



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

MARCH 2011

March Program: LGBT and Family Law

The American Civil Liberties Union has been defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) Americans since 1936. Recent legal battles over Proposition 8, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the US military, and the federal "Defense Of Marriage Act" are the most recent developments in a long history, beginning with the banning of a play, "The Children's Hour", for a suggested lesbian relationship. (<http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights-hiv-aids/aclu-and-history-lgbt-rights-hiv-aids>)

Attorney **James Gilliam** is Deputy Executive Director of the ACLU of Southern California. He will talk and answer questions about "LGBT & Family Law", and how legal issues do not just affect lesbian women, gay men, bisexual and transgender people, but have profound effects on the lives of their "straight" friends and families too.

His talk will touch on: Marriage, Civil Unions, Domestic Partnerships, and the intrusion of governments into personal decisions about how people may choose to live their lives together; inheritance, adoption of children; medical directives, hospital visitation, health insurance; discrimination at work, hate crimes; military service in defense of our nation.

James Gilliam has a B.S. in Sociology/Social Welfare Policy from Middle Tennessee State University, and a J.D. from Loyola Law School. In 2007 he became the most junior attorney ever to receive Loyola's Pro Bono Alumni of the Year Award. He was named one of the National LGBT Bar Association's Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 in 2010.



Following Mr. Gilliam's talk, a brief meeting will be held to discuss further collaboration between the Humanist Society and the LGBT community.

This month's meeting is co-sponsored with the Pacific Pride Foundation of Santa Barbara County. (<http://www.pacificpridefoundation.org>)

**PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION!
Live Oak Unitarian Meeting Hall, Goleta**

The Live Oak Unitarian Meeting Hall is at 820 North Fairview Ave. in Goleta, Saturday, March 19th, 2011. Doors open at 2:30PM, meeting starts at 3pm.

Dinner following will be at Takenoya Japanese Restaurant, 5934 Calle Real, Goleta. For information phone 805-689-2716. Please e-mail Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org for after-meeting dinner reservation.

Welcome, New Members!

Ken Boehns, Santa Barbara

Lauren Temkin, Santa Barbara

Rest in Peace

We regret to report the death of **Alyce Pierce**, a member and subscriber of our Society for many years. Alyce was a long-time Santa Barbara resident, and was an active volunteer in several local charities.

We are sorry to say good-bye to long-time member **Pearl Kaplan**, who died recently at the age of 94. Pearl was one of the earliest members of our Society, joining in 1995. She grew up in Ohio, and served as a lieutenant in the WAACs in World War II. After marrying, she lived in Texas, and in later life was able to fulfill her dream of a college education, earning her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Library Science. In 1976 she moved on her own to Santa Barbara, a city that she loved, and where she became an accomplished painter whose works were shown throughout the town.

HSSB Book Club by Marty Shapiro

Having mastered the intricacies of the sub-prime mortgage market ("The Big Short") in February, your book club is now poised to take on the U.S. government and its formidable military establishment. Andrew Bacevich's "Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War" is a thorough-going examination of the "rules" that have dominated our attitudes towards our military, and have led to public acceptance of an apparently endless state of armed warfare.

We'll be 'studying war no more' on Wednesday, March 16, 1:30 p.m. at the sumptuous home of **Joy Knapp**, 1781 Eucalyptus Hill Road (off Salinas). Call 962-4655 if you need help.

Recommended Viewing

For an interesting discussion on Atheism from various points of view, check out "The Atheism Tapes", a 2-disc DVD available on Netflix. In this series, host Jonathan Miller interviews Biologist Richard Dawkins, Nobel Laureate Physicist Steven Weinberg, Playwright Arthur Miller, Theologian Denys Turner, and Philosophers Daniel Dennett and Colin McGinn.

Elections Coming Up

The next HSSB Fiscal Year begins July 1st and goes through the end of June, 2012. The Officers of the Corporation (we are incorporated in California as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational corporation) and the Board of Directors serve for one Fiscal Year and must be elected by the general membership each year. The elections are generally done by mail in May with the results announced at the summer solstice party.

The officers of the corporation, the President, Secretary and Treasurer, are also members of the Board. There are between four and eight additional Board members (currently there are eight) with the total number of Board members being an odd number. Each year all positions are open for elections; there are no term limits for incumbents.

The Society is always happy to bring new members onto the Board so that new ideas and perspectives can be brought to bear on our operations. The only formal qualification is that you be a member in good standing (i.e., your dues are paid up to date) and the only informal qualification is that you are interested in seeing the Society thrive and would like to contribute to its continuing success.

In addition to these positions, a number of Chairs with specific responsibilities contribute to the operations of the society. These include the Program Chair (responsible for scheduling our monthly speakers), the Social Chair (responsible for organizing our after-meeting dining out), the Membership Chair (responsible for maintaining our

roster and gathering dues), our Web master and the Editor of the *Secular Circular*.

If you are interested in any of these positions please contact **Ron Kronenberg** as soon as possible. Serving in any one of these positions is a rewarding experience and makes the ongoing operations and future success of our society possible. Please consider becoming involved.

HSSB Membership Directory

A roster of HSSB members will be available by email later this spring. Roster entries will include members' names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Members who do not wish to be included, or to have certain of the above items excluded, should notify **Mary Wilk** to that effect by April 30. Mary can be reached at 805-967-3045, or <mailto:mwilk@cox.net>.

From the President by Ron Kronenberg

It must be difficult for the younger generation to understand the enormity of the changes that have taken place in the lives of our senior population. The Tectonic Plate and Big Bang theories were not widely accepted in our youth. My father was severely injured when he was run over by a horse and buggy and my wife was born into a home (not a hospital) in rural Iowa with kerosene lamps and an outhouse. I attended a high school in the city of Chicago with over 3,000 students and I was unaware of any Hispanic, Asian or African Americans in the student body. We did have a Chinese restaurant in the neighborhood.

The reaction of my generation to many of the changes we have seen is sometimes anger, fear or frustration. I can understand how many are unable to deal with these enormous changes and endeavor

to discover whom they can blame. There is a great longing to turn the clock back to the America of their youth, which they idealize. But this idealized America harbored racism, gender inequities and homophobia. These inequities were an accepted norm in everyday life up thru the 1950's as many of us matured. Many seniors unfortunately, retain feelings of unease, when the norms of their youth are challenged. Being a Secular Humanist does not automatically free one from these feelings of unease.

The good news is that attitudes of acceptance of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual) community are progressing faster than any other social issues in the history of our country. The bad part is that the senior component of our society is lagging behind the rest of the country. We talk about the need for diversity in our membership, what can we do to achieve it? Michael Friedman from the American Humanist Association (AHA) contacted me a couple of months ago, concerning their program to form an LGBT council in each of our Humanist Societies nationwide. Our LGBT council would operate in much the same manner as our book club. They would meet with us at our monthly meetings, and then meet on their own as a special interest group, dealing with their own Secular Humanist LGBT issues. I asked Joe Navarro, a member of our board, if he would help establish the council and he agreed.

Our March meeting will be at Live Oak UU Congregation, because their meeting hall is twice the size of our usual meeting room. We have invited Pacific Pride, and they have accepted, to co-sponsor the meeting and we can expect the ACLU to turn out to hear their ACLU speaker from

LA. Details of the meeting are in this *Secular Circular*. At the meeting, Joe will ask interested people to stay after and discuss the formation of our own local LGBT council. We will all benefit, as we grow our Society and get to know more



Ron Kronenberg

members of the LGBT community personally and as fellow Secular Humanists. I expect the unease that some of us feel, will fade away, with our expanded experiences.

A Sign seen in the East

"Whoever has been praying for snow can stop now".
Wayne Beckman

John Suarez, First Amendment Warrior by Jim Balter

HSSB member **John Suarez** has been involved for over thirty years with First Amendment issues. His February talk covered some new ground in this area.

The section of the First Amendment dealing with religion is only 16 words, yet it has profound implications. Separation of church and state is a key concept for humanity; John likened it to the invention of the wheel ... or the infield fly rule in baseball. It has given our society stability and provided a level of religious freedom that did not exist before in human history.

And yet, freethinkers have been losing ground each year, with court decisions increasingly going against us. It seems to be difficult to preserve and promote the concept. Why?

Canadian academic Shadia Drury has a notion of a "civil religion" -- shared societal beliefs. The U.S. is far more religious than any other western democracy, with "In God We Trust" on our money, and politicians ending their speeches with "God Bless America". American exceptionalism includes the idea that we have a special covenant with God. Secularism isn't quite palatable here, and this environment where religion permeates everything is

difficult for us; e.g., atheists "do not have a prayer" of getting elected.

And this environment is easy for the Radical Religious Right. They are very good at fighting us, with friends in the federal judiciary, and they ignore rulings anyway. They set more fires than we have fire trucks. Our movement is reactive: we respond when some issue arises such as vouchers or prayer in school. The National Center for Science Education must devote 95-99% of its resources to preventing introduction of Creationism/Intelligent Design into the curriculum, rather than advancing science education.

In 1961, Dwight Eisenhower warned of the dangers of the Military Industrial Complex; it grew far larger than even he imagined. And then it encountered the Falwell/Robertson evangelical revolution ... it was love at first sight, resulting in the Military Industrial Religious Complex (MIRC).

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) was created in response to egregious violations of the First Amendment at the Air Force Academy. We now know from their efforts that the Religious Right has infiltrated every level of the military. Recent examples:

- The Air Force Academy's annual prayer luncheon had Marine retired Lieutenant Clebe McClary as main speaker. He identifies himself as a member of The Lord's Army and says that USMC means "U. S. Marine for Christ". The MRFF tried to stop this through court action but the district court ruled that it was appropriate.

- The Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Test supposedly measures mental resilience in five areas. This test, designed by Dr. Martin Seligman, an advisor to CIA on torture, which has commanded \$125M and has been administered to 800,000 Army personnel, supposedly reduces suicides and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The



John Suarez

head of the Army considers this its third highest priority. Sgt. Justin Griffith, an atheist with five years in the army, scored high in all areas except "spirituality". His low score there will negatively affect his further career in the Army.

Consequences of the MIRC: 40% of our population own 0.3% of our wealth, and the wealth of the top 1% has doubled in the last decade. Over one million children are homeless. 50 million people have inadequate health care. A quarter of our bridges are failing. And our educational system is going down the tubes ... by design: a properly educated populace could challenge the Complex. It's not just the Radical Religious Right that is negatively affecting the First Amendment, but these other socioeconomic forces as well.

If we want to have a secular state, we cannot depend on the mainstream media, the legislature, the courts, or the American people, who are apathetic and uninformed. It's up to us, and we must remain informed and aware, and support organizations that are waging the good fight, such as the ACLU and the FFRF. We can monitor the educational process at the local level. And we must promote logic, reason, and critical thinking as early as possible.

Quote of the Month

There is no absurdity so palpable but that it may be firmly planted in the human head if you only begin to inculcate it before the age of five, by constantly repeating it with an air of great solemnity. -Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher (1788-1860)

Thomas Paine: Patriot-Humanist (1737-1809) by Dick Cousineau

Yes, President Theodore Roosevelt was partially correct in calling Tom Paine "a dirty, little atheist", because he was barely five feet tall. and he seldom bathed (as was the custom of the time), But he was not an atheist, but rather a Deist. His God was Spinoza's God, Jefferson's God, and Adams' God,

namely Nature, informed by science and the Humanistic values of individual rights and improvement of living conditions for all.



Thomas Paine

Born in England to a dissenting Quaker family, he was singularly unsuccessful in two short marriages, and many attempted careers, but as fortune would have it he was befriended by Benjamin Franklin in 1770. He was provided with letters of introduction to authors and printers in Philadelphia. He had found his niche! Soon he had written and published a 50-page

booklet entitled *Common Sense* which sold an astonishingly 500,000 copies in 1776. This book helped set the stage for the writing of the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson. As the war began Paine continued to write numerous pamphlets dealing with America's future, the first of which, *Crisis*, was published in 1777, that begins with the words "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and sunshine patriot, in this crisis, will shrink from the service of their country. But he that stands.....". General Washington ordered it read to his freezing troops who subsequently rallied to defeat their foes in the spring of 1778 at Trenton.

Returning to England Paine wrote an attack on the Anti-revolutionists William Pitt and Edmund Burke with his still famous *Rights of Man*, championing democracy, public education, opportunities for the poor, public work projects and more. For this he was charged with treason for inciting "Bloody revolution" and his writings were seized. Escaping to France, he plunged into trouble again for opposing the execution of the aristocrats and was thrown into prison, only by luck escaping the guillotine himself. While there he wrote his famous

Age of Reason, a devastating assault on Christianity and the Bible. It sent shock waves through England and America. In The United States of America, the country he named and loved, he was vilified for his irreligion and denounced as an infidel. He returned to America in 1800 and lived in poverty and solitude for another nine years.

But his legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of Freethinkers, Humanists and Anti-religionists and his work for this country and his life story is receiving more and more attention with the ascending irrelevancy of religion in Europe and America.

His many insights to the rights of all and his opposition to organized religion are still quoted freely as such:

- Priests and conjurers are of the same trade;
- I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, the Roman church, the Greek Church, the Turkish Church, the Protestant Church nor any other that I know of. My mind is my church;
- The adulterous connection between Church and State I oppose.....;
- Belief in a cruel god creates a cruel man;
- The Age of Ignorance began with the Christian System;
- The World is my country, Mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my Religion.

More Scots Wedding Couples Turn to Humanist Marriages

There were more humanist weddings than Roman Catholic weddings in Scotland last year, according to new figures. The Registrar General for Scotland's provisional data on marriages by denomination showed humanist weddings, granted legal status in 2005, were the third most popular ceremony.

There were 1,706 humanist weddings, between January and September 2010, an increase of 35% on 2009, while Catholic weddings remained static at 1,506. There were 11,430 civil marriages and 5,013 Church of Scotland weddings.

A Humanist Society of Scotland spokeswoman said they expect to see the number of humanist weddings "overtake those of the Church of Scotland in 2015. We believe that more and more people are choosing to marry in a humanist ceremony because they identify with the humanist values of equality, reason, compassion and tolerance, and these are the values that bind society together", she said. See the complete story is at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12517893>

Buonarroti's Code

Michelangelo the sculptor the builder the thinker wrote sonnets to describe how he hated his job. *I am not a painter* said this famous painter. Lying on his back with his ass in the air higher than his belly his chapped thighs raced to complete his commission to receive his payments as swiftly as possible.

Suspended on scaffolds hanging from hammocks Michelangelo raged at pope and religion. He played a great joke on the faithful, craning in awe. His god rides on folds of a cloak, not a cloud where the cloak is a perfectly accurate image of man's own brain cut in sagittal section.

the creation of Adam displays in plain view to the well versed analyst or neuroanatomist the creation of God in the brain of humans a bearded old man surrounded by innocents. A Renaissance Man, Michelangelo wrote his poem on ceilings *It is man who measures ALL*.

~ by Maggie Westland

Maggie Westland writes in prismatic perspectives: physician, scientist, woman, traveler, journalist. A lover of all things verbally musical, she especially enjoys poetry as performance. Her work has appeared in British and American literary journals,

anthologies, and online. Read more at www.maggiewestland.com.

"Buonarroti's Code" was published in *Above Us Only Sky, Atheist Poetry, Volume Two*, Incarnate Muse Press, 2008.

"Disproving Christianity" by David G. McAfee by Robert Bernstein

[This article is a report of the January meeting which, because of time and space limitations, was not included in the February Secular Circular. Ed.]

David McAfee, an undergraduate student in Religious Studies at UCSB, talked to the January HSSB meeting about his new book "Disproving Christianity". Mostly, McAfee relied on questions from the audience to make his points.

McAfee considered Christianity a joke as a child and was surprised his family took it seriously. At age 13 he started attending services and talking to people at churches of other denominations and religions. He concluded that most people are "Cultural Christians" from birth without knowing much about their religion. This led him to research the foundations of Christian belief, and to his decision to write his book.

He wanted to show not only logical inconsistencies, but also to show unacceptable ethics. Some examples:

- God curses all women to suffer pain in childbirth because of Eve. He blesses Lot for giving his daughters to be raped in order to protect some angels. Women must be silent in church and defer to men.
- Logical inconsistency of God as omniscient and omnipotent and also omni-benevolent given worldwide atrocities.
- God creates people with disabilities. With no reincarnation myth, this is unjust.
- God says he is jealous.

- Jesus says he comes with a sword, not in peace, yet elsewhere is called the Prince of Peace.
- Jesus upholds the Old Testament, including its prohibition of "abominations" like eating shellfish under penalty of death.
- Jesus says a rich man will not enter heaven, largely ignored today.
- One point McAfee says is original: Suppose you have true love with another human on Earth. But their beliefs do not allow them to enter heaven. If you enter heaven without them, then heaven is not going to be happy for you. Meanwhile, mass killer Jeffrey Dahmer would be in heaven because he did accept Jesus as his savior before he died.

Has his book convinced people? His own mother was a Jehovah's Witness but now is a self-proclaimed atheist. His father, though, sends him a weekly message praying for his soul.

McAfee pointed out that in Europe students receive at least a couple of hours of religious instruction each week. This means that they really do learn what is in the Bible, one reason they may be more secular than Americans.

He has tried to speak to Christian groups, but none have invited him. He spoke to the Cal Poly Brights and some members of the Bible Crusaders group on campus did attend.

In seeking admission to graduate school at UCSB Religious Studies, the director of admissions said that as an "atheist activist" he would be denied admission. This shocked many members of the audience who felt it is illogical to have only believers "studying religion" while excluding knowledgeable non-believers who might turn out to be expert in their field.

Whether he pursues his studies formally at UCSB or elsewhere, McAfee clearly has done his research. And he already has several more research projects he hopes to publish.

Member **Marcia Sherman's** letter to the Santa Barbara Independent entitled "Trouble with Tribes" can be viewed at:
<http://www.independent.com/news/2011/feb/17/trouble-tribes/>

What's Going on Here?

by **Andrew Hankin, Senior Staff Correspondent**

- On Friday, February 4, 2011, the Secular Coalition for America sent letters to members of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee urging them to oppose a resolution that would unnecessarily reaffirm the phrase "In God We Trust" as our nation's official motto. House Concurrent Resolution 13 also calls for the support and encouragement of the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and government institutions.



Andrew Hankin

The Secular Coalition told House Judiciary members that the motto is not inclusive of the beliefs of all Americans, including millions of atheists, agnostics, humanists, and other non-theists, and that the resolution's passage "would continue to alienate millions of Americans from their government and encroach further on the nation's tradition of separation of church and state."

The phrase "In God We Trust" has had a short history as the nation's motto, adopted only in 1956 during the height of the Cold War. The previous de facto motto was "E pluribus unum", Latin for "Out of many, one". The Secular Coalition asked the Committee members to "focus on protecting the rights of all U.S. citizens and the integrity of the

Constitution", rather than wasting time on a resolution that does not alter law in any way. Letter to the Representatives:
<http://www.secular.org/InGodWeTrustLetter>

- Tickets are on sale now for **Paula Poundstone**: 7pm Sunday, April 10th at UCSB Campbell Hall. She has described herself as atheist and asexual, and she takes to the stage with only a microphone and a can of diet soda. Her comedy show is an hilarious mix of stories and spontaneous interactions with the audience. Paula can be heard regularly on the NPR News Quiz "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me", heard 11am Saturdays and 5pm Sundays on KCLU FM102.3 and AM1340 in Santa Barbara.

Tickets and information are available by phone, 805-893-3535, Monday-Friday 10am-5pm or website:

<https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/Details.aspx?PerfNum=1903>

- Jennifer Hancock has written a book, "*The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom*", a summary of which is on web page <http://happiness.jen-hancock.com>.

She was raised in the Los Angeles area by intellectual parents who made the radical decision to respect her freedom of belief, and encouraged her to think for herself. They taught her volunteerism and compassion for others, which by now she has condensed into Humanist beliefs. She was educated at the University of Hawaii in Manoa, and learned Mandarin at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

Jennifer now lives in Florida and has worked in both corporate and non-profit businesses. She is a stay-at-home mother, writing and speaking about Humanism, and will host a telephone presentation beginning 6pm Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 15th, 2011, for which you need to pre-register on web page:

<http://www.jen-hancock.com/register.html>

- Residents of the United Kingdom are completing their 2011 Census forms, and the one voluntary question will ask, "What is your religion?". In the 2001 Census, the first time that question had appeared, there were seven standard options:

None
 Christian (any denomination)
 Buddhist
 Hindu
 Jewish
 Muslim
 Sikh

Almost 400,000 Britons instead took the trouble to use the write-in section and declare themselves to be "Jedi". Full story at:

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/21/20110221/tuk-no-force-to-stop-jedi-census-answer-6323e80.html>

- A federal judge on February 22 threw out a lawsuit claiming that President Barack Obama's requirement that all Americans have health insurance violates the religious freedom of those who rely on God to protect them. The lawsuit had been filed by the American Center for Law and Justice, a Christian legal group founded by evangelist Pat Robertson, on behalf of five Americans who can afford health insurance but have chosen for years not to buy it.

The case was one of several lawsuits filed against the Obama administration's requirement that Americans either buy health insurance or pay a penalty, beginning in 2014. This is the third Democrat-appointed judge to dismiss such a challenge, while two Republican-appointed judges have ruled part or all of the law unconstitutional.

Three of the plaintiffs are Christians who said they want to refuse all medical services for the rest of their lives because they believe God will heal their afflictions. They say being forced to buy insurance would conflict with their faith because they believe doing so would indicate they need "a backup plan and [are] not really sure whether God will, in fact,

provide," the lawsuit said. Full story:

<http://www.npr.org/2011/02/22/133978497/judge-tosses-suit-against-health-care-law>

- A senior at Stephen Austin High School in the Houston suburbs wanted to meet with like-minded students who shared common interests, who could talk about ideas they found interesting, who could give one another support. But his efforts were consistently thwarted by the administration at his Texas high school. His requests to form a club were stalled for months, and obstacle after obstacle was put in his path. Why? Because the group he wanted to start was an atheist group, and his story is being repeated, with variations, around the country.

Atheist student groups have been organizing in colleges and universities for years, and their numbers are climbing at an astonishing rate. The Secular Student Alliance, an umbrella organization supporting non-theistic student groups, passed 250 affiliates this month -- a number that has doubled in just two years. Full story:

<http://www.alternet.org/story/150006>

Our Founder: Keith Bailey by Dick Cousineau

The founder of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara was **Keith Bailey**, a highly civilized, well-spoken gentleman of the 'Old School'; one who would politely listen to your point of view and then expect reciprocity. Keith, asked whether he had received any letters of interest to his monthly inserts of Robert Ingersoll's sayings in Santa Barbara newspapers, replied that he had received over 20 letters from local readers. Invitations were sent to them and eight showed up for the first meeting. Originally called The



Keith Bailey

Rationalist Society of Santa Barbara, the group was founded in 1995 by those eight like-minded people.

The rest is history, and Keith's effort has resulted in today's approximately 170 members.

Born in Southern Pines, North Carolina in 1923, Keith was the 4th child of 18 born to this family. His Mother's death, when he was still young had a major impact upon him and he -soon left Southern Pines for Santa Barbara in 1940 at age 17. He and his brother hand-built a "Sears Mail Order" home on Mesa Lane, which still exists in much modified form, according to his sister.

In 1946 he was inducted into the Army where he served in Hawaii for a number of years and where he developed a love of botany and specimen trees. Returning to Santa Barbara he became well known for his superb landscaping skills and for his specialty: Palm Trees of the World. His renown gained him access to UCSB and introductions to many large mansions on the Riviera to design numerous, beautiful, world class gardens and tree lined landscapes. His other love was Music in which he was self taught and was enthralled by, and he learned to sing many of Mozart's operatic arias. In addition, Keith taught himself to play the organ.

In his young adulthood he began his lifelong search for his Truth by following numerous religious and philosophical pathways that included; Jehovah's Witnesses, Roman Catholicism, Buddhism, Transcendentalism, Theosophy, and Rationalism,

but found his highest satisfaction within Humanism. His library was replete with the course of his searching and quest for human freedom, especially for women to their own bodies. For years he was a supporter of Planned Parenthood in Santa Barbara and nationally. Keith died of the result of stomach cancer at his home near Foothill and Alamar in 2000, at the age 78, A memorial palm tree was planted by the Humanist Society for Keith in Chase Palm Park on Cabrillo Boulevard.

Non-HSSB Events of Interest by Diane Krohn

Upcoming events of interest to humanists, atheists, skeptics, and freethinkers.

Upcoming Events in California:

March 6: Cathryn J. Prince: *Benjamin Silliman and the Rise of American Science*. CFI West, Los Angeles:
<http://www.cfwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#gordon>

March 6: Dr. Robert Kurzban: *Why Everyone Else is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>



Keith Bailey tree in Chase Palm Park

March 20: Sikivu Hutchinson: *Moral Combat: Black Atheists and the Values Wars*. CFI West, Los Angeles.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#gordon>

March 20: Gary Taubes: *Why We Get Fat and What to Do About It*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

March 26: Dr. Michio Kaku: *The Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

April 3: Dr. Ray Jayawardhana: *Strange New Worlds: The Search for Alien Planets and Life Beyond Our Solar System*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

April 7-10, 2011: American Humanist Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA. Featuring Rebecca Goldstein, Bart Ehrman, Judy Norsigian, and Steve Wozniak, among many others.
http://www.americanhumanist.org/What_We_Do/Annual_Conference/2011

April 21-24, 2011: American Atheists Annual Convention, Des Moines, IA. Featured speakers include Christopher Hitchens, PZ Myers, Jeff Sharlet, Rob Sawyer, and Greta Christina. Many more speakers are scheduled.
http://www.atheists.org/events/National_Convention

May 19-22, 2011: Secular Coalition for America, Biennial Strategic Summit, Washington, D.C. *This is a one of a kind participatory meeting of leaders, activists and thinkers all from within our secular movement. You will collaborate, network, and strategize with them to improve our Secular Decade plan.*
<https://www.secular.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=18>

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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 Calendar

Wednesday, March 16, at 1:30pm, the **HSSB Book Club** meets at the home at **Joy Knapp**, 1781 Eucalyptus Hill Road (off Salinas). Call 962-4655 if you need help. Andrew Bacevich's book, "Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War" will be discussed.

Saturday, March 19, 2:30pm. **Monthly Meeting**. James Gilliam of the Los Angeles ACLU will discuss "LGBT and the Law". **Note the new location!** Live Oaks Unitarian Meeting Hall, 820 North Fairview Ave., Goleta. Doors open, 2:30PM, meeting starts at 3pm.

Sunday, March 27 (and the last Sunday of every month), 10am, **Secular Sunday Brunch** for humanists, atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, singles, couples and families. No cover charge; membership not required. Pay only for your food and drink. 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.



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