



A Non-profit Education Organization

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SPRING 2008 NEWSLETTER

In keeping with its charter of peer led education and discussion, plus having a bit of fun, the 2007–2008 VISTAS program from the September BBQ to the last Political Issues class in June 2008, is stimulating, active, varied and exciting.

2007—2008 PAST EVENTS

Fall BBQ Social—September 2007 Almost a hundred members and guests gathered for an afternoon of conversation, imbibing, eating and upcoming event education.

Local Canyon Excursions—September 2007 Led by Don Gillies and Bob Gerity, VISTAS members explored three local canyons, identified the flora and fauna, and the local geology

Mexican American War—October 2007 Three sessions, led by Ed Vernon, reviewed this mid-19th century conflict with its politics and associated wars that led to the present day US and Mexican borders. Lively opinions were expressed

Town History Walks—October 2007 Local Santa Barbara expert Thad MacMillan took us on informative walks through some of Santa Barbara's unique and historic neighborhoods.

Story-telling in Music—November 2007 Another delightful and educational afternoon was spent with music scholar and bassoon player from UCSB, Professor Derek Katz.

Religious Freedom and the Law--November 2007 David Hughes and Hal Conklin led a two-session discussion of the conflict around the meaning of: "Separation of Church and State."

The Pacific War—November 2007 Judge Jim Pattillo led this four-session seminar, which explored some of the pre-War diplomacy, combatants' intentions and moves needed to stop the fighting. Presentations included several made by World War II veterans of the Pacific Theater.

Worlds of Greece and Rome—November—December 2007 Re-capping his knowledge, observations, and using his experience as a Cruise lecturer, Howard Clarke, UCSB Professor Emeritus of Classics, introduced the classical world of art, architecture and literature, ranging from Minoan Crete to Imperial Rome.

Winter Social and America's First Ladies—January 2008 In front of an audience of almost 100, four VISTAS women represented former First Ladies—Dorothy Macchio played Rachel Jackson, Judy Mack portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln, Lyn Carman acted as Nancy Reagan, and Patricia Kruse depicted Barbara Bush. Our time-traveling interviewer, George Frakes, led our VISTAS women to beautifully depict the lives of these four First Ladies.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt—January 2008 Led by George Frakes, the three-sessions on Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first of VISTAS small-seminar discussion classes. Covered were: FDR's personal and political life prior to 1932; the domestic politics of the New Deal and FDR's four election campaigns; and foreign policy, World War II, and FDR's legacy.

Pour in Common Values and Stir--January 2008 Bob Macy led the group in finding ways to integrate soft power with the United State's military and economic power. Proposed was a new non-profit,

non-governmental organization that balances the benefits and obligations, connecting people from both the developed and developing world, into a common social cause.

Uses and Abuses of Higher Education—January/February 2008 Led by former University of Alaska President, Don O'Dowd, the course analyzed the dramatic changes that have characterized Higher Education since the World War II generation entered college.

Brazil on the Rise--February 2008 Barbara Krahn, Sue Mellor and Sam Flowers led us on a fascinating study of Brazil's geography, people and history. The road to democracy and economic stability has been hampered by political volatility—monarchy, oligarchy, military dictatorship and federal republic—all part of the mix. As Brazil today emerges from economic stagnation, it is finally attracting international investment.

Fin de Siècle Vienna—March/April 2008 Led by David Bisno, this eight week series of seminars, with morning lecture/discussion and afternoon movie to enrich the subjects discussed earlier, is a true VISTAS *tour de force*. Viennese life and culture will be covered during the 25 years between 1889 and 1914.

Music of Gershwin--April 2008 Led by Derek Katz, this seminar used selections from Gershwin to demonstrate the ways in which the composer managed to straddle the worlds of Tin Pan Alley, Broadway and concert music

Lawn Bowling—May 2008 In the spirit of fun, Past president Charlie Schneider arranged another afternoon of lawn bowling at MacKenzie Park.

Political Issues Seminars--May/June 2008 Peter Kruse led a series of debates on the current political issues of our times. Participants will contrast the proclaimed positions of the Republican Nominee, John McCain, and the Democrat Nominee, Billarybama.

2008--2009

The **2008-2009** year will begin with the Fall Picnic on September 14. Our first VISTAS course will be a six-session seminar on **Medieval Europe** led by Mike Cribbs starting in September.

Other courses that are definite but not scheduled yet are:

Women in Art produced by Wayne Hoffman,

Globalization and Off-shoring led by Bob Macy

January Social

Other ideas in various stages of incubation are:

The Amazon

Visit to Lotusland

Poetry

Women in Science

Documentary Films

Elementary Astronomy

Nobel Prize Winners

Shakespeare Authorship Controversy

If one of these topics stirs your creative juices and you want to participate, or if you have other ideas to suggest, please contact VISTAS Curriculum Committee Chair, Jan O'Dowd, 569-2510; or Email janddodowd@aol.com, 801-A Senda Verde, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

VISTAS Membership Application

YES! I want to help support lifelong learning in Santa Barbara as a member of VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc. Annual dues, July 1--June 30, are:

\$40 Individual \$60 Household (Two people at the same address)

VISTAS is delighted to accept contributions* to further our cause, please check the area in which you would like to contribute.

\$100 Fellow* \$250 Contributor*
 \$500 Sponsor* \$1000 and above Patron*

*Contributions and memberships at these levels or above are tax deductible.

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If you do not wish to have your name, address, phone no. and Email included in the roster, please check this box.



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