

STUDY CIRCLE – WINTER 2019

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. 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, Progressive Reformers, and 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. See website for readings: <http://www.worldculture.org>

Reshaping the Public Space in America

May 7, 2019 – Progressive Legislative Reforms In response to dramatic economic and social change in the late 19th century, many called for fundamental reforms such as the end of child labor, protections for industrial workers, protection for safe food, women's suffrage, the elimination of slum conditions and the challenge to political corruption that prevented reform. Legislation at the state and national level was seen as the necessary tool for widespread reform. Among the voices for change were several women who plunged into activism and promoted many reforms.

May 14, 2019 – Visions of America: The Ideal City Some American architects drew upon classical and renaissance conceptions of the ideal city. A number of these architects will be discussed, along with examples of their work in various cities of the United States, including the design of the Washington National Mall and Olmsted's work in New York City.

May 21, 2019 – America Life in the Art of Thomas Eakins and Norman Rockwell The art of Thomas Eakins and Norman Rockwell reflect the America of their era. Eakins has been celebrated as "the strongest, most profound realist in nineteenth- and early-twentieth century American Art". Rockwell is most famous for the cover illustrations of everyday life on *The Saturday Evening Post*, a popular magazine about American culture. Examination of their artwork will reveal something about their lives and their vision of America.

May 28, 2019 – Reflections on Visions of America Looking back on eight months of studying visions of America and learning about the many contributors to those visions offers a fruitful foundation for envisioning transformative visions for the future. The sharing of insights will be encouraged in a group discussion. Participants may bring quotations to illustrate their vision of America, thus far.