



**COURSE CATALOG
WINTER/SPRING 2024**



The idea of continued learning ...

VISTAS Lifelong Learning was founded in 1999 by some Santa Barbara residents who were interested in courses that had more breadth and depth than what is normally offered in adult education.

VISTAS is a nonprofit membership organization, providing adults in the Santa Barbara area opportunities for continued learning through unique courses in many different areas of human endeavor.

VISTAS seminars are for people who appreciate the relevance of our cultural heritage, like to think creatively, want to seek knowledge for its own sake, have the time to pursue these interests, and enjoy meeting like-minded people.

VISTAS is a self-governing, peer-led lifelong learning enterprise whose members organize seminars, lectures, and social events. We are one of the few unaffiliated lifelong learning organizations in the United States.

VISTAS course instructors present their own views and opinions and not those of Vistas Lifelong Learning, Inc.

JOIN VISTAS!

Your VISTAS membership will contribute to the financial stability that the organization needs to continue to flourish and provide lifelong learning in Santa Barbara. Joining VISTAS entitles you to exceptional benefits, including:

- 🌀 Members-only discounted course fees — a one-third discount
- 🌀 Advance notice and priority booking of courses
- 🌀 Invitations to members-only lectures and special events
- 🌀 The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping support lifelong learning in our community

VISTAS annual membership extends from July 1 through June 30.

You can join by using the membership application form on page 11 of this catalog.

CATALOG COVER: *The Gaviota Coast.*

Please note our upcoming class “Conserving the Gaviota Coast, in Pictures and Stories,” presented by Phil McKenna, on March 4 (listed on page 16 of this catalog).

VISTAS members and friends are encouraged to submit their own photos or original artwork for possible use as VISTAS Course Catalog cover art!

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VISTAS Board, 2023–24

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Sandy DeRousse	Lois Kaplan	Curt Mosso	Mort Weisman
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	Robert Benham	Dorothy Lawson	Pat Sheppard
	Gerry Corrigan	Dawn McGrew	Donna Small
	George Frakes	Sue Mellor	Mort Weisman

Vistas Business Manager

Nichole LaViola vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org 805-967-6030

Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge the following VISTAS members and friends who have contributed financially to our organization from July through December 2023. *We appreciate EVERY contribution.*

Peter & Rebecca Adams	Carol Geer	Lois Kaplan	Anne Norwood
Ted & Louise Anagnoson	Fred and Nancy Golden	Jean Keely	Donald O'Dowd
Robert Benham	Josie Gonzalez	Ben & Elaine Kehela	Christine Pinkerton
Amy Margerum Berg	Verni Greenfield & Norm Cohen	Sara Fox & Denny Klos	Judith Rice
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Peggy & Bill Callahan	Nancy Guthrie	Jere & Fima Lifshitz	Mark Rose
Elizabeth Carlson	Jim & Francine Hemmer	Mary & Don McKenzie	Barbara Rosenblum
Stillman & Nancy Chase	Christine Hoehner	Patrick McKinley	Elizabeth Ross
Gerald Corrigan	Tara Holbrook	Janice Meaden	Doris & Bob Schaffer
Louise Dunn	Dennis & Pamela Holst	Patricia Medina	Pat Sheppard
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Kathleen Feldstein	Johanna Johnson	Elaine Messier	Judy Weirick
George Frakes	Sue Kadner	David & Barbara Mizes	Judy & Mort Weisman
Jack Funk		Curt Mosso	Leslie White
Charlene Garfinkle			Ernie Witham

VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.

President's Letter

Dear VISTAS Members,

Your participation as volunteers, presenters, and enrollees made our Fall programs among the most successful in recent memory. In addition to the Fall Picnic and our ever-popular book clubs, we were able to offer nineteen separate courses, comprising thirty individual sessions. Attendance at these events indicates your appreciation for the splendid work done by our Curriculum Committee. That committee is not resting on its laurels—as a review of this catalog will indicate, our Winter/Spring course lineup offers you a wide variety of choices. We have twenty-one courses planned in addition to our book clubs and the annual Winter Social. Speaking of the latter, I urge all of you to attend this event on February 4. You will be in for a very special announcement that will reveal how our organization has acquired the means to provide continuing education to our targeted audience for years to come.

The year 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of VISTAS here in Santa Barbara. VISTAS started as a purely volunteer organization and has maintained that status over this quarter century. This has been the direct result of the commitment of many of our members. Volunteers have devoted countless hours to developing course materials; to securing venues for our classes; to providing technical support for the audio and visual projection necessary for communication between presenter and audience; and, no less importantly, to providing the delightful refreshments offered by our Hospitality Committee during coffee breaks, which allow us to mingle and make new friends. VISTAS is constantly seeking volunteers in all of these areas, and I welcome you to contact me directly if you are willing to share your time and expertise with our organization. My contact information is readily available in this catalog. You can also send in the form that appears on page 14.

Thank you for your interest, and let's all make 2024 a banner year for VISTAS!

Sincerely,

Robert Benham, President



IMPORTANT COVID-19 POLICIES

The health and safety of our attendees are of utmost importance to us. **Accordingly, we are limiting attendance at all in-person VISTAS events to those who are fully vaccinated and boosted.** Proof of vaccinations (either a digital COVID-19 Vaccination Card or a picture of your printed card) must be sent in advance to Nichole LaViola, our Business Manager, via email (vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org) or text (805-967-6030). This needs to be done only once—your proof of vaccination will remain valid for all VISTAS events. Also, in response to any changes in public health conditions, it is our intention to comply with all federal, state, county, and local directives and recommendations. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Bring a Friend!

DID YOU KNOW that VISTAS members are permitted to bring a guest to one session of a regularly scheduled course in which they are enrolled? If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a new member of VISTAS, and you would like to introduce that person to our organization, you may invite him or her to sit in on one session, free of charge. Please note that our Business Manager must be notified in advance to determine if space is available. You can contact Nichole by phone (805-967-6030) or email (vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org). Also, please note that this policy excludes special events such as our annual Fall Picnic and Winter Social, although non-members may attend those events at the same cost as members.

Catalog Updates

PLEASE NOTE that changes to our course schedule may occur after the printing date of this catalog. **To verify the dates, times, and venues for the courses listed here, please check our website (<https://www.VistasLifelongLearning.org>) frequently.** The course flyers available online will provide the most up-to-date information about all of our courses.



VISTAS Winter Social A Celebration in Recognition of 25 Years of VISTAS Lifelong Learning

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Doors open at 1:30, program begins at 1:50

Lehmann Hall, Music Academy of the West
1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara



Please join us at the beautiful Music Academy of the West to enjoy a delightful afternoon with your VISTAS friends and guests! We will begin our program with a recap of how VISTAS came into being, including some highlights from our 25-year history. Next, our musical program will feature some of the Santa Barbara Music Club's talented young musicians. Finally, after a surprise presentation you won't want to miss, our caterers will provide a variety of refreshments, including assorted hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and complimentary beverages. This year we will be

treated to a selection of fine wines.

This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends to VISTAS! Guests are welcome and may attend at the same cost as VISTAS members.

You may reserve space at the Winter Social by mailing in the registration form on p. 13 of this catalog; or by sending in the form at the bottom of the flyer that will be sent to all VISTAS members and posted online; or by registering on our website, with payment by credit card or PayPal. Advance payment of \$35 should reach us by **January 29**, or you can pay \$40 at the door.

Monday Nonfiction Book Club (via Zoom)

Fourth Monday of each month, from October 2023 through July 2024

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

First Winter/Spring 2024 meeting: Monday, January 22

This group will meet online via Zoom.

Members will receive a link via email before each meeting.

VISTAS members only: \$25 for the year

Coordinated by:
Dawn McGrew



Our Monday Nonfiction Book Club meets online via Zoom. Membership is limited to 15; in case of over-enrollment, prospective participants will be placed on a wait-list. Books are proposed and selected at the first fall meeting. The selection list for the 2023–24 year is posted on the VISTAS website: (www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/book-clubs).

The book selected for the January meeting is: *The Marriage Question: George Eliot's Double Life*, by Claire Carlisle.

The discussion each month will be led by a different group member, who comes in with suggested questions (which we are all free to supplement).

VISTAS now offers **two nonfiction book clubs**. Please note that our Thursday Book Club, which meets in person, is full and is not accepting new members at this time.



Fiction Book Club

Third Thursday of each month, from September through July, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

First Winter/Spring 2024 meeting: Thursday, January 18

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS members only: \$25 for the year

Coordinated by:
Sharon Alvarado



The VISTAS Fiction Book Group meets monthly for in-depth, highly satisfying discussions of a variety of types of fiction. Titles are selected and presented by individual members of the group. All group members are responsible for contributing questions and observations to the discussion. Members are encouraged to join at any time; each month is a new book and a new beginning!

Books we read this past year include:

- *The Human Comedy* (William Saroyan)
- *Harlem Shuffle* (Colson Whitehead)
- *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (Jamie Ford)

A complete list is posted on the VISTAS website: www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/book-clubs.

In 2024 we look forward to:

- *The God of Small Things* (Arundhati Roy)
- *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* (Muriel Barbery)
- *Circe* (Madeline Miller)
- *The Housekeeper and the Professor* (Yoko Ogawa)

Join us for the pleasure of reading, conversing, and deepening connections with other VISTAS members. There is no limit to the size of the group.

The SB Civil Grand Jury: The Public's Watchdog

Two Mondays: January 8 and 15

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$30; non-member price: \$45

Presented by:
Stan Roden



Would you like to see local government operate more efficiently or be more transparent and accountable? If so, you may wish to take this in-depth course about the Santa Barbara “Civil” Grand Jury system. As an arm of the Superior Court, the Grand Jury has the *legal authority and duty* to analyze and report on the operations of county and local government agencies. The Grand Jury chooses problems to investigate. If a super-majority (12/19 jurors) agrees, it conducts secret, confidential investigations into suspected government malfeasance or mismanagement. It may request the court to issue subpoenas. If warranted, the jury may issue meticulous public

reports that include findings and recommendations, often leading to media coverage, public discussion, and improved local governance.

Stan Roden J.D. is a retired civil trial lawyer whose background includes criminal defense, two terms as Santa Barbara County District Attorney, mediator, and SB Legal Aid volunteer. He served on the CA Fair Political Practices Commission, taught numerous courses at local schools (SBCC, UCSB Extension, Antioch University), and served on many community boards and committees, most recently focused on criminal justice reform, environmental sustainability, and climate change.



Not Just a Pretty Place:

The Science Behind the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

One Tuesday: January 9, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:
Steve Windhager



Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Pritzlaff Conservation Center at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to learn about the genetic analysis, botanical research, rare plant conservation, and ecological restoration work being done by the Garden both locally and around the state. The tour will include the genetics and botany labs, the rare plant seed bank, and the herbarium. For a nominal additional charge, participants may sign up to enjoy wine and other refreshments following the tour at the Ann Jackson Family Foundation Island View Deck. (See the course flyer for further details.) This is a reprise of our December 6, 2023 event, which quickly sold out.

After receiving his B.A. in Philosophy from Texas A&M University, Steve Windhager went on to the University of North Texas to complete his Masters in Environmental Ethics. He subsequently completed his Ph.D. work in environmental science, focusing on restoration ecology of prairie systems. A national leader in sustainable development and ecological restoration, Steve helped develop and was the first director of the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES), a joint project of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and the U. S. Botanic Garden and the American Society of Landscape Architects. He currently serves as Executive Director of the S.B. Botanic Garden, the nation's oldest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to native plants.

Legendary Lovers in Opera

Two Tuesdays, January 23 and 30, and one Wednesday, February 7

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Music Academy of the West

1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$40; non-member price: \$60

Presented by:
Simon Williams



There is one theme in opera that has been treated more frequently than any other, and that is Romantic love. Indeed, there are few operas that do not feature Romantic love as a principal concern. Perhaps one of the major reasons for this is the suitability of operatic music to explore all aspects of this emotional experience, which is central to human life. The first talk will center on Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Verdi's *La Traviata*, two of the classic tragedies of the Romantic age; the second will explore contrasting concepts of love in Wagner's *Die Walküre* and *Tristan und Isolde*; the final talk will center on two major operas of the *fin de siècle*,

Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila* and Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*. All talks will include video extracts and should be of interest to those who are new to opera as well as seasoned operagoers.

Simon Williams, now retired, was a Professor in the Department of Theater and Dance at UCSB for over 30 years. He has published widely in the fields of European continental theatre, the history of acting, Shakespearean performance, and operatic history. In addition, he has contributed numerous articles in his fields of specialty and is also an active reviewer for opera publications. Professor Williams is on the boards of Opera Santa Barbara and The Ensemble Theatre.



The Hapsburgs

Two Thursdays: January 25 and February 1

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$30; non-member price: \$45

Presented by:
Jim Hemmer



This course approaches history from a rather unusual perspective—that of a single family, the Hapsburgs, whose dynasty lasted 1,000 years (1020 to 1918). How did they do it? Genealogical endurance, for one thing: generation after generation they produced male heirs. They were fortunate too in their political alliances, but even more so in their marital alliances. They had enormous dynastic success in their arranged child marriages, as celebrated in the famous 17th century saying, “Let others wage war, you happy Austria, marry.” But there was a downside to this focus on arranged marriages: inbreeding. Consanguinity brought misshapeness as well

mental and physical incapacity. The Hapsburgs believed that they were the principal defenders of the Catholic faith, which, during the Reformation, led to religious wars and persecutions.

Jim Hemmer holds an AB degree from Marquette and a JD degree from Harvard Law School. He spent his entire career with the Chicago firm Bell Boyd & Lloyd, of which he was Managing Partner and CEO. His specialty was corporate and securities law, and he taught legal education programs for the Illinois State Bar Association. More recently, he has been a prolific and popular VISTAS presenter. Jim and his wife, Francine, have lived in Santa Barbara since 2017.

The Five Good Emperors

One Monday: February 5

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30



Presented by:
Daniel DeSelm

Historians commonly pinpoint the apogee of Roman power and grandeur to the period of the so-called “Five Good Emperors,” whose reigns stretched consecutively from 96 to 180 CE. These emperors—Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius—presided over an empire at the summit of its size and strength, but also one on the precipice of decline. So what was so “good” about these emperors? Why did they succeed? As the poster-boys of effective Roman governance, the Five Good Emperors show how the fate of empires can balance on a knife-edge of unpredictable factors. Their far-reaching administrative reforms and military escapades were

impressive, but also set in motion changes that would shatter the empire within a few decades.

Daniel DeSelm earned his BA from UC Berkeley and his PhD in History from the University of Michigan. He also studied at Trinity College, Oxford, and at the École nationale des chartes at the Sorbonne, Paris. His published work has focused on Christian relic cults in Western Europe. Dan has served on the faculty at the University of Michigan, Marymount University, and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, where he taught graduate and undergraduate courses in Roman and Medieval History. Dan has also served as a diplomat for the US Department of State.



Celebrating 100 Years of the Granada Theatre

One Monday, February 12, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Granada Theatre

1214 State Street, Santa Barbara

Enrollment limited to 50

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price \$30



Presented by:
Susan Miles Gulbransen
and **Joan Rutkowski**

Join Susan Gulbransen and Joan Rutkowski on the stage of the Granada while they present the history of Santa Barbara’s iconic Granada Theatre from the 1920s to the present. These two dynamic, civic-minded entrepreneurs will tell us of their long road to getting the Granada transformed into the incredible performing arts venue and community resource that it is today. After the talk we’ll enjoy a rare tour of the theatre, including the dressing rooms and downstairs (which may include stair-climbing).

mother to see the Santa Barbara Symphony at the Granada. She later became a high school teacher, Pan Am flight attendant, journalist (News-Press and Noozhawk), and ongoing volunteer. In the 1990s she helped make a new venue for art in Santa Barbara.

Joan Rutkowski was born into a musical family and became both an opera singer and a vocal teacher. She and her cellist husband traveled the world performing and teaching. She has served on the boards of multiple Santa Barbara performing groups. In 1993 her passion turned to forming a new venue, which eventually became the Granada Theatre we love today.

Raised in Santa Barbara during the 1950s, Susan Miles Gulbransen fondly recalls being taken by her

VISTAS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Name **MEMBER 1** _____

Name **MEMBER 2** _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone **MEMBER 1** _____ Email **1** _____

Phone **MEMBER 2** _____ Email **2** _____

INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$50 \$ _____

HOUSEHOLD ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$75 \$ _____

VISTAS is also delighted to accept your tax-deductible 501(c)(3) donation in any amount. A receipt will be sent to you for tax purposes. \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

TO PAY, YOU MAY:

- **EITHER** pay online by secure credit card or through PayPal: <https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org> (This is the quickest and most efficient way to apply for membership.)
- **OR** mail this completed form along with your check to:
VISTAS Lifelong Learning, P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Check # _____

Check date _____

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: Remember to sign your check, and in the memo space indicate what it is for (e.g., annual membership, or name(s) of course(s)). Please submit this membership form and the forms on pages 13 and 14 at their full original printed size.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR VISTAS EVENTS AND COURSES

Applicants may register for VISTAS courses and activities in any ONE of the following three ways.

1. The quickest and most efficient way to enroll in VISTAS classes is to register online using PayPal or a credit or debit card. Here’s how:

- ❁ Go to www.vistaslifelonglearning.org. Click on the “Courses and Programs” tab. When you have chosen a course, use the small dropdown menu below the name of the course to select “Member” or “Non-member.” Then click on the “Add to cart” button.
- ❁ On the window that appears, you can edit your selection (change number of registrants, or delete the selection), then click on either “Continue shopping” or “PayPal Check out” or “Check out” (pay with a credit or debit card *without* a PayPal account).
- ❁ If you select “PayPal Check out,” a new window will open in which you can enter your PayPal member ID and password.
- ❁ When entering your information in PayPal, if you see a line that reads “Instructions to Merchant” or “Instructions from Buyer,” enter your phone number and, if appropriate, the name(s) of any other person(s) you are enrolling. If you don’t see a place to enter that information, please send a list with the names of other people you are enrolling, along with your name and number, to our Business Manager via email (vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org).

OR

- 2.** Print out and fill in the registration form included on each course flyer, which will be emailed to all VISTAS members in advance of each course.

OR

- 3.** Send in the form on p. 13, with your check (please don’t forget to sign your check, and in the memo space of your check please note which course(s) you are registering for).

MY REGISTRATION LIST

You can use this space to keep track of the courses you’ve signed up for.

	Paid by check	Paid online
Winter Social	_____	_____
Mon. Nonfiction Book Club (Zoom)	_____	_____
Fiction Book Club	_____	_____
The SB Civil Grand Jury	_____	_____
Science Behind SB Botanic Garden	_____	_____
Legendary Lovers in Opera	_____	_____
The Hapsburg Dynasty	_____	_____
The Five Good Emperors	_____	_____
Celebrating 100 Years Granada Theatre	_____	_____
Whose Land Is It, Anyway?	_____	_____
The Climate Crisis	_____	_____
<i>Lafayette Escadrille / Millionaires’ Unit</i>	_____	_____
Conserving the Gaviota Coast	_____	_____
Short Story Discussion Group	_____	_____
Heroes & Rogues, Series 5	_____	_____
American Folk Music Revival of 20th C.	_____	_____
String Quartets in Vienna	_____	_____
Will China (Still) Eat Our Lunch?	_____	_____
<i>Sinkable: Adventures with Shipwrecks</i>	_____	_____
Golden Age of the Broadway Musical	_____	_____
Artistic Renderings of Human Body	_____	_____
From <i>Frasier</i> to <i>Star Trek ... and Beyond!</i>	_____	_____
13,000 of Local Maritime History	_____	_____
The Immigration Conundrum	_____	_____

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

COURSES/ACTIVITIES	No. of registrants	Member rate		No. of registrants	Non-member rate	Subtotal
VISTAS Winter Social	_____	@ \$35	+	_____	@ \$35	= _____
Monday Nonfiction Book Club (Zoom)	_____	@ \$25		(available to members only)		= _____
Fiction Book Club	_____	@ \$25		(available to members only)		= _____
The SB Civil Grand Jury	_____	@ \$30	+	_____	@ \$45	= _____
Science Behind SB Botanic Garden	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
Legendary Lovers in Opera	_____	@ \$40	+	_____	@ \$60	= _____
The Hapsburg Dynasty	_____	@ \$30	+	_____	@ \$45	= _____
The Five Good Emperors	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
Celebrating 100 Years Granada Theatre	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
Whose Land Is It, Anyway?	_____	@ \$50	+	_____	@ \$75	= _____
The Climate Crisis	_____	@ \$40	+	_____	@ \$60	= _____
<i>Lafayette Escadrille / Millionaires' Unit</i>	_____	@ \$30	+	_____	@ \$45	= _____
Conserving the Gaviota Coast	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
Short Story Discussion Group	_____	@ \$50		(available to members only)		= _____
Heroes & Rogues, Series 5	_____	@ \$40	+	_____	@ \$60	= _____
American Folk Music Revival of 20th C.	_____	@ \$50	+	_____	@ \$75	= _____
String Quartets in Vienna	_____	@ \$40	+	_____	@ \$60	= _____
Will China (Still) Eat Our Lunch?	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
<i>Sinkable: Adventures with Shipwrecks</i>	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
Golden Age of the Broadway Musical	_____	@ \$40	+	_____	@ \$60	= _____
Artistic Renderings / Women Artists SBMA	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
From <i>Frasier</i> to <i>Star Trek</i> ... and Beyond!	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
13,000 Years of Local Maritime History	_____	@ \$20	+	_____	@ \$30	= _____
The Immigration Conundrum	_____	@ \$30	+	_____	@ \$45	= _____

Please mail this form and your check (payable to Vistas Lifelong Learning) to: GRAND TOTAL \$ _____
Vistas Lifelong Learning, P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121

Note: When enrolling more than one person, please include a list of the names of those enrolling in each course.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As a volunteer-based organization, VISTAS encourages members to help out in any of several areas. It's fun, it's rewarding, and you'll meet the nicest people!

_____ **Join our HOSPITALITY team:** Volunteers bring cookies to classes, pick up and return the coffee urns, and/or help with set-up and break-down of the refreshment tables.

_____ **Join our TECH SUPPORT team:** Volunteers help set up and take down the audio/visual and computer equipment and stand ready to troubleshoot AV- and computer-related problems.

_____ **Join our CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:** Members discuss possible new courses and help recruit presenters, and also serve as course liaisons to facilitate communication with existing or potential presenters.

_____ **Join our PUBLIC RELATIONS/MARKETING team:** Volunteers help in the distribution of catalogs at various sites around the Santa Barbara area.

_____ **Become a PRESENTER:** Information for presenters is available on our website, <https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/become-a-presenter>. Possible topics or areas of interest:

Please provide your name and phone number and/or email address below:

FEEDBACK FORM

Which VISTAS courses have you most enjoyed, and why?

Are there any specific subjects you'd enjoy seeing future presentations on?

Mail this form to P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121, or scan and email to vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

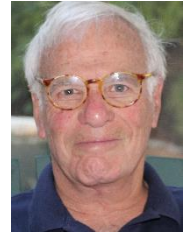
Whose Land Is It, Anyway?

Four Tuesdays: February 13, 20, 27, and March 5
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon *and* movie session, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Venue to be announced; please see the forthcoming flyer for updated information.

VISTAS member price: \$50; non-member price: \$75

Presented by:
David Bisno



With the Middle East in utter turmoil, during four intensive weeks we're going to ask important questions here in S.B. We won't settle the problems, but we'll better understand the competing claims, appreciate the region's history, and realize why a solution is so difficult. We'll ask, *What does the Bible have to do with it, anyway? Whose land has it been, anyway? Why can't these people just get along, anyway? Can an "apartheid" government be democratic?* Presentations will be accompanied by colorful historical slides. You will be given an outline for each class to allow easy following. Each afternoon, following lunch, we will view a riveting movie—the subject matter and narrative balanced between

Palestinian and Jewish points of view. For one of the sessions, it is hoped that we will be joined by a highly educated Palestinian guest speaker. Take a deep breath. We're all going to learn a lot. Discussion is expected to be relevant and lively.

David Bisno, after 25 years practicing ophthalmology, returned to New England at age 53. Between Harvard and Dartmouth College he earned an MA in Liberal Studies. Since then he has engaged "silver-haired scholars" here in Santa Barbara (where he and his wife, Fay, were founders of VISTAS), across our country, and overseas with a myriad of topics. He now engages us with urgent questions grabbing world attention.



The Climate Crisis:

Where We Are, What to Expect, What We Can Do

Three Weds.: Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 6, 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$40; non-member price: \$60

Presented by:
K. Hutterer,
S. Roden,
C. Feinstein



This three-part course will begin with **Karl Hutterer** presenting "Taking the Temperature." Topics addressed will include good news (growth in renewables, adoption of green technologies, shifting public opinion) and harmful (relentlessly rising emissions and worsening climate change impacts). Karl will discuss current data from the climate front and the human, social, economic, and security effects of ongoing climate change. Next, **Charles Feinstein** will cover "Policies, Politics, and the Economy." We'll consider political and economic forces influencing climate policies and regulatory solutions, such as subsidies for green

energy technologies, emissions trading, and carbon taxes. Last, **Stan Roden** will present "Strategy Choices in Limiting Global Warming." Stan will facilitate an interactive exploration of EnRoads. This climate change simulation tool incorporates the best available science and offers profound insights into the factors affecting greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. He is one of nearly 700 certified EnRoads Climate Ambassadors from 133 countries. All presentations will focus on current and pending U.S. legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act, and citizen actions, including the work of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

The Lafayette Escadrille and The Millionaires' Unit

Two Thursdays: February 29 and March 7

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Valle Verde Theater

900 Calle De Los Amigos, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$30; non-member price: \$45

Presented by:
Darroch Greer



Over twelve years, Darroch Greer wrote, directed, and produced two feature documentaries on WWI aviation. In these two sessions he will discuss the making of, and then screen, these important films. *The Lafayette Escadrille* is about a diverse group of American volunteers who joined the French Foreign Legion as the war started, then formed an all-American squadron flying for France until the end of the war. The Lafayette Escadrille became the founding squadron of US combat aviation. *The Millionaires' Unit* is about a group of Yale friends who formed an aero club, the First Yale Unit, which became the founding squadron of the US Naval Air Reserve. The

families of these men preserved photos, letters, diaries, and military records that played a crucial role in the ability to bring these stories to life.

Darroch Greer is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose films have aired on PBS, TCM, and History. Darroch wrote and co-directed The Millionaires' Unit and, with Paul Glenshaw, The Lafayette Escadrille. Recently they produced 40 short films of Duke Ellington tunes. As the French American Documentary Enterprise, they're making four films on the founding principles of democracy by France and the US, from the Revolution to the present, in time for the 250th celebration of American independence, in 2026.



Conserving the Gaviota Coast, in Pictures and Stories

One Monday: March 4

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara.

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:
Phil McKenna



The Gaviota Coast is the largest intact example of our Southern California Mediterranean coastal environment. Its 200,000 acres span 73 miles of coastline and 43 watersheds. Internationally recognized as a “biological hotspot” for its diversity of plants and animals, it is a mosaic of landscapes—and it harbors many little-known stories: an epic development scheme stretching across 140 years; the largest ranch in Santa Barbara County preserved for restoration and scientific study; a coffee plantation in the foothills; a ranch encompassing an entire watershed being restored through regenerative agriculture. This course will be richly illustrated to display the

character, beauty, and conservation challenges facing the Coast at the end of Southern California.

Phil McKenna came to Santa Barbara in 1964 to study at UCSB and never left. It's not a unique story, but he feels fortunate to have landed in this community of mountains and seashore. When his youngest child left for college, an opening presented itself; he wanted to add something to the community that had nurtured him. For the past 25 years he has been a coastal advocate for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy. He was a financial consultant, but has retired and discovered that “work,” while important, is overrated.

Annual Short Story Discussion Group

Section 1: Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Valle Verde Social Room, 900 Calle de los Amigos, Santa Barbara

Section 2: Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Montecito Covenant Church, 671 Cold Spring Road, Santa Barbara

Participants must be able to climb one flight of stairs; no elevator

Each group will be limited to 14 VISTAS members: \$50

Presented by:
Denny Klos



Short stories written by acclaimed authors will be the focus for group discussion. All the stories are in the genre of *realism*; the authors are Claire Keegan, David Quammen, Allison Grosfield, Cyrus Colter, Raymond Carver, Gail Godwin, Bernard Malamud, and Penelope Lively. Group members will receive five stories as PDF attachments to emails and three as hard copies. *The same stories will be discussed in both sections; participants should enroll in either Section 1 or Section 2 but not both.*

“Short stories are targeted, hand grenades of ideas. When they work, they hit, they explode, and you never forget them.” —Paulo Bacigalupi

Denny Klos is a retired clinical and forensic psychologist. He has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Purdue, an MBA and PhD from Harvard University, and a postdoctoral fellowship from Yale University. He was a professor at Williams College, the University of Michigan, and the California School of Professional Psychology. He has been a clinical practitioner, a clinic director, an academic dean, and an expert witness. Inspirational teachers of English nourished Denny’s lifelong interest in the human condition as depicted in short stories and novels. Denny has been the leader of the Annual Short Story Discussion Group since 2020.



Heroes & Rogues, Series 5

The Explorer, the Dancer, and the G-Man

Three Mon.: Mar. 11, 18, 25; 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$40; non-member price: \$60

Presented by:
**Gerry Corrigan,
Laurie Guitteau,
Ted Anagnoson**



Our 2024 Heroes & Rogues course will introduce us to three more interesting people who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields. The first talk (on March 11), presented by Gerry Corrigan, will be about **Mungo Park**, the doctor from Scotland who explored West Africa and was the first European to reach the Niger River. His success helped sow the seeds leading to the “Scramble for Africa” in 1884–85.

On March 18, Laurie Guitteau will introduce you to **Josephine Baker**, a most complicated personality. She was born into abject poverty, seduced Paris in the early 1920s with her brazen sexuality, became one of the richest entertainers

in the world, played an important role in the French Resistance during WWII, created a Rainbow Tribe, and died a pauper. Sex, intrigue, betrayals — a sordid and fascinating story.

The third presentation will be by Ted Anagnoson on March 25, when the subject is **J. Edgar Hoover**, the director of the FBI for almost 50 years. Hoover streamlined the FBI into an effective crime-fighting body, but it came at a huge cost, where the agency embodied the excesses of the Cold War and where Hoover used his power to harass and intimidate personal enemies. We will look at both sides of this autocrat in this presentation.

The American Folk Music Revival of the 20th Century

Four Mondays: April 1, 8, 15, and 22

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$50; non-member price \$75

Presented by:
Norm Cohen



In the 1950s, a new musical genre came to dominate the American pop music scene. Although it had its origins in a variety of musical traditions—ballads and folk songs, blues, spirituals, gospel—its most important role initially was providing music to further the causes of labor unions, political campaigns, and protest movements. As the years passed and the music gained a more prominent position in pop music, it shed the politics and protest roles and gradually came to be dominated by “singer/songwriters” — musicians who focused more on personal themes. This class will explore the rise of this “folk music revival,” its roots, characteristics, and impact on

American music of the succeeding decades. We’ll listen to recordings by dozens of iconic musicians.

Norm Cohen is the author of numerous publications on American folk and folk-derived music, including, most recently, the award-winning An American Singing Heritage: Songs from the British-Irish-American Oral Tradition as Recorded in the Early Twentieth Century (with Carson Cohen and Anne Dhu McLucas, 2021). He has edited or annotated more than three dozen albums of folk and country music and has written numerous articles, book chapters, and book reviews on various aspects of folk, country, and popular music.



String Quartets in the Vienna of Beethoven and Schubert

Three Wednesdays: April 3, 10, and 17

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Music Academy of the West

1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$40; non-member price: \$60

Presented by:
Derek Katz



Ludwig van Beethoven and Franz Schubert lived in the same city, but interacted with very different elements of Viennese society. This seminar will use the genre of the string quartet to explore the effects of patronage and of interactions with professional performers on Beethoven’s and Schubert’s compositional choices. While Beethoven had the luxury of hearing his quartets rehearsed by professional players employed by local aristocrats, most of Schubert’s quartets were written for his family members and other amateurs. In particular, we will feature the violinist Ignaz Schuppanzigh, who was the first to play almost all of Beethoven’s violin parts, and

who instituted the first series of public chamber music concerts in Vienna, which inspired Schubert to compose his ambitious late quartets, intended to stand beside those of Beethoven.

Derek Katz is Associate Professor of Music History at UCSB. He holds a BA in Music from Harvard and a PhD in Musicology from UCSB; he also studied at the Free University of Berlin. He specializes in Czech music and also teaches courses in opera, string quartet, nationalism, and modernism. Derek’s popular VISTAS presentations on a wide variety of subjects over two decades have been celebrated for their clarity and wit.

Will China (Still) Eat Our Lunch?

How Best to Deal With a Rising Superpower

One Thursday: April 4; 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:
Rich Appelbaum
and **Denis Simon**



In this class we take a deep dive into the complex landscape of China's rise as a technological and economic powerhouse, exploring its ramifications for US–China relations, especially in light of the meeting between President Xi and President Biden in November 2023. The spotlight will be on the “Chinese model” —state-led capitalism combining multi-year government plans with targeted public investment and dynamic private enterprise. For two decades this strategy proved to be highly successful—but has it reached its limits? Coined terms like “Peak China” suggest that perhaps a reassessment is needed.

Richard Appelbaum is Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former MacArthur Foundation Chair in Global and International Studies and Sociology at UCSB, where he served as chair of the Sociology Dept.; Director of the Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research; and co-founder of UCSB's Global & International Studies Program.

Dr. Denis Simon is a well-known expert on China's business, technology, and innovation strategies. He received his MA in Asian Studies and PhD in Political Science from UC Berkeley. In 2006 he received the China National Friendship Award from then–Premier Wen Jiabao in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.



Sinkable: Adventures with Shipwrecks

One Wednesday: April 24

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:
Daniel Stone



We've all heard of the famous ocean liner that hit an iceberg and slipped beneath the waves in April of 1912. But have you heard about what happened next? About how news of this ship ricocheted around the world and led to the world's fixation with every tragic detail? About the legal battles and government investigations? *National Geographic* and adventure writer Daniel Stone steers a fascinating journey of history, science, and obsession, uncovering untold stories of the *Titanic* and also diving deep underwater into ocean basins so littered with sunken ships that there are wrecks on top of other wrecks. And he introduces generations of eccentrics who devoted

their lives (and fortunes) to finding sunken ships. Along the way, he explores dozens of other wrecks and shares colorful stories from thousands of years of human travel on the high seas.

Daniel Stone is a writer on science, history, and adventure. He is a former senior correspondent for National Geographic and a former White House correspondent for Newsweek. He has written for Time, The Washington Post, Vice, and Literary Hub, and has presented at the National Academy of Sciences. He teaches environmental policy at Johns Hopkins Univ. He lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Alanna, and their three children, one of whom is a dog.

The Golden Age of the Broadway Musical

Three Fridays: May 3, 10, and 17

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Music Academy of the West

1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$40; non-member price \$60



Presented by:
Bob Weinman

The great American tradition of the Broadway musical, which was created by the works of composers like Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Rodgers & Hammerstein, led to a Golden Age that lasted from around 1950 to 1970. In each year of that era, show after show entered the great canon.

This class will feature these works, and as usual, will be presented with video clips from the shows.

Lerner and Loewe, Frank Loesser, Leonard Bernstein, and many others await you!

Bob Weinman received a B.S. degree from Cornell University in 1960, and a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1966. He worked as a rocket scientist for the Northrop Grumman Corporation until he retired in 1993. He currently volunteers as a videographer and music lecturer at the Music Academy of the West. He is also a member of the board of directors of Opera Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Symphony. In addition, Bob is one of our most popular presenters; his previous Vistas courses include presentations on operatic subjects as well as highly entertaining programs on Broadway and Hollywood musicals.



Artistic Renderings of the Human Body and Women Artists in the SBMA

One Monday: May 6; 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30



Presented by:
Belle Michael

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Docent Belle Michael will present this original program touching on two different aspects of art. In the first hour we will consider “Art-Body-Context” and discuss the way in which artists have used various art elements to characterize the human body in paintings and sculptures, representing or responding to cultural and historic events.

The second hour of the program will be a presentation on “Women Artists in the Museum,” focusing on the life and work of women artists whose artwork is exhibited in the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, among them Della Shull, Florine

Stettheimer, Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot, Lydia Field, Rina Banerjee, and more.

This presentation is brought to VISTAS through the Santa Barbara Museum of Art’s Community Speakers Program, which aims to “Bring the Museum to the Santa Barbara Community.” Previous well-received SBMA presentations to VISTAS audiences have included “Vincent Van Gogh: Beyond the Myth,” presented by Lori Windsor Mohr, as well as “East Meets West: How Japanese Art Inspired Artists from Monet to Van Gogh,” and “Artists of the Golden West,” brought to us by docents Shirley Waxman and Mary Eckhart, respectively.

From *Frasier* to *Star Trek* ... and Beyond!

The Magic Behind Television Music

One Wednesday: May 8; 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:

David Grossman



Get a sneak peek behind the curtain of your favorite television theme songs and soundtracks over the decades and then soar out of this world as we make a connection between the music we hear on TV and movies about space and the real sounds of our cosmos. Ever wonder about who chooses the composers, songwriters, musicians—or the song coming from a car radio—to add just the right touch to your viewing experience? Or why musicians on-camera sometimes look like they are out of sync? And how they make an actor with no musical experience look and sound like they are an accomplished musician? This—and more—will be revealed as we look, listen,

and converse about shows like *Cheers*, *Frasier*, *Star Trek*, and *NCIS*, as well as the stories behind many of the early themes in television history.

David Grossman's career took him from being a professional studio musician in Los Angeles to the head of music for Columbia Pictures Television/Sony and Paramount Pictures Television/CBS. Responsible for supervising the music for thousands of hours of televised content heard around the world and executive-producing gold-certified TV soundtracks, he came to lead the Santa Barbara Symphony after serving as Executive Vice President for the GRAMMY organization.



13,000 Years of Local Maritime History and Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area

One Monday: May 13, 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$20; non-member price: \$30

Presented by:

Greg Gorga and Holly Lohuis



Greg Gorga has served as Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum since 2008. In this wonderfully informative presentation, he will discuss how Santa Barbara's unique maritime history dates back to prehistoric times, to the early human populations many scientists believe were among the first to appear on the North American continent. The talk will also cover early Spanish explorers, a visiting pirate, shipwrecks and lighthouses, the largest naval disaster in U.S. history, surfing, commercial diving, and the 1969 oil spill. This history will be illustrated with vintage postcards and photographs.

Marine biologist, educator, expedition diver (with Jean-Michel Cousteau), and local conservationist Holly Lohuis played a pivotal role in the recent designation of the Santa Barbara Channel as the world's ninth Whale Heritage Area. In this presentation, she will discuss the diverse cetacean (whale, dolphin, and porpoise) populations in our area. From the largest animals ever to exist on our planet, blue whales, to a population of over 25,000 resident common dolphins, we are fortunate to have such diversity and abundance of these charismatic animals in our own "front yard," the Santa Barbara Channel. See <https://www.sbwhaleheritage.org/>

The Immigration Conundrum

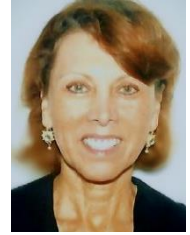
Two Wednesdays: May 15 and 22
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church

556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

VISTAS member price: \$30; non-member price: \$45

Presented by:
Josie Gonzalez



This course will discuss the historical roots of U.S. immigration—from open borders to federal control. How has major legislation influenced today’s immigration laws and policies? What was the impact of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which legalized millions of undocumented workers and imposed criminal and civil sanctions against employers who knowingly hired undocumented workers? Did this legislation succeed at curtailing illegal immigration? What are the diverse ways immigrants gain permanent (“green card”) and temporary status? How do other countries, like Canada, decide which people can be admitted?

Josie Gonzalez is semi-retired from the practice of immigration law after more than 40 years of representing both immigrants and employers. She received her Bachelor’s, Master’s in Social Welfare, and Law degrees from the University of California–Berkeley. Josie is the author of numerous immigration articles and treatises and continues to be invited as a guest lecturer for immigration lawyer associations as well as Human Resource organizations. Josie is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards acknowledging her substantial impact in the field. She has testified before the House Subcommittee on Immigration related to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

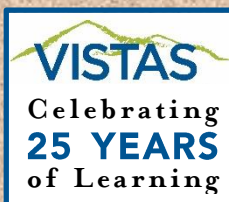
VISTAS Bulletin Board

Below left: Guest speaker Anna Akot gave us a look at women’s traditional roles in her native country, South Sudan, at Bee Bloeser’s September presentation, “Women Behind Walls.” Below right: Bee Bloeser with VISTAS Curriculum Committee co-chair Jill Breedon.

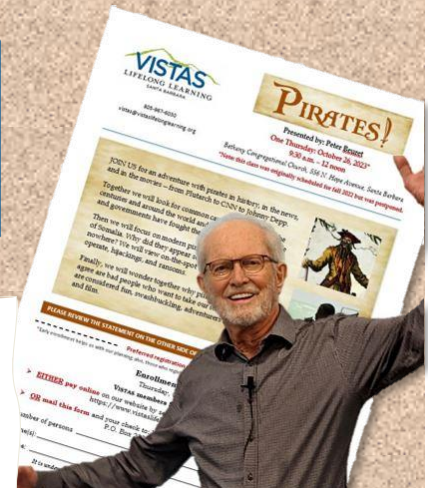


OUR MISSION STATEMENT

VISTAS LIFELONG LEARNING provides Santa Barbara–area residents with a variety of intellectually stimulating and thought-provoking courses with the goal of extending knowledge, enriching lives, and fostering community.



You were in for a swash-buckling good time if you attended Peter Beuret’s entertaining class on **Pirates!** (October 2023)



VISTAS Bulletin Board

Right:
Longtime VISTAS
members Judy and
Mort Weisman greeted
visitors to our booth
at the Senior Expo
at Earl Warren
Showgrounds
in October



Not Just a Pretty Place

The Science Behind the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

In December a limited group of fortunate participants were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's genetics and botany labs, rare plant seed bank, and herbarium, followed by wine and other refreshments on the viewing deck.

This tour will be reprised in January; see p. 8 of this catalog.



Filmmakers and writers John Ferry and Grace De Soto screened their remarkable documentary *Sitting Bull: A Stone in My Heart* and led a lively discussion on the making of their award-winning film.



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Abalone shell. Photo by Reed Woolpert.