



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

SEPTEMBER 2012

September Program:

Professor William Ong Hing
University of San Francisco Law School

Thinking Broadly About Immigration Reform

Throughout his career, Professor Hing has pursued social justice through a combination of community work, litigation, and scholarship. He is the author of numerous academic and practice-oriented publications on immigration policy and race relations. His book *To Be An American: Cultural Pluralism and the Rhetoric of Assimilation* received the award for Outstanding Academic Book by the librarians' journal Choice

At UC Davis, Hing directed the law school clinical program. He was also co-counsel in the precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court asylum case, *INS v. Cardoza-Fonseca* (1987). Hing is the founder of the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco and continues to volunteer as general counsel for this organization. He serves on the National Advisory Council of the Asian American Justice Center in Washington, D.C.



Professor Hing's sponsors are **John and Pat Coppejans**.

Date: September 15, 2012

Location: 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. RSVP judithannfontana@yahoo.com or 967-7911. For more details, see Judy Fontana's article below.

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

President's Column

Dick Cousineau

As many of you know, my wife Judy has been quite ill for the past few months with a serious blood disease, called myelofibrosis. The chemotherapy that she has been taking is beginning to show good results, i.e. the overabundant white blood cells have diminished and the red blood cells have reached a state of equilibrium. We will know more in a month or so if the chemotherapy will have a long term effect. In the meantime she needs constant help with her routine in living and with her medical needs throughout the day and night, which I am providing.

Because of these demands I must temporarily step down as President of HSSB, for at least until the new year. By then we will have to make decisions as to what course of action to take. Your support of the Board of Directors in my absence will be deeply appreciated. I will attempt to attend as many of our functions and write articles that I can because this Society is my Passion. I will keep you informed of Judy's progress.

Your Humanist Friend, Dick

Welcome New Member!

Dusty Miller, Santa Barbara

HSSB Book Club

Marty Shapiro

The next book of choice is *Our Media, Not Theirs! The Democratic Struggle Against Corporate Media*, a powerful analysis of "how the media system has come to be dominated by a handful of transnational conglomerates that use their immense political and economic power to saturate the population with commercial messages." (Amen to that, friends.)

The authors, Robert McChesney and John Nichols, are a couple of award-winning scholar/writers and long-time devotees of the media beat. If you care about the frightening and on-going over-commercialization of the media, I'd recommend reading all of the 'Customers Reviews' on Amazon.com.

We will be meeting Wednesday, September 19, at 1:30 p.m, at my home, Shapiro Haus, 249 Savona Ave., in northern Goleta. Call me at 968-0478 for driving directions. Marty.

Club Activities

Judy Fontana

Dinner following the September 15th meeting will again be at Vista Del Monte. The cost is \$22 per person including wine, tax and tip. Reservations required. Please RSVP early and no later than September 12 to judithannfontana@yahoo.com or 967-7911. Many people waited until the last minute in August and although VDM was able to accommodate everyone it was a real effort on their part.

Singers Needed! For entertainment at the Winter Solstice party we are planning a performance of a number of seasonal songs with words by Michael Newdow, who has put "Humanist" words to well-known tunes. If you like to sing, please come join us. It will be a lot of fun. Just let me know at the above email or phone number.

Cheers, Judy

Mr. Deity

Robert Bernstein

Brian Keith Dalton said he got religion with a vengeance at age 17. His father was raised Catholic, but followed his wife into the Mormon religion simply to keep peace in the family. (Surprisingly, his father was more upset than his mother when Brian left the church. But after Brian's mother died, the "sick stuff" in the Bible made his father leave, too!).

Dalton started working with Jewish theologian Dennis Prager, who now preaches Judeo-Christian fundamentalism and conservative politics. Prager advised Dalton to “know the other side” of all arguments, which ultimately led him to read the *Atheist Debater's Handbook*. But when Dalton read it he panicked. It destroyed all arguments for the existence of God, and Dalton worried he'd be sucked into becoming an atheist, and all of the terrible things he'd been taught that goes along with that.

He asked Prager for help and found that Prager clearly had not learned the arguments of the other side either. Dalton was headed toward atheism and eventually arrived, again with a vengeance. One result was his creation of the Mr. Deity web show.

Dalton played a couple of clips of the show for us, starting with Mr. Deity and the Marriage. Mr. Deity calmly explains to Lucy (Lucifer) the basics of marriage: one man and one virgin. Or one man, one virgin and one concubine. Or one man, one virgin and her slave, etc... Widows must marry the husband's brother. Women who are raped have to marry the rapist. And soldiers can take conquered virgins as wives. What about gays and lesbians marrying? That would be immoral.

Dalton was asked if he gets hate mail for mocking the Creator of the Universe. Actually not, he says. His experience as a religious person gives him insight into what lines not to cross when it comes to offending people. He succeeds in a very low-key way. Mr. Deity comes across as rather a clueless bumbler. Dalton notes that there is nothing transcendent about the Biblical God and this is what he portrays.

Dalton presented a graph showing God's power over the millennia. It starts with him creating the

entire universe. It continues with, in turn: flooding the planet; casting plagues on enemies; healing sick and blind individuals; and on to appearing on toast. God becomes more pathetic than omnipotent.



Brian Keith Dalton, Carol Weingartner

But Dalton was very serious in his arguments as well. A central problem: introducing the supernatural into a discussion makes everything possible and everything irrelevant; whether it is reason, compassion or morality.

God says in the Bible: My ways are not your ways. You can't judge me. Genocide? Don't question it. You don't have moral scrutiny. Just do what I say. If we don't know we just don't know. Suppose Jesus really did say all he said, walked around, and was raised from the dead?

There is no reason to believe God raised him. Maybe Satan did. To create untold suffering. Maybe God doesn't want us to be Christians. Maybe it's just a test to see who the sheep are. Every explanation is equally plausible. You have thrown logic and reason out the door.

Once there was a moral argument: without God there is no good and evil. We are way beyond that, Dalton says. The Bible tells us we should kill gay people. Ask a Christian why he is not killing gays. Whatever reason they give, it is not because God said so. So, why follow a God who says so?

Hitchens points out that the Christian Bible is no nicer than the Hebrew one, according to Dalton. At least the Hebrews let you lie in the ground when you die. The Christians dig you up for eternal torture. The morals that we value most, like tolerance and due process are not Biblical ideas. They are from the Enlightenment.

Dalton was asked about Mormonism. He said actual Mormons are perfectly nice people who make good neighbors. But he compares the religion to Scientology. "Smith had bigger balls

than Hubbard. Smith went to his wife and said he needed another wife." Mormonism is one of the few religions that is provably wrong. It claimed that Native Americans are descendents from Israel. When we now know from genetic evidence that they are from North Asia.

Interestingly, Mormonism is essentially atheistic, Dalton claims. God is just someone who knows how to manipulate matter. And they claim there may be many gods and that people can also become gods. Mormonism is also essentially racist. Actual Mormons are not, but the racism is an essential part of the story. About Nephites and Lamanites battling each other. And about the mark of Cain resulting in darkening of skin.

Dalton ended his talk praising Humanism. Knowledge is the greatest enemy of the religious fanatics. Santorum is upset that people are going to college, because they are more likely to leave their faith. Dalton is scared about the election. But also hopeful.

You are invited to watch Mr. Deity at <http://mrdeity.com/> and to donate to keep it going!

God at the Olympics

Many watchers of television sports have witnessed successful athletes point to the sky, cross themselves before and after competition, and in other ways thank and/or credit God with their athletic success. Prior to the London Olympic games, the Christian Post selected ten Christian athletes that their readers "might like to keep your eye on and cheer for". (No mention of prayer, though.) They were:

- Kevin Durant, basketball;
- Charlie Houchin, freestyle swimmer;
- Amy Rodriguez, women's soccer team;
- Sanya Richards-Ross, sprinter;
- Jonathan Horton, men's gymnastics;
- Kendrick Farris, weightlifter;
- Arielle Martin, BMX cyclist
- Jennifer Nichols, archer;
- Jared Frayer, wrestler;

Brittany Viola, diver.

You would think that with God on your side success was assured, but, wouldn't you know, some won, but others lost. The clear winner was Sanya Richards-Ross who won a gold medal in BOTH the 400 meter run and the 4x400m relay. Other gold medalists were Kevin Durant, Charlie Houchin, and Amy Rodriguez. None of the others won any medals at all, and cyclist Arielle Martin didn't even make it to London, suffering a serious pre-race crash before leaving.

How effective was God's influence in the Olympics? Hard to say, but noting the steady stream of Chinese athletes accepting medals, with none making even a nod toward the heavens you can't help but wonder if He even showed up.

Did God Help Gabby Douglas Win? Mary Elizabeth Williams

[Excerpted from:

http://www.salon.com/2012/08/03/did_god_help_gabriele_douglas_win/]

Gabby Douglas is now officially a star. When she won the individual gold medal in women's gymnastics in London Thursday, she immediately found herself a celebrity worthy of a cereal box. Yet after her victory, one of the first responses that truly resonated for me was from a colleague who noted, "I would like her more if she were not so, so, so into Jesus." Which raises the question – what is Jesus going to do now for Gabby Douglas' career?

Douglas isn't exactly the only outspoken Christian in America – or even the only high-profile Christian athlete. So jam-packed is this year's roster with them that Douglas didn't even make the cut for the Christian Post's "10 Christian Athletes to Watch." But her newly minted status as a champion and her unguarded outspokenness about her faith are going to give her a new platform from which to preach. After her win Thursday, Douglas said, "I give all the glory to God. It's kind of a win-win situation. The glory goes up to him and the blessings fall down on me."

We are a nation that is lousy with Christians — a fair number of whom are not nearly as nice as Gabby Douglas. A lot of them aren't super-clear on the whole "freedom of religion" thing and can get pretty gung-go about trying to shut down people with different beliefs. A lot of them are insistent that everybody in the world should conform to what they know for an absolute fact is the one and only truth. So even when Douglas is merely expressing her personal philosophy, posting #christmotivation quotes in her Twitter feed or talking about how she meditates daily on Scripture, there's always that lurking hint of proselytism. Dear Christians: It's a fine line between sharing your beliefs and selling them. And there's something else too.

As a Christian myself (albeit one of those really freaky papist kinds), I've often wondered what it is about Christians like Douglas that unnerves me so. The closest I've been able to figure it is that Douglas and her ilk seem to espouse a faith based on what is commonly referred to as "The God of Parking Spaces." It's the deity that grants wishes to those who ask nicely. Douglas is a girl who has described God as the figure who's "waking me up every morning and keeping me safe in the gym every day." She told People Thursday, "I was on the bus and it was raining and I thought, 'It's going to be a great day.' My mom used to tell me when I was little, 'When it rains, it's God's manifestation, a big day's waiting to happen.' I texted my mom, 'It's raining. You know what that means.'" It means that Russian girl is going down, I guess.

Last week I had lunch with a friend who asked me how my own faith had played into my struggles with cancer and my current recovery. I told her I don't believe in a God who punished me with disease any more than I believe in one who rewarded me with health. I certainly don't believe in one who "keeps me safe." I don't think I got to live while my friends Phoebe and Gigi died because I prayed better. I don't think the force that I, for want of a better word, call God rains down sufferings or blessings based on individual piety. I believe in a grace that gives me the strength to muscle through the sufferings, and the gratitude to appreciate the

blessings. That's why the subtle implication, when an athlete or an artist says that God was with them on a winning day, seems so strange, and why, I imagine, it rings so hollow for others. And though I am in awe of a young girl whose talent is damn near miraculous, I likewise don't believe in a God who made it rain for her to win.

A Contest!

Non-believers are at a distinct public relations disadvantage. To our knowledge there are no hymns to non-belief; no art designed to encourage viewers to buttress their non-faith; no magnificent buildings from the Middle Ages where non-believers assemble to not pray. Of course, many non-believers like it this way, being individuals by nature.

This situation was made especially apparent during the Olympic games when a steady stream of athletes made their faith known by crossing themselves, by signifying that some force in the skies was helping them achieve their goals, and by their faithful avowals during interviews.

It became obvious that non-believers need some way to notify observers of their non-belief, a "Gesture of Non-Belief", some physical signal that makes it clear that any successes the signaler has achieved has come without supernatural assistance.

Many of us thought that such a gesture had appeared. When Mo Farah, distance runner from England won the 10,000 meter run, he struck a



Mo Farah

pose with his hands placed on his head in a unique way. His hands and arms formed the letter "M", as if to say: "this is MY victory, the result of MY labor". It was later explained that the "M" stood for Mohammed, Farah's first name, disappointing a good portion of the non-belief crowd.

Accordingly, this newsletter has decided to sponsor a competition to design a "Gesture of Non-Belief". The rules about such a gesture are: 1) it should not be too complex; it should be easy to learn and perform, even for children; 2) it can have moving parts; 3) it should be distinct, not to be confused with other gestures, especially obscene ones.

Submissions should be describable in writing, though videos and photos will be accepted. Send by email to editor@santabarbarahumanists.org or by mail to HSSB, GNB Contest, PO Box 30232, SB 93130. The deadline for submissions is November 30, 2012. The winner, to be announced at our Winter Solstice Party, will receive a free dinner at one of our after meeting gatherings at Vista del Monte. The decision of the judges is final. All submissions become the property of our parent company, Secular Circular Industries.

Would You Vote for an Atheist?

A Gallup Poll, published in June, shows that the percentage of people who say "Yes" to that question is greater than ever before, but atheists still are on the bottom of the "acceptable for President" list.

	Yes, would	No, would not
	%	%
Black	96	4
A woman	95	5
Catholic	94	5
Hispanic	92	7
Jewish	91	6
Mormon	80	18
Gay/ Lesbian	68	30
Muslim	58	40
Atheist	54	43

As low as that number seems, it is higher than it has ever been. Here are the results from previous years.

	1937	1958	1978	1999
	%	%	%	%
Woman	33	54	76	92
Black	n/a	38	77	95
Jewish	46	63	82	92
Gay/Lesbian	n/a	n/a	26	59
Atheist	n/a	18	40	49
Catholic	60	67	91	94

Conflict in NYC Schools

Ray Stone

The two religion clauses of the First Amendment — Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof — appear to be in conflict with each other in New York City these days.

In her new book, *The Good News Club: The Christian Right's Stealth Assault on America's Children*, Katherine Stewart reports how the Christian right has taken over Sunday use of New York City's public schools for church services. She reports that conversions started soon after the Supreme Courts' *Good News Club v. Milford Central School* decision in 2002, and estimates that over 200 NYC public schools are now used weekly as churches.

Actually it started sooner than that. In the mid 1990s the *Bronx Household of Faith* outgrew the halfway house in which it was holding services, and thought the nearby public school would suit them very nicely, regardless of a city rule excluding religious groups from worshipping inside schools. When their permit application was denied, the BHOF brought in the *Alliance Defense Fund*, a conservative organization that champions "religious freedom, the sanctity of life, marriage and the family". Thus, a legal battle began that has yet to be settled.

Following the 2002 Milford decision, a judge issued a permanent injunction against the city's regulation opening the school doors to the BHOFF and the many other church groups who followed their lead. But the battle wasn't over yet. Here is a chronology of what happened next.

June, 2011. The city's Department of Education appeal of the injunction to the second circuit court of appeals was upheld by a split decision. Religious services in public schools were now legally barred. This decision is appealed to the Supreme Court.

December, 2011. The Supreme Court refuses to review the appeals court decision. February 12, 2012 set as deadline when ousting of churches is to begin.

Early 2012. Bronx councilman, also a pastor, demands state legislation allowing school access to churches. Same councilman and six others, arrested during "Prayer Protest" with about 25 others. Twenty five people arrested for protesting city's policy of banning churches use of schools. Bill to allow worship in public schools advances in state Senate.

February 12. ADF files for temporary injunction to keep city from enforcing ban on church use of public schools.

February 14. Judge in the case, Loretta Preska, tells the city to delay enforcing ban on church use of schools.

February 15. City denies Judge Preska's request to delay evictions of church groups.

February 16. Judge Preska issues a temporary injunction to allow school use by churches for "at least the next 10 days".

February 24. Judge issues preliminary injunction, saying petitioner has a good chance of winning the case. "Losing one's right to exercise freely and fully his or her religious beliefs is a greater threat to our democratic society than a perceived violation of the Establishment Clause."

February 29. Second Circuit Court denies city's application to lift Judge Preska's injunction.

June 29. Judge Preska issues permanent injunction which allows religious groups to continue worshipping in city schools.

The City issued the following statement: "The Department of Education intends to appeal to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals immediately given the Department's legitimate concerns about appearing to endorse religion by permitting religious worship in school buildings."

A SECULAR SONNET

I gaze with awe upon the starry sky,
And marvel at this world of ours below,
And in my mind I ask the question "why?"
Is there some purpose that we do not know?

You say that God made all, and we should bow
Before his throne, and glory in his reign.
But who created God? From where and how?
The same unanswered questions still remain.

But how can we, who lately did evolve
From specks of matter in a sullen sea,
Expect such mighty mysteries to solve
From one brief glimpse into eternity?

So on life's stage I'll play my minor part
And ever keep the wonder in my heart.

Mary Wilk

Mary F. Wilk was born and raised in England and later immigrated to California. She has operated a manufacturing business, and for many years has served as membership chairman for the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara. She has been published in *Above Us Only Sky, Atheist Poetry, Volume Two*, Incarnate Muse Press, 2008.

Some Famous Atheists and Doubters In History

Epicurus - See below.

Xenophanes - Another ancient Greek philosopher, he was quoted as saying : "we make god in our own image." Many atheists today also believe this is so.

Anaxagoras - This Greek has the distinction of being the earliest person known to have been indicted for atheism, in 467 B.C.

Aristotle - He argued that the world could not have been created, although he apparently believed in his god nevertheless.

Freud - a father of psychoanalysis, taught us about the id, ego and superego, as well as repression. Quoting Freud: "A Religion is an illusion, and it derives its strength from its readiness to fit in with our instinctual wishful impulses." Also, "Religion is an illusion, and it derives its strength from its readiness to fit in with our instinctual wishful impulses."

Schopenhauer - The essential or absolute reality is a blind and restless will to live; life is an evil, to be cured by overcoming will to live.

Nietzsche - German philosopher, advocated overcoming the slave mentality and nihilism that he thought were exemplified in historical Christianity.

David Hume - He made scathing critiques of the traditional arguments for the existence of god. He also held that god was the product of the human mind.

Voltaire- Railed against the Catholic Church, and called its methods of ensuring adherence to its teachings "the logic of the sword."

Sebastian Castellio - who in a letter, from the security of another country to which he had fled,

verbally attacked Calvin for signing his name to the execution of a man for alleged heresy.

Socrates - Greek philosopher

Thomas Edison - the great inventor

The Book of Ecclesiastes, wherein it says "all is vanity and man should therefore eat and drink and enjoy the good of his labor."

Ayn Rand - author of Atlas Shrugged, started the Objectivism movement, contended that absolute knowledge and final truths are attainable. Believed in absolute morality.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky - the great Russian writer, spent 6 years in a penal colony for "conspiring against the orthodox church and the Russian government."

Margaret Sanger - women's rights advocate.

http://www.atheistbible.net/articles_current.html

Someone You Should Know: Epicurus

Epicurus (341 BC – 270 BC) was an ancient Greek philosopher, the founder of Epicureanism, who believed that the purpose of philosophy was to attain the happy, tranquil, self-sufficient life surrounded by friends, free from fear and pain.

He was a key figure in the development of science and the scientific method because of his insistence that nothing should be believed, except that which can be tested through direct observation and logical deduction. Many of his ideas about nature and physics presaged important scientific concepts of our time.

Like his predecessor Democritus, Epicurus believed that the fundamental constituents of the world were indivisible little bits of matter (atoms) flying through empty space. Everything that occurs is the result of atoms colliding, rebounding, and becoming

entangled with one another, with no purpose or plan behind their motions.

He regularly admitted women and slaves into his school and was one of the first Greeks to break from the god-fearing and god-worshipping tradition common at the time, even while affirming that religious activities are useful as a way to contemplate the gods and to use them as an example of the pleasant life. Epicurus taught that the gods do not punish the bad and reward the good as the common man believed. "The opinion of the crowd is", Epicurus claimed, "that the gods send great evils to the wicked and great blessings to the righteous who model themselves after the gods," whereas Epicurus believed the gods, in reality, do not concern themselves at all with human beings. "It is not the man who denies the gods worshipped by the multitude, who is impious, but he who affirms of the gods what the multitude believes about them", he said.

[Excerpted from Wikipedia.]

Bible Contradictions, III **Ron Holzwarth**

Can Almighty God do Everything?

1. Yes. God is almighty. Nothing is impossible. (Genesis 17:1), (Genesis 35:11), (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)
2. No. Although God was with Judah, together they were unable to drive out the inhabitants because the plainsmen had chariots of iron. (Judges 1:19)

Can someone live after seeing God's face?

1. Yes – Jacob did. (Genesis 32:30)
2. No – God stated that no man could see his face and live. (Exodus 33:20)

Does God want us to kill others?

1. No – this is forbidden in the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:13), (Deuteronomy 5:17)

2. Yes – God commands killing on many occasions. (Exodus 32:27), (Numbers 15:35), (Numbers 31:17), (1 Samuel 15:2-3)

Did God let Moses see His face?

1. Yes – God spoke to Moses face to face. (Exodus 33:11)
2. No – God told Moses he cannot see God's face or he will die. (Exodus 33:20)

I believe in nature. I'm a thinker, a scientist. I can't buy all the religious stuff, so I'm an atheist. Plus, I'm also disturbed that most wars are about religion – including the current one. I don't want to have anything to do with that. When you die, it's over. - Phyllis Diller, American actress and comedienne. (1917-2012)

Devil of a Time as GOP Atheist **Robyn E. Blumner, Times Columnist**

[Reprinted from Tampa Bay Times, August 26, 2012 issue.]

Who may be the oddest bedfellow at the Republican National Convention that opens Monday? No, it's not Log Cabin Republicans, that group of gay Republicans who assiduously ignore the "unwelcome" mat the party has put out for them. It would have to be Edwina Rogers, the new head of the Secular Coalition for America, a nonprofit group of atheists, agnostics and humanists. In addition to being a non-theist (her term for herself), she's a lifelong Republican. I hope for her sake that no one remembered the tar and feathers.

As an atheist myself, I have great hopes for Rogers' windmill tilting. Her organization represents a nascent but vital effort to give non-theists a voice in the halls of power at the state and federal level. And if anyone can bore from within the Republicans, it's her.

Hailing from Alabama, with a law degree from Catholic University, Rogers was once general counsel to the National Republican Senatorial

Committee. She spent time working for prominent Republican Sens. Trent Lott and Jeff Sessions.

The convention will be packed with her people, except many of them probably think she's going to hell. Several times within the last year, her evangelical family and friends ambushed her with full staged interventions trying to save her soul. So far, no go.

Here is a Q & A with Rogers about atheism in public life, her organization and her plans for the convention and beyond:

There seem to be almost no atheists in public office. Do you know any?

Yes, the coalition knows personally of 28 nontheist members of Congress, although only one, U.S. Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., openly identifies as an atheist.

The reality is there are nontheists everywhere. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family members, and yes, possibly even your politicians. Just recently the United States, France and Canada joined Ireland on the top 10 list of countries that have experienced a "notable decline in religiosity." Since 2005, the number of people in the U.S. who self-identify as religious dropped a whopping 13 percent — now a full 40 percent of Americans don't consider themselves to be religious.

Another recent poll shows that 5 percent of Americans now openly identify as atheists — that means that atheists outnumber many religions in the United States, including Muslims, Jews, Mormons and Hindus.

Why, then, is it nearly impossible to get elected as an atheist?

One of the biggest misconceptions is that atheists lack morals and "believe in nothing." I think this misconception leads to the general distrust many Americans have toward nontheists. The reality is that we don't base our morality on ancient religious texts, but rather on reason, science and

compassion for our fellow humans. Almost every major religion is founded on ethics and morals like not killing, stealing and treating others as you wish to be treated. In our view, that is a humanistic outlook, not just an inherently religious one.

We are working toward a day when all lawmakers are elected on the basis of their stances on the issues, and not their personal religious beliefs — as our founders intended.

How do you propose that the coalition go about making inroads with Republicans, a party that has made common cause with the Religious Right?

If we are going to affect legislation on Capitol Hill, we need to work with both sides. The fact is there are millions of Republicans that feel the way I do about these issues and if those millions of Republican voters have a voice, the politicians will listen.

What I am trying to do is increase the influence of secular Americans. At the convention I will attend every event that I possibly can and speak to anyone who is open to hearing more about our mission.

Good luck, Edwina!

Non-HSSB Events of Interest
Diane Krohn

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

Upcoming Events in California:

- September 16: Dean Buonomano: *Brain Bugs: The Causes and Consequences of the Brain's Flaws*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles and Costa Mesa.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#buonomano>
- September 16: Dr. Nancy Segal: *Born Together – Reared Apart: The Landmark*

Minnesota Twin Study. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.

- <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- September 30: Dr. Christopher Boehm: *Moral Origins: The Evolution of Virtue, Altruism, and Shame*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- October 28: Dr. Kevin Dutton: *The Wisdom of Psychopaths: What Saints, Spies, and Serial Killers Can Teach Us About Success*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- October 12-13: Freedom From Religion Foundation 2012 Annual Conference, Portland, OR. Speakers include Richard Dawkins, Julia Sweeney, Katherine Stewart, and Jessica Ahlquist.
<http://ffrf.org/outreach/convention/>
- October 25-28: CSIcon (Committee for Skeptical Inquiry Conference), Nashville, TN. Speakers include Joe Nickell, Steven Novella, Eugenie Scott, Barry Karr, and James Underdown.
<http://www.csiconference.org/>
- November 9-11: Scepticon 5, Springfield, MO. The annual skeptics convention. Speakers include PZ Myers, Greta Christina, Jessica Ahlquist, Richard Carrier, and of course many others.
<http://www.scepticon.org/about/>

There is no thief like a bad book. -Italian saying.

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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 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

Tuesday, September 11. Board Meeting, 5:30pm. Home of **Mary Wilk**.

Saturday, September 15. Monthly Meeting: Bill Hing. 2:30pm at Vista Del Monte Social Room.
Topic: Thinking about immigration reform,

Sunday, September 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, October 20. Phil Zuckerman

Saturday, November 17. Jerry Roberts

Sunday, December 23. Winter Solstice Party



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