

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.



Live as Though the World Depends on You Because It Does

April

April 3: Gelett Burgess, a Renaissance Man

Who coined the word "blurb", published a short story in 1905 which anticipated the 1980s movie *Ghostbusters*, and was responsible for Picasso getting his first solo exhibition in America? Gelett Burgess, a truly remarkable Renaissance man, started out as a civil engineer and became a West Coast bohemian who responded to the European Decadent movement with nonsense poetry. He wrote essays and short stories about the nature of humor, the function of art, gender relations, and the basis of empathy.

Our speaker, Alfred Jan, is a practicing optometrist with an M.A. in Philosophy specializing in Aesthetics. He compiled a collection of Gelett Burgess' works called *A Gelett Burgess Sampler: Ethics and Aesthetics* in 2012, and has lectured several times about Burgess since.

April 10: Fighting Climate Change with Geoengineering

Suds Jain (B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from MIT, and a Board member of Acterra.org) will discuss his work with a team of retired engineers on a geoengineering project that someday may have to be used to reduce the amount of extra heat being trapped on the planet due to global warming gasses. For additional details of this project see spectrum.ieee.org/view-from-the-valley/energy/environment/tech-industry-vets-fight-effects-of-climate-change.

April 17: A Humanist Perspective, Not THE Humanist Perspective

Longtime Humanist Community member and leader Arthur Jackson (who authored the book *How to Live the Good Life: A User's Guide for Modern Humans*) will offer a concise, focused talk on what humanism is, and why it is important for individuals and for humanity.

April 24: Community and the Secular Student Alliance

Your connections to other people matter more to the success or failure of our movement than anything else. The most important thing we've learned via the Secular Student Alliance over the last 16 years has been the unimaginable importance of community. Our whole movement needs to build on its momentum by forming communities based on helping each other live the amazing and rational values that we all share. If you want to strengthen your secular group, or just make closer secular friends, this presentation will have lots to offer you.

August Brunsman was executive director of the Secular Student Alliance since 2001, and was Secretary of the Board of the Secular Coalition for America from 2006 through 2012.

(NOTE: This talk changed since the newsletter was published.)

FORUM INFORMATION

Humanist House 1180 Coleman Avenue, San Jose 95110,
 Sundays 11 AM-12:15 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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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 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 jemail 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.



Humanist House News

Our Annual Awards Dinner honoring the old board and welcoming the new will be held at the Blue Pheasant Restaurant in Cupertino, Tuesday at 6:30 PM April 12. Awards of Appreciation will be given and the Humanist of the Year, Bob Stevens, will receive a plaque with our grateful thanks for all he did for us in 2015 in the furnishing of Humanist House. Reservations may be made at the Forum on Sunday, or by contacting senahav@gmail.com.

Movie Night at Humanist House with the Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics co-sponsoring is at 7:00 PM on April 13, and on the 2nd Wednesday of each following month.

Here at Humanist House, on the 1st Sunday afternoon of each month, we show a video from the Learning Company. Our current series is "The Medieval World."

Yours for a bright Humanist future!

Sena Havasy, Membership Chair

We will be welcoming two new board members at the Annual Awards Banquet. Will is a software engineer who is taking over from Paul Gilbert in reaching out to other local groups, inviting them to make use of Humanist House.



Will Wvant

Ron Gerber

Ron is a software engineer with interests in biology and human culture, including science and technology.

Such tech savvy and enthusiastic men will be a great help with future activities.

Public Transport to Humanist House

From the Caltrain - Santa Clara Station on El Camino Real, catch the #10 bus toward Metro LRT and get off at Coleman and Brokaw (1st stop), cross Coleman, and walk about a block and a half to 1180 Coleman Ave.

75 Years of Humanism: Chicago 2016

MAY 26-29 CHICAGO, IL



REGISTER NOW

The American Humanist Association will host its 75th annual conference at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on May 26 through 29, 2016.

Go to conference.americanhumanist.org to register and for details on speakers, awardees, and events.

Calendar of Events

The Family Program

The HCSV Family Program meets Sunday mornings.

Where: Location varies; call 650-247-0478 for details.

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

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. Planned Parenthood provides volunteer training. 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. Emi Hester'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/blog/free-thought-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/blog/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

Humanist Community Hiking Group

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

History Book Group

We will be reading about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

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

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, April 13, 2:30 PM

Fun Group

The Clara B. Rees Iris Society Spring Show "The Colors of Spring"

It's the peak of the iris blooming season! And so the Clara B. Rees Iris Society is presenting their spring show entitled, "The Colors of Spring." Come see award-winning blooms, as well as beautiful iris floral arrangements. Gardening experts will be on hand to answer your questions and help you select an iris for purchase.

Visit cbris.org/show.html or call (408) 446-1707 for more information.

Where: Westgate Mall, 1600 Saratoga Avenue,
San Jose, CA 95129.

When: Saturday, April 9, Noon.

Cost: Free.

Awards Dinner

The Humanist Annual Dinner in honor of the new board will be a private room at the site of last year's memorable event. Awards of Appreciation will be given and the Humanist of the Year, Bob Stevens, voted on at the Forums, will receive a plaque and our grateful thanks for his generosity in furnishing Humanist House and his support of our chapter over many years.

Reservations may be made at the Forum on Sunday or by contacting Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com. In order to keep the cost to \$30, the community will cover the tax, tip, flowers, and balloons.

Where: The Blue Pheasant Restaurant
22100 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino

When: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, April 12th, 2016.

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. Bert Liebert will host the discussion on "What Donald Trump Tells Us About Americans."

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

Directions at uucpa.org/main/location.html

When: Saturday, April 2 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org.

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

See: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219/events for details.

LifeRing Addiction Recovery

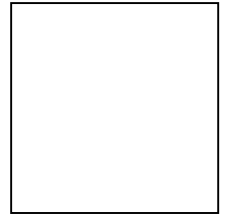
"LifeRing is a non-faith-based, worldwide network of people living in recovery from addiction to alcohol or to other, non-medically indicated drugs. For more information about LifeRing go to their web site, lifering.org.

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

When: Every Tuesday, 7:30 PM

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

Humanist Community
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 2016

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