



## *A Look Back at the Vietnam War*

Coordinated by: **George Ittner**

**Mondays, May, 5, 12, 19, 2014**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Goleta Library  
500 N. Fairview Ave**

**(Please park in church parking lot next door.)**

It has been 41 years since the last American units left Vietnam. What were the key historical facts about this protracted conflict and what are the implications of our participation that are felt to this day? What additionally can we learn from the retelling of personal experiences in the war? Vistas members will learn from these sessions and will want to participate in the discussion of the war's events and the aftermath. An excellent book, recommended to be read for the course, but not required, is: ***A Better War*** by Lewis Sorley. The author provides an excellent history of America's post-Tet war efforts and sheds fresh light on the final tragedy of our last years of involvement.



**Ted Anagnoson** will begin the FIRST SESSION with a review of the War's history, the key events within Vietnam, and the evolving story in the United States as our engagement deepened. It is important in coming to grips with Vietnam to understand the key players on the enemy side. **Jock Pillsbury** will look at the conflict through the lens of the North Vietnamese war leadership, Ho Chi Minh and General Vo Nguyen Giap.



In our SECOND SESSION we will get some first-hand accounts and remembrances from three who were there and participated in significantly different ways. **Virg Erwin**, a San Diego resident, who is the author of ***Cat Lo – a Memoir of Invincible Youth***, will tell us about his experience as a naval officer and his role as a Swift Boat Skipper. U.S. Navy Captain **H.A. (Tony) Merrill**, retired, will speak to us about what it was like piloting A-4 jet fighters off aircraft carriers in the Tonkin Gulf. George Ittner will talk about his airborne activities over the Tonkin Gulf and Laos, intercepting and acting upon North Vietnamese, Chinese, North Korean, and Spanish air-to-ground radio communications.

In our THIRD SESSION, **Judy Mack** will look back at the War in the context of the Cold War and other contemporaneous events as well as consider the impact of the War's outcome on U.S. foreign policy over the succeeding four decades. In this final session, we will also reserve time to discuss among ourselves the conclusions we can reach about Vietnam. The War remains controversial to this day, and this course is intended to give us a platform to talk about it in a fresh and more informed way.



**See back for enrollment form**

## ENROLLMENT FORM: **Vietnam - May 5,12,19**

VISTAS Members \$30, Non-members \$45. Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc. P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228  
**Please enroll by April 28, 2014**

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

### VISTAS Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Club	3rd Tues & 3rd Thurs	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Our Moon	April 14 & 17	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Ottoman Empire	April 7, 14, 21	1:30 pm	Maravilla Club Room
Music & Soviet Politics	April 23, 30, May 7	1:30 pm	Maravilla Club Room
Vietnam	May 5, 12, 19	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Write About Your Life	May 8, 15, 22	TBA	TBA
The Psalms...	May 21	1:30 pm	Maravilla Club Room
Woddy Allen	May 28 & June 4	1:30 pm	Maravilla Club Room



P.O. Box 23228

Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

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these mailings, please let us know.  
vistas@silcom.com or 967-6030.  
We can keep you on the email list.  
Thank you.*