



# The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

[www.SBHumanists.org](http://www.SBHumanists.org)

NOVEMBER 2013

## November Program:

Jason Torpy:

### Humanist Accommodation and Equal Rights for Atheists in the Military

Jason Torpy, West Point graduate, combat veteran, President of the Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers (MAAF), and Endorsing Agent for The Humanist Society, will discuss military religious culture. He will discuss current efforts to seek humanist identity, chaplain support



**Jason Torpy,  
MAAF  
President**



for humanists, and the first-ever military humanist chaplain. He will set the discussion in the context of the struggle for equal rights for those who don't accept the Christian beliefs that are so often privileged and promoted by US military leaders.

In addition to serving as President of MAAF, Mr. also holds seats on the board of the Secular Coalition for America and the American Humanist Association.

After joining the military in 1994, Mr. Torpy has been active with the nontheist community. He has addressed issues of separation of church and state and equal opportunity for nontheistic service members in Army basic training, Army parachutist training, military academy programs, and in combat situations. Mr. Torpy's education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Management from West Point and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from The Ohio State University. He is a Humanist Celebrant recognized by the Humanist Society.

**When:** Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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. \$22 includes tax and tip. RSVP [judithannfontana@yahoo.com](mailto:judithannfontana@yahoo.com) or 967-7911.

**For More Info:** [Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org](mailto:Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org) or call 769-HSSB

## Humanism, Diversity and Postmodernism

### Richard Martin

In Tom Flynn's editorial in the current *Free Inquiry*, he discusses how humanists disagree on many important issues, and the implications of that for what positions or commitments humanist organizations should adopt as their core missions. In a 2010 telephone survey, 75% of responding *Free Inquiry* subscribers said they were liberal, progressive, or socialist. The other 25% described themselves as moderate, centrist, libertarian, or conservative. However, these labels do not necessarily predict a person's position on controversial issues. For example a "liberal" may be "conservative" on Islam, as when John Coppejans says he is a liberal who believes that Islam is a danger to a free and democratic society. With this view, he is in the company of liberal humanists such as Sam Harris and the late Christopher Hitchens.

Flynn cites Islam, overpopulation, the libertarian-progressive divide, and politics as examples of areas where there is much disagreement among secularists. The diversity of political beliefs among secularists was explored in the Council for Secular Humanism 2012 conference, followed by a lead article in *Free Inquiry*, "Does Secular Humanism Have a Political Agenda?". The short answer was "No". Flynn says that "secular humanism clearly has no necessary link between it and any particular social, economic, or political policy prescription. For us, the Left is not always right."

He then discusses how postmodernism has shaped social-justice movements in recent decades. Postmodernism is largely a rejection of the assumed validity of scientific or objective efforts to explain reality. It is highly skeptical of values or explanations which claim to be valid for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races, and instead focuses on the relative subjective truths of each person. It denies the existence of any ultimate principles, and it rejects the idea of there being any scientific, philosophical, or social truths which are applicable to the world and humans in general. Of course, this means that by its own principles, it denies itself. And it is obviously incompatible with humanism.

Flynn comments that postmodernism "repudiated the Enlightenment, rejected the possibility of universal knowledge not colored by ideological or class biases, advanced an idiosyncratic understanding of power relations among social groups, promoted a divisive model of identity politics, and lionized an approach to multiculturalism that would disempower any one group to form legitimate judgments about another's traditions." An example of the latter is given by Sam Harris in his book *The Moral Landscape*.

"At the conclusion of my talk, I fell into debate with another invited speaker, who seemed, at first glance, to be very well positioned to reason effectively about the implications of science for our understanding of morality. She holds a degree in genetics from Dartmouth, a master's in biology from Harvard, a law degree, another master's, and a Ph.D. in the philosophy of biology from Duke. This scholar is now a recognized authority on the intersection between criminal law, genetics, neuroscience and philosophy. Here is a snippet of our conversation, more or less verbatim."

"She: What makes you think that science will ever be able to say that forcing women to wear burqas is wrong?"

Me: Because I think that right and wrong are a matter of increasing or decreasing well-being - and it is obvious that forcing half the population to live in cloth bags, and beating or killing them if they refuse, is not a good strategy for maximizing human well-being.

She: But that's only your opinion.

Me: Okay... Let's make it even simpler. What if we found a culture that ritually blinded every third child by literally plucking out his or her eyes at birth, would you then agree that we had found a culture that was needlessly diminishing human well-being?

She: It would depend on why they were doing it.

Me (slowly returning my eyebrows from the back of my head): Let's say they were doing it on the basis of religious superstition. In their scripture, God says, "Every third must walk in darkness."

She: Then you could never say that they were wrong."

With his comments about postmodernism in mind, Flynn says it is easy to understand another deep Left-Right divide among secularists about how much (if at all) their organizations should commit themselves to various social-justice agendas. He concludes that "the wisest - indeed the most secular - course is for unbeliever organizations to commit themselves solely to "life-stance-central" issues, such as non-theism, free critique of all religions, church-state separation, civil rights of unbelievers, and the like."

I agree with this conclusion. We may have speakers, discussions, and even debates about controversial subjects such as those mentioned above, but we should keep in mind that they are not HSSB core issues, and that disagreements about them do not mean that anyone is in conflict with humanist values.

### Activities Judy Fontana

Be sure to make your reservation for dinner following the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at Vista Del Monte. This month's menu is tossed salad, whole wheat rolls, BBQ chicken, white fish, mashed potatoes, bulgar pilaf, vegetable blend, green beans, assorted desserts and beverages and wine. Cost is \$22 per person which includes tax and tip. RSVP to [judithannfontana@yahoo.com](mailto:judithannfontana@yahoo.com) or call 967-7911. This is your chance to enjoy good food and great company. Cheers.

### Donations for Vista Del Monte Claudia Solé

There is a new way to contribute and show our appreciation to VDM. Please donate your unwanted costume jewelry and the proceeds will go to the Residents Association's scholarship fund. You can bring your donations to the front desk, give them to me at our meetings, or call me at 805-879-7783.

### October Program: Professor Joe White: Political Evolution – From the Enlightenment to the Present Robert Bernstein

Philosophy professor Joe White certainly challenged the Humanist Society crowd by questioning a central claim of the Enlightenment: That if man could reason enough we could do away with the superstitions of the past. That religion would go away.

White used the ideas of Harvard philosopher John Rawls to claim that religion is not going away any time soon.

Rawls claims that reason has its limitations and boundaries. Truth is limited to scientific descriptions.



*Left to right: Speaker Joe White, and HSSB member and Program Committee member Dick Cousineau.  
Photo by Robert Bernstein.*

Rawls distinguished between the Good and the Right. Good refers to what makes a good life for me. There are basic goods that we all need. But there also can be profound differences between people of what they find to be good. Buddhists may avoid meat and Muslims may favor polygamy. Reasoning has limits in reconciling these views.

With the Right there is no relativism and reason can help. Rawls believes that the Right is stabilizing and should take precedence over the Good.

White's main point is that we can have a diversity of views in society. Even smart people can hold mutually contradictory views that cannot be reconciled through reason alone.

Because of this current diversity of views, White thinks it is important to learn to live with a diversity of views. The Jehovah's Witnesses may come to your door with the *Watchtower* and you invite them in. You argue for hours. No minds are changed. But at least they came with a *Watchtower* and not an Uzi! In much of the world it is the latter.

Our church/state wall allows elected officials personally to abhor abortion while upholding a person's legal right to abortion. White sees this distinction as essential for society to function with diverse views. Kerry understood this while Bush saw it as "lacking principle."

White illustrated Rawls' "veil of ignorance." He gave the example of orchestras never hiring women to play the French horn because the women had a deficit of lung power in auditions for the job. Until they were auditioned behind a curtain and the "deficit" of the women miraculously vanished!

Rawls used the veil of ignorance in an elegant way not to audition musicians but to audition entire principles of justice.

Rawls asked us to come up with ideas of how to run society. And to imagine that you will find yourself in that society in an arbitrary position. You don't get to pick your social status, gender, wealth, intelligence, etc. Behind a veil of ignorance you will want to make sure no one suffers, because that someone could be you. To first approximation we would design societies where all are equal. However, we also may need some differences to motivate people to raise the quality of life for all. This "difference principle" allows for deviations from perfect equality only if it benefits those who are worst off.

Jim Balter challenged White and philosophers in general for limiting their view of the possible to what is familiar. Religion is declining in Europe as wealth increases and as secular social services replace church social services.

White pointed out that with the decline of traditional religion has come an explosion of New Age factions.

I suggested to White that we need principles to live by that may stand outside of reason. But that we can create these principles by design, with eyes open rather than by tradition. Exactly as Humanists have done.

White said that we can create communities agreeing to such principles. But big, comprehensive principles to apply to all run into problems.

He talked of "Kitman" in Iran. Iran had diversity in the past. The current theocracy tried to force everyone into compliance. But the diversity is there below the surface ready to burst forth. And it peeks out in small ways, as when women wear colorful scarves or tight-fitting jackets that are not modest, but fulfill the letter of the law.

White sees society as a diverse ecosystem. Ecosystems are healthiest and most stable with biodiversity rather than with monoculture. "Roses don't hate petunias."

I am not sure White convinced the Enlightenment thinkers of the Humanist Society to end their quest for a more reasoned society. But he certainly got us thinking. And no one brought an Uzi!



## What's Going on Here? Andrew Hankin, still there

**Kentucky:** Every day in Kentucky, due to a 2008 homeland security law, atheists and agnostics are potentially forced to assert that the public safety of their state is dependent on "Almighty God" or face criminal charges, including up to 12 months in jail.

In August 2009, Franklin County Circuit Judge Thomas Wingate ruled that the law violated First Amendment protection against the establishment of a state religion, stating: "Even assuming that most of this nation's citizens have historically depended upon God by choice for their protection, this does not give the General Assembly the right to force citizens to do so now. This is the very reason the Establishment Clause was created: to protect the minority from the oppression of the majority. The commonwealth's history does not exclude God from the statutes, but it had never permitted the General Assembly to demand that its citizens depend on Almighty God." The state law was quickly reasserted by the Kentucky Court of Appeals, and the Kentucky Supreme Court declined to review the Appeals Court ruling.

On November 13, 2012, American Atheists' National Legal Director Edwin Kagin submitted a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, asking SCOTUS to review the Kentucky Homeland Security law. Full story <http://freethoughtblogs.com/kagin/2012/11/24/american-atheists-ask-u-s-supreme-court-to-reverse-kentucky-law-believe-in-almighty-god/>

### Excerpt of Interview of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia from *New York Magazine*:

[*Scalia leans in, stage-whispers.*] I even believe in the Devil.

### [Jennifer Senior, *New York Magazine* interviewer] You do?

Of course! Yeah, he's a real person. Hey, c'mon, that's standard Catholic doctrine! Every Catholic believes that.

**Every Catholic believes this? There's a wide variety of Catholics out there ...**

If you are faithful to Catholic dogma, that is certainly a large part of it.

### Have you seen evidence of the Devil lately?

You know, it is curious. In the Gospels, the Devil is doing all sorts of things. He's making pigs run off cliffs, he's possessing people and whatnot. And that doesn't happen very much anymore.

**No.**

It's because he's smart.

**So what's he doing now?** What he's doing now is getting people not to believe in him or in God. He's much more successful that way.

**That has really painful implications for atheists. Are you sure that's the Devil's work?** I didn't say atheists are the Devil's work.

**Well, you're saying the Devil is persuading people to not believe in God. Couldn't there be other reasons to not believe?**

Well, there certainly can be other reasons. But it certainly favors the Devil's desires. I mean, c'mon, that's the explanation for why there's not demonic possession all over the place. That always puzzled me. What happened to the Devil, you know? He used to be all over the place. He used to be all over the New Testament.

**Right.** What happened to him?

**He just got wilier.** He got wilier.

**Isn't it terribly frightening to believe in the Devil?** You're looking at me as though I'm weird.

My God! Are you so out of touch with most of America, most of which believes in the Devil? I mean, Jesus Christ believed in the Devil! It's in the Gospels! You travel in circles that are so removed from mainstream America that you are appalled that anybody would believe in the Devil! Most of mankind has believed in the Devil, for all of history. Many more intelligent people than you or me have believed in the Devil.

Full interview:

<http://nymag.com/news/features/antonin-scalia-2013-10/>

## Movies (or TV) for Humanists: *Star Trek* as Humanist Social Commentary Robert Bernstein

*Star Trek* may be the most widely known piece of Humanist social commentary in all of history. Back in 2000 I was invited to speak on the topic at the Karpeles Manuscript Library, which was hosting a *Star Trek* exhibit. Below is an adaptation of the notes I used for my talk. *The Humanist* magazine did an extensive interview with *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry in 1991 and my notes included some quotes from that interview in “**bold**”. I also reference episode names for those familiar with the program.

*Star Trek: A Unique TV Series:* *Star Trek* had a quality and depth far beyond almost anything else on TV. Roddenberry believed that people would rise to the challenge of understanding the ideas he presents.

**“*Star Trek* was not about science fiction. It was about people.”**

He was pleased that the audience did grow in sophistication, allowing the show to grow in sophistication.

**“Writing is useless unless there is an idea in your script.”**

The Prime Directive: The clearest social commentary on the times of the original *Star Trek* was the Prime Directive: Don’t interfere in the affairs of another society. Clearly meant as commentary on the U.S. in the Vietnam War.

“A Private Little War” was a rare challenge to this Prime Directive and seemed to endorse the idea of a proxy war as a way to avoid direct superpower war. Whether you agree or disagree, *Star Trek* provided plenty of food for thought.

“Errand of Mercy” was more typical: The superior Organians described their “distaste” for interfering in the affairs of others. But they were able to bring the Federation and the Klingons to a kind of truce.

Religion: Roddenberry was an atheist. Religion was one of his biggest challenges with the network censors in *The Original Series* (TOS) *Star Trek* Series. It seemed silly to him that people in other

parts of the galaxy would worship the Judeo-Christian God.

In *The Next Generation* (TNG) he had full control over the content. He soared on the freedom he had to actively challenge religion; only limited by what he thought would turn away his audience entirely.

He expressed the idea that behind every religious claim was a scientific explanation that was honest and satisfying. Any sufficiently advanced technology looks like magic.

“Who Watches the Watchers” had the best line of all of Roddenberry’s views. Riker: “It’s worse than we thought, Captain. They are starting to believe in a God.” Worse yet, that god was the ever-rational anti-religious Captain Picard!

*Star Trek Deep Space Nine* (DS9) always had a “spiritual” undercurrent due to the beliefs of the Bejorans. But the consistent figure of evil in the show was the religious leader on Bejor.

After Roddenberry died, the program took on more and more religious references, as did *Voyager*. I do not believe that Roddenberry would have approved.

Materialism and simplicity: The program showed that technology would not necessarily lead to more material goods and consumption. On the contrary, the ability to produce anything at will eliminated the interest in acquisition of goods!

In “Catspaw”, Kirk says of the jewels offered to him, “We could manufacture a ton of these on our ship. They mean nothing to us.”

In “Assignment Earth”, Gary Seven makes reference to the uselessness of dying in an automobile accident, disparaging the idea of automobiles as transportation in the process.

Technology would eliminate poverty. And it would provide equality, rather than increased wealth disparity.

*Star Trek* often directly challenged capitalistic ideas. The Ferengi are the weasely and obnoxious capitalist race. Harry Mudd was the first annoying capitalist in TOS.

Free love: Kirk of course was always having sex with aliens at every chance. Riker continued that in TNG, as did other characters implicitly. It is interesting that the free love was toned down, perhaps as the spread of AIDS occurred here and

now as the show continued. The show is always a reflection of our times implicitly.

Different races would get along: Funny that the network censors could accept (white) aliens on the crew, but not women or blacks! The 1960's was a time of questioning the future of minorities and women. Roddenberry was on the forefront.

Whoopi Goldberg wanted very much to be on TNG. She said watching Uhura on TOS gave her hope that black people would still exist in the future!

**"I remember in school seeking out Chinese students and Mexican students because the idea of different cultures fascinated me."**

A generally positive view of the future: In contrast to the dystopian science fiction that came before and after. A true reflection of Roddenberry's love for the human race.

Violence would disappear on Earth: There will be peace after the violent period in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Roddenberry believed that you could think your way out of conflict in most cases. His father was a good police officer so he grew up thinking about such issues. Picard was much more true to this vision than Kirk had been.

Sex and violence are only two subjects in the universe of subjects. He felt that in general sex was good and violence was bad, but also wanted to range over a much wider universe of philosophical ideas and social commentary.

Other shows of note:

"Journey to Farpoint" (pilot for TNG): To show the progress of humans. A direct attack on Oliver North (in the news at the time) and his band of military terrorists. Perhaps the greatest single *Star Trek* episode.

"Symbiosis": An attack on capitalism and showing how we confuse an addiction for a life-sustaining need.

"A Taste of Armageddon": War becomes so sanitized that we accept it. We are currently (in 2000) unaware of the 5,000 Iraqis we starve to death each month with our blockade.

"Mark of Gideon": Deals with the overpopulation issue.

"The Doomsday Machine": The insanity of nuclear weapons/mutually assured destruction.

"City on the Edge of Forever": A peacemaker can unwittingly facilitate war.



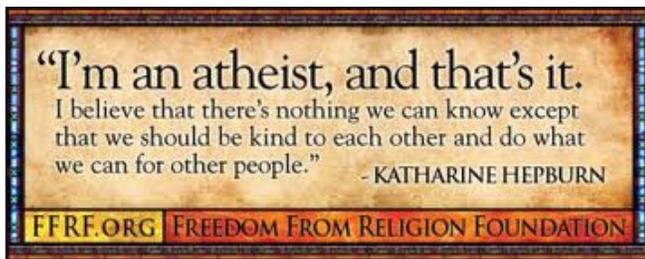
## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom From Religion Foundation Convention – A Total Success

Charlie Archibald

The largest, most action-packed, in your face, furthest left, annual conference we have come to know and love; it is not for the faint-hearted. Run by thoroughly nice people, Dan Barker and his life partner and wife, Annie Laurie Gaylor, inherited from Annie Laurie's mother, Anna Gaylor, FFRF founder, they set the tone of being anything but nice when it comes to the challenge of taking back our country from the unconstitutional actions of the religious right.

Going again at age 88, with a 30-year history with FFRF, I tried to imagine what it would be like for the first-timer. Yet from my chat with old friend Jim McCollum, the poster boy for his mother Vashti, in her US Supreme Court ruling that supposedly "took

prayer out of the public schools,” to sitting with Anna Gaylor, the FFRF founder, who though frail at 87 has a clear mind still that any of us could admire, as she humbly sold raffle tickets for “Clean Money” – pre-1954 money, without “In God We Trust,” which coupled with the disgraceful McCarthy-era addition of “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance, are used as “proof” that this is a Christian country; assuming of course that “God” is their God. But, as always in recent years, it was Dan and Annie Laurie who chaired the sessions, skillfully weaving all the elements together with the songs and words we never tire of hearing. How they got it all into one weekend in their home community of Madison, Wisconsin is to be marveled at.



So, what was different this year? Perhaps the featured place of the same-sex oriented, from the “Emperor Has No Clothes on” award given to Savage Love advisor Dan Savage, for all he has done to overcome abuse of “normal” individuals (other than heterosexual) in their daily battles for acceptance; to the “Jill and Julie Show,” featuring actress/director Julia Sweeney (“Pat” from the old *Saturday Night Live* TV show) and her life partner Jill Sobole, songwriter/guitarist. Together, they had us singing words not found in nice people’s conversations. And all this was on the first night, topped off by three kinds of cake to celebrate many victories for Freethinkers, and all this was just the preliminaries to the conference!

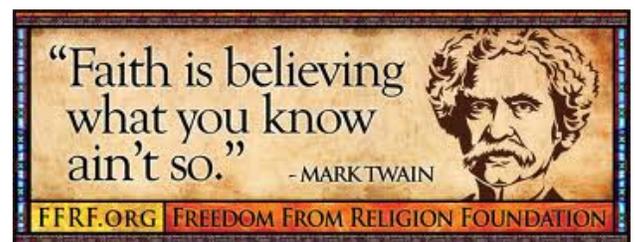
Like most weekend conferences, Saturday was the big day, although the business meeting on Sunday was worth staying over for, to feel the confidence that they would be expanding all their programs, particularly the work of the legal staff as they are quadrupling their space. It will will grow to a four story building, including a 130-seat auditorium. Plans to utilize all this space will do much to overcome the amazing growth of staff to match the increased membership of 130% in the last six years

to nearly 20,000; equal to all the other atheistic, agnostic, humanist, and other freethinker groups combined.

While many long-time members were honored for their service, as well as financial support through the years, many of the cash awards have been given to young people who have taken a stand against the tyranny of the Religious Right -- over \$10,000 awarded this year. In addition to Dan Savage, 27-year old Arizona State Representative Juan Mendez was also given a gold plated “Emperor Has No Clothes” award.

Saturday began with the traditional NON PRAYER breakfast with its defiant MOMENT OF BEDLAM, and ended the day with the celebratory banquet, followed by a raffle for “clean” \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, and several \$1 bills. So, looking back on a jam-packed conference, I don’t know how they got it all in, with the enthusiasm of the audience building as we rose from our seats time and again as one courageous deed followed another. A special tribute was given to the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vashti McCollum’s landmark US Supreme Court’s decision which banned religious education in public schools. The documentary film, *The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today* was shown, and Jim added personal recollections of his mother, “The Sarg,” who was always fair, but determined, in everything she did, as the film of her made clear as she spoke before her death at age 92 in 2006.

It was shown at the conference time and again that we must be bold, no matter how many times our signs are torn down or burned, if we are to keep the Constitutional rights to no longer believe a childish delusion; a delusion that has done more harm in the name of Christian Love than any other force to undermine the freedom from imposed religion that makes America admired in all the world.



## Non-HSSB Events of Interest

### Upcoming Events in California:

- November 17: David Montgomery: *The Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah's Flood*. CFI West, Hollywood and Costa Mesa.  
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm>
- November 17: Dr. Donald Prothero: *Abominable Science! Origins of the Yeti, Nessie, and Other Famous Cryptids and Reality Check: How Science Deniers Threaten Our Future*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.  
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- December 1: *Looking at Zealot: Reza Aslan in Conversation with Jonathan Kirsch*. CFI West, Los Angeles.  
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm>
- December 8: Dr. Linda Spilker and Dr. Thomas Spilker: *How to Go Boldly Into Space: An Insider's Look into how Space Missions are Created, Funded, Built, Launched, and Run*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.  
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- January 18-20, 2014: Area 51 and Alien Landscapes: Tour the geologic wonders of natural history of the Great Basin. A Skeptics Society geology tour.  
[http://skeptic.com/geology\\_tours/2014/Area-51-and-Alien-Landscapes/](http://skeptic.com/geology_tours/2014/Area-51-and-Alien-Landscapes/)

### Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- November 15-17: Scepticon 6: Annual student-organized atheist and skeptics convention. Speakers include Hemant Mehta, Seth Andrews, Greta Christina, Richard Carrier, PZ Myers, Rebecca Watson, many others. Springfield, MO.  
<http://scepticon.org/>

### HSSB Contact Information

#### Officers:

President: Richard Martin

[president@santabarbarahumanists.org](mailto:president@santabarbarahumanists.org)

Secretary: Suzanne Spillman

[secretary@santabarbarahumanists.org](mailto:secretary@santabarbarahumanists.org)

Treasurer: Colin Gordon

[treasurer@santabarbarahumanists.org](mailto:treasurer@santabarbarahumanists.org)

#### Board Members at Large:

Wayne Beckman

David Echols

Judy Fontana

Mary Wilk

#### Newsletter Editor:

Diane Krohn

[Editor@santabarbarahumanists.org](mailto: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](http://www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org). At meetings, a donation of \$2 from members and \$5 from non-members is appreciated. First-time visitors are welcome on a complimentary basis.

**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.

To join HSSB, please send your contact information and a check for your membership dues to HSSB, PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, Attn: Mary Wilk. For membership information contact Mary Wilk at 967-3045, or [mwilk@cox.net](mailto:mwilk@cox.net).

Copies of this newsletter are posted on the HSSB website. Photos are on the website and available via the link

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

See us on Facebook::



## HSSB Calendar

**Tuesday, November 12: Board Meeting**, 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday, November 16: Monthly Meeting**. Jason Torpy: Humanist Accommodation and Equal Rights for Atheists in the Military. Vista Del Monte, Patio Room, 2:30 p.m.

**Sunday, November 24:** (and the last Sunday of every month), 10 a.m., **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.

**Tuesday, December 17: Board Meeting**. 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday, December 21. Winter Solstice Party!** Details to be in December *Secular Circular*.

**Tuesday, January 14, 2014: Board Meeting**, 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday, January 18, 2014: Monthly Meeting**. Susan Gerbic, a member of WikiProject Skepticism.



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