September Forums

September 3: Getting Past Capitalism: History, Vision, Hope
Cynthia Kaufman is the director of the Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action at De Anza College, and is on the board of Human Agenda. She is the author of two books: Getting Past Capitalism: History, Vision, Hope and Ideas for Action: Relevant Theory for Radical Change. She will be speaking on practical steps we can take to move beyond the devastation caused by capitalism.

September 10: Final Exit Network
Final Exit Network (www.finalexitnetwork.org) is a volunteer organization serving members who are suffering from intolerable medical circumstances, are mentally competent, and want to end their lives. It offers the most current information known for self-deliverance when the member is ready to choose.

Jacie Rowe IV has been a political organizer and advocate for 7 years, including 3 years in the End of Life movement. When California’s End of Life Option Act (EOLOA) was passed, he moved on to work with Final Exit Network to ensure that everyone has access to options, whether they qualify for the EOLOA or not.

September 17: Nature Speaks: Art and Poetry for the Earth
Deborah Kennedy is an eco-artist, educator, lecturer, and the author of Nature Speaks: Art and Poetry for the Earth, a profound collection of her original artwork and poetry.

Within the pages of Nature Speaks, detailed earth-toned drawings pull the reader into the subject of the paired poem. With each poem and drawing a short essay provides context to the ecological themes discussed in the poetry. For more information go to: www.deborahkennedyart.com and www.whitecloudpress.com/features/deborah-kennedys-interview-with-svtags/.

September 24: Practicing Atheism in Everyday Life
So you’re an atheist. Now what? The way we deal with life — with love and sex, pleasure and death, reality and making stuff up — can change dramatically when we stop believing in gods, souls, and afterlives. With her unique blend of compassion and humor, thoughtfulness and snark, Greta Christina most emphatically does not propose a single path to a good atheist life.

Greta Christina will be speaking about her latest book, The Way of the Heathen: Practicing Atheism in Everyday Life, in which she offers questions to think about, ideas that may be useful, and encouragement to choose your own way. She addresses complex issues in an accessible, down-to-earth style.
Volunteering is always a good thing. You give back to the community, help a good cause, benefit others, and you enrich your own skill set.

When considering what volunteer activities might be right for you, Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, suggests you consider the following:

- What do you value?
- What causes do you care about?
- What is your skill set?
- Do you like working with others, or alone?
- Do you want to impact local, national or international problems?

If you are thinking about volunteering, please consider the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley. We depend on the efforts of volunteers to make everything happen. It isn’t that we want to “put you to work”. Rather, we’d like to “put you to help” in our efforts to fulfill our mission:

**Building community for generations of humanists through education, fellowship, and service.**

We pursue our mission primarily by providing programs that inform, inspire, and offer opportunities for meaningful engagement with other humanists. We also strive to impact our local area and our greater society through political action and good deeds.

Behind everything we do are HCSV volunteers who would appreciate any help that you can offer. Currently we need help with our membership, publicity, and program committees. Here’s a list of things that would be helpful:

- Perform administrative chores such as updating our member database
- Contact visitors and new members to invite them personally to upcoming events and other opportunities to get acquainted
- Plan speaker forums and special events
- Lead a discussion group or a book club
- Bring a dish to share to Sunday’s lunch
- Roll up your sleeves and help before, during or after events
- Host an outing to a movie, or a restaurant you’ve been wanting to try
- Post on Facebook and Twitter on behalf of our community
- Submit events to online newspapers like SanJose.com so more people become aware of who we are and what we are doing!

I’d love to have the chance to help you explore how your efforts (large or small) can benefit our community… and how much fun you can have in the process! Please contact me after the forum, or via email at debbieallen@humanists.org.

See you at Humanist House!

Debbie
Calendar of Events

**Free Thought Discussion**
First Wednesday of the month: recent news. Other Wednesdays we will be discussing the book which we will select on September 6. These 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**
The Academic Video Group watches videos from *The Great Courses*, followed by discussion. We expect to finish *Great Philosophical Debates: Free Will and Determinism* by Professor Shaun Nichols, and vote on a new video on September 7.
**When:** Thursdays, 8:00 PM
**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View
**Info:** Email brownofmtview@gmail.com or call 650-941-3146

**Movie Night for Skeptics**
The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*, the award-winning NOVA documentary on the *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* case.
**When:** 2nd Friday, September 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, September 11 & 25, 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, September 12, 7:00 PM
**Where:** Humanist House

**South Bay Philosophy and Critical Thinking**
This is a roundtable discussion on the great questions. We touch on traditional philosophy themes to see how they fit in the current world. Everyone gets to speak and express their position, while we all listen to a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. Please bring a snack to share.
**When:** 2nd Thursday, September 14, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
**Where:** Humanist House

**Movie Night - “Pump”**
*Pump* (2014) is a documentary that tells the story of America’s addiction to oil, from its corporate conspiracy beginnings to its current monopoly today, and explains how we can end it. Event host Ray Sundby will lead a discussion following the movie. Please bring a snack to share.
**When:** Friday, September 15, 7:15 PM
**Where:** Humanist House

**Fun Group — Walnut Creek Public Art Walk**
Bedford Gallery offers a one hour docent-led walking tour of Walnut Creek’s wonderful downtown public art. The docents are trained by public art specialists and can offer information and insight appropriate for all ages. Wear comfortable shoes and bring sun screen.
**When:** Saturday, September 16, 11:00 AM, Meet at the main entrance.
**Where:** Lesher Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
**Cost:** Adults $5, cash only
**RSVP:** Especially, first time attendees, hcfungroup@yahoo.com

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women’s Group**
Featuring discussion of timely events, and sharing about what’s going on in your life!
This month we will have a report on a new book about communication by actor and serious science buff Alan Alda, *If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?* Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a raffle.
**When:** 3rd Saturday, September 16, 2:00 PM
**Where:** Humanist House
**Info:** 708-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com

**Potluck Picnic at Penitencia Creek Park**
Humanist House area is taken over by Avaya Stadium this weekend, so our potluck is outdoors!!! A beautiful park with a pond with ducks, a big area for kite flying, and grass. We should see a beautiful sunset. There are restrooms, some picnic tables, etc. All ages.
**When:** Saturday, September 16, 4:00 to 7:00 PM
**Where:** Penitencia Creek Park, 3050 Berryessa Rd, San Jose
**Info:** On Meetup

**Social Action Meeting**
Gather to plan social action projects and events. A postcard writing session addressing government issues will follow.
**When:** Sunday, September 17, 1:30 - 2:30 PM (cards 2:30 - 3:00 PM)
**Where:** Humanist House

**Board Meeting**
Meetings are open to all members of the Humanist Community.
**When:** 3rd Monday, September 18, 7:30 PM
**Where:** Humanist House

**Potluck in Pacifica**
The Humanist Potluck for September will be in beautiful Pacifica at the hillside home of Marie Stephens. RSVP appreciated.
**Where:** home of Marie Stephens in Pacifica.
**When:** Saturday, September 23 at 5:00 PM
**Info:** Marie at mlmsl1@att.net, 650-906-8144, or Sena at senahav@gmail.com, 408-739-5638

**Game Night at Humanist House**
We’ll choose between a variety of games including Trivial Pursuit (dividing into teams), Cards Against Humanity ("a party game for horrible people"), or bring your favorite. BYOB... beer and wine OK. We’ll provide a few snacks, and feel free to bring your own favorite to share.
**When:** Friday, September 29, 7:30 PM
**Where:** Humanist House
# September 2017

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More details can be found at www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity. RSVP's are always helpful for planning purposes.