

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 10

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

October 2013

www.humanists.org

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Photo by Sena Havasy

October Forums

October 6 John Rawls and Humanism

Martin Carceri will discuss the basic method and principles of political theorist, John Rawls.

John Rawls is the most influential Anglo-American political theorist of the past three centuries. In bestowing the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Rawls in 1999, Bill Clinton noted that he had put our liberties on a brilliant new foundation. That foundation is a refined version of the social contract. It provides an objective but workable basis for politics and ethics.

Martin Carceri is an Associate Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University, where he teaches courses and seminars on Constitutional Law and Political Theory. He holds a J.D. and Ph.D. from the University of California, and has published twenty-five journal articles and has written chapters for books by other authors.

October 13 Rational Intelligence: Designing Satisfying Relationships

Human beings are social animals who live in systems of relationships with nature, other people, and objects.

In this talk Manuel Manga will focus on 5 key relationships for human beings and also focus on the role of language and conversation in creating and maintaining effective relationships.

He will also look into the systemic relationship between emotions and conversations, and the emotion of love as the foundation to human relations.

Manuel is the director of the Center for Evolutionary Leadership, which develops leaders for building a just, flourishing, and sustainable world. He is also a leadership coach and organizational consultant.

October 20 Reality and Our Memories of It – A theory of Memory and Mind

Martin Squibbs has introduced his theory regarding the form and

nature of our minds and ourselves in previous talks. In this talk he will focus on and clarify it. At its core, the theory proposes that our brains not only hold memories of our past, our knowledge, and our future; they actually form these memories. In fact, it proposes that the brain is the only place in reality where such memories are formed and exist, and we, ourselves, exist and live within our brain surrounded by this "world" of memories. He will consider the processes by which we form these and other types of memory, and what methods we employ for storing and sharing them. Finally, he will consider some of the scientific and ethical implications of this theory. How does it help us to live more ethically, more truthfully, more joyfully, and with greater integrity?

Martin is on the Board of, and a long-time member of, the Humanist Community. He is a graduate of Imperial College in London England and has a passionate interest in the workings of the human mind.

October 27 Taboos and Oppression

In this presentation, Laura Mappin will discuss her taxonomy of taboos and how she sees taboo subjects relating to each other. She will also discuss how she believes our increased ease with discussing these subjects helps create healthier societies.

The argument to be presented is a work in progress. Your questions and thoughts are welcome.

Laura Mappin has a BS degrees in Computer Science and Math from the University of Pittsburgh. This presentation is the culmination of personal conundrums and ideas that have been percolating in her mind for decades.

For more information on this talk or to contact Laura, go to: <http://ourtaboomuseum.com/hcsv2>

FORUM INFORMATION

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



Editor

Alex Havasy

Production

Hilton Brown, Helen Athey, Marian Sanders,
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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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email 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
reach them through Sena Havasy at
senahav@gmail.com.

Happy Halloween

Each of the children in the picture on the front page of the newsletter has chosen a figure from the Greek or Roman pantheon and made a mask that is an interpretation of that legendary figure.

Halloween, the festival of Samhain (pronounced Sah-ween), was the biggest and most significant holiday of the Celtic year. It marked the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that at the time of Samhain the ghosts of the dead were able to mingle with the living, because on that day the souls of those who had died during the year traveled into the other world. People offered fruits and vegetables to the dead and sacrificed animals. They lit fires to aid them on their journey, and to keep them away from the living. Our jack-o-lanterns are such traveling fires.

As a result of their efforts to wipe out "pagan" holidays, such as Samhain, the Christians succeeded in effecting major transformations in it. In 601 A.D. Pope Gregory the First issued a now famous edict to his missionaries concerning the native beliefs and customs of the peoples he hoped to convert. Rather than try to obliterate native peoples' customs and beliefs, the pope instructed his missionaries to use them: if a group of people worshiped a tree, rather than cut it down, he advised them to consecrate it to Christ and allow its continued worship.

Masks and costumes are among the many customs that have accrued to the day. It is a time to expand our view of ourselves and of the world on this most popular holiday, second only to Christmas.

Sena Havasy, based on Jack Santino from About.com, via
<http://inventors.about.com/od/sstartinventions/a/Samhain.htm>

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing

"G&M Farms Cornfield Maze

It twists, it turns, it dead-ends – it's six green acres of good old-fashioned family fun!

It's the G & M Farms Cornfield Maze and Pumpkin Patch in Livermore, the farm that is so fun it has been featured TWICE on the David Letterman Show!

Find your way through the maze, then enjoy G&M Farms' huge Pumpkin Patch with pumpkins of all sizes – the kids can pick their own! For adults, there are fresh produce, decorative gourds, and Indian corn. Your little ones will love G&M's farm animals and the free straw bale maze and corn box.

Where: G&M Farms, 487 East Airway Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94551
Meet at the maze entrance

When: Saturday, October 5, 2013, at 10:00 AM

Cost: Adults \$10.00; Children \$9.00, 5 and under FREE

For more information, visit <http://www.gmfarms.com/> or call (925) 447-3276

Humanist Community Hiking Group

For information on the October hike, contact Bill Rausch at 510-299-0147.

Humanist Samhain/Halloween Potluck

The annual Humanist Samhain party will be held at the home of Pamela Erwin in San Jose. Pamela is a wonderful cook and with the dishes we bring to share it will be a sumptuous feast!

Costumes are the order of the day! RSVP appreciated. Contact Pamela at:
leddenpamela@yahoo.com.

When: Saturday, October 26, 6:00 PM

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

If you are interested in attending, hosting a Coffee & Dessert, or joining the Welcoming Committee, please contact Dianne Jacobsen, Committee Chair, (diannej750@gmail.com) or Sena Havasy (senahav@gmail.com).

When: October 17 (3rd Thursday) at 3:00 PM

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. Sandy Smith's Sunshine subcommittee sends paper cards.

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

Sena Havasy,
Committee 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.

Where: Science Resource Building of Palo Alto High School, Room 1732

When: Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon

The Sharing Circle

One of several groups that meet prior to the Forum each Sunday, where attendees may share personal feelings or experiences, in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

Where: Palo Alto High School Student Center

When: Sundays, 10:30 AM

Free Thought Discussion

Home of Hilton Brown, Wednesday, 7:30 PM.

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

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Wednesday, 7:30 PM.

Academic Video

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

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Thursday, 8:00 PM

Philosophy Talk Podcasts

Listen to and discuss award winning Philosophy Talk podcasts.

Where: Palo Alto High School

When: Sunday, October 6, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Sign up and get more details at:

www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity/events/dbhrngyrnbjb

History Book Group

The new History Book Group encompasses both history and historical fiction. We are currently reading about World War I in *Daughters of Mars* by Thomas Kenneally who wrote *Schindler's List*. It follows 2 sisters who became military nurses and it is based on the diaries of actual nurses from that war.

Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com.

Where: Kimm's Flowers: 251 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
650-949-1915

When: Wednesday, October 23, at 2:00 PM

Clinic Defense

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

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

Richard Dawkins at Kepler's

Richard Dawkins will be speaking about his new book *An Appetite for Wonder: The Making of a Scientist*.

Where: Kepler's in Menlo Park

When: Saturday, October 5, at 7:30

Cost: \$40 – Preferred Seating

(Includes a copy of *An Appetite for Wonder*)

\$20 – General Seating

UU Humanist Roots Potluck and Discussion

Our meetings usually have 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice. Check the website below for the presentation topic.

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

When: Saturday, October 5 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: <http://uucpa.org/main/location.html>

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss chapter 16 of "The Conquest of Happiness: Effort and Resignation."

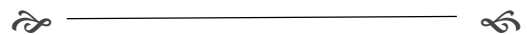
For more details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219

Where: Thai Pepper Restaurant, 103 East Fremont, Sunnyvale

When: October 15 at 7:00 PM

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

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



For more information on these and other groups of interest to Humanists go to:

www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	3 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	4	5 <u>10:00 AM</u> Fun Group <u>6:00 PM</u> UU Humanist Roots
6 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	7	8	9 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	10 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	11	12
13 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	14 <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	15	16 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	17 <u>3:00 PM</u> Welcoming Committee <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	18	19
20 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	21	22	23 <u>2:00 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	24 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	25	26 <u>6:00 PM</u> Potluck
27 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	28	29	30 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	31 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video		

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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