February 5: Secular Leaders Summit - Nonbelievers Unite!
Debbie Allen, the Executive Director of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley, will discuss her recent attendance at the annual Secular Leaders Summit. This year’s Summit included representatives from 28 organizations, and was hosted by the Center For Inquiry.

Secular Leaders Summit meetings, which include two leaders from each organization, are an opportunity to overcome differences, make allies, and bring together the key decision makers.

From innovative start-ups to the few groups with multi-million dollar budgets, it’s clear that the humanist/atheist/skeptic movement is coming into its own, even if they are still dwarfed by the wealth and power of ultra-conservative opponents.

Debbie Allen is a board member with several organizations including the American Humanist Association, the Humanist Society, the Reason Rally Coalition, Inc., and the Freethought Equality Fund PAC.

Note: A membership meeting will be held at this forum to elect members to the Board of the Humanist Community.

February 12: Celebrating Darwin - My trip to the Galapagos Islands
In celebration of Darwin Day (http://darwinday.org/), Humanist Community member Greg Alexander will discuss his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.

February 19: What is Transitionalism?
This talk introduces a new future-oriented “out-of-the-box” approach in how to view and live life focused on the question of meaning. From this emerges a holistic worldview and practical path by which society and individuals work together to improve their own self, one another, and the environment creating a better future for everyone. Robert Wasley is a writer and speaker on a wide diversity of issues related to human social, technological, and spiritual evolution.

February 26: Keys to Success (or Failure) in American Social and Political Movements
What makes some movements (like the recent campaigns for LGBTQ rights) so successful, while others (like the feminist crusade for the Equal Rights Amendment) ultimately fail? Join Santa Clara University history professor Nancy C. Unger in an illustrated sampling of five movements in American history that illustrate the “dos” and “don’ts” of orchestrating meaningful and lasting change.

Forum Information
Sundays 11 AM-12:15 PM – Free and open to the public.
Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM. – A donation of $10 is requested.
Humanist House – 1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose 95110.
I just returned from a stimulating encounter at Santa Clara University, where I, along with a Lutheran Reverend and a progressive Christian Pastor, spoke with students in a course called, "Ways of Understanding Religion". Their professor, Dr. Elizabeth Drescher, requires fieldwork in local religious communities across diverse traditions of belief and practice, and this quarter they will study Christianity, Buddhism, and Atheism. A dozen undergraduates will be visiting Humanist House later this semester, and will be interested in talking to us after our forum. Although a bit shy about asking questions, they are curious about how we came to not believe, and how we incorporate humanism in our daily lives.

For many Humanist Community members, questions about god and the purpose of life were addressed a long, long time ago. But young adults are asking them now. More than ever they need the guidance and support of the secular humanist community to counter the dogmatic religious voices that surround us, and that have grown in strength since the election.

Humanist chapters are important. They provide social support for members and visitors. They help educate the public about the humanist alternative to religious philosophies — which sometimes impede progress and cause real harm. They encourage members to more effectively and joyfully put humanist philosophy into practice. And, more importantly than ever, humanist chapters can work with other organizations in areas where we have common concerns. The more we work with others, the better chance we have of introducing reason and compassion into decision making and problem solving efforts.

In order to accomplish our goals and promote humanist values, we need to engage in active outreach to humanists and other nontheists who are hungering for community. We must expand our social and educational opportunities to attract more of them to Humanist House. And, perhaps most importantly, we need to start putting our philosophy into action by participating in social action and social justice activities.

Our incoming board members and our committee chairs are already thinking of ways to energize our community and attract new members. Thinking is never enough, however, so we are rolling up our sleeves and getting busy! We need your help discovering where we can publish event announcements (print and online publications), and where we might table (festivals, street fairs, conferences, etc.), to spread the word that we are here! And, if you are doing something fun, like trying a new restaurant or taking a hike, consider posting the event on our Meetup website, so we can reach out to those looking to find friends in the secular community.

Wishing you a happy Darwin Day!
Debbie
Calendar of Events

Fun Group – Audubon Nature Shop and Library ★
What better way to celebrate the month of love than with a visit to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. View the library and pick up a Valentine’s Day gift for someone you know or love at the Nature Shop.
If the weather is nice, exercise your birding skills on a walk along the preserve’s interpretive trail.
**Where:** McClellan Ranch Preserve, 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014.
**When:** Saturday, February 4, Meet at entrance at 10:00 AM.
**Cost:** Free
**RSVP:** especially first time attenders, hcfungroup@yahoo.com
**More info:** www.scvias.org or 408-252-3747

History Book Group
We are reading *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 2nd Wednesday, February 8, 2:30 PM
**More info:** Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com 408-739-5638

Movie Night for Skeptics ★
The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch “Creation.” Charles Darwin struggles to complete ‘On the Origin of Species’ and maintain his relationship with his wife.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 2nd Friday, February 10, 7:00 PM
**More info:** Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com Matt Courtney, macourtney@gmail.com

New! Computers, Bloody Computers. Hate’m or Love’m. Learn to Use Them Better
This workshop, taught by HCSV member Susanne Shalit, will be designed to address your needs, your interests, and your skill level.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** Thursdays, February 2 and 16, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (alternate Thursdays through the coming months)
**RSVP:** On Meetup

New! Bridge Class
Taught by Faye Parsons and Bob Martin.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 8 consecutive Wednesdays, starting February 15, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM
**RSVP:** On Meetup (at least 4 people must respond)
**Cost:** $5

Board Meeting with Community
Board Members and the Community will discuss issues.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 3rd Sunday, February 19, 1:15 PM (after the forum)

Membership Committee Meeting
Calling current committee members and anyone willing to lend a hand to the Humanist Community.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** Sunday, February 12, 12:30 PM, over Lunch

Potluck ★
Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner with a small group of humanists at a private home.
**Where:** Home of Sena and Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale
**When:** Saturday, February 18, 6:00 PM
**More info:** Senahav@gmail.com, 408-739-5638

Social Action Meeting
Visitors and members of the Humanist Community will gather to plan social action events.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** 4th Sunday, February 26, 1:15 PM (after the forum)

Recovering from Religion
Learning how to live after questions, doubts, and changing beliefs is a journey. Share your journey with others who are going through, or have successfully navigated, similar experiences. Everyone is welcome, and confidentiality is respected.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose
**When:** 4th Thursday, February 23, 7:00 PM
**More info:** On Meetup

LifeRing Secular Recovery
LifeRing is a non-faith-based, worldwide network of people living in recovery from addiction to alcohol or to other substances.
**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose
**When:** Every Tuesday, 7:30 PM
**More info:** lifering.org

Free Thought Discussion
We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, our present book other Wednesdays. 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/blog/free-thought-discussion for information on the present book, future books considered, and our reading schedule.
**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
**When:** Wednesdays, 7:30 PM
**More info:** Hilton Brown, brownofmtnview@aol.com

Academic Video
The Academic Video Group watches videos from www.thegreatcourses.com, followed by discussion.
**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
**When:** Thursdays, 8:00 PM
**More info:** HiltonBrown, brownofmtnview@aol.com, 650-941-3146.

See a complete list of our activities on Meetup.
# February 2017

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