



THE IMMIGRATION CONUNDRUM

IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND THE 2024 ELECTION

Presented by: Josie Gonzalez

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

Bethany Congregational Church
556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

805-967-6030
vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

Immigration is one of the top three issues impacting the outcome of the elections. Unquestionably, it is a contentious, divisive, emotionally charged, multi-faceted and seemingly insoluble issue. This two-part seminar will provide a historical perspective of how we got here, including an in-depth discussion of the efforts of the Immigration and Control Act of 1986 to regularize the status of millions of immigrants and to eliminate the magnet of job opportunities by imposing criminal and civil fines against employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. We will provide an overview of the key immigration issues that must be understood, such as current legal avenues, both family and employment based, to attain temporary or permanent resident status; the various legislative and executive action efforts to regularize the status the status of undocumented immigrants; the economic and cultural impact of immigration; and border security with the challenges of handling the tremendous influx of minors, families, and asylum seekers into the U.S. from across the globe. We will discuss how all the above challenges are being handled by other countries and learn how recognition of the need to address the root causes of migration is the catalyst for Vice President Harris’s implementation of the “Root Causes Strategy.” Suggested solutions to our immigration quagmire by all attendees are welcomed.

“It says something about our country that people around the world are willing to leave their homes and leave their families and risk everything to come to America. Their talent and hard work and love of freedom have helped make America the leader of the world.”
—George W. Bush

Preferred registration deadline*: May 8, 2024

*Early enrollment helps us with our planning; also, those who register by the preferred deadline will be given priority in case of over-enrollment.

Enrollment form: *The Immigration Conundrum: Immigration Issues and the 2024 Election*

Two Mondays: May 15 and 22, 2024

VISTAS members \$30; non-members \$45

- **EITHER pay online** on our website by secure credit card through PayPal:
<https://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/current-courses>
- **OR mail this form** and your check to: VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc.
P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara CA 93121

Number of persons _____ \$ _____ Check # _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

It is understood that attendance is limited to those who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

First session: The historical perspective; current avenues to gain legal status including country quota processing delays; the dilemma of regularizing the status of the many millions of undocumented immigrants. **Second session:** Border security, including the role of the Mexican government; asylum and refugee law and policy; the root causes of immigration; global solutions to process immigrant flows; what solutions are proposed by both political parties to address our immigration quagmire including initiatives being implemented by the Biden administration.



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 prestigious awards acknowledging her substantial impact in the field. She testified before the House Subcommittee on Immigration related to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 POLICY

The health and safety of our attendees and their families are of utmost importance to us. **Accordingly, we are limiting attendance to those who are fully vaccinated.** Proof of vaccinations and boosters (digital Covid-19 Vaccination Card or a photo of your printed card) must be sent to 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. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

VISTAS Winter/Spring 2024 Calendar

SUBJECT TO CHANGE; for up-to-date information, visit our website (VistasLifelongLearning.org) frequently!

Course / Event	Date(s)	Time	Venue
VISTAS Winter Social	NOTE NEW DATE! Sun. March 3	1:30 pm	The Music Academy
Fiction Book Club	3rd Thursday monthly	10:00 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Monday Nonfiction Book Club	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
The SB Civil Grand Jury: The Public’s Watchdog	Mon. Jan. 8 and 15	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Not Just a Pretty Place: Science at SB Botanic Garden	Tues. Jan. 9	1:00 pm	SB Botanic Garden
Legendary Lovers in Opera	Tues. Jan. 23, 30, Wed. Feb. 7	9:30 am	The Music Academy
The Hapsburgs	Thurs. Jan. 25 and Feb. 1	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Five Good Emperors	Mon. Feb. 5	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Whose Land Is It, Anyway?	Tues. Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 5	9:30 am	The Music Academy
The Climate Crisis: Where We Are, What We Can Do	Wed. Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 6	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
<i>The Lafayette Escadrille</i> and <i>The Millionaires’ Unit</i>	Thurs. Feb. 29, Mar. 7	1:00 pm	Valle Verde Theater
Conserving the Gaviota Coast, in Pictures and Stories	Mon. March 4	9:30 am	Bethany Cong. Church
Heroes & Rogues, Series 5	Mon. Mar. 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
American Folk Music Revival of the 20th Century	Mon. April 1, 8, 15, 22	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
String Quartets in Vienna in Beethoven’s Time	Wed. April 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	The Music Academy
Will China (Still) Eat Our Lunch?	Thurs. April 4	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
<i>Sinkable: Adventures with Shipwrecks</i>	Wed. April 24	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Golden Age of the Broadway Musical	NOTE NEW DATES! Fri. April 26, May 3, 10	9:30 am	The Music Academy
Art – Body – Context	Mon. May 6	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Short Story Discussion Grp., Sect. 1	NOTE NEW DATES! Tues. May 7, 14, 28, Fri. May 24	1:00 pm	Valle Verde
Short Story Discussion Grp., Sect. 2	NOTE NEW DATES! Thurs. May 9, 16, 23, 30	1:00 pm	Montecito Covenant Church
Celebrating 100 Yrs. of the Granada	NOTE NEW DATE! Tues. May 14	1:00 pm	Granada Theatre
The Magic Behind TV Music	Wed. May 8	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
13,000 Years of Local Maritime History / Whales	Mon. May 13	9:30 am	SB Maritime Museum
The Immigration Conundrum	Wed. May 15, 23	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church