

# The Hapsburgs

Presented by: Jim Hemmer

**Thursdays, January 25 and February 1**  
**9:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

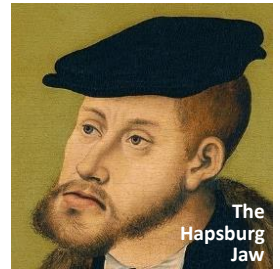
805-967-6030  
vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

Bethany Congregational Church  
556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

This course approaches history from an unusual perspective—that of a single family, the Hapsburgs, whose dynasty lasted 1,000 years, from 1020 to 1918. How did they do it? Genealogical endurance: they were survivors. Generation after generation they produced male heirs; if sons were missing, then cousins and nephews were, with one exception, always at hand. 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, or royal incest, if you will.



Arranged child marriages, a common practice among the Hapsburgs



Consanguinity brought both misshapeness and mental incapacity. Facial misshapeness is apparent in many of their portraits. But more unfortunate, their incapacities brought mental illness, imbecility, epilepsy, stillborn babies, and sickly infants.

Their success led them to believe that they were exceptional as a family. Some of this was earned, but some was fabricated in the mid-14th century by five forged documents. They also came to believe that they were the principal defenders of the Catholic faith. Obviously, in the Reformation, this led to religious wars and persecutions.

**Preferred registration deadline\*: January 19, 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 Hapsburgs**

Two Thursdays: January 25 and February 1

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

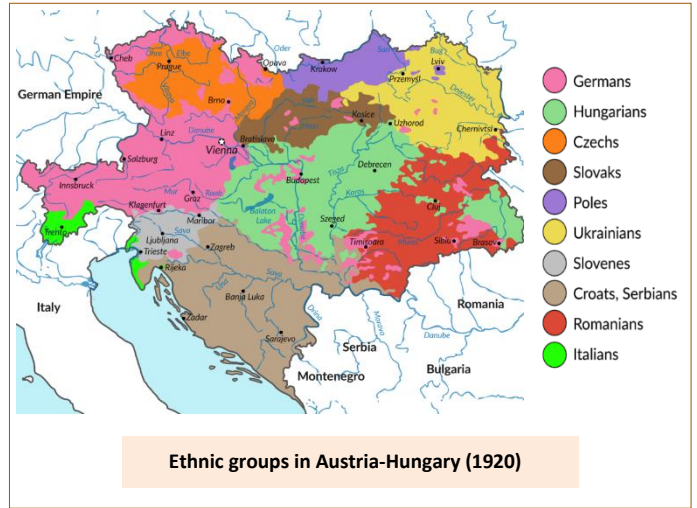
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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



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 at the time of his retirement. His specialty was corporate and securities law, and he also 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.



### 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](mailto: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](http://VistasLifelongLearning.org)) frequently!**

| Course / Event  | Date(s)                          | Time           | Venue                          |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| VISTAS Winter Social  | Sunday, February 4               | 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              |
| <b>The Hapsburgs</b>  | <b>Thurs. Jan. 25 and Feb. 1</b> | <b>9:30 am</b> | <b>Bethany Congreg. Church</b> |
| The Five Good Emperors  | Mon. Feb. 5                      | 9:30 am        | Bethany Congreg. Church        |
| Celebrating 100 Years of the Granada Theatre                      | Mon. Feb. 12                     | 1:00 pm        | Grenada Theatre                |
| 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                  | Weds. 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           |
| Annual Short Story Discussion Group, Section 1                    | Wed. Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27          | 1:00 pm        | Valle Verde Social Room        |
| Annual Short Story Discussion Group, Section 2                    | Thurs. Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28        | 1:00 pm        | Montecito Covenant 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 the 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        |
| The Golden Age of the Broadway Musical                            | Fri. May 3, 10, 17               | 9:30 am        | The Music Academy              |
| Artistic Renderings of Human Body / Women Artists                 | Mon. May 6                       | 9:30 am        | Bethany Congreg. Church        |
| 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        |