August 16: Communicating Collaboratively
Most of us have been frustrated by conversations that didn’t go well. Maybe we struggled to be heard, were misunderstood, or felt offended. Perhaps the other person had a bad experience, and we’re not sure what went wrong. Good communication doesn’t have to be a mystery. We can learn the elements of successful interactions.

Anne Bers, a Collaborative Process Coach and former Director of Mediation and Facilitation Services at the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center in San Mateo, will lead this interactive workshop to help identify barriers that cause others to disengage. We’ll practice concepts in one-on-one exercises and take away practical techniques for satisfying conversations to enhance our relationships and keep people coming back.

August 23: Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret
What single industry is the leading cause of water pollution, water consumption, species extinction, deforestation, ocean dead zones and anthropogenic greenhouse gases? Could it be the food we eat?
Keegan Huhn, filmmaker, videographer, and co-director of the award-winning documentary Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret (www.cowspiracy.com), will discuss the environmental impacts of raising animals for food and why some of the nation’s leading environmental organizations are failing to address the devastation that animal agriculture causes.

August 30: Among the Ethnic Minorities in Southwest China
After the destructive period of Mao’s Cultural Revolution, today’s Chinese leadership is supplying resources to rebuild many of the 55 ethnic minorities (not Tibetans or Uighurs) and support their traditions. Barry Boulton visited ethnic minority communities in Southwest China in October 2013 for three weeks and will show and discuss a documentary that he made about his visit.
Executive Director’s Update

Wow! Things just keep rolling for the Humanist Community. We are excited about our August 1st Grand Opening of Humanist House, our first Sunday Forum on August 2nd with our speaker and Board Member Marc Perkel, and all the amazing possibilities this move opens up for our community and the greater Freethought community at large. We are still looking to raise money for the project and no donation is too small. Please consider making a contribution to HCSV today.

I would also like to thank Greg Alexander for accepting the position of Treasurer. I look forward to working with Greg to move Humanist Community forward and we hope to have our internal audit completed and on the website in August/September. We have big things planned for our newest non-voting Board member.

Please also welcome Jonathan Figdor back to the HCSV Board of Directors, with a thank you to Peter Edmonds and Greg Alexander for also showing interest in the position. I have heard stories about HCSV having tough times filling open Board positions and am thrilled we are in a position to have chosen from three great people. I believe Mr. Figdor is a positive addition to the future plans of Humanist House, and has unique qualifications to help move us in a service-oriented direction.

As a housekeeping note, I have started to place the approved Board minutes on the website. It is under About, then Board Minutes. Currently May and June are there. I am hoping to recruit some members to help out with archiving 2015 so this year will be available to everyone. Our next Board meeting will be held August 10th at the home of Hilton Brown. Please consider joining us and bring your great ideas!

Finally, I would like to thank Sena and her newly expanding Membership Committee for keeping us on track to grow and expand our membership base once the move to Humanist House is completed.

I hope to see everyone at the Grand Opening!

Onward and upward,

Julie

The Struggle for Equality

From the first gathering at Lucretia Mott’s home in Seneca Falls, New York, in August of 1848, until women won the vote in the 26th of August in 1920, seventy two long years of struggle had passed, led, in her lifetime by “The Little General,” Susan B. Anthony, travelling and speaking with inexhaustible energy in spite of all obstacles of distance, weather and hostility. She didn’t live to see it pass. Many other amazing women took up the torch until the prize was won.

Three years later in 1923, Alice Paul wrote the first Equal Rights Amendment. That was ninth two years ago. The closest we got to “Getting it in Writing” was in 1982, when the final deadline required was reached for a constitutional amendment, outlawing discrimination based on sex. After a hard fought struggle to get thirty eight states passed it, it fell short at thirty three.

Since then the effort has been to pass a law in Congress to extend the deadline to enlist three more states. Every year since 1982 an amendment has been introduced in Congress to permit this but never passed by the two thirds votes required.

Sena Havasy 2015
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. To confirm the upcoming meeting, call 650-257-0478.

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

Clinic Defense
Planned Parenthood, most Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at havasy@live.com.

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 in serving on this committee, contact Sena Havasy, Committee Chair, at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

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/calendar/#/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, followed by discussion. Go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/academic-videos for details of our present video.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown
When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM

History Book Group
"Parallel Lives, Five Victorian Marriages' by Phyllis Rose. Roses anecdotes and insights provide a fresh view of the circumstances that bedeviled relations between the sexes a century ago.

For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

Where: Kimm’s Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale
When: 2nd Wednesday, August 12, 2:30 PM

Humanist Potluck
The August potluck is at the home of Bert Liebert in Palo Alto. RSVP appreciated. Contact Bert at 650-493-1248 for more information or Sena Havasy at 408-739-5638 senahav@gmail.com.

Where: home of Bert Liebert in Palo Alto
When: Saturday August 15 at 6:30 PM

Fun Group
San Francisco Mime Troupe Performance “FREEDOMLAND”
What kind of country would commission a young soldier to free victims from terrorism abroad only to let him become a victim of terrorism at home? Take a guess.

This year the San Francisco Mime Troupe’s summer show, FREEDOMLAND, asks the questions: - Are the police out of control? What happened to "innocent until proven guilty"? Is a young Black soldier safer in Afghanistan than walking down the streets of his neighborhood? The only thing it is safe to say is there is something very wrong with our rights!

Where: Mitchell Park, South Field,
600 East Meadow Drive at Cowper Street, Palo Alto.
When: Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Music at 3:30 PM
Cost: Free; donations encouraged

Humanist Community Hiking Group
We are looking for someone to coordinate hikes. If you enjoy hiking with a group of fellow Humanists and are familiar with the trails in the area, please step forward and I will put your contact information in the next newsletter.

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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.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto,
Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto.
Directions at uucpa.org/main/location.html
When: Saturday, August 1 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale
When: Tuesday, August 4, 7:00 PM

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley
For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org

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For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to: www.humanists.org/index/#/associated-organizations/.
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**August 2015**