

The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

Our Values - Freedom, compassion, fairness, and scientific knowledge **in Silicon Valley**
Our Vision - A human population leading ethical and personally fulfilling lives that contribute to the good of humanity.
Our Mission - To support the social and intellectual needs of our members and to live by and our values and vision.



Volume 19 Issue 12

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

December 2013

www.humanists.org

650-964-7576

infohesv@yahoo.com



December Forums

December 1 Poetry

Do you have a favorite poem, one that you've read or maybe even written yourself? Please share it with other Humanists at our fifth Annual Poetry Forum. We are taking sign-ups at the greeters table. For more information contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.

December 8 Free Will

Humanist Community member Dan Miller will discuss the conundrum of free will, with a focus on two opposing viewpoints put forward by two of our most distinguished freethinkers, Daniel Dennett and Sam Harris. Is free will just another ghostly goblin of magical thinking? Or is it something we can define and observe critically, and put on a sound, logical, scientific basis? How we define and explain (or explain away) free will can have a profound effect on our world view, politics, and the way we perceive and value the world around us.

December 15 Feeling Stuck? Shake it Up!

Do you long for a more creative, meaningful life? Although 87% of us believe that unleashing creativity is important to our personal and professional lives, only one in four people think they're creative. This fun and inspiring talk discusses breakthroughs in psychology, art, science, and business to help you shake up your self-limiting beliefs and spark creativity in all aspects of your life.

Dr. Michelle Chappel has a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton, was formerly a professor of psychology at U.C. Santa Cruz, and is an internationally acclaimed musician, businesswoman and keynote speaker who inspires us to be more creative in work, school and life.

December 22 Human Nature: Genetic Propensities and Symbolic Language

Drawing from his 2011 book, *How to Live the Good Life: A User's Guide for Modern Humans*, author Arthur Jackson will discuss "human nature." From his perspective the evolutionary history of humanity and the importance of human language in understanding why people do what they do is considered seminal.

Jackson is a long-time Humanist activist and leader who served as Assistant Director of the American Humanist Association (1965-69), and has been a key member and leader of the Humanist Community for many decades.

December 29 Invisible Children

Invisible Children (www.invisiblechildren.com) is an organization dedicated to ending, and helping people recover from, the extreme damage caused by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, which has operated in Uganda and neighboring countries since 1986. Kony has been accused by government entities of ordering the abduction of children to become child-sex slaves and child soldiers (an estimated 66,000 children became soldiers). He was indicted for war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court in 2005, but has evaded capture.

Annie Ashmore, a freshman in college who led her high school's Invisible Children group for several years, will discuss the inspiring work of the many young people who volunteer for the Invisible Children group.

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.

Humanist Community serving Silicon Valley

Volume 19, Issue 12
December 2013



Editor

Alex Havasy

Production

Hilton Brown, Helen Athey, Marian Sanders,
Carl Angotti, Sena Havasy, Brian Davis
Cover photo by 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

Arthur Jackson, President
Martin Squibbs, Vice President
Helen Athey, Recorder
Midge Dorn, Treasurer
Andrea Dorey
Harrienne Mills
Hilton Brown
Paul Gilbert
Peng Zhang

To contact the Board

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.

Upcoming Humanist Board Election

The election of members to serve on the Humanist Community Board of Directors will occur immediately before the Forum on Sunday February second. In order to vote, one must be a member of the Humanist Community so we need your membership renewal before then.

Board members up for reelection who would like to remain on the Board are Hilton Brown and Martin Squibbs. In addition three excellent candidates have been added to the slate:

Dominic Borg is young and knowledgeable and is active in the new London based Sunday Assembly in San Jose,

John Figdor is a Humanist Chaplin and was previously the Humanist Chaplin at Harvard,

Laura Mappin has put HCSV on Meet-up and Twitter, expanding our web presence and has been active in many other ways.

Presently we have five openings and five excellent candidates.

Before December 29th, names may be submitted by a petition of 15 members of the community.

We want to thank those who are leaving the board after serving the Humanist Community so well during the last term. Thank you, Helen Athey, Paul Gilbert and Peng Zhang.

Welcome Back the Sun at a Festive Buffet Potluck

A Celebration as You Like It! Winter Solstice/Human Light/ Hanukkah/ Kwanza /Christmas. Let us add the name of your celebration!

For information and to report your dish contact the Celebrations Committee at senahav@gmail.com or 408-462-2156

When: Saturday Dec 21 6:00 PM

Our Tree at Christmas in the Park

Each year in December, Plaza De Cesar Chavez in San Jose is transformed into a holiday fantasy with daily entertainment, 60 musical and animated exhibits, glittering lights and the 60-foot Community Giving Tree.

The Humanist Community decorates a Humanist Tree there including ornaments composed of pictures of famous Humanists. Many people stop and marvel that these people are humanists!

Stop by and visit our tree. The information booth will have the tree number and can direct you.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group Outing Soap-Making

Get an early start on the holiday season by making a personal gift for yourself or someone else.

Opal'z provides a drop-in make-your-own-soap counter allowing you to choose from a variety of molds, fragrances, and colors.

NOTE: For this event, you'll have to call 650-322-6500 to make a reservation for yourself and whomever you're bringing.

Where: 897 Independence Avenue. Building 3, Suite C, Mountain View

When: Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 AM

Cost: Depends on size of mold, color base, and fragrances chosen.

For more information, visit www.opalzoap.com or call (650) 322-6500

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: December 19 (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

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Wednesday, 7:30 PM (no meeting December 25)

Academic Video

View an academic video followed by discussion. For more information check www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Thursday, 8:00 PM (no meeting December 26)

Philosophy Talk Podcasts

Listen to and discuss award winning Philosophy Talk podcasts.

Where: Palo Alto High School

When: Sunday, December 1, 15, and 29, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Sign up and get more details at:

www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity/events/dbhrngyrnbjb

History Book Group

Our Book for December is *Damned Good Company: Twenty Rebels who Bucked the God Experts*, by Luis Granados. For more information contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.

Where: Kimm's Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

When: Wednesday, December 18, 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.

Humanist Community Hiking Group

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

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

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, December 7 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)
Direction to UUCPA: uucpa.org/main/location.html

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

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

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

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/

Humanist Charities

The American Humanist Association is working through Humanist Charities with the Philippine Atheists & Agnostics Society (PATAS) to raise funds that will be used to bring food and potable drinking water to victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Go to <http://humanistscharities.org/disaster/Philippine-typhoon-relief-fund-donate-now/> to contribute to the relief.

To see other causes that American humanists contribute to go to humanistscharities.org/.

DECEMBER 2013

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

Humanist Community
 P.O. Box 60069
 Palo Alto, CA 94306-006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Humanist Community P.O. Box 60069 Palo Alto,
--