



# Sending Smallpox into History

Presented by: Bee Bloeser

Monday, March 6 ▪ 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church  
556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

805-967-6030  
vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

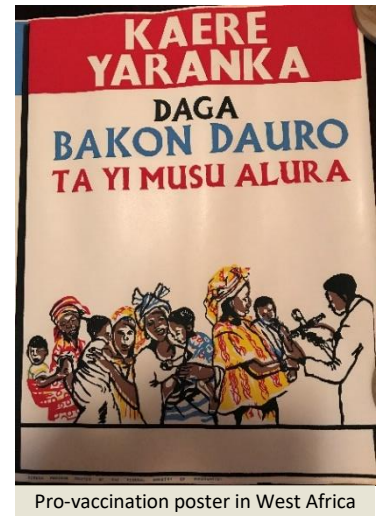
Smallpox has been referred to as humankind’s most feared disease, and its eradication was an achievement many experts had declared to be impossible. This course will look at one family’s two-year experience of the smallpox eradication/measles control campaign in early post-colonial Africa, specifically in Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea.

After a brief look at the political backstory, we’ll explore not only the expected challenges to smallpox eradication—logistics, communication, disinformation, politics, etc.—but also the unexpected—



Throughout West Africa, villagers recognized the distinctive white trucks that carried the vaccines.

becoming half of America’s smallest embassy and keeping a program alive in a brutal and isolated dictatorship. We’ll offer a glimpse into the final days of smallpox in Bangladesh and, finally, recognize that smallpox the disease is gone, but the virus isn’t.



Pro-vaccination poster in West Africa

This course is supported by private archives of personal and official documents, including photos and letters.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE STATEMENT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FLYER REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS.**

**Preferred registration deadline\* : February 28, 2023**

\*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: **Sending Smallpox into History**

Monday, March 6, 2023

**VISTAS members \$20; non-members \$30**

➤ **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 # \_\_\_\_\_

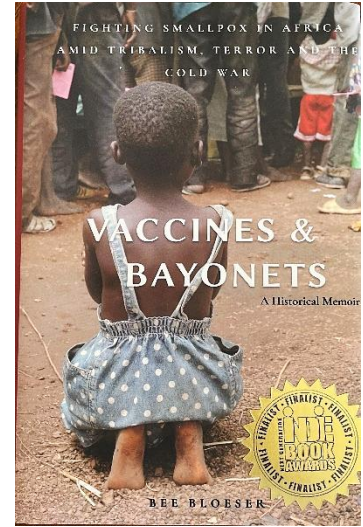
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Bee Bloeser** has lived in West Africa, the Middle East, and Native American nations in support of her late husband's public health work, which spanned five continents. In addition, Bee pursued her own career in speech-language pathology and is an award-winning book author. She speaks to high school and college classes as well as to a variety of organizations. She supports water projects in Africa.



Bee is the author of the award-winning historical memoir, **Vaccines & Bayonets: Fighting Smallpox in Africa amid Tribalism, Terror and the Cold War**. Her book has been praised by Foreign Policy magazine's Deputy Editor and by The Economist's Midwest Correspondent and former Johannesburg bureau chief. Vaccines & Bayonets was named a finalist in historical nonfiction in the 2022 Indie Book Awards. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at Bee's March 6 VISTAS presentation.

### 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). Participants may also be asked to show vaccination status on the first day of each course in case our records are incomplete. This needs to be done only once—your proof of vaccination will remain valid for all VISTAS events. Face masks are recommended, though not currently required, at VISTAS in-person, indoor gatherings.

## VISTAS Winter/Spring 2023 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 5	1:30 pm	Music Academy of the West
Monday Nonfiction Book Club / Dawn McGrew	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
Four Great Ages of Western Civiliz. / Jim Hemmer	Wed. Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Creative Artist in Opera / Simon Williams	Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 30, Feb. 7	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Sleep, Consciousness, and Non-Ordinary States	Thurs. Jan. 26	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Criminal Law and Procedure / Patrick McKinley	Mon. Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Rodgers and Hammerstein / Bob Weinman	Tues. Feb. 14, 21, and 28	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Short Story Discussion Group Sect. 1 / Denny Klos	Wed. March 1, 8, 15, 22	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
Short Story Discussion Group Sect. 2 / Denny Klos	Thurs. March 2, 9, 16, 23	1:00 pm	Valle Verde Social Room
<b>Sending Smallpox into History / Bee Bloeser</b>	<b>Mon. March 6</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Bethany Congreg. Church</b>
Shakespearean History Plays / Mark Rose	Tues. March 7, 14, 21, 28	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
The Allure of Fascism Here and Abroad / D. Bisno	Thurs. Mar. 23, 30, Apr. 6, 13	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Humans That Drove Computer Revol. / J. Ingraham	Mon. April 3, 10	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Heroes and Rogues, Fifth Series / Gerry Corrigan	POSTPONED — Information about rescheduled dates to come later		
Joseph Haydn: From Court to City / Derek Katz	Weds. May 10, 17, 24	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
The U.S. and China: AI Superpowers / Jim Hemmer	Thurs. May 11	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church