



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

JULY 2012

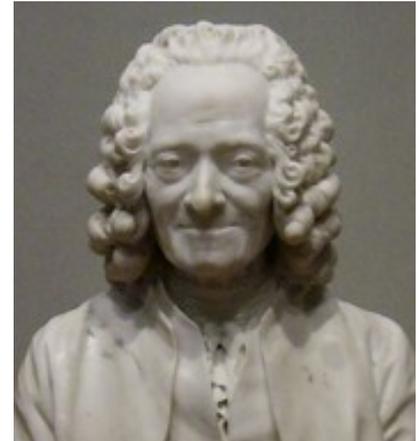
Steve Allen's

Meeting of Minds

directed by Meredith McMinn

HSSB will present its second production of Steve Allen's "Meeting of Minds", the ultimate talk show. The following figures from history appear in this episode:

- **Voltaire** 18th Century French writer, historian and philosopher, played by William York Hyde;
- **Martin Luther** German priest and major figure of the Protestant Reformation, played by Allen Zimmer;
- **Plato** Classical Greek philosopher, author, mathematician, student of Socrates, played by Tom Hinshaw;
- **Florence Nightingale** Pioneering English nurse, played by Louise Stone.
- **and...** a surprise guest host!



Voltaire



Martin Luther

When: Saturday, July 21, 2012

Where: Fe Bland Forum, SB City College West Campus.

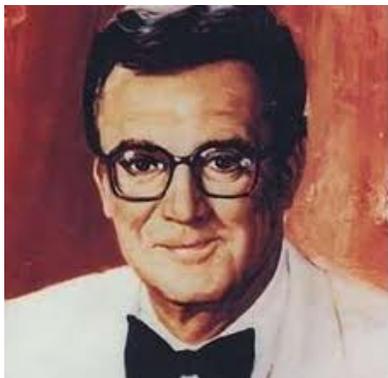
Time: Doors open **2:00pm**. Show starts promptly at **2:30pm**.

The limited seating will be assigned first come, first served.

Est. Performance Time: two hours. Includes 10-minute intermission.

Dinner Following: El Paseo Restaurant. E-mail dinner reservations to Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org

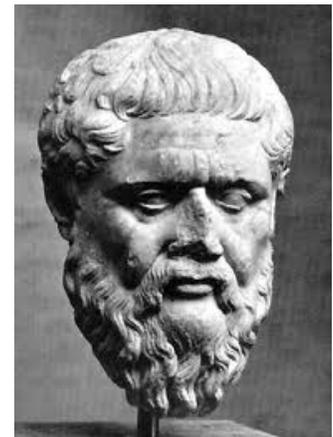
For More Information, call: 769-HSSB



Steve Allen



Florence Nightingale



Plato

Welcome New Member!

Sharon Kantanen, Santa Barbara

Dick Cousineau-- dkcgco@cox.net, or, 687-2371 or, PO Box 30232, SB 93130.

I look forward to your communications, Thanks

President's Message

Dick Cousineau

What, Dick Cousineau is President again? Wasn't he just President a few years ago and a few years before that? Yup, the same guy! But for me the Humanist Society is my passion and to be President is a joyful honor.

In the upcoming year I wish to explore new avenues with you for the society to be more visible, by joining with local and national groups, and by bringing more nationally recognized speakers to Santa Barbara.



Dick Cousineau

With the input of the new Activities Chair, **Judy Fontana**, and the new Program Chair, **Nancy Wahl**, along with our entire Board of Directors, I hope for a new breath of enthusiasm and new activities for our Society.

To our outgoing President, **Ron Kronenberg**, I give my heartfelt thanks for his dedication and deep interest in Humanism and our Society.

I ask for your cooperation and involvement by volunteering to help with Society events, and by sharing your ideas on how we can improve and grow. Please send me your suggestions and recommendations as to how we can respond to your needs and wants as well as of the community at large. Your comments are always welcome and will be considered.

Book Club

Marty Shapiro

In June your book club was poised to discuss Richard Conniff's captivating *The Species Seekers*. Unfortunately the meeting had to be postponed, on short notice, until July (probably the 18th - TBA). Same time, same place - 1:30 at **Dick Cousineau's**, 505 Alegria (off Las Positas). Hope to see you there! Here's some recycled material, from last month.

"This beautifully written book has the verve of an adventure story."—Wall Street Journal

From the mid-eighteenth century to the early twentieth, a colorful band of amateur naturalists explored the most perilous corners of the planet to discover new life-forms. Amid globe-spanning tales of adventure, Richard Conniff recounts a dramatic historical shift, as humans finally discovered the pantheon of life on Earth-and our place within it. 36 illustrations. See you there!

All the news that's fit to print.

Judy Fontana

On July 14 Katherine Stewart, author of *The Good News Club*, *The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children*, will speak about her book and why she came to write it. As many of you may recall, Katherine spoke to us a couple of years ago after her article about The Good News Club appeared in the Independent. If you can, I suggest you read the book before attending the talk. She will have copies for sale if you choose to buy one and she will be happy to autograph it for you. There will be a question and answer period following her talk. Remember, this is not the regular meeting of the Humanist Society.

The talk will take place at the Sierra Madre Lounge at Vista del Monte at 3:00. The lounge is at the

opposite end of the campus from where we normally meet. You may park on Mariana Way (the street behind Vista Del Monte), walk thru the pedestrian gate and take the elevator to the third floor to the Sierra Madre Lounge or you may park anywhere on the campus in an unmarked parking spot. Seating is limited so please email or call me to give me some idea of numbers, activities@santabarbarahumanists.org or call me at 967-7911.

We will be dining at the El Paseo Restaurant at 5:00 following the Meeting of the Minds at Fe Bland Auditorium on July 21. The restaurant will reserve tables of six for us. You may order whatever you wish off the menu. However, the management will only be able to present one check to a table so one person at each table will have to assume the responsibility for the accounting and collection of money. The El Paseo Restaurant is located in the quad in the block opposite the Lobero Theater. Paid parking is available in the lot behind the Lobero Theater and valet parking is available in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. Reservations required so that we will have enough tables reserved. Please reply to activities@santabarbarahumanists.org or call 967-7911.

The second meeting of the Salon, an open discussion group for humanists, will be held on July 9 from 7:00-8:30 at my place at Encina Royale, 259 Moreton Bay Lane, #2, Goleta. Please RSVP by email or phone. activities@santabarbarahumanist.org, or 967-7911.

A heads-up for August or September. We will be holding some informal but structured meetings at various times for those who may wish to discuss where we are as a society; are we happy with our monthly meetings and like things the way they are; or do we see ourselves as something more and what might that be? I would also appreciate your input via email but please make it short. activities@santabarbarahumanist.org

Sounds like a full menu to me. Cheers, Judy

Sally Koss, HSSB member since 2009, died the night of June 21. She was born in 1929 in Santa Monica to Bill and Nancy Shoemaker, who named her Sally Ann. Sally was raised in Pacific Palisades, and attended Westwood High School.

Through an uncle who served in congress during Richard Nixon's presidency, Sally became a congressional page. She also became Pat Nixon's favorite and was often a baby sitter for the Nixon daughters.



Sally Koss

Sally married Joe Koss who was to become a Prudential Insurance executive. They lived in Minnesota and raised two sons, both now doctors. Later she returned to college and eventually graduated from Rutgers. Sally taught elementary school as a reading specialist.

In recent years, she often visited son Jim and his two daughters in New Jersey and son Bob and his three sons in Florida.

She loved California, and she and Joe bought a condominium on a bluff above the beach in Leucadia. She moved to Ventura when her surrogate daughter, Betty Hough, became an assistant chancellor at UCSB. They had become close as Betty traveled with her during the five years Joe was stricken by Alzheimer's. Sally also liked the fact that her cousin and friend, Joy Knapp, also an HSSB member lived nearby.

Sally was very bright and full of life, interested in a variety of things—people, travel, literature, music, bridge, books, financial matters. She will be deeply missed by her friends and family.

Mt. Soledad Cross Unconstitutional

Dick Cousineau points out that the huge cross on Mt. Soledad near San Diego may finally be removed. The Supreme Court last week declined to hear an appeal in a case where the 43-foot cross, a part of a veteran's war memorial, had previously been ruled as an unconstitutional endorsement of Christianity on public land. "Finally! It has taken literally years to get this ruling. I used to live in San Diego and I remember the Mt. Soledad Cross, but it was much smaller then", Dick reports.

You can read more about this decision at:

<http://www.americanhumanist.org/news/details/2012-06-humanists-salute-supreme-courts-decision-to-let-stan#.T-zuLbOKaqY.mailto>

Let Us Not Pray

A rash of proposed legislation favoring prayer in public places has been presented around the country recently. Here are some of them, courtesy of *Church and State*, the newsletter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, July/August 2012 issue.

House Members Push Prayer at School Board Meetings.

Thirty-seven members of the U.S. Congress are pushing a resolution that would put the House on record in support of official prayers before school board meetings. Introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.), H.Res. 662 claims U.S. Supreme Court rulings allow ceremonial prayers before government meetings, calling them "a tolerable acknowledgement of beliefs widely held among the people of the Nation." It also asserts that the United States was "founded on the principle of freedom of religion and not freedom from religion."

The resolution is apparently in response to an August 2011 decision by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals against a Delaware school board's invocations in which the court struck down the prayers, almost always Christian, noting that

students often attend school board meetings and that they should not be subjected to worship against their will.

The resolution has not yet been put to a vote.

Portman Introduces WWII-Memorial Prayer Bill In Senate

If U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) gets his way, a prayer delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on D-Day will be added to the National World War II Memorial in Washington. His bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to place a plaque or inscription of the prayer on the monument.

Before the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944, Roosevelt prayed, in part: "Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace."

Portman said Roosevelt's prayer "brought strength and comfort to many" and "will forever be etched in our history." But the Obama administration says the World War II memorial was designed with ample public input and should not be altered now.

The House version of the bill passed 386-26 in January, but the Senate has not yet considered the matter.

'Right To Pray' Amendment On August Ballot Is Likely To Confuse Voters

Mike McGhee was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2004, and since then has sponsored or cosponsored some pretty unusual legislative proposals. Many have been rejected, but one that has fared very well is his proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution that purports to protect prayer in public places and other religious "rights."

The measure was repeatedly blocked. But in 2010, an influx of "Tea Party" Republicans swept into the Missouri legislature, and the proposal passed. It will

appear on the state ballot in August during the primary election.

Critics say that if the so-called "Right To Pray" Amendment passes, it will spawn confusion in the state and probably a good bit of litigation as well.

The lengthy amendment revises a religious liberty provision of the Missouri Constitution, that is currently 110 words long. It would add a much more verbose statement of 374 words that goes into great detail asserting that every citizen shall have the right to "pray individually or corporately in a private or public setting so long as such prayer does not result in disturbance of the peace or disruption of a public meeting or assembly "

It guarantees that "citizens as well as elected officials and employees of the state of Missouri and its political subdivisions shall have the right to pray on government premises and public property so long as such prayers abide within the same parameters placed upon any other free speech under similar circumstances "

The amendment also covers public school students. It states that "students may express their beliefs about religion in written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their work " In one of its most controversial sections, the amendment says "no student shall be compelled to perform or participate in academic assignments or educational presentations that violate his or her religious beliefs ". Opponents fear that students will be able to opt out of assignments or blocks of instruction (e.g. Evolution) based on their religious beliefs.

Opponents of the amendment also are worried that the average voter will not grasp the sweeping nature of the proposed change. This is due in part to the initiative's ballot summary, which makes the measure sound benign.

It states that the proposal would ensure that the "right of Missouri citizens to express their religious beliefs shall not be infringed" and that "school children have the right to pray and acknowledge

God voluntarily in their schools." But opponents say the change does much more than this and that voters deserve to know it.

They were so strong in their beliefs that there came a time when it hardly mattered what exactly those beliefs were; they all fused into a single stubbornness. -Louise Erdrich, author (b. 1954)

More on Praying and Sports **Pastor Paul Brandeis Raushenbush,** **Senior Religion Ed., The Huffington Post**

Dear Pastor Paul:

I am a sports fanatic and watch ESPN all the time. These days I see a lot of teams praying before a game and it makes me uncomfortable. I mean, does a team win because God wants them to? And if both teams pray, does God hear one team's prayers more than the other's?

Dear Friend,

Prayer does not make me uncomfortable and I do believe that one part of prayer can be petitioning God to answer our individual concerns.

However, it would be wrong if a team prayed to God as a trump card to win a match. Prayer should witness to the world that even though these athletes are at the top of their game, they still know that the ultimate power is in God's hands.

I'm pretty sure God does not care which team wins, as long as both teams exhibit good sportsmanship and play to the best of their God given abilities.

Of course, if athletes are praying to show the world how pious they are, then that is explicitly frowned upon in my Christian tradition. Jesus directly tells people not to show off their prayer in public but rather to go into a private place and pray there, and then God will reward them.

Whether Tim Tebow passes this test is between him and God.

The Power of Prayer

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for years. So she went to the Western Wall to check it out and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me, sir, I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. What's your name?" "Morris Feinberg," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall to pray?" "For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims. I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop. I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love their fellow man. I pray that politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a @\$%&* wall."

What's Going on Here?

**Andrew Hankin, on assignment,
Florence, Italy**

Pastor Jim Garlow will stand before congregants at his 2,000-seat Skyline Wesleyan Church in La Mesa, California, on Sunday, October 7, just weeks before the U.S. presidential and congressional elections, and urge his flock to vote for or against particular candidates.

He knows such pulpit pleading could endanger his church's tax-exempt status by violating IRS rules for a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A charity can take a position on policy issues but cannot act "on

behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." To cross that line puts the \$7 million mega-church's tax break at risk.

Even so, Garlow not only intends to break the rules, he also plans to spend the next four months recruiting other pastors to do the same as part of "Pulpit Freedom Sunday". On that day each year since 2008, ministers intentionally try to provoke the IRS. Some even send DVD recordings of their sermons to the agency. Last year, 539 pastors participated. This year organizers expect far more.

The situation is fraught with peril for the IRS, which needs to be seen as apolitical. When it cracks down on political activities proscribed by the 501(c)(3) regulations, it is inevitably branded as partisan.

When the target is a church, mosque or synagogue, enforcement puts two fundamental American values at odds: freedom of speech and the separation of church and state. Although the agency has enforced the tax-exemption rules against churches in the past, it has so far ignored the provocations of Freedom Sunday.

The IRS has also been silent about the increasingly aggressive political activity of the U.S. Catholic bishops, who have called for their own *Fortnight for Freedom*. Masses, rallies, and parish bulletins are being mobilized against the Obama administration's healthcare regulations on contraceptives.

The result of agency inaction, according to tax experts and former IRS staffers, will be a lot more electioneering by leaders of the faithful, in local races as well as national...

Full story from MSNBC Bottom Line:

http://bottomline.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/06/21/12343407-activist-churches-bait-irs-but-agency-wont-bite-so-far

Green Perfume

Why didn't it smell good? On the floor,
surrounded
by toys, I held the open jar in both hands and
sniffed
while church clothes waited in order on the
bed.

Why, with clover blossoms and evening
primrose, lady slipper and sweet pea in water
and
all smashed—why did it reek merely of green
everything, like my father's mowing?

So pondering I was brought to song
by the hair, instructions for dressing reissued
point by point until hard hands hoisted me,
crisp and
slicked, to car, to pew—to hymn.

How the windows, open a little in summer,
made green as good as blossom, the swath of
field more cause for joy than muted stories of
blood
and lamb, tree and well, set all around in
colored
glass. And in spite of singing, my favorite
sound
was always the tired music that signaled
an end; it came, with a noise of
shuffling, as news of general relief.

So that green smell was
the perfume I sought, but better: It aged
well as the sun took it, and took it,
lifting me from a long drowse
of commanded praise.

~ by Daryl Scroggins

Daryl Scroggins teaches creative writing and literature courses at the University of North Texas. His poems and short stories have appeared in a number of magazines and anthologies around the country. His work "Prairie Shapes, a Flash Novel" won the 2004 Robert J. DeMott Prose Contest.

"Green Perfume" originally appeared in *The Entropy of Hunters*, published in 2005 by The Trilobite Press and appeared in *Above Us Only Sky, Atheist Poetry, Volume Two*, Incarnate Muse Press, 2008. **Michelle Rhea**, Poetry Editor. michellerhea@cox.net

Bible Contradictions

Ron Holzwarth

If you have nothing to do on an afternoon, type in "Bible Contradictions" for a Google search. This will provide you enough reading for the rest of the week. Here are just a few, starting "in the beginning":

When were Day and Night Created.

1. On the first day. (Genesis 1:3-5)
2. On the fourth day. (The sun, which separates day and night, was not created until the fourth day. Genesis 1:14-19). (One wonders how the first three days came about without a sun.)

Which was created first: trees or man?

1. Trees, then man. (Genesis 1:11-12, 26-27)
2. Man, then trees. (Genesis 2:4-9)

Which was created first: animals or man?

1. Animals, then man. (Genesis 1:24-27)
2. Man, then animals. (Genesis 2:7, 19)

Which was created first, man or woman?

1. They were created at the same time. (Genesis 1:26-27)
2. Man first, woman later. (Genesis 2:7, 21-22)

Which plants and trees did God give to humanity?

1. Every seed-bearing plant and fruit of every tree. (Genesis 1:29)
2. Only the trees of the garden, except tree of knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 2:16-17)

Adam's Life.

1. God told Adam he would die the day he ate the forbidden fruit. (Genesis 2:17)
2. Adam lived for 930 years. (Genesis 5:5)



Health Care for All California
Single Payer Universal Health Care Santa Barbara Chapter
Supporting Single Payer Health Care Since 1995

◆◆◆ General Membership Meeting ◆◆◆
Free and Open to the Public

Now Showing: **"The Healthcare Movie"** (~45min)
Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland (and grandson of Tommy Douglas)

"People are more important than profits."
- Tommy Douglas (creator of the Canadian single-payer system)



- ◆ How did the Canadian health care system come to be?
- ◆ How does it work for ordinary Canadians and what do they really think of it?
- ◆ How is it paid for, and how do we compare?

Thursday, July 19, 6:45-8:30 PM

Doors open at 6:30
Film at 7:15, discussion to follow
Goleta Branch Library
500 N. Fairview Avenue
For more info call Peter at 682-5183



HealthCareForAll.org

Refreshments! Free!

Sponsored by HSSB

FFRF's 'Counter the Bishops' TV Blitz Airing Now!

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is storming the "Bishops' Bastille" in an unprecedented TV ad campaign to counter the Roman Catholic Church's inquisition against contraceptive insurance coverage. The 30-second spots feature one of America's favorite former Catholics — actress Julia Sweeney, beloved by freethinkers for her play, "Letting Go of God," and by the American public for her portrayal of "Androgynous Pat" on Saturday Night Live! To

watch the add Click [here](#). The ads will air through July 4.

In the ad, Julia says: "Hi, I'm Julia Sweeney, and I'm a cultural Catholic. I am no longer a believer and I even wrote a play about it called "Letting Go of God." But I wanted to let you know that right now Catholic Bishops are framing their opposition to contraceptive coverage as a religious freedom issue. But the real threat to freedom is the Bishops, who want to be free to force their dogma on people who don't want it. Please join the Freedom From Religion Foundation and help keep church and state separate. [FFRF's name, toll-free number and website are displayed throughout the ad.]

Bible Sales vs. Bible Knowledge from delanceyplace.com 6/12/12 -

Sales of the Bible are rising dramatically in the U.S., but knowledge of the contents of the Bible is declining:

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, 78 percent of all Americans say that the Bible is the 'word of God,' and almost half of those believe that, as such, 'it is to be taken literally, word for word.' Polling data from the Barna Group indicate that nearly half of all Americans agree that 'the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teachings' (88 percent of all 'born-again' Christians believe the same), and the Gallup Poll finds that 65 percent of all Americans believe that the Bible 'answers all or most of the basic questions of life.' These statements are shorthand descriptions of the idea of the Bible as God's magnum opus, the first and last word on who God is, who we are, why we're here, and where we go after this. ...

Yet ... recent polls and surveys offer these biblical revelations:

Less than half of all adult Americans can name the first book of the Bible (Genesis, in Hebrew Bereshit) or the four Gospels of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

More than 80 percent of born-again or evangelical Christians believe that "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse. ...

More than half of graduating high school seniors guess that Sodom and Gomorrah were husband and wife, and one in ten adults believes that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife. (Those two must've been multiple-choice questions.)

Almost two-thirds of Americans can't name at least five of the Ten Commandments. Some of these people, moreover, are outspoken promoters of them. Georgia representative Lynn Westmoreland, cosponsor of a bill to display the Ten Commandments in the chambers of the House of Representatives and Senate, could remember only three when Stephen Colbert asked him to recite them on The Colbert Report (Colbert, who I hear teaches Sunday school at his church, would probably have done considerably better). ...

Even among the majority of Christians who identify themselves strongly with the Bible, Bible reading is a rare activity. In a 2005 nationwide study of religious values, practices, and behaviors by Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion, more than half of those identifying themselves as 'Bible-believing' said they had not participated in any kind of Bible study or Sunday school program at all in the past month. ...

While biblical literacy is about as low as it can get, Bible sales have been booming. The biggest Bible publishers in this highly competitive business guard their sales data closely, but reliable industry sources estimate that 2007 saw about 25 million Bibles sold, generating revenues of about \$770 million in the United States alone. That was an increase of more than 26 percent since 2005, which saw U.S. sales of about \$609 million. In fact, the Bible-publishing business has been enjoying a healthy compounded growth rate of close to 10 percent per year for several years. Even during the high point of economic crisis in late 2008, when other book sales were hurting badly, Bible sales continued to boom, with an estimated \$823.5 million that year. ...

So biblical literacy is low to zip, even while biblical reverence remains high and Bible sales rise. What's going on? Could it be that biblical literacy is being replaced by biblical consumerism? In today's consumer culture, we are what we buy, wear, and carry. We identify ourselves by our patterns of consumer choices, by the market niches we buy into. It's gone beyond that post-Cartesian proof of existence, 'I shop, therefore I am.' Today, it's closer to 'I shop for what I am.'

Seventeen Versions of the Golden Rule

Avoid doing what you would blame others for doing.

– Thales (c. 624 BC – c. 546 BC)

...it has been shown that to injure anyone is never just anywhere.

– Socrates, in Plato's "Republic"

Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not.

– Bahá'u'lláh

Comparing oneself to others in such terms as "Just as I am so are they, just as they are so am I," he should neither kill nor cause others to kill

– Buddha, Sutta Nipata 705

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

– Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 7:12

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

– Jesus of Nazareth, Luke 6:31

Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself

– Confucius

One should never do that to another which one regards as injurious to one's own self. This, in brief, is the rule of dharma. Other behavior is due to selfish desires.

– Brihaspati, Mahabharata (Anusasana Parva, Section CXIII, Verse 8)

Woe to those... who, when they have to receive by measure from men, they demand exact full measure, but when they have to give by measure or weight to men, give less than due.

– Qur'an (Surah 83, "The Dealers in Fraud," vv. 1–4)

None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.

– An-Nawawi's Forty Hadith 13 (p. 56)

Just as pain is not agreeable to you, it is so with others. Knowing this principle of equality treat other with respect and compassion.

– Suman Suttam , verse 150

What is hateful to yourself, do not do to your fellow man. That is the whole Torah; the rest is just commentary.

– Talmud Shabbat 31a

The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form.

– Shinto Teaching

Whom should I despise, since the one Lord made us all.

– p.1237, Var Sarang, Guru Granth Sahib, tr. Patwant Singh

Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

– T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien

These eight words the Rede fulfill, 'an ye harm none do as ye will.

– The Wiccan Rede

One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.

– Yoruba Proverb

Pope Comments on Clergy Abuse Times Wire Reports

Pope Benedict XVI told worshipers it is a mystery why priests and other church officials abused children entrusted in their care, undermining faith in the Roman Catholic Church "in an appalling way."

Benedict commented on the scandals of sexual abuse and coverups by church hierarchy in a pre-recorded video message for an outdoor Mass attended by 75,000 Catholics, many from overseas, in Ireland.

Non-HSSB Events of Interest Diane Krohn

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

Upcoming Events in California:

- July 15: Margaret Wertheim: *Physics on the Fringe: What We Can Learn About the Role of Scientists from "Outsider" Physicists*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles and Costa Mesa. <http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#wertheim>
- August 5: David Layton: *The Universe in a Box: Enlightenment, Humanism, Science Fiction, and Dr. Who*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. <http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#wertheim>
- August 11: Atheist Film Festival 2012. San Francisco. <http://sfatheistfilmfestival.org/>

- August 19: Tom Mates: *Inventing America's God*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles and Costa Mesa.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#wertheim>

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- July 6-8: Secular Student Alliance 2012 Annual Conference. Speakers include Greta Christina, Dave Silverman, Jason Torpy, Jessica Alquist, and many others. Columbus, OH.
<http://www.secularstudents.org/2012con>
- July 12-15: The Amazing Meeting. Speakers include James Randi, Penn & Teller, Lawrence Krauss, Sean Faircloth, Harriet Hall, Jennifer Hecht, many others, plus many evening events that aren't just lectures. Las Vegas, NV.
<http://www.amazingmeeting.com/TAM2012/>
- August 9-12: The Skeptics Toolbox: Evaluating Evidence: Garbage In, Garbage Out. A workshop sponsored by the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry. *Unlike many of the conferences held by CSI, the Skeptic's Toolbox is a much more intimate and informal affair during which participants get an opportunity to put the tools of science and skepticism directly to work on many paranormal or pseudoscientific claims and ideas. Along with fascinating case studies and experiences presented by a wonder-fully engaging faculty, attendees break up into small groups and tackle a case study of their own under the guidance of a faculty member.* Eugene, OR.
<http://www.skepticstoolbox.org/about.php>
- August 31-September 3: Atheist Alliance of America – Ascent of Atheism 2012 Convention. Speakers include PZ Myers, Victor Stenger, Greta Christina, Dan Barker, among many others. Denver, CO.
<http://www.atheistallianceamerica.org/programs/conventions.html>

HSSB Contact Information

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Judy Fontana

Claudia Solé

Helen Gordon

Nancy Wahl

Jean Olsen

Mary Wilk

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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 sponsor. 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

Saturday, July 9 HSSB Salon. Encina Royale Home of Judy Fontana, 259 Moreton Bay Lane, #2, Goleta. 7-8:30PM.

Saturday, July 14. Katherine Stewart, talking about her new book about the *Good News Club*. Vista Del Monte, Sierra Room, 3PM.

Saturday, July 21. Monthly meeting. "Meeting of Minds" II. In person: **Plato, Voltaire, Martin Luther, Florence Nightingale, Steve Allen Sr.** Fe Bland Auditorium. **Program starts at 2:30PM!**

Sunday, July 29. (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, August 18. Mr. Deity

Saturday, September 15. Bill Hing. Topic: Immigration

Saturday, October 20. Phil Zuckerman

Saturday, November. 17 Jerry Roberts



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