

HUMANIST COMMUNITY IN SILICON VALLEY



Resist!
Freedom can't
Protect Itself



July Forums

July 2: The 2017 AHA Annual Conference

Executive Director Debbie Allen, Board President Paul Gilbert, and longtime HCSV member and leader Arthur Jackson will present their impressions and thoughts about the 2017 American Humanist Association (AHA) Conference, which they attended in Charleston, South Carolina in June.

July 9: Learning to Live

One of the most impacting statements ever is the Socratic statement: the unexamined life is not worth living. Wes Fornes comes at this idea with experience from helping terminally ill hospice patients cope with grief and death.

A former Evangelical pastor who is now an Atheist chaplain, Wes currently directs a team of chaplains and social workers who provide spiritual and emotional support to patients and their families. Wes often speaks in the Bay Area on issues concerning ethics, morality, grief and terror management theory.

July 16: Naturalistic Transcendentalism

Naturalistic Transcendentalism ties together natural discoveries from a philosophical point of view, which the author, Peter Bishop, published in his first peer-reviewed journal article of the same name in the *Essays in the Philosophy of Humanism*. Peter will present the fundamental point of view: starting from the Transcendentalism of Ralph Waldo Emerson, but looking at this from a 21st century naturalistic understanding.

July 23: Empowering Women in Ghana with Cookstoves

Over one-third of the planet still cooks their food over open fires that kill forest, blacken lungs, and dirty the air. The health and economic impacts fall hardest on the shoulders of women and young girls.

Alana Miel and Adam Creighton will discuss their work with InStove to overcome this global challenge and to mobilize a sector behind approaches and partnerships that work.

July 30: A Scientific Explanation of Spirituality

Dr. Frank Heile, who has physics degrees from Stanford and MIT, will discuss his upcoming book, *Spirituality Explained - A Model of Consciousness and Spirituality* (spiritualityexplained.com). Two of its core ideas are that everything is completely compatible with the currently known theories of physics and science, and that there are no "spirits" in its explanation of spirituality!

Forum Information

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



Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

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www.humanists.org

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Our newsletter can be accessed online. Go to
www.humanists.org/blog/newsletter

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Board of Directors

President	Paul Gilbert
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Greg Alexander	Carl Angotti
Pam Erwin	Alfred Jan
Susan Shalit	

Contact the Board

ed@humanists.org
Board meetings are held at Humanist House on the third
Monday of each month. Members of the Humanist Community
are welcome at all board meetings.

Do you need help?

If you need assistance such as a ride, some groceries delivered,
etc., send a request to ed@humanist.org, and it will be
forwarded to the Help Group.

For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at
408-923-3774 or 123arthurjackson@gmail.com.

About the Cover

All the rights and benefits, slowly acquired over the years, are
being cut back or eliminated. The heads of departments meant to
protect our air, water, privacy, safety, public schools, national
parks and monuments are all under attack, headed, for the most
part, by people whose goal it is to destroy the very laws and
departments that were set up to protect and defend us.

Only an aroused citizenry, supporting the many powerful groups
and individuals fighting in the courts and in the centers of power
to turn back the hydra and to preserve something of our
cherished legacy can hope to prevent the worst abuses.

Our safety net was in sad shape when the party of mean took
power, financed by a wealthy class that had long worked for this
day, spreading lies and confusion to the detriment of all.

Vote! March! Go to meetings! Sign petitions! Give what you can!
Write letters to the editor and to your representative in
Congress! Run for office! Attend Town Hall meetings!

Join a Group . You don't have to go it alone!

And in the next election resist splitting the liberal vote. No
second term for the Party of Mean!

Sena Havasy

HUMANIST HOUSE NEWS

There are many reasons why people participate in humanist chapters, but there
are just a few reasons why they stay, year after year; a desire to associate with
other nonbelievers, programs that inform and inspire, and meaningful
friendships.

The leadership of the Humanist Community has recently sent 629 postcards to
members of the American Humanist Association who live within a twenty mile
radius of Humanist House. We want to let these humanists know that there is
an AHA Chapter close by that offers great lectures and other educational and
social activities. In addition, we are making a special effort to reach out to
former HCSV members. *We miss them, and want them back!*

Please join us in welcoming our visitors, old and new alike, to several exciting
events this month including an Open House Dessert Reception on Tuesday,
July 11, and a special evening reception and lecture on Saturday, July 22.

Our June BBQ Potluck was so successful that we are doing it again on July 8.
The Feder's are opening their home in Palo Alto for a community potluck
dinner on July 15. And Nirmal is leading a field trip on July 15.

Is there something you'd like to share with other humanists? Do you have a
special skill you'd like to teach? Members are welcome to organize discussions,
book clubs, field trips, game nights, workshops, etc. Let's put our heads
together and create a one-time event, or perhaps a series. It's a shame to let
Humanist House sit empty when there are so many humanists looking for
community.

Not all events make it into the monthly newsletter, so we encourage you to
join Meetup to learn about events *as they are scheduled*. We also request that
you respond to a recent email requesting that you "Join" our new membership
database hosted by MemberPlanet. By "joining" you have the opportunity to
update the contact information we have collected from you. "Joining" is free,
however, if you wish, MemberPlanet offers an easy and convenient way to pay
dues or donate online with a credit card. Assistance with Meetup and
MemberPlanet will be offered every other Sunday following the forum lunch.

Debbie Allen, Executive Director, ED@humanists.org



Board of Humanist Community in Silicon Valley 2017

Marie Stephens-Treasurer, Pamela Ledden, Paul Gilbert-President, Alex Havasy-Vice President
Greg Alexander, Carl Angotti, Alfred Jan, Missing: Susan Shalit

Calendar of Events

Free Thought Discussion

First Wednesday of the month: Recent news, other Wednesdays we will be discussing *The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy* by William Strauss and Neil Howe. We will discuss chapters 1 and 2 on the second Wednesday. Discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about not being up to date on the book or the news.

When: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

Info: Go to www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion

Academic Video

This month the Academic Video Group will be watching *Great Philosophical Debates: Free Will and Determinism* by Professor Shaun Nichols, followed by discussion.

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

Info: email brownofmntnview@aol.com or call 650-941-3146

Potluck & BBQ at Humanist House

Bring something for the grill and a dish to share. Grill will be hot until 7:00 PM. Indoor and outdoor games. All ages welcome — bring your kids and grandkids!

When: Saturday, July 8, 5:00 to 8:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Video Game Development

Join us and learn the Unity 3d game engine (unity3d.com), the premier cross platform game engine, or work on your own project.

When: Monday, July 10 & 24, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Member & Visitor Open House & Dessert Reception

Visit Humanist House, meet the executive director, board members, and learn about our many educational and social events.

When: Tuesday, July 11, 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Where: Humanist House

Movie Night for Skeptics

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics invite you to watch *Kumare*, the true story of a false prophet, the filmmaker Vikram Gandhi, who impersonated a guru and built a following of real people.

When: 2nd Friday, July 14, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Women's Group

Featuring: discussion of timely events, report from your local group, a book report on *The Singing Neanderthals: the Origin of Language*, a book by Steven Mithen. Light refreshments.

When: 3rd Saturday, July 15, 2:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Info: 708-739-5638 or senahav@gmail.com

Blume Distillation & Whiskey Hill Farm Tour

Blume Distillation provides bio-fuel production equipment, with a net-negative carbon footprint, to convert waste materials, surplus foods and crops, etc. into cost-effective alcohol fuel and coproducts. The coproducts are the raw material for Whiskey Hill Farms to grow a variety of exotic crops and more conventional and specialty crops in habitats that attract insects and frogs to keep the plants pest-free.

Where: Blume Distillation LLC, 371 Calabasas Road, Watsonville, CA

When: Saturday, July 15, 11:30 AM

Humanist Potluck in Palo Alto

The July Humanist Potluck will be at the beautiful home of Jacqueline and Carlos Feder in Palo Alto. RSVP appreciated. For details contact caline@earthlink.net 650-852-9010, or senahav@gmail.com, 408-739-5638.

Where: Home of Jacqueline and Carlos Feder in Palo Alto

When: July 15 Saturday at 5:30 PM

Social Action Meeting

Gather to plan social action projects and events. A postcard writing session addressing government issues will follow.

When: Sunday, July 16, 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Where: Humanist House

Board Meeting

Meetings are open to all members of the Humanist Community.

When: 3rd Monday, July 17, 7:30 PM

Where: Humanist House

Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Silicon Valley South Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby invites you to join in their effort to advance a national carbon tax to reduce CO2 emissions and grow jobs and the economy.

When: Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 PM

Where: Humanist House

Lecture and Book Signing with Katherine Ozment

We are excited to present Katherine Ozment, an award-winning journalist, former senior editor at National Geographic, and author of *Grace Without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging in a Secular Age* who will discuss and sign copies of her newest book.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and treats with your fellow humanists. Wine will be sold to raise money for Humanist House..

When: Saturday, July 22, 7:00 PM Reception, 7:30 PM Program

Where: Humanist House

Cost: \$10 suggested donation to support HCSV programming

Fun Group — "Walls" San Francisco Mime Troupe

With chaos, humor and songs the S.F. Mime Troupe presents *Walls*, the story of an illegal trying to pass as American and the I.C.E agent ... who is the woman she loves.

When: Saturday, July 29, at 3:00 PM (Music at 2:30)

(NOTE: starting times changed since newsletter went to press.)

Where: St. James Park, 3rd Street and E. St. James Street, San Jose

Cost: Free, donations accepted

Info: www.sfmt.org or call (415) 285-1717

RSVP: Especially, first time attendees, hcfungroup@yahoo.com

Join Meetup for complete information for all our events.

Still need more info? Leave message at 408-650-8466

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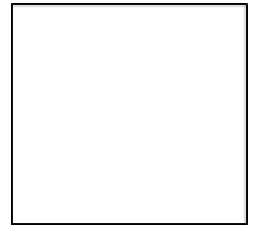
www.humanists.org/blog





Humanist Community in Silicon Valley
 Humanist House
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	3	4 7:00 PM Trivia 7:30 PM LifeRing	5 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	6 8:00 PM Academic Video	7	8 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM BBQ Potluck at Humanist House
9 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	10 7:00 PM Video Game Development	11 7:30 PM LifeRing 7:00 PM Open House Dessert Reception	12 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	13 8:00 PM Academic Video	14 7:00 PM Skeptic Movie Night	15 11:30 AM Field Trip 2:00 PM RBG Women's Group
16 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch 1:30-2:30 PM Social Action Meeting	17 7:30 PM HCSV Board Meeting	18 7:00 PM Climate Lobby 7:30 PM LifeRing	19 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	20 8:00 PM Academic Video	21	7:00 PM Lecture and Book Signing
23 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	24 7:00 PM Video Game Development	25 7:30 PM LifeRing	26 7:30 PM Free Thought Discussion	27 8:00 PM Academic Video	28	29 3:00 PM (note time change) Fun Group
30 11:00 AM Forum 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch	31					

More details can be found at www.meetup.com/humanistcommunity. RSVP's are always helpful for planning purposes.