January 3: Life, Death, & The World (With a little Happiness thrown in)

James Hilgendorf (www.jameshilgendorf.org) is a filmmaker, speaker, and the author of ten non-fiction books. He and his wife Elizabeth have been practicing Buddhism for forty-three years with the Soka Gakkai International (www.sgi.org).

He will discuss: Arnold Toynbee, Physics, Holograms, Death, Leo Tolstoy, Happiness. There are no negatives!

January 10: The Unexpected Belle La Follette: Progressive Model for 2016

In doing the research for her new book, Belle La Follette: Progressive Era Reformer, Santa Clara University Associate History Professor Nancy C. Unger discovered that the work of previous historians (including herself) had drastically underestimated this great humanist (1859-1931). Come discover the surprising truths about the radical reformer denounced as “disgraceful to the white race” who fought for votes for women, peace, civil rights…and more. This presentation, richly illustrated by PowerPoint images, will present Belle La Follette as a model of progressive reform for 2016.

January 17: Sociolinguistics and the Deaf Community

Adam Frogel has an M.S. from U.C. Berkeley, and worked as an interpreter, translator and transliterator for 42 years. He will discuss the above topic.

January 24: Ending Extreme Inequality: An Economic Bill of Rights to Eliminate Poverty

Poverty and inequality are at record levels. Today, forty-seven million Americans live in poverty, while the median is in decline. The top 20 percent now controls 89 percent of all wealth. These conditions have renewed demands for a new economic Bill of Rights, an idea proposed by F. D. Roosevelt, Truman and Martin Luther King, Jr. Scott Myers-Lipton, Professor of Sociology at San Jose State University, will discuss these issues, and his new book, whose name is this Forum’s title.

NOTE: Vote on bylaw change follows the speaker’s presentation.

January 31: Prisons - The Challenge

Dorsey Nunn, Executive Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (www.prisonerswithchildren.org/about/staff), has over thirty-five years experience working on prison related issues, and has received numerous awards. He is the Co-Founder of All of Us or None, a project of LSPC started by formerly incarcerated people in 2003. He has been in the forefront of many social justice organizations from their beginnings, including Critical Resistance and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.
Our Solstice party on Dec. 12th was a delight with the most Solstice carol singing I think we’ve ever had. We used the ‘Songs for Solstice’ song book, an ongoing project of mine. Copies available for a donation of $5. Solstice presents for everyone attending were on tables by the stage all during the month of December.

We are looking forward to the Blood Drive on the 23rd of January with the Atheists Community of San Jose. If we have a good turn out we can have it here at Humanist House three times a year! So turn out folks!

We are giving thought to the ways we can share this pleasant space with other secular groups.

One idea we like is a Valentine’s party at Humanist House on Sat., the 13th of February as a gathering of all the local groups. It would be a chance for each group to share its own special flavor of secularism via an information table and socializing. Red tablecloths available for use with your table. Please let us know if you like this idea and if your group would participate.

We are constantly looking for ways to make Humanist House a useful place for our entire secular community. We have transformed our paper calendar listing public events of all local groups into a Power Point presentation to run before the Sunday Forums.

We need new bookcases and are requesting donations of appropriate books for our library. Duplicate books can be added to our donation table. We hope to soon add a computer.

A basket is out asking for food donations which we will contribute to the Secular Connections Food Drive.

We are looking for suggestions of other ways to utilize our 24/7 space.

Yours for a bright Humanist future!

Sena Havasy, Membership Chair

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**LifeRing Addiction Recovery**

“LifeRing is an abstinence-based, worldwide network of people living in recovery from addiction to alcohol or to other, non-medically indicated drugs. In LifeRing we offer each other peer-to-peer support in ways that encourage personal growth and continued learning through personal empowerment. Our approach is based on developing, refining, and sharing our own strategies for continued abstinence and crafting a rewarding life in recovery. In short, we are sober, secular, and self-empowered.”

The LifeRing meeting at Humanist House occurs every Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Meetings typically last one hour.

For more information about LifeRing see Byron Kerr’s talk of last September 13 ([www.humanists.org/blog/2015-09-13](http://www.humanists.org/blog/2015-09-13)), or go to the LifeRing web site ([lifering.org](http://lifering.org)).

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**Cover - Latin translation of:**

“Ab actu ad posse valet illatio.”

“From what has happened we can infer what will happen.”

or, as Confucius puts it:

‘Study the past, if you would divine the future’.

Sena Havasy
Blood Drive

Atheist Community of San Jose
Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

Date:
Saturday, January 23, 2016

Time:
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location:
Bloodmobile @ Humanist House
1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose

Schedule an Appointment:
- Online: www.sbcdonor.org
  Use zip code 95110
- Phone: 650-723-7831

For More Information:
Lyn Chiu
chiu.acsj@gmail.com

Special Gift: “Pint for a Pint”
for each presenting donor
Revision to Humanist Community Bylaws to be Voted on January 17

The below amendment to the HCSV bylaws is being recommended by the Board to allow the number of Board members appropriate to the size and activity of the membership. This will be voted on 17 January, at 1:30 PM after our regular Forum at Humanist House.

Old:

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 3. Term of Office Voting members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two years, five being elected in odd-numbered years and four being elected in even-numbered years. A board member may serve for a maximum of three two year elected terms plus the balance of any appointed term, and will be ineligible for the Board for the following year.

New:

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 3. Term of Office Voting members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two years. A board member may serve for a maximum of three two-year elected terms plus the balance of any appointed term, and will be ineligible for the Board for the following year. The number of positions open for election each year shall be the number necessary to maintain the size of the Board at an odd number of directors. By default, the Board size shall be five, but the Board may change the size to five, seven, or nine by majority vote at least two months before the next election.

Election to the Board of the Humanist Community

On February 28 the membership will elect members of the new board of HCSV. Two members will be leaving the board: Hilton Brown and Paul Gilbert. Greg Alexander, Midge Dorn, and Arthur Jackson will be up for reelection in 2017.

The nominating committee (Greg Alexander, Sandy Smith, and Marie Stevens) has proposed the following candidates for the two open slots: Ron Gerber, Jason Kazarian, and Will Weyer.

Members of the community can submit a candidate by a petition signed by fifteen (15) members of the community to the nomination committee fifteen (15) days before the election. That would be February 13.

The election will be held at the February 28 forum. Members can request a mail-in ballot for the election. Members that request mail-in ballots may not vote in person. Mail-in ballots must be returned prior to the general election meeting.
Calendar of Events

The Family Program
The HCSV Family Program meets Sunday mornings.
**Where:** Varies, call 650-257-0478 for the time and location.
**When:** most Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon.

The Sharing Circle
At 10:30, before the Forum each Sunday, attendees meet to share personal feelings or experiences in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

After the Sunday Forum
Activities are planned for each Sunday afternoon: 1st Sunday is Video Day, 2nd Sunday is Game Day, 3rd Sunday is Social Action Day, 4th Sunday we’ll discuss issues with the Humanist Community. Activity for 5th Sunday to be determined.

**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 1:30 PM, after the Forum

Clinic Defense
Planned Parenthood, Tuesdays and 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. The committee is composed of those members of the potluck circle who are willing to serve. Sena Havasy chair.

New Year’s Open House
The annual New Year’s Open House will be at the home of Sena and Alex Havasy. The tree is still up, the champagne flows, come and start the New Year right with a friendly group of fellow humanists! 408-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com.
**Where:** Home of Sena and Alex Havasy
**When:** Friday, January 1 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM

Free Thought Discussion
We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, 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. For information on the present book, future books considered, and reading schedule go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/freethought-discussion. For more information, contact Hilton at: brownofmtnview@aol.com.
**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
**When:** Tuesdays, 7:30 PM

Academic Video
The Academic Video Group watches videos from www.thegreatcourses.com, followed by discussion. Go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/academic-videos for details of our present video. For details about the group contact Hilton at: brownofmtnview@aol.com or 650-941-3146.

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
**When:** Thursdays, 8:00 PM

**History Book Group**
Our present book is *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham. This 1942 memoir by Beryl Markham, chronicles her experiences growing up in Kenya, in the early 1900s, leading to a career as a bush pilot and her record setting flight from Europe to America.
For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 2nd Wednesday, January 13, 2:30 PM

**Humanist Community Hiking Group**
Fran and Jim Naylor are our new hiking coordinators. If you enjoy hiking with fellow Humanists there is a sign up sheet on the greeter’s table at the forum or contact the Naylors at 408-246-3790 or zaylors@sbcglobal.net.

**Fun Group**
Contemporary Art and Superhero Action
Here to save the day, it’s... My Hero! Experience the escapades of iconic superheroes with this pumped-up collection of international artworks in a variety of media. My Hero celebrates and re-envision the possibilities that exist when you have a magic cape, lasso, or some superhuman power that changes everything. Our heroes’ desire to fight for truth and justice provide a rich source of artistic inspiration.
For more information at bedfordgallery.org or call 925-295-1417.
**Where:** The Bedford Gallery at the Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Meet at the gallery entrance on the first floor.
**When:** Saturday, January 23, NOON.
**Cost:** Adults: $5.00. Youth (13-17) $3.00.
Children 12 and under: Free.

**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. We will have a free discussion and select topics for the next three months. More information at uucpa.org/main/location.html
**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto.
**When:** Saturday, January 2 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

**Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)**
Join us to discuss *Religion & Science Chapter II – The Copernican Revolution*, by Bertrand Russell. For further details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219.
**Where:** Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale
**When:** Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 PM

**Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley**
For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org.
For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to: www.humanists.org/index/#/associated-organizations/.

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