



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

MARCH 2013

March Program:

Nancy Segal, Ph.D.

Twins Reared Apart: What They Tell Us About Who We Are

Dr. Nancy Segal is Professor of Developmental Psychology and Director of the Twin Studies Center, at California State University, Fullerton. A fraternal twin herself, Dr. Segal studies twins to understand social relationships in the general population, hoping to derive implications for what makes people get along. She finds that identical twins generally work together more cooperatively than others.

In addition to studying identical and fraternal twins, she is the only researcher known to study "virtual" or "pseudo" twins, two people born less than nine months apart with different biological parents, but who are raised together from infancy. Her studies show a modest degree of similarity in virtual twins for general intelligence and special mental abilities.



Her newest book, *Born Together-Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study, 2012*, surveys the origins, methods, findings and controversies from the famous Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. Another book, *Someone Else's Twin: The True Story of Babies Switched at Birth, 2011*, tells the story of identical twin girls born in Spain's Canary Islands, one of whom was accidentally exchanged for a singleton infant. The twins were reunited at age twenty-eight.

Dr. Segal's appearance at HSSB is sponsored by **Adrian Wenner**.

When: Saturday, March 16, 2013

Where: Patio Room at Vista del Monte. **(Park ONLY in spaces marked "VDM".)**

Time: Doors open at 2:30pm. Program begins at 3:00 pm

Cost: \$2 members/\$5 non-members

Dinner: Vista del Monte. This month's menu is tossed green salad, parmesan herb breadsticks, BBQ ribs, fresh catch, herb roasted potatoes, rice pilaf, acorn squash, heirloom carrots, assorted desserts, wine and beverages. \$22 includes tax and tip. RSVP judithannfontana@yahoo.com or 967-7911.

For More Info: Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org or call 769-HSSB

Eddie Tabash's Blueprint for Taking Atheism to the General Public

Robert Bernstein

Eddie Tabash began his talk at our February meeting noting how horrible it is that there is still massive prejudice against atheists, even into the 21st Century.

- Jefferson predicted all Americans would be Unitarians by the 1830s.
- Robert Ingersoll was one of the 19th century's greatest and most widely known promoters of non-belief. Yet, when he died, he and his ideas largely vanished from public awareness.



Ken Tucker, Eddie Tabash, Richard Martin

Photo by Robert Bernstein

- The 20th century, beginning with Einstein's revolutionary theories, saw more advances in science and technology than any previous century.
- Religious fundamentalism, if not all religion, should be on the wane, and yet it is on the rise.

Tabash says his plan could take a hundred years, but at least future generations will benefit.

One challenge is to make the arguments for atheism. The other is to persuade society that it is

even morally acceptable for us to make those arguments.

Religion has been provided with an unjustified, unique insulation from critical examination and doubt. If such paranormal claims were made outside of religion, they would be widely rejected.

Tabash emphasized that this is a matter of raw political power. Shifting one Supreme Court vote could nullify church/state separation. Had Romney won and replaced the aging Ginsburg, that would have been the vote.

Tabash recommended that church/state separation trump all other political issues when we vote. Not everyone agreed, giving examples like war and climate change as counter-examples. But Tabash said believers in church/state separation are pro science and also accept the need to solve climate change.

We need to remember the Golden Rule: Those with the gold make the rules. Our side needs money. Our side also needs to be heard. Whether it is on talk radio or in public debates, we can reach people who may never have heard the atheist viewpoint. Guys on back roads in pickup trucks need to hear these views.

University debates are especially important, as students are our future leaders. Planting seeds of doubt about a supernatural being brings long-term change.

Tabash credited philosopher Ted Drange, in attendance with his wife Annette, for his priceless coaching, helping Tabash prevail in public debates.

Debating is not for everyone, but it is an excellent way to contribute to progress, even if it involves only a one on one discussion. Normandy Beach was taken one inch at a time. But don't pass up the chance for a wider audience with letters to the editor, for example.

Christian apologists create ever more complex arguments. We must keep up with new developments in the philosophy of religion.

Our side needs to stay unified and not bicker amongst ourselves. Everyone has something to contribute, even if it is just to support and comfort fellow humanist atheists.

We must reach out to self-hating atheists who want to grant religious beliefs special deference over other beliefs. We do not have to be meek in expressing our views. We can stay strong in the force and clarity of our arguments. As long as we keep it at that level we will have an impact on society-at-large. That has been true for all other movements for social change.

Religious people tell us we need to tone down our arguments. They do not have our best interests in mind.

Religious right-wingers want government to impose their views on everyone. And if they don't get their way, they say their rights are being limited. Powerful groups who want to keep their privilege always make this argument.

Even as we argue that no supernatural being exists, we must simultaneously support full equality for everyone, regardless of their beliefs. We can join with believers in promoting church/state separation.

We are not asking for the Pledge to say, "One nation under no God." We want government to be silent on God. We are more benevolent and tolerant than the religionists.

If religionists are offended by our views, that is the price of free speech.

The Catholic Church has interfered with public policy, disrupting the lives of millions. Blocking access to family planning, concealing child-abusing priests and promoting the anti-gay Proposition 8 has hurt real people.

Why should we give them a pass because it is their "faith"?

We must argue that no supernatural being exists. But we must also support church/state separation for everyone.

We must reach out to women. All powerful world religions promote male domination of women. Women's rights suffered for centuries as a result.

Perhaps our biggest challenge is replacing the false comfort of imaginary deities with naturalist truth. One answer is creating humanist communities of support and comfort.

If we succeed, we will have dispelled the biggest falsehood of all: Belief in a supernatural being. Replacing this with the light of truth will advance everything else we want to do in the future.

One Good Anecdote Deserves Another by Roger Schlueter

At the February meeting, our new Program Chair Richard Martin introduced speaker Eddie Tabash noting that this was the first time he got to introduce a speaker and that the very first time he attended a Humanist Society event the speaker was Eddie Tabash! Richard was impressed with Eddie and joined our group and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. It was an interesting story of an amusing coincidence. I was reminded of my own first encounter with the Humanist Society which was quite different. Here's what happened:

I knew Dick Cousineau through the Unitarian Society. One time he mentioned the Santa Barbara Humanist Society (the name at the time) and invited me to an upcoming meeting. I was not comfortable as a Unitarian and was on my way out, so I thought, "Why not take a look?"

So Ellen and I attended our first Humanist event. It was at the Karpeles Manuscript Library on west Anapamu in a second floor meeting room that was

too large for the number of attendees, had no elevator for those who couldn't manage the stairs, offered hard, uncomfortable chairs and lacked adequate air circulation.

Undeterred, we took our seats and waited for the program to begin. Dick introduced the speaker, an older, slight gentleman who was offered up as a comedian. He started his spiel with a few jokes that, well, didn't go over so well. Not to be put off, he soldiered on. His main commentary was stale "jokes" the worst being quite misogynistic. The quote marks are appropriate because he was not funny. At all.

In fact, he was an unmitigated disaster. Nobody laughed at any of his "jokes" and one-liners. I could see that Dick was appalled and appeared ready to give the guy the hook. Finally, the speaker mercifully closed his talk and we left, unsure what to make of the whole thing.

No matter. Eventually we came back, found lots of good, like-minded people, and joined up. And, again, the rest is history. Dick and I have laughed about the whole episode more than once.

How about you? How did you learn of the HSSB? What was your initial experience like? Why did you sign up and stay involved. I'm sure the Secular Circular editor would be happy to run a whole series of letters telling of various personal anecdotes.

[My first HSSB meeting was in 2005, at the HSSB 10th anniversary celebration. And the speaker Eddie Tabash! Ed.]

An Important Message

Most non-profit organizations go through a number of critical stages in their transition from a small cadre of committed founders to a larger, self-sustaining entity that serves - and indeed expands upon - its original goals. Our own Humanist Society of Santa Barbara (HSSB) may well be at one of those critical junctures.

Our founding and early members have served the HSSB with dedication and enthusiasm and continue to play important roles in our continued success. We now need to replace these stalwarts with new blood, new ideas, and new energy. Doing so is absolutely necessary to ensure the viability of the HSSB. It is also time to let the older generation rightfully bask in their accomplishments and watch the newer generation blaze new paths.

Our fiscal year ends June 30th at which time new Board members and Chairs take over from the incumbents. That may seem like a long time ahead but it is not. If you support the HSSB, would like to see it thrive and grow and think our Humanist values are worth promoting, then you need to get personally involved to see that the HSSB remains a fixture in our community.

Candidates are being sought for all positions: Officers, Board members, newsletter editor, publicity and program committees.

Welcome New Members!

Edwin & Mary Taylor, Santa Barbara
Shirley Ward, Goleta

Ingersoll Play Postponed

The HSSB production of "Speak of the Devil", a staged reading of the Richard Stockton play, scheduled for March 8th has been postponed to an unspecified date. Watch these pages for further information.

A Year Without War

Joe White, professor of Philosophy at CCSB recently updated the Board about the "A Year Without War" project, an attempt to form a large global community to agree on a cease-fire on all wars throughout the world during the year 2020. He proposed that HSSB join their network of

partners. As a partner, our websites would be linked, with our events listed on each other's website. The Board voted to join their network of partners.

The AYWW website can be found at <http://ayearwithoutwar.org/>.

I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, in human liberty as the source of national action, in the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas. --JFK's accepting the Liberal Party of New York's nomination, September 14, 1960.

FFRF Suffers Setback

Mayor James Fouts of Warren, Mich., routinely places a nativity scene in the Warren Civic Center, a municipal building. The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) and one of its members, Douglas Marshall of Warren, wrote letters protesting the display. In December, 2010, Fouts wrote FFRF that "all religions are welcome to celebrate their religious seasons with a display in city hall." Marshall tried in vain repeatedly to obtain permission to place an FFRF winter solstice sign in the city hall atrium, stating:

"At this season of the Winter Solstice, let reason prevail. There are no gods, no devils, no angels, no heaven or hell. There is only our natural world. Religion is but myth and superstition that hardens hearts and enslaves minds."

FFRF filed a lawsuit after the mayor invited other individuals and organizations to place items in the atrium of city hall, and after the mayor denied FFRF's request. FFRF asked the court to enjoin the mayor from barring the FFRF sign, and find that the city had violated the rights of FFRF and its member.

A 3-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit last week ruled against FFRF in the case. Judge Jeffrey Sutton, a George W. Bush nominee, wrote that "a government may provide benefits to faith-based entities if the benefits are available to secular and religious entities alike," words that are clearly contradicted by Fouts' action, according to the FFRF.

FFRF intends to seek review by the entire Sixth Circuit panel.

The Growing Undercover Effort to get God into Biology Class

Dana Liebelson

[Reprinted from: *The Week* posted February 19, 2013.]

Imagine an American public school where science textbooks were obligated to debunk Charles Darwin; where students could deny global warming and still get an A, and where college professors could tell Biology 101 students that the world was born on the back of a giant turtle. Sounds a little backwards for 2013, right?

Frighteningly, these are all real scenarios that could occur under new education bills proposed this year. But the language in most of these bills is so obtuse that you might not even know if you live in one of the six states considering them (Montana, Colorado, Oklahoma, Arizona, Missouri, and Indiana).

America, meet the new creationism-in-sheep's-clothing: The "academic freedom" bill.

Unlike bills that explicitly require intelligent design and religious curriculums to be taught in schools, academic freedom bills simply permit teachers, schools, and students to explore alternative theories without repercussions. Sounds harmless, right? But Eric Meikle, education project director at the National Center for Science Education, explains that what these bills really do is "open the door for creationist literature." And in the last few years, the number of these bills has skyrocketed, with 51 proposed since 2004, and twice as many proposed this year than in all of 2012. (Remember, it's only February).

Needless to say, science teachers aren't thrilled. "Intelligent design and anti-global warming curriculums harm the general public's perceptions of science, which can decrease students' interest in pursuing science careers," says Kathy Trundle, president of the Association for Science Teacher Education. "In turn, U.S. advancements in science [are] negatively impacted." Rick Grosberg, an evolution and ecology professor at the University of California at Davis, points out that "the mere act of teaching intelligent design as if it were an alternative scientific explanation confuses students and the public about what science is."

The secret weapon in these bills is the idea that pupils should understand the "strengths and weaknesses" of different scientific theories. Which theories? Well, as a bill proposed by four Republican state senators in Arizona makes clear, that would be "biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming and human cloning." Coincidentally, these are the exact same theories that House Bill 1674 in Oklahoma, proposed by GOP state Rep. Gus Blackwell, considers controversial. His legislation even prevents teachers from flunking students who write papers debunking their textbook material. Seriously.

Late breaking news!

INDIANA. Indiana's House Bill 1283 died on February 25, when the deadline for House bills to have their third reading in the House passed. The fate of the bill was not unexpected: its sponsor Jeff Thompson (R-District 28) told the Lafayette Journal and Courier (February 3, 2013) that he thought that it would not receive a hearing in the House Education Committee, and a spokesperson for the committee's chair said that it would not receive a hearing due to the volume of bills and the limited time to address them.

ARIZONA. Arizona's Senate Bill 1213 died on February 22, 2013, when the deadline for Senate bills to be heard in their Senate committees passed. A typical instance of the "academic freedom" strategy for undermining the integrity of science education, SB 1213 specifically targeted "biological



HSSB Nominee: Richard of Cousineau

evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning" as supposedly controversial. Unusually, however, a sponsor of the bill, Judy Burges (R-District 22), told the Arizona Star (February 5, 2013) that climate science was her primary concern, complaining of imbalance in the presentation of climate change in the public schools.

OKLAHOMA. Senate Bill 758, the so-called Oklahoma Science Education Act, which would have undermined the integrity of science education in the Sooner State, is dead. February 25, 2013, was the deadline for Senate bills to pass their committees, but the Senate Education Committee adjourned its February 25, 2013, meeting without considering it. Still active in the Oklahoma legislature is House Bill 1674 (document), styled the Scientific Education and Academic Freedom Act, which differs from SB 758 primarily in mentioning "biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, and human cloning" as supposedly controversial topics. HB 1674 passed the House Education Committee on a 9-8 vote on February 19, 2013.

[The above articles can be read in full at the National Center for Science Education's site: <http://ncse.com/>.]

Texas Public School Bible Classes Report

[Reprinted from *TFN Insider* (Texas Freedom Network), January 16, 2013]

In 2007 the Texas Legislature passed a law encouraging the state's public schools to teach about the influence of the Bible in history and literature. Schools can do that either by weaving such instruction into existing social studies and literature courses, or they can create full courses about the Bible. Today the Texas Freedom Network Education Fund released a report, authored by a religious studies professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, that examines what students are learning in the 57 school districts and three charter schools that teach Bible courses. Examples from Texas public schools:

- Instructional material in two school districts teach that racial diversity today can be traced back to Noah's sons, a long-discredited claim that has been a foundational component of some forms of racism.
- Religious bias is common, with most courses taught from a Protestant — often a conservative Protestant — perspective. One course, for example, assumes Christians will at some point be "raptured." Materials include a Venn diagram showing the pros and cons of theories that posit the rapture before the returning Jesus' 1,000-year reign and those that place it afterward. In many courses, the perspectives of Roman Catholics, Orthodox Christians and Jews are often left out.
- Anti-Jewish bias — intentional or not — is not uncommon. Some courses even portray Judaism as a flawed and incomplete religion that has been replaced by Christianity.
- Many courses suggest or openly claim that the Bible is literally true. "The Bible is the written word of God," students are told in one PowerPoint

presentation. Some courses go so far as to suggest that the Bible can be used to verify events in history. One district, for example, teaches students that the Bible's historical claims are largely beyond question by listing biblical events side by side with historical developments from around the globe.

- Course materials in numerous classes are designed to evangelize rather than provide an objective study of the Bible's influence. A book in one district makes its purpose clear in the preface: "May this study be of value to you. May you fully come to believe that 'Jesus is the Christ, the son of God.' And may you have 'life in His name.'"
- A number of courses teach students that the Bible proves Earth is just 6,000 years old.
- Students are taught that the United States is a Christian nation founded on the Christian biblical principles taught in their classrooms.
- Academic rigor is so poor that many courses rely mostly on memorization of Bible verses and factoids from Bible stories rather than teaching students how to analyze what they are studying. One district relies heavily on Bible cartoons from Hanna-Barbera for its high school class. Students in another district spend two days watching what lesson plans describe a "the historic documentary Ancient Aliens," which presents "a new interpretation of angelic beings described as extraterrestrials."

How could such courses have gone so wrong? The 2007 law included numerous guidelines designed to help public schools create academically rigorous and constitutionally appropriate courses. But the Legislature failed to appropriate funding to develop in-service training for teachers of Bible courses, and most school districts simply ignored the requirement that teachers get such training. Moreover, the State Board of Education — under the control of religious conservatives at the time — refused to adopt serious curriculum standards to help guide school districts as they planned their courses. For these and other reasons detailed in the new report, school districts across Texas are offering courses about the Bible that simply have no place in a public school classrooms — or, in numerous cases, any classroom at all because their quality is so poor.

You can read our press release about the report here. Then click here to read the new report, a 2006 report on Bible courses in Texas public schools and a 2005 report about the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools' dreadful curriculum materials. The National Council's materials are used in a number of Texas school districts and elsewhere across the country.

West of Fairness and Justice: New Documentary Showcases Dangers Of Religious Hysteria **Barry W. Lynn**

[Barry Lynn is executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Reprinted by permission from *Church and State*, March, 2013.]

I admit it: I slipped out of work early one day in late January. It wouldn't be honest to say I had a "medical" appointment; my fear of dentists knocks that reason out, and of course there was no "continuing legal education" seminar that just called out to be attended.

No, the plain truth is that I just went to the movies. If you read this column regularly, you know I am a film buff. The documentary I went to see that day hits so close to home that I didn't even feel I was missing work.

The film is very sad. It is about three young men who spent 18 years in prison for murders they did not commit. Here's the church-state angle: The major reason they were convicted was that a jury had been tainted by a so-called "expert witness" whose fundamentalist-inspired views made a mockery of the idea of a fair trial.

The film is titled "West of Memphis," and it was mainly produced by Peter Jackson of "Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" fame.

Some background: On May 6, 1993, the bodies of three 8-year-old boys were found in a drainage

ditch in West Memphis, Ark. They had been horribly mutilated and tied up with shoe laces.

Three teenagers from the community, Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley Jr. and Jason Baldwin, were arrested, put on trial and convicted in 1994. However, on August 19, 2011, the three—including Echols, who had been on Death Row—were released from prison after a deal was cut with state officials.

I have been troubled by this case for more than a decade since reading a riveting account of it, *Devil's Knot*, by Arkansas reporter and civil liberties activist Mara Leveritt. I became so engrossed by Leveritt's book during a long plane trip that I didn't even realize we had landed and people were departing until a flight attendant asked me if there was something wrong.

I watched three HBO documentaries about this matter and on my "Culture Shocks" radio show on several occasions interviewed a woman who left her job to work on the case (and eventually married Damien Echols).

There were a large number of judicial errors made in this case, but I keep returning to the original trial of Echols and Baldwin. There was no DNA evidence, fiber evidence or eyewitness evidence linking these men to the crimes. So how did they get drawn into it?

A man named Dale W. Griffis was the key. Griffis, who liked to be referred to as "Dr. Griffis," was a consultant with a degree from an unaccredited institution in California that is widely regarded as a diploma mill specializing in "distance learning." In the 1990s, Griffis was a familiar figure promoting his seminars to police departments on the topic of "satanic crimes."

At the trial, the defense tried to have him disqualified as an expert witness because of his lack of anything but "a mail-order Ph.D." But the judge allowed him to present, asserting that Griffis' "experience" in life allowed him to function as an expert on "the occult."

Griffis testified that a series of factors led him to conclude that this was an "occult" crime: It has been committed on the night of a full moon, there was sexual mutilation, blood had been extracted from the victims and, of course, all three of the children were 8 years old, supposedly a "witches' number."

Griffis even asserted that three children were murdered because three is "one of the most powerful numbers in ... the practice of satanic belief."

I hope you get the point. Indeed, so much of everything Griffis said turned out to be just plain wrong.

The judge also allowed into evidence that Echols wore black clothing and had Stephen King novels in his room and had once gotten a book from the library on Wicca.

That was it. That was all it took for the convictions in the absence of any other data. But an atmosphere had been generated in the courtroom that made the motive clear to the jurors (at least one of whom still believes it today): a pact with the devil had led to the murders.

There have been times when I spoke about this case to AIU chapters or other groups. There were always other issues I addressed in the same speeches or presentations. Every one of those issues was and remains important. But it is somehow particularly horrifying to think that three innocent people spent 18 years in an Arkansas prison for a crime almost no one—including the parents of the murdered children—now believes they committed. ("West of Memphis" points a sharp finger at a much more likely suspect.)

This happened because a judge let a crank testify about a case he knew little about and who had a background only in creating a level of hysteria that would have been right in place in Salem, Mass., in 1692.

I encourage you to see this film. It will help you understand how bad things can get when a whiff of theocracy leads people to turn against anyone who is unconventional or has no religious beliefs—and how a reckless combination of church and state can obscure the truth.

Humanism Today in the UK

[Reprinted from the British Humanist Association website

<http://humanism.org.uk/humanism/humanism-today/>]

In the UK today, many people are very sceptical of religious claims to truth and hold values which are broadly humanist. There is a growing community of people who explicitly use the term 'humanist' of themselves. In doing so they refer to their positive affirmation of life and nature and our place within it all.

A popular message and a "New Atheism"

There has been a tremendous public and media interest about non-religious belief in the UK in recent years. There has been a surge of discussion about 'New Atheism' prompted by BHA Vice President Richard Dawkins' book *The God Delusion*. Some have a feeling that as church authority wanes and secular advances are made, organised religion is lashing out (in its "death throes", according to BHA Vice President, A C Grayling).

There was a great outpouring of support for the "Atheist Bus Campaign" which hit the road in January '09. In response to hellfire-and-damnation adverts by a Christian organisation, the slogan proposed by BHA Distinguished Supporter Ariane Sherine offered a comical but reassuring, "humanised" message: *There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.*

The idea sparked imaginations up and down the country, and so much money was raised that the adverts appeared on towns and cities across the UK. Most importantly, like-minded people across

the UK offered not just their financial support but their considered, good-natured, humanistic endorsement.

In November we launched a follow-up to the Bus Campaign: The “Don’t Label Me” billboard campaign, drawing attention to the strange practice of labelling children with a religion from birth.



Active humanist campaigning

After years of campaigning by humanists, 2008 finally saw the outdated Blasphemy Laws abolished, and the BHA lobbied to keep the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill from making abortion law more restrictive or from blocking important scientific research. The BHA held firm on public service reform and welfare reform, on religious discrimination in schools as well as in employment, and advocated the good standing of non-religious people, on children’s rights and on human rights. Professor Grayling heralded the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in a brilliant, powerful series of commemorative articles for the Guardian.

2009 has seen a flurry of celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, as well as the 200th year since the birth of Charles Darwin himself – one of Britain’s greatest historical thinkers and the greatest of historical naturalists. National public celebrations of intellectual and scientific achievement are rare but precious, wonderful opportunities.

All this activism and open debate are good things. Humanism encompasses all this and it taps, also, into an even deeper vein of thought and feeling. Speaking of his involvement in New Humanist magazine’s inspirational festive comedy show (December 2008) the comedian and campaigner Mark Thomas said, “Yes, you have to remind people about the reactionary Christian actions against something like Jerry Springer: The Opera, but you also have to celebrate the humanist side.” There is so much positive joy and awe to be found in life and family, in knowledge and wisdom, in friends and freedom –and as each person realises that it cannot all be contained in terms of negation, then ‘Humanism’ finds another voice.

Non-HSSB Events of Interest Diane Krohn

Upcoming events that may be of interest to humanists, atheists, skeptics, and freethinkers:

Upcoming Events in California:

- March 3: Dr. Sean Carroll: *The Particle at the End of the Universe: How the Hunt for the Higgs Boson Leads Us to the Edge of a New World*. CFI West, Los Angeles.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#carroll>
- March 17: Dr. Marc Rayman: *To Boldly Go.... Well, You Know: NASA's Dawn Mission to the Asteroid Belt*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- April 28: Dr. Adam Grant: *Give and Take: A Revolutionary Approach to Success*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- May 2: Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist, author, and TV host, The Granada Theater, Santa Barbara.

<https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/Details.aspx?PerfNum=2514>

- May 30-June 2: American Humanist Association 72nd Annual Conference. Speakers include Katherine Stewart, Eddie Tabash, Sean Faircloth, Phil Zuckerman, among others. San Diego.
<http://conference.americanhumanist.org/>

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- March 8-10: Freethought Festival 2. Speakers include Amanda Knief, Dan Barker, Darrel Ray, Greta Christina, Katherine Stewart, Eugenie Scott, and many others. Madison, WI.
<http://freethoughtfestival.org/>
- March 28-31: 2013 American Atheists National Convention. Featuring Katherine Stewart, Dave Silverman, Richard Carrier, Hector Avalos, plus lots more. Austin, TX.
<http://www.cvent.com/events/2013-american-atheists-national-convention/event-summary-fd39ce1320da4d0989c10cb348433a43.aspx>
- May 17-19: *Imagine No Religion 3*, sponsored by CFI Canada, the James Randi Foundation, and the Kamloops Centre for Inquiry. Speakers include Daniel Dennett, Victor Stenger, Christina Rad, Taslima Nasreen, others, plus a skeptics magic show! Kamloops, Canada.
<http://imagineoreligion.ca/>
- May 17-19: *Women in Secularism 2: A Center for Inquiry Conference*. Speakers include Jennifer Michael Hecht, Greta Christina, Amanda Marcotte, Teresa McBain, Jamila Bey, and many others. Washington, D. C.
<http://www.womeninsecularism.org/>

HSSB Contact Information

Officers:

President: Dick Cousineau
687-2371

president@santabarbarahumanists.org

Secretary: Diane Krohn
569-5503

secretary@santabarbarahumanists.org

Treasurer: Richard Martin
687-3563

treasurer@santabarbarahumanists.org

Board Members at Large:

Wayne Beckman	Roger Schlueter
Judy Fontana	Claudia Solé
Helen Gordon	Nancy Wahl
Jean Olsen	Mary Wilk

Newsletter Editor:

Ray Stone

Editor@santabarbarahumanists.org

Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for submissions to the Secular Circular is Midnight, the last day of each month.

HSSB meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:30 pm, usually in the Patio Room of Vista del Monte, 3775 Modoc Rd., Santa Barbara. More information is available at our web site:

www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org or by contacting any board member. At meetings, a donation of \$2 from members and \$5 from non-members is appreciated. First-time visitors are welcome on a complimentary basis.

To send a copy of this newsletter to someone interested in our Society, please send their contact information to: PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, or contact Mary Wilk at 967-3045, or mwilk@cox.net. Newsletters are also available at the above web address.

Annual HSSB membership dues are \$36 for a single person, \$60 for a couple, and \$100 (or more) to become a Society Supporter. One may subscribe to our newsletter only for an annual fee of \$20.

Link to HSSB Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Humanist.Society.of.Santa.Barbara>

HSSB Phone: 769-HSSB



HSSB Calendar

Tuesday, March 12. Board Meeting, 5:30pm. Home of **Mary Wilk.** Members invited to attend.

Saturday, March 16. Dr. Nancy Segal. Twins Reared Apart and Together. VDM,

Sunday, March 31. (and the last Sunday of every month), 10am, **Secular Sunday Brunch** for humanists, atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, singles, couples and families without religion. No cover charge; membership not required. Pay only for your food, drink and tips. Cody's Cafe, 4898 Hollister Ave. in the Turnpike Center, Goleta in the room to the right as you enter the restaurant. For information phone Board member, Mary Wilk at 805-967-3045.

Saturday, April 20. Monthly meeting. Dr. Indre Viskontas, The Reconstructive Nature of Memory.

Saturday, May 18. Monthly meeting. Dr. Paul Marshall, How Apostasy and Blasphemy are Choking Freedom Worldwide.

Saturday, June 15, Monthly meeting. To be announced.



Humanist Society of
Santa Barbara
PO Box 30232
Santa Barbara, CA 93130