



## The Paradigm Shift in Understanding Shakespeare

Presented by: *Helen Heightsman Gordon*

Tuesdays, September 9, 16, 23, & 30 2014

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Maravilla - Theater

5486 Calle Real, Santa Barbara

(Please carpool if possible)

Knowing about the life experiences of an author helps us to appreciate and understand his work. But much of what we "know" about Shakespeare is an elaborate mythology of conjecture and suppositions. This appealing story is based on very few facts. The first sketchy anecdotal biography by Nicholas Rowe was not written until 1706, long after the death of William Shakespeare or Shaxper of Stratford-on-Avon, whose name was similar but not identical to that of the author Shakespeare. The great paradigm shift began in 1920, when an English schoolmaster proposed that "William Shakespeare" was a pen name of Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. The schoolmaster found that Oxford had the vast knowledge, linguistic mastery, and the courtly connections that are evident in the works of Shakespeare. The question "Who wrote Shakespeare's works?" has had a rough ride since then, with attacks and rebuttals making the question of authorship an academic battleground. Two films released in 2011 made another major contribution, and Helen Gordon in 2008 discovered that symbols of the secret societies of Rosicrucians and Freemasons provide the key to the puzzling Dedication to the Sonnets. That discovery also reveals the love story between Elizabeth Tudor and Edward de Vere.

**Sept 9th** – See *Last Will and Testament* presenting a balance of viewpoints on the authorship question. Discussion to follow.

**Sept 16th** – *Anonymous*, a dramatic thriller based on controversial *Prince Tudor Theory*. Discussion to follow.

**Sept 23rd** – Lecture about evidence to support the concepts in the movie *Anonymous*. Narrative poems and sonnets.

**Sept 30th** – Shakespeare's use of occult, symbols, imagery, and ritual. The roles of Rosicrucians and Freemasons in preserving the works of Shakespeare.

### ENROLLMENT FORM: *Shakespeare* - Sept 9, 16, 23, 30

VISTAS Members \$40/per person – Non-members \$60 per person

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mail check & registration form to:

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

**Deadline for registration: September 1st**

Please check here if you would like to volunteer to help with refreshments \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you would like to volunteer to help with check in \_\_\_\_\_



**Biography:** *Helen Heightsman Gordon* Holds a Master of Arts in English Literature and a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration. During her 21 years as an English professor at Bakersfield College, she published five textbooks and numerous articles in professional journals, humor, opinion pieces, and poetry. After studying the Shakespeare authorship controversy for over 20 years, she wrote the book revealing The Secret Love Story in Shakespeare's Sonnets, offering new interpretations of the sonnets as written by Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, who used the pen name of "William Shakespeare" to keep secret his love affair with Elizabeth Tudor.



## VISTAS CALENDAR

Seminar/Event	Dates	Time	Venue
Annual Picnic	Sunday, September 7	12:30 pm	Tuckers Grove
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thurs Monthly	10:00 am	Valle Verde Theater
Shakespeare	Sept 9, 16, 23, 30	1:30 pm	Maravilla Theater
Maya Classic Period	Sept 10,17,24 & Oct 1	1:30 pm	Maravilla Clubhouse
Fall Ballot Propositions	Sept 22 & 29	1:30 pm	Maravilla Valencia
Women in Art	Oct 8, 15, 22	9:30 am	Ferrand Hall
Amelia Earhart	Oct 23 & 30	1:30 pm	Maravilla Valencia
History of Hawaii	October 29, Nov 5 and 12	1:30 pm	TBA
Poetry & Metaphor	Nov 7, 14 & 21	9:30 am	TBA
Pacific Coastal Fishes	November 19	9:30 am	TBA



P.O. Box 23228

Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

*If you do not wish to receive these mailings, please let us know. vistas@silcom.com or 967-6030. We can keep you on the email list. Thank you.*