



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

JUNE 2011



SUMMER SOLSTICE PICNIC !!

**Saturday June 18, 2011, 1:00 PM,
Stow Grove Park, Goleta**

\$15 per person

(Free to members joining in 2011)

**Provided: BBQ Chicken, Tri-tip dinners
Soft drinks, wine**



**You may bring, if desired:
favorite appetizer, dessert, beer
Books for the book sale**

**Reserve by 10 June: 687-2371 or
email: dkcgeo@cox.net**

Send checks to:

HSSB, PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, 93130



Welcome, New Members!

J. P. Herrada, Goleta
Nan Cisney, Santa Barbara

Book Sale !!

Again this year, we will have a table of used books for sale at the Solstice Picnic. And again, **Pat and John Coppejans** will watch over the table and cause it all to run smoothly.

If you have books you think might be of interest to our crowd, simply bring them to the picnic, or if you cannot attend the picnic or prefer not to bring them that day, call Pat beforehand to arrange for them to be picked up. Her phone number is 967-0929.

Election Results

Nearly 40 percent of HSSB membership voted in the recent election. Here is the 2011-2012 Board:

Wayne Beckman
Dick Cousineau
Patricia Hiles
Diane Krohn
Ron Kronenberg
Roger Schlueter
Claudia Solé
Nancy Wahl
Mary Wilk

Write-in votes were received for:

Laurence Brockway
Carol Weingartner
John Martinez

The Club's officers will be chosen by the Board at their first meeting.

Thank You Andrew Hankin!

Andrew Hankin is leaving the HSSB Board after serving for five years. As head of publicity during most of that time, he's been in charge of presenting our organization to the Santa Barbara community; not an easy job, with so many new media outlets to consider.



Andrew Hankin

You've seen Andrew in charge of our sound system at meetings. And you know him as holding many positions at the Secular Circular. He keeps up with Humanism-related issues and activities around the world and submits a steady stream of reports from his various posts at home and abroad. One reader suggested renaming the Secular Circular "Poor Andrew's Almanac".

Thanks, Andrew, for all your work for the HSSB!

HSSB Book Club by Marty Shapiro

My apologies to any of you who were confused by the Book Club's modified meeting date in May - the fourth Wednesday instead of the usual third Wednesday. Since several of us were out of town (or country) on the 18th, we all agreed to make it the 25th. And so it was, as announced in our April Emailing.

But for June we're back on track: June 15th, the third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. At the home of the ever-popular **Dick and Judy Cousineau**, 505 Alegria Road (off Las Positas). 687-2371. Thanks again, Dick.

And the book for June? It's "Tear Down This Myth", by Will Bunch, a highly respected, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. Bunch's book is an attempt to shed some light on the political Right's "beatification" of Ronald Reagan as the President who could do no wrong, and did everything Right. (Like the Iran/Contra contretemps?) Happy Reading.

From the President by Ron Kronenberg

Once in a while a family story is so compelling that it is worth retelling, to emphasize the Humanist values we strive to achieve in our everyday lives. Such an event took place in our family recently, when our grandniece graduated from university, against all odds and with a little extended family support.

Many stories begin at birth but I'll relate the short version and begin when Sally (not her real name) turned nine. She was asked by her grandfather if she was going to save some of her birthday money for college. Sally replied "Grandpa, don't be silly, my parents can't pay the electric bill, how will they ever pay for college? I will save my money and buy a pretty wedding dress so I can marry a rich man." A much distressed grandpa relayed this message to his sister Wilma, my wife. Wilma immediately opened a savings account for Sally's college and convinced the father and grandfather to contribute to the account. As soon as Sally learned that a college fund was started in her name, she called to tell Wilma that she was going to attend college one day and become a lawyer.

The following year, on a visit to Iowa, Wilma spent a lovely day showing Sally around the campus of her alma mater. None of Sally's other immediate family members had considered visiting the nearby college campus since none had ever attended college and visiting one made them uncomfortable.

During that visit Sally's mom attempted suicide and was found unconscious by Sally. It was a very close call, but the mother survived and soon after, Sally's parents' marriage dissolved. The mom spent many

years living as a homeless person, including several months under a bridge in Long Beach. She now lives in a group home on SSI. The father found a new girl friend and continued to support himself doing odd jobs in rural Iowa. Sally bounced around various homes because her dad's girlfriend and Sally couldn't live under the same roof.

After high school Sally started college, working as a barmaid and gradually was able to complete her first year. We had promised earlier, as an incentive, to fly her out to Santa Barbara to spend some time together and see the sights. When Wilma told her how much was put into the college savings account, Sally realized that her dad had dipped into her account. Nonetheless, five years later, with an infant son, Sally graduated from Wilma's alma mater with a Bachelor of Science degree and landed a job at a lab. This marked a first step toward her intended career in criminal forensics. Later this month, we will see Sally and celebrate her graduation and new job with her. There were, of course, other struggles and other interventions that arose before and during Sally's pregnancy. But for me the picture is clear. Humanist values are something we can each live and express in our day-to-day lives, and the difference this makes can be profound. Wilma has shown me, and Sally, the degree to which we can make a profound difference in one another's lives.

If you too have a story that demonstrates how Humanists live their values, please send them in to the Secular Circular and let's gather a collection to inspire one another. The other guys pretend that they have a monopoly on the values issue. We can set the record straight.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (355 to 430CE) by Richard Cousineau

[This is the third article about the participants of the "Meeting of Minds" session to be presented at our July 16th meeting. Earlier articles recounted the lives of Lord Bertrand Russell and Thomas

Jefferson. Our July issue will introduce you to Empress Theodora of Constantinople. Ed.]

As the Roman world was imploding and disintegrating in the Late 300s there came out of the seacoast town of Hippo (now Annaba) in northeast Algeria, not too far from Carthage, one of the most famous and erudite Christian theologians and philosophers of all time. A person still studied and honored by Catholics, Lutherans and Calvinists, today, 1600 years after his death, his titles of Saint and Doctor of the Church attest to the admiration and reverence in which he is held by many.

Although his mother, Monica, was a devout Christian, Augustine and his father were wealthy and educated Pagans. At 17 he was considered a near genius when he began his formal education at Carthage studying Latin, rhetoric, music, mathematics, and philosophy, and at that time he formed a lifetime bond with the writings of Plato and remained a Platonist after becoming a Christian. His youth was considered, by his mother, as totally misspent because of his lustful ways and the taking of concubines as long term companions, one of whom delivered a son to him in 382. His prayer at this time was "God, give me chastity, but not just yet". Five years later he was baptized into the Christian Church and lived in poverty, celibacy, and study. This was the founding of the Augustinian Order, the same Religious Fraternal Order of Martin Luther, 1100 hundred years later.

Augustine devoted the next forty years of his life to theology, defending the faith, writing at least 230 treatises, many based upon the concepts: "the authority of Scriptures is higher than all the efforts of human intelligence" and "seek not to understand that you may believe, rather believe that you may understand". In addition, he extemporized on Original Sin (carnal knowledge), Salvation through Faith, Just Wars of Defense only, Divine Grace,



St. Augustine of Hippo

Infant Baptism, Anti-Abortion and numerous other theological positions still followed by many Christians today.

Few men in history have had such influence for so long. Luther, Huss, Wycliffe all felt kinship with him, and Calvin based his ruthless creed upon Augustine's theories about the elect and the damned. His subjective and anti-intellectual stance regarding faith sought happiness not here and now but beyond the grave through Christ's mercy and goodness. He died at age 76 in 430 and today he is still considered the most authentic, eloquent and powerful voice during the Age of Faith in Western Christianity. Needless to say his doctrines are the very antithesis of everything that we Humanists hold dear. However Father Augustine will be welcomed politely by the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara when he visits us in July.

The War Prayer by Mark Twain

"O Lord our Father, our young patriots, idols of our hearts, go forth to battle – be Thou near them! With them – in spirit – we also go forth from the sweet peace of our beloved firesides to smite the foe. O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with their little children to wander unfriended the wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst, sports of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee for the refuge of the grave and denied it – for our sakes who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their

wounded feet! We ask it, in the spirit of love, of Him Who is the Source of Love, and Who is the ever-faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore beset and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Amen."

(The previous was Mark Twain's response after hearing religious leaders bless the troops as they sent them off to fight the Spanish-American War (in 1898), a war he vehemently opposed as a war of colonial aggression. Like many of his works, his biting sarcasm was merciless, especially for those who supported the departing troops "in spirit".)

Gangs In Santa Barbara: Report on May Meeting by Jim Balter

JP Herrada was born in Mexico. When he immigrated to Santa Barbara he excelled in school and was great in sports, but he grew up in a violent environment, himself beaten daily after school, observing older kids beat younger kids, police beating his friends and later himself. These injustices, along with racial slurs he received from teachers, resulted in a hatred for authority, especially law enforcement. When he became aware of gangs he ran, toward that violence, finding it was something he could excel in and be respected and even loved for. JP got involved in drugs, assaults, theft, tattoos ... everything his mother opposed, and he now has two strikes against him. A third will send him to prison for life, separating him from his children and everything else he loves. But JP was making decisions as a child, not an adult, with the limited knowledge, resources, and influences that such a child has. Now he sees gang membership as a form of community activism, protecting their community from outsiders in the only way they know how. They need to learn a better way.

JP is now executive director of non-profit Palabra, a unique organization that hires people with the same background as the young men they are trying to reach. They work on the edge between two worlds; they must be accepted by funders and the police,

but they also must have the trust of the neighborhoods they work in. They are connected to the gangs, but the connections are positive, teaching youngsters the importance of education, how to speak properly, of their rights and how to fight for them legally. This sometimes raises suspicion in police, who see their work as making "better gang members". But they are better in the right way, rather than the alternative that comes from incarceration, where they network with gangs from other areas, learning additional skills in crime and violence. According to JP, the Mexican Mafia is not now here in Santa Barbara, but will be if we follow our current path. Crime suppression is needed, but that should come in the form of prevention and intervention, not problem-creating incarceration.

"These kids need to know what awaits them in this system", says JP, so Palabra brings to them drug addicts, drunks, people out of jail "on vacation" who expect to return. The kids get to see where the protection, love, and respect that the gangs promise actually lead, that love and respect last only as long as gang members do what they are told, and protection fails against ever larger threats.

"Palabra offers them genuine love, providing the knowledge and opportunity to excel and to bring something better to their community using their love and respect for their neighborhoods and a desire to give something back, rather than denigrating those things and trying to strip them away", he said.

Palabra has been holding football games between neighborhoods -- the rivals tackle each other pretty hard, but there hasn't been a single fight. Not only do the kids have fun, get to know each other, and learn other paths for their aggression, but it gives JP and his associates an opportunity to identify the leaders, the ones who calm their teammates; if they can mold a leader, he will mold the next ten behind him.

Problems run deep in these neighborhoods, but not the way many people think. Being undocumented is not relevant to gang membership. Parents are

not gang members, but generally have strict standards that they try to teach their children. Parents often work two or three jobs and have neither the time nor ability to negotiate the culture of the streets, and they expect the schools to do the right thing. But they must learn how to advocate for their kids. Palabra works to provide these skills to young parents and potential parents.

Resources are slim and Palabra needs much help from the broader community. The public must learn the realities of these communities, of the need for education and opportunity, of how prison is a revolving door that grows and strengthens gangs and leaves young women alone to raise their babies, to provide financial and emotional support to their young men in jail, but without the skills to take care of themselves personally and advance their own education. We need to educate ourselves about the "gang injunction", which will lower property values in injunction areas, and possibly prevent people on the list, even those who have long been out of trouble, from attending SBCC or the schools in which their own children are enrolled. Have these injunctions worked in other cities? Do any of us know? We must hold our politicians accountable for their promises to improve things, and we who donate to the non-profits need to hold them accountable -- are they providing the services they promise? JP suggests holding community forums to get feedback about what progress is actually being made in those neighborhoods.

During nearly 1 1/2 hours of presentation and Q&A, JP Herrada provided us with a wealth of information and personal experience about the realities for youngsters in Latino neighborhoods, far more than can be covered here. If you did not attend, you may want to listen to the presentation at our website. To do so, go to our calendar page <http://www.santabarbarahumanists.org/Calendar/calendar.html> and click "Listen to JP Herrada talk" on the May, 2011 calendar.

Secularism Gains Ground **by Gregory Rodriguez** **Los Angeles Times, May 16, 2011 |**

Woohoo! Secularism has arrived. That was one reaction to the news that Pitzer College in Claremont is launching a secular studies department.

"Well, it's about time!" wrote an eager academic in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The editor of CNN's Belief blog didn't know "whether to be surprised that it happened or surprised that it took so long."

The blog at the conservative journal First Things, however, was neither surprised nor celebratory. It snarkily quipped that "college students in America have been majoring in secularism for decades."

As with so many issues in this country, in the cultural battle between those who don't think secularism is a dirty word and those who do, it's never quite clear which side is David and which is Goliath. Both sides, however, are quick to play the victim card.

Over the last few years, conservative Christians have grouched about what they see as anti-religious discrimination, a problem they annually announce by attacking the "war on Christmas." For their part, some atheists have yelped wildly about the deep prejudice they say they face.

Just last month, Phil Zuckerman, the Pitzer College sociologist who proposed that the school establish a secular studies department, co-wrote an opinion piece in the Washington Post decrying what he saw as "stunning anti-atheist discrimination" that renders "nonbelievers intrinsically suspect and second-class citizens."

The defensively activist tone of that article raises the question of whether studying secularism at Pitzer will be self-scrutiny or self-congratulation. If it doesn't watch out, Pitzer's secular studies department could very well find itself in the

academic ghetto of minority pride and grievance. Do we really need more of that?

I don't think so. Although secularists, a group that includes but is not exclusive to atheists, are a minority in the country, their voices nonetheless dominate contemporary college campuses. Notre Dame sociologist Christian Smith writes that in an academic revolution in the late 19th century, scientific objectivity became the paradigm for the pursuit of all knowledge, which "redefined religious concerns and perspectives as irrelevant if not detrimental to the mission of higher education."

This anti-religious bias led to a profound misjudgment on the part of many 20th century American intellectuals. Academia was pretty much convinced that the rest of the world would follow it into secularism. Sociologists promulgated something called the secularization thesis, which held that modernization seamlessly and absolutely leads to a decline in religious influence. But this particular article of faith left some scholars ill-prepared to comprehend the resurgent role religion has played in public in recent years, from the rise of Christian evangelicalism in U.S. politics to Muslim fundamentalism abroad.

Still, the theory wasn't completely wrong. Secularism continues to gain ground. Even as Americans claim to believe in God in astronomically high numbers compared with other parts of the Western world, from 1990 to 2008, the number of Americans who subscribe to no religion at all more than doubled, making them the fastest-growing "religious group" in the United States.

All of which means that if done well, secular studies are worth having: there's something there to contemplate. Nor does the study of secularism have to be at odds with religion on campus. As a student at UC Berkeley long ago, I took a course in anti-religious thought, the most strident form of secularism. It didn't make me an unbeliever, but it did explain how the anti-religious thinking of Freud and Marx, for instance, insinuated itself into the Western intellectual tradition. Perhaps more than any other course I took in college, that class taught

me the fundamental lesson that real differences exist between people that go even deeper than race, ethnicity or class.

University of Tennessee intellectual historian Wilfred McClay argues that the interplay between faith and nonbelief is basic to the way America works. In his estimation, we require ideas "to pass through a bicameral body politic, both religious and secular," and the combination of the two helped defeat slavery, achieve women's suffrage and push for civil rights legislation.

The United States is arguably the most religious and the most secular country in the world. You may find yourself on one side or the other of this dichotomy, but you won't really understand one side of the equation without comprehending the other. Secularism may or may not have come of age, but it merits a closer, more critical look.

Secular Activities in Los Angeles

If you'd like to receive periodic email notification of secular activities in the LA area, go to the website: <http://www.cfiwest.org/> and "subscribe" to their email updates.

National Day of Reason Proclamation Praised

Secular groups praised a proclamation US Representative Pete Stark (D-CA) entered into the congressional record recognizing May 5 as the National Day of Reason. The proclamation resulted from collaboration between Representative Stark and the Secular Coalition for America, the leading national lobby for secular Americans.

"Reason and rational thinking have made our country great," Rep. Stark's proclamation stated. "The Constitution of the United States of America is based upon the philosophies developed during the historical Age of Reason and the idea that citizens engaging in rational discourse and decision-making can govern themselves. The Constitution also contains a strong separation of church and state,

making it clear that government should continue to be built on reason.”

The National Day of Reason has been celebrated since 2003 as a more inclusive alternative to the divisive and congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Reason, according to Stark’s resolution, “is also about taking time to improve our communities – whether that means holding a blood drive or collecting items for the local food bank. It is also about ensuring that our government represents citizens of all beliefs and backgrounds.”

The entire proclamation can be found at <http://www.stark.house.gov/index.php>

What’s Going on Here?

by Andrew Hankin
Deputy Assistant Editor

☑ Harold Camping, the head of Family Radio, had predicted that a selected number of people on earth, approximately 200 million, would Rapture to Heaven on May 21, while those left behind would witness the destruction of the Earth on October 21.

On Sunday, May 22nd there was no response from Camping. Family Radio, the Christian stations network which had spread his message of an approaching doomsday, played recorded church music, devotionals and life advice unrelated to the apocalypse. The Oakland, CA headquarters of the network of 66 U.S. stations was shuttered with a sign in the door that read "This Office is Closed. Sorry we missed you!"

International Business Times conducted a survey of 20,000 people asking, "What would be Harold Camping’s most likely response now that the Earth is still here?" The majority, 54 percent, believe that Camping will unrepentantly claim a calculation error and form a new Doomsday date. This wouldn’t be unprecedented, as Camping famously claimed that the world was going to end in 1994, but cited calculation mistakes.

Readers more generally felt that Camping would backtrack on his words and make excuses. Roughly 19 percent of respondents said that Camping would "claim God had mercy on mankind and spared the earth". Almost 16 percent believe he will claim that the rapture did happen, but just in an invisible way. Full story:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/149805/20110522/harold-camping-silent-after-doomsday-dud.htm>

☑ Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider announced she filed a temporary restraining order in Superior Court at 4:59 PM Friday, May 20, to block the end of the world, predicted by Reverend Harold Camping of the Family Broadcast Network to commence Saturday, May 21. In so doing, Schneider told reporter Nick Welsh for the Santa Barbara Independent she could not afford to wait until Tuesday’s regularly scheduled council meeting to act. Instead, she availed herself of extraordinary unilateral powers available to the mayor under the city’s charter under only the most exceptional of circumstances. "If you don’t call the end of the world 'exceptional'" the mayor stated, "then I don’t know what is." Full story:

<http://www.independent.com/news/2011/may/15/mayor-files-lawsuit-block-end-world>

☑ A group seeking to ban the circumcision of male children in San Francisco has succeeded in getting their controversial measure on the November ballot, meaning voters will be asked to weigh in on what until now has been a private family matter.

If the measure passes, circumcision would be prohibited for boys younger than 18. The practice would become a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to one year in jail. There would be no religious exemptions.

The initiative appears to be the first of its kind in the country to actually make it to this stage, though a larger national debate over the health benefits of circumcision has been going on for many years. Banning circumcision would almost certainly prompt a flurry of legal challenges arguing

violations of the First Amendment's guarantee of the freedom to exercise one's religious beliefs.

Supporters of the ban say male circumcision is a form of genital mutilation that is unnecessary, extremely painful and even dangerous. They say parents should not be able to force the decision on their young child.

☑ The U.S. Supreme Court has made it significantly easier for police to force their way into your home without a search warrant. On Monday, May 16th 2011, the court, by an 8-1 vote, upheld the warrantless search of an apartment after police smelled marijuana and feared that those inside were destroying incriminating evidence.

The case came from Lexington, KY, where police pursuing a drug suspect banged on the door of an apartment where they thought they smelled marijuana. After loudly identifying themselves, police heard movement inside, and suspecting that evidence was being destroyed, kicked in the door. There they found Hollis Deshaun King, smoking marijuana. Police also found cocaine inside the apartment. As it turned out, King was not the suspect police had been looking for, but the drug evidence in the apartment was more than enough to charge him with multiple crimes. King was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the lone dissenter from the court's ruling, accused the majority of "arm[ing] the police with a way routinely to dishonor the Fourth Amendment's warrant requirement in drug cases. In lieu of presenting their evidence to a neutral magistrate," she said, "police officers may now knock, listen, then break the door down, never mind that they had ample time to obtain a warrant." Full story: <http://www.npr.org/2011/05/16/136368744/in-warrantless-search-case-top-court-rules-for-police>

☑ Psychologist Darrel Ray, who entertained and educated us during the HSSB March 2010 meeting, made national news with a survey he published May 25. His survey results show that atheists and agnostics have better sex lives, after

giving up religion with all the associated guilt. Ray is the author of "The God Virus: How Religion Infects Our Lives And Culture". His website: <http://www.thegodvirus.net>. Full news story: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/atheists-best-sex-lives-claims-kansas-psychologists-survey/story?id=13679076&singlePage=true>

Quote of the Month

So many gods, so many creeds, So many paths that wind and wind, While just the art of being kind is all the sad world needs. -Ella Wheeler Wilcox, poet (1850-1919)

Nutritional Advice

For those who watch what they eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans..
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

The Liverwurst Epiphany Chic Schissel

[Extracted from Pique, the newsletter of the Secular Humanist Society of New York, June, 2011 issue.]

My religious epiphany occurred on Yom Kippur, when I was eight years old, I was sitting with my Dad in the synagogue, a rare event in my family. But I was feeling uncomfortable and seriously guilty

because that morning, hungry, I had broken the fast by eating a piece of a friend's sandwich, un-kosher liverwurst no less.

My parents, though from orthodox backgrounds, were not religious, but our influential (to me) relatives were, and liverwurst compounded my blasphemy. Soon came the part of the service when God decides whether or not to write down your name in the book of life; whether or not you will live through the next year. My Dad noticed how I was squirming uncomfortably (the liverwurst sin) and deduced that, for some reason, I was terrified that God wouldn't allow me to survive the year.

He tried to comfort me. He said "Don't worry. God is not some bearded person sitting there writing in a book. That's just a story. God is everything, God is that tree, God is the sky, God is the water, everything."

But that was no consolation: now there was no place I could go where the S.O.B. wouldn't see me! There was no escape for me: God knew about the liverwurst.

However, this episode generated some doubt, and years later, when I got to high school and was introduced to thought-provoking literature, I lost faith completely.

When was your epiphany? When did you lose your faith? The Secular Circular wants your story. Please send it (up to 500 words; the above story has 240 words) to editor@santabarbarahumanists.org.

=====

The following poem by Dan Logan, "I am always amazed", originally appeared in *Above Us Only Sky*, *Atheist Poetry*, Volume One, Incarnate Muse Press, 2003.

Dan Logan is a writer and fine art photographer living in Virginia. He is best known for his political writing and columns on gender issues. He has also written speeches for various senators.

I am always amazed
 that most people
 believe in that which
 they cannot see
 and belittle me
 for being agnostic--
 a coarse, flip-flopping description
 of omission
 they do not understand
 not knowing
 is beautiful
 it opens the world
 to me like an iris
 I am not adrift but in search
 not for an end but a be-ing
 in harmony not with the river's
 source but its flow
 we are surrounded by
 mystery
 only believers surrender to it
 and I yearn to divine it
 the point is not
 where the spirit
 comes from but
 where it leads
 which for me is
 to earth
 and I have no need
 to worship it

by Dan Logan

Non-HSSB Events of Interest by Diane Krohn

Upcoming Events in California:

- June 5: Sikivu Hutchinson: *Moral Combat: Black Atheists and the Values Wars*. CFI West, Hollywood.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#gordon>
- June 19: Professor David Goldfield: *America Aflame: Evangelicism and the American Civil War*. CFI West, Hollywood; and Costa Mesa.
<http://www.cfiwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#gordon>
- June 24-26: *Science Symposium: 100 Years of Adventures in Science and Pseudoscience*. Hosted by Michael Shermer and featuring James "The Amazing" Randi, Bill Nye the Science Guy, and Mr. Deity (Brian Dalton). Skeptics Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena.
http://shop.skeptic.com/merchant.mvc?Screen=SYMP&Store_Code=SS&Product_Code=symposium2011

Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- July 14-17: The Amazing Meeting 2011, Las Vegas, NV. An annual celebration of science, skepticism, and critical thinking, with James Randi, Richard Dawkins, Penn & Teller, Eugenie Scott, and many others. <http://www.amazingmeeting.com/>
- July 29-31: Secular Student Alliance, Annual Conference 2011, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. Speakers include Dan Barker, Greta Christina, PZ Myers, David Silverman, and others.
<http://www.secularstudents.org/2011con>

HSSB Contact Information

Officers:

President: Ron Kronenberg

967-0883

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

Secretary: Diane Krohn

569-5503

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

Treasurer: Neal Rosenthal

617-6188

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

Board Members at Large:

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

Newsletter Editor:

Ray Stone

<mailto:Editor@santabarbarahumanists.org>

Newsletter Deadline:

Deadline for submissions to the Secular Circular is Midnight, the last day of each month.

HSSB meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:30 pm, usually in the Patio Room of Vista del Monte, 3775 Modoc Rd., Santa Barbara. More information is available at our web site:

www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org 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, June 15, at 1:30pm, the **HSSB Book Club** meets at the home of **Dick and Judy Cousineau**, 505 Alegria Road (off Las Positas). Call 687-2371 if you need help. "Tear Down this Myth" by Will Bunch will be discussed.

Saturday, June 18, 1 PM. **Annual Summer Solstice Picnic!** Stow Grove Park, Goleta. Fun, games, food, drink, books for sale! Make reservations by June 10!

Sunday, June 25 (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.



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