

# HUMANIST COMMUNITY IN SILICON VALLEY



## February Forums

### February 5: Secular Leaders Summit - Nonbelievers Unite!

Debbie Allen, the Executive Director of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley, will discuss her recent attendance at the annual Secular Leaders Summit. This year's Summit included representatives from 28 organizations, and was hosted by the Center For Inquiry.

Secular Leaders Summit meetings, which include two leaders from each organization, are an opportunity to overcome differences, make allies, and bring together the key decision makers.

From innovative start-ups to the few groups with multi-million dollar budgets, it's clear that the humanist/atheist/skeptic movement is coming into its own, even if they are still dwarfed by the wealth and power of ultra-conservative opponents.

Debbie Allen is a board member with several organizations including the American Humanist Association, the Humanist Society, the Reason Rally Coalition, Inc., and the Freethought Equality Fund PAC.

**Note:** A membership meeting will be held at this forum to elect members to the Board of the Humanist Community.

#### 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.

### February 12: Celebrating Darwin - My trip to the Galapagos Islands

In celebration of Darwin Day (<http://darwinday.org/>), Humanist Community member Greg Alexander will discuss his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.

### February 19: What is Transitionalism?

This talk introduces a new future-oriented “out-of-the-box” approach in how to view and live life focused on the question of meaning. From this emerges a holistic worldview and practical path by which society and individuals work together to improve their own self, one another, and the environment creating a better future for everyone. Robert Wasley is a writer and speaker on a wide diversity of issues related to human social, technological, and spiritual evolution.

### February 26: Keys to Success (or Failure) in American Social and Political Movements

What makes some movements (like the recent campaigns for LGBTQ rights) so successful, while others (like the feminist crusade for the Equal Rights Amendment) ultimately fail? Join Santa Clara University history professor Nancy C. Unger in an illustrated sampling of five movements in American history that illustrate the “dos” and “don’ts” of orchestrating meaningful and lasting change.

## Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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[www.humanists.org](http://www.humanists.org)

### Editors

Alex Havasy, Debbie Allen

### Production

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown,  
Brian Davis, Sena Havasy, Burt Liebert  
Cover composite by Sena Havasy

### Executive Director

Debbie Allen  
[debbieallen@humanists.org](mailto:debbieallen@humanists.org)

### Board of Directors

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

### Contact the Board

Send to email [ed@humanists.org](mailto:ed@humanists.org).

Board meetings are held at Humanist House (see calendar for time and date), Members of the Humanist Community are welcome at all Board meetings

Our newsletter can be accessed online. Go to [www.humanists.org](http://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](mailto:ed@humanist.org), and it will be forwarded to the Help Group. For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at [123arthurjackson@gmail.com](mailto:123arthurjackson@gmail.com) or 408-923-3774.



## HUMANIST HOUSE NEWS

I just returned from a stimulating encounter at Santa Clara University, where I, along with a Lutheran Reverend and a progressive Christian Pastor, spoke with students in a course called, "Ways of Understanding Religion". Their professor, Dr. Elizabeth Drescher, requires fieldwork in local religious communities across diverse traditions of belief and practice, and this quarter they will study Christianity, Buddhism, and Atheism. A dozen undergraduates will be visiting Humanist House later this semester, and will be interested in talking to us after our forum. Although a bit shy about asking questions, they are curious about how we came to *not* believe, and how we incorporate humanism in our daily lives.

For many Humanist Community members, questions about god and the purpose of life were addressed a long, long time ago. But young adults are asking them now. More than ever they need the guidance and support of the secular humanist community to counter the dogmatic religious voices that surround us, and that have grown in strength since the election.

Humanist chapters are important. They provide social support for members and visitors. They help educate the public about the humanist alternative to religious philosophies — which sometimes impede progress and cause real harm. They encourage members to more effectively and joyfully put humanist philosophy into practice. And, more importantly than ever, humanist chapters can work with other organizations in areas where we have common concerns. The more we work with others, the better chance we have of introducing reason and compassion into decision making and problem solving efforts.

In order to accomplish our goals and promote humanist values, we need to engage in active outreach to humanists and other nontheists who are hungering for community. We must expand our social and educational opportunities to attract more of them to Humanist House. And, perhaps most importantly, we need to start putting our philosophy into action by participating in social action and social justice activities.

Our incoming board members and our committee chairs are already thinking of ways to energize our community and attract new members. Thinking is never enough, however, so we are rolling up our sleeves and getting busy! We need your help discovering where we can publish event announcements (print and online publications), and where we might table (festivals, street fairs, conferences, etc.), to spread the word that we are here! And, if you are doing something fun, like trying a new restaurant or taking a hike, consider posting the event on our Meetup website, so we can reach out to those looking to find friends in the secular community.

Wishing you a happy Darwin Day!  
Debbie

### Special thanks to the following for their generosity.

#### Contributing Members

Dana St. George and Gerry Gras  
John and Laurel Renish  
Elisa Wells

#### Supporting Members

W.L. and Corinne Bales  
Fran and Jim Naylor  
Richard Rowland  
Jean-Claude Roy  
Sandy Smith  
Marie Stephens

#### President's Club

Hilton Brown

#### Ambassador's Club

Arthur Jackson  
Susan and Bob Kresek  
Martin Squibbs  
Robert and Lola Stephens

#### Life Members

Debbie Allen  
Peter and Catherine Bishop

### Join Meetup for up to the minute event info

[www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity](http://www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity)

### Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/humanistcommsv](http://www.facebook.com/humanistcommsv)

### Follow us on Twitter

[twitter.com/HumanistCommSV](https://twitter.com/HumanistCommSV)

### Visit our website

[www.humanists.org/blog](http://www.humanists.org/blog)



# Calendar of Events

## Fun Group – Audubon Nature Shop and Library ★

What better way to celebrate the month of love than with a visit to the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

View the library and pick up a Valentine's Day gift for someone you know or love at the Nature Shop.

If the weather is nice, exercise your birding skills on a walk along the preserve's interpretive trail

**Where:** McClellan Ranch Preserve, 22221 McClellan Rd, Cupertino, CA 95014.

**When:** Saturday, February 4, Meet at entrance at 10:00 AM.

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** especially first time attenders, hcfungroup@yahoo.com

**More info:** www.scvas.org or 408-252-3747

## History Book Group

We are reading *Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts.

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

**When:** 2nd Wednesday, February 8, 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 "Creation." Charles Darwin struggles to complete 'On the Origin of Species' and maintain his relationship with his wife.

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

**When:** 2nd Friday, February 10, 7:00 PM

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

Matt Courtney, macourtney@gmail.com

## New! Computers, Bloody Computers. Hate'm or Love'm. Learn to Use Them Better

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:** Thursdays, February 2 and 16, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM  
(alternate Thursdays through the coming months)

**RSVP:** On Meetup

## New! Bridge Class

Taught by Faye Parsons and Bob Martin.

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

**When:** 8 consecutive Wednesdays, starting February 15, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

**RSVP:** On Meetup (at least 4 people must respond)

**Cost:** \$5

## Board Meeting with Community

Board Members and the Community will discuss issues.

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

**When:** 3rd Sunday, February 19, 1:15 PM (after the forum)

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

## Membership Committee Meeting

Calling current committee members and anyone willing to lend a hand to the Humanist Community.

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

**When:** Sunday, February 12, 12:30 PM, over Lunch

## Potluck ★

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner with a small group of humanists at a private home.

**Where:** Home of Sena and Alex Havasy in Sunnyvale

**When:** Saturday, February 18, 6:00 PM

**More info:** Senahav@gmail.com, 408-739-5638

## Social Action Meeting

Visitors and members of the Humanist Community will gather to plan social action events.

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

**When:** 4th Sunday, February 26, 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, February 23, 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](http://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, brownofmtnview@aol.com

## Academic Video

The Academic Video Group watches videos from [www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com), followed by discussion.

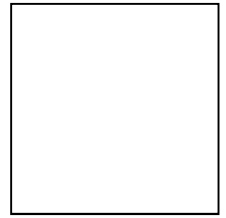
**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

**When:** Thursdays, 8:00 PM

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

See a complete list of our activities on Meetup.

Humanist Community  
 1180 Coleman Avenue  
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>7:30 PM</b> Free Thought Discussion	2 <b>1:00 PM New!</b> Computer Workshop <b>8:00 PM</b> Academic Video	3	4 <b>★ 10:00 AM</b> Fun Group
5 <b>11:00 AM</b> Forum <b>12:30 PM</b> Buffet Lunch	6	7 <b>7:30 PM</b> LifeRing	8 <b>2:30 PM</b> History Book Group <b>7:30 PM</b> Free Thought Discussion	9 <b>8:00 PM</b> Academic Video	10 <b>★ 7:00 PM</b> Skeptical Movie Night	11
12 <b>11:00 AM</b> Forum <b>12:30 PM</b> Buffet Lunch <b>12:30 PM</b> Membership Committee Meeting	13	14 <b>7:30 PM</b> LifeRing	15 <b>1:00 PM New!</b> Bridge Class <b>7:30 PM</b> Free Thought Discussion	16 <b>1:00 PM New!</b> Computer Workshop <b>8:00 PM</b> Academic Video	17	18 <b>★ 6:00 PM</b> Humanist Potluck
19 <b>11:00 AM</b> Forum <b>12:30</b> Buffet Lunch <b>1:15 PM</b> Board Meeting with Community	20 <b>7:30 PM</b> Board meeting (open to members)	21 <b>7:30 PM</b> LifeRing	22 <b>1:00 PM New!</b> Bridge Class <b>7:30 PM</b> Free Thought Discussion	23 <b>7:00 PM New!</b> Recovering from Religion <b>8:00 PM</b> Academic Video	24	25
26 <b>11:00 AM</b> Forum <b>12:30 PM</b> Buffet Lunch <b>1:15 PM</b> Social Action Meeting	27	28 <b>7:30 PM</b> LifeRing				