

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.

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P.O. Box 60069, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0069
650-964-7576

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infohcsv@yahoo.com

Good News Clubs are Bad News for Secular Americans

Arthur Jackson, President HCSV

Bob Bhaerman, Director, Kochhar Humanist Education Center, American Humanist Association, has proposed a project with a vision statement and a proposed plan of action to counter the so-called "Good News Clubs" that have been

established by the Child Evangelism Fellowship and which Katherine Stewart has written about in her book, *The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children* (published in 2012 by Public Affairs). Katherine has shown how evangelical organizations have cleverly insinuated themselves into the day-

by-day operation of American public education.

If you would be interested in working on a project to counter the efforts of "Good News Clubs" please contact arthur@arthurmjackson.com, or call 408-923-3774).

Forums

SEPT 2 Aram Hirajan on Public Education, Its Rise and Fall

When a new technology changes how we understand the world and how we live in it, we are slow to adapt to this new way of life. Education is but a tool for humanity to continue to live on, despite the changing environment in which we find ourselves. In the information age, public education itself is slow to adapt to the fast-changing rules in transmission of information from one generation to another, and this is the principal challenge public education faces today. In order for public education to survive and to continue to enrich our lives, we must again revise our ideas of what it means to teach our children and help them continue to live on in a world that is changing faster than any individual mind can keep up with.

SEPT 9 Nonviolent Peacekeeping in the Sudan

Gilda Bettencourt of the Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) will discuss NP's work in South Sudan - one of the poorest nations on

the planet - as many struggle to keep it on track to a better future and not relapse into war. By demonstrating the usefulness of unarmed peacekeeping, NP offers a different way to respond to conflict while concentrating on protecting civilians and reducing violence.

SEPT 16 Education in the Middle East

Dr. Roberta Ahlquest, Professor in Multicultural Foundations of Education at San Jose State will discuss education in the United Arab Emirates, Lahore (Pakistan), India, Egypt, Jordan, and the West Bank. Ahlquest is co-editor of the book, "Assault on Kids: How Hyper-Accountability, Corporation Deficit Ideologies, and Ruby Payne are Destroying Our Schools" (available for purchase at the Forum). Co-sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

SEPTEMBER 23 Dr. Michael Mallory: Nuclear Power Can Mitigate Climate Change

The growth in CO2 in the atmosphere is already having significant climatic impacts. Stabilization of the level of CO2 will require a world-wide reduction of 70% from the present

level of emissions. Conservation, wind and solar energy cannot meet this challenge. Adequate energy storage technology does not exist to provide power when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining. Only nuclear power can satisfy our "base load" requirements without adding carbon. The sooner we implement this solution, the less horrific the world of our grandchildren will be. The Fukushima disaster highlights the need to do it right.

SEPT 30 Orwell Was An Optimist - The Political Landscape Today

Paul George (Director of the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, www.peaceandjustice.org) uses as a framework Orwell's famous themes of "war is peace", "freedom is slavery", and "ignorance is strength", as a way of examining modern America, which translates to endless war, the national security state, and propaganda (along with lousy journalism).

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., a donation of \$10 requested.



Editor, Pro Tem

Jon Stephens

Production

Hilton Brown, Jon Stephens, Helen Athey

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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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@yahoogroups.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

40th Annual Banjo Jubilee Jazz Festival--September 9, 2012

The Peninsula Banjo Band has been around for over forty years and have thousands of fans in the San Francisco Bay area. Its mission is to preserve the four-string banjo and the music associated with it. The band a non-profit corporation and over the years, has given over \$200,000 to various charities. Charlie Tagawa, the band's leader, is a member of the National Four-String Banjo Hall of Fame.

This year's jubilee headliner will be Tyler Jackson. Tyler is one of best young banjoists in the world. He has supported country legend Ray Price and loves both country and jazz.

What: 40th Annual Banjo Jubilee Jazz Festival.

Cost: \$25 person, \$20 before 9/9/2012.

Where: Mediterranean Ballroom, San Jose Airport Garden Inn, 1740 N. First Street, San Jose, CA 95112.

When: Sunday, Sep 9. Noon to 5 p.m. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Meet at 11:30 at the ballroom entrance.

For more information, visit <http://www.peninsulabanjoband.org> or call (408) 993-2263.

Welcoming Committee

We schedule small monthly get-acquainted gatherings in private homes, 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, please contact Dianne Jacobsen, Committee Chair, diannej24@yahoo.com or Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com, or any one of us at Forum on Sunday.

Humanist Community Hiking Group

Bill Rausch, experienced world hiker, has planned a delightful summer outing for us for Sunday, September 16.

Our Humanist Hike will be a visit to Portola Valley's Windy Hill, which is aptly named, so bring jackets and kites. We'll traverse the Windy Hill Picnic trail, and stay high on the grassy Anniversary and Lost trails. Total distance, about 3.5 miles round trip, with great views.

We leave Palo Alto High School at 1:30 p.m. to arrive at the picnic area on Skyline Blvd by 2:30 p.m.

The Family Program

The HC Family Program is designed for children from 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. The program is supervised by the parents. Participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects, reflecting the ideas and goals of the families and community. 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
Most Sundays 10:30 a.m.-12 noon.

The September Potluck

Sena Havasy expects to announce the location of the month's potluck later. Saturday September 29th, on the Full Moon. Call 408-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com for details.

The Sharing Circle

Palo Alto High School Student Center, Sundays at 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 brownofmtnview@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 brownofmtnview@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

Hobee's, 4th Saturday of the Month (Dinah's is closing!)
El Camino Real near Arastraders, 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

From Dick Duda: "The September meeting of the Humanist Roots Group is a topic-selection-and-open-discussion meeting. In the first half hour or so we will choose topics for October, November and December, then use the remaining time for any humanism-related topic that people want to discuss. It is often one of the most lively meetings of the year.

"For the past five years, I have been the moderator for the discussions, and it is time to start rotating that position. Thus, in addition to choosing a topic and a discussion leader for that topic for each meeting, we will select the moderator for the discussion. This is your opportunity to volunteer to help out and keep the meetings rolling along.

"Also we are going to try a new procedure for deciding on food items to bring to share." [see http://uucpa.org/humanist/about_humanists.html for more details. ed.]

Contact Emma Pan at emma_p@uucpa.org
When: Saturday, September 1, 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 entitled *The Conquest of Happiness*. We will be discussing Chapter 5, entitled "Fatigue." This small volume, first published in 1930 offers the reader, according to the Atlantic Monthly, "a primer of self-regeneration." According to the Preface by Russell, he wrote 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 hope that our discussions of these writings will prove informative, interesting and perhaps life-changing in making us happier than before.

More: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219/
When: Tuesday, September 11, 7:00p.m.
Where: Thai Pepper, 103 Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

Volunteers for the Forum Kitchen Needed

If you believe that honest labor is noble humanist work, then perhaps you would regard working in the kitchen on Sunday to help your fellow humanists and friends enjoy each other's company over a home-cooked style lunch—that is to say, we need help heating and serving food, drying dishes, and storing cooking and serving equipment.

SEPTEMBER 2012

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---|---|-----------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 3 LABOR DAY | 4 | 5 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 6 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 7 | 8 |
| 9 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum 11:30 Fun Group | 10 | 11 | 12 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 13 3:00 Welcoming Committee 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum 1:30 Hike | 17 Rosh Hashanah | 18 | 19 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 20 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 21 | 22 Autumnal Equinox 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee @ Hobee's |
| 23 AND 30 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum | 24 7:30 Board meeting | 25 | 26 Yom Kippur 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion | 27 8:00 p.m. Academic Video | 28 | 29 Full Moon Potluck. Details later... |

Humanist Community
 P.O. Box 60069
 Palo Alto, CA 94306-0069

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