

The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

Our Values - freedom, fairness and compassion, health and happiness, and using science and reason to acquire and apply knowledge. *in Silicon Valley*



Volume 20, Issue 5

P.O. Box 60069, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0069

May 2014

www.humanists.org

650-964-7576

infohcsv@yahoo.com



Humanist Community Board 2014
Front Row: Martin Squibbs, Arthur Jackson, Andrea Dorey
Middle Row: Laura Mappin, Midge Dorn
Back Row: Harrienne Mills, Dominic Borg, Hilton Brown, John Figdor

May Forums

May 4 Big Money Out of Politics

Move to Amend Santa Clara County is gathering signatures for a November county ballot initiative supporting a constitutional amendment to eliminate corporate personhood and money as speech. Hopefully this will build democracy and end corporate rule. Without campaign finance reform we will never get any serious financial improvement.

Richard Hobbs is an immigration attorney, former director of the Office of Human Relations in Santa Clara County, and currently executive director of Human Agenda.

May 11 Consumer Debt, Corporate Profits and Stock Market Value - from 1950 to Present Day

Since 2008 our speaker, Martin Squibbs (Vice President of the Board of the Humanist Community) has sought to educate

himself about monetary, financial, and investment systems. He discovered that consumer debt growth (considering households and government as consumers) can contribute directly, with some delay, to corporate profits and to stock market value. He concluded that this has likely been the case in the USA since 1980; so, as we reduce our levels of consumer debt growth, corporate profits, earnings, and stock market value will be substantially reduced.

May 18 Becoming an Evolutionary Leader: Building a Just, Sustainable, Flourishing Civilization

Everyone can be an evolutionary leader, and contribute toward the great transition to a better world. We can contribute at the micro, meso, macro levels. Humanism has a lot to contribute toward a cultural-social evolution. Manuel Manga (an organizational consultant, facilitator, and leadership coach) will present his concept of evolutionary leadership, which is democratic, non-hierarchical, collaborative and visionary. This concept is partly inspired by Julian Huxley's Evolutionary Humanism, which claims that humanity needs a psycho-social evolution.

May 25 Understanding Human Nature

The ideas in this talk by Arthur Jackson (Humanist Community member and leader) are part of an article that has been published in "Humanist Perspectives," the Humanist magazine for Canada. Jackson, who believes that human beings are the source of meaning and value, will draw from ideas in his book, "How to Live the Good Life: A User's Guide for Modern Humans" which supports this point of view. Jackson assumes that human nature is shaped by our evolutionary past and can best be understood in that context.

FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School Student Center, 50 Embarcadero Rd, Palo Alto 94301
Sundays 11 AM-12:15 PM - Free and open to the public
Lunch 12:15-2 PM. - A donation of \$12 is requested.

*Humanist Community
serving Silicon Valley*

Volume 20, Issue 5
May 2014

Editor

Alex Havasy

Production

Hilton Brown, Helen Athey, Carl Angotti, Sena Havasy, Brian Davis, Burt Liebert
Cover graphic composed and edited by Sena Havasy

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to svhumanists@gmail.com. The length of your submission should not exceed 100 words and may be edited for clarity.

Board of Directors

Arthur Jackson, President
Martin Squibbs, Vice President and Recorder
Hilton Brown, Treasurer
Andrea Dorey
Dominic Borg
Harrienne Mills
John Figdor
Laura Mappin,
Midge Dorn

To contact the Board

email Arthur@arthurmjackson.com

Disclaimer:

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

Visit our Facebook:

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley. We welcome people to post ideas and information of interest to members of the Humanist Community.

HELP

Do you need some help?

· For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at Arthur@arthurmjackson.com or call 408-620-4278.

· If you need to talk to someone about a problem, call Arthur Jackson at 408-620-4278.

· If you need some other kind of help (for example, a ride to a doctor's appointment, some groceries brought by, a recommendation for a lawyer), email hchelp@yahoogroups.com (which forwards your e-mail to members of the HC HELP group, each of whom may send a reply e-mail to you and the group if they can help), or reach them through Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.



Let Humanism Ring! The 73rd Annual Conference of the American Humanist Association

The American Humanist Association will hold its 73rd annual conference **on June 5 through June 8** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel.

Meet with Humanists from across the country and around the world, including such Humanist luminaries and award recipients as **Barney Frank**, Humanist of the Year; **Natalie Angier**, Humanist Media Award; **Dr. Eugenie Scott**, Lifetime Achievement Award; **Jessica Valenti**, Humanist Heroine and more.

Join hundreds of humanists, atheists and freethinkers in Philadelphia for a four-day celebration of humanism! The American Humanist Association will feature informative lectures, book signings, celebrity guests, networking opportunities, child care, fun activities, evening banquets and more!

There is a Child Care Program for children ages 0-4, and a Camp Quest Kids Program for ages 5-17. There is also a tour of historic Philadelphia.

Learn what the AHA has done and is doing to promote humanism.

Go to conference.americanhumanist.org/ to register and for more information.

May 1, National Day of Reason

“I encourage all citizens to join in observing this day, focusing on the employment of reason, critical thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of problems for the welfare of humanity.”

Those words are from a statement from the AHA supporting May 1 as the National day of Reason. It was submitted by Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia in the House of Representatives last year.

Go to nationaldayofreason.org/ for more information.

Congratulations, Arthur!

Arthur's essay, “Human Nature: Genetic Propensities and Symbolic Language,” has been published in *Humanist Perspectives of Canada*, and “A New Foundation for Civilization: Humanism,” which he outlined for us in a Humanist Sunday Forum last February, is now available on-line through the American Humanist Association.

“Being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead.”

— [Kurt Vonnegut](#)

Calendar of Events

The Sharing Circle

Meets prior to the Forum each Sunday. Attendees may share personal feelings or experiences in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

Where: Palo Alto High School Student Center

When: Sundays, 10:30 AM

Humanist Community Board Meeting

Board meetings are open to all members of the Humanist Community.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Monday, May 12, 7:30 PM

The Family Program

The HC Family Program is designed for children ages 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. The parents supervise the program. Participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects, reflecting the ideas and goals of the families and community. At the end of each program meeting, they join the community for lunch when the program is on site.

Where: Science Resource Building of Palo Alto High School, Room 1732

When: most Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon, call 650-257-0478 to confirm the upcoming meeting

Membership Committee

We arrange potlucks and seasonal celebrations, including the annual Spring dinner honoring the new Board. At the Sunday Forum we prepare the Greeter's table, the lectern flowers, and the table decorations. Sandy Smith's Sunshine Committee sends paper cards.

If you are interested, please contact Sena Havasy (senahav@gmail.com), or 408-462-2156.

Sena Havasy, Committee Chair

History Book Group

We are reading *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. We watch a consummate diplomat as he threads his way through the Washington minefield of the Civil War with a cabinet of brilliant former opponents. Contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com for more information.

Where: Kimm's Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

When: Wednesday, May 14, 2:30 PM

Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Academic Video

View an academic video, followed by discussion. For more information check www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Thursday, 8:00 PM

Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, any Saturday of the month. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at havasy@live.com.

Fun Group

A Visit to Antioch Dunes Wildlife Refuge

The Antioch sand dunes were formed during the ice ages, part of an expanse of 100-foot dunes along the San Joaquin River after the Mojave desert receded in prehistoric times.

It is now a protected area, home to three endangered species, as well as a unique assemblage of plants, insects, and reptiles.

Come explore this refuge on a docent-led tour.

Where: Antioch Dunes, 501 Fulton Shipyard Road, Antioch, CA. 94509.

When: Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 AM

Cost: Free

Humanist Potluck

The May potluck will be at the home of Joyce Sogg in Los Gatos. Joyce's house is a mix of impressive wood construction and artistic whimsical objects. Contact Joyce at joycelawyer@verizon.com for directions. Please bring a dish of your choice.

Where: home of Joyce Sogg in Los Gatos

When: Saturday, May 10 at 6:00 PM

Humanist Community Hiking Group

Bill Rausch can no longer lead the hiking group. Greg Alexander is willing to facilitate hikes but needs to know how much interest there is and what locations are suitable. There is a sign-up sheet at the greeters table or contact Greg at greg.alexander@me.com.

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

Humanists at UUCPA Potluck and Discussion

Our meetings usually have 15 people. Please bring a dish for the potluck. Check the website below for the topic.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto

When: Saturday, May 5 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: uucpa.org/main/location.html

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

For details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org

SkepticCal

For details on Skeptical, the Northern California conference of science and skepticism, go to www.skepticalcon.com/.

Where: Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St, Oakland

When: Saturday, May 31

For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to:
www.humanists.org/blog/associated-rganizations/

MAY 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video | | 3 |
| 4 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum | 5 | 6 | 7 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion | 8 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video | | 10 <u>10:00 AM</u> Fun Group <u>6:00 PM</u> Humanist Potluck |
| 11 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum | 12 <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting | 13 | 14 <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion | 15 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video | | 17 |
| 18 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum | 19 | 22 | 21 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion | 22 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video | | 24 |
| 25 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum | 26 | 27 | 28 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion | 29 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video | | 31 |

Humanist Community
P.O. Box 60069
Palo Alto, CA 94306-006

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| |
|--|
| Humanist Community P.O. Box 60069 Palo Alto, |
|--|