

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.



Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor

July Forums

July 3: Human Nature and the Blank Slate (featuring a TED Talk video by Prof. Stephen Pinker)

Steven Pinker's book, *The Blank Slate*, argues that all humans are born with some innate traits. In this TED Talk video (see www.ted.com/talks/stephen_pinker_chalks_it_up_to_the_blank_slate), Pinker talks about his thesis, and why some people found it incredibly upsetting. Prof. Pinker is a Canadian-born American cognitive scientist, psychologist, linguist, and popular science author. He is the Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology at Harvard University, and is known for his advocacy of evolutionary psychology and the computational theory of mind. He was also the American Humanist Association's 2006 Humanist of the Year. Audience discussion of the video's content will follow the showing of the video.

July 10: Ed and Min Yates's Trip to South Georgia Island and Falkland Island

South Georgia Island and Falkland Island are home to the big King Penguins, as well as to many seals and albatross. HCSV members Min and Ed Yates will show pictures from their trip there on a National Geographic Lindblad tour, in addition to a video made by the tour's videographers. The Yates have traveled extensively, including to Antarctica (twice!) and the Arctic. They consider these visits among their most interesting,

July 17: Cross-cultural Constructions of Gender

Jonathan Karpf has been a Lecturer in biological anthropology at San José State University since 1987. His main interests are human genetics and evolution, alcoholism, the behavior, systematics, ecology of primates, Mesoamerican prehistory, and social justice in Guatemala. In this Forum he will discuss cross-cultural constructions of gender, focusing on ways in which 3-gender and 4-gender societies differ from 2-gender societies such as our own.

July 24: The Atheist Community of San Jose

Sean Washington is Social Director of the Atheist Community of San Jose (ACSJ - see www.acsj.org), and a Member of the Board. He's been involved with ACSJ since 2013. He started as a member but slowly became more involved as the community grew, and most recently joined the Board of Directors in 2016. He will talk about who ACSJ is, what they do, and some of the challenges they face in building a community for secularists, humanists and atheists.

July 31: What an Islamic State Really Looks Like

Kosovo is one of four republics that occupies land of the former Yugoslavia. It's the most American friendly (Bill Clinton, who intervened positively in this country's favor, is a national hero). So is Hillary for walking into a dress shop, of all things. With all the hullabaloo in the media about Muslims, not to mention Donald Trump's comments, most of us don't realize that normal Islamists — not the extremist freak show that really should be kept out of this country — behave and look exactly like our friends and neighbors. Come join HCSV member Jason Paul Kazarian for a photo tour of a predominantly Muslim Baltic state and see what Islam really looks like.

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.

*Humanist Community
in Silicon Valley*

(HCSV)

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Editor

Alex Havasy

Production

Carl Angotti, Helen Athey, Hilton Brown, Brian
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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.

Board of Directors

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

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 directly
at hcsv-newsletter-2016-07.pdf. Change the year
and month (hcsv-newsletter-yyyy-mm) for 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 Arthur@arthurmjackson.com or call 774-757-
4486.

•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.



Humanist House News

To Humanist Community Members and Well Wishers
Everywhere-

We welcome two outstanding new board members, Carl Angotti
and Alex Havasy. Both have been active members for many
years; Carl created the Master Data Base and oversees our
finances. Alex is our Newsletter Editor and member of the
Program Committee and the Membership Committee. They both
have regularly attended Board meetings and served on
Committees for many years although resisting joining the Board
because of their many duties. Their expertise and good energy
there will be very welcome to us all!



The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics are
inviting friends to a movie night for skeptics. We will be sharing
Michael Moore's hilarious 'Where to Invade Next'. Well worth a
second viewing. For further information and to suggest future
titles contact Hunter Perrin of the Skeptics at
HunterPerrin@hkperrin.com or Sena Havasy of the Humanist
Community at senahav@gmail.com.

HUMANIST HOUSE, 'A PLACE FOR ALL OF US', is available
for sharing with secular or like minded group events, meetings
and classes at no charge until further notice, requiring only that
you mention Humanist House in your announcements and
advertising.

Yours for a Bright Humanist Future!
Sena Havasy- Membership Chair

Public Transport to Humanist House

From the Caltrain - Santa Clara 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.

The world is my country, to do good is my religion.

- Thomas Paine

Calendar of Events

Movie Night for Skeptics

The Humanist Community and the Silicon Valley Skeptics are inviting friends to a movie night for skeptics. Contact Hunter Perrin of the Skeptics at hunterperrin@hkperrin.com or Sena Havasy of the Humanist Community at senahav@gmail.com for more information.

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

When: Wednesday, July 13, 7:00PM

Cost: Free

Free Thought Discussion

We discuss recent news on the first Wednesday of the month, our present book other weeks. Our discussions range far from the topic, so don't worry about not being up to date on the book or the news. For information on the present book, future books considered, and our reading schedule go to: www.humanists.org/blog/free-thought-discussion. For more information, contact Hilton at: brownofmtnview@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. Go to: www.humanists.org/blog/academic-videos for details of our present video. For details about the group contact Hilton at: brownofmtnview@aol.com or 650-941-3146.

Where: Home of Hilton Brown in Mountain View

When: Thursdays, 8:00 PM

History Book Group

We are reading *Lucy's Child: The Discovery of a Human Ancestor* by Donald C. Johanson and James Sheeve.

For information contact Sena at senahav@gmail.com or 408-739-5638.

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

When: 2nd Wednesday, July 13, 2:30 PM

Fun Group "Schooled"

The San Francisco Mime Troupe premieres "Schooled" for their 57th Season.

With its old textbooks, crumbling classrooms, and racist treatment of kids Eleanor Roosevelt High is exactly the sort of school that can benefit from a little free-market common sense. And with privatization on the line, and a Wall Street heavy hitter lined up to fold the entire district into his conglomerate, suddenly the next School Board election is more about a hidden agenda than the open curriculum.

Where: Mitchell Park, South Field,

600 East Meadow Drive & Cowper Street, Palo Alto

When: Thursday, July 21, 2016, 7:00 PM (Music at 6:30 PM)

Cost: Free. Donations accepted.

Humanist Potluck

The Humanist July Potluck will be held at the home of Susan Shalit in San Jose. There is a wonderful view of the valley from the roof. Yes, there are stairs, no ladder required! RSVP appreciated. For details contact them at 408-926-4609 or susanQ99@gmail.com, or senahav@gmail.com, 408-739-5638.

Where: home of Susan Shalit and Roy Elder in San Jose.

When: July 9 Saturday at 5:30 PM.

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 if people are 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

Clinic Escort

Planned Parenthood, Tuesdays and Saturdays. 1691 the Alameda, San Jose. Planned Parenthood provides volunteer training. For information, contact Alex Havasy at havasy@live.com.

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).

Other Events of Interest to Humanists

LifeRing Addiction Recovery

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

Humanists at UUCPA Potluck and Discussion

Our meetings usually have 15 people. For the potluck, please bring a dish of your choice. Christina Chen will host the discussion on "Youth Mental Health and Culture in Palo Alto."

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto,

Fireside Room, 505 E. Charleston Road, Palo Alto.

Directions at uucpa.org/main/location.html

When: Saturday, July 9 at 6 PM (discussion at 7)

Ethical Culture Society of Silicon Valley

For details see: www.ethicalsiliconvalley.org.

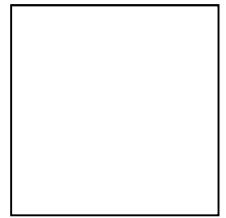
Bay Area Russell Set (BARS)

For details see: www.meetup.com/philosophy-219.

Correction!




In the paper version and in the earlier on-line version of this newsletter there is an entry for a **Nature Group**. This entry was an error. I apologize for the mistake.

Humanist Community
 1180 Coleman Avenue
 San Jose, CA 95110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY 2016

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