

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.



September Forums

September 4: My Personal Path to Humanism

Debbie Allen has been active in the humanist movement since 2008, when she attended two lectures hosted by a small humanist group at the San Diego Library. These two encounters prompted her to attend the AHA conference that June in Washington DC, and to participate in Lobby Day with the Secular Coalition of America. She has been passionately invested in the freethought movement ever since. Debbie Allen is the immediate past president of the Humanist Fellowship of San Diego, coordinator of the San Diego Coalition of Reason, board member of the American Humanist Association, board president of the Humanist Society, board secretary of the Reason Rally Coalition, Inc., and a volunteer humanist chaplain with the Humanist Society and the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers.

Note:

Debbie is being considered for the position of Executive Director of The Humanist Community.



September 11: The Psychopath Whisperer: The Science of Those Without Conscience

Longtime Humanist Community member and leader Arthur Jackson will present a summary and discussion of the book *The Psychopath Whisperer: The Science of Those Without Conscience* by Kent A. Kiehl, Ph.D. Mr. Jackson believes that this book brings humanist thinking into view as the foundation for our society to work effectively on all our current social problems.

September 18: The California Ballot Propositions

Humanist Community member Alex Havasy will present summaries of the California state ballot propositions that will be on the November 2016 ballot. The summary will include the main arguments in favor of and against each proposition, who is financing it, and how various organizations recommend you vote. Attendees will be encouraged to add their input.

September 25: The Human Basis of Laws and Ethics

The American Humanist Association uses "Good without a God" as its motto. But how does one actually do that? Doesn't morality require some absolute point of reference, such as a god? If not, where do moral values come from? And without that ultimate reference point, how can we argue that one course of action is more virtuous than another? Fred Edwords (former AHA Executive Director, Humanist magazine editor, and United Coalition of Reason national director, and current AHA director of planned giving) will show how our laws, ethics, and morality turn out to be rooted in human experience and make no sense outside of it.

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.

*Humanist Community
in Silicon Valley*

(HCSV)

Volume 23, Issue 9, September 2016
www.humanists.org

Editor

Alex Havasy

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.

Board of Directors

Arthur Jackson, President
Will Weyer, Vice President
Greg Alexander, Treasurer
Alex Havasy, Recorder
Carl Angotti

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.

Our newsletter can now be reached on line directly at hcsv-newsletter-2016-09.pdf. Change the year and month (hcsv-newsletter-yyyy-mm) for the desired newsletter.

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 123arthurjackson@gmail.com or call 408-923-3774.

•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@yahoo.com (which forwards your email 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.

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.



Humanist House News

To Humanist Community Members and Well Wishers Everywhere-

Our most exciting news this month is the appearance of a proven Community Builder in the person of Debbie Allen. This is indeed an amazing opportunity to come along just when we are in a position to take advantage of it! Our unique, for the area, possession of a location of our own, gives us a perfect launching pad for major growth, and Debbie can provide the expertise we so badly need!

When Debbie worked with the San Diego secular community it went from 10 groups to 18! Wow!

She will be presenting a program on September 4 where we will have a chance to meet her in person. In the meantime we are talking to her via video every Sunday after the Forum. Come and meet her!

.....

Our major event for September is the 'Summer Gathering of the Tribes' building on the successful Winter Gathering.

At Humanist House on Saturday, September 17th, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, we will be hosting a get-together of all the local groups so that we may find out about each other, strengthen our Secular Community and enjoy each other's company.

Our publicity will feature the groups we had an OK from last year. That is, the picture will include their names and logos as shown on our newsletter cover. Great care has been taken to get it all correct via feedback from the groups at the Winter Gathering.

Yours for a Bright Humanist Future!
Sena Havasy- Membership Chair

Election to the Board of the Humanist Community

On February 28 the membership will elect members of the new board of HCSV. Be sure your membership is up to date so you can cast a ballot.

If you would like to be on the board or know someone who would, please contact the Nominating Committee, senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

The election will be held at the February 28 forum. Members can request a mail-in ballot for the election. Members who request a request a mail-in ballot may not vote in person. Mail-in ballots must be returned prior to the general election meeting.

Calendar of Events

Skeptics/Humanist Movie Night

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics are inviting friends to a movie night for skeptics. We will be watching 'The Invention of Lying' a humorous, (of course) presentation. For further information and to suggest future titles contact Hunter Perrin of the Skeptics at hunterperrin@hkperrin.com or Sena Havasy of the Humanist Community at senahav@gmail.com for more information.

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

When: 2nd Friday, September 9, 7:00 PM.

Cost: Free.

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 our 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. For details 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

Periodic Hikes will resume soon. If you would enjoy hiking with fellow Humanists and have not previously received an email regarding hikes, please send your email address and phone number to Fran and Jim Naylor at Zaylors@sbcglobal.net. Notification of upcoming hikes will be done by email to those interested.

History Book Group

We are reading *House of the Vestals* by Steven Saylor, one of a series of mysteries set in a historically authentic Rome of 1 BCE, featuring Gordonius, 'The Finder', a fictitious sleuth. For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, September 14, 2:30 PM.

Fun Group

Coyote Valley Family Harvest Feast

This family-friendly festival will include

- Home gardening, farming, and craft food workshops
- Cooking demonstrations led by expert local chefs
- Music and entertainment from around the world
- Kid-friendly activities
- Guided hikes through Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve.

Get more information at: www.eventbrite.com/e/coyote-valley-family-harvest-feast-tickets-25383720391?aff=erelexpmlt.

Where: Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve
550 Palm Avenue, Morgan Hill.

When: Saturday, September 10, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Cost: Free! Free admission. Free parking on-site.

Free shuttle bus service from San Jose.

NOTE: Registration through Eventbrite is encouraged.

Humanist Potluck

The September potluck will be at Burt Liebert's, site of the 2:30 Sunday afternoon sharing feelings group with Rick Cocco. For further information or to RSVP contact Burt at burtmargie@att.net or 650-493-3747.

Where: home of Burt Liebert in Palo Alto.

When: September 24 Saturday at 6:00 PM.

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 if people are interested: 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.

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

When: 1:30 PM, after the Forum.

Clinic Escort

Planned Parenthood, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 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 (senahav@gmail.com).

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

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.

Humanists at UUCPA Potluck and Discussion

Our meetings usually have 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice. For this month's topic go to tinyurl.com/humanists-at-uucpa-future-meet.

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

When: Saturday, September 3 at 6 PM (discussion at 7).

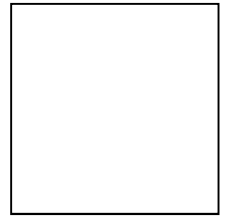
Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org.

Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)





Join us to discuss works of Bertrand Russell. For time, location and topic go to: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219.

Humanist Community
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 2016

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