

The Newsletter of the
Humanist Community
 in Silicon Valley



January Forums

January 1: No Forum – Happy New Year!

January 8: Science of Ethics

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*) writes that Ernst Mayr tells us "Darwin provided a scientific foundation for ethics." Unfortunately Mayr's insight has not been taken seriously either in the scientific community or the academic community in general. Jackson attempts to clarify today what a scientific ethic would mean.

January 15: Meet the Candidates

The seven candidates who have been nominated to run for the seven seats on the HCSV Board that are up for election this year will discuss, and answer questions about, their relevant background, and their vision for HCSV and Humanism. The election will be held immediately before the Forum on Sunday, February 5th. Note: Only HCSV members may vote in the election.

January 22: Humanists at the Parliament of World Religions

In October 2015, the Parliament of World Religions had 10,000 attendees, among them several people involved with Humanist organizations. Was this interfaith gathering in Salt Lake City the right place for Humanists, among the Hindus, Sikhs, Catholics, Pagans, Indigenous Peoples, Muslims and many other faiths? Paula Rochelle and Ben Wade of the Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley (see www.meetup.com/Ethical-Culture-Society-of-Silicon-Valley/) report on their experience and give a report from the former President of the American Humanist Association, Mel Lipman, who also attended.

**January 29: Introduction to Aesthetics:
 Can Art Be Defined?**

Our speaker, Alfred Jan, is a practicing optometrist with an M.A. in Philosophy with an Aesthetics emphasis. He published freelance art criticism from 1982 to 1995, and taught Introduction to Aesthetics at De Anza College for three quarters in 1995. He has served on panel discussions on art and criticism in many Bay Area art schools and departments. He curated an exhibition called "Sculpture as Used in Performance" in the mid-1980s at the San Francisco State University Art Department Gallery. One of his reviews was discussed and analyzed in the textbook titled *Criticizing Art: Understanding the Contemporary* by Terry Barrett.

Forum Information

Sundays 11 AM-12:15 PM – Free and open to the public.
 Lunch 12:30-1:30 PM. – A donation of \$10 is requested.
 Humanist House – 1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose 95110.

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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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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Send to email ed@humanists.org.

Our newsletter can be accessed online. Go to
www.humanists.org, and click on "Newsletters" in the
menu bar. Then, select the month and year of the
desired newsletter.

We welcome people to post ideas and information of
interest to members of the Humanist Community.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do
not necessarily reflect the opinions or positions of the
Humanist Community.

Do you need help?

If you need assistance such as a ride to a doctor,
some groceries delivered, etc, send your request to
ed@humanist.org, and it will be forwarded to the
Help Group. For confidential assistance contact
Arthur Jackson at 123arthurjackson@gmail.com or
408-923-3774.



Humanist House News

The beginning of each new year always holds the promise of new beginnings. Trying new things, setting new personal and professional goals, or attending to resolutions we have neglected in years past.

This is precisely how I'm feeling about Humanist House and the Humanist Community. Your board members and volunteers are busy... busy developing new programming to enhance member satisfaction, busy finding ways to reach out to the unaffiliated, and busy building alliances within the community of freethinkers, humanists and atheists.

But there is no reason for all this busy-ness if we are not serving you, and, we simply cannot create the vibrant community we all hope for without your ideas, your feedback, and your help!

We express the mission of our organization by giving our time and talent to create community. Sometimes it's the little things that matter most; welcoming visitors to events, engaging others in friendly conversation during lunch, or sharing your involvement in the Humanist Community with friends and colleagues. We also depend on the efforts of those willing to host a monthly potluck or plan something fun with a small group of members like a hike, a museum visit, or a book club. If you enjoy doing something, it's likely others will enjoy it as well!

We are trying something new beginning in January which is weekday workshops offered by Humanist Community members. Susan Shalit has volunteered to share her expertise with computers to help others who might feel stuck, or don't even know where to begin. If you have a particular skill or passion you wish to share, let's add you to our calendar of monthly workshops.

We are also on the lookout for members willing to serve our community by participating in our membership, social action, programming, and outreach committees. Service should be personally enjoyable and meaningful, so if you have even the slightest desire to contribute a bit of time and energy to shape the future of the Humanist Community, please call me to discuss the possibilities. Two to three hours a month can help more than you imagine.

Best wishes for a new year that fills your heart with joy. Happy 2017!

Debbie

Join Meetup for up to the minute event information

www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/humanistcommsv

Follow us on Twitter

twitter.com/HumanistCommSV

Visit our website

www.humanists.org/blog



Notes on the Cover Picture-

At the New Year, Janus, the two faced god, looks back to the past and forward to the future, in the person of two presidents. We express our intent to carry the good things from the past into the future, supporting the causes in which we believe and working with groups such as MoveOn for community action. All citizens should share in the benefits of our prosperity and our democracy. Let our Representative know that we care.

Calendar of Events

Fun Group – McMoons Exhibition ★

The McMoons exhibition's mission is twofold: to shine a light on the 50th anniversary of NASA's (1967-68) Lunar Orbiter Project that collected lunar images integral to the safe landing on the first Apollo landing on the moon, and to tell the little-known story of the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project (LOIRP) that began in 2008 to recover the original NASA Lunar Orbiter image.

The exhibition includes original prints from the Lunar Orbiter Project and digitized prints of the original film including a wall-sized reproduction of the first restored image - the Earth rising. Visitors can also see and touch the original film canisters and tapes and listen to original audio recordings from the Lunar Orbiter Project. Also on view are prints and video of the LOIRP Project still underway at the McDonalds "lab" on the NASA campus.

Where: New Museum Los Gatos, 106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos, CA 95030.

When: Saturday, January 7, Meet at entrance at 11:00 AM.

Cost: \$10, \$6 for seniors, military, and students with valid ID, Free for members and visitors under 18 years of age.

RSVP: especially first time attendees hcfungroup@yahoo.com

More info: www.numulosgatos.org 408-354-264

History Book Group

We are reading *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts.

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, January 11, 2:30 PM

More info: Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com
408-739-5638

Movie Night for Skeptics ★

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch "Dogma." An abortion clinic worker with a special heritage is called upon to save the existence of humanity from being negated by two renegade angels trying to exploit a loophole and reenter Heaven.

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

When: 2nd Friday, January 13, 7:00 PM

More info: Sena Havasy, senahav@gmail.com
Matt Courtney, macourtney@gmail.com

Computers, Bloody Computers. Hate'm or Love'm. Learn to use them better.

New!

This workshop, taught by HCSV member Susanne Shalit, will be designed to address your needs, your interests, and your skill level.

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

When: every other Thursday, January 19, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

RSVP: On Meetup

Potluck ★

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner with a small group of humanists at a private home. An RSVP is requested.

Where: Home of Fran and Jim Naylor in San Jose, near Santana Row/Valley Fair

When: Saturday, January 21, 6:00 PM

More info: zaylor@sbcglobal.net, 408-246-3790

Membership Meeting

Board Members and the Community will discuss issues.

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

When: fourth Sunday, January 22, 1:15 PM (after the forum)

New!

Recovering from Religion

Learning how to live after questions, doubts, and changing beliefs is a journey. Share your journey with others who are going through, or have successfully navigated, similar experiences. Everyone is welcome, and confidentiality is respected.

Where: Humanist House, 1180 Coleman Ave, San Jose

When: 4th Thursday, January 26, 7:00 PM

More info: On Meetup

LifeRing Secular Recovery

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

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

When: Every Tuesday, 7:30 PM

More info: lifering.org

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.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM

More info: Hilton Brown, brownofmtview@aol.com

Academic Video

The Academic Video Group watches videos from www.thegreatcourses.com, followed by discussion.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM

More info: HiltonBrown, brownofmtview@aol.com,
650-941-3146.

Membership Committee

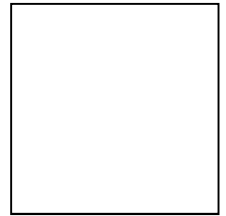
We arrange potlucks and seasonal celebrations, including the annual spring dinner honoring the new Board. At the Sunday Forum, we prepare the Greeter's Table, the lectern flowers, and the table decorations. Emi Hester's Sunshine Committee sends paper cards.

We welcome you to join the Membership Committee and help in these activities.

More info: Sena Havasy chair, senahav@gmail.com.

Humanists have been doing escort service at Planned Parenthood in San Jose for many years. Planned Parenthood need volunteers in many capacities. To volunteer call 408-795-3753 or email sjvolunteer@ppmammante.org.

Humanist Community
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ★ Happy New Year! no forum today	2	3 7:30 PM LifeRing	4 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	5 8:00 PM Academic Video	6	7 ★ 10:00 AM Fun Group
8 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	9 7:30 PM Board meeting	10 7:30 PM LifeRing	11 2:30 PM History Book Group 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	12 8:00 PM Academic Video	13 ★ 7:00 PM Skeptic Movie Night	14
15 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	16	17 7:30 PM LifeRing	18 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	19 1:00 PM Computer Workshop <i>New!</i> 8:00 PM Academic Video	20	21 ★ 6:00 PM Humanist Potluck
22 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 Buffet Lunch 1:15 PM Membership Meeting	23	24 7:30 PM LifeRing	25 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	26 7:00 PM Recovering from Religion <i>New!</i> 8:00 PM Academic Video	27	28
29 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	30	31 7:30 PM LifeRing				