



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

AUGUST 2014

August Program

Scott Bowman: The Supreme Court's 2013-2014 Term in Review: Is a New Era of Consensus Emerging?

In a year marked by several unanimous decisions and, overall, more agreement than disagreement among Justices on results, is it possible that the Supreme Court has entered new era of consensus building? Is ideological conflict diminishing, as some commentators have argued? A word of caution is in order. One cannot assume that when Justices vote the same way, they share the same reasoning. Unanimity can disguise divisions just as a 5-4 decision doesn't necessarily signal an ideological split. Each decision must be assessed on its own terms and explained with reference to its area of law. While the importance of consensus building should not be discounted, it might be that the most noteworthy developments of the 2013-14 term are in areas of longstanding disagreement. Indeed, in the midst of this apparent consensus, doctrinal changes spearheaded by the conservative activists on the Court will continue to radically reshape religious rights and campaign finance regulations for the foreseeable future.



Scott R. Bowman is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at California State University, Los Angeles. Currently the Acting Dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences at Cal State LA, he also served for several years as Chair of the Department of Political Science, and has been a member of the Board of Advisors for the Pat Brown Institute of Public Affairs since 2002. His teaching has been mainly in the areas of American constitutional law, jurisprudence, political theory, and American political thought. Dr. Bowman is the author of a book on legal, economic, and political dimensions of corporate power as well as numerous essays on diverse subjects, including media mergers and democracy, the Patriot Act, American political thought during the Progressive Era, regulation of international corporate mergers, and political speech in constitutional law. Dr. Bowman earned a B.A. in political science at the University of California at Berkeley and a Ph.D. in political science at UCLA.

When: Saturday, August 16th, 2014

Where: Faulkner Gallery, Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 East Anapamu St., Santa Barbara.

Time: Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Program begins at 3:00 p.m.

Donation: \$2 members/\$5 non-members

Dinner: China Pavilion, 1202 Chapala Street. \$25 includes tax and tip. RSVP by Friday, August 8th to Judy Fontana, judithannfontana@yahoo.com or 967-7911.

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

Activities

Judy Fontana

We have a special meal for you following the program on August 16th at the Faulkner Gallery. We will be dining at the China Pavilion, 1202 Chapala Street, on the corner of Anapamu Street, just a block from the Santa Barbara Public Library. The menu is egg roll and scallion pancake, beef with broccoli, General's chicken, sautéed mixed vegetables, vegetable soft noodles, and steamed white rice. The cost is \$25 which includes tax and tip. Cash bar. RESERVATIONS A MUST. Reservations must be made no later than August 8th. I need to have a minimum of 20 in order to reserve for a large number so please get your reservations in as soon as possible. RSVP to judithannfontana@yahoo.com or call Judy Fontana at 967-7911. See you there!

President's Column

Colin Gordon

What an interesting group of people we have in our Humanist Society! I am always interested to hear their life stories whenever I get a chance, to hear where they came from, not just geographically although that is interesting too, but how they came to be a humanist. Many of our members came from religious backgrounds and shed their early indoctrination to believe as we now do that mankind holds his destiny in his own hands. Some came from freethinking or atheist backgrounds and had no religious affiliations to shed. Whatever route they took, they came to the conclusion that there is no one up there to rely on and we have to take care of ourselves.

In some religious sects it is the custom for members of the congregation to "testify"; that is to make a statement during the service as to why they believe in whatever doctrine their church espouses. Not a bad idea; maybe we should give our members the chance to "untestify" to explain why they do not believe

in any such doctrines or, to put a more positive spin on it, why they believe that Humanism is the way to go. To get the ball rolling, I'll go first.

You could say it began when we used to visit my grandfather who was a tailor in Macduff, a fishing village in the north of Scotland. He was a devout member of the Plymouth Brethren, more correctly known simply as the Brethren but since the first meeting in England took place in Plymouth, that's how it got the name. That seemed rather an odd thing to do, as nearly everyone else went to the Kirk on the hill, which was the official Church of Scotland. Even more odd was that he was not content with the local chapter but walked several miles across the bridge over the River Deveron to Banff, where there was a chapter more to his liking. But to a small boy at that time, most adult behavior seemed rather odd. Then on to Aberdeen to visit an uncle who also turned out to be a devout Christian. He would preface every meal with a mini-sermon on the Creation and the great works of God, which I could have endured except that our dinner was getting cold in front of us.

At school in London, an all-boys school run on military lines as there was a war on at the time, during morning assembly we observed the rituals of the established Church of England - a Bible reading followed by hymns. I still have fond recollections of those hymns and especially of carols sung at Christmas time in spite of my atheism that was maturing at that time. I think it was learning about the world of science - physics, chemistry, biology etc -. that steered me in that direction. The ideas of reason and logic seemed to provide much more rational explanations of the bible stories than those the priests would have us believe.

My military service in the RAF began with boot camp, or square-bashing as it is called in England. It was a bitterly cold winter and after many hours of marching and arms drill we would be marched into a small warm room for

Padre's hour where we would be lectured on God's goodness. It was a welcome relief to all, and the result was quite predictable. Within ten minutes half the men were fast asleep, many snoring loudly. But the Padre took it with good humor.

Fast forwarding now through college, science degrees, marriage and family we come to our departure from the UK and arrival in the US, where we settled in Princeton, NJ, for four years. To our surprise we found that nearly everyone went to Church on Sunday, in contrast to the UK where the majority were, and still are, indifferent to religion. When I told an English friend about the Humanist Society he said that's like starting a Round Earth society. And so, fast forwarding again to Santa Barbara, here I am President of the Humanist Society. I thank you, the members, for honoring me with this position and I look forward to a good year including celebration of our 20th Anniversary in May 2015.

Satanists Get Serious About Challenging Anti-Abortion Laws

It's probably fair to say that the Satanic Temple is never going to have the mainstream traction of an organization like Planned Parenthood, but its members have nonetheless joined the fight for reproductive rights by launching a [campaign challenging coercive antiabortion counseling laws](#). But unlike other groups that have gone to court over these laws, the Temple is challenging mandatory counseling as a matter of faith.

According to Jex Blackmore, a member of the Satanic Temple ministry and head of the Detroit Satanic Temple chapter, the Temple saw an opportunity to take action after the Supreme Court issued its sweeping ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*. "Given the current state of things, given those dominant religious

voices that we're hearing right now, it is still infinitely better that a diversity of faiths and beliefs are respected and granted rights and privileges, rather than letting one set of beliefs co-opt the authority of the government," she told *Salon*.... See the rest of the story here:

http://www.salon.com/2014/07/30/this_isnt_a_joke_to_us_satanists_get_serious_about_challenging_antiabortion_laws/

Help Wanted:

AV Assistance for HSSB Meetings

HSSB needs a person or two or three for setting up and taking down the audio-visual equipment used for our monthly Saturday meetings at Vista Del Monte. The set up is not difficult, and we have several members who know the routine and can guide you through the set up initially. Please contact any member of the Board if you would be interested in helping out with this. Or, if you know someone who might be able and interested in doing the A-V set up, such as a City College or UCSB student, please let the Board know. HSSB would be willing to pay someone to do this task.



Christ Lutheran Church sign, located in Goleta. Photo by Robert Bernstein.

**July Program:
Mark Edward, Conflicted Medium
Ray Stone**

Our July speaker, Mark Edward, told us about his life as a practicing psychic and trained medium. Enthralled at an early age by his magician grandfather, he took up magic himself and before he was a teenager he was performing for schoolmates, friends and family.

Later, at art school, he studied performance art, but after learning too well the meaning of “starving artist,” he decided to try and make a career out of magic. After some years as a street magician, he joined the troupe at Hollywood’s Magic Castle.

Discovering that he was most fond of “mental magic,” Edward started doing seances as one of the Magic Castle’s mediums (or is it “media”?). As a side job, he worked the “900 lines,” a call-a-psychic nightly telephone network active between 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. A sample collection of calls he handled on this network are in his recent book, *Psychic Blues*.

A lifelong questioner, he became involved in the skeptical movement and began to lecture on psychic matters to that community. After 25 years at the Magic Castle (14 years of seances) he had had enough and left.

“About 15 years ago,” he says, “I became fed up with psychics,” mainly with TV psychics, who were at the time quite popular and apparently taking in huge sums of money. “People believe in mental magic. It makes sense, not like cutting a woman in half,” he says. “No matter how skeptical you are, everybody believes a little bit.”

Much of his time since then has been in educating the public about psychics’ techniques through lectures and the many books he has written. TV psychics he named were Theresa Caputo, Sylvia Browne, James Van Praagh, Kenny Kingston, Uri Geller, and John Edward.

He claims that most psychics, 85-90%, are outright charlatans; 5-7% are deluded schizophrenics; they believe they have their “spirit guides.” The rest are

compassionate, wise humans, like old Gypsy women, “incredibly crafty, they seem to know all about love and money.”



HSSB President, Colin Gordon (L), and speaker Mark Edward (R). Photo by Marian Shapiro.

He has high regard for his psychic friend Uri Geller, who he describes as “a real performer, a real charlatan, but we part company when he says he’s real.”

Where do psychics get their information? He points out that personal information is especially easy to get nowadays from social media once an audience member has supplied their name and credit card number to buy a ticket. An example:

Psychic: “I see a picture of baby clothes.”

Audience Member: “That’s funny, I just put up a picture on Facebook of baby clothes.”

“The real TV show villains are the editors,” says Edward, “who cut 4-6 hours of filming down to one hour by eliminating the misses and errors made by the psychic.”

What can we do about it? A skeptical audience member should react to a psychic’s error by raucous laughter: “Laugh as loud as you can to bring the audience’s attention to the error.”

When Edward stated that police psychics are all phony, that there has never been a conviction recorded due information obtained from a psychic,

he was confronted by loud laughter from a member of the audience, who claimed she's been a practicing psychic for 30 years! The difference of opinion was not resolved, and the meeting went on peacefully. One wonders if she had foreseen what he was going to say.

Edward described the time he and a group of debunkers attended a Sylvia Browne performance, at which as a selected audience member he enumerated her past failures and then faked a collapse, at which time no one came to his assistance. This episode can be viewed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=BradIE-Uloc

This and other videos can be viewed at Mark Edward's web site: <http://www.themarkedward.com/videos.html>

Exchange Between Mark Edward and an Audience Member

(Note: This email exchange occurred between a member of the audience at the July meeting, Vivian Browne, and the July speaker, Mark Edward. It has been edited for punctuation and content. -Ed.)

Dear Mr. Edward:

I came to your "Psychic Blues.." talk on Saturday July 19, 2014, given to the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara. I am neither a psychic nor a particular believer. As a former researcher and statistician, I tend toward empiricism and objectivity. I do, however, know that there is much unexplained in the universe - largely because we have neither the knowledge, the tools or the language to explain or measure everything (yet?). And, there are many highly credentialed and distinguished physicists, cosmologists and neuroscientists out there who would agree with that statement.

Further, I have had a few experiences of my own which seemed (personally) prophetic. Were they just lucky guesses, hallucinatory dreams, intuitive breakthroughs, or did I set about fulfilling my own prognostications (as in the "self-fulfilling prophesy")? The honest answer is: *I don't know*. But, more importantly, (for the purposes of how

you are generating an income) - NEITHER DO YOU! Not to a scientific certainty!

At the event, I asked a question as to what harm was caused by people believing in or wanting to believe in psychics or psychic phenomena (aside from the extremes of people being conned out of large sums of money, or being infamously told that a loved one was alive or dead). **The placebo effect is a well-known - and scientifically verified - phenomenon.**

You responded - actually made a point of saying - that people who say "what's the harm" were essentially ignorant of the facts because there really was a lot of harm committed. You went on to emphasize that, in fact - "**More harm than good**" was committed, - and cited the website *What'sstheharm.net*.

When I questioned whether the website contained scientifically verified, statistically sound information, you answered *unequivocally* "Yes."

So, I located the website, and here is what I found in reference to Psychics (the specific topic of your claim):

As a result of Psychics, they claim: 1315 *people* were harmed, as follows:

- Altogether less than 40 separate perpetrators were involved;
- Not all were exclusively psychic events - some included, for example, complementary/alternative medicine;
- 1000 were from claimed **exorcisms** by a *single group* of perpetrators. Further, exorcists are not usually considered to be psychics (In fact some/many Christians who believe in exorcism believe psychic phenomena to be the work of the devil);
- 128 were inconvenienced passengers who had to await the results of a bomb check after a tip from a "psychic." This occurred after 9/11/2001, when a bomb tip from *any* nutcase anywhere would have been checked;
- More than a couple were "Jane Doe" or "X" designated;

- Many more were unverifiable (in fact a couple had "more information" links that led to gambling websites!);
 - Even to get this many incidents, they were collected from all over the world, including Ghana, The Philippines, Cyprus, Hungary, Japan, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and more than a few from England. (Must one be reminded of the world population to consider the incidence of these "harmful" events).

The website makes absolutely no claim that more people were harmed than helped by Psychics. How could they? That would have taken a REAL survey.

This surely, then, cannot be your "evidence" that MORE people have been "harmed" than "not harmed" by psychics, even though you claimed it to be so?

Or is it possible that without accurate (or any) facts, you were actually setting out to belittle me and my *genuine* question in front of your audience -- in much the same way that you claim psychics attempt to belittle their skeptics and hecklers?

I am all for objective or even healthy skeptical inquiry, and I acknowledge that there are more than a few charlatans out there. But to make statistical claims (which "more" is) - you should have the (scientific) proof to back it up. Otherwise, you are functioning as no less a charlatan than those you are claiming to debunk!

Sincerely, Vivian Browne

Mark Edward's response:

Nice how you sidestepped the thrust of my lecture with your comment:

"(aside from the extremes of people being conned out of large sums of money, or being infamously told that a loved one was alive or dead)"

That's what it's about. The extremes.

You and your psychic friend missed the entire point or chose to attack from the get-go.

Either way, I stand by everything I said.

As I mentioned, this is "in my experience," which has been chronicled in books, on internationally televised investigative reports, through the work of the James Randi Educational Foundation, The Center for Inquiry and in my work with *Skeptic* magazine where I have been on the Editorial Board since its inception in 1992.

"Mr. Edward is staking his claim to belong to a very special subcategory of magicians and mediums: those who both perform their crafts and debunk them. From Harry Houdini to James (the Amazing) Randi and the duo of Penn and Teller, there is a long tradition of magicians who believe that it is their duty to inculcate skepticism in the audience." - Mark Oppenheimer, *New York Time*

There are no such things as psychic powers or communicating with the dead.

If there is, prove it.

Vivian Browne's response:

And, interesting - given your response - how you chose to conveniently sidestep the actual issue about which I wrote you!

If the thrust of your lecture was the "extremes," then you should have limited yourself to that. Instead of tarnishing all with your broad brushstrokes. And then defended that stance with non-existent facts and referenced invalid statistics. Neither I, nor "my psychic friend" for one instance questioned the veracity of the *extremes* you cited. I (we) had no issue with the charlatans that you uncovered.

For me, my late ex-husband was a magician, so I understand how one can mislead and be misled.

More interesting to me, however, is that you still "stand by everything that you said," even after I have pointed out verifiable errors in your claims.

At the end of your email you challenge me to prove "it" (psychic powers or communicating with the dead.) Of course, I cannot; nor do I have any desire or need to - I do not practice it, nor am I making a living from it!

You, however, ARE making money from both claiming they do not exist - and entertaining people with the possibility that they might. SO, I CHALLENGE YOU - You prove that they do NOT exist. (Beyond the "extremes" you cite)

Of course, I know (as you should) that scientific claims of absolute proof - in either direction - are not possible. There will always be apocryphal stories, or even individual case studies that will show "evidence." NONE rise to a scientific certainty (except where downright fraud is uncovered).

HSSB Members: What do you think? Send your comments/discussion to:
Editor@santabarbarahumanists.org.

Letters to the Editor

Open Letter to the Board and to the Membership of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara:

The Solstice party was a pleasure and I have bragging rights on a twenty dollar Starbuck's gift certificate that I won at the memory game. Competitors are pictured in the news letter at the memory table. Good picture, good newsletter, we look good. Let's play more trivial games!! Yes!!

As a result of our book donations after the Solstice party, I took the paperback books to the Santa Barbara County Jail and donated them to the Inmate Services Department. It is now my goal to donate more books to the jail, so I made some inquiries. I also gave them my copy of the Humanist Society's newsletter, with my address and phone number. Books that were worn out, torn, or marked up were not accepted.

Books donated to the jail's recreational library should be paperback books in good condition from reputable publishers. They should have no previous owner's names or gift type notes written inside the books. The owner's name can be erased or blacked out in most cases. There

should be no underlines or page notes. They don't want pornography or anything racially provocative.

The officers I spoke to said that inmates like to read westerns and murder mysteries by Louis L'Amour, Danielle Steel, Michael Crichton, etc. The inmates can borrow 2 books a week from their recreational library.

Our donation included classics, screenplays, puzzle games, biographies, and a yoga book. I look forward to making our next donation.

Thank you.

--MadMX, anonymous white lady also known as Madeline Moreaux.

Humanism vs. Unitarianism Rev. Charlie Archibald

When I was forced to miss the recent Annual Picnic of the HSSB because it had to be moved to SUNDAY, my day of obligation to the Unitarians as a Community Minister of the UU Fellowship of San Luis Obispo, I thought of the role of each position in my life, and wonders about others' perceptions in their lives.

I felt perhaps comparing the two liberal groups would be an interesting exercise for others, although I knew in advance that it would be far from the last word on the subject, perhaps rather opening up the well-known can of worms, if only because everyone has a different perception of both of these, very much the blind man describing the elephant. You think not? You feel perfectly clear on them both? We shall see.

And why do I presume to address the subject that so often comes up in defining us? Because I have been a Unitarian Minister for 54 years, even before they merged with the Universalists in 1961, both having been theistic religions, although not Christian. The Unitarians had not been able to find reference to the Trinity in the Bible, and the Universalists had believed in Universal Salvation. Since the merger, they were supposed to place no theological test for membership, but this was often

preached far more than it was practiced, especially by the Humanist majority. I could feel for their dilemma, having left the Christian clergy myself, carrying a negative agenda toward the presumed TRUTH.

As for the Humanists, I have been President of the Humanist Society of New Mexico and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Humanist Association, as well as being Secretary of the Chapter Assembly and Ministerial Division.

Many members of either group would say that there is no difference between the Humanists and the UUs; I resist the long name which today only confuses people as to who we are. This applies to people who are committed to both, others who are comfortable with the position of both but see no reason to join the other, and the much larger group who are in line with both but see no need to affiliate with either.

If so far this has only been confusing to you, let me state the clear difference between the two:

A HUMANIST DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ANYTHING BEING SUPERNATURAL!

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ACCEPTS ALL PEOPLE, WITH THEIR BELIEFS!

These simple statements can be supported by the policy statements of both professional organizations, although agreed to by few members. I know too that you have heard as I have, the exact opposite, that, "I AM A HUMANIST, BUT I DO BELIEVE IN GOD," and "THE UUS ARE A HUMANIST ORGANIZATION." As fictitious as both of these are, I can guess their basis. The Humanists say that based on all the evidence that has been put before them; enough to convince the majority of Americans that these irrational, illogical, and completely unscientific beliefs are THE TRUTH, they will still allow the possibility that some all powerful entity who keeps track of them would be desirable enough to say MAYBE ! And of course there are Humanists humble enough to acknowledge that the believers in thousands of beliefs around the world, 2/3 NOT Christian, offer their believers great psychological comfort as they face the challenges of this world

and the hope of what might follow other than NOTHING. As compassionate human beings we might even question whether we would be doing them any great favor to convince them that they are deluded, compared to what we can offer in exchange for their beliefs.

Yes, I am aware of the UUs who have formerly identified themselves as HUUmanists, probably the most pathetic of the "affiliate" groups. I have been a member of it for many years, as they keep crying about being persecuted, when THEY ARE THE MAJORITY! Why? Because they have been confronted with their hypocrisy in SAYING they accept everyone WITH THEIR BELIEFS, while mumbling under their breath, "Except for the Christians." It is not an easy job for a UU Minister to please everyone, and it still takes the braver ones to use the word GOD from the pulpit, but fifty years ago that would serve as their resignation notice. How does one address a congregation made up of many faiths? How about not implying in any way that the THEOLOGICAL beliefs of the Minister should be any more THE TRUTH than any Lay person, but rather that they can follow some guide like their SEVEN PRINCIPLES which say nothing about theology, but a lot about a positive contributions to others, in the style of Golden Rule, containing no theology but a lot of practical advice on making this a better world, which the other religions have just made things worse, as is all too clear in the news of the day. I don't think the Humanists would disagree with the UU's on this.

I hope something in this has been helpful to you, if only to see that this is a much more difficult a topic than you might have thought, EXCEPT that when I am asked this distinction I usually start with taking a big breath and think, "Well, here I go again. I hope I will be more successful than the last time I was asked, as I couldn't seem to get past their "But what do you believe about GOD ?"

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 Making his rounds of Heaven, St. Peter is about to pass God's office when he notices the Supreme Deity hunched over his desk, weeping. "Dear Lord," Peter exclaims, "what's the matter?" "It's impossible," God sobs. "I've fallen in love with an atheist, and she doesn't know I exist."

## Non-HSSB Events of Interest

### Upcoming Events in California:

- August 10: Rob Boston: *Religious Freedom: What It Is and What It Is Not*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles.  
[http://www.centerforinquiry.net/LA/event/s/religious\\_freedom\\_what\\_it\\_is\\_and\\_what\\_it\\_is\\_not/](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/LA/event/s/religious_freedom_what_it_is_and_what_it_is_not/)
- August 17: Greta Christina: *Coming Out Atheist*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles and Costa Mesa.  
[http://www.centerforinquiry.net/la/events/coming\\_out\\_atheist/](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/la/events/coming_out_atheist/)
- September 21: Ed Buckner and Jim Underdown: *Letter to a Free Country*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles.  
[http://www.centerforinquiry.net/LA/event/s/letter\\_to\\_a\\_free\\_country/](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/LA/event/s/letter_to_a_free_country/)
- October 24-25: Freedom From Religion Foundation, 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention. Los Angeles.  
<http://ffrf.org/outreach/convention>

### Upcoming Events Outside of California:

- August 7-10: Atheist Alliance of America Annual Conference. Speakers include Steven Pinker, Richard Carrier, Rebecca Vitsmun, and many others. Seattle, WA.  
<http://www.aaseattle2014.com/>

Creationist Answer Wheel



### HSSB Contact Information

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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](http://www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org). At meetings, a donation of \$2 from members and \$5 from non-members is appreciated. First-time visitors are welcome on a complimentary basis.

**Annual HSSB membership dues** are \$36 for a single person, \$60 for a couple, and \$100 (or more) to become a Society Supporter. One may subscribe to our newsletter only for an annual fee of \$20.

To join HSSB, please send your contact information and a check for your membership dues to HSSB, PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, Attn: Mary Wilk. For membership information contact Mary Wilk at 967-3045, or [mwilk@cox.net](mailto:mwilk@cox.net).

Copies of this newsletter are posted on the HSSB website. Photos are on the website and available via the link

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Humanist.Society.of.Santa.Barbara>

See us on Facebook::



## HSSB Calendar

**Tuesday, August 12: Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday, August 16: Monthly Meeting :** Scott Bowman: Supreme Court Decisions. **This meeting will be at the Faulkner Gallery**, Santa Barbara Public Library, 40 E. Anapamu St. Talk starts at 3:00 p.m. Dinner after the talk at a location

**Sunday, August 31 :** (and the last Sunday of every month), 10 a.m., **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.

**Tuesday, September 16 : Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday September 20: Monthly Meeting:** Ross Blocher speaking on the paranormal; the Patio Room at Vista Del Monte. Meet at 2:30 p.m. for socializing and light refreshments. Talk starts at 3:00 p.m. Dinner after the talk at Vista Del Monte.



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