August Forums

August 6: LGBTQ Youth Space
LGBTQ Youth Space (youthspace.org) is a program of Family and Children Services of Silicon Valley and Caminar for Mental Health. It provides a safe and confidential drop-in center, as well as counseling services, for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth and young adults ages 13-25, in Santa Clara County.

At today’s forum we welcome a panel of LGBTQ+ youth who will each speak about how their gender identities and sexual orientation have impacted different aspects of their lives, such as family dynamics, school, work, community, culture, and relationships.

August 13: Community Building and Resilience via Transition/Permaculture
Permaculture is a creative process based on whole-systems thinking informed by ethics and design principles that guide us to mimic the patterns and relationships we find in nature. By learning these principles, we acquire valuable thinking tools to help us become more resilient in an era of change.

Marilyn Barry is a Business Consultant and Administrative manager for Barry Consulting. Among other things she provides business project support for small non-profit organizations.

August 20: Eyewitness to Central America
Barby Ulmer with husband Vic (now deceased) were the founders and co-directors of Our Developing World. Formed in 1982, the non-profit organization strives to raise awareness of the struggles and triumphs occurring in developing countries by creating resources for teachers, hosting events, and leading educational trips to Central America, Southeast Asia and Africa.

With a focus on Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, she will provide a brief historical background of US policy toward these countries, exploitation by US & Canadian corporations, recent struggles and victories, and what can be done.

August 27: Building Resistance and Alternatives to the Administration’s Plan for America
This blueprint for a radical new economy and society is anchored not only in participatory democracy but in participatory human need-fulfilling activity. This includes self and family care, necessary labor with reduced working hours, and time and space for self-realization. Don’t miss this holistic systemic transformational approach to reshaping the future of the United States.

Richard Hobbs is the Executive Director of Human Agenda, a national board member of Take Back Your Time, an immigration attorney and member of the legal collective CLARO (Colectivo Legal Accesible Razonable y Organizado), and member of the newly forming South Bay Progressive Alliance.
Humanist Community in Silicon Valley
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Our newsletter can be accessed online. Go to
www.humanists.org/blog/newsletter

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Debbie Allen
debbieallen@humanists.org

Board of Directors
President         Paul Gilbert
Vice President    Alex Havasy
Treasurer         Marie Stephens
Recorder          Debbie Allen (non-voting)
Greg Alexander    Carl Angotti
Pam Erwin         Alfred Jan
Susan Shalit

Contact the Board  ed@humanists.org
Board meetings are held at Humanist House on the third
Monday of each month. Members of the Humanist Community
are welcome to attend all board meetings.

Do you need help?
If you need assistance such as a ride, some groceries delivered,
etc., send a request to ed@humanist.org, and it will be
forwarded to the Social Action Group.
For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at
408-923-3774 or 12ArthurJackson@gmail.com.

About the Cover
Care. No matter what.
Planned Parenthood is a source of healthcare for millions
of women. It’s hard to imagine the stream of hatred and
misinformation leveled at Planned Parenthood by Fox
News and its ilk.

The fact is that only 3% of Planned Parenthood services
are abortions, most of them in the first trimester. It has
never made a profit from providing fetal tissue for medical
purposes, the least of the outlandish stories regularly told
to, and believed by, its anti-choice attackers.

Do not be maneuvered into calling a first trimester fetus a
baby any more than a radish seed is a radish. Abortions
beyond that point are only done for the most serious of
reasons, such as the abnormality of the fetus or the life of
the mother, a terrible decision only the doctor and the
mother are competent to make.

Sena

HUMANIST HOUSE NEWS

Since the Humanist Community hired Debbie Allen as our Executive Director
last October, her directives from the board of directors have been to build a
community where people can gather with friends who share a similar
worldview, and to maintain our home here at Humanist House.

In addition to improving every aspect of our social media, expanding our
publicity, growing our membership, and strengthening our relationships with
other likeminded religious and secular organizations, we have broadened the
scope and the appeal of our forums, programs, and social activities.

Since May we have hosted two hugely successful BBQ potlucks at Humanist
House, with indoor and outdoor games, live music, and with as many as 50
adults and children participating. In June we hosted a catered brunch for 47
people, and in July we had a very successful book-signing event with Katherine
Ozment, a former senior editor at National Geographic, who spoke about her
book, Grace Without God. In addition to our long running discussion, book,
and video groups, we have a Movie Night for Skeptics, hikes, workshops
educating computer skills and video-game development, museum and theater
outings, and field trips like our tour of Blume Distillation and Whiskey Hill
Farms. We have also revitalized our social action committee, and have been
active in charitable and political causes.

In the next few months we hope to start a science fiction book club, and a
discussion group to review current events, articles, or books that might help us
understand all the astonishing events of today’s world — political, social, and
scientific.

In addition to augmenting our social calendar with special events to attract new
members, the Humanist Community leadership recently sent 629 postcards to
members of the American Humanist Association who live within a 20 mile
radius of Humanist House. We want those who identify as humanists to know
that there is an AHA Chapter nearby that offers lectures and social activities.

Administratively, we’ve upgraded to a database that gives us instant access to
our members and their information; in fact, you can log in to our database and
verify that your information is correct, and you can specify how much of your
information is available to others in our community. This membership
management platform, designed by “MemberPlanet”, also allows you to easily
pay dues and make donations via credit card.

To sustain these and other community programs, and to maintain our home
here on Coleman Avenue, we need both time and treasure; which is to say, the
volunteering of time and donations of money. We are currently not meeting
our monthly expenses, as we knew we would not be when we set out to
reinvestigate our organization, but eventually we must be self-sustaining.

We will be contacting our membership in August and September with a request
for financial support to sustain Humanist House. Please give some
consideration to how much you feel you could pledge through the end of this
year.

We ask that you also consider ways you can help with community activities.
Volunteer opportunities can be ongoing, like serving on a committee or the
board of directors, but small ways are equally appreciated, such as welcoming
visitors at forums, bringing a dish to our buffet lunch, or assisting in the setup of
a potluck or other Humanist House event. It’s a wonderful way to meet people
and will also help to fulfill our mission of building community for generations of
humanists here in Silicon Valley.

Marie Stephens, Board Treasurer
Calendar of Events

Free Thought Discussion
First Wednesday of the month: recent news. Other Wednesdays we will be discussing The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy by William Strauss and Neil Howe. We expect to be reading this book through August. Discussions range far from the topic, so don’t worry about not being up to date on the book or the news.

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM
Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
Info: Go to www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion

Academic Video
This month the Academic Video Group will be watching Great Philosophical Debates: Free Will and Determinism by Professor Shaun Nichols, followed by discussion.

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM
Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
Info: Email brownofmtview@gmail.com or call 650-941-3146

Social Action Meeting
There is no Social Action Meeting this month. Our Social Action chairs, Fran and Jim Naylor, will return in September.

Hiking Activity
Saratoga Gap and Long Ridge Open Space Preserves
Meet in the parking lot at 10:30. Bring a lunch and we’ll hike for a picnic at Turtle Rock overlooking the ocean. This is an interesting, pretty, and somewhat rocky and uphill loop of about 3-4 miles.

When: August 5, 10:30 AM
Where: Saratoga Gap Vista Point Parking Lot
Info: www.openspace.org/sites/default/files/map_LR.pdf

Fun Group — Roz Chast Exhibition
Roz Chast has published more than 800 cartoons in The New Yorker. She has also published in Scientific American and the Harvard Business Review.

When: Saturday, August 5, 11:00 AM, Meet at the main entrance.
Where: The Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street, San Francisco
Cost: Adults $14, Seniors (65 Years and Older) $12, Students $12, Ages 18 and under and Members free
RSVP: Especially, first time attendees. hcfungroup@yahoo.com

Movie Night for Skeptics
The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch Planet of the Apes, the original 1968 film starring Charlton Heston. Bring snacks to share.

When: 2nd Friday, August 8, 7:00 PM
Where: Humanist House

Video Game Development
Join us and learn the Unity 3d game engine (unity3d.com), the premier cross platform game engine.

When: Monday, August 14 & 28, 7:00 PM
Where: Humanist House

Citizens’ Climate Lobby
The Silicon Valley South Chapter of Citizens’ Climate Lobby invites you to join their effort to advance a national carbon tax to reduce CO2 emissions and grow jobs and the economy.

When: Tuesday, August 15, 7:00 PM
Where: Humanist House

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women’s Group
Featuring discussion of timely events and local groups important to you, future plans, reading I am Malala, about the girl who defied the Taliban to teach girls and survived being shot in the head by them. Our July outing was a potluck with the League of Women Voters. Light refreshments.

When: 3rd Saturday, August 19, 2:00 PM
Where: Humanist House
Info: 708-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com

Humanist Pool Party and Potluck in Sunnyvale
The August potluck will be a Pool Party at the home of Sena & Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale. Most will not swim so don’t hesitate to join us, even if you don’t care to swim. For details contact the hosts at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

When: Saturday, August 12, 4:30 PM
Where: Home of Sena and Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale

Board Meeting
Meetings are open to all members of the Humanist Community.

When: 3rd Monday, August 21, 7:30 PM
Where: Humanist House

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

Join Meetup for complete information for all our events.
Still need more info? Leave message at 408-650-8466
Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/humanistcommSV
Follow us on Twitter
twitter.com/humanistCommSV
Visit our website
www.humanists.org/blog
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More details can be found at www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity. RSVP's are always helpful for planning purposes.