

# The Newsletter of the Humanist Community

Our values - freedom, fairness and compassion, health in Silicon Valley  
and happiness, and using science and reason to acquire and apply knowledge.



650-964-7576

www.humanists.org

June 2014

P.O. Box 60069, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0069



A Celebration of Freedom



Juneteenth



June 19th, 1865

## June Forums

### June 1 Benefit Corporations, Global Consciousness and How You Can Co-Create a Sustainable Economic System

Last year, John Montgomery (a corporate attorney, entrepreneur, leadership consultant, speaker and author) introduced the Humanist Community to the latest evolutionary form of the corporation, the benefit corporation, which is the first corporate form that has a social and environmental conscience in addition to the usual profit oriented one. John will discuss this shift in global consciousness in business to a triple bottom line approach – people, planet and profit – and invite you to help co-create a sustainable economic system. (See <http://thehumanist.com/magazine/may-june-2014/features/the-benefit-corporation#.U1xnfN6SNRY.email>)

### June 8 Me and My Ego

What kind of relationship do you have with your ego? How did you even get to learn that you had one? How do you manage it? Do you manage it? What tools or perspectives do you use? For the first half of this forum, Humanist Community member Laura Mappin will share her trip in getting in touch with her ego and developing ways to manage it that now work well for her. This trip didn't involve any religion or other pop self-help methods since she was quite wary of them. For the second half, attendees will be invited to respond and share their stories along this topic.

### June 15 Rawls, Civil Disobedience, and Edward Snowden

If Edward Snowden were prosecuted in an American court for leaking classified NSA documents to journalists, for example, would his actions be justified under principles of civil disobedience as articulated by John Rawls, the most influential political philosopher of our time? In his third presentation of Rawls' work to HCSV, Marty Carcieri (Associate Professor of Political Science at San Francisco State University) will present Rawls' theory of civil disobedience and apply it to the case of Edward Snowden.

### June 22 Is the end of religion near?

Navy fighter pilot turned author, Alan Jeskin, will discuss and read an excerpt from his exciting new novel, *Reason's Fifth Dawning*. Jeskin's novel is an epic saga about how the lives of four very different people were set on intersecting trajectories that led to the beginning of a new age of enlightenment and the end of religion everywhere. His first book was *Outgrowing God, Moving Beyond Religion*. Both books will be available for sale at the event.

### June 29 A Nuclear Weapons and WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East

Last December, current and former members of the Israeli Parliament and local and international peace and human rights activists met in Haifa, Israel, to call for a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and for a world free of nuclear weapons. Jackie Cabasso (Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation and a lifetime member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) attended the December 2013 Haifa conference and a May 2014 meeting on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty at UN headquarters, and will discuss these efforts. (Co-sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Peninsula Branch - contact person: Lois Salo. [Isalo@aol.com](mailto:Isalo@aol.com), 650-493-8872.)

### FORUM INFORMATION

Palo Alto High School Student Center,  
50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto 94301  
Sundays 11 AM-12:15 PM - Free and open to the public  
Lunch 12:15-2 PM. - A donation of \$12 is requested.

## Humanist Community serving Silicon Valley

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Visit our facebook page:

Humanist Community in Silicon Valley

### Editor

Alex Havasy

### Production

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Havasy

### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted to svhumanists@gmail.com. The length should not exceed 100 words and may be edited for clarity.

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### To contact the Board

email Arthur@arthurmjackson.com

### Disclaimer:

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

### Visit our Facebook:

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

### HELP

Do you need some help?

· For confidential assistance contact Arthur Jackson at Arthur@arthurmjackson.com or call 408-620-4278.

· If you need to talk to someone about a problem, call Arthur Jackson at 408-620-4278.

· If you need some other kind of help (for example, a ride to a doctor's appointment, some groceries brought by, a recommendation for a lawyer), email hchelp@yahoogroups.com (which forwards your e-mail 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), or reach them through Sena Havasy at senahav@gmail.com.



## The Front Page Illustrations Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official January 1, 1863. The Proclamation had little impact on the Texans until the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and Union forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Juneteenth commemorates this announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, and more generally, the emancipation of African-Americans throughout the United States

The event was made a Texas state holiday beginning in 1980. Its observance has spread to many other states, with a few celebrations taking place even in other countries. As of May 2013, 43 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or special day of observance.

### HCSV Board Thanks Brian Davis

The Board of the Humanist Community in Silicon Valley thanked Brian Davis for his service to HCSV over the years, including: chairing the Program Committee for over ten years; after retiring from the Chair continuing to contact presenters and maintain this critical HCSV activity; maintaining our advertising with area papers to provide local readers about our activities; making videos of our Sunday Forums; bringing the sound and recording equipment and returning it for storage after our Forums; and starting and maintaining the HELP program to provide assistance, when possible, to members in need.

In an email, Brian thanked the board for its appreciation of his efforts and added that he felt the members would be impressed by how MANY people are helping in lots of different ways.

### University Award for Philosophy Diversity Awarded to Stanford University by AHA

On May 19 the American Humanist Association awarded the first ever University Award for Philosophical to Stanford University. The award is given for meeting standards of openness to humanism and humanist inquiry.

Scott McLennan, dean for religious life at Stanford accepted the award on behalf of the university.

## Calendar of Events

### The Family Program

The HC Family Program is designed for children ages 4 to 13 in freethinking humanist families. The parents supervise the program. Participants involve themselves in science, art, and drama projects, reflecting the ideas and goals of the families and community. At the end of each program meeting, they join the community for lunch when the program is on site.

**Where:** Science Resource Building of Palo Alto High School,  
Room 1732

**When:** most Sundays, 10:30 AM to 12 noon, call 650-257-0478  
to confirm the upcoming meeting

## The Sharing Circle

Meets prior to the Forum each Sunday. Attendees may share personal feelings or experiences in an environment of trust and confidentiality.

**Where:** Palo Alto High School Student Center

**When:** Sundays, 10:30 AM

## 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. Sandy Smith's Sunshine Committee sends paper cards.

If you are interested, contact Sena Havasy, Committee Chair, at ([senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com)) or 408-462-2156.

## History Book Group

We are reading *Team of Rivals: the Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. We watch a consummate diplomat as he threads his way through the Washington minefield of the Civil War with a cabinet of brilliant former opponents. Contact Sena Havasy at [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com) for more information.

**Where:** Kimm's Flowers: 201 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

**When:** Wednesday, June 11, 2:30 PM

## Free Thought Discussion

Discussion of recent news or a book. For more information check [www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion/).

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Wednesday, 7:30 PM

## Academic Video

View an academic video, followed by discussion. For more information check [www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos/).

**Where:** Home of Hilton Brown

**When:** Thursday, 8:00 PM

## Clinic Defense

Planned Parenthood, most Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose; 8:00 AM. For information, contact Alex Havasy at [havasy@live.com](mailto:havasy@live.com).

## Fun Group

### Photography Exhibit at Olive Hyde Art Gallery

"Captured" is the title of an exhibit of photography at the Olive Hyde Art Gallery. Come see what other photographers have done and be inspired!

For more information, visit [www.olivehydeartguild.org](http://www.olivehydeartguild.org) or call 510-791-4357.

**Where:** Olive Hyde Art Gallery, 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539.

**When:** Saturday, June 28 at 10:00 AM      **Cost:** Free

## HCSV Potluck

For the annual June potluck at the Feders' beautiful home, contact them at 650-852-9010 or [caline@earthlink.net](mailto:caline@earthlink.net). Bring a dish to share.

**Where:** home of Carlos and Jacqueline Feder in Palo Alto

**When:** Saturday, June 14 at 6:00 PM

## Humanist Community Hiking Group

Bill Rausch can no longer lead the hiking group. Greg Alexander is facilitating hikes but needs to know how much interest there is and what locations are suitable. There is a sign-up sheet at the greeter's table or contact Greg at [greg.alexander@me.com](mailto:greg.alexander@me.com).

## Fourth of July Fireworks in June

On Saturday, June 28th, at 8:30 we will meet at Stanford Stadium for a Humanist potluck/picnic. The San Jose Earthquakes soccer team are playing at Stanford, and they will provide the fireworks after the game which starts at 7:30.

Parking for the Stanford Stadium is at 625 Nelson Rd. at Galvez and El Camino. Follow the little road from the parking lot through the crowd until you come to the plaza with benches on your left.

For information contact Sena Havasy at [408-739-5638](tel:408-739-5638) or [senahav@gmail.com](mailto:senahav@gmail.com).

**Where:** Stanford Campus

**When:** Saturday, June 28, 8:30 PM

*This notice inserted since publication of newsletter.*

## Other Events of Interest to Humanists

### Humanists at UUCPA

#### Potluck and Discussion

Emma Pan will present the topic: American Culture We don't Recognize. Our meetings usually have over 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice.

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto

Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto

**When:** Saturday, June 7 at 6 PM (presentation at 7)

Direction to UUCPA: [uucpa.org/main/location.html](http://uucpa.org/main/location.html)

### Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

For details see: [www.meetup.com/philosophy-219](http://www.meetup.com/philosophy-219)

### Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: [www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org](http://www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org)

### 2014 Secular Summit and Lobby Day

#### June 12 & 13

The Secular Coalition of America is hosting a lobby day in Washington D.C. Each year activists and leaders come together to discuss key secular issues with each other, experts, and elected officials. Participants can expect:

- ~Keynote speeches from current members of Congress
  - ~Training in lobbying skills that can be used immediately, as well as at the state and local level
  - ~An opportunity to lobby face-to-face with Congressional staffs on important issues
  - ~Panels and discussions with the lawmakers, officials and thought leaders that directly affect public policy
  - ~Small group workshops for in-depth discussion and training
- For details and reservations, go to [www.lobbyday.us](http://www.lobbyday.us).

## 2014 Secular Student Alliance Conference West

June 20 - 22

This is the second year for separate East and West locations for the SSA Annual Conference. SSA West is the biggest gathering of secular students in the country. This year's SSA West is hosted by the Secular Student Alliance at Arizona State University in Phoenix (really Tempe) AZ.

The conference will provide students the ideas, advice, and problem-solving relevant to running a student group on a college or high school campus. The workshops are much longer than the standard talk times and are meant to be hands-on, interactive skill-building resources.

Go to [www.secularstudents.org/2014con/west](http://www.secularstudents.org/2014con/west) for more information.

Find out more about groups of interest to Humanists at: [www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/](http://www.humanists.org/blog/associated-organizations/)

## JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> AHA Conference <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>6</b> AHA Conference	<b>7</b> AHA Conference
<b>8</b> AHA Conference <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>9</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Board meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <u>2:30 PM</u> History Book Group <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>12</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <u>10:00 AM</u> Fun Group <u>6:00 PM</u> HCSV Potluck
<b>15</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>19</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>23</b>	<b>22<del>4</del></b>	<b>25</b> <u>7:30 PM</u> Free Thought Discussion	<b>26</b> <u>8:00 PM</u> Academic Video	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <u>8:30 PM</u> Fireworks 
<b>29</b> <u>10:30 AM</u> Family Program <u>10:30 AM</u> Sharing Group <u>11:00 AM</u> Forum	<b>30</b>					