

# The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

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



January 2015

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

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

## Board Candidates



Front row: Mark Perkel, Arthur Jackson, Andrea Dorey, and Midge Dorn  
Back row: Gerald Gras, Harriane Mills, Marian Sanders, and Thomas Bergstrom

## January Forums

### January 4 - Cosmos 1980 versus Cosmos 2014

What foundation did Carl Sagan create in 1980 with "Cosmos: A Personal Voyage", and how did Neil deGrasse Tyson and others improve upon that foundation with "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey" in 2014?

One might have thought at Sagan's time that we had reached an incredible frontier in our understanding of the universe, but in the decades that followed, tremendous advances in particle physics, astrophysics, astronomy, and revolutionary theories in cosmology opened new doors and raised deeper questions about our place in the universe.

We will explore these developments and discuss "what's new in astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology" by considering Cosmos 1980 versus Cosmos 2014.

Paul Salazar is a lifelong amateur astronomer, blogger and public speaker on the topic of astronomy. Paul has given talks at the California Academy of Sciences, the Exploratorium, and CuriOdyssey, and is an occasional guest on KGO, KFOG, and KALW. He is a member of San Francisco Amateur Astronomers and gives 'star talks' at events throughout the Bay Area. Paul is a graduate of Stanford University School of Engineering and Stanford Graduate School of Business, and when not out under the stars he works as an executive at Hazelcast, a Palo Alto-based startup. Paul lives in San Francisco.

### January 11 - Can Art Change our Water Consciousness?

Linda Gass makes artwork in a variety of mediums, inspired by the connections between humans and the water and land that sustain them. Linda will take you on a photographic journey to the places that inspire her work and give you a new appreciation for water resources and the role art can play in educating the public.

After a background in math and computer science, Linda returned to making textiles 17 years ago and now exhibits her work internationally in galleries and museums. Her work is published in numerous books and magazines. For more on her work see [www.lindagass.com](http://www.lindagass.com).

### January 18 - Candidates for the HCSV Board of Directors

Candidates for the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley (HCSV) Board of Directors will present their thoughts on the future of the community, and will answer questions. The election is just before the Forum, on February 1st. Since there are more candidates than Board openings, it is important that you know the candidates. Only members of HCSV can vote.

### January 25 - Why My Car Wears a Humanist Community Bumper Sticker

Humanist Community member Paul Gilbert, is our speaker.

#### 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 21, Issue 1, January 2015  
www.humanists.org  
Visit our facebook page:  
Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

### Editor

Alex Havasy

### Production

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown, Brian Davis, Sena Havasy, 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 with "Letter to Editor" in the subject line. The length 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  
Dominic Borg  
Andrea Dorey  
Midge Dorn  
John Figdor  
Harriane Mills  
Marc Perkel

### To contact the Board

email svhumanists@gmail.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.



## Julie Wedge Hired as Executive Director of the Humanist Community

Julie Wedge has accepted the position of executive director for HCSV (Humanist Community in Silicon Valley).

Julie is well known in Sacramento for her activism and support of political candidates. She brings experience as a board member of the local Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF). She was also the head of Volunteer Public Relations for SacCoR (Sacramento Coalition of Reason), which has 10 organizations as well as 4 campus groups. She helped



organize the "Day of Reason" lobbying event in Sacramento and erecting many "Good Without God" billboards. She also brings a wealth of experience in fundraising.

The vote to make the offer was made at a special board meeting on Monday night, December 22, and Julie accepted when she received the offer the next morning, saying "I look forward to working with everyone."

## Marc Perkel Joins HCSV Board

Marc Perkel has joined the board of the Humanist Community to replace Laura Mappin who resigned last month. Laura's term would end this year, so Marc will be up for election in February after serving just a few months.

## Is Your Membership Up to date?

You can only vote for board members to the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley if your membership is up to date on the day of the elections, February 1, 2015. Membership forms are available on the greeters table at the entrance to the Sunday forums or you can print one from our website at <http://www.humanists.org/blog/membership/>.

## Calendar of Events

### New Year's Open House

The annual New Year's Open House will be at the home of Sena and Alex Havasy. The tree is still up, the champagne flows, come and start the New Year right with a friendly group of fellow humanists! 408-462-2156 or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

**Where:** Home of Sena and Alex Havasy

**When:** Thursday, January 1 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM

### 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

We are reading *Breaking In: The Rise of Sonia Sotomayor and the Politics of Justice*. Author Joan Biskupic traces the justice's trajectory from lawyer to becoming the first Latina Supreme Court justice in U.S. history and the third woman on the Court.

For information contact Sena at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) or 408-462-2156.

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

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, January 14, 2:30 PM

### Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news on the first Wednesday of the month or our present book other weeks. Our discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about not being up to date on the book or the news. Go to: [www.humanist.org/blog/free-thought-discussion](http://www.humanist.org/blog/free-thought-discussion) for the present book and reading schedule.

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Wednesdays, 7:30 PM (No meeting on January 1)

### Academic Video

View an academic video from [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com), followed by discussion.

**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

#### Fantastic Worlds: Surrealism and Beyond

Come explore how a group of artists in the early 20th century rejected convention and created works incorporating play, experiment, and fantasy that continue to influence artists today.

Visit <https://www.sccl.org/Locations/Los-Altos> or call (650) 948-7683 for more information.

**What:** San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Lecture

**Where:** Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos

**When:** Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

**Cost:** Free,

### Humanist Community Hiking Group

For information on the January hike, contact Bill Rausch at 510-299-0147.

## 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](http://uucpa.org/main/location.html)

**When:** Saturday, January 3 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "On Catholic and Protestant Skeptics," the seventh essay in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. See [www.meetup.com/philosophy-219](http://www.meetup.com/philosophy-219) for details.

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

**When:** Tuesday, January 20, 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/).

No testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle, unless the testimony be of such a kind that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavours to establish.

David Hume



# JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>2:00 PM</u> New Year's Open House 	2	3
4 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	5 <u>7:00 PM</u> Fun Group	6	7 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	8 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	9	10
11 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	12 <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	13	14 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group	15 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	16	17
18 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	19	20	21 <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	22 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	23	24
25 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <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	30	31

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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