



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

APRIL 2011

April Program: PROTECT OUR DOLPHINS "A Drop of Humanity in a Sea of Whales"

We are living in times in which our concept of humanity may need to be expanded. While human intelligence manifests as burgeoning global industrialization, the qualities of humanity that are considered the most precious - and unique - are seen by many to be diminishing. Environmental events have exposed the hubris of human technology, and for the first time in the history of this planet, one species threatens the survival of all. Yet, if we expand our worldview to encompass surprising aspects of the wisdom in other animals - such as dolphins, whales, and elephants - we may find aspects of humanity in other species that inspire and perhaps even guide us to more expansive aspects of our own.

Toni Frohoff, Ph.D., is the Director of Research and co-founder of TerraMar Research. She is a behavioral and wildlife biologist who has been studying marine mammal behavior and communication for over 20 years. Dr. Frohoff has a doctorate in Behavioral Biology, an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, and a B.S. in Psychology. She specializes in behavior, stress and welfare in captive and free-ranging dolphins in response to human activity and has written numerous publications on this subject. She also lectures at venues ranging from The Smithsonian Institute, elementary schools to universities, and spoke at the prestigious TED Global Conference in Oxford, UK, in 2010. For information about her work, visit web page: http://www.terramarresearch.org/about_us/about_toni_frohoff.html



When: Saturday, April 16

Where: The Patio Room at Vista del Monte, 3775 Modoc Road

Time: Doors open 2:30pm for socializing; meeting starts 3pm

Fee: Optional \$2 student, \$5 general donations appreciated.

Dinner Following: Outback Steakhouse, 5690 Calle Real, Goleta

For More Information: 805-689-2716

Website: <http://santabarbarahumanists.org/>

Please Park only in spaces behind the church marked "VDM"

Solstice Picnic Book Sale

Again this year, there will be a Used Book table at the Summer Solstice Picnic. And again, **Pat Coppejans** has volunteered to collect the books and "man" the table. If you have books you'd like to donate to this sale, call Pat at 805 967-0929 to arrange pickup or delivery.

HSSB Book Club by Marty Shapiro

Happy Spring, Humanists (now if only we could get rid of that darned rain)! Your Book Club had a wonderful time discussing Andrew Bacevich's Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War recently - just in time to see that danger coming a little bit closer, and so soon. Let's hope that our overwhelming firepower is used with restraint, and that the confrontation comes to a quick and just conclusion.



Marty Shapiro

And now for something completely different! A question. Have you ever been frustrated with memory malfunction? Can you remember, and sing along with, the words of a song you learned as a kid, but now you can't remember where you left your car keys, or even where you parked your car? Well, if you answered in the affirmative (and who amongst us hasn't?), then this month's Book Selection may have you singing along to "Thanks For the Memories." It's a current Best Seller with an unforgettable title - "Moonwalking with Einstein", by Joshua Foer.

We'll be meeting Wednesday, April 20th, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Patricia Edgerton, 3116 Calle Fresco, 563-1512.

More on Elections

The HSSB Election season is upon us. A slate of potential Board members must be assembled by the end of April. If there are more on this list than the desired number of Board members, ballots will be sent out to members at that time, to be returned by the end of May.

This year, our "search for potential Board members" committee will be comprised of past Presidents. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact **Ron Kronenberg**, **Roger Schlueter** or **Dick Cousineau**.

Disaster in Japan

The March 19 issue of the LA Times carried a story: "Faith's Response to Disasters". Here are two responses to that article.

"Why is it that no matter what terrible things happen, people still believe in an almighty God who can destroy life at will? When thousands die in some natural disaster but a few survive, then people praise the Lord for the survivors. So these few were more worthy of being saved than the thousands who did not survive? Come on, this is the 21st century: Is it not time to rid ourselves of these outdated superstitions? Let's look at life on this planet with eyes that are not clouded by religious dogmas. Let us use reason and science in our actions to prevent and minimize the terrible loss of life that happens in these natural occurrences."

John Coppejans

Santa Barbara

"The oldest of theological questions is also one of the easiest to answer. Why would an all-loving, all-powerful God consistently crush and drown innocent children by the thousands? The obvious answer is that no such being exists. That concept of God was invented by primitive people trying to understand the world with no knowledge of cause

and effect in nature. No wonder religious people 'struggle' over these questions."

Brent Forrester
Pacific Palisades

HSSB Membership Directory

A roster of HSSB members will be available by email in May. 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. This is a final notice! Mary can be reached at 805-967-3045, or <mailto:mwilk@cox.net>.

LGBT and Family Law by Robert Bernstein

ACLU attorney James Gilliam gave us a most unique perspective on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) legal issues. Unlike many gay legal advocacy organizations, the ACLU promotes remedies that keep in mind First Amendment principles that may appear at times to conflict with pure LGBT issues.

One of Gilliam's top priorities is to end bullying of LGBT children. As a child growing up in rural Tennessee, Gilliam himself was a frequent target of bullying. He was not aware that he was carrying his books "like a girl". He was bullied on the school bus, in the school bathrooms and in gym class. He once deliberately slammed a locker door on his toe to break it, just to avoid gym class. Some children have experienced medical problems from being afraid to use the bathroom out of fear of bullying.

Photos by Robert Bernstein



James Gilliam

One case he is working on involves thirteen-year-old Seth Walsh who killed himself after bullying. Proposed "Seth's Law" AB9, which was just introduced in early March, would outlaw anti-gay bullying in California schools.

The good news: LGBT attitudes are improving faster than for any other social issue. A majority of Americans now support the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Words do matter: He implores us not to use terms like "gay marriage" and instead refer to the right of same-sex couples to marry. There is no gay marriage any more than there is Latino marriage. "Equal rights for all to marry" is the issue.

California is the only state to grant this right to gays and then to take it away with Proposition 8. U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker has ruled against Proposition 8, but the case is pending in the 9th Circuit.

California has a long record of leading the way in LGBT successes, going back to the 1950s. In 1978 Harvey Milk was the first openly gay official elected in a major US city.

In 1999 California was the first state to provide for domestic partnerships without a court mandate.

But at a Federal level there is only one law protecting the LGBT community, and that is the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes law. The ACLU worked on this law so that it did not infringe on speech, only action.

But the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) blocks gay rights. This denies gays 1,149 rights that married couples get.

The proposed Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is seen by many as more important than marriage rights. Gilliam legally could be refused a job by the school where he graduated as valedictorian.

The military is the largest employer in the US, hence the importance of ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT). Even if one is not gay, one should be concerned that hard-to-find Arab translators have been expelled because of DADT, lowering our security.

The proposed Uniting All Families Act would allow non-US partners of gays to stay in the US.

Currently, gay people can be denied housing and citizenship. And in many states they cannot sue for wrongful death if their partner is harmed or killed.

One problem: Few LGBT people are in legal positions of authority.

A few asylum cases have been granted to gay people from Iran and Guatemala based on harm if returned.

He was asked about religion and he emphasized he could only speak as an individual: Most people who expressed hatred toward him did so while thumping the Bible. No faiths welcomed him, but some are starting to welcome LGBTs.

Why not just advance "human rights" for all and be done with these individual struggles? That would be great, but the legal system usually advances one box at a time.

Gilliam would like to see the progression from tolerance to acceptance to celebration. Gay Pride Month should be like African American History Month.

He thanked all of us who are Allies: those not LGBT who support LGBT rights. Majority Allies are essential to progress for any minority group. He also urged us all to join the ACLU!

Comments seen on YouTube

"Even though I am an atheist, I must agree that 'Erbarme dich, mein Gott' [*From Bach's St. Matthew Passion*] is one of the best and stunning

pieces of music ever written. Perhaps when I die, stand before the gates of heaven and it turns out God DOES exist, I might sing this. I'm sure he'll let me in."

Reply: "Depends on your voice."

Reserve July 16!

There is a strong rumor that the Humanist Society will be visited at our July meeting by five prominent personages, namely, **Thomas Jefferson**, **Empress Theodora** of the Byzantine Empire, **Saint Augustine** of Hippo, **Lord Bertrand Russell** from Great Britain, and **Steve Allen** from Hollywood. Yes, you guessed it, the rumor is true! We're having a "Meeting of Minds" between all these folks. Plan to attend this momentous event.

This and the next few issues of the Secular Circular will present background information about our esteemed visitors, so you can welcome them appropriately. This month we spotlight Lord Russell.

Quote of the Month

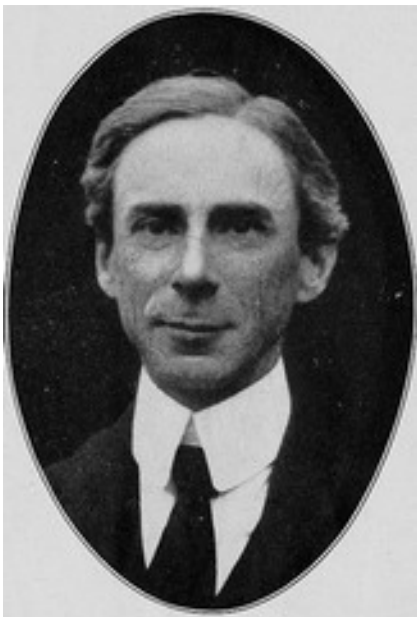
It doesn't matter what you believe, so long as you don't believe it completely. Bertrand Russell, (1872-1970)

Famous Humanists of the Past: Bertrand Russell 1872-1970 by Dick Cousineau

Lord Bertrand Arthur William Russell was born to British nobility in 1872, but was left an orphan at age three and subsequently raised by his grandmother who insisted he not be educated at public school but rather schooled at home by governesses and tutors. He did receive an excellent and well rounded education, however, and acquired fluency in French and German while still a child. He was also a mathematical prodigy and at 18 entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he received Highest Honors in mathematics and Philosophy at

age 22. He continued his studies in Berlin and Paris and in 1903 wrote his first important book, ***The Principles of Mathematics*** with his close friend Lord Alfred Whitehead, another world-class thinker of the 20th century.

His well-developed rationalism and free thinking spirit lead him to politics and even before World War I he protested war and campaigned for peace among nations. His writings and viewpoints resulted in periods of prison time, which he put to good use by writing ***Mathematical Philosophy***, ***Analysis of the Mind***, and began ***Why I am Not a Christian***. In the mid-1920s he traveled to



Bertrand Russell

Russia to observe first hand Bolshevism in action (he was not impressed) and also to China to lecture on Philosophy. Over the next decade he developed a personal moral system based upon pacifism, humanism, and free thought which was considered "immoral" while he was teaching at City College of New York, and summarily fired in 1940. His positions of anti-war, women's rights, and free sex were at least two generations beyond his contemporaries and for which he paid the price of his farsightedness by being shunned and ridiculed by most academic circles in Britain and America. His most famous book, by layman's standards, was ***Why I am Not a Christian***, an examination of the

God-idea and Christianity's response. Russell was well known and hated during the 1950s for his strident opposition to Nuclear Proliferation and by his numerous public demonstrations in Britain and elsewhere.

Russell lived until he was 98 and garnered many awards and recognition for his body of work including Royal Society Membership, Fellowship at Trinity College, the Sylvester and de Morgan Medals for Advanced Mathematics and the Nobel Prize for Literature (1950). Here was an independent and brilliant thinker who faced life head-on and accepted the consequences which were, oftentimes adulation but also abject rejection. He lived deeply his beliefs with honesty and pride.

So many of his writings are worth quoting and the following are considered classic:

"No one can sit at the bedside of a dying child and still profess a belief in God";

"I do not think that the real reason that people accept religion has to do with argumentation, but they accept it on emotional grounds and because they were 'born' into it, and fear keeps them there";

"Every single bit of humane feelings, every improvement in the criminal laws, and every step toward better treatment of the colored races or mitigation of slavery, every moral progress that has been made in the world has been consistently opposed by the organized religions of the world, and the principal enemy of such moral progress has been the Christian Church. A good world needs knowledge, compassion, and courage- not the fettering of free thought by the mutterings of long dead, ignorant men";

"We should stand on our own feet, look fair and square at the world-its good facts and its bad facts its ugliness and its beauties, and see it as it is and be not afraid."

Chipmunk Crucifixion

No chipmunk had to be crucified
 on a tiny cross of twigs
 To save all the other chippies,
 Had to have nails pounded
 through his little paws,
 Had to take upon himself
 all the sins of all the chippies
 that ever were or would be
 and die in agony
 So that after they died
 all the chippies
 could live again forever,
 But only if they believed
 in all the sayings and doings
 of the chipmunk crucified
 on the tiny cross of twigs.

~ **Antler**

Antler is the author of *Factory, Last Words, Ever-Expanding Wilderness*, and *Selected Poems*. He is a winner of the Walt Whitman Award, a Pushcart Prize and the Witter Bynner Prize from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. His poems have appeared in many recent anthologies including *Wild Song: Poems from Wilderness*; *Stubborn Light: The Best of The Sun*; *Reclaiming the Heartland: Lesbian & Gay Voices from the Midwest* and *American Poets Say Goodbye to the 20th Century*. In 2002 Antler was chosen as the poet laureate of Milwaukee.

“Chipmunk Crucifixion” was published in *Above Us Only Sky, Atheist Poetry, Volume One*, Incarnate Muse Press, 2003.

A Better Marriage by Bob Perry

If we take a close look at the realities behind the quarrel over ‘same sex’ marriages, the focus of our March meeting, we would discover several things about the tradition that might quickly and amicably resolve the issue. A first glance would reveal that the great majority of couples currently seeking respect and social recognition for their relationships are long past their teen years: those with white hair having lived as committed couples for decades. With divorce statistics that report approximately fifty percent of heterosexual marriages failing, one might reasonably suspect that there is a basic flaw in our time honored institution as it exists. In view of these facts, as a result of its persistent campaign, the LGBT community may have not only highlighted the defect but by its experience also revealed a way to correct it.

Entering the ‘holy’ state of matrimony in most western countries is, and has been, cheap and easy. Except, that is, when the parents and/or the participants require solemn religious rituals and oaths to attest to their spirituality and serious intent; and, an elaborate and expensive celebration to indicate their affluence. So, what should change?



Bob Perry

Taking a cue from the accepted notion that most people assign the greatest value to things and skills acquired through their own efforts, I have long thought that the answer to the above question is the ‘easy’ part. And, it wouldn’t be too difficult to do.

Any two adults wanting to establish a committed relationship would only be required to file a ‘Declaration of Intent To Marry’ form with the

appropriate civil authority. At that time, without any further requirements, they would qualify for all of the marital, social and legal rights accorded that status, but they would **not be married**. It would be somewhat like a civil union, but with specific conditions. The formal recognition would come later and only after they had successfully demonstrated their ability to maintain an ongoing compatible relationship. During the prescribed waiting period (at least three years) either party could terminate the relationship by simply unilaterally cancelling the "Declaration of Intent". No divorce proceeding would be necessary. Any disputes arising over division of property would be settled by mandatory arbitration: the custody and support of any involved children determined by a special children's court.

Thus, if **everyone had to earn** the married status, it would give real meaning to the term and represent an accomplishment worthy of pride. It still might not please the hard core religionists, but it might quell some of their animosity toward same-sex marriages. It also probably could help diminish the destructive rancor created by our present system.

Living Without Religion

Almost a month ago, the Center for Inquiry's (CFI) "Living Without Religion" campaign set out to raise awareness that living a happy and fulfilling life without religion is possible. Millions of Americans show every day that it is possible to care, hope, and love without God.

CFI placed billboards and advertisements in Washington, DC, Indianapolis and Houston because each of these locations brought something different to the campaign. DC is, of course, the nation's capital; CFI not only has a strong community in Indianapolis, but this city is in the heartland; and Houston is the largest city in the Bible Belt.

Other parts of the country have shown interest in having a billboard in their area, and based on that interest, CFI is expanding their campaign. By the

end of April additional billboards will have been posted in the Northwest.

A one-minute video, part of this campaign, can be viewed at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0SqlG8_gVY

Anyone interested in contributing to this campaign can get more information at:

info@centerforinquiry.net

What's Going on Here?

by Andrew Hankin
Goleta Bureau Chief

- "If you're not religious, for God's sake say so", was an advertising campaign launched by the British Humanist Association to prompt Britons who are really not religious to check the box for "None" in the optional question about religion in the March, 2011 UK Census. The campaign was intended to encourage accurate answers, rather than making a religious selection to 'not cause a fuss', however the Committee of Advertising Practice declared that the slogan may cause 'widespread and serious offense', disallowing the posters on British railway stations. Fortunately another agency ran the original, uncensored ads on their shopping center screen network saying, "We cannot see anything objectionable in the advertising copy. How this could cause anyone serious offense is a mystery to us." Read the full story at: <http://www.humanism.org.uk/news/view/766>



- Tickets are still on sale 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, and online at the same times and days from <http://www.kclu.org>. For information, call 805-893-3535.
- The U.S. House Judiciary Committee has approved House Concurrent Resolution 13, which would, according to the Secular Coalition of America, "unnecessarily reaffirm the divisive term 'In God We Trust' as the nation's official motto" and encourage its public display in all public buildings, public schools, and government institutions. The resolution will now be sent to the full House of Representatives for a vote. The SCA, the leading national lobby for atheists, agnostics, humanists and other secular Americans, protested the committee's vote as an encroachment on the separation of church and state, and an unnecessary rebuke to the millions of Americans whose personal beliefs do not entail the use of the word 'god'. Read the full story at: <http://www.secular.org/content/press-releases/in-god-we-trust-resolution-protested>
- On Monday, March 7th, the US Supreme Court denied a petition to hear atheist lawyer Michael Newdow's case against "In God We Trust" on American money, leaving a lower court's ruling in place stating it could remain. Full story: <http://www.coinnews.net/2011/03/18/supreme-court-in-god-we-trust-motto-remains-on-coins-and-currency>
- On March 19th, HSSB sponsor **Barbara Margerum** moderated a discussion followed by Q+A on the topic "Immigration and the Economy: Our House Divided?" HSSB sponsors **Don Margerum, Dick Cousineau** and **Judy Freeman**, board member **Andrew Hankin**, and

about thirty others were in the audience at the Fe Bland Forum, Santa Barbara City College. Hosted by the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue, their next event will be on Thursday, May 20th, about "The Perils of Global Poverty". Details are on web page: <http://sbglobal.weebly.com/index.html>

- Also on March 19th, HSSB sponsor **Robert Bernstein** and about 100 Santa Barbarans gathered in De La Guerra Plaza, marched down State Street and held a rally for peace at Arlington West (the fallen soldiers memorial on the beach). The occasion was the eighth Anniversary of the "shock and awe" attack on Iraq, and came with a "Wake Up Call" to end the costly overseas conflicts in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Robert's pictures from the event are on web page: <http://www.swt.org/act/wakeup2011/index.html>
- "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks", by Rebecca Skloot, an award-winning author who has received wide acclaim for her work as a science and medical writer is Skloot's bestselling first book. It is a riveting expose on the history of 'HeLa' – or the first immortal human cells grown in culture, taken without Henrietta Lacks' knowledge – and the inextricable dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. 8pm Monday, April 11th in UCSB Campbell Hall. For information phone 805-893-3535.
- Westboro Baptist Church recently won a US Supreme Court ruling, affirming their constitutional right to picket the funerals of American soldiers killed in action. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/02/ap/politics/main20038598.shtml/>

However, they found in McAlester, Oklahoma that they did NOT have a constitutional right to get their vehicle repaired. After picketing another soldier's funeral, they found their minivan with Kansas license plates had two slashed tires, so they had to drive away at slow speed with a police escort. They then found that no local business would work on their vehicle, so it had to be winched onto a flatbed

truck and taken to a Walmart for two new tires before they could drive home. See: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20101114_11_A12_CUTLIN105145



- Human Rights Film Festival: three films each day at 4pm, 7pm, and 9pm on Tuesday, April 26th; Wednesday, April 27th; and Thursday, April 28th; in UCSB Campbell Hall. For information phone 805-893-3535.

- A group of Christians are devoting the remainder of their lives to driving five RV's the size of city buses around America. They drive in a close convoy and park in formation outside shopping malls, emblazoned as moving billboards with their message that Judgment Day is coming May 21st, 2011, when some will be Raptured. Those left behind will suffer 153 days of death and horror before the World will end on October 21st, 2011, according to Harold Camping, 89-year old operator of Family Radio in Oakland, CA, with 66 stations across the USA, satellite feeds and streaming audio online. Undeterred that Camping has been wrong before (his previous doomsday schedule was September 6th, 1994), many participants in the

convoy have sold or given away their earthly possessions, abandoned their less-believing families, or left their houses unlocked figuring they won't be back. Read the full story at: http://articles.cnn.com/2011-03-06/living/judgment.day.caravan_1_rvs-dish-world-ends?_s=PM:LIVING

- **In the beginning, God tweeted:**

Day 1: Lighting system installed. Days 2-6: Some assembly required: sky, plants, cows, people. Left humans in charge, LOL. Day 7: Siesta

That's how the story of creation is told in "The Twitter Bible," God's latest attempt to spread His message in 140 characters or less. "The old version of Scripture wasn't reaching people anymore," He explained at a press conference where every question seemed to be anticipated before reporters could ask. Read the full story: <http://www.nottheletimes.com/twitterbible.html>

God is an Unnecessary Hypothesis

Philip Appleman

(Excerpted from "The Labyrinth: God, Darwin, and the meaning of life," in Free Inquiry, February/March, 2011. Reprinted from PIQUE, Newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York, April, 2011.

"God" is an unnecessary hypothesis, but for many people, suffering the terrors of the imagination, a seductive one. People in general have never exhibited much passion for the disciplined pursuit of knowledge, but they are always tempted by easy answers. God is an easy answer.

Why are we here? Where will we spend eternity? The brain has become capable of inventing questions to which there are no satisfactory answers. For such questions, God is a convenience: the unanswerable question is referred to the undefinable Being, and lo, we have the impression of an answer, though in fact we know no more than before. This seems to soothe some minds temporarily, as an empty bottle may soothe

a crying baby; and the nourishment from each is the same. "God" is a term that deliberately masks our ignorance.

Whenever God is invoked, language and sense part company: for that very reason, God has practical and political uses that partly account for its survival as a hypothesis. Among its other conveniences, God has always comforted aggressors by blessing the carnage of battle: armies carry their own chaplains. God is described as that which knows everything and is all-powerful; if so, then there is no escaping the conclusion that God is ultimately responsible for everything that happens: for the Holocaust, for the carpet-bombing of primitive villages, for the defilement of children, for slavery. Priests were on hand to sanction all of those activities: God is a serviceable bureaucrat.

The worship of the undefinable is necessarily illogical: "Praise the mercy and goodness of God for saving my life," says the survivor of an earthquake in which God, with indifference, has just brushed away a thousand lives.

The large brain, that masterpiece of evolution, capable of wonder but unpracticed in reasoning, throws patterns across the stars: Aquarius, Taurus, Capricorn. To invent these images is poetry; to believe in them is faith. God's survival depends upon our peopling the heavens with angels and archangels, chimeras of our banal imagination. No wonder the prophets thundered against the sin of knowledge, the sin of pride: God depends upon our ignorance as much as a magician.

Learning is hard work; imagining is easy. Given our notorious capacity for indolence, is it any wonder that school is so unpopular, faith so attractive? So we fumble through the labyrinth of our lives, making believe that we have heard answers to our questions, even to our prayers; and yet, deep down, we know that something is out of joint, has always been out of joint. How long? we lament. How long, O Lord?



Sandy Garcia introduces March speaker

Non-HSSB Events of Interest by Diane Krohn

Upcoming Events in California:

- 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/>
- April 17: Dr. Lawrence Krauss: *Quantum Man: Richard Feynman's Life in Science*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- April 24: Dr. Patricia Churchland: *Braintrust: What Neuroscience Tells Us About Morality*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- May 1: Dr. Tim Flannery: *Here on Earth: A Natural History of the Planet*. Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

- May 15: Orange County Freethought Alliance Conference 2011. Orange County Airport Hilton. Speakers include Mr. Deity, Sean Faircloth, Jim Underdown, and others. <http://www.freethoughtalliance.org/2011conf.html>

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 13-15, 2011: International Freethought Film Festival, Tampa, FL. The program of the International Freethought Film Festival will include 10 different film screenings of independent feature and short films, selected from film submissions that best reflect the mission statement of promoting reason, critical thinking and freedom of inquiry. Narratives, documentaries and animations will be screened to present a spectrum of artistic interpretations of freethought concepts through film. http://www.freethoughtfilmfest.org/index.php?p=1_34_GOING-THERE-
- 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/civCRM/event/info?reset=1&id=18>

HSSB Contact Information

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Jim Balter	Patricia Hiles
Wayne Beckman	Joe Navarro
Sandy Garcia	Ray Stone
Andrew Hankin	Mary Wilk

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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

Saturday, April 16, 2:30pm. **Monthly Meeting**. Toni Frohoff speaks on "Protect our Dolphins". Patio Room at Vista Del Monte. Doors open, 2:30PM, meeting starts at 3pm.

Wednesday, April 20, at 1:30pm, the **HSSB Book Club** meets at the home at **Patricia Edgerton**, 3116 Calle Fresco. Call 563-1512. if you need help. "Moonwalking with Einstein", by Joshua Foer will be discussed.

Sunday, April 24 (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 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
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