

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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www.humanists.org

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December 2012
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HCSV Election of the Board, 2013

It is that time of year for preparing for the election of the HCSV Board Members for 2013.

Rules of Election to the Board of HCSV

The Board of directors has a maximum of 9 members (we currently have only 8). Board members hold office for 2 years, with a maximum 6 year limit. After 6 years, Board members must stand down and cease to hold office for at least 1 year. Board members are required to be members of both HCSV and AHA.

Candidates for the Board are nominated in one of two ways

- The Board appoints a Nominating Committee to discover those within our community who may be willing to serve on the Board, and subsequently, make recommendations to the Board for nominating new board members from within this group.
- a petition signed by 15 or more HCSV members and presented to the Nominating Committee.

The election ballot shall include all candidates named by the above processes.

This Year's Election and Schedule

The HCSV Board decided at the previous Board meeting (October 22nd) to hold elections on February 24th 2013, and appointed the following volunteering members to the Nominating Committee for this year: Sena Havasy (Chair), Carl Angotti, Hilton Brown, Dianne Jacobsen, Martin Squibbs.

5 members of the Board are up for re-election in February: Andrea Dorey, Beverly Crowell, Marie Stephens, Arthur Jackson, (Vacant Seat)

All those up for re-election intend to run for re-election in 2013 and remain on the Board. Thus we require as a minimum only 1 Board position to be filled. **To fill the vacant seat, Paul Gilbert has agreed to be nominated, thus completing the slate.**

The Nominating Committee must present its recommendations for nominees to the Board no later than December 23rd. Members wishing to add further names to the ballot by the petition process above must submit these names to any member of the Nominating Committee, along with a petition signed by 15 members of the Community, no later than January 20th 2013. The Nominating Committee welcomes any input you may have regarding the process above.

To reach any member of the Nominating Committee, if you do not have our personal contact information, please email infohcsv@yahoo.com, or use any of the contact methods listed on our website at humanists.org and your message will be forwarded to us.

Many thanks,
HCSV Nominating Committee

Forums

DEC 2 A Mind of My Own: a Memoir

Harriane Mills will discuss her recovery from traumatic brain damage following a motorcycle accident. This classical antiquity professor had lost what was most important to her: her ability to use language successfully. Her memoir begins with waking from a coma and not recognizing family members, and follows her journey of recovery. It provides a narrative of what it takes to become a whole person again after severe brain damage.

DEC 9 Solar energy

Environmental benefits of solar power are well known. Financial benefits of solar in California are not as well understood. Mark Thomas and Rick Devlin will discuss these and other aspects of solar energy.

DEC 16 Reinvent Yourself: Creating a Life of Passion and Purpose

Michelle Chappel, PHD, is an internationally acclaimed musician, businesswoman and speaker.

After being voted "Most Inspirational Psychology Professor" at UC Santa Cruz, she ditched academics to be a singer-songwriter. She writes, "In these times, we all need to be able to develop a second act to be happy and prosperous. This talk blends psychological, mythological and scientific perspectives, along with the instructor's personal experience with change, to show you how to leave the past behind and re-create yourself. You will learn how to discard bad habits and old belief systems that no longer serve you, build the courage to go after your dreams, and persist through setbacks. You will be shown ways to establish a support system as you change, stick to your vision despite nay-sayers and self-criticism, and create a life that expresses who you truly are."

DEC 23 HumanLight & POTLUCK

The Humanist Community in Silicon Valley will celebrate our umpteenth Holiday Potluck. The theme will be 'HumanLight', a secular holiday celebrated since 2001 by secular folk. Ever since hominids figured out at the Solstice that the sun ceases to withdraw its light and warmth from the earth and every day is brighter, its return and promise of better days has been celebrated. This is

a Holiday Potluck at the usual time and place of the Sunday Forums. Come early to help decorate. Everyone is encouraged to share pleasant memories or elements meaningful to them from their own traditions or those of "The Old Country". After an early lunch, there will be music. Please contact Sena Havasy, Arthur Jackson, Chris Lindstrom or Sandy Smith with ideas, suggestions, encouragement, etc. **Please bring an item or memory from your past holidays to share with the others present. We meet in the Paly Library, not the Student Center.**

DEC 30 Planning for the Future

A shared discussion of the directions that HCSV may take in the New Year.

FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School – Student Center
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto
Sundays 11 a.m.-12:15p.m. Free and open to the public. Lunch 12:15-2 p.m.; a donation of \$10 requested.



Editor

Jon Stephens

Production

Hilton Brown, Helen Athey, Marion Sanders, Carl Angotti

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.

Board of Directors

Arthur Jackson, President
Martin Squibbs, Vice President
Helen Athey, Recorder
Marie Stephens, Treasurer
Hilton Brown
Beverly Crowell
Andrea Dorey
Peng Zhang

To contact the Board

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.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing

Poetry Circle Workshop – December 5, 2012

What could be a more personal gift than an original poem? In the Community Poetry Circle, we'll write new poems in a creative and supportive environment. This writing group is appropriate for all levels—from beginners to advanced poets—and all ages. This poetry writing group is for you if you have always wanted to write poetry, but don't know how to begin, or have a story to ...we all do... and enjoy language and want to have fun!

What: A Poetry Circle Workshop.

Where: Campbell Library, 77 Harrison Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008.

When: Wednesday, December 5, 2012, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free.

For more information, visit <http://www.scll.org/campbell> or call (408) 866-1991.

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, 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

Watch the website for information about a December hike.

Humanist Community Contribution Opportunity

It's December, and we are just about going to break even in 2012 for funds. But there is little to offer others who would benefit from our support. I suggest two things: Contribute on your own to my favorite, **Second Harvest Food Bank** of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties (shfb.org), OR contribute through HCSV with a memo on your check, so that the Humanist Community as an organization can contribute to the Second Harvest Food Bank. The HCSV Board has just agreed to making such a contribution in the Community's name.

Thanks, Jon Stephens (Newsletter Editor)

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.

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.

Check at humanists.com for December dates.

December Potluck at the 12/23 Forum

A combined winter solstice and holiday event

From Humanlight.org: "HumanLight illuminates Humanism's positive secular vision. In Western societies, late December is a season of good cheer and a time for gatherings of friends and families. During the winter holiday season, where "holiday" has taken on a more secular meaning, many events are observed. ... HumanLight presents an alternative reason to celebrate." **POTLUCK! Bring an item or memory from your past holidays to share with others present! Salads and desserts will be provided.**

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, check www.humanists.org.

Academic Video

Brown Home, Thursdays, 8:00 p.m.
View an academic video followed by discussion. For information, check www.humanists.org.

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

In December the Women's Coffee will meet one week early, on Saturday the 15th at 10:00 AM. It will be a Women's Holiday Brunch at the Havasy home in Sunnyvale. The tree is up, come and be merry! Contact Sena at 408-739-5638. We will be back at Dinah's in January.

Humanist Roots

Potluck Dinner and Discussion

December's topic is "**Living in America: those issues that affect our lives.**" There will be three presenters.

Alan Joseph Allin will discuss "*Social Evolution*," regarding some current writings on social evolution that he found to be of help in understanding Humanist thinking. His talk will begin with the cooperation and altruistic behavior of early humans.

Julie Martinez will give a talk on "*Medical Mistakes*." Public spending on healthcare threatens to crush the U.S. economy, and medical mistakes is a driving factor. Paternalism, a deeply entrenched aspect of medical culture, has prevented the system from self-improving. What can be done to remedy the situation to improve patient safety and reduce costs?

Emma Pan's topic is "*When We Give and When We Take*". A balance of giving and taking is the pillar of lasting and trusting relationships, yet our culture seems to emphasize only on the prevention of over-giving. This talk will examine give-and-take from the perspectives of social messages, the reality, and the best rules that lead to trust and common good.

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

When: Saturday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Room 4-5, 505 E. Charleston Road, 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 7, entitled "The Sense of Sin." 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, December 18, 7:00p.m.

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum (Library!)	3	4	5 6:30 pm Fun Group 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	10	11	12 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	13 3:00 Welcoming Committee 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	14	15 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee
16 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	17 7:30 Board meeting	18	19 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	20 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	21 Winter Solstice	22
23 / 30 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum and Potluck	24/31 24th: Christmas Eve 31st: New Years Eve	25 Christmas	26 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	27 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	28	29

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

