



The First Transcontinental Railroad

Organized by: Barbara Krahn

Four Mondays
January 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2016
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Valle Verde SocialRoom
900 Calle De Los Amigos

NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD is the title to Stephen Ambrose's book about the phenomenal feat of building the First Transcontinental Railroad. He is right! There is "nothing like it in the world," and a crew of VISTAS members have come together to share highlights of this story with you. At the time there were many railroads already operating in the Eastern states, but they all stopped at the Mississippi River. The newly created Union Pacific would begin at the Missouri River at Omaha, Nebraska, and cross the Great American Desert and Rocky Mountains to meet the Central Pacific coming from the west. The trains would meet at Promontory Summit on May 10, 1869.

This is the First Transcontinental Railroad to unite the eastern United States with western states and territories and to tie the bond that would help fulfill America's Manifest Destiny. It is a marvelous story of men, courage, ingenuity, skill and scandal. It also involves the demise of Indian life and the tremendous contribution of Chinese immigrants.

Our crew of storytellers will introduce you to Asa Whitney and Theodore Judah, Thomas Durant and Grenville Dodge and the Big Four. They will show you in video clips the steps in building a railroad and discuss with you the difficulties in acquiring materials and coping with land and weather. You will hear and see fabulous feats of engineering in building trestles to bridge gaps or tunneling through granite to the other side of a mountain.

You will learn of the scandalous schemes used to finance the railroad and make the developers rich. You will celebrate with the surveyors, engineers, graders, track layers, workers and developers when the Central Pacific tracks meet the Union Pacific at Promontory Summit and unite the continent of North America by rail and telegraph.

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**Enrollment Form: Railroad - Jan 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016**

**VISTAS Members \$50, Non-members \$75.00**

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

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

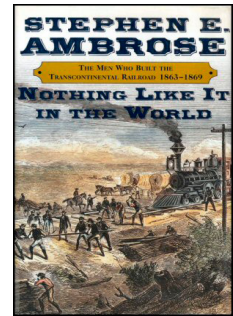
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form to:

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

**Contributing VISTAS crew members:**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Ted Anagnoson   | Brian Johnson    |
| Sharon Alvarado | Lois Kaplan      |
| Robert Benham   | Barbara Margerum |
| Bill Blair      | Sue Mellor       |
| Kathi Brewster  | Jan O'Dowd       |
| Johanna Johnson | Ray Stone        |
|                 | Bob Wightman     |



Suggested reading: Stephen E. Ambrose,  
*Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869*



**VISTAS Calendar**

| Seminar/Event             | Inclusive Dates            | Time     | Venue                   |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Documentary Film Club     | 3rd Thurs Monthly          | 2:00 pm  | Maravilla Theater       |
| Great Elections           | Mon, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14     | 1:30 pm  | Maravilla Club Room     |
| Wright Brothers           | Tues, Dec 1, 8, 15         | 10:00 am | Valle Verde - Social Rm |
| Transcontinental Railroad | Mon Jan 4, 11, 18, 25      | 9:30 am  | Valle Verde - Social Rm |
| Damming Colorado River    | Wed, Jan 13                | 9:30 am  | Goleta Library          |
| Victory & Defeat WWII     | Wed, Jan 20,27, Feb 3 & 10 | 9:30 am  | Goleta Library          |
| Money in Politics         | Thurs, Feb 18, 25 & Mar 3  | 9:30 am  | Goleta Library          |
| Race to the Poles         | 8 Tuesdays 2/2-3/22        | 9:00 am  | SB County Admin Bldg    |



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