

The Newsletter of the  
**Humanist Community**

Our values - freedom, fairness and compassion, health and happiness, and using science and reason to acquire and apply knowledge. **in Silicon Valley**



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Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor

## July Forums

### July 6 The 2014 American Humanist Association Conference and a Discussion of Our Group's Future

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley (HCSV) members who attended the 73rd Annual Conference of the American Humanist Association in Philadelphia, Pa, from June 5 to June 8 will report their experiences and reactions to the dynamic and expanding activities of the national Humanist organization of which HCSV is a proud chapter. The future of HCSV will also be a topic for this Forum. Please join us to offer your hopes and dreams for HCSV.

### July 13 Dark Deception

Lawrence Pratt will discuss his recent novel *Dark Deception*, which deals with the struggle of the individual against "tribal" pressures to conform and obey when the individual mind wants to choose another path. *Dark Deception* is a fictional adaptation of the events that led the author and his wife from dedicated members of an authoritarian faith to complete atheism, and could easily be subtitled "How Religion Turned Us to Atheism".

### July 20 The Mondragon Cooperatives

With 120 worker-owned cooperatives developed over nearly six decades, the Mondragon Cooperatives in the Basque region of Northern Spain offer perhaps the most shining example on planet earth of institutions that are democratic, egalitarian, cooperative, sustainable, and kind. With no laid-off workers since 1956 and higher income than Spanish workers, what lessons can we learn from the largest worker-owned cooperatives in the Western World? Richard Hobbs is an immigration attorney, former director of the Office of Human Relations of Santa Clara County, and Executive Director of Human Agenda. He will join us to discuss Mondragon only days after returning from his latest visit there.

### July 27 Why Reality Needs a Religion (and Why Atheism Isn't Good Enough)

Marc Perkel, founder of the Church of Reality, explains why Reality needs a religion and why Atheism isn't good enough. In a perfect world Atheism becomes totally meaningless. No one cares what you don't believe in, they care about what you do believe in. And what should you believe in? Reality!

Atheism needs Reality because without Reality there would be no place for God not to be real in. Realism is the science of understanding who we are, what our purpose is, and how we can live our lives in Right Relationship to Reality so that Reality doesn't excommunicate us from existence.

So - Atheists - it's time to put down your Bibles, quit talking about God, and start focusing on what is real rather than what isn't real. If you know everything about nothing then you know nothing about everything.

#### 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 20, Issue 7, July 2014

[www.humanists.org](http://www.humanists.org)

Visit our facebook page:

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to [havasy@live.com](mailto:havasy@live.com) with "Letter to Editor" in the subject line. The length should not exceed 100 words and may be edited for clarity.

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### Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the Humanist Community.

### Visit our Facebook:

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley. We welcome people to post ideas and information of interest to members of the Humanist Community.

## HELP

Do you need some help?

· For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at [Arthur@arthurmjackson.com](mailto:Arthur@arthurmjackson.com) or call 408-620-4278.

· If you need to talk to someone about a problem, 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](mailto: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](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).



## Congratulations Frank Friedlander

Humanist Community member and former HCSV Board member, Frank Friedlander was published in *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism*, a scholarly review journal of the American Humanist Association and the Institute for Humanist Studies. The essay is *Emotions and Rationality as a Basis for Humanism: Can Humanism Encompass Both Intellect and Spirit?*

## July AHA Conference

The Conference of the AHA, 'the Mother Ship', of which our Humanist Community in Silicon Valley is a chapter, was, as always, exciting, informative and inspiring. Every time slot had a choice of three workshops or speakers. There were reports on how the AHA works for Humanism through publications, the Appignani Legal Center, Humanist Charities, Kochhar Education Center, and much more.

Rep. Barney Frank was Humanist of the Year and Dr. Eugenie Scott received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Professor Max Tegmark was the keynote speaker. He is also a very funny man. His wonderful take on 'glass half empty or half full' was to go into raptures about the very presence of water with all its wonderful properties.

Strongly recommended: *A Call to Action, Women, Religion, Violence and Power*, President Carter's latest book.

-SH

## Comment on the Secular Coalition Lobby Day

The Secular Coalition of America's lobby day, held last month, drew 5 speakers from congress: opening remarks from Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ), keynote address from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and remarks from Congressman Robert Scott (D-VA), Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA). These lawmakers showed a public acceptance of secular Americans for their colleagues, and deserve our thanks.

## SecularActivism.org Online Courses

SecularActivism.org is a project of Partners for Secular Activism. Its mission is to facilitate education about secular, scientific, and civic issues and activities for the public. Courses are online and open to anyone.

Courses are typically 1 month long, and cost \$59, with half the fee going to the presenter and half the fee going to [secularactivism.org](http://secularactivism.org). They can be watched at the student's convenience, although the presenter is available during the month to address students' questions.

HCSV is investigating being able to offer course discounts for our members - watch out for future announcements.

Some of the upcoming classes are below. For more go to [secularactivism.org](http://secularactivism.org).

- Artificial Super-Intelligence and the Coming Technological Singularity
- Thinking Like a Historian: Historical Methods, Practice and Theory
- The Science and Philosophy of Free Will
- Sexual and Gender Diversity

## Do You Homeschool?

The following has been suggested as a great homeschooling site for secular families: [www.secularhomeschool.com/content/](http://www.secularhomeschool.com/content/).

# Calendar of Events

## The Family Program

The HC Family Program is for children ages 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. Parents supervise the program. Participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects. When the program is on site, they join the community for lunch at the end of each meeting.

**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

Before the Forum each Sunday. 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

## Membership Committee

We arrange potlucks and seasonal celebrations, including the annual Spring dinner honoring the new Board. At the Sunday Forum we prepare the Greeter's table, the lectern flowers, and the table decorations. Sandy Smith's Sunshine Committee sends paper cards.

If you are interested, contact Sena Havasy, Committee Chair, at ([senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com)) or 408-462-2156.

## History Book Group

This month we finish *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Contact Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) for more information.

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

**When:** Wednesday, June 11, 2:30 PM

## HCSV Potluck

For our July potluck we will actually meet on June 28 to watch the 4th of July fireworks at Stanford Stadium and have a Humanist potluck/picnic. The San Jose Earthquakes soccer team are playing at Stanford, and they will provide the fireworks after the game which starts at 7:30.

Parking for the Stanford Stadium is at 625 Nelson Rd. at Galvez and El Camino. Follow the little road from the parking lot through the crowd until you come to the plaza with benches on your left.

For information contact Sena Havasy at [408-739-5638](tel:408-739-5638) or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

**Where:** Stanford Campus

**When:** Saturday, June 28, 8:30 PM

## Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check [www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/](http://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/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/).

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Thursday, 8:00 PM

## Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, most Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at [havasy@live.com](mailto:havasy@live.com).

## Fun Group

### Containers of Community

For Containers of Community, veteran and ceramic artist Ehren Tool creates a new body of work that honors local veterans and highlights their shared experience. Tool will work at the Palo Alto Art Center, creating thousands of ceramic cups (awareness art) using imagery and objects collected from community members. These are visually compelling ceramic objects that address the experience of war.

Call 650-329-2366 for more information or go to:

[www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter/default.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/artcenter/default.asp)

**Where:** Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road,

Palo Alto, CA 94303.

**When:** Saturday, July 19 at 10:00 AM, Meet at main entrance

**Cost:** Free

## Humanist Community Hiking Group

Greg Alexander facilitates hikes. There is a sign-up sheet at the greeter's table or contact Greg at [greg.alexander@me.com](mailto:greg.alexander@me.com).

## Other Events of Interest to Humanists

### Humanists at UUCPA

#### Potluck and Discussion

Dennis Ricks will present the topic: Big Bang and the Ultimate Nature of Truth. Our meetings usually have over 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice.

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto

**When:** Saturday, July 12 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: [uucpa.org/main/location.html](http://uucpa.org/main/location.html)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us on Tuesday, July 8, 7:00 PM at Thai Pepper 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale to discuss "What I Believe" the third essay in the collection of essays in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. This collection, first published in 1957, covers a range of Russell's essays on religion and related subjects. For details see:

[www.meetup.com/philosophy-219](http://www.meetup.com/philosophy-219)

### Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: [www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org](http://www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org)

For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to: [www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/)

# JULY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						June 28 8:30 PM ★ Potluck & Fireworks
June 29	June 30	1	2 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	3 8:00 PM Academic Video	4	5
6 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Group 11:00 AM Forum	7 7:30 PM Board meeting	8	9 2:30 PM History Book Group 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	10 8:00 PM Academic Video	11	12
13 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Group 11:00 AM Forum	14	15	16 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	17 8:00 PM Academic Video	18	19 10:00 AM Fun Group
20 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Group 11:00 AM Forum	21	22	23 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	24 8:00 PM Academic Video	25	26
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