

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 11

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Humanist Manifestos, Historically

Three documents have been published under the auspices of the American Humanist Association (AHA) to define Humanism; they are called the Humanist Manifestos.

The first, titled *A Humanist Manifesto*, was published in 1933 by the Humanist Fellowship, the precursor of AHA. Because this new Humanism was an idea born in the Unitarian church, the document enthusiastically describes Humanism as a religion in which science and reason are all important, "a vital, fearless, and frank religion capable of furnishing adequate social goals and personal satisfactions." But this religion was one without a god, and the

authors were at pains to explain how this could be. They had lived through the 1929 Wall Street crash and were in the midst of the Great Depression, so they decried the "acquisitive and profit-motivated society" calling for "a shared life in a shared world."

In 1973, the AHA released the revised *Humanist Manifesto II*. World War II with its misuse of science, worldwide experiences with totalitarian governments, and the terrors of the Cold War had made the world seem very dangerous. The second manifesto is less optimistic, more determined. It says, "In learning to apply the scientific method to nature and human life, we have opened the door to ecological damage, over-population,

dehumanizing institutions, totalitarian repression, and nuclear and bio-chemical disaster." It describes Humanism as an *ethical process*. Its five pages - twice as long as the first - contain a list of political goals, almost like elements of a Humanist political platform of the time, but the call for economic sharing is more muted than in the first manifesto lest it sound too much like Communism.

By 2003 the Cold War had been over for more than 10 years and the world was unusually peaceful. The AHA released their third manifesto, *Humanism and Its Aspirations*.

(Continued on page 2)

Forums

NOV 4 State Ballot Propositions

Humanist Community member Alex Havasy will present summaries of the 11 state propositions on the November ballot. He will include main arguments in favor of and against each proposition, who is financing it, and how various organizations recommend you vote.

Nov 11 Sandy Smith and Arthur Jackson on the Humanist Manifesto

What does Humanism mean to you? What would you include in a Manifesto for yourself?

Humanist Community members Sandy Smith and Arthur Jackson will coordinate a discussion of the Humanist Manifesto in which we will consider these questions, compare ideas, and learn something about the range of ideas Humanists have on this subject.

Material from Sandy's Oct. 7 forum, "Humanist Manifestos," will be available prior to the meeting.

NOV 18 "We Need A New Paradigm -Punishment Is Not Working"

Dorsey E. Nunn, Executive Director for Legal

Services for Prisoners with Children, is the co-founder of All of Us or None, a civil and human rights organization of formerly incarcerated people, prisoners, and their allies. He was formerly incarcerated, himself.

Mr. Nunn has chaired, co-chaired, and served on the boards of many organizations that address the rights of the formerly incarcerated, and is the co-founder of Free at Last, a community-based recovery and rehabilitation center. He also has hosted a radio program (KPFA) on issues related to criminal justice, and spoken extensively on these issues -- including voter registration and rights -- at numerous conferences, workshops and demonstrations.

He has won numerous awards, including the Human Excellence Award, presented by the San Francisco Muslim Community Center; the Certificate of Appreciation, presented by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; and the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, presented by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. In 1996-1998 he was a California Wellness Fellow; most recently he was awarded the Fannie Lou Hamer award from the African American Studies Department at

the University of California, Berkeley.

NOV 25 Poetry Forum

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."*

Written in 1913, this poem by Joyce Kilmer has often been criticized as too simple, too insipid, too sentimental, and not lovely at all. Yet it lives on...and on...and on. Such is the power of even "bad" poetry.

Do you have a favorite poem, one you've read or maybe even written yourself? This is your opportunity to share it with other Humanists at our annual Poetry Forum.

Sena Havasy gets the credit for introducing the idea of an annual poetry reading to our forum schedule a few years back. Thank you, Sena!

To reserve time for your reading, sign up at the Greeter's Table. For more information, contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com.

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.



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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 hhelp@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

Triton Museum of Art Holiday Gift Fair – November 10, 2012

Get an early start on your holiday shopping at the 4th Annual Holiday Gift Fair at the Triton Museum of Art.

Handmade ceramics, jewelry, glass, and many more pieces made by many local and national artists, with most items under \$100!

What: The Triton Museum of Art 4th Annual Holiday Gift Fair

When: Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m..

Cost: Admission and parking is free.

Where: 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

For more information, visit <http://www.tritonmuseum.org/> or call (408) 247-3754.

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 is considering a Fall hike for us in November.

Bill is hoping to organize a hike for us, but what it is is to be determined. Please keep alert for announcements at the Sunday Forums to learn what develops.

Humanist Manifestos, Historically

(continued from page 1)

This document represents years of effort by many people, many AHA meeting discussions, and more than one committee. It, like the first manifesto, celebrates Humanism. It is only one page, focused on interpersonal relationships, stressing that, "working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness." This is a personal Humanism, bringing meaning and fulfillment to its aspirants, and inspiring them to work for the greater good of humanity.

While there are core Humanist philosophies, we all look to Humanism to help us deal with our most pressing problems, and thus some interpretations are more meaningful than others. Reading the AHA's manifestos in a historical context can help one understand them better. — *Sandy Smith*

(Excerpted from Sandy's Forum presentation of October 7, 2012. Ed.)

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 when the program is on site.

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

November Thanksgiving Dinner

The November Humanist gathering is a sit down, traditional, Thanksgiving turkey dinner, with all the fixings and optional additions by attendees.

We welcome 12 people at our home in Sunnyvale on Nov. 22nd, Thanksgiving Day, who sign up ahead and chip in \$26. We will gather at 2:00 and eat at 3:00.

For further information contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638 or sign up at the Greeter's Table at the Sunday Forum. *Bon Appétit!*

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 brownofmntview@aol.com.
No meeting Nov 21.

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 brownofmntview@aol.com.
No meeting Nov 22.

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.
El Camino Real near Arastradero, 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

November's topic is The **Humanism of Ayn Rand**.

Robert Ruether will lead the presentation.

For those who monitor our politicians closely, you must have heard of Ayn Rand, a philosopher and an author died 30 years ago. Her philosophy seems to have a great influence on Republican party, a major party of our country. Even our former Fed chair Alan Greenspan is a fan of hers. Why is her philosophy popular with those wanting a small government and the "1%" who dare to justify their excess? Are her principles good for humanity? Robert will have some answers for us.

Contact Emma Pan at emma_p@uucpa.org for potluck and other information about the meeting.

When: Saturday, November 3, 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 6, entitled "Envy." 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, November 13, 7:00p.m.

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

Andrea Dorey has a deal for you!

Andrea has a brand new DVD set of the seventh season of television's **House** (the cranky doctor, not how to remodel your dwelling programs). You can have it for \$20 and the money goes to the HCSV as a donation. Ask Andrea at the Forum.

NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	2	3
4 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	5	6 ELECTION DAY! YOU WILL VOTE, WON'T YOU!	7 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	8 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	9	10 1:00 pm Fun Group
11 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum 1:30 Hike	12	13	14 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	15 3:00 Welcoming Committee 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	16	17
18 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	19	20	21 Thanksgiving Eve	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee 6:00 p.m. Potluck
25 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	26 7:30 Board meeting	27	28 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	29 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	30	DECEMBER 1

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