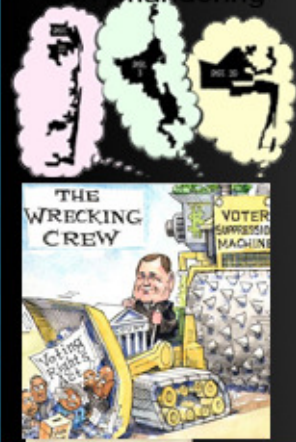


HUMANIST COMMUNITY IN SILICON VALLEY

History

Gerrymandering



Result



Basic Steps



October Forums

October 1: What the Heck is Sunday Assembly?

Sunday Assembly has been described as the best bits of church without the god bits. It is a congregation without supernatural elements, and pop songs instead of hymns. It absolutely is not a cult (which is admittedly exactly what we would say if it was a cult). Come and find out the story behind this celebration of life which is now happening in 70 cities around the world.

Gillian Claus is a founder and director of Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley. She is a Humanist celebrant, and enjoys reinventing ritual and singing out loud.

October 8: Pluralism in the Muslim Community

Maha ElGenaidi, President and CEO of Islamic Networks Group (ING), will present the basic beliefs and practice of Muslims, and give a brief overview of their history and of notable Muslims today, addressing common misconceptions about Islam relating to extremism, women's rights, Islam's perspective on pluralism and other faiths.

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, ING is a national educational outreach organization promoting interfaith dialogue and education about world religions and their contributions to civilization by annually delivering thousands of presentations and other educational programs and building bridges among people of all faiths.

Forum Information

Sundays 11AM-12:15PM -- Free and open to the public
Lunch 12:30-1:30PM -- A donation of \$10 is requested
Humanist House -- 1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose 95110

October 15: Humanist Heaven

For humanists, heaven would be here on earth and its inhabitants would use reason, science and compassion to guide them. Everyone would be equal, with basic needs provided for, and their lives would be meaningful and fulfilled. Arguably, the Scandinavian countries are as close as it gets to Humanist Heaven. Jim Barnett, board member of The Humanist Institute and co-president of the Bay Area Humanists, will describe Scandinavian Social Democracy, its defining characteristics and its historical development.

October 22: The Kurdish Bike: Life in a Village in Kurdish Iraq

Author Alesa Lightbourne spent six months teaching in Kurdish Iraq in 2010. Spending every weekend in a local village, she learned about honor killings, female genital mutilation, and traditions that limit the lives of Kurdish women. Her recently published book, *The Kurdish Bike*, won the Gold Medal for Best Regional Fiction from the Independent Publishers Book Awards, an international prize.

October 29: Benefit Corporations

Arthur Jackson will talk about the advantages of Benefit Corporations. Benefit Corporations can legally benefit society, not just maximize profits for investors. They can change the whole world by using economies fairly.

The core of this Forum is a 30 minute video of John Montgomery's forum of March 2013, followed by Q&A. You can see the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dJAObGZnml.

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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President	Paul Gilbert
Vice President	Alex Havasy
Treasurer	Marie Stephens
Recorder	Debbie Allen (non-voting)
Greg Alexander	Matt Courtney Pam Erwin
Alfred Jan	Susan Shalit

Contact the Board ed@humanists.org

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@humanists.org, and it will be forwarded to the H.E.L.P. Group.

For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at 408-923-3774 or 123arthurjackson@gmail.com.

About the Cover

Voter Suppression

The formation of Trump's Election Commission on "Voter Integrity" is laying the groundwork for wide-reaching voter suppression legislation.

There is no evidence that we have a problem with election integrity. There is no motivation for voters to attempt to impersonate someone else at the polls or for non-citizens to try and cast a ballot. The price for that one vote is up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. Over the past decade Texas has convicted only four cases for voter impersonation, the only type of voter fraud that voter ID laws prevent. Nationwide that rate is even lower.

You can tell that this is a sham commission just by the appointment of Kris Kobach, someone who has devoted much of his professional life to suppressing the vote, to vice-chair. It's designed to undermine confidence in our system and to justify laws that make it harder for people to register and vote. This is a person who shamelessly spreads a myth of widespread voter fraud, has no evidence to back it up, and uses it as a justification for laws which suppress voting.

Looking for more sources on voter fraud? We suggest checking out the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Department of Justice, the Heritage Foundation, and the Brennan Center for Justice.

Sena

HUMANIST HOUSE NEWS

At our August 28 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Humanist Community voted to renew the contract of our Executive Director, Debbie Allen, for an additional year. In the same action, we confirmed that Humanist House will stay at 1180 Coleman Avenue through September 30, 2018, the end of our current lease.

Leadership makes the difference with any organization. Debbie has the knowledge, skills, experience, personality and commitment to lead us in building a humanist chapter that makes us all proud.

Humanist House provides the opportunity to continue expanding our programming to reach a wider, more diverse audience. In addition to improving existing events, such as our Sunday Forum, we invite you to attend workshops, game nights, hikes, movies, potluck dinners, and a new monthly philosophy group. If you have an idea for a new activity at Humanist House, bring it to Debbie or any member of the board.

This board action is not taken lightly. Over a period of several months the board has contemplated alternate futures and evaluated a variety of proposals. We are determined to commit to a plan which has the most promise for a robust future. I believe we have chosen wisely. Now, the challenge is to make it work!

The Humanist Community now has greater potential for growth than it has ever had. The American public is becoming less religious, and Silicon Valley is among the most secular areas in the country! Over the past eleven months a great deal of effort has been expended to improve our programming and increase our visibility through aggressive publicity and social media. In addition, we have formed productive and mutually beneficial alliances within and beyond the secular community that help advance our mission.

Our outreach efforts are showing success, as indicated by new visitors to Humanist House at every Forum. We have more dues-paying members now than last year, or the year before. We also have more donors, and many of our members and donors are making more significant contributions.

We will succeed if each of us makes a commitment to do all we can to make our community better. In addition to your much appreciated financial support, we encourage your involvement in every aspect of our varied activities including leadership roles. The executive director and board members are always eager to hear from you. Our regular meeting is the third Monday at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome. *See you soon at Humanist House!*

Paul Gilbert, Board President

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



Calendar of Events

Free Thought Discussion

First Wednesday of the month we discuss recent news. Other Wednesdays we will be discussing the book, *The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* by John Perkins. These discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about 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. Through October we will be watching the lecture series we started in September, *Earth's Changing Climate* by Professor Richard Wolfson.

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

Info: Email brownofmtview@gmail.com or call 650-941-3146

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Group

The October outing is a visit to the annual "Showcase of Miniatures" (goodsamshowcase.miniature.net). Meet there at 9:30 for an amazing experience.

When: Saturday, October 7, 9:30 AM

Where: Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose

The regular meeting features a new book about understanding each other by Alan Alda. Light refreshments, and a raffle.

When: 2nd Saturday (new time), October 14, 2:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Info: 708-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com

Video Game Development

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

When: Monday, October 9 & 23, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

National Coming Out Day Film Screening

Join us on National Coming Out Day for a screening of the new movie, *The Sunday Sessions*, about the harms of conversion therapy.

Where: Humanist House

When: Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 PM

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, and the beverage of your choice..

When: 2nd Thursday, October 12, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

*It is not our belief or disbelief that
can make or unmake the fact.*

Thomas Paine

Movie Night for Skeptics

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch *The Man who Sued God*, a theological romantic comedy drama about a man seeking compensation for an "Act of God."

When: 2nd Friday, October 13, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Fun Group — The 2017 Book Arts Jam

Featuring: an exhibition of hand-made books and other paper crafts. Vendors will sell hand-made books, themed books, art supplies and tools. There will be artist talks, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and much more!

When: Sunday, October 15, 1:00 PM, Meet at the main entrance.

Where: Palo Alto Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Cost: Admission and Parking Free

RSVP: Especially, first time attendees, hcfungroup@yahoo.com

Board Meeting

Meetings are open to all members of the Humanist Community.

When: 3rd Monday, October 16, 7:30 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, October 17, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Humanist Issues

A discussion group for anyone interested in humanist issues and causes. We will select an article to start the conversation, but where it goes, is up to you. Link to the article(s) on Meetup.

When: 3rd Thursday, October 19, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Humanist House

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. Beer and wine OK. We'll provide a few snacks, and feel free to bring your favorite to share.

When: Friday, October 20, 7:30 PM

Where: Humanist House

Social Action Meeting

Gather to plan social action projects and events. A postcard writing session addressing government issues will follow.

When: Sunday, October 22, 1:30 - 2:30 PM (cards 2:30 - 3:00 PM)

Where: Humanist House

Halloween (Samhain) Potluck Party

Costumes, scary food, walk in the dark...more to come.

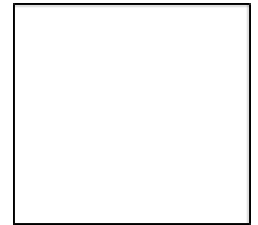
Yes, it's a potluck. All ages welcome. Bring your scary stories and play scary games. Costumes make it more fun for all!

Where: Humanist House

When: Saturday, October 28, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM



Humanist Community in Silicon Valley
 Humanist House
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	2	3 7:30 PM LifeRing	4 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	5 8:00 PM Academic Video	6	7 9:30 AM Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Group Outing Showcase of Miniatures
8 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	9 7:00 PM Video Game Development	10 7:30 PM LifeRing	11 7:00 PM National Coming Out Day Film <i>The Sunday Sessions</i> 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	12 7:00 PM Philosophy Group 8:00 PM Academic Video	13 7:00 PM Skeptic Movie Night	14 2:00 PM Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Group
15 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 1:00 PM Fun Group	16 7:30 PM HCSV Board Meeting	17 7:00 PM Climate Lobby 7:30 PM LifeRing	18 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	19 7:00 PM Humanist Issues 8:00 PM Academic Video	20 7:30 PM Game Night	21
22 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 1:30-2:30 PM Social Action Meeting	23 7:00 PM Video Game Development	24 7:30 PM LifeRing	25 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	26 8:00 PM Academic Video	27	28 6:00 PM Samhain Potluck Party
29 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	30	31 7:30 PM LifeRing				

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