

STUDY CIRCLE – FALL 2018

Visions of America

Meets Tuesday Evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm
1407 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara



Diverse expressions of the distinctive visions of America nurtured in American history will be studied in this new season of Study Circle discussions. The ideas and ideals of the Founding Brothers, such as Jefferson, Paine and Franklin will provide a framework for focus on the aims and purposes of the American experiment. The distinctive visions of the Transcendentalists, the Progressive Reformers and the cultural innovators in literature, art and music will be explored. How the development of educational opportunities and civic participation drew out the potential for individual freedom and social progress will be analyzed. The expansion of an inclusive global vision embedded in the promise of American ideals will be evaluated. The concept of “vision” and how these visions have influenced 20th century and contemporary society will be identified. The Study Circle will begin in October and continue through December. See website for more detail and list of readings: <http://www.worldculture.org>

Early Visions in Colonial America

October 2

The concept of “vision” and its relevance to America; John Winthrop on the beacon light on the hill; the Mayflower Compact on civil obligation; Roger Williams on religious freedom and the separation of church and state; William Penn on the principles of conscience and non-violence; Anne Hutchinson on the inner light.

Founding Vision of the Republic (1776-1821)

October 9

The Declaration of Independence, self-evident truths, liberty, equality, consent of the governed, and the pursuit of happiness; Thomas Paine on Deism, the rights of man, and the right of revolution.

October 16

Thomas Jefferson on education, natural law, and Native American influences; a brief video presentation of Clay Jenkinson, award-winning, first-person interpreter, portraying Thomas Jefferson.

October 23

Benjamin Franklin on civil society and the value of science; the Great Seal of the United States.

October 30

Benjamin Rush on practical innovations and education for young women; the voices of women, including Mercy Otis Warren and Abigail Adams.