

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.



**MOURN BUT
 ORGANIZE**

**THE VOICES
 OF REASON**



**BECOME A
 SECULAR
 ACTIVIST**

MOVE ON

SECULAR COALITION FOR AMERICA

WWW.SECULAR.ORG

December Forums

December 4: How Our Universe Allows for Things that Create Themselves

Of all areas where science and the Bible have friction, the topic of origins is the war zone. Exactly why do evolution and abiogenesis kick up such emotion? Maybe it's that by-your-bootstraps thing, auto-creation, the idea of organization "creating itself." Even scientifically minded people struggle with that one. Consider how snowflakes form. Crystallization is palpable auto-creation, a spontaneous increase in order without intelligent meddling. It seems to violate the 2nd law of thermodynamics, but creationists use a flawed understanding of this law and then promulgate that misunderstanding and exploit it to support creationism. Keith D. Swenson has a degree in Physics and a Masters Degree in Computer Science. He will discuss the above topics, as well as (1) Why some people find it hard to accept evolution, (2) What the natural cognitive barrier is and why it exists, (3) The roles that misunderstanding randomness and entropy play, and (4) Several examples of how complex systems display auto-creation (such as snowflakes!).

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.

December 11: Getting Around to What's Important

In our hectic lives, we often find ourselves unable to find time for the things that are important to us, such as spending time with family and friends, being close to nature, and getting enough exercise. In this presentation, Susan Cabrera will address these topics and include several readings from her poetry book Life in the Fast Lane. Following the lecture, books will be available for purchase and Susan will sign books.

December 18: Be Your Own Superhero

Each of us is born with a unique creative gift that no one else in the world can express like we can. These innate skills and passions are our superpowers. Unfortunately, many of us suffer from "Suppressed Superpower Syndrome" because we conform to someone else's idea of who we should be. We're either unaware of our intrinsic talents or we hold ourselves back to play it safe. This talk weaves together psychology, music, and storytelling to show us how to reclaim our personal power and create successful, meaningful lives. Dr. Michelle Chappel is an internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter and speaker with a Ph.D. in psychology from Princeton, who has given MANY uplifting Forums to our group for many years now!

December 25: No Forum This Sunday

Have a great holliday!

Visit our Holiday Tree in Cesar Chavez Park, tree # 349.

*Humanist Community
in Silicon Valley (HCSV)*

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Editors

Debbie Allen, Alex Havasy

Production

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

Executive Director

Debbie Allen
debbieallen@humanists.org

Board of Directors

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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.

Our newsletter can now be reached on line. Go to www.humanists.org, then click on "newsletters" on the right side of the menu bar, then select the month and year of 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@yahoogroups.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 Santa Clara Caltrain 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

I am hardly alone in my shock following the presidential election, and, like many Americans, I'm contemplating what to do next. What I am seeing among individuals and organizations that hold secular, progressive values, is renewed determination to create the society we wish to live in, and champion the values we believe in.

The Humanist Community in Silicon Valley has an opportunity, and a responsibility, to advance reason and compassion in response to anti-intellectualism and bigotry. In addition to providing a nurturing social environment, we can help others grow in their understanding and appreciation of humanist philosophy. We can promote critical thinking and scientific literacy. We can renew our commitment to activism to encourage change within our local communities and beyond. And, we can join in coalition with other organizations - including religious ones - in areas we have common concerns. The more we humanists, atheists and skeptics participate in coalitions, the more likely we are to introduce humanist values into decision making and problem solving efforts.

One of the goals articulated by the HCSV board of directors during my hiring was the establishment of supportive and mutually beneficial relationships with other freethought groups in our area. We are making progress, but this effort ultimately depends on you, and all members of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley, to act as ambassadors of our group, and of humanism.

There are two important "coalition-building" events in December that I hope you will attend. The first is a Winter Solstice Celebration with Sunday Assembly Silicon Valley on Sunday, December 18th. The evening includes a no-host bar and reception, buffet dinner, a secular ceremony bidding farewell to the longest night of the year and welcoming back the sun, followed by dancing. HCSV members can fill tables of eight and enjoy, together, the festivities provided by this welcoming organization.

The second event is New Year's Eve, which we are co-hosting with the Atheist Community of San Jose at Humanist House on Friday, December 30th. We are planning a casual potluck that includes games, and an open mic (hopefully taking advantage of our new collection of musical instruments). This event in particular realizes our vision for Humanist House: an inclusive and welcoming place for all members of our community.

These events are posted on Meetup, and RSVP's are helpful for planning purposes. And speaking of Meetup, please join the HCSV Meetup Group! The more you engage with our social media sites, including Meetup, Facebook, and Twitter, the more active and involved we appear, and the more likely we are to attract new members to our community.

Wishing you and yours the very best!

Debbie Allen
Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Movie Night for Skeptics

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch "Letting Go of God," a very funny performance by the very talented Julia Sweeney. She performed this live at a former American Humanist Association annual conference to great effect.

For further information and to suggest future titles, contact Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com or Matt Courtney of the Skeptics, at macourtney@gmail.com.

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

When: 2nd Friday, December 9, 7:00 PM

Cost: Free

Free Thought Discussion

We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, our present book other Wednesdays. 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/blog/free-thought-discussion for information on the present book, future books considered, and our reading schedule. 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 are led by Fran and Jim Naylor. 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 emailed to those interested.

History Book Group

We are discussing books about Emma Goldman. For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

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

When: 2nd Thursday, December 8, 2:30 PM

Fun Group

Artifactory Holiday Fair

Come do your holiday shopping at a wonderful collection of handmade items by local artists.

If you are attending a Fun Group event, especially for the first time, please RSVP at hcfungroup@yahoo.com.

For more information visit www.sartifactoryholidayfair.com.

Where: The Lou Henry Hoover House

(the Girl Scout House, behind Lucie Stern Theater)

1120 Hopkins Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

When: Saturday, December 3,

Meet at entrance at 10:00 AM.

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 for those 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

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).

New Year's Eve Potluck and Celebration

Join both Atheist Community of San Jose and Humanist Community in Silicon Valley for a New Year's Eve potluck gathering occurring on the last Friday of December.

This is a great opportunity to relax, enjoy good food, and get to know each other.

Remember to bring something to share... food, drink, games, and, definitely, your New Year's resolutions! More information at www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity/events/235767827/.

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

When: Friday, December 30, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

LifeRing Secular Recovery

"LifeRing is a non-faith-based, worldwide network of people living in recovery from addiction to alcohol or to other substances. 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.

Winter Solstice

Join fellow Humanists and other freethinkers at a Winter Solstice celebration hosted by the Sunday Assembly in Mountain View. Bid farewell to the longest night of the year and welcome back the sun at an enchanting solstice celebration.

The evening includes a no-host bar and reception, buffet dinner, secular ceremony with plenty of storytelling, singing, and dancing. Rich Thomas and his band will perform.

Children will have a separate space with fun activities. Free childcare is provided for children out of diapers.

Tickets for adults are \$25. Kids 3-15 are just \$5 and kids under 3 are \$1 (this is just so we can get an accurate head count as we plan for child care). We're trying to keep it affordable for everybody. Go to www.sasv.nationbuilder.com/solstice for tickets.

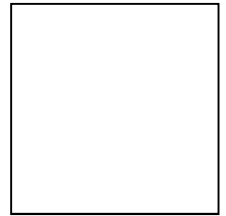
Where: Mountain View Masonic Lodge

890 Church St Mountain View, CA 94041

When: December 18, 2016 at 5:30 PM – 10 PM





Visit us on Meetup at www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity/

Humanist Community
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	2	3  <u>10:00 AM</u> Fun Group
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>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	9  <u>7:00 PM</u> Skeptic Movie Night	10
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>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	15 <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	16	17
18 <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum  <u>5:30 PM</u> Sunday Assembly Winter Solstice Party	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
25 Happy Holliday!	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  <u>6:00 PM</u> Humanist & Atheist Potluck	31