's eloquent account also reveals the inherent tragedy of our tribalism.

While the New World's native grain built the major civilizations of our continent, the industrial system of modern America has changed the nature and meaning of this grain in unprecedented ways. Food is a window into any nation's culture, but America is unique in transforming an edible plant into petroleum.

The issues raised are basic to the interconnections between what and how we eat, and how we treat our environment, whether our focus is personal health (relation of processed foods to allergies and diabetes) or global warming (via intensive chemical farming, GM seeds and mono cropping).



ENROLLMENT FORM: *Cornography* - February 5, 2015

VISTAS Members \$15/per person – Non-members \$22.50 per person

Note: At-The-Door Registration is an Additional \$5.00

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Mail registration form to:

VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

Deadline for registration: January 29th

BIOGRAPHY: Betty Fussell - For the past fifty years, Betty Fussell has been writing articles and books on the subject of what it is to be an American, first looking at movies and theater and then at food. Over the decades, her essays on food, travel, movies, theater and the arts have appeared in scholarly journals, popular national magazines and major newspapers.

She has lectured at museums, universities, cooking schools, food & wine associations, state fairs, corn festivals and steak workshops all over the country, at such disparate places as the Natural History Museum of the Smithsonian, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Princeton University Art Museum, New York Historical Society, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, New University for Social Research, New York University, Friends of Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Boston University, French Culinary Institute, Culinary Institute of America, Century Association, Cosmopolitan Club, National Arts Club, 98th Street YMHA, Institute of Culinary Education.



Suggested reading:

- Betty Fussell, *THE STORY OF CORN*: first section titled “A Babel of Corn” (31 pages), 1992
- Michael Pollan, “*WHAT’S EATING AMERICA*,” from the Smithsonian magazine, June 15, 2006.
- Michael Pollan, *IN DEFENSE OF FOOD: A New Way to Think About Eating* (2008)
- Richard Manning, *AGAINST THE GRAiN: How Agriculture has Hijacked Civilization* (2005)



VISTAS CALENDAR

Seminar/Event	Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thurs Monthly	10:00 am	Valle Verde Theater
Trails That Opened West	January 5, 12, 19, 26	9:30 am	Valle Verde Social Rm
Uncertain Justice	January 23	9:30 am	Santa Barbara Courthouse
VISTAS Course Design	January 28	1:30 pm	Maravilla Valencia
Reflections on Women’s Lib	Jan 30 & Feb 6	1:30 pm	Private Home
World of Yesterday	Feb 3rd- Mar 24	9:30 am	Maritime Museum
The Power of Cornography	February 5	9:30 am	Valle Verde Social Room
End of Life Choices	Feb 26 - Mar 19	1:30 pm	Maravilla Valencia
Short Stories Small Seminar	March 4, 11, 18, 25	1:30 pm	Private Home
Pharmacology	March 30	9:30 am	Valle Verde Social Room



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