



Lesser-Known Heroes and Rogues (Second Series)

Coordinated by: Gerry Corrigan

Wednesdays, January 15, 22, and 29, 2020

9:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Weinman Hall, Music Academy of the West
1070 Fairway Road, Santa Barbara

Following last year's premiere presentation on "Lesser-Known Heroes and Rogues," this second series will introduce you to five more remarkable characters who are not as widely known today as might be expected. Some led lives distinguished by courageous deeds, while others, though exceptional in some ways, were hardly heroic. Let's meet the five individuals we'll talk about in this class—two women and three men, many of them hailing from Europe but winding up in America—and the presenters who will introduce them.

Lorenzo Da Ponte: "Mozart's Librettist—The Man Who Made Mozart and Brought Opera to America," presented by **Gerry Corrigan**. January 15.

Da Ponte held the position of Poet/Librettist for the Italian Opera Company in the Court of Emperor Joseph II in Vienna in the 1780s. He wrote the librettos for 28 operas, including three for Mozart—*The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*. We will hear selections from each of the three operas in our class, which will cover Da Ponte's life in Italy before meeting Mozart in Vienna, his work with Mozart over a five-year period, and his experiences in America after emigrating from Europe in 1805. He played an important role in introducing Americans to opera, but, as we'll learn, he was no hero; he was banned from Venice for 15 years for debauchery and later was expelled from Vienna.



Anthony Fokker: "The Flying Dutchman Who Shaped American Aviation," presented by **Joop Koornwinder**. January 22.

Born in 1890 on Java in the Dutch East Indies and raised in the city of Haarlem, 11 miles west of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Fokker had little formal education until he was nearly 20, when he was hit by the aviation hype that swept Europe after the successes of the Wright brothers in France in 1908. Aviation was the love of his life. It brought him all he wanted—daunting challenges as well as fame, admiration, and lots of money. His life as a businessman was a great success, but his personal life was closer to disaster. He died in New York in 1939.



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----- Preferred registration deadline*: January 3, 2020 -----

*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: Lesser-Known Heroes and Rogues (Second Series)

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VISTAS members \$35; non-members \$52.50

- **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: _____

Madame Ganna Walska: “Legends, Lies, and Other Exaggerations,” presented by **Rose Thomas**. January 22.

Forget what you may have read or heard about Madame Ganna Walska. During her long life, she pursued a love of beauty, music, self-realization, and personal fulfillment. Living for decades in the public eye and challenging traditional roles of behavior, she cultivated influential friendships with musical luminaries, artists, writers, politicians, actors, actresses, and the international nobility of Europe during the 1920s and 1930s. Gladly stepping out of the limelight in 1940s, Madame Walska devoted the remainder of her life to developing the magnificent gardens of her Lotusland estate.



Marie-Madeleine Fourcade: “The Glamorous Spymaster Who Helped Make D-Day Possible.” presented by **Laurie Guitteau**. January 29.

Why have most of us never heard of Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, the only woman to serve as *chef de résistance*? Known for her beauty and glamour, the fiercely independent Marie-Madeleine became the leader of a vast intelligence network in France in 1941 at age 31. She commanded some 3,000 agents who supplied crucial intelligence during WWII. No other French spy network lasted as long or supplied as much crucial intelligence, including providing US and British commanders with maps used by the Allies on D-Day. This spymaster’s story is one of courage and determination—as well as sexism!



Huey Long: “The Embodiment of Populism,” presented by **Ted Anagnoson**. January 29.

Huey Long was a populist hero and corrupt demagogue, hailed as a champion of the poor and reviled as a dictator. He had a remarkable career as Governor and U.S. Senator on a platform of social reform and justice, all the while employing graft and corruption to get what he wanted. His spell-binding personality and political machine might have made him a viable White House contender had he not been assassinated in 1935. In this segment, we will examine his appeal and the political calculations he made that sent him so far.



VISTAS Calendar — Winter/Spring 2020

Seminar/Event	Inclusive dates	Time	Venue
Vistas Winter Social	Saturday, January 25	2:00 pm	Music Academy of the West
Nonfiction Book Club	2nd Thursday monthly	1:30 pm	Vista del Monte / Sierra Madre Lounge
Documentary Film Club	3rd Thursday monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Lesser-Known Heroes and Rogues II	Weds., Jan. 15, 22, 29	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
All Politics Are Local	Tues., Jan. 21	9:30 am	Covarrubias Adobe, SB Historical Mus.
The Scientific Revolution	Mon., Jan. 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
“Things About S.B.’s Past I Never Knew!”	Tues., Feb. 4	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church
Donizetti’s Three Queens	Wed., Feb. 12, 19, 26	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
Free Speech, Zoning, Constitutional Law	Mon., Feb. 24, March 2, 9	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
SBCC Theatre trip: <i>The Curious Incident ...</i>	Sun., Mar. 1	2:00 pm	SBCC / Garvin Theatre
Annual Short Story Discussion Group	Weds., Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25	1:00 pm	Valle Verde / Social Room
Opera SB trip: <i>Il Postino</i>	Sun., Mar. 8	1:45 pm	Lobero Theatre
Three Important Economic Issues	Tues., Mar. 17, 24, 31	9:30 am	Goleta Library
Spirituals, Dance Bands, and Hot Solos	Wed., Apr. 1, 8, 15	9:30 am	Music Academy of the West
“Sounds Good! But Does It Really Work?”	Mon., Apr. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30 am	Vista del Monte / Sierra Madre Lounge
Opera SB trip: <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Sun., May 3	1:45 pm	Lobero Theatre
Let’s Talk Art!	Mon., May 4, 11, 18	9:30 am	Bethany Congregational Church
Accidental Presidents	Weds., May 13, 20	9:30 am	Montecito Covenant Church