

Newsletter  
Winter 2013

# VISTAS VIEWPOINT

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## NEWSLETTER

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## *Message from the President—Winter 2013*

In the coming months we have one of the busiest, most diverse and interesting schedule of programs ever offered by VISTAS. Ted Anagnoson's terrific curriculum committee has striven to bring subjects from politics to religion with additional offerings as disparate as theater and health care.

Please offer your aid to one of our committees. We have as well to express our appreciation to our core members like Barbara Krahn, who consistently provides for refreshments for the seminars.

Others who do more than their share include Ben Kehela and John Calandro. Ben makes sure we have appropriate venues for every event and John, as he has for several years, provide assistance with the audio-visual systems and helps with computer usage. Diane Wolf has been our mainstay in organizing the Winter Social and Annual Picnic. In addition, Diane presides over the Documentary Film Club. All of this adds up to yeoman duty!

Many others have helped but we need more volunteers to insure that our ambitious programs continue.

This is not the Army! Those who volunteer will find the work and companionship enjoyable and be proud to help keep our wonderful organization functioning. Contact any of the board members (listed to the left) to offer your assistance.

*Ed V*

## VISTAS ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL

*Diane Wolf*

Members and their guests are invited to our annual VISTAS Winter Social. Following their successful performance at last year's winter social, the VISTAS Repertory Acting Troupe is proud to perform six new ten-minute plays at the upcoming social, presented at the beautiful Music Academy of the West. As always, a delicious gourmet spread will be served following the entertainment.

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. If you want to bring more guests, check with [vistas@silcom.com](mailto:vistas@silcom.com) or 967-6030,



## FALL CLASSES 2012

### FALL PICNIC

VISTAS picnic at Tucker's Grove in September was a huge success. Thank you, Diane, along with all of your helpers!

### VISTAS PLAYS BRIDGE

*Shirley Diamond*

Last fall twenty-four intrepid VISTAS members enrolled in a ten-session series of Bridge lessons, targeted to beginning players or those who may have played in the past but wanted to brush up on changing conventions. Lessons were held at the Santa Barbara Bridge Center, and were conducted by Nancy Trotter, an American Contract Bridge League authorized teacher.



VISTAS members were eager to tackle the sometimes tricky (pun!) maneuvers with enthusiasm and good nature, and completed the course far better players than they were initially. Several planned to continue onto intermediate classes at the Bridge Center, and it is hoped that all will enjoy this fascinating game in future years.

### CALIFORNIA'S INITIATIVE PROCESS AND THE FALL 2012 INITIATIVES

In September 2012, VISTAS sponsored a two-week course on the initiative in California, including an analysis of the initiatives on the November 2012 ballot. Half of the course focused on the initiative process, including the requirements to place an initiative on the ballot and possible reforms that might keep the initiative from continuing to be what it is today: a "plaything" for wealthy individuals and corporations, seeking to convince the public of either their own conceptions of public policy or provisions that would benefit the corporation directly.

Particularly problematic provisions of the current initiative process include the low filing fee of \$200, which enables firms that specialize in collecting signatures for initiatives to sponsor multiple versions of an initiative on a specific topic, marketing the different versions to different organizations until one organization agrees to pay the several million dollars necessary to place the initiative on the ballot and fund a campaign for it.

### WORLD'S GREAT RELIGIONS



Starting January 14, Ed Vernon has gathered representative from several faiths: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and yes, even a non-believer. The first session was packed!

### MILLIONS AND MILLIONS AND MILLIONS...

*Charlie Schneider*

Chuck McPartlin treated us in October to two afternoons and one evening of *The Stars Above You*. With his extensive knowledge and excellent slides we learned how infinite the universe is with all the stars and planets in motion. Jupiter is the size of 1,200 Earths and the Sun is about halfway through its life cycle which means it has about 5 billion years to go! Different ancient folks had their own stories as to what was taking place in the heavens.

### NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

*Sue Mellor*

Before the first session of the class began, George Frakes announced the publication of a new book about the famed photographer Edward Curtis who chronicled the live styles of the vanishing native tribes from 1896 to 1930. After reading the review, I bought the biography *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* by Timothy Egan and found it not only well written and fascinating, but also a timely companion to the personalities and events described in our sessions. Curtis had multiple visits for weeks or months with many of the tribes we learned about from our presenters. He spoke personally with the aging leaders and participants in the clashes and got the real "lowdown" on Custer's Last Stand. Through his native contacts he gained new insight into their religious practices and life styles. Ten presenters took us on a reflective and informative ride into the rise and fall of America's first inhabitants: Don O'Dowd on the Aleuts and Eskimos; George Frakes on the Anasazi and Acoma peoples; Judy Mack on the Cherokee, John Pillsbury on the Navajos, Monty Amyx on the Apache, Phil Van Horn on the Nez Perce, John Johnson on the Chumash, Charlie Schneider on the Iroquois, Don Benninghoven on the Miwok and Larry Mason on the Plains Indians. Well done, Kemosabes.



### COMMANDING HEIGHTS

During the Commanding Heights course economics professor Gordon Bjork and history professor George Frakes ably guided VISTAS members to a deeper understanding of the way political systems, social movements, economic forces and individuals have interacted to bring about the current global situation. We had so many questions that we met for an extra session!

## WINTER CLASSES 2013

### CITIZENS OF LONDON

*Barbara Krahn*

*Citizens of London* by Lynne Olson offers the reader a unique perspective of WW II from Britain's point of view. The author introduces us to three Americans who helped to negotiate relations between the United States and Britain in order to bring the United States into the war. She describes different aspects of how the war affected daily life in Britain and the impact of troop buildup on a small island nation.

Several VISTAS members have chosen personalities/topics to research more specifically, and they will share their findings with us during the class. We will be looking at Joe Kennedy, Gil Winant, Winston Churchill, Lady Reading, Edward R. Murrow, George Marshall, Pamela Harriman, Ambassador George Kennan, the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of Britain.

### CLASSIC SHORT STORIES

*Gene Waller*

In this seminar we will discuss outstanding short stories by well-known writers. Group members will read the stories prior to the meeting and participate in the discussion. Discussion leaders will typically pose questions about story content that guide the discussion. All participants are encouraged to give their views, ask questions themselves or, perhaps, read selected passages that illuminate elements of the story. The group will be limited to approximately 16 participants.

### THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY

*Ted Anagnoson*

Some presidents feel that, for a variety of reasons, the powers of the presidency are simply inadequate, and the president must go beyond the constitution, beyond the laws, beyond the norms—in order to take actions for the good of the nation. At its core, the imperial idea focuses on what has happened to the Presidency and those who occupy the office.

This seminar traces the history of the imperial presidency from the beginning of the republic to the present day, ending with the question of what things President Obama has done that might qualify him as being “imperial” too. Most of our time is spent on Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and more modern presidents, including George W. Bush and Barack Obama. For those of us who grew up post-World War II, it will be a good reminder of the complexity of those events.



### THEATER MAKING AT UCSB

*Jan O'Dowd*

This seminar is already under way but it's not too late to sign up!

Following *Biederman's Match* in 2011 and *Entangled* in 2012, we are offering in 2013 an insider's look at the development of *Appoggiatura* by James Still. On January 8, Director Risa Brainin introduced the playwright and designers and we heard the first complete read through by the UCSB student/faculty cast. The next meeting will be on February 4 so there is still time to join this exciting theatrical adventure which will culminate in attending a fully-staged performance and a windup discussion with the director in March. Please contact the VISTAS office (phone: 967-6030 or email: [vistas@silcom.com](mailto:vistas@silcom.com) to enroll or request further information.

### THE LADY IN GOLD

*David Bisno, M.D.*

In Anne-Marie O'Connor's *The Lady in Gold*, we will become familiar with the spellbinding fairy tale of Gustav Klimt's portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer. The painting became an emblematic portrait of its time. She was the beautiful, seductive Jewish Viennese salon hostess; he was the notorious artist in now-vanished end-of-the-century Vienna. Reading Anne-Marie's page turner will allow for informed, active and spirited discussion as we tease apart the twisted fate that befell both.

The story is full of intrigue and mystery, genius and deception, beauty and despair. The drama begins in fin-de-Siècle Vienna, travels to Los Angeles, visits our Supreme Court and ends in New York City. This four-session VISTAS class will unravel the culture, hypocrisy and anti-Semitism of Vienna all the while appreciating the art of Gustav Klimt and the legal and moral problems of Austrian, Nazi, post WW II restitution.

### THE GREAT DEBATE

*Phil Wilcox*

One noted Elizabethan era scholar has speculated that “every Shakespeare biography is 5 percent fact and 94 percent conjecture.” Although Shakespeare left nearly a million words of text there are reportedly just fourteen words in his own handwriting that have been so far discovered. On January 22, retired SBCC Professor Dr. Jinny Webber will present various theories as to authorship and encourage proponents of any of those theories from our membership and their guests to comment on them. An exciting interactive session is assured for those of inquiring and mystery-loving minds



**IN MEMORIAM**

**Jeraldine Lippy Eigner**

Jeri, our dear board member, passed away on November 30, 2012. Jeri served on the VISTAS Board of Directors for many years and was also active in several civic organizations. We will miss her generous and joyous spirit.

**SANTA BARBARA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

For the past several years VISTAS has made a donation to the SB Scholarship Foundation for Valle Verde employees and their families. On January 24, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. we have been invited to the McCormick House at 1600 Santa Barbara St. for the 34th Annual Art Scholarship Reception & Exhibition. Donations welcome. RSVP 687-6065 or email njones@sbscholarship.org.

**MEETINGS**

Are you curious about the inner workings of the VISTAS Board of Directors and/or the Executive Committee? All members are welcome to attend our meetings. The Board meets every three months and the Executive Committee meets every other month or so. The next board meeting will be in April. Email VISTAS@silcom.com or phone 687-6030 for date and time and let us know that you want 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. Just please note which ones on the memo part of the check.

**E-MAIL**

To reduce mailing costs, we've asked members with email access to receive our flyers and newsletters through that method. 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 vistas@silcom.com or 967-6030 to correct or add your address to the list and let us know you prefer Email only.

**NAMETAGS**

Please wear your nametag at all VISTAS events and seminars. Contact VISTAS@silcom.com if you need a nametag.

**VISTAS WEBSITE**

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

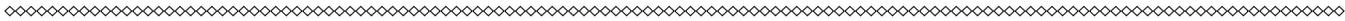
**DONATIONS**

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

**VISTAS IS ALL VOLUNTEER-**

**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK**

**HELP WANTED!** One or two people to organize refreshments for a course. VISTAS will reimburse. Beverages are taken care of. When you sign up for a course please let us know you are willing to volunteer.



**VISTAS Winter 2013 Calendar**

<b>Seminar/Event</b>	<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>Documentary Club</b>	<b>Thurs, Dec 20</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Theater</b>
<b>Theater in the Making (5)</b>	<b>Mon, Feb 4</b>	<b>2:00-4:00pm</b>	<b>UCSB</b>
<b>World's Great Religions (5)</b>	<b>Mon, Jan 14 thru Feb 13</b>	<b>9:30am-12:30pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Clubhse</b>
<b>The Shakespeare Debate</b>	<b>Tues, Jan 22</b>	<b>9:30-12:30pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Theater</b>
<b>Winter Social</b>	<b>Sun, Jan 27</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Music Academy</b>
<b>Imperial Presidency (4)</b>	<b>Mon, Jan 28 thru Feb 18</b>	<b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Clubhse</b>
<b>Health Care Ethics—from Paternalism to Autonomy</b>	<b>Tues, Feb 5</b>	<b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Maravilla Theater</b>
<b>Short Stories (3)</b>	<b>Wed, Feb 20 thru Mar 6</b>	<b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>The Lady in Gold (5)</b>	<b>Wed, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27</b>	<b>9:30-12:30pm</b>	<b>SB Maritime Museum</b>
<b>Citizens of London (3)</b>	<b>Mon, Mar 11, 18 &amp; 25</b>	<b>1:30-4:30pm</b>	<b>Goleta Library</b>