



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

JUNE 2013



SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC !!

**Saturday June 15, 2013, 1:00 PM,
Stow Grove Park, Goleta
(Area 1, left of last year's picnic area)
\$10 per person!! (What a bargain!)
(Free to members joining in 2013)**



**Provided: BBQ Chicken, Tri-tip dinners
Dessert, soft drinks, wine**



**You may bring, if desired:
Favorite appetizer, beer
Books for the book sale!**

**Reserve by June 7th to:
Activities@santabarbarahumanists.org**

**Send checks to:
HSSB, PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara,
93130**



Welcome New Member!

Barbara Urban, Ventura

Activities Judy Fontana

Come one, Come all to the Annual Summer Solstice Picnic, Saturday, June 15, 1:00 to 4:00. It is again at Stow Grove Park, Goleta. but in area 1, which is to the left of where we have met in the past.

There will be fun, games, good food, book sale, great companionship! BBQ with tri tip, chicken, salad, bread, beans. All for \$10!

Please bring used books for book sale, a dessert or hors d'oeuvres. RSVP to <mailto:judithannfontana@yahoo.com> or call 967-7911 for reservations. Look forward to seeing you there.

A Year Without War Event **Joe White**

On June 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marjorie Luke Theatre, the documentary film, *Following the Ninth*, will premiere. *Following the Ninth* captures the profound global impact, both politically and socially, that Beethoven's Ninth Symphony has had at this time in our history. From Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile to the Tianamen Square Democracy uprising in China to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Ninth Symphony has brought people together in their common struggle while raising spirits with a sense of hope. From Europe through Africa to Asia and the Americas, the Ninth Symphony is continuously performed celebrating our common humanity and joyous existence.

SBCC's *A Year Without War* is honored to bring *Following the Ninth* to Santa Barbara for its premiere. Please join us at the Marjorie Luke Theater for a celebration of our common struggle

to bring dignity and peace to our global human family. Please visit the *A Year Without War* website to see the trailer for *Following the Ninth* or go to www.followingtheninth.com. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased on-line or at the Marjorie Luke Theater box office or call 805-965-0581 #2476.

Meeting of Minds at July Meeting

HSSB's July 20th meeting will feature our third presentation of a Steve Allen *Meeting of Minds* show. Steve's guests will be Margaret Sanger, Adam Smith and Mahatma Ghandi. Meredith McMinn, director, says: "This is one of the best of Steve Allen's scripts".

The performance, at the Fe Bland auditorium on the SBCC campus, starts at 2:30pm. Don't miss it!

All About Blasphemy

[Paul Marshall, our May speaker, is Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom in Washington D.C. His most recent book, written with Nina Shea, is *How Apostasy and Blasphemy Codes are Choking Freedom Worldwide*. You can listen to Paul Marshall's talk at www.santabarbarahumanists.org. Click "Calendar".]

Blasphemy and Free Speech **Paul Marshall**

A major current and growing threat to religious freedom, freedom of speech and the press, is the attempt to stifle religious and political discussion and criticism in the name of preventing "defamation of" or "insults to" religion, especially Islam.

Recently we've seen dozens of deaths and violent attacks throughout the world in reaction to the movie trailer *Innocence of Muslims*, a 14 minute video clip posted on the internet last July. It may be hard to remember that only twenty years ago, few in the West were concerned with blasphemy

restrictions. That changed when, in 1989, the late Ayatollah Khomeini, then Iran's Supreme Leader, declared every Muslim had a duty to kill British-based writer Salman Rushdie since his novel *The Satanic Verses* was blasphemous.



Mary Wilk, Paul Marshall

Photograph by Marian Shapiro

Khomeini's edict triggered a wave of violence. Rushdie survived only at the cost of a hidden life. Others were not so fortunate. The novel's Japanese translator was assassinated, its Italian translator was stabbed, its Norwegian publisher was shot, 35 guests at a Turkish hotel hosting its Turkish publisher were burned to death in an arson attack. Khomeini's fatwa inaugurated the export of blasphemy rules already suppressing religious minorities and Muslim dissenters in Muslim majority countries.

Subsequently, the twenty-first century has witnessed repeated eruptions of violence worldwide in reaction to Theo van Gogh's and Ayaan Hirsi Ali's feminist film *Submission*, the Danish and Swedish cartoons of Islam's prophet Mohammed,

Pope Benedict's Regensburg speech on reason and violence in religion, Geert Wilders' deliberately provocative film *Fitna*, and the false Newsweek story that the US military in Guantanamo had desecrated Korans. Such matters are now in the news regularly.

Some events, such as the declaration by Terry Jones, a deservedly obscure Florida pastor with a congregation of less than 50, that he would burn a Koran during prime time on September 11, 2010, achieved a perfect media storm. It combined Muslim outrage at desecration of the Koran with American publicity seeking, and the demands of 24-hour news coverage. It managed to draw in the American President, as well as senior US military leaders and cabinet officials. And dozens of people, mostly Nigerians, were killed.

This has led to a renewed push, led by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and too often acquiesced in by western governments for a ban on blasphemy, though it is usually called something else. Many European countries already ban versions of "hate speech" in order to promote social harmony.

In our book *Silenced*, we surveyed several thousand blasphemy accusations over the last twenty years, involving millions of people in dozens of countries. Some major findings are:

- **Vague Charges.** I have used terms such as "defamation of religion" and "blasphemy," but the actual accusations are usually vague. Pakistan and Indonesia are unusual in explicit blasphemy laws. Examples of accusations include "insulting Islam", "hurting Muslims' feelings", "insulting a heavenly religion". Most have no clear definitions. Recently a Pakistani Muslim was charged with blasphemy because he did not join a demonstration against blasphemy.

- **Manipulation by Governments.** Contemporary violence in response to purported religious insults is carefully stoked and channeled by governments or others with an agenda. For example, the famous "Danish cartoons" of

Mohammed were published in Denmark's largest newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, in September 2005. Violence erupted after the December 2005 summit of the OIC in Saudi Arabia seized on the cartoons and urged its member states to rouse opposition to Denmark. The violence came five months after the caricatures were published.

The great danger is attacks by mobs, vigilantes or terrorists—attacks in which hundreds have died. But governments carry a great deal of responsibility. The presence of laws against blasphemy, and accusations made by governments give "permission," so to speak--they foster an atmosphere in which attacks become more common.

Most victims fall into four basic categories, together comprising millions of people.

- **“Post-Islamic” Faiths.** Currently, millions of Baha'is and Ahmadis, followers of religions or interpretations that arose after Islam, are condemned en masse as de facto “insulters” of Islam because they are thought to have a prophet postdating Islam's prophet.

- **Apostates--those who leave Islam.** In Somalia al Shebaab is systematically hunting down and killing every Christian as apostate. Iran is imprisoning converts to Christianity and has sentenced one, Youcef Nadarkhani, to death.

- **Muslims "of the wrong type or in the wrong place."** Egypt has imprisoned people for being “under the influence of Shia ideas.” Saudi Arabia represses Shiites, especially Ismailis. Malaysia bans organized Shiism. Iran represses Sunnis and Sufis. Differing from the version of Islam propagated by government religious authorities is dangerous.

- **Religious and Political Reformers and Dissidents.** These include authors, journalists and democracy activists, including Nobel Prize winners and theologians.

The freedom to debate or criticize religious ideas is an essential element of religious freedom. As the late Abdurrahman Wahid, former President of Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, and head of Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Muslim organization, wrote in his *Forward to Silenced*:

"Coercively applied blasphemy laws narrow the bounds of acceptable discourse.... about vast spheres of life, literature, science and culture....Rather than... encourage Muslim fundamentalists in their efforts to impose a spiritually void, harsh and monolithic understanding of Islam upon all the world – Western authorities should instead firmly defend freedom of expression...."

When politics and religion are intertwined, as they necessarily are in debates about blasphemy and insulting Islam, without religious debate and critique there can be no political debate and critique.

Are Atheists Going to Heaven or Not? Which is it?

VATICAN CITY, May 29 (UPI) --

The Vatican retracted Pope Francis' recent statement that everyone, "even the atheists," were saved from sin and redeemed by God and therefore welcome in heaven. People who know about the Catholic Church "cannot be saved" if they "refuse to enter her or remain in her," Vatican spokesman the Rev. Thomas Rosica said in an "explanatory note."

At the same time, people "who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ and his church but sincerely seek God and, moved by grace, try to do his will as it is known through the dictates of conscience can attain eternal salvation," Rosica wrote. He added, "No person is excluded from salvation simply because of so-called original sin; one can only lose their salvation through serious personal sin of their own account."

Francis made headlines when he said in a May 22 homily: "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the blood of Christ -- all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! "Father, the atheists?" Francis said as if asking himself. "Even the atheists. Everyone!" Francis said in answering his Socratic-style question. "And this blood makes us children of God of the first class!" Francis said.

"We are created children in the likeness of God, and the blood of Christ has redeemed us all! And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. "If we, each doing our own part, if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of encounter -- we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good," Francis said. "But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!" Francis said, again speaking as if he were someone else. "But do good -- we will meet one another there," Francis said in response.

Atheist Hemant Mehta wrote in his *Friendly Atheist* blog: "Atheists, according to Christians, are going to hell unless we accept Christ's divinity. We already knew that. It was still an unusual and welcome gesture from the pope to recognize that everyone, regardless of beliefs, can do good and 'be saved' -- at least it was a step up from what we're used to hearing."

British evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, known for advocating atheism and science, wrote on Twitter: "Atheists go to heaven? Nope. Sorry world, infallible pope got it wrong. Vatican steps in with alacrity."

Conversations With God author Neale Donald Walsch told United Press International Tuesday evening: "It is regrettable that the hidden hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church chose to officially retract the recent statement on eternal damnation bravely made by its new leader, Pope Francis. This rapid retrenchment wiped out what appeared to be one of the major advances in theological thinking within that institution in the past 500 years."

Why Don't He Lend a Hand

by Samuel Porter Putnam

You say there is a God
Above the boundless sky,
A wise and wondrous deity
Whose strength none can defy.

You say that he is seated
Upon a throne most grand,
Millions of angels at his beck—
Why don't he lend a hand?

See how the earth is moaning,
What countless tears are shed,
See how the plague stalks forward
And brave and sweet lie dead.

Homes burn and hearts are breaking,
Grim murder stains the land;
You say he is omnipotent—
Why don't he lend a hand?

Behold, injustice conquers;
Pain curses every hour;
The good and true and beautiful
Are trampled like the flower.

You say he is our father,
That what he wills doth stand;
If he is thus almighty
Why don't he tend a hand?

What is this monarch doing
Upon his golden throne,
To right the wrong stupendous,
Give joy instead of moan?

With his resistless majesty,
Each force at his command,
Each law his own creation—
Why don't he lend a hand?

Alas! I fear he's sleeping,
Or is himself a dream,
A bubble on thought's ocean,
Our fancy's fading gleam.

We look in vain to find him
 Upon his throne so grand,
 Then turn your vision earthward—
 'Tis we must lend a hand.

'Tis we must grasp the lightning.
 And plow the rugged soil;
 'Tis we must beat back suffering,
 And plague and murder foil;

'Tis we must build the paradise
 And bravely right the wrong;
 The god above us faileth,
 The god within is strong.

Samuel Porter Putnam (1838-1896), the author of *Four Hundred Years of Freethought*, helped defeat an 1896 attempt to add a mention of God to the U.S. Constitution.

The God Particle Misnamed

The scientist behind the Higgs boson, Professor Peter Higgs, has urged people to stop calling it the God particle because he's an atheist. The 83-year-old scientist, who lives in Edinburgh and who predicted in 1964 the finding of the boson that shares his name, insisted the reference was not funny and was actually misleading.

He came up with the theory of a subatomic particle, since dubbed the Higgs boson, which would explain the mystery of how things have mass. But the professor wants people to stop referring to it as the "God particle" because he does not believe the particle holding the physical fabric of the universe together is the work of one almighty creator. According to Prof. Higgs, the nickname actually started as a joke, adding that it was "not a very good one".

The phrase was created for a popular science book from 1993 by Leon Lederman, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, and Dick Teresi, a science writer. Lederman wrote in the book "God particle: This boson is so central to the state of physics today, so

crucial to our final understanding of the structure of matter, yet so elusive, that I have given it a nickname: the God particle."

"Why God particle? The publisher wouldn't let us call it the Goddamn particle, though that might be a more appropriate title, given its villainous nature and the expense it is causing." But Prof. Higgs, explained his distaste for the term in a BBC Scotland interview. He said: "First of all, I'm an atheist."

What's Going on Here? Andrew Hankin, at large

- CNN host Wolf Blitzer had an amusingly awkward moment while interviewing an Oklahoma tornado survivor named Rebecca. He asked if she thanked the Lord for guiding a split-second decision that saved her life during the disaster. Rebecca paused. Smiled. Then admitted: "I'm actually an atheist." (So that would be a no, Wolf.) She and Blitzer laughed off her answer, and he credited her for making "the right call" anyway — even without any help from a higher power. "We are here, and I don't blame anyone for thanking the Lord," Rebecca added.

<http://now.msn.com/wolf-blitzer-asks-atheist-tornado-survivor-if-she-thanked-the-lord>

- Berlin-based Atheist Shoes, which offers handmade "Bauhaus-inspired shoes for people who don't believe in god(s)," noticed a startling number of packages mailed to America getting lost or delayed, prompting requests that the company stop using "Atheist"-branded packing tape, it ran a test. It sent two packages to 89 people in 49 states. One package had Atheist tape, one didn't. Those marked "Atheist" took three days longer to arrive, on average, and were 10 times more likely to disappear altogether. No such bias occurred in Europe. The company now sends packages to the U.S. without Atheist packing tape, so American godless shoe fans no longer have to fear for their soles.

<http://now.msn.com/atheist-shoes-says-usps-discriminates-against-atheists>

Company website

<http://www.atheistberlin.com/study>



Supreme Court to Rule on Christian Prayers before Town Board Meetings

The U.S. Supreme Court announced recently that it will hear a lawsuit challenging Christian invocations before town board meetings in Greece, N.Y. Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the organization sponsoring the lawsuit, urged the high court to affirm government neutrality on religion.

“A town council meeting isn’t a church service, and it shouldn’t seem like one,” said the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United. “Government can’t serve everyone in the community when it endorses one faith over others. That sends the clear message that some are second-class citizens based on what they believe about religion.”

Americans United brought the litigation on behalf of two community residents, Susan Galloway and Linda Stephens. They objected to the Greece Town Board’s practice of inviting clergy to open its meetings with sectarian prayers.

The board does not require that the invocations be inclusive and non-sectarian. As a result, the prayers have almost always been Christian. Official records showed that between 1999 and June 2010, about two-thirds of the 120 recorded invocations contained references to “Jesus Christ,” “Jesus,” “Your Son” or the “Holy Spirit.”

In a unanimous May 2012 decision, a three-judge panel of the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the town’s prayer policy. Judge Guido Calabresi said “a given legislative prayer practice, viewed in its entirety, may not advance a single religious sect.”

AU Legal Director Ayesha N. Khan, who directed the litigation for Americans United and will argue the Town of Greece v. Galloway case before the Supreme Court, said the justices should uphold the lower court’s ruling.

“Legislative bodies should focus on serving the community and stay out of the business of promoting religion,” Khan said.

Where Do Atheists Live

The [May 23, 2013 issue of the Washington Post](#) published a map showing where the world’s atheists live. The data was taken from a 2012 [poll by WIN/Gallup International](#), an international polling firm not associated with the D.C.-based Gallup group.

Percent saying they think of themselves as convinced atheists:

China	47%
Japan	31%
Czech Republic	30%
France	29%
South Korea	15%
Germany	15%
Netherlands	14%
Austria	10%
Iceland	10%
Australia	10%
Ireland	10%

The US and Canada were both shown to be in the 5%-9% category.

The top 10 religious populations:

Percent saying they think of themselves as a religious person:

Ghana	96%
Nigeria	93%
Armenia	92%
Fiji	92%
Macedonia	90%
Romania	89%
Iraq	88%
Kenya	88%
Peru	86%
Brazil	85%

Ten countries experiencing notable decline in religiosity since 2005. (Global average is -9%.)

Percent change in religiosity:

Vietnam	-23%
Ireland	-22%
Switzerland	-21%
France	-21%
South Africa	-19%
Iceland	-17%
Ecuador	-15%
United States	-13%
Canada	-12%
Austria	-10%

Can Atheism Really Replace Religion?

Nigel Barber, Ph.D.

[Published in *Psychology Today*, May 28, 2013]

My blogs on this topic generated millions of hits and plenty of skepticism. Resistance to overwhelming scientific evidence for the decline in religion is nothing new. Objections come from religious people and some atheists who argue there will always be weak people, unlike them, who need religion. Does either camp have a point?

In the past, some social scientists pushed back against the idea that economic development promoted atheism – the secularization thesis. In recent years, the pattern became so clear that not even the most myopic social scientist could miss it.

The generalization that more developed countries are more secular is every bit as clear as the generalization that developed countries have smaller families. It is not impossible for people in modern societies to have large families, of course. It is just unusual. Similarly, it is not impossible for individuals to be deeply religious in developed countries. They are just thin on the ground.

Why development chills religion

In my book *Why atheism will replace religion* I lay out the evidence that religion (however measured) is in sharp decline in the most developed countries that enjoy the highest standard of living for most of the people, namely social democracies such as Japan and Sweden. It persists in undeveloped regions like sub-Saharan Africa.

The perceived importance of religion (or religiosity) declines predictably with development (however measured) allowing one to predict how long it will take for religion to become unimportant for the majority of the global population. It will take approximately a quarter-century. This boils down to about a 1 percent decline of religiosity each year.

Why is the global population turning secular? To answer this question, it helps to understand the emotional function of religious beliefs and rituals. Religion calms distress and thus functions like the security blanket from which a child derives comfort when upset.

The market for religious comfort is strongest in the most miserable places in the world where life is hard, life expectancy is short, and life can be expunged at any moment by infectious diseases, violent criminals, starvation, brutal political leaders, or natural disasters.

In the most advanced social democracies, the quality of life is much better with expectations of good health and long life expectancy. There is less need of the security blanket of religion and its emotional functions are supplanted by medication, psychotherapy, sport, and entertainment.

So the answer to the question of whether atheism can replace religion is clearly "yes". It not only can replace religion but has done so in the most advanced social democracies such as Sweden and Japan.

The counter argument.

Secularization is real but many religious people are loath to accept the facts because it means that they are about to be on the wrong side of history.

Opponents point to the persistence of prophetic movements, new religions such as Mormonism, violent religious extremism, and so forth. Yet, such phenomena are signs of rapid social change. Extremist sects are historical flashes in the pan and those that survive become more moderate and mainstream – as Mormonism is doing.

Other objections involve rarified theological claims about the meaning and purpose of life, the existence of God, and so forth that are irrelevant to the secularization debate. Perhaps the silliest of these ideas is Pascal's argument that a gambling skeptic should put some money on God's existence just to avoid being wrong after death.

Can secularization reverse?

So economic development is weakening religion around the world. If the global economy went into a tailspin maintained over many decades, religion would unflatten itself like a cartoon animal after meeting a steam roller. Yet that is distinctly unlikely.

Global economic growth is on a torrid upward path that is being accelerated by technology, by urbanization, and by globalized trade. The world is going secular. Nothing short of an ice age can stop it.

"Christian" or "Follower of Jesus"? Ray Stone

My grandson Ryan has taken to identifying himself as the latter, something I've seen more and more of recently. I asked him why. Here's his reply:

That's an interesting question you raise, one that I've noticed myself. I think it stems from many Christians wanting to distance themselves from how they think society sees Christians, that being the link between the religion and the politics often associated with it (essentially the "Christian right").

Many, many Christians are turned off by the actions of social or political groups that refer to themselves as Christians, but don't behave in a way that Jesus would. The term "follower of Jesus" therefore, is used by many to emphasize that the importance of their religion isn't a political stand or an inherited designation or even a social outlook - it's that being a Christian means they want their lives to look like that of Jesus.

Letter to Editor, Secular Circular

Dear Editor: You know that if those Oklahoma tornadoes were happening in a godless region, or an area that favors same-sex marriage, or gay rights, some place like California, Pat Robertson

and others of his mindset would be pointing out we were only witnessing divine retribution. But it's happening in the Bible Belt!
This must be very confusing to them.

Unsigned

Dear Un: I agree. Ed.

Pat Robertson Explains Miracles

[From rawstory.com. Brought to our attention by PIQUE, the newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York.]

On an episode of Christian Broadcasting Network's *The 700 Club*, Robertson responded to a viewer who wanted to know why "amazing miracles (people raised from the dead, blind eyes open, lame people walking) happen with great frequency in places like Africa, and not here in the USA?"

"People overseas didn't go to Ivy League schools," the TV preacher laughed. "We're so sophisticated, we think we've got everything figured out. We know about evolution, we know about Darwin, we know about all these things that says God isn't real."

"We have been inundated with skepticism and secularism," he continued. "And overseas, they're simple, humble. You tell 'em God loves 'em and they say, 'Okay, he loves me.' You say God will do miracles and they say, 'Okay, we believe him.'"

"And that's what God's looking for. That's why they have miracles."

[I always wondered that myself. Ed.]

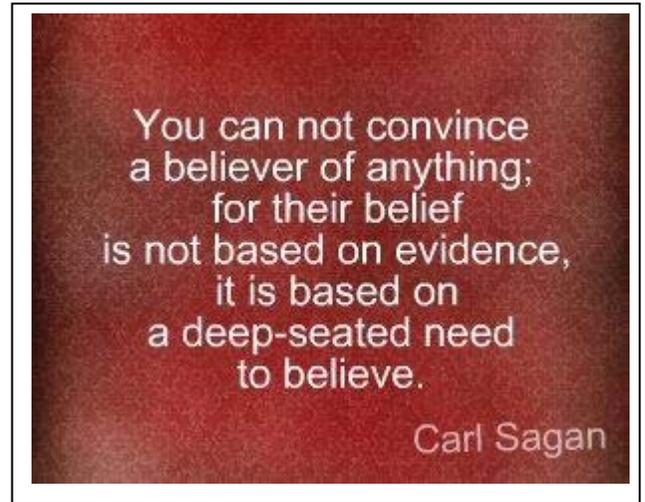
Secular Coalition Survey

The Secular Coalition is conducting its second annual strategic planning survey. The survey is an opportunity for you to give your feedback on the job the Secular Coalition is doing, and offer any suggestions. Complete the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QBSBCN3>.

Social Justice Chair Needed

We are in need of a chair for the Social Justice Committee. We have several members. Please call **Jean Olsen** at 967-1745 if you have an interest. THANK YOU.



New Editor Coming! Ray Stone

This issue of the Secular Circular ends three years that I've been its editor; it is my last issue. So much of interest is happening in the secular world, that the experience has been greatly rewarding and educational. It is often difficult to decide what should be published and what could wait until a later issue. But it's time for someone else to take over. Who that is has not yet been decided.

I would like to thank all of those who have submitted items to the newsletter, especially those who contributed regularly: **Jim Balter, Robert Bernstein, Dick Cousineau, Judy Fontana, Andrew Hankin, Diane Krohn, Ron Kronenberg, Michelle Rhea, Roger Schlueter, Claudia Solé, Marty Shapiro, Mary Wilk**; as well as the occasional contributors: **Charlie Archibald, John Coppejans, Helen Gordon, Ron Holzwarth, Al Melkonian, Joe Navarro, Jean Olsen**.

Thank you all!

Non-HSSB Events of Interest

Diane Krohn

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

Upcoming Events in California:

- June 2: Dr. Sheldon Kardener: *From Cradle to Apocalypse: The Danger of Not Outgrowing Childhood*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#kardener>
- June 4: *Following the Ninth. In the Footsteps of Beethoven's Final Symphony*. A documentary about the global impact of Beethoven's celebration for humanity. Marjorie Luke Theater, Santa Barbara. 7PM (Door open at 6POM.)
- June 16: Greg Cavin: *The Argument for the Resurrection of Jesus – A New “Double Edged” Critique*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles and Costa Mesa.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#cavin>

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- June 21-23: Secular Student Alliance Annual Conference West. Speakers include Katherine Stewart, Greta Christina, Dave Silverman, Dan Barker, and many others. Las Vegas, NV.
<https://www.secularstudents.org/2013con/Vegas>
- July 11-14: The Amazing Meeting 2013: A conference focused on scientific skepticism with a variety of presentations, workshops, and speakers. Las Vegas, NV.
<http://www.amazingmeeting.com/>

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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, June 11. Board Meeting, 5:30pm. Home of **Mary Wilk.** Members invited to attend.

Saturday, June 15. Summer Solstice Party. Barbecue, fun and games!

Sunday, June 30. (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, July 20. Monthly meeting. Steve Allen's *Meeting of Minds* featuring Margaret Sanger, Adam Smith and Mahatma Ghandi. Fe Bland Auditorium, at SBCC. 2:30pm.

Saturday, August 17. Monthly Meeting. Marcia Coyle.



Humanist Society of
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