

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.



OUR NEW HOME - 1180 COLEMAN AVE - SAN JOSE

July Forums

July 5: Report from the 2015 American Humanist Association Annual Conference

Members of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley who attended the 2015 AHA Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado in May will share their memories, thoughts, and impressions of the Conference. An open discussion (including audience members) of Humanism, and its relationship to "freedom" and "independence" (in honor of the Fourth of July) will follow. To what extent should people be free from governmental requirements (e.g., paying taxes and wearing a seat belt) and governmental prohibitions (e.g., against polluting or exceeding a political contribution limit)? Why are these kinds of limits on "freedom" acceptable or unacceptable from a Humanistic point of view?

July 12: InStove Update: Cookstoves for the World's Poorest Communities

InStove (www.instove.org) implements safe, clean, and highly efficient institutional cookstoves and allied technologies in an integrated approach to serving the world's poorest communities. InStove technologies are now in service in 27 countries, including 17 in sub-Saharan Africa, where they mitigate environmental harm; protect and feed women, children and displaced people; and help communities to be self-sustaining and economically independent. **Fred Colgan**, co-founder of InStove, will discuss InStove's progress and current projects in this update to his April 21, 2013 Forum presentation.

July 19: If Not Here, then Where? The "Raise the Wage Movement" in Silicon Valley

Gail Nyhan and Dr. Meghan Fraley, activists with the Raise the Wage Coalition and Politically Inspired Action, will discuss the progress and next steps of raising the minimum wage here in the heart of innovation and wealth — Silicon Valley

July 26: Herding Cats and Teaching Science: What I Learned About the Reluctance to Embrace Life, the Universe, and Everything

When Dan Pemberton began his work with secular student groups, he expected to see a battle for science literacy with clean lines of science advocates vs. religious fundamentalists. He quickly learned that there were far more powerful forces at work that subvert education and devalue science. What's more, he learned that the reasons for the rejection of science are largely unknown by advocates of scientific literacy.

Dan Pemberton is the Secular Student Alliance (www.secularstudents.org) Southwest Regional Campus Organizer. He was President of the SSA at Sacramento State University, and loves all things technology, grilled cheese, Legos, podcasts, and hammocks.

Dan's passion is for everyone to become a better critical thinker, no matter their religion.

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*

(HCSV)

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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 Us on 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.

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



Executive Director's Update

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members that have generously given to the 100 People \$100 fundraiser for Humanist House. Our early efforts - with the incredible generosity of Bob and Lola Stephens and their \$10K gift - has found us at nearly \$15,000 raised already and we have not even moved in yet! We are hoping to reach \$20,000 by the August 1st tentative move date, so if you haven't had a chance to give there is still time.

In anticipation of an August 1st move-in and without any construction delays we have 2 events planned for that August 1st weekend. First will be an Open House to celebrate the acquisition of a full time venue for the Humanist Community on Saturday, August 1st. Second, we will have our first Sunday Forum at Humanist House August 2nd. I will keep everyone posted both in the weekly emails and at Sunday Forums as the details become more solid.

As always we have exciting July Forum programs including a report on the AHA Conference, an InStove update, learning about the Raise the Wage movement, and wrapping up with our friend Dan Pemberton with Secular Students. As always we hope you join us!

A Farewell to Marsha Farmer who, in her principled way, preferred to be called "Mud"

Vegetarian chef and caterer, Mud created our first lunch program, assisted by George Martin and others. It says a lot about who she was that she insisted that George share her Humanist of the Year Award in 2000.

She and her husband David Gillett were always available to lend a hand at whatever

was afoot in our Humanist Community, with energy, ideas, music, and a great sense of fun.

Marsha was a feminist, Esperanto speaker, and musician, trained to play the flute, and more recently played the mandolin. She once drove across the country and back to see the English actor Alan Rickman on Broadway. She was a Science Fiction fan and attended four World Science Fiction Conventions. She was formerly an initiate in ISKCON, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, where her skills as a vegetarian chef and bookkeeper were greatly valued and utilized.

For thirty years she was the wife of David Gillett, although she retained her birth name. Survived by husband, brother-in-law, two sisters in law, six nephews and three nieces, she was predeceased by half-brother Robert.



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. To confirm the upcoming meeting call 650-257-0478.

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 in serving on this committee, contact Sena Havasy, Committee Chair, at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

History Book Group

Romantic Outlaws: the Extraordinary Lives

of Mary Wollstonecraft and Her Daughter Mary Shelley

Feminist and creator of *Frankenstein*, by Charlotte Gordon.

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

Where: Kimm's Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale 408-737-1139

When: 2nd Wednesday, July 8, 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.humanists.org/calendar/#/freethought-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, followed by discussion. Go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/academic-videos for details of our present video.

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.

Humanist Potluck

The monthly Humanist Potluck for July is a poolside event at the home of Sena and Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale. RSVP appreciated. For details call 408-739-5638 or email senahav@gmail.com. **NOTE:** This is a change from the printed newsletter.

Where: home of Sena and Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale.

When: July 25 Saturday at 1:30 PM

A Visit to NUMU

NUMU is the New Museum in Los Gatos that just had its grand opening!

Join us as we view the work of David Kimball Anderson in the museum's sculpture garden and the following four exhibitions:

"Gem of the Foothills: A Living History of Los Gatos" allows visitors to view selected objects that symbolize the town's triumphs and tragedies and invites them to relate and write their own personal history.

"See Music, Hear Art: Eye For Sound" provides a fusion of art and music easily accessed through a Smartphone or tablet making each experience personal and unique to each user.

"Woody Guthrie: The Power of Song Writing to Affect Social Change" profiles not only the songs of folksinger Woody Guthrie, but also his fervent belief in social, political, and spiritual justice.

"Giants in the Sky: The Rise and Fall of Airships" explores the story of airships, and particularly of Moffett Field, using multimedia, interactive exposition, contemporary artwork, vintage photographs, artifacts, memorabilia, and video.

Where: New Museum of Los Gatos,

106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos CA 95030

When: Saturday, July 18, 11:00 AM, Meet at main entrance.

Cost: Not posted yet

Humanist Community Hiking Group

For information on the July 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.

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

When: Saturday, July 4 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "Freedom and the Colleges," the thirteenth 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

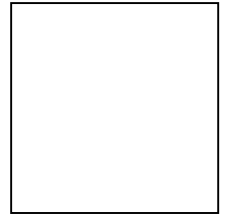
When: Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 PM

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/index/#/associated-organizations/.

Humanist Community
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 2015

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