

Newsletter
Fall 2013

VISTAS VIEWPOINT

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NEWSLETTER

Publisher

Virginia Cochran

Editor

Lynn Shively

A Nonprofit Education Corporation

P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

(805) 967-6030 • Web: VISTASlifelonglearning.org • Email: VISTAS@silcom.com

Message from the President—Fall 2013

Welcome to a new year filled with interesting, informative and always educational courses that VISTAS is known for. The roster is filled with subjects suggested by our members, and I urge you to add recommendations of your own interests. Please think about how it might be presented and also consider the possibility of organizing and/or presenting a seminar. VISTAS will help you get started down this road to expanded knowledge and personal achievement that many of us have found so rewarding. If you would like to organize or present a seminar please contact myself or Ted Anagnoson.

In recognition of some of our most loyal and hardworking members, VISTAS hosted an "Appreciation Dinner" on October 4. Joining me in representing the officers of our organization were Vice President Lois Kaplan and past presidents Sue Mellor and Charlie Schneider. We offered a heartfelt thank you to Ben Kehela and John Calandro who, for many years have arranged the venues for our classes and provided the needed audio and visual aids, we also lauded Ted Anagnoson for his continuing work as Chair of the Curriculum Committee which brings us the wonderful programs we enjoy. Ray Stone's expertise with Power Point has helped many a presenter; he's also been the mainstay of organizing the amusing Winter Social theatricals. Barbara Krahn has worn many hats, as presenter, organizer, teacher to new presenters, and provider of treats. No list of "doers" would be complete without Diane Wolfe. She has served as Membership Chair, organized the food for the Summer Picnic and Winter Social for years, and has been the guiding light in the popular Documentary Film Club.

Also attending were several contributors from our wonderful community, we thank them all for sharing their knowledge with us. I would also like to thank all of our course organizers and presenters as well as the corps of volunteers that make VISTAS function. If you have not yet had the chance to participate at this level – try it and enhance your enjoyment of VISTAS!

Ed V

Organizing and Presenting a VISTAS Course can lead to some wonderful follow-up experiences. I was invited to do my "Pirates of Somalia" course for the Lifelong Learning folks at Dartmouth College last fall, and that led to a wonderful trip to New England, meeting interesting people, etc. I also presented it for the Graduates and the History Club here in Santa Barbara. Now, with the new Tom Hanks, "Captain Phillips" Somali pirate film in town, I'm doing a "Pirates in the Movies" presentation for the Graduates. The point is, if you enjoy this sort of thing and stay open to the opportunities, you can do your presentation or an edited version of it again, and get more pleasure from it without a lot of additional work. I recommend it!

Peter Beuret





Thanks Marti Mangan

Marti Mangan, the administrative engine that kept the VISTAS organization running smoothly since 2007, left her post last June to spend more time with family and on leisure pursuits. The Board accepted her resignation with great regret, but

also with great appreciation for her efforts during a period of growth. As VISTAS membership, seminars and events increased so did her work load. She cheerfully emailed and snail mailed information to our members, kept our financial house in order, maintained VISTAS growing data base, attended Board meetings, created needed reports, produced newsletters and fliers, and kept our website up to date. In thanks for her service, the VISTAS Board honored Marti at a special luncheon hosted by Jan O'Dowd. Board members were on hand to wish her well and as a token of appreciation from the entire VISTAS family, she was presented with a \$500 check from the VISTAS family.



Welcome Lynn Shively

With her bright smile, cheerful manner and can-do attitude, Lynn has taken the reins as the new Business Manager. She has a background as an Executive Assistant in various fields. (She has worked in Banking, at a School District, a Police Department, with At-Risk-Teens, as a Buyer for a Bridal company, as an Executive Assistant for a dot

com fitness company, and a Vice President for a construction company.) As the VISTAS position is a part time job, she also works additional jobs as a bookkeeper and as a Notary Public; although her favorite job is babysitting her grandchildren. Between friends, family and various jobs, Lynn keeps very busy! Lynn is pleased to be working with VISTAS and performing the many varied duties involved in the position; she greatly appreciates the help and guidance she's received from Marti and the Board members. She is also enjoying meeting and getting to know the members of VISTAS, so please introduce yourself when possible.

Past Seminars and Events 2013



Fall Picnic - VISTAS annual picnic at Tucker's Grove in September was a huge success on a beautiful day. Thank you, *Margie Churchill*, along with all of your helpers! Margie's first "solo" venture for

VISTAS was the fall picnic at Tucker's Grove, attended by over 100 current and prospective members. They enjoyed good food, good conversation, presentations of the 2013-2014 seminar schedule, and in some cases good "luck" as the winners of the drawings for door prizes. The picnic was catered by Catering Connections, offering a delicious and bountiful buffet.

Nick DiNapoli presented the first seminar of the season with **China's Wings** about starting an airline in the 1930's - flying between San Francisco and China.

Sue Mellor coordinated a fascinating four-part seminar on **Santa Barbara's Movers and Shakers**. Some of the many speakers were: Ed Hartfeld, Kathi Brewster, Patricia Kruse, Dr. Barbara Lindemann, Virginia Hayes, Jeremy Hass, Phil Wilcox, Allison Wollitzer, Charlie Schneider, and JJ Hollister. More information about these speakers and subject will be available on the web site under "Past Seminars."

Shirley Diamond coordinated a helpful two-part course on **Apple iPhone and iPad**.

UPCOMING EVENT

VISTAS Annual Winter Social ~ Sunday, January 26th at 2:00 PM

The 2014 Winter Social will tickle your funny bone, amaze and confound you, send you on a trip down memory lane and put you in the company of celebrity entertainers. The Music Academy's Lehmann Hall will be the elegant setting, and there will be delicious refreshments. Mastermind Ray Stone and committee members Diane Wolf, Lois Kaplan, Virginia Cochran and Charlie Schneider promise it will be an afternoon full of variety that you won't forget. So mark your calendar now for **Sunday, January 26th at 2 pm**. We are happy to have you bring guests (at \$25 each), but our policy is to allow only one guest per member due to the capacity of the Music Academy of the West. If you want to bring more guests, please check with Lynn to see if there is available space, vistas@silcom.com or 967-6030.



ON THE HORIZON - UPCOMING SEMINARS

Disaster Relief

Ted Anagnoson ~ December 5th & 12th

Who Receives What From Natural and Human Disasters in the U.S.? An Examination of the 9/11 Compensation Fund, Similar Disasters and the Politics and Policy of Disaster Compensation in the U.S. This is a course on national policy regarding disasters, addressing a fundamental question: How much do we owe people who have been affected by a disaster?

The American South Through Classic Movies

Bob Fulmer

Thursday's, January 9th, 16th, 23rd

The class will offer a personal, idiosyncratic perspective of the American South as we discuss the movies that have best captured the popular image of the "occupied states" along with the authors, directors, and actors who brought these images to life. Over three sessions we will be covering the Civil War era, the Depression era, and the Civil Rights era.

Medical Ethics

Dr. Dennis Murphy

January - TBA

Health Care: What does illness cost? Who pays? What is "fair"? Do "blank checks" apply? Should physicians discuss costs and alternatives with patients? With families?

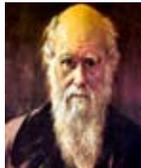


An Introduction to Charles Darwin and the Controversies Over "Darwinism"

Dr. Floyd Sandford

Friday, February 14th

We will be reviewing some aspects of the ongoing controversy surrounding the conflict between matters of fact and faith. An illustrated talk will be given about the life and times of Charles Darwin; one of the greatest and most prolific scientists the world has known. The talk will encompass aspects of Darwin's early childhood, his historic five-year voyage around the world on the HMS Beagle, his marriage to his first cousin Emma Wedgwood, his family, his scientific contemporaries, and his significant scientific accomplishments.



Moon

Peter Beuret - April 15th & 17th

Two-part course on the Moon April 15 and 17. On the evening of April 15, there will be a total eclipse of the Moon visible here in Santa Barbara.



Ottoman Empire

Ed Vernon & Steve Humphreys - TBA

Great Explorers of the World

Gerald Corrigan

Wednesday's, February, 12th, 19th, 26th

The focus will be on some of the men and women who played key roles in exploring the Americas in the 16th century. We will look at their accomplishments, their successes and failures, personality and style, relations with family and crews and with monarchs. We will also try to understand what motivated these extraordinary people to risk life and fortune, to travel for months and years at a time to places unknown to them and their countrymen. Curiosity set sail with these men and they helped move the world into the modern era. The Age of Discovery produced some extraordinary people; we will meet some of them in this course.



Increased Longevity: A Boon or a Burden?

Jan O'Dowd - in April 2014

VISTAS next **Small Discussion Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for April 2014 with four sessions on the positive and negative consequences of the increasing length of human life. Please respond to Lynn at vistas@silcom.com or call her at 967-6030 if this interests you. Please call Jan O'Dowd (569-2510) or email janddowd@aol.com If you have questions or suggestions or would like to hear more about this kind of seminar. *Note: Discussion seminars are limited to 12 to 16 members, meeting to discuss a challenging topic about which everyone will have done background reading and research.*

Classic Short Stories

Gene Waller

February / March

We will read and discuss stories from a collection entitled "Great American Short Stories" (edited by Paul Negri). Most of the stories in this collection were written before 1920 but are still relevant today. This collection includes stories by Hawthorne, Poe, Fitzgerald, Stephen Crane, Willa Cather, Theodore Dreiser and Henry James among others. The seminar will involve group discussion of all the stories in the collection in four sessions, once a week.

The Wit & Wisdom of Woody Allen

Bob Weinman - TBA



Music

Derek Katz - TBA





Margie Churchill; Membership Chair

When Diane Wolf resigned as Membership Chair, she passed the baton to Margie Churchill with whom she had successfully collaborated on hospitality for VISTAS Fall and Winter Socials, and organizing refreshments for

seminars. Hospitality is second nature to Margie whose background includes years of running her own catering company, giving cooking classes, and as a mainstay of Carpinteria's annual Beautiful Home and Garden Tour.

While both the annual Fall Picnic and Winter Social events are the big catered events of the year; we also offer cookies and snacks at each seminar, which provides an opportunity to make hospitality a team effort. Margie is following Diane's lead and asking members to volunteer to provide the cookies or snacks for one of the seminars they attend. VISTAS will reimburse for the out-of-pocket expenses, upon submission of receipts. Beverages are already taken care of. When you sign up for a course please let us know if you are willing to volunteer by checking the box at the bottom of the registration form.

On the membership front, she reminds us that membership is a team effort. Our new and reduced annual rates for those receiving VISTAS information via **email** is \$20 for individuals \$40 for households; a membership bargain, and a great selling point!



Margie would also like to remind you that members can comp a guest to one of the sessions of a seminar to which you are enrolled and attending. Just check with Business Manager, Lynn Shively to make sure there's space.



Note: Snail Mail annual membership is \$40 for Individual and \$60 for Household, although if you have an email on file, you will get both notifications.



VISTAS Website

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

E-mail 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 2013-2014 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.



Maravilla

To acknowledge Maravilla, and show our appreciation for providing meeting space and services to VISTAS Lifelong Learning, we made a contribution to their Employee Appreciation Fund in 2013

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 cut out the registration form, complete, and send it 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.

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.



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.

Donations

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

