



WOMEN BEHIND WALLS

Presented by: Bee Bloeser

One Thursday: September 28, 2023
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bethany Congregational Church
556 N. Hope Avenue, Santa Barbara

805-967-6030
vistas@vistaslifelonglearning.org

This course will address the topic of WOMEN BEHIND WALLS from three perspectives.

Part I: Based on Bee Bloeser’s observations during two years in West Africa, she will cover restrictions imposed on women and girls behind literal walls. Bloeser had the rare opportunity to experience a place closed to the outside world when she was tasked with checking for smallpox scars in Kano, Nigeria’s Old City, where women were “in purdah,” not to be seen by any man outside their immediate family. We’ll also look at historical context.



ANNA AKOT

Part II: Based on Bloeser’s interview with Anna Akot, this part of the course will include the first-hand account of a South Sudanese woman who grew up behind many “walls” that kept women dependent and subservient. We’ll consider education restrictions, forced marriage, and the limitations imposed by the necessity to walk many hours to collect water from the Nile.

Part III: Guest presenter Doug Rudholm will speak about women behind not only walls, but bars, based on his experience of teaching for six years at a California women’s prison. Incarcerated women there had to learn to survive in a small cell for eight women, some of whom experienced regular nightmares.



DOUG RUDHOLM

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

Preferred registration deadline*: September 21, 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: Women Behind Walls

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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 # _____

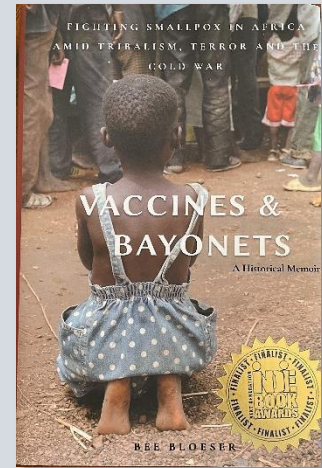
Name(s): _____

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 Bloeser is the author of the historical memoir *Vaccines & Bayonets: Fighting Smallpox in Africa amid Tribalism, Terror and the Cold War*. Her first VISTAS presentation, last March, was based on her book and provided a unique account of her family’s role in the successful global effort to eradicate smallpox.

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). 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. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

VISTAS Fall 2023 Calendar

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

Course / Event	Date(s)	Time	Venue
Annual Fall Picnic	Saturday, September 9	12:30 pm	Tucker’s Grove
Fiction Book Club / Sharon Alvarado	3rd Thursday monthly	10:00 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Monday Nonfiction Book Club / Dawn McGrew	4th Monday monthly	1:30 pm	Via Zoom
Flight—Ups and Downs of Aviation / Bruce Phillips	Mon. Sep. 11 and 18	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
Impact of Railroads on Am. Music / Norm Cohen	Wed. Sep. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Legendary Foods of France and Italy / Larry Canepa	Fri. Sep. 15 and 22	10:00 am	Via Zoom
Women behind Walls / Bee Bloeser	Thur. Sep. 28	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Rethinking Obesity / Dr. Fima Lifshitz	Tues. Oct. 3	9:30 am	Valle Verde
Money in America’s Political System / Ted Anagnoson	Mon. Oct. 16, 23, 30	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
The Nature of Time / Jim Hemmer	Wed. Oct. 18	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Pirates! / Peter Beuret	Thur. Oct. 26	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
History and Development of the Bible / Norm Cohen	Fri. Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	Venue TBD
The US in the World: A Top-10 Summary / D. Stowell	Tues. Oct. 31	10:00 am	Via Zoom
Thirty-Six Years in the CIA / Heidi August	Mon. Nov. 6	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
<i>Sitting Bull: In His Own Words</i> / J. Ferry & G. DeSoto	Wed. Nov. 8	9:30 am	Valle Verde Theater
Church Music in the 16th Century / Henry Michaels	Mon. Nov. 13, 20, 27	10:00 am	Via Zoom
“The Opulent Summer” Mural / C. Garfinkle	Wed. Nov. 15	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Combating Human Trafficking / Florrie Burke	Fri. Dec. 1	9:30 am	Bethany Congreg. Church
Women Architects of S.B. / Rose Thomas	Mon. Dec. 4, 11	1:00 pm	Bethany Congreg. Church
Science Behind the Botanic Garden / S. Windhager	Wed. Dec. 6	1:00 pm	Santa Barbara Botanic Garden