

The Newsletter of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley



The mission of the Humanist Community is to meet the social, intellectual, and emotional needs of Humanists of all ages; to contribute to the well-being of the larger community; and to be a voice for Humanism.

Volume 18, Issue 7
www.humanists.org

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July 2012
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July 4, 1776

"Who shall be judge whether the prince or legislative act contrary to their trust? This, perhaps, ill-affected and factious men may spread amongst the people when the prince only makes use of his due prerogative. To this I reply: **The people shall be judge;** for those who shall be judge whether the trustee or

deputy acts well and according to the trust reposed in him, but he who deposes him, have still the power to discard him when he fails his trust?"

From John Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, chapter xix.

Locke was a 17th century political philosopher widely read and quoted in Revolutionary times.

Membership Information

Your membership and active participation is important to us and vital to the growth of Humanism, and, in particular, to our local community of Humanists. Membership gives you the right to vote, run for position and office on the Board of Directors, and attend Board meetings.

Annual dues are \$45 for individuals, \$75 for households, \$20 for those with limited incomes, and \$15 for students.

Membership forms are available at the greeting table at the Sunday Forums.

Forums

JULY 1 What Does the Fourth of July Mean to a Humanist?

This will be an opportunity for those who come to share their answers and thoughts. Chairs will be arranged in a circle so we will be able speak to each other in turn. As time permits we will question and explore the things we have heard.

JULY 8 A Report on the 2012 AHA Annual Conference in New Orleans

Several HCSV members attended the 2012 Annual Conference of American Humanist Association in New Orleans in June. Five HCSV members who attended will discuss what they saw and what impressed them. We will hear from Paul Gilbert, Alex Havasy, Hilton Brown, Sena Havasy, Arthur Jackson.

JULY 15 Drug Policies in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

Novella Coleman, Criminal Justice and Drug Policy Fellow, ACLU Foundation of Northern

California, will discuss the differences between Santa Clara County and San Mateo County drug policies.

JULY 22 Ethics & the Deterioration of Medical Practice

Carlos Feder, MD, will discuss ethical considerations concerning deterioration of medical practice and computer use for medical diagnoses. For more, see www.carlosfeder.com.

JULY 29 North Korea today: What is fact and what is fiction?

Leslie Ashmore will look at two portraits of North Korea today: first from the best-selling fiction book "The Orphan Master's Son" by Adam Johnson, and second from the award-winning non-fiction book "Nothing to Envy: Real Lives in North Korea" by Barbara Demick. Reports from people who have grown up in North Korea and escaped depict an Orwellian society where tens of thousands of Koreans are imprisoned and routinely beaten, neighbor turns against neighbor, and people are imprisoned almost by whim. What can we really say is true, based on first person accounts and recent newspaper reports? Leslie

Ashmore has read about North Korea, written a book review of "The Orphan Master's Son," and spoken to Adam Johnson about his recent visit to this troubled and troubling nation.

FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School – Student Center
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto

Sundays 11 a.m.-12:15. Free and open to the public

LUNCH 12:15-2 p.m. Donation of \$10 requested.

Family Program

The Family Program is designed for children in freethinking humanist families. The children range from age 4 to 13, and the program is operated by the parents.

The participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects, reflecting the ideas and goals of the families and community. The children receive hands-on supervision by parents, and, at the end of each program meeting, they join the community for lunch.

Science Resource Building, Room 1732
Palo Alto High School
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
Sundays 10:30 a.m.-12 noon.



Editor, Pro Tem

Jon Stephens

Production

Hilton Brown Jon Stephens

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to infohcsv@yahoo.com. The length of your submission should not exceed 100 words and may be edited for clarity.

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e-mail Arthur@arthurmjackson.com

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the Humanist Community.

HELP *Do you need some help?*

- For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at Arthur@arthurmjackson.com or call 408-923-3774.
- If you need to talk to someone about a problem you're having, call Arthur Jackson at 408-923-3774.
- If you need some other kind of help (for example, a ride to a doctor's appointment, some groceries brought by, a recommendation for a lawyer), email hchelp@yahoo.com (which forwards your e-mail to members of the HC HELP group, each of whom may send a reply e-mail to you and the group if they can help), or contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com or call 408-739-5638.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing

A Stroll Through McClellan Ranch Park – July 7, 2012

Join us as we take a stroll through McClellan Ranch Park!

The 18-acre natural preserve park was a horse ranch in the 1930's and 40's. The site houses a nature museum and community garden. Preserved are the original ranch house, milk barn, livestock barn, a replica of Baer's Blacksmith Shop, originally located at De Anza and Stevens Creek Boulevards, and the old water tower from Parish Ranch, now Memorial Park.

It is also home to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, which was founded in 1926. With over 3,000 members, it is one of the largest National Audubon Society chapters in California.

What: A Stroll Through McClellan Ranch Park

Cost: Free. Donations accepted.

Where: 22221 McClellan Road, Cupertino, California 95014

When: Saturday, July 7, 2012. Meet at the entrance to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society at 10:00 a.m.

Welcoming Committee

We schedule small monthly get-acquainted gatherings in private homes, staff the Greeters' Table at the Forum, assist with all holidays, greet visitors, and keep ourselves informed about goings-on in the Community. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Coffee & Dessert or being on the Welcoming Committee contact Dianne Jacobsen, Committee Chair, diannej24@yahoo.com or Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com, or any one of us at Forum on Sunday.

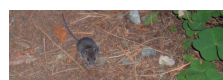
Hiking Group

EDGEWOOD PARK, REDWOOD CITY, JULY 15

Our Humanist Hike will be a visit to Redwood City's Edgewood Park. It will be about 3 miles through moderate hills.

The geologic history of Edgewood is traced back 35-165 million years ago when the rock that underlies much of this region was formed by two converging tectonic plates, the Farallon and North American. The Farallon plate was forced under the American plate and large amounts of rock were left behind. One, serpentinite, is a very rare rock type that is found at Edgewood. This underlying rock is a unique feature of the Park that can be observed in the serpentine grasslands and rock outcroppings.

We leave PAHS at 1:30 p.m. to arrive at the park by 2:30 p.m.



The July Potluck Dinner

A potluck picnic and fireworks are planned. Call 408-739-5638 or senahav@gmail for details.



The Sharing Circle

Palo Alto High School Student Center, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. One of several groups that meet prior to the Forum each Sunday where attendees may share any personal feelings or experiences they wish, in an environment of trust and confidentiality.



Free Thought Discussion

Brown Home, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of recent news or a selected book. For information, contact Hilton Brown at 650-941-3146 or brownofmntnview@aol.com.

Academic Video

Brown Home, Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.
View an academic video followed by discussion. For information, contact Hilton Brown at 650-941-3146 or brownofmntnview@aol.com.



Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, 4th Saturday of the Month
1691 The Alameda, San Jose 8:00 a.m. For information, contact Alex Havasy at 408-739-5638 or havasy@aol.com.

Women's Coffee

Dinah's Restaurant, 4th Saturday of the Month
4261 El Camino Real, Palo Alto 10:00 a.m.
Come have a cup of coffee and join in the camaraderie.

Other Events of Interest

Humanist Roots

Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Bob Stephens will lead a discussion on the state of school science education. Fifty years ago, science was widely accepted and appreciated. Now we have blatant denials of fact on topics ranging from evolution to climate change, pollution, biodiversity, stem cell research, food safety, public health, and other issues that bear on the welfare of all. Moreover, to help deal with California's budget crisis, Gov. Brown proposed eliminating the mandate that all high schools teach two years of science. Bob will discuss how we have come to this sorry state, and what we might do about it.

We start at 6 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres, have the pot-luck dinner from 6:30 to 7:15, and then get into the discussion. To help with the planning, please let me know what you would like to bring to share. Contact Richard Duda at dick_d@uucpa.org.

When: Saturday, July 7, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto

Bay Area Russell Society (BARS)

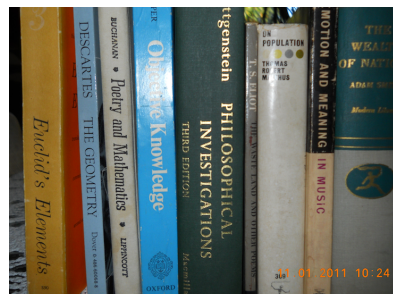
Join us as we continue with our new book by Russell, "The Conquest of Happiness." We will be discussing Chapter 3, entitled "Competition." According to the Preface by Russell, he has written the book "in the belief that many people who are unhappy could become happy by well-directed effort that I have written in this book." We are hopeful that our discussions of these writings will prove informative, interesting, and perhaps life-changing, making us happier than before.

Please note that this meeting is taking place on the FOURTH Tuesday of July rather than our usual third Tuesday schedule.

More: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219/

When: Tuesday, July 24, 7:00p.m.

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale



JULY 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 <i>Canada Day</i> 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Independence Day!</i> 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 5 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 6 | 7 10:00 a.m. Fun Group |
| 8 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 9 | 10 | 11 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 12 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 13 Paraskevidekatriaphobia? | 14 <i>Bastille Day</i> |
| 15 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum 1:30 Hike | 16 | 17 | 18 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 19 3:00 Welcoming Committee 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 20 <i>Ramadan starts</i> | 21 |
| 22 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 23 | 24 | 25 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 26 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 27 | 28 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee @ Dinah's Poolside Cafe |
| 29 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 30 | 31 | AUGUST 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

