

# HUMANIST COMMUNITY IN SILICON VALLEY

Ecological Sustainability

Science = Truth

Environmental Protection



April 22 - National Science March

April 29 - National Climate March

Sierra Club-Rainforest Alliance-National Resources Defense-Conservation Int.-Environmental Defense Fund

## April Forums

### April 2: Models of Speciation: Modes and Tempos

The presenter will address the evidence for competing models of where new species - including our own - come from, including evolution within a lineage vs. splitting of a line, geographic isolation vs. adaptation to different aspects of the range, gradualism vs. punctuated equilibrium, with a specific focus on the emergence of Homo sapiens from a Homo ergaster ancestor.

### April 9: The Religious Character of American Patriotism

As we face a strongly divided nation, populated by those with opposing concepts of our national identity, history, and ideals, it's time to take an honest look at our traditions and answer some hard questions. Do we have a national religion after all? If so, exactly what is it? And where might it take us? This talk will explore often overlooked aspects of American culture, allow us to see ourselves as others see us, and thereby inform the choices we must make for our future.

Fred Edwards is director of planned giving for the American Humanist Association, an organization he served for fifteen years as executive director and twelve years as editor of its national magazine, The Humanist.

### April 16: Forward to the Past: Life in a Second-World Country

What's it like to live in Armenia, a former Soviet republic and a member of today's Commonwealth of Independent States? Pretty much like living in America before the Great Depression. People have cars, electricity, factory jobs, and homes, but still make their own bread and cheese.

Jason Paul Kazarian worked in Armenia from 2008-2009 as a director of an IT training academy. Join him for an "agri-tour" of this tiny nation in the Caucasus Mountains where the 21st century has, in some respects, yet to arrive.

### April 23: Your Digital Monetary Power

HCSV member Tom Bergstrom will discuss how to use mobile phone apps and web commerce to fight right wing groups, how to buy products and invest in socially responsible companies that value ethical behavior, and socially responsible investing and lobbying, mostly through online sources.

### April 30: Science, Long Life, and Cryonics

Future technologies can keep us alive and healthy for as long as we want. Those of us alive today can reach these technologies by preserving ourselves at ultracold temperatures until these technologies can restore us to health. This talk will offer a glimpse of these technologies, how they might work, and the practice of cryonics today.

Dr. Ralph Merkle is a Stanford University Ph.D who has an impressive career in technology and is a winner of the Feynman Prize for Nanotechnology. He is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Molecular Manufacturing, a Director of Alcor, and Department Chair for Nanotechnology at Singularity University.

#### 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**

## Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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### Editors

Alex Havasy, Sena Havasy,  
Debbie Allen

### Production

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown,  
Brian Davis, Sena Havasy, Burt Liebert  
Cover composite by Sena Havasy

### Executive Director

Debbie Allen  
[debbieallen@humanists.org](mailto:debbieallen@humanists.org)

### Board of Directors

President Paul Gilbert,  
Vice President Alex Havasy,  
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Recorder Debbie Allen (non-voting),  
Greg Alexander, Carl Angotti, Pam Erwin, Alfred Jan,  
Susan Shalit, Will Weyer

### Contact the Board – [ed@humanists.org](mailto:ed@humanists.org).

Our newsletter can be accessed online. Go to [www.humanists.org](http://www.humanists.org), and click on “Newsletters” in the menu bar. Then, select the month and year of the desired newsletter.

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

### Do you need help?

If you need assistance such as a ride, some groceries delivered, etc., send a request to [ed@humanist.org](mailto:ed@humanist.org), and it will be forwarded to the Help Group. For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at 408-923-3774 or [123arthurjackson@gmail.com](mailto:123arthurjackson@gmail.com).



## HUMANIST HOUSE NEWS

This feels to me like a very existential moment for the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley – our community. I believe it is important as we work together for healthy growth of our community that we do it in a way that fully embodies our own understanding of what it means to be humanists.

Times of stress push us to ask what is important, what gives us direction. Such soul-searching can help to ground us. I hope all of us will do enough to assure that we are always aware of why we care about each other and the Community we share.

When I first considered writing this piece, I wondered why I felt so anxious. Anxiety can be limiting, debilitating – a real energy drag. Anxiety makes us fearful, less focused. We are likely just to tread water or spin our wheels furiously, getting nowhere. I think I have never seen or felt, so much social anxiety as now – in the time of Trump and all that entails. It is not only Trump, but also what he reveals about our society, and perhaps ourselves. I don't expect that anxiety will dissipate for a long time. But I know that we are healthier and more effective when we are able to say what is at the root of the anxiety.

I am also anxious about this Community. I want to identify those things that cause concern and join with other members of the Community to address them.

Perhaps what I am doing now is giving myself the pep talk that I know I need and hoping it will be useful to you as well.

We must push the limits of what we believe we can do. Push the limits of our comfort zones. Sometimes give more than we believed we could give. Sometimes we will need to ask others to help us.

And, it must always be clear that we each have the right and responsibility to set our own limits. It is always OK to say, “Nope; not something I can do.”

We must be ready to accept goals and work diligently toward them even when we know rewards are likely to be weeks, months or years away.

It is obvious that we are facing a substantial financial challenge. We have committed ourselves to a space that I have come to really appreciate. We have committed ourselves to an Executive Director who I have liked from my first introduction and have come to appreciate more with each passing day. She's amazing. And, in my opinion, she is exactly what our community needs.

We have reserves which will sustain us for a while, but we must have substantially more regular, current income if we are to continue and thrive. We must grow.

My personal view is that our financial issues are not our most pressing challenge. We must recognize and celebrate what we already have. We must reach out to include others in our Community. We must be willing to do the work necessary to grow the Community to a viable size. At its core, that is not a financial problem.

I think our challenge is to be sure that members of the larger community around us have the opportunity to see what humanism is when practiced. What do you think?

Paul Gilbert

President, Humanist Community

## Special Thanks to the Following for Their Generosity

### Contributing Members

Greg Alexander  
Debbie Allen  
Dana St. George and Gerry Gras  
Laurel Renish  
Robert Wasley  
Elisa Wells

### Supporting Members

W.L. and Corinne Bales  
Fran and Jim Naylor  
Richard Rowland  
Jean-Claude Roy

Sandy Smith

Marie Stephens

### President's Club

Hilton Brown

### Ambassador's Club

Arthur Jackson

Susan and Bob Kresek

Martin Squibbs

Robert and Lola Stephens

### Life Members

Peter and Catherine Bishop

## About the Cover

The Domesday Clock ticks. The fate of our earth itself, its water, air and soil, are under attack. Many groups are working to preserve it. Some of the most active and deserving of our support, in addition to those on the cover, are Conservation International, Earth Justice, Oceana, Union of Concerned Scientists, and World Resources International.

Around the world this month there are many marches and demonstrations expressing concern over our fate.

On April 22nd we will March for Science, expressing our belief in the truths we learn from Science and on April 29th we will March for Environmental Protection expressing our concern about the threats to our environment.

All over our nation groups are springing up over concerns caused by our new administration which is cutting funds for everything except the military and the tax cuts for the rich.

The Action Group Network ([actiongroups.net](http://actiongroups.net)) provides lists of active groups sorted by location and issue, so individuals can connect with like-minded advocates in their area.

Sena

# Calendar of Events

## Fun Group

### The Conjured Life: The Legacy of Surrealism ★

The Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University is pleased to present an extraordinary exhibition that chronicles the mesmerizing and unsettling nature of the Surrealist movement from historic master artists like René Magritte and Marcel Duchamp to today's artistic superstars, including Cindy Sherman, Jimmie Durham, and David Lynch.

**When:** Saturday, April 1 (no fooling), Meet at entrance at 11:00 AM.

**Where:** 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford, CA

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** Especially first time attenders, hcfungroup@yahoo.com

**Info:** museum.stanford.edu or call 650-723-4177

## Social Action Meeting

On April 2 we will be writing postcards to our legislators. On April 16 we will make posters for the March for Science on the 22nd and the Climate Change march on the 29th.

**When:** Sunday, April 2 and 16, 1:15 PM (after lunch)

**Where:** Humanist House

## Citizen's Climate Lobby

The Silicon Valley South Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby invites all members of the Humanist community to join and help us advance a national carbon tax which is expected to dramatically reduce CO2 emissions while also growing jobs and the economy.

**When:** Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 PM

**Where:** Humanist House

**Info:** Suds Jain, suds@sudsjain.com or 408-499-2955

## History Book Group

We are reading *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts.

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, April 12, 2:30 PM

**Where:** Humanist House

**Info:** Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638

## Membership and Volunteer Meeting

Calling current committee members and anyone willing to lend a hand to the Humanist Community.

**When:** Sunday, April 10, 1:15 PM, after Lunch

## Computers, Bloody Computers. Hate'm or Love'm, Learn to Use them Better.

This workshop, taught by HCSV member Susan Shalit, will be designed to address your needs, your interests, and your skill level.

**When:** Every other Thursday, April 13, and 27, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Where:** Humanist House **Info:** On Meetup

## Movie Night for Skeptics ★

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch "Agora," about Hypatia of Alexandria and the conflict of science and religion.

**When:** 2nd Friday, April 14, 7:00 PM

**Where:** Humanist House **Info:** On Meetup

**Your membership dues help us to create community for us all. Please, renew or join today! Online or at Humanist House.**

## Annual Banquet ★

The Humanist Annual Banquet 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 Humanists of the Year, Greg Alexander and Chris Vogdas, voted on at the Forums, will receive a plaque and our grateful thanks for their unfailing support while bridging a difficult time.

Reservations may be made at the Forum on Sunday or by contacting Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com. In order to keep the cost to \$30, the community will cover the tax, tip, flowers, and balloons.

**When:** Tuesday, April 18, 6:00 PM

**Where:** The Blue Pheasant Restaurant  
22100 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino

## Board Meeting

Meeting are open to all members of the Humanist Community.

**When:** 3rd Monday, April 17, 7:30 PM

**Where:** Humanist House

## Membership and Board Discussion

Members of the board and the community meet to discuss issues.

**When:** 4th Sunday, April 23, 1:15 PM (after lunch)

**Where:** Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose

## Recovering from Religion

Learning how to live after questioning, doubting, and changing one's 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.

**When:** 4th Thursday, April 27, 7:00 PM

**Where:** Humanist House

**Info:** On Meetup

## Free Thought Discussion

We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, and our current 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](http://www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion) for information on the present book, future books considered, and our reading schedule.

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

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

**Info:** Hilton Brown, brownofmntview@aol.com or 650-941-3146

## Academic Video

The Academic Video Group watches videos from [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com), followed by discussion.

**When:** Thursdays, 8:00 PM

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

**Info:** Hilton Brown, brownofmntview@aol.com or 650-941-3146

### Join Meetup for up to the minute event info

[www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity](http://www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity)

### Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/humanistcommSV](http://www.facebook.com/humanistcommSV)

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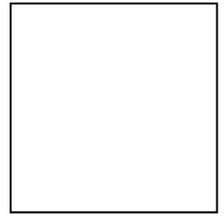
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### Visit our website

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



Humanist Community  
 1180 Coleman Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 ★ 11:00 AM Fun Group
2 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 1:15 PM Social Action Meeting	3	4 7:30 PM LifeRing	5 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	6 8:00 PM Academic Video	7	8
9 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 12:30 PM Membership and Volunteer Meeting	10 7:00 PM Video Game Development	11 7:00 PM Climate Lobby 7:00 PM Trivia 7:30 PM LifeRing	12 2:30 PM History Book Group 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	13 1:00 PM Computer Workshop 8:00 PM Academic Video	14 ★ 7:00 PM Movie for Skeptics	15
16 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 Buffet Lunch 1:15 PM Social Action Meeting	17 7:30 PM Board meeting (open to members)	18 ★ 6:00 PM Awards Banquet 7:30 PM LifeRing	19 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	20 8:00 PM Academic Video	21	22 11:00 AM March for Science
23 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 1:15 PM Membership & Board Discussion	24 7:00 PM Video Game Development	25 7:30 PM LifeRing	26 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	27 1:00 PM Computer Workshop 7:00 PM Recovering from Religion 8:00 PM Academic Video	28	29 11:00 AM Climate Change March
30 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch						

More details can be found at [www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity](http://www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity)