

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 6

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

June 2013

www.humanists.org

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Andrea Dorey
Paul Gilbert
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June Forums

June 2 How Would You Define Humanism?

Join us as HC member Sandy Smith leads a discussion comparing several definitions of Humanism taken from our own Humanist Community and from AHA publications. The goal is to help you decide what is important to *you* about Humanism, and give you some insight into what is important to other Humanists.

June 9 Islamophobia 101

As the Executive Director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, San Francisco Bay Area chapter, Zahra Billoo strives to promote justice and understanding at local and national levels and to empower the community, while building bridges with allies on key civil rights issues. She is a 2010 recipient of the San Francisco Minority Bar Coalition's Unity Award and a 2011 recipient of the South Asian Bar Association of Northern California's Public Interest Attorney of the Year Award.

This session will enable participants to better understand anti-Muslim attitudes, frequently referred to as Islamophobia. Zahra Billoo will highlight challenges facing American Muslims in recent years, as well as various factors -including government policies and the media- that contribute to the targeting of Muslims and other minorities.

June 16 Science Is the New Bible

Thousands of years ago people wanted to understand the universe, how humanity was created, and the meaning of our lives. But back then they didn't have a lot to work with, so people created stories and eventually those stories became religion.

Now that we have advanced to where we are today, we find ourselves still wanting to understand the universe, how humanity was created, and the meaning of our lives. We are now doing that through science, which is the way we determine what reality really is. Science is now the new Bible. Or more accurately, the Bible is an older version of science.

Come hear HC member and Church of Reality founder Marc Perkel share his thoughts on a secular scientific meaning of life and the purpose of humanity in the universe.

June 23 A Humanist Celebrant Visiting Patients in Hospital

After two angina attacks during the spring of 2011, Bill Rausch had an angioplasty. He was discharged the next day, and subsequently enrolled in Washington Hospital's Cardiac Rehabilitation program, where he exercised under the supervision of a medical team.

His quick recovery so impressed the program's head nurse that she invited him to become a Mended Hearts Visitor. As such, he visits patients who have had angioplasties, and assures them that there *is* life after the procedure. As an 81-year-old man who patrols the trails of the East Bay Regional Parks District, he's a good example for these patients.

Bill has included public service in most of his adult life, and considers his connection to Humanism a part of his continued service to his fellow human beings.

June 30 Obama and the War on Terror: Did the President's National Security Speech Really Change Anything?

President Barack Obama's May 23 policy speech on the so-called war on terror was a call for change. It was clear that Obama was responding to tremendous public pressure to end the policies of his predecessor. How far does his new policy go toward ending the perpetual war, and what might the new national security program look like? Pau George will dig into the President's address to find out whether our endless war might actually be ending.

Paul George has been a grassroots human rights activist and organizer for over 40 years. He is the director of Peninsula Peace and Justice Center and a frequent public speaker on a range of topics. He is renowned for his sharp analyses and clear explanations of complex national policies.

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, Sena Havasy

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

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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 408-620-4278.

· If you need to talk to someone about a problem you're having, call Arthur Jackson at 408-620-4278.

· 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.

Our New Board

We are lucky to have an exceptional Board this year! It includes two former Executive Directors, two recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards, four former Humanist Presidents, three Humanists of the Year, one member of the Family Program (a first!), and two members new to Humanism.

In addition they are all members of our national organization, the American Humanist Association, of which we are a chapter. A true star lineup, experienced and committed to Humanism, growth, and a better world!

Sena Havasy

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing

New Home of the Peninsula Museum of Art

Formerly located in its "starter home" in Belmont, the Peninsula Museum of Art has moved to a more spacious home in Burlingame. Along with the museum, its store, and its four galleries, the nearby newly formed Peninsula Art Institute has a gallery as well.

The opening exhibitions include works in bronze and recycled metals by Lori Kay and serigraphs by Joe Price. Kay was an early Artist in Residence with Recology. Price is now retired from the College of San Mateo art faculty and is famous for creating serigraphs using an average of 70 screens (and as many, in one instance, as 106!).

What: Peninsula Museum of Art

Where: 1777 California Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010. Meet at main entrance.

When: Saturday, June 1, 11:00 a.m.

Admission: Free!

For more information visit www.peninsulamuseum.org or call (650) 692-2133.

Humanist Community Hiking Group

Watch the website for information about a June hike.

Potluck

The June potluck will be at the beautiful home of Carlos and Jacqueline Feder in Palo Alto. It will be at 6:00 PM Saturday, the 15th of June. Contact the Feders at caline@earthlink.net for additional details.

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 joining the Welcoming Committee, please contact Dianne Jacobsen, Committee Chair, (diannej750@yahoo.com) or Sena Havasy (senahav@gmail.com) or any one of us at Forum on Sunday.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee arranges potlucks and seasonal celebrations including the annual spring dinner honoring the new board. At the Sunday Forum it prepares the Membership Table, the lectern flowers and the table decorations. It keeps Membership and Events Photo Albums and provides photographs. It creates name buttons. It provides directories and contacts members to update information. Birthday cards are sent electronically. Sandy Smith's Sunshine subcommittee sends paper cards.

Feedback and volunteers are always needed. Please contact me at senahav@gmail.com: or 408-462-2156.

Sena Havasy,
Membership chair

The Family Program

The HC Family Program is designed for children ages 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. The parents supervise the program. 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.
For more information call 650-257-0478.

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

Home of Hilton Brown, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check www.humanists.org.

Academic Video

Home of Hilton Brown, 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, June 22nd, Dinah's Poolside Restaurant again, as usual. We will discuss possible new groups.

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

UU Humanist Roots Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Bob Gaunt will lead a discussion on non-violence and law enforcement.

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, June 1st 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 at the Thai Pepper Restaurant, 103 East Fremont, Sunnyvale, on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing chapter 13 of "The Conquest of Happiness: The family." We hope that our discussions will prove informative, interesting, and perhaps life changing, in making us happier than before.

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

Bay Area Skeptics

[Skeptical](http://www.skeptical.org) 2013 will be held on **Saturday, June 15, 2013** at the Berkeley Marina Doubletree Hotel. See www.baskeptics.org/ for details.

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

See their website: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org for details.

For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to our website, www.humanists.org, click on ABOUT near the top of the page and on Associated Organizations on the drop-down menu.

JUNE 2013

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

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