

The Newsletter of the  
**Humanist Community**  
 in Silicon Valley

Our values - freedom, fairness and compassion  
 health and happiness, science and reason to acquire and apply knowledge.



Julie Wedge-Harrienne Mills-Marie Stephens- GerryGras-Marc Perkel-Arthur Jackson  
 Back row: Thomas Bergstrom-Martin Squibbs-Hilton Brown-Dominic Borg  
**HCSV 2015 BOARD** Not present: Midge Dorn

## April Forums

### April 5: Thoughts on Genius

Humanist Community member and Board member Marc Perkel is an exceptionally self-educated person who comes from a below-average family and was raised in a below-average community with poor schools. Yet he has accomplished many things in his life and is generally considered by people who know him as special. Now Marc uses his extraordinary mental power to figure out what makes him different. Was he born that way or was it learned? And if it was learned, can anyone learn it?

### April 12: What Molecular Biology Teaches Us About Being Human

Dr. Peter Schattner is an award-winning scientist, educator and writer with over 30 years of research experience in molecular biology, genetics, medical instrumentation and physics. He will discuss and answer questions about his recent book *Sex, Love and DNA*. His book will show how 21st-century molecular biology is beginning to answer age-old questions about the human experience, such as how we make our choices in sex and love, how we communicate, where our emotions come from, and why we age and die.

For more information see [www.peterschattner.com](http://www.peterschattner.com).

#### 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.

### April 19: Systemic Racism and the #BlackLivesMatter Movement

Mahnani Clay moved to San Francisco four years ago and has planted herself solidly in the communities she strives to serve. She started out volunteering in direct services supporting formerly incarcerated women. She now holds leadership roles with both the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the San Francisco Black Leadership Forum. She is the Director & Founder of Project CHEER (Community Helping Everyone Encourage Restoration), a community engagement project dedicated to strengthening community connections and amplifying voices that cry out for social justice in support of children, families and communities impacted by incarceration and criminal justice involvement.

### April 26: Changing the Conversation on Poverty

Arlette Vargas-Ali, Director of Strategic Partnerships, International Justice Mission, will discuss IJM's global efforts to protect the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors and strengthen justice systems. The largest organization of its kind, IJM combats slavery, sex trafficking, rape, police brutality, property-grabbing and other forms of violence in nearly 20 communities throughout Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrWpmlaW6U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrWpmlaW6U) and [www.IJM.org](http://www.IJM.org) for more information.

*Humanist Community  
serving Silicon Valley*

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**Editors**

Alex Havasy & Julie Wedge

**Production**

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown, Brian Davis, Sena Havasy, Burt Liebert  
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**Letters to the Editor**

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

**Board of Directors**

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**To contact the Board**

email svhumanists@gmail.com

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

**Visit Us on Facebook:**

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

[Do you need 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, 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). You can reach them through Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

•If you would like to discuss projects or ideas for HCSV contact Julie Wedge (916) 751 6401.

**Reclaim the Spring Festival !**

The Vernal Equinox

Honor the rebirth of the slumbering Earth,  
Bursting with new life, She sends forth  
Her promise of future abundance  
From deep in the dark, still earth.

Do not tell us that on this day we must  
Enter into a mind set  
That tells us about birth without sex, dying without death,  
Trinities of power with no feminine, and eternal damnation!

Let every egg and rabbit and flowering tree remind us of  
The green magic of the burgeoning earth, whose festival this is.  
Look upon the greening fields and the flowering orchards,  
Eagerly responding to life's imperative, 'Be fruitful!'

Free all the ancient fertility symbols  
Reclaim the rabbits copulating in the hedgerows!  
Rearing their large broods without thought or knowledge  
That they will give with their bodies, life to wild multitudes.

Reclaim that symbol of nurture and rebirth  
That iconic shape, the perfect egg,  
Growing in strength and power until the time comes  
When it will release another living creature into the earth's tapestry.

And honor the multitudes who came before  
Who lived and died, ignorant of many things  
But who knew that the earth was their ground of being  
And that they owed Her respect and nurturance.

This is our good legacy, the fruitful earth,  
the living animals and plants  
And the drive in all things  
to be fruitful and multiply.

Celebrate it! Honor it!  
Do not abandon all the richness that should be ours  
To those who promulgate bizarre beliefs-

**Reclaim the Spring Festival !**

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**American Humanist Association Annual Conference**

The 74th AHA Annual Conference will be held in Denver Colorado, May 7-10. Go to [conference.americanhumanist.org/](http://conference.americanhumanist.org/) for details on this inspiring and informative event, and for the schedule, the list of awardees, hotel accommodations, and registration forms.

**Marc Perkel Joins HCSV Board**

Marc Perkel has rejoined the Board of the Humanist Community replacing John Figdor, who's term has one year to go. Marc had completed the last month of Laura Mappin's term before the election. He was tied for the slot that went to Tom Bergstrom in the last election.

## Calendar of Events

### Humanist Potluck

Our Eaostre Potluck will be held at the home of Marie Stephens. The weather should let us enjoy her delightful deck. Festive attire encouraged. RSVP appreciated. For details contact [m1ns1@att.net](mailto:m1ns1@att.net) or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com), 408-739-5638.

**Where:** Marie Stephens in Pacifica

**When:** April 18, Saturday, at 3:00 PM

### 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

We are starting 'Souls of Black Folks' by W. B. DuBois. A classic written in 1912, it still speaks to us today. His prose is often lyrically beautiful and always interesting.

For information contact Sena at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) or 408-462-2156.

**Where:** Kimm's Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale  
408 -737-1139

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, April 8, 2:30 PM

### Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, or our present book other weeks. Our discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about not being up to date on the book or the news. Go to: [www.humanists.org/activities/#/freethought-discussion](http://www.humanists.org/activities/#/freethought-discussion) for the present book and reading schedule.

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Wednesdays, 7:30 PM

### Academic Video

View an academic video from [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com), followed by discussion.

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Thursdays, 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).

### Awards Dinner

The Humanist Annual Dinner in honor of the new board will be a private room at the site of last year's memorable event. Awards of Appreciation will be given and the Humanist of the Year, voted on at the Forums, will receive a plaque. Reservations may be made at the Forum on Sunday or by contacting Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com). In order to keep the cost to \$29. , payable beforehand, the community will cover the tax, tip and some sundries.

**Where:** Blue Pheasant restaurant in Palo Alto

**When:** April 21, Tuesday, at 6:30 PM

### Fun Group

#### 10th Greenlight Film Festival

Come celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the Greenlight Film Festival!

The GREENLIGHT Earth Day Film Festival is a celebration of Earth Day, featuring film projects that explore environmental citizenship and show how individual actions can reduce our environmental impact. Films featured will be produced by local artists, with an emphasis on student produced films'

Visit <http://www.midpenmedia.org/greenlight/> for more information.

**Where:** Cubberley Theater, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA.

**When:** Thursday, April 23, 2015.

Meet at entrance at 6:50 PM

The show begins at 7:00 PM

**Cost:** Free,

### Humanist Community Hiking Group

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

## 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. Julie Hsieh will present the topic "The Pitfalls of Capitalism."

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

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

**When:** Saturday, April 4 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "Nice People," the tenth essay in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. See [www.meetup.com/philosophy-219](http://www.meetup.com/philosophy-219) for details.

**Where:** Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

**When:** Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 PM

### 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/).

Humanist Community  
P.O. Box 60069  
Palo Alto, CA 9406-006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Humanist Community P.O. Box 60069 Palo Alto,
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## APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>2</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>9</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>13</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>16</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b> <u>3:00 PM</u> Humanist Potluck 
<b>19</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <u>6:30 PM</u> Awards Dinner 	<b>22</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>23</b> <u>6:50 PM</u> Fun Group <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>30</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video		