

The Newsletter of the
Humanist Community

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



Every Day will be Women's Equality Day
 When We Pass the E.R.A.!



All we're
 asking is to
 have that in
 writing!

The U.S.
 Constitution
 is based on the
 IDEAL of EQUALITY.



It's Past Time!

August 26, 1920, We Won the Vote

WOMEN EQUALITY DAY

Finish the Job!

Pass the E.R.A.

August Forums

August 2: What Happens when Computers are Smarter than Humans?

Humanist Community member Marc Perkel will discuss: If humanity invents Artificial Intelligence that is smarter than we are, it will be the last thing we invent because the AI will do the inventing faster than we can. This raises philosophical questions: When will AI be smarter than we are? What will it be like to not be the smartest species on the planet? Will the robots kill us off? What values will we teach AI? Why should humanity continue to exist once we create a superior species? Will we be able to pull the plug on AI or will they pull the plug on us? Is humanity limited to humans? Do robots need religion? Shouldn't we answer these questions BEFORE we create AI?

August 9: The Evolution of Compassion

Evolution optimizes only one thing: reproductive fitness. So how can we account for altruism in nature? This puzzled scientists and philosophers for over a hundred years after Darwin published *Origin of Species*. In mid 1980s Robert Axelrod showed how Darwinian evolution produces altruism and other moral behaviors. Ron Garrett, a Ph.D. in computer science, writes a blog (blog.rongarret.info) covering topics from game theory to quantum mechanics.

FORUM INFORMATION

Humanist House (our new home)

1180 Coleman Avenue, San Jose 95110

Sundays 11 AM-12:15 PM - Free and open to the public

Lunch 12:15-2 PM. - A donation of \$12 is requested.

August 16: Communicating Collaboratively

Most of us have been frustrated by conversations that didn't go well. Maybe we struggled to be heard, were misunderstood, or felt offended. Perhaps the other person had a bad experience, and we're not sure what went wrong. Good communication doesn't have to be a mystery. We can learn the elements of successful interactions.

Anne Bers, a Collaborative Process Coach and former Director of Mediation and Facilitation Services at the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center in San Mateo, will lead this interactive workshop to help identify barriers that cause others to disengage. We'll practice concepts in one-on-one exercises and take away practical techniques for satisfying conversations to enhance our relationships and keep people coming back.

August 23: Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret

What single industry is the leading cause of water pollution, water consumption, species extinction, deforestation, ocean dead zones and anthropogenic greenhouse gases? Could it be the food we eat? Keegan Huhn, filmmaker, videographer, and co-director of the award-winning documentary *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* (www.cowspiracy.com), will discuss the environmental impacts of raising animals for food and why some of the nation's leading environmental organizations are failing to address the devastation that animal agriculture causes.

August 30: Among the Ethnic Minorities in Southwest China

After the destructive period of Mao's *Cultural Revolution*, today's Chinese leadership is supplying resources to rebuild many of the 55 ethnic minorities (not Tibetans or Uighurs) and support their traditions. Barry Boulton visited ethnic minority communities in Southwest China in October 2013 for three weeks and will show and discuss a documentary that he made about his visit.

*Humanist Community
serving Silicon Valley*

(HCSV)

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www.humanists.org

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Alex Havasy & Julie Wedge

Production

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

Cover graphic composed 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.

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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 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

Wow! Things just keep rolling for the Humanist Community. We are excited about our August 1st Grand Opening of Humanist House, our first Sunday Forum on August 2nd with our speaker and Board Member Marc Perkel, and all the amazing possibilities this move opens up for our community and the greater Freethought community at large. We are still looking to raise money for the project and no donation is too small. Please consider making a contribution to HCSV today.

I would also like to thank Greg Alexander for accepting the position of Treasurer. I look forward to working with Greg to move Humanist Community forward and we hope to have our internal audit completed and on the website in August/September. We have big things planned for our newest non-voting Board member.

Please also welcome Jonathan Figdor back to the HCSV Board of Directors, with a thank you to Peter Edmonds and Greg Alexander for also showing interest in the position. I have heard stories about HCSV having tough times filling open Board positions and am thrilled we are in a position to have chosen from three great people. I believe Mr. Figdor is a positive addition to the future plans of Humanist House, and has unique qualifications to help move us in a service-oriented direction.

As a housekeeping note, I have started to place the approved Board minutes on the website. It is under About, then Board Minutes. Currently May and June are there. I am hoping to recruit some members to help out with archiving 2015 so this year will be available to everyone. Our next Board meeting will be held August 10th at the home of Hilton Brown. Please consider joining us and bring your great ideas!

Finally, I would like to thank Sena and her newly expanding Membership Committee for keeping us on track to grow and expand our membership base once the move to Humanist House is completed.

I hope to see everyone at the Grand Opening!

Onward and upward,

Julie

The Struggle for Equality

From the first gathering at Lucretia Mott's home in Seneca Falls, New York, in August of 1848, until women won the vote in the 26th of August in 1920, seventy two long years of struggle had passed, led, in her lifetime by "The Little General," Susan B. Anthony, travelling and speaking with inexhaustible energy in spite of all obstacles of distance, weather and hostility. She didn't live to see it pass. Many other amazing women took up the torch until the prize was won.

Three years later in 1923, Alice Paul wrote the first Equal Rights Amendment. That was ninth two years ago. The closest we got to "Getting it in Writing" was in 1982, when the final deadline required was reached for a constitutional amendment, outlawing discrimination based on sex. After a hard fought struggle to get thirty eight states passed it, it fell short at thirty three.

Since then the effort has been to pass a law in Congress to extend the deadline to enlist three more states. Every year since 1982 an amendment has been introduced in Congress to permit this but never passed by the two thirds votes required.

Sena Havasy 2015

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

Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, most Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at havasy@live.com.

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.

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

History Book Group

"Parallel Lives, Five Victorian Marriages" by Phyllis Rose. Rose's anecdotes and insights provide a fresh view of the circumstances that bedeviled relations between the sexes a century ago.

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, August 12, 2:30 PM

Humanist Potluck

The August potluck is at the home of Bert Liebert in Palo Alto. RSVP appreciated. Contact Bert at 650-493-1248 for more information or Sena Havasy at 408-739-5638 senahav@gmail.com.

Where: home of Bert Liebert in Palo Alto

When: Saturday August 15 at 6:30 PM

Fun Group

San Francisco Mime Troupe Performance "FREEDOMLAND"

What kind of country would commission a young soldier to free victims from terrorism abroad only to let him become a victim of terrorism at home? Take a guess.

This year the San Francisco Mime Troupe's summer show, FREEDOMLAND, asks the questions: - Are the police out of control? What happened to "innocent until proven guilty"? Is a young Black soldier safer in Afghanistan than walking down the streets of his neighborhood? The only thing it is safe to say is there is something very wrong with our rights!

Where: Mitchell Park, South Field,

600 East Meadow Drive at Cowper Street, Palo Alto.

When: Sunday, August 23, 2015 at 4:00 PM. Music at 3:30 PM

Cost: Free; donations encouraged

Humanist Community Hiking Group

We are looking for someone to coordinate hikes. If you enjoy hiking with a group of fellow Humanists and are familiar with the trails in the area, please step forward and I will put your contact information in the next newsletter.



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, August 1 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss "Can Religion Cure Our troubles?" the fourteenth 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, August 4, 7:00 PM

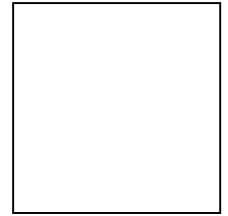
Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org



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

Humanist Community
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Circle 11:00 AM Forum	3	4	5 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	6 8:00 PM Academic Video	7	8
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16 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Circle 11:00 AM Forum	17	18	19 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	20 8:00 PM Academic Video	21	22
23 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Circle 11:00 AM Forum 4:00 PM Fun Group 	24	25	26 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	27 8:00 PM Academic Video	28	29
30 10:30 AM Family Program 10:30 AM Sharing Circle 11:00 AM Forum	31					