

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.



## March Forums

### March 1: Meet HCSV's New Executive Director, Julie Wedge

Our new Executive Director, Julie Wedge, will discuss the upcoming projects that HCSV will be working on. We invite you to join the conversation to learn a little more about Julie and to discuss how, together, we will move this organization forward.

### March 8: International Women's Day

A number of different presentations will be made in honor of International Women's Day. A speaker will describe the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Dr. Cherrill Spencer, a retired SLAC engineer, will report on a conference she attended to advance women working in sciences and engineering. Aparna Ananthasubramaniam will report on her work with a women's shelter in Palo Alto and her current work helping poor women obtain credit. The Vice President of SEIU Local 250 will talk about organizing health care workers in San Mateo County to gain a living wage. Lois Flood will then dance in a tribute to the revolutionary modern dancer, Isadora Duncan.

### March 15: Psychology and Political Framing

Humanist Community member and Board member Tom Bergstrom will present an overview of how conservatives and liberals think. This information is based on Professor George Lakoff's writing and videos. Learning how people frame their beliefs helps others learn how to speak to and work with those with different views. The goal of this Forum is to learn how to frame liberal views so liberals can work with conservatives.

### March 22: Evolution, Adaptation and Bird Behavior – a Video Presentation

The basic evolutionary principle is elegant and even simple, but its application in human evolution is controversial to say the least. However, viewing bird behavior in video sequences allows us to analyze evolution in a fellow creature more objectively, and then to hypothesize its applicability to human evolution. Barry Boulton combines a passion for bird behavior and practical evolution using video as the primary medium.

### March 29: ALEC – Buying Our State Legislative System on Behalf of Corporate Interests

ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) was founded in the 1970's as a secret entity based in Washington, D.C. with legislators and corporate members writing legislative bills for corporate interests in exchange for election campaign funding. Over 2,000 companies have joined, writing legislation to favor their business. In 2011, Common Cause helped shine a spotlight on ALEC and its activities, and with a coalition of organizations pressured companies to drop their memberships.

Elsa Schafer is a progressive activist (Democracy for America and Common Cause) who has fought for publicly funded elections, while working on healthcare reform in her day job.

#### 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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### Editor

Alex Havasy

### Production

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown, Brian Davis, Sena Havasy, Burt Liebert  
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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.

### Board of Directors

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### 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.

### 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). You can reach them through Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

•If you would like to discuss projects or ideas for HCSV contact Julie Wedge (916) 751 6401.

## The Women on the Cover

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey - 1947 - is a political activist. She was a member of the UK parliament from 1969 to 1974 and, at age 21, was the youngest person ever elected to Westminster. She formed and worked with various political groups during the Irish rebellion and was a leading spokesperson for the Irish Hunger Strike in 1980. She currently works with migrant workers in Northern Ireland.

Mary Robinson - 1944–1997 - Was the first female president of Ireland (1990–1997), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002). She was "a transformative figure for Ireland."

Maude Gonne -1886–1953- an activist for Irish independence, peace, women's rights, and the relief of prisoners. A muse to the poet Yeats, she died at 86 years. Her son was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974.

Boudica - about 25–61- Celtic queen of the Iceni tribe. A mother, wife, and warrior, she defended her country against the occupying Romans. Three principle cities were captured and a Roman legion decimated before the combined tribes were defeated.

Augusta Lady Gregory -1852–1932 - With William Butler Yeats and Edward Martyn, she founded the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre and was behind the Irish Literary Revival. She produced many books including stories from Irish mythology.

## What Happened at the HC Board Elections?

On the February 1st election for the board of the Humanist Community, we had 8 candidates, and 5 openings resulting in a tie for the fifth slot. Two of the tying members dropped out to avoid causing anyone to lose and to avoid a runoff election.

The new board met on February 9 to accept the new members and elect officers. The full board and officer positions are listed at the column on the left.

## Secular Coalition of America Lobby Day and Secular Summit

The Secular Coalition of America will hold a Lobby Day & Secular Summit in Washington, DC, on April 30. Here's your chance to learn how to lobby your representatives and shape public policy, meet with lawmakers and their staffs, and network with like-minded secular leaders. Go to [www.secular.org](http://www.secular.org) to register and for further details



## American Humanist Association Annual Conference

The 74th AHA Annual Conference will be held in Denver Colorado, May 7-10. Go to [conference.americanhumanist.org/](http://conference.americanhumanist.org/) for details on this inspiring and informative event, and for the schedule, the list of awardees, hotel accommodations, and registration forms.

## Calendar of Events

### Humanist Potluck

Our March St. Paddy's Day potluck will be held at the home of Pamela Erwin in San Jose. Pamela is a wonderful cook and with the dishes we bring to share it will be a sumptuous feast!

'Wearing of the Green' encouraged. RSVP appreciated. Please contact Pamela at [leddenpamela@yahoo.com](mailto:leddenpamela@yahoo.com) or Sena at 408-739-5638 or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) for details.

**Where:** Pamela Erwin in San Jose.

**When:** March 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 6:00 PM

### 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 on site 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 408-739-5638.

### 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 408-739-5638.

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

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, March 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](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

### 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

#### SCUSD Family Art Day

The Santa Clara Unified School District's Family Art Day is a free community outreach event, offering families an environment to create art and explore the Triton Museum's galleries. Hands-on art activities are inspired by the current exhibitions. Fun interactivity for the whole family. Registration is not required.

For more information, visit <http://www.tritonmuseum.org/> or call (408) 247-3754.

**Where:** Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave

Santa Clara, CA 95050. Meet at the main entrance.

**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

**Cost:** Free,

### Humanist Community Hiking Group

For information on the March 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. Burt Liebert will present the topic, "Population Trends: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly."

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto.

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

**When:** Saturday, March 17 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "The Fate of Thomas Paine," the ninth 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, March 17, 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/).



"The economy is after all driven by people. No matter how dire the situation may be, as long as people are firm, a turnaround, revival and progress can be possible."

— [Daisaku Ikeda](#)

Humanist Community  
P.O. Box 60069  
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>5</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>9</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>12</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <u>10:00 AM</u> Fun Group <u>1:00 PM</u> Humanist Potluck 
<b>15</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>19</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>26</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Circle <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				