

# The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

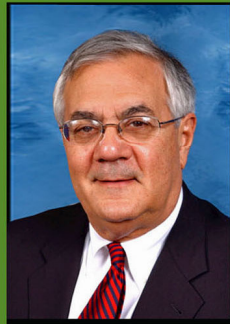
Our values - freedom, fairness and compassion, health and happiness, and using science and reason to acquire and apply knowledge.



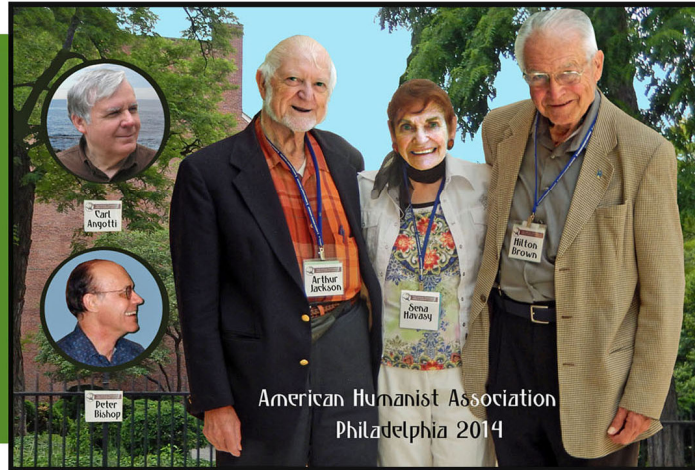
650-964-7576

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

svhumanists@gmail.com



Barney Frank  
Humanist of the Year



American Humanist Association  
Philadelphia 2014



Roy Speckhardt  
AHA Executive Director

## August Forums

### August 3 The Twin Pillars of Humanism

Humanism has influenced the modern world tremendously. But many people have only vague ideas about what humanists believe. There is no authority to say who is and who is not a Humanist, and opinions vary over a considerable range. But to be a viable movement, there must be some principles that Humanists share widely, if not universally. Jim Barnett (Co-President of the Bay Area Humanists, [www.sfhumanists.org](http://www.sfhumanists.org), and a humanist for decades) will review the principles that he believes are essential to Humanism.

### August 10 Your Hopes and Dreams for the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley (HCSV)

What do you appreciate about HCSV? How could HCSV change to be more meaningful to you? What would you be willing to do to help make HCSV more worthwhile to you? This Forum will be a discussion among attendees (facilitated by HCSV member Laura Mappin). Bring your thoughts to share, and your willingness to listen to, and collaborate with, others.

### August 17 Moving Through Difficult Conversations

Paul Hebert (Case Manager for the Palo Alto and Los Altos Mediation Programs, [www.paloaltomediation.com](http://www.paloaltomediation.com), which are administered by Project Sentinel, [www.housing.org](http://www.housing.org)) will briefly describe the services available through Project Sentinel and the Mediation Programs. Then he will describe the key elements of communication skills which mediators model and support to help resolve conversations that have gotten off track. He and a panel of other mediators will then take questions from the audience about challenging communication scenarios they have experienced, and describe how a mediator would approach those conversations.

### August 24 Solar Cooking and Other Green Technology Projects in Nepal

In 1992, Allart Ligtenberg retired early from his Hewlett-Packard engineering manager's job to follow his dream of disseminating solar cooking/water pasteurization and renewable energy in developing countries in order to improve health, the environment, and to reduce poverty. Allart started long-term solar cooking programs in Nepal, and each year he spends 2-3 months in Nepal to follow up on these programs. Come hear Allart discuss his many wonderful green technology efforts.

More at: [solarcooking.wikia.com/wiki/Allart\\_Ligtenberg](http://solarcooking.wikia.com/wiki/Allart_Ligtenberg)

### August 31 The Skeptic and Humanist Tents

Who do we let in? Who do we keep out? And what are we doing in there anyway? We'll watch a few portions of Jamy Ian Swiss's talk ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIznLE5Xno](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIznLE5Xno)) describing how he sees the skeptic's tent. We'll springboard from there and define how we see our own humanist tent. All members, potential members, and interested parties are welcome to join the discussion, which will be facilitated by HCSV member Laura Mappin.

#### FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School Student Center  
50 Embarcadero Road, 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 8, August 2014

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

Visit our facebook page:

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

### 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 [havasy@live.com](mailto:havasy@live.com) with "Letter to Editor" in the subject line. The length should not exceed 100 words and may be edited for clarity.

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### To contact the Board

email [Arthur@arthurmjackson.com](mailto:Arthur@arthurmjackson.com)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).



## Being a Chartered Chapter of the American Humanist Association

The American Humanist Association is an amazing organization of which we are a proud part. Through it the voices raised for the cause of Humanism in the world by the chapters are amplified many fold.

AHA's many divisions are working tirelessly for:

Enlightened Education through the **Kochhar Humanist Education Center**, which offers lifelong education resources toward this end and provides policy recommendations that stimulate society to break down the barriers of prejudice and leave a common and rational approach to knowledge. Through a coalition of the willing, harmful myths, teaching positive values, and providing the educational foundation for an outlook that embraces all of humanity as one people.

Gender Equality through the **LGBT Humanist Council**, a forum for LGBT humanists from across the country to exchange ideas on local organizing, find support in coming out as LGBT and to speak out with one voice on issues of concern to the LGBT-humanist community.

Justice in the courts through the **Appignani Humanist Legal Center's** pro-bono lawyers and lobbyists.

Relief of Suffering through **Humanist Charities** focus on financially supporting relief and rebuilding projects. (There is an official Facebook page for Humanist Charities.)

Women's Rights through the **Feminist Caucus**, a coalition of women and men working toward the advancement of women's rights and equality between the sexes. The members of the Caucus work hard fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment and participate in public demonstrations, including marches for women's and civil rights.

World Wide Health through the **Appignani Bioethic Center** which helps inform local, state, national and international policy debates about global issues in medical and biotechnological sciences through collaboration with NGOs and UN departments, bodies and agencies. The Center also sponsors scholarly endeavors dedicated to preventive medicine and seeks partnerships with health care professionals and other NGOs to provide educational venues and opportunities for confronting various medical issues facing developed and developing world countries.

### Chartered Chapters

Being a Chartered Chapter of the AHA involves a close level of relationship. Chartered Chapters are in substantial agreement with the AHA's policies and goals and are a part of the structure of the AHA.

The AHA and its Chartered Chapters work together, which allows a clear sense of identification and a chance for unity of action, all toward the goal of advancing Humanism. Chapters receive all the benefits of Affiliates.

Chartered Chapters can join the AHA's Chapter Assembly, an organization run by Chapter leaders that exists to serve as a forum to address Chapter issues, and to ensure that the Chapters have a voice within the AHA.

The AHA can also assist with developing press releases and speeches for public events.

To learn more about any or all of these exciting relationships that your group can form with the AHA, the largest democratic organization in the nation that is promoting the Humanist lifescape, contact Grassroots Coordinator Rachael Berman at [rberman@americanhumanist.org](mailto:rberman@americanhumanist.org) or on our toll-free line at (800) 837-3792.

- Sena Havasy

# Calendar of Events

## The Family Program

The HC Family Program is for children ages 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. Parents supervise the program. Participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects. When the program is on site, they join the community for lunch at the end of each meeting.

**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

## The Sharing Circle

Before 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

## 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, contact Sena Havasy, Committee Chair, at ([senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com)) or 408-462-2156.

## History Book Group

The new book this month is *Hard Choices*. Hilary Clinton recounts experiences as Secretary of State, adding to her resume as the most experienced candidate to hold (if she does) the office of President of the United States, as well as the first woman. To paraphrase a saying, 'She had to be twice as experienced as the men', and she is! Contact Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) for more information.

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

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, August 13, 2:30 PM

## Humanist Community Potluck

The annual summer potluck at the Havasys features a congenial circle of fellow humanists and a plant filled patio shaded by a 40 foot Japanese maple. Bring a dish to share. For more information contact them at 408-739-5638 or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

**Where:** At the home of Alex and Sena Havasy, Sunnyvale

**When:** 3:00 PM Saturday, August 23

## Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check [www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/).

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

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

## Academic Video

View an academic video, followed by discussion. For more information check [www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/).

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

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

## Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, most Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at [havasy@live.com](mailto:havasy@live.com).

## Fun Group

### Performance of "Ripple Effect"

The Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe celebrates its 55th season with a performance of "Ripple Effect" Skyrocketing rents. Loss of diversity. Google Glass wearing nouveau riche attacked in bars. The War on the Poor. What is The City coming to?

A veteran of the Revolution, an immigrant-turned-super patriot, and Silicon Valley's newest star end up together in a tour boat in the middle of San Francisco Bay. When they realize all their lives center on the same overpriced, storefront apartment in the Bayview will they kill each other?

For information visit: [www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org) or call 415-285-1717

**Where:** Mitchell Park, South Field

600 East Meadow Dr. at Cowper St, Palo Alto

**When:** Thursday, August 21 at 7:00 PM

**Cost:** Free, Donations Accepted

## Humanist Community Hiking Group

Greg Alexander facilitates hikes. There is a sign-up sheet at the greeter's table or contact Greg at [greg.alexander@me.com](mailto:greg.alexander@me.com).



## Other Events of Interest to Humanists

### Humanists at UUCPA Potluck and Discussion

Janet Buelow will present the topic: Spinoza's Philosophy and His Influence on the Age of Enlightenment. Our meetings usually have over 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice.

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto

**When:** Saturday, August 2 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: [uucpa.org/main/location.html](http://uucpa.org/main/location.html)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "What I Believe" the third essay in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. For details see: [www.meetup.com/philosophy-219](http://www.meetup.com/philosophy-219)

**Where:** Thai Pepper 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

**When:** Tuesday, August 5, 7:00 PM

### Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: [www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org](http://www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org)

For more information on groups of interest to Humanists go to: [www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/)



# AUGUST 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>4</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>7</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>10</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>14</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>21</b> <u>7:00 PM</u> Fun Group  <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <u>3:00 PM</u> Humanist Potluck 
<b>24</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>28</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum						

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

Humanist  
 Community  
 P.O. Box  
 60069  
 Palo Alto,

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