

Newsletter
Fall 2014

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2014-2015**

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Meet Our New President, Lois Kaplan

She says she's boring because she hasn't climbed Kilimanjaro, explored Borneo's jungles, met a president for cocktails or discovered a cure for leprosy. However, there's nothing boring about her goals for VISTAS; which is to expand the class choices for a growing VISTAS membership. Lois says that it will be a challenge to match the fine courses and presenters in VISTAS during Ed Vernon's leadership of the past two years. However, she is really excited about the line-up of classes that Curriculum Chair, Ted Anagnoson and his committee has ready for the new academic year with several new presenters and interesting new subjects.



"VISTAS members are vital, aware, and interesting people. They desire enriching and stimulating courses and enjoy looking at new ideas; they thrive on seeing old ideas in a new way, and they enjoy good conversation."

In working to achieve these goals, Lois will rely on her background and interests as an educator, librarian, arts supporter and activist as well as those as a wife, mother and grandmother. An Ohio native, Lois graduated from the University of Michigan and after marrying Gilbert Kaplan, she taught junior high school English for several years before taking a 13 year hiatus to raise their three children. After returning to college at Case Western Reserve University to earn her MSLS, she spent 21 years as high school librarian in Shaker Heights, and as a member of local and state library organizations.

Community involvement was a priority for Lois in Ohio; and since moving to Santa Barbara in 1998, she has continued to be active in various local organizations. She has served as a board member and officer of Friends of the UCSB Art Museum, as president of the Friends of the Luria Library at SBCC, as member of the UCSB Affiliates Board, and as board member and co-chair of adult education for the Santa Barbara Jewish Community Federation. Lois continues her interest in the arts as a supporter of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Music Academy of the West, Ensemble Theater and the Santa Barbara Symphony.

Lois became active in VISTAS in 2000 and a Board member in 2010. You will find her in attendance at almost all of VISTAS seminars and events, sometimes running a little late as she's just arriving from babysitting her grandchildren. She loves meeting new members and learning of their interests to possibly incorporate them into new courses, so be sure to say hello when you see her.



Ted Anagnoson, VISTAS Curriculum Chair

Ted says that he got this job by being on the curriculum committee and feeling guilty when his highly valued predecessor, Barbara Krahn had to step down for health reasons. The responsibility brings benefits too he says, as the committee is the liveliest place in VISTAS. "It's where interesting people discuss interesting ideas. What could be better? And meetings can be a lot of fun because along with sure-fire projects we also discuss what stuff hasn't worked, would never work, might work except that we can't imagine it, and other possibilities that you can imagine. However, I can say with confidence that VISTAS has never had a meeting or a class with a dead cat, something that I can't say about other places I have taught."

Cal State LA where Ted taught for 28 years, was the site for Ted's "dead cat" seminar where the deceased animal was in attendance for several sessions before it was authorized to be removed. That's only one of the many unusual experiences that have dotted his 44 years of teaching, primarily shared by Cal State LA and UCSB. He also spent almost a year in Christchurch, New Zealand on a Fulbright in 1981, and another four months in Hamilton, New Zealand in 1988 as a visiting lecturer. Ted taught 23 different courses while at CSULA in public policy, aging and health policy, methodology and American politics. He was also chair of the department of Political Science for nine years, the campus Academic Senate for two, as well as vice chair of the Statewide Academic Senate.

From 1995 to 1997 he was a health policy analyst for the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. There he helped develop the president's proposal for what became the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and had the curious honor of correcting a sentence about health insurance in President Clinton's 1997 State of the Union address only an hour and a half before the president read the speech – perfectly.

Although now retired from Cal State LA, Ted teaches every other quarter at UCSB and edits the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association Newsletter, *The Reporter*. Recently he completed a book chapter on challenges to public administration in the 21st century, and updated four chapters of a California politics text that he co-authored with six others for the 5th edition.

A Sampling of Past Seminars and Events 2013 - 2014

God, Guns, Gays, Sex, Privacy and

Edward J. Snowden - Presented by *David Bisno*

This well attended four week course considered several thorny and provocative issues. David led us through a legal, moral and ethical labyrinth of topics to include guns, privacy, polygamy, the right to publish, national security, prior restraint, religion in the courthouse, abortion, treason, and contraception.

The American South Through Classic Movies

Presented by *Bob Fulmer*

The class offered a personal, idiosyncratic, and humorous perspective of the American South through movies. Over three sessions we covered the era's of the Civil War, the Depression, and Civil Rights. Bob showed comparative classic movie clips from each film and discussed changing attitudes, especially in *Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Help*.

Please visit our web site and go to *Past Events* for further samplings of our past seminars.

<http://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/past.html>

Upcoming Events

VISTAS ANNUAL FALL PICNIC ~ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 12:30 PM - TUCKERS GROVE PARK

A delicious catered lunch will be served, including appetizers, wine, iced tea and water. We will introduce the many upcoming events and seminars for the new academic year. Everyone is welcome so please invite your friends. This is a great opportunity for you to introduce your friends to VISTAS Lifelong Learning.



Sign up Early!

VISTAS Documentary Film Club will begin in September on the 18th. Be sure to enroll in this very popular group; just \$25 for the whole year of a variety of interesting and sometimes provocative documentary films; with one presented each month.



On The Horizon - Upcoming Seminars

Overview of the Maya Classic Period

Russell Werner

September 10, 17, 24, and October 1 (1:30 pm)

We will examine one of the world's great civilizations; Maya Classic Period (AD 250-900) when great dynasties held sway over enormous city-states in capital cities of palaces, administrative complexes and residential compounds and when populations surged. In royal courts the arts, religious rituals, writing and architecture flourished.



Women in Art

Wayne Hoffman

October, the 8th, 15th, and 22nd (9:30 am)

This course will discuss women who broke through the barriers of tradition and culture to become world-class painters. They were revolutionaries who created art careers at a time when women were fully expected to be found at home. We will study the lives of these artists from the Renaissance to the 20th century.

The Life of Amelia Earhart, and the Search After Her Disappearance

Nick DiNapoli,

October 23rd and 30th (1:30 pm)



The first class will focus on her life, flying career and disappearance in July 1937. The second will focus on the search, FDR'S involvement, and all the mysteries and legends that surround her final flight. After 76 years another large search is leaving Hawaii for the south seas this fall, so we should have more

news about the time of the presentations.

Pacific Coastal Fishes

Dr. Milton Love

November 19th (9:30 am)

The session will cover their sex lives, migration, bacteria effects, etc. (*There will be humor !!!*)

Will We Ever Have Propositions That Help the State as a Whole? The Propositions on the Fall 2014 Ballot and a Short Discussion of the Most Manipulated Process in America

Ted Anagnoson

September 22nd and 29th (1:30 pm)



Two sessions that cover the propositions on the November 2014 ballot as well as the proposal to divide California into six new states. We'll try to see if any of the propositions on the ballot are self-serving, and we'll briefly go over the process by which a proposition gets on the ballot. This process is supposed to express the "will of the people," as the Progressives put it, but it doesn't. Come hear why.

Poetry and Metaphor

Peter Karoff

November 7th, 14th, and 21st (9:30 am)

This seminar aims to develop your understanding of what a good poem is - why you like it or not - and increase your appreciation of poetry by becoming a better reader. One guiding aphorism or principle is Robert Frost's definition of a successful poem - "A complete poem is one where an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found the words." The second guide is what the poet Jane Cooper concluded after a lifetime of writing and working with aspiring poets - "You can't really teach someone how to write poetry, but what you can do is teach someone how to 'read' poetry."

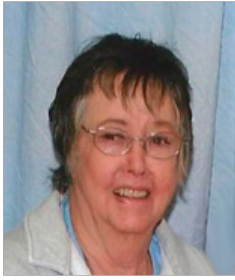
Hawaiian History in a Nutshell

Peter Searl

October 29, Nov 5 and 12 (1:30 pm)

He will focus on ancient Hawaii, contact with Western civilization, the new beginning: 1819, the Americanization of Hawaii in the 19th century, from territory to statehood in the 20th century, and Hawaii today.





Margie Churchill:
VISTAS Membership & Hospitality Chair

Membership Chair, Margie Churchill, is enthusiastic about the variety and increased number of seminars set for

VISTAS 2014-15 academic year. She says that this expanded programming and continued discount rates for those receiving VISTAS information by email are great selling points, and she reminds us that membership is a team effort. That's why she encourages you to involve friends. VISTAS makes this easy to do because members can comp a guest to one of the seminar sessions they enroll in and attend. Just check with Business Manager, Lynn Shively to make sure there's space.

Email Membership fees are discounted to \$35 for individuals and \$55 for households.



Snail Mail annual membership fees are \$45 for Individual and \$65 for Household, although if you have an email on file, you will get both notifications.

Hospitality is Margie's second nature which is why you see her presiding over the refreshment table at every class session. Like membership, hospitality is a team effort, which is why Margie asks members to volunteer to provide cookies or other snacks for one of the seminars they attend, VISTAS will reimburse for the out-of-pocket expenses upon submission of receipts. Beverages are taken care of. If you are willing to volunteer please check the box at the bottom of the registration form when you sign up.



VISTAS Website

Between notices you can keep up with our latest moves by checking the website: vistaslifelonglearning.org - bookmark it for future reference. The website has course descriptions and sign up forms online before they are sent out. This is very useful for planning your calendar.



Email Update

To reduce mailing costs, we've asked members with email access to receive our flyers and notifications through that method at a reduced membership rate for the 2014-2015 year. If you have opted for email delivery but are *not* receiving information regularly, we may have the wrong email address, our address may be blocked by your filter, or you may not have given us one, or advised us of a change. Please contact Lynn at vistas@silcom.com or 967-6030 to correct or add your address to the list.

Meetings

Are you curious about the inner workings of the VISTAS Board of Directors? All members are welcome to attend our quarterly Board meetings. The Board meets every three months.

Email Lynn at VISTAS@silcom.com or call her at 967-6030 for meeting particulars.

Reservations

When you find a seminar or event that you would like to attend, please print the flyer, cut out the registration form, complete it, and send in along with your check.

NOTE: Most all have deadlines, if you have missed the deadline to register, please give Lynn Shively a call or email her at vistas@silcom.com and find out if there is still room to attend.

Seminars

Please be sure to check in with Lynn when you arrive, in case there is anyone on a wait list, it is important to let her know you are there. **Also** - be sure to turn off your cell phones in class.

Name Badges

Please wear your name badge at all VISTAS events and seminars. Contact Lynn at vistas@silcom.com if you need a name badge.

Checks

There is no need to write separate checks for each event; if you are attending multiple seminars/events you can combine the fees on one check if you would prefer. Just please note which ones on the memo part of the check, and include each registration form.



Donations

VISTAS, like other organizations, depends a great deal on donations. Your continuing support is always appreciated - thanks to our generous donors!

