

The Newsletter of the
Humanist Community
 in Silicon Valley

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



Pharaoh Tertamani
 of 26th Dynasty 761-656 BC

Zulu Mask

Queen Mother of Benin
 Late period, c 1530

Buffalo Soldier
 Established 1866

Martin Luther King
 1929 - 1968

Baraque Obama
 President US 2008-2016

Remember, We Did Not Begin As Slaves

February Forums

February 1 - Faith and the Moral Compass

Jonathan Figdor, the Humanist Chaplain at Stanford University, will discuss his new book (co-written with Lex Bayer), "Atheist Mind, Humanist Heart: Rewriting the Ten Commandments for the Twenty-first Century."

(Note: HCSV's Annual Business Meeting to elect the new Board will occur at 11:00AM, immediately before the forum. See the candidates' views at: www.humanists.org/blog/2015-01-18.)

February 8 - Humanism in Norway

Even Gran has been working full time for the Norwegian Humanist Association (NHA) since 2005. He works mainly as a journalist for NHA'S magazine, and has visited many humanist organizations, and attended many humanist/atheist conferences, around the world. He will discuss the Norwegian humanist movement, the Norwegian state church arrangement (and recent changes to it), funding of the Norwegian faith and life stance sector, examples of how the Christian majority exercise their power over the public sector, and secularization – are people really believers?

February 15 - The Future of Darwin Day

We are thrilled to announce Evan Clark will be joining us to discuss the Future of Darwin Day. Evan is a secular consultant committed to the growth of the freethinker community and to the expansion of the possibilities of Darwin Day. He has been working with our very own Bob Stephens to grow the movement.

Come hear what you can do to help spread the scientific word!

February 22 - In Conversation with Dr. Michael R. Edelstein about REBT

New HCSV Executive Director Julie Wedge will talk with Dr. Michael R. Edelstein about Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT). REBT is a present-centered, active-directive form of psychotherapy devised in 1955 by noted humanist and pioneering psychologist Dr. Albert Ellis. REBT helps individuals identify the dysfunctional philosophies at the core of their anxiety, depression, anger, relationship problems, and addictions, then teaches them how to change their thinking. REBT spawned the many varieties of cognitive-behavioral therapies (CBTs) currently practiced. Questions from the audience will be taken and also can be submitted in advance to: Julie Wedge. Michael R. Edelstein, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and author of 4 books, including Three Minute Therapy. He was a patient of, then trained with, Dr. Albert Ellis. Dr. Edelstein has a phone, Skype, and in-person REBT therapy practice. His website is www.ThreeMinuteTherapy.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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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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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.



Celebrating Darwin

In 1859 Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (later editions retitled *The Origin of Species*), a work which laid the foundation of modern biology. Various evolutionary ideas had already been proposed but it was Darwin's clear arguments and well documented examples that won over the scientific community and made Darwinian evolution the unifying concept of the life sciences. Evolution highlights the beauty of life and shows us that we're a part of this rich history.

Although there have been Darwin celebrations sporadically since his death, notably at his home until the death of his wife, the first recorded campaign for an annual 'Darwin Day' was by Dr. Robert Stephens of the Humanist Community which, in late 1993, began planning for an annual "Darwin Day" celebration. Its first public Darwin Day event was a lecture by Dr. Donald Johansson (discoverer of the early hominid "Lucy"), sponsored by the Humanist Community and their Stanford Humanists student group on 22 April 1995.

In the late 1990s, two Darwin enthusiasts, Amanda Chesworth and Robert Stephens, co-founded an unofficial effort to promote Darwin Day. In 2001 the "Darwin Day Program" was incorporated with Dr. Stephens as chairman of the board and President of this nonprofit corporation with its aim to make "Darwin Day An International Celebration."

In 2004, the "Darwin Day Program" was dissolved and all its assets assigned to the "Darwin Day Celebration", non-profit organization incorporated in California in 2004 by Dr. Robert Stephens and others.

Darwin Day Celebration redesigned the Web site DarwinDay.org, from a static presentation of information about the Darwin Day Program to a combination of education about Darwin and the Darwin Day Celebration organization, including automated registration for people who want to receive e-mailings or make public declaration of support for Darwin Day. The website is now operated by the International Darwin Day Foundation, an autonomous program of the American Humanist Association.



THE 25TH EGYPTIAN DYNASTY

The 25th Dynasty refers to the kings of Kush (which included Nubia) who ruled all or part of Egypt from c 746 to 645 BC and provided Egypt with a revival of its intellectual and artistic roots while introducing some unique aspects of Kushite culture.

Ancient Egypt and Nubia had a close and varied relationship, sometimes being enemies, sometimes allies as the two cultures melded and mixed together. Relations between the two peoples show strife as well as peaceful cultural interchange and cooperation, including mixed marriages. Nubian archers were famed; the Egyptian name for Nubia was "The Land of the Bow". During the ancient New Kingdom the military archers wore leather kilts in the manner of the Nubians



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During the 25th dynasty, five Nubian kings ruled Egypt as pharaoh.

Around 730 B.C.E. King Piankye, (or Piye) marched north from the Nubian capital of Napata and conquered northern Egypt, supplanting the disorganized and decentralized 24th dynasty. Piye's reign emphasized a revival of the culture of the New Kingdom. State artisans were encouraged to study its masterworks; similarly, the monarchy resurrected the pyramid as a royal tomb type and poured funds and labor into extensive renovations of ancient temples throughout the empire.

Piye's successor, his brother Shabaqo (or Shabaka, ca. 712-707* BC), moved the royal residence to Memphis in Upper Egypt. Shabaqo promoted the culture of ancient Egypt by commissioning the reproduction of texts of earlier periods. Continuing the tradition, Shebitqo (ca. 707*-690 B.C.E.), Taharqa (690-664 BCE), and Tantamani (664 to 657 B.C.E.), continued to restore and revitalize Egypt.

The reign of Taharqa (690-664 BCE), was the most glorious of the dynasty with military victories expanding Nubian rule to Libya and Phoenicia. During his reign brief reunification of Lower Egypt, Upper Egypt, and also Kush (Nubia) created the largest Egyptian empire since the New Kingdom.

Tantamani (664 to 657) was the last pharaoh of the 25th dynasty. "Great of strength like a fierce-eyed lion." Years of war with Assyria eventually resulted in the end of Kushite power in Northern Egypt and the conquest of Egypt by Assyria although Tantamani seems to have continued to be acknowledged as pharaoh in Thebes until his eighth year, his cousin remained the High Priest of Amun, and we have other evidence of the Kushite's continued power within the region.

* not 702, according to the most recent research.

Sena Havasy drawing on Wikipedia and other on-line sources

Calendar of Events

Humanist Potluck

Our February Valentine's Day Potluck is at Marion and Robert Bers. We hope to also see Dianne Jacobsen, a dear friend who has left our area. Please contact Sena at 408-462-2156 or senahav@gmail.com for details.

When: Saturday, February 14 at 1:00 PM

Where: Spaich Dr., San Jose

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 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 or 408-462-2156.

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, February 11, 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 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, 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.

Fun Group

Camellia Society of Santa Clara County 74th Camellia Flower Show

Come see nearly 3,000 Camellia blooms exhibited with blossoms from all over Northern California, including competition winners.

Plants will be available for sale, along with educational lectures and other information.

Where: Santa Clara Community Recreation Center
966 Kiely Blvd (between Benton and Homestead),
Santa Clara, CA

When: Saturday, February 21, 2015 at 2:30 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

When: Saturday, February 7 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "Life in the Middle Ages," the eighth essay in the book, *Why I Am Not a Christian* by Bertrand Russell. See www.meetup.com/philosophy-219 for details.

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

When: Tuesday, February 17, 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/.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

FEBRUARY 2015

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

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