

The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

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

in Silicon Valley



November 2014

P.O. Box60069.Palo Alto.CA94306-0069

www.humanists.org



November Forums

November 2 Books, Toys, and Gifts for A More Peaceful and Sustainable World

Reach and Teach (www.reachandteach.com), an independent bookstore in San Mateo focusing on gender equality, sustainable living and peacemaking, is run by business and life partners Derrick Kukuchi and Craig Wiesner. Married since 1990, they received the first same-gender marriage license in San Mateo County in 2008. They will share their journey from Silicon Valley education consultants through El Salvador and Afghanistan to their shop in San Mateo. Which seeks to transform the world through teachable moments.

November 9 Finding Life Beyond Earth

The search for life in the Universe, one of the grand quests of current science, employs multiple approaches likely to yield results in the next few decades. Dr. David Morrison, one of Carl Sagan's first graduate students, will share some thoughts about Sagan and his influence in science and science literacy. Dr. Morrison holds a PhD in astronomy from Harvard, is director of the Carl Sagan Center for the Study of Life in the Universe (at the SETI Institute in Mountain View) and was the founding director of the NASA Lunar Science Institute (NLSI) and a senior scientist in astrobiology at NASA Ames Research Center.

November 16 What I Learned by Building Our Taboo Museum

Laura Mappin founded Our Taboo Museum (online), to address every possible taboo subject by any artistic means possible. She hoped conversation would make taboos better understood, so we could address them in a healthier, clear-eyed, less fearful manner. The process has been full of surprises.

Laura holds BS degrees in math and computer science from University of Pittsburg, and spent twenty years fermenting in corporate America providing fuel for Our Taboo Museum.

November 23 Existential Buddhism

Existential or Secular Buddhism is a philosophical approach based on the teaching of Buddha, without the cultural and religious narratives that have been layered to what the Buddha originally taught.

This talk, based on the books by Stephen Bachelor, aims to share the core teachings that can support our well-being, empathy and community.

Manuel Manga is an organizational consultant, facilitator, and leadership coach.

November 30 Performance Forum

Do you love music? Play a musical instrument and /or sing? Solo, group or sing along? Do you have a favorite poem, one that you've read or maybe even written yourself? Do you have a skit or dance piece you could share with us?

We are looking for participants for our sixth Annual Performance (formerly Poetry) Forum.

We are taking sign up at the greeters table. For more information contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.

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

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www.humanists.org
Visit our facebook page:
Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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Alex Havasy

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to 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

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 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.



Vote!

Midterm elections are held this month. A healthy democracy needs a committed and informed electorate. Our ability to vote for our representatives in public office is the only assurance we have that the government works for us. Become informed about the candidates and propositions and vote.

Soliciting for Board of Directors

Selection of the Board of Directors of the Humanist Community is the most important decision the Community makes. Our Board of Directors sets the direction of the Community, determines our priorities, decides how our donations will be spent, and makes decisions that affect how the Humanist Community is perceived by others, including potential members. Board decisions impact how Community members contribute their time, efforts, and funds. A collaborative Board with clear goals and Community support can be a powerful force in building our Community for the future.

In February there will be 5 openings on the Board of Directors. The Board has instructed the Nominating Committee (Paul Gilbert, Sandy Smith, Marie Stephens) to look for more than 5 candidates, each with his or her own vision of how our Community could best grow and thrive, so as to stimulate Community discussion and inspire voters to think carefully about which visions best match their own. If you would like to be a candidate, if you would like to know more about what serving on the Board entails, or if you know someone you think would be an effective Board member send an email to HCNominations@humanist.org by October 31 or contact one of us personally.

HC Board Elections, People Are Wondering

This election will be different than they have been in the past and some people are wondering why we are departing from our no rejection policy. For some years we have asked a nominating committee to determine, with the help of the membership, who would stand for election to fill the seats of board members whose term were expiring. We also assured any board member who was eligible to run again, that they could be certain of a seat. We have done this on the advice of experts in groups such as ours, to avoid causing pain to any of our friends by rejecting them in an open election.

I have stubbornly held to this as Membership Chair, having seen first hand valuable members who perceive rejection and disappear afterward for a long time if not forever.

So we will now go to a traditional election, as many among us, including our elder statesmen, have long advocated, assuming we have good sports and strong individuals on our ballot!

May the force be with us!
Sena Havasy, Membership

❄ Decorate the Humanist Tree ❄

Join us in decorating our HCSV tree at Cesar Park in San Jose on Wednesday, November 26. More information will be announced on Sundays and by email to those on the mailing list. See Andrea Dorey to get on the list.

Errata

Last month's write-up about the loss to the Humanist Community of Hershey Julien had two errors: His last name is Julien, not Julian. His wife, Margaret, was called Maggie, not Margie. My sincere apologies.

Alex 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) or 408-462-2156.

History Book Group

We are still Studying *Hard Choices*, wherein Hilary Clinton recounts the background of history from the viewpoint of one intimately involved in her position as Secretary of State.

For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, November 12, 2:30 PM

Humanist Community Potluck

Our November Potluck is a tribute to Marion Bers hosted by her family on her 91st birthday. She is wonderful person and was an accomplished artist whose last works enliven her walls. See her page in the Membership Album on the Greeter's Table at the Forum. We hope to also see Dianne Jacobsen, a dear friend who has left our area. Please contact Sena at 408-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com for details.

When: Saturday, November 8 at 3:00 PM

Where: Spaich Dr., San Jose

Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news on the first Tuesday of the month or a book. Our present book is *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas Piketty. Our discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about not being up to date on the book or the news.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM

Academic Video

View an academic video from www.thegreatcourses.com, followed by discussion. For more information check 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.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Our chip-in, sit-down Thanksgiving dinner will be at the Sunnyvale home of Greg Alexander and Chris Vodgas. \$20 covers the basics starting with a great warm avocado dip and progressing through turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, apple pie and more! Bring something to round it out. (Pie? A vegetable? Your favorite Thanksgiving dish? Ice cream?) Sign up at the Greeter's Table or contact me if you can make it at greg.alexander@me.com or 408-736-2635 Let us know as soon as possible as space is limited.

Where: The home of Chris Vodgas and Greg Alexander in Sunnyvale

When: Thanksgiving Day, November 27 at 3:00 PM

Cost: \$20

Fun Group

Wreath Making for the Historic Shinn House

Everyone is welcome to learn how to make a wreath using live greenery; your wreath will be used to decorate the Shinn House for Christmas. If you want to make a second wreath for yourself, there will be a \$5.00 charge for the wire frame.

Visit: missionpeakreporter.org/shinn-estate.php or call 510-795-0891 evenings and week-ends.

Where: The Shinn House, 1251 Peralta Blvd, Fremont

When: Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 AM

Cost: Free, \$5.00 charge for the wire frame if you want to make a second wreath for yourself

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.

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

Humanists at UUCPA Potluck and Discussion

Our meetings usually have 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice. Check the website below for the presentation topic.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto, Direction to UUCPA: uucpa.org/main/location.html

When: Saturday, November 1 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "Seems Madam? Nay it is." the fifth essay in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. For details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

When: Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 PM

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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