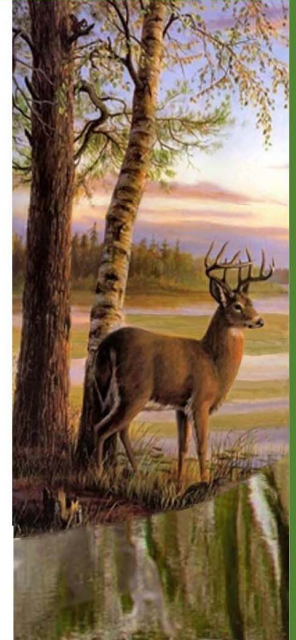


The Newsletter of the
Humanist Community
 in Silicon Valley

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



Winter Solstice

December Forums

December 6: Slow Down

Whether or not you participate in the end of year holidays, they affect everyone--the hustle, bustle, and sometimes the overloaded frenzy of the season can be unsettling. In this talk, author and lecturer Susan Cabrera will teach ways to reduce stress during this period. She will include poetry recitations from her book *Life in the Fast Lane* and will be available to sign books. Susan has her master's degree in Counseling Psychology with emphasis in behavior modification from Stanford (where she has also been a counselor and clinical researcher). She is currently an executive management consultant for county governments.

December 13: Instant Innovation through "The Synergy Effect"

In today's increasingly fast-paced world we are constantly searching for the next great innovative idea. This talk explores how "the synergy effect" can help us find it by combining concepts and insights across two or more domains to produce a creativity sweet spot that is greater than the sum of its parts. We will discuss how this fertile overlap of areas spawns fresh thinking, original products and services, and the creation of new fields. We will review why multidisciplinary teams solve problems and generate breakthrough ideas more often than homogeneous groups, and why individuals with skills in different fields are more creative than specialists. You will learn how to think across boundaries and find your own personal synergy effect. Dr. Michelle Chappel will discuss (see www.michellechappel.com).

December 20: Music & Magic

Camp Quest West (www.campquestwest.org) founder and Longtime Humanist Chris Lindstrom, her banjo and accordion sidekick are bringing the music and social activities. You bring the magic as you sing along, making music together! Expect an eclectic combination of camp songs, folk songs and Freethought songs - a rollicking good time!

December 27: Astrology...Alchemy...Religion: Science Marches On!

Presenter Arthur Jackson, current president of HCSV, has been an active Humanist since discovering the American Humanist Association in 1962. He has spent the bulk of his life working to convince Humanists that religion (from a naturalistic perspective) is almost the opposite of what Atheists and Christians think it is. In this talk he draws from his book, *How to Live the Good Life: A User's Guide for *Modern* *Humans** to clarify how science works and how the future of humanity depends on bringing religion into the domain of science.

FORUM INFORMATION

Humanist House 1180 Coleman Avenue, San Jose 95110
 Sundays 11 AM-12:30 PM - Free and open to the public
 Lunch 12:30-2 PM. - A donation of \$10 is requested
 Afternoon program at 1:30 PM

*Humanist Community
serving Silicon Valley*

(HCSV)

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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 774-757-4486.

•If you need to talk to someone about a problem, call Arthur Jackson at 774-757-4486.

•If you need some other kind of help (for example, a ride to a doctor's appointment, some groceries delivered, a recommendation for a lawyer), email hchelp@yahoogroups.com (which forwards your je-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.



News from Humanist House!

We are giving thought to the ways we can share this pleasant space with other secular groups. A basket is out asking for food donations which we will contribute to the Secular Connections Food Drive and we hope to be the San Jose site for their food sort, tentatively set for December 12th from 1:00 to 5:30.

We are looking forward to hosting a blood drive in January with the Atheists of San Jose.

Three additional groups now use space here monthly.

My calendar of events of all the local secular groups proved too much for a paper calendar. We will make a power point presentation out of it to run silently before the Forum.

We are constantly looking for ways to make Humanist House an enjoyable place for all who come here. A red tablecloth on the buffet table and a frieze of famous Freethinkers on the wall behind brighten things up!

We have new bookcases and are requesting donations of good secular books for our library. We hope to soon add a computer.

We are looking for suggestions of ways to utilize our 24/7 space.

Yours for a bright Humanist future!
Sena Havasy, Membership Chair

Solstice Tree in the Park

Yesterday we trimmed our Solstice tree with dozens of laminated humanist figures bearing pictures of famous humanist and atheist figures as both adult and child. This always gets lots of attention and "Who knew? Tell me more!" Visit us at tree 365.

Where: Caesar Chavez park in downtown San Jose

When: Through January 2nd

An Evening with Lex Bayer and John Figdor

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Please join Humanist Connection in celebrating the audio book release of *Atheist Mind, Humanist Heart*. Lex and John will be discussing the outcomes of the books release and what Humanist Connection is doing now to promote the ideals of the Ten Commandments for the 21st Century.

Location TBD. Contact John Figdor at jfigdor@gmail.com

Downtown Streets:

Jobs Project for the Homeless

Address: 1671 The Alameda #306, San Jose, CA 95126

Phone: (650) 305-1174

The Downtown Streets Team is an AMAZING community group that is committed to giving individuals a "hand UP" rather than a "handout."

Volunteer for the Downtown Streets Team. We assist homeless individuals seek out and apply for jobs. Their staff give a brief training at 12:30 and then we meet and sit-down with their clients at 1 PM. You meet great people and are given the tools you need to help.

Cover Pictures Wanted!

After over 2 years of composing every cover picture I realize I could use some help! We need an occasional original composition or picture, seasonal or with reference to a historical event or holiday of the month, for each and every newsletter. If you are interested contact me at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

Sena Havasy

Calendar of Events

The Family Program

The HCSV Family Program meets Sunday mornings.

Where: Varies, call 650-257-0478 for the time and location.

When: most Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon.

The Sharing Circle

At 10:30, before the Forum each Sunday, attendees meet to share personal feelings or experiences in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

After the Sunday Forum

Activities are planned for each Sunday afternoon: 1st Sunday is video, day, 2nd Sunday is Game Day, 3rd Sunday is Social Action Day, 4th Sunday we'll discuss issues with the Humanist Community. Activity for 5th Sunday to be determined.

Where: Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose

When: 1:30 PM, after the Forum

Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, Tuesdays and 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.

The committee is composed of those members of the potluck circle who are willing to serve. Sena Havasy chair.

Free Thought Discussion

We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, 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. For information on the present book, future books considered, and reading schedule go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/freethought-discussion. For more information, contact Hilton at: brownofmtview@aol.com.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM

Academic Video

The Academic Video Group watches videos from www.thegreatcourses.com, followed by discussion. Go to: www.humanists.org/calendar/#/academic-videos for details of our present video. For details about the group contact Hilton at: brownofmtview@aol.com or 650-941-3146.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM (no video on December 24 or 31)

History Book Group

West with the Night by Beryl Markham. This 1942 memoir by Beryl Markham, chronicles her experiences growing up in Kenya, in the early 1900s, leading to a career as a bush pilot and her record setting flight from Europe to America.

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

Where: Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose

When: 2nd Wednesday, December 9, 2:30 PM

Humanist Community Hiking Group

Fran and Jim Naylor are our new hiking coordinators. If you enjoy hiking with fellow Humanists there is a sign up sheet on the greeter's table at the forum or contact the Naylor's at 408-246-3790 or zaylors@sbcglobal.net.

Humanist Solstice Party

Our Solstice Party, with raffle gifts for all and carol singing (traditional carols with slight changes, we have song books) will be Dec. 12th at Humanist House at 3:00. We need to borrow a keyboard. Anyone? Prizes for the raffle and non-perishable food for the food drive are welcome.

Where: Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave., San Jose

When: Saturday, December 12, 3:00 PM

Humanist Potluck

Gather for our December potluck at the Naylor's and meet our new Hiking Group Conveners.

For information call 408-246-3790, zaylors@sbcglobal.net.

Where: Home of Fran and Jim Naylor, San Jose

When: Saturday, December 19, 6:00 PM

Fun Group Soapmaking

Need a last-minute gift or something for you to personally enjoy? Come join us for the fun, easy craft of soapmaking!

More information at bedfordgallery.org or call 925-295-1417.

Where: Opal'z, 897 Independence Avenue. Building 3, Suite C, Mountain View, CA 94043.

Meet at main entrance.\

When: Saturday, December 19, 10:00 AM.

Cost: \$10 per hour to use all of our soap base, scents, colors, molds, and fun things to put in the mold. The finished soap is only \$1 per ounce.

NOTE: Reservations are required for this activity. For more information and to make reservations, visit

<http://www.opalsoap.com> or call (650) 322-6500.

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. Deneva Goins will present the topic: The Language and Politics of Racism.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, Rooms 5 and 5, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto.

Directions at uucpa.org/main/location.html

When: Saturday, December 5 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

Join us to discuss *Religion & Science Chapter I - Grounds of Conflict*, by Bertrand Russell. For further details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219.

Where: Thai Pepper, 103 E Fremont Ave, Sunnyvale

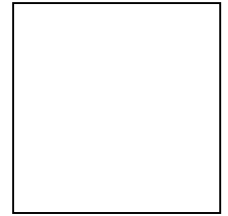
When: Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 PM

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2015

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