

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 our values and vision.



Volume 20 Issue 2

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

February 2014

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February Forums

February 2 Improve Your Argument's Impact

(Note: HCSV Board elections will occur on this date before this Forum begins.)

Each of us has probably taken part in a number of persuasive arguments that only resulted in hurt feelings and disturbed relationships, but no further understanding or learning on anyone's part. We have also probably found ourselves on both sides of those failed arguments. How can we do better?

In this forum, Humanist Community member Laura Mappin will take a look at several scholars' views on this subject and then facilitate a group discussion on this topic. Audience members will consider real life argument examples provided by attendees and crowd-source possible responses. (This Forum will not be videotaped to allow for a freer discussion.)

February 9 'iCrea8' 3D World for Me and Everyone

Dr. Masuma Ahmed will introduce the 3D computer world by unfolding the story behind 3D design creation. She will discuss the coming 3D revolution, and how it is changing the paradigms of education, manufacturing, entertainment, and archeology with a host of other disciplines and practices to come. Dr. Ahmed has a Ph.D. in Physics from Yale, was a Senior Director involved with the mobile initiative at Comcast, and had been involved with the Humanist Community for many years. She is currently working with 'iCrea8', her venture, which has taken 3D innovations one step closer, using patent-pending technologies, to a point where everyone—even the average Jane and Joe—will be able to enjoy 3D design creations

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.

February 16 Darwin Day Celebration

The "International Darwin Day Celebration" (see <http://darwinday.org>) originated within our very own, Humanist Community of Silicon Valley, in 1993! Longtime Humanist Community members and leaders Arthur Jackson and Bob Stephens will review the past accomplishments of this initiative and talk about what is being planned to make "Darwin Day" (Darwin's birthday, February 12th) a permanent annual celebration from this year onward. The Secular Student Alliance (SSA) is printing an updated version of a promotional booklet written by Bob Stephens which will be distributed to the 400+ SSA College Student chapters, all of the members of Congress, and Feb. 9th HC Forum attendees, so they will be ready to discuss it a week later at this Forum on Feb. 16th.

February 23 Happiness and Meaning in One

When bright individuals learn to overcome psychological blocks, creating happiness and meaning in their lives usually follows. In one simple lesson, Dr. Edelstein will show you how to achieve the former and offer useful principles for proceeding to the latter. REBT (Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy), devised by Dr. Albert Ellis, forms the basis by which these objectives can be met. REBT is based on the principle that disturbed emotions are caused by irrational beliefs. It teaches individuals how to change their thinking and change their lives. Dr. Michael R. Edelstein is a clinical psychologist with an in-person and phone/Skype therapy practice in San Francisco. He is the author of four books, including the award winning *Three Minute Therapy* (see www.ThreeMinuteTherapy.com).

Correction: the cover picture in the January issue was assembled and edited, but only partially photographed, by Sena Havasy. Others from online sources.

*Humanist Community
serving Silicon Valley*

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Alex Havasy

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to
svhumanists@gmail.com. The length of your
submission should not exceed 100 words and
may be edited for clarity.

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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@yahoo.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.



Four Amazing Individuals

There must be some elixir in the air of February to produce four such amazing individuals as those on our front page.

George Washington, born February 22, 1732, 'Father of his Country', not only led his rag tag army to victory in the Revolution which founded our country, but amazed the world by voluntarily giving up his role as president when he could have been king for life, saving us from kings forever.

Of Thomas Paine, born 1737, John Adams said that, without his pen, 'Washington would have raised his sword in vain'. The '*Common Sense*' that he dispensed convinced a majority of the wavering colonist that independence from England would be a good thing. *The Rights of Man* and other amazing works are as fresh today as when he penned them two hundred and more years ago.

Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809, is known and admired throughout the world. He held the nation together at great cost as a selfless leader and gifted political strategist. His martyr's death at the moment of victory both added to his legendary status and prevented the fulfillment of his dream of a magnanimous reintegration of the nation and a peaceful future for the ex-slaves.

Charles Darwin was also born February 12, 1809. His brilliant mind and exemplary field work reinterpreted everything known about natural history, replacing heretofore unquestioned explanations of the origin and history of the world. He is a hero to all who value truth over ignorance.

We honor and are thankful for these remarkable individuals arising at key moments through an endless number of possibilities.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group

73rd Camellia Flower Show

Co-sponsored by the Camellia Society of Santa Clara County and the City of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation Department, this is one of the largest Camellia shows in California!

Come see nearly 3,000 Camellia blooms exhibited with entry blossoms from all over Northern California, including blossoms from 75 major exhibitors. Blossoms range from tiny miniature blooms to dinner plate-size reticulated camellias to fit any size of garden or patio. You are welcome to take photos.

In addition, the show will have: Camellia plants for sale, educational lectures, and information.

For information, camelliasociety.com/camellia-show.html.

Where: Santa Clara Community Recreation Center in Central Park at 969 Kiely Blvd. (between Benton and Homestead), Santa Clara, CA. Meet at the main entrance.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 2:30 PM

Cost: Free

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 Sena Havasy (senahav@gmail.com).

When: February 20 (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: most Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon, call 650-257-0478 to confirm the upcoming meeting

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

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

Philosophy Talk Podcasts

Listen to and discuss award-winning podcasts from PhilosophyTalk.org.

Where: Palo Alto High School

When: Sunday, February 9 and 23, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Sign up and get more details at:

www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity/events/dbhrngyrnbjb

History Book Group

We are reading *Damn Good Company* by Luis Granados published by the Humanist Press. 20 stories of heroes around the world who stood up against the power of the God experts of their time.

We are reading Darrow vs Bryan, Nasser vs Ben-Gurion and Julius vs Augustine.

Julian vs Augustine is the best and wittiest historical prospective of the origin and results of Christianity I have ever read.

For more information contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.

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

When: Wednesday, January 12, at 2:30 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 February hike, contact Bill Rausch at 510-299-0147.

Potluck

The February potluck will be at the home of Joyce Sogg in Los Gatos. Joyce's house is a mix of impressive wood construction and artistic whimsical objects. It will be at 6:00 PM Saturday, the 15th. Contact Joyce at Joycelawyer@verizon.net for directions. It is a little tricky to find. Joyce will e-mail directions on request.

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

Humanists at UUCPA 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, February 1 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: uucpa.org/main/location.html

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

See their website: 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/

FEBRUARY 2014

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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