

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 19 Issue 4

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

April 2013

www.humanists.org

650-964-7576

infohcsv@yahoo.com

Our H.E.L.P. / Assistance Committee, chaired by Brian Davis, deserves to be better known!

There is no obligation involved in joining the Committee. When a Humanist Community member needs assistance, perhaps only a ride somewhere or a shut-in needs a visit, that person can send an e-mail to the Committee's e-mail list (hchelp@yahoogroups.com) or to senahav@gmail.com describing what help is needed, and all of the Committee members who are on the e-mail list will receive that e-mail. Any committee member can then respond to the request for help and offer whatever help they are willing and able to provide.

Starting in March I will be mailing a monthly compilation to all members, Bcc, concealing, of course, member names and e-mail. To have your name added to the committee or to request help, contact Brian Davis at bjdpc@yahoo.com or Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.

Sena Havasy,
Assistance Committee Co-chair

Forums

April 7 Luis Granados on *Damned Good Company*

Luis Granados' book, *Damned Good Company*, is a "profiles in courage" for humanists. In it, he contrasts 20 "heroes," like Erasmus, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Clarence Darrow, and Steve Biko, with 20 "God experts," like Martin Luther, Joseph Smith, and others who have tried to enforce what they've claimed to be God's will.

The stories in *Damned Good Company* will inspire those who want to stand up to the Christian Right, Muslim fanatics, Catholic and Jewish orthodoxy, the rising Hindu extremists, and anyone else who preaches about God while telling the rest of us what to do.

April 14 Martin Squibbs on *Our Phenomenal Human Mind, Core Values, Common Sense, Agreed Truths, Shared Visions, and Getting Real*

Cognitive science, neuroscience, memory investigation and other relatively new fields are finally uncovering the nature and form of the human mind. The mind is the home of self, source of emotion, recorder of past, discoverer of knowledge, imager of future, and builder of civilization - the container, no less, of our entire personal world.

As science uncovers this phenomenon of human consciousness, what practical benefits might these insights offer to humanity -- to better achieve social justice, develop more effective economic systems, and to return, if possible, to a healthy and thriving material balance with the natural environmental balance? What might lead us to become a more civilized, joyful and healthier species on Planet Earth?

April 21 Fred Colgan on *Institutional Stove Solutions (InStove)*

Fred Colgan is the co-founder and Executive Director of Institutional Stove Solutions (InStove), which manufactures innovative cook stoves for people in refugee camps, schools, orphanages, hospitals and clinics in the developing world. The core technology was designed for fuel economy, ease of operation, safety, portability, and reduction of emissions, and is unparalleled in performance. Allied technologies have been developed to deliver alternative fuel briquettes, hospital-grade autoclaves for sterilization, and a soon-to-be-released drinking water purification system.

Fred has been the driving force in establishing InStove's reputation around the world. He is just back from Nigeria, where InStove has started its first production partnership.

April 28 Laura Mappin on *Our Taboo Museum*

HC member Laura Mappin will discuss her website, *Our Taboo Museum*, which transforms taboos through conversation, art, and products. She'll also discuss the experiences in her life that drove her to create this collaborative place of straight talk mixed with humor.

Laura organizes her taboo taxonomy into 14 topics, namely Body, Aging, Death, Skin Color, Sex, Sexual Identity, Reproduction, Rape, Bigotry, Social Norms, Mental Health, Parenting, Money, and Shame.

The events of Laura's own life have fueled her passion to create this museum in order to talk about what holds us back from acting more fully in our own interests. At least, that's the theory. As Laura says, "Difficult discussions are my Prozac. The museum and speaker contact form can be found at <http://ourtaboomuseum.com>.

FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School - Student Center
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto 94301
Sundays 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free and open to the public. Lunch 12:15-2 p.m.; a donation of \$10 is requested.



Editor

Alex Havasy

Production

Hilton Brown, Helen Athey, Marian 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

Harriane Mills

Paul Gilbert

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.

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.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing

GREENLIGHT Earth Day Film Festival and Fashion Show

The GREENLIGHT Earth Day Film Festival is a celebration of Earth Day, featuring film projects that explore environmental citizenship and show how individual actions can reduce our environmental impact. Films featured will be produced by local artists, with an emphasis on student-produced films.

This year, an eco fashion show has been added, featuring student-designed and modeled eco fashions during the show's intermission. The fashion designs will illustrate inspirational ways to repurpose and reuse a variety of items into wearable clothing. Together this will be an exciting event not to be missed.

What: GREENLIGHT Earth Day Film Festival and Fashion Show

Where: Cubberley Theater, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA

When: Thursday, April 18, 2013. Meet at entrance at 6:45 p.m. The show begins at 7:00 p.m.

Admission: Free!

For more information, visit: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/greenlight>

Humanist Community Hiking Group

On Sunday April 21 we will hike amid beautiful redwoods at Haddart Park, near Woodside. Gather at Palo Alto High School at 1:30, after the forum and lunch.

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.

The Family Program

The HC Family Program is designed for children ages 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.

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, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check www.humanists.org.

Academic Video

Brown Home, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.

View an academic video followed by discussion. For more information check www.humanists.org.

Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, any Saturday of the month.
1691 the Alameda, San Jose 8:00 a.m. For information, contact Alex Havasy at havasy@live.com.

Women's Coffee

10:00 a.m. on the fourth Saturday, April 27th, Dinah's Poolside Restaurant again, as usual. We will discuss a topic.

Potluck

The potluck on Saturday, April 13, will be a special treat at the home of Marion Bers. The family of son Robert are Cambodian and always prepare wonderful exotic dishes as well as mountains of fruit. For the more timid among us there will be the always wonderful potluck dishes contributed by the rest of us. It will be at 6:00 PM in San Jose. Car-pooling is suggested.

Marion is one of our special friends for whom our visits are a welcome event. In addition, we will be giving a neighborly welcome to them in their new home, settled in since last they hosted us. We hope for a good supportive turn-out for Marion.

Contact Robert at robert_bers@hotmail.com for additional details.

UU Humanist Roots

Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Ways to Grow Ourselves

There is no presenter for this topic since we all have some experience with it.

Our meetings usually have 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice: salad, vegetarian, dish with meat, or dessert. We usually meet on the first Saturday of every month.

When: Saturday, April 6th at 6 pm (presentation at 7).

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto
Direction to UUCPA:

<http://uucpa.org/main/location.html>

More: <http://www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/>

Bay Area Russell Society (BARS)

Join us on April 23 at the Thai Pepper Restaurant, 103 East Fremont, Sunnyvale, 7:00 p.m., to continue with our new book by Russell entitled *The Conquest of Happiness*. According to the *Atlantic Monthly*, this small volume, first published in 1930, offers the reader "a primer of self-regeneration." We hope that our discussions of these writings will prove informative, interesting, and perhaps life-changing, in making us happier than before.

For more details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219



American Humanist Association Annual Conference

The Humanist Community is a chapter of the American Humanist Association. See www.americanhumanist.org.

The American Humanist Association's 72nd Annual Conference will be held at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California, on May 30 through June 2, 2013. Check details at conference.americanhumanist.org.

Register before April 26 to receive the special conference hotel rate.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	4 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	5	6 6:00 p.m. UU Humanist Roots
7 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	8	9	10 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	11 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	12	13 6:00 p.m. Potluck
14 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	15	16	17 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	18 8:00 p.m. Academic Video 3:00 p.m. Welcoming Committee 6:45 p.m. Fun Group	19	20
21 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	22	23	24 7:30 p.m. Free Thought Discussion	25 8:00 p.m. Academic Video	26	27 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee
28 10:30 a.m. Family Program 11:00 a.m. Forum	29 7:30 Board meeting	30				

Humanist Community

P.O. Box 60069

Palo Alto, CA 94306-0069

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

