



# The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

[www.SBHumanists.org](http://www.SBHumanists.org)

MARCH 2017

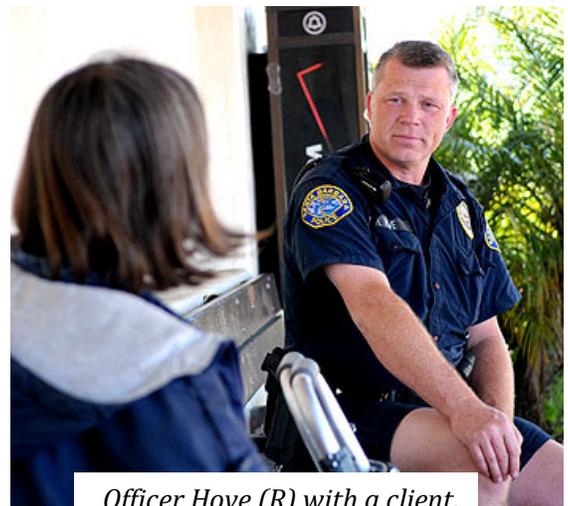
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## March Program:

### Officer Keld Hove:

### Restorative Policing in Santa Barbara

To quote Officer Hove: "There are many shades, colors, and circumstances of homelessness that don't need to be addressed by law enforcement. There is a demographic within the homeless population that have a lot of contact with police due to their lifestyle – alcohol, drugs, and mental health. Many laws prohibit this behavior; that which is criminal needs to be curbed. But that which is lifestyle does not need to be punitively dealt with by law enforcement. We take lifestyle crimes and make them a catalyst for getting them where they should be and where they would rather be."



*Officer Hove (R) with a client.*

Officer Hove will detail how the police department handles interactions with people suffering from combinations of mental illness, drug/alcohol addiction, and homelessness.

Officer Hove has been an Officer with the Santa Barbara Police Department for 19 years. During this time, he has worked various details such as Patrol, Beat Coordinator, Tactical Patrol Force, Field Training Officer, Crisis & hostage negotiator, and in his current role as a Restorative Policing Officer.

**When:** Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Where:** Patio Room, Vista del Monte (**Park ONLY in spaces marked "VDM"**).

**Time:** Meet at 2:30pm for socializing and light refreshments provided by HSSB. Program begins at 3:00 pm

**Donation:** \$2 members/\$5 non-members. Students with ID are free.

**Optional Buffet Dinner:** Dinner buffet at Vista del Monte. \$25 includes tax and tip. RSVP to Nan Cisney by 12 noon on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: [cisneynan@gmail.com](mailto:cisneynan@gmail.com)

**For More Info:** Call 805-769-4772 (769-HSSB)

## Activities

Remember to reserve your place for the buffet dinner following the Saturday program on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The menu is tossed green salad with assorted dressings, assorted rolls, roast pork loin, whitefish with red bell pepper pesto, bulgur pilaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, cauliflower, and assorted desserts. Beverages include red and white wine, tea, coffee, and lemonade. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes tax, tip and wine. RSVP to [cisneynan@gmail.com](mailto:cisneynan@gmail.com) no later than 12 noon, Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. You can submit your payment to Nan before 3 p.m. on Saturday, before the program begins. If you are paying by check, make it payable to Humanist Society. **Please note:** It is very important to RSVP for the dinner and then attend it if you have signed up for it; otherwise, HSSB has to pay for no-shows.

## Welcome New Members!

Charles Whitney, Goleta

### President's Column: 7 Mountains: Part 2 Roger Schlueter

Last month I discussed the movement, for lack of a better word, that seeks to make America a Christian nation governed by Christian rules and overseen by exclusively Christian leaders. I discussed some of the organizations involved in this movement; in this second installment I want to shine the spotlight on a few of the people involved and respond to the important question, "So what?"

Lance Wallnau is probably typical of the extremely conservative evangelical Christian. He does not associate with any Christian sect but rather pushes his version of making a personal connection with god. For example, you can attend his next Dream Trip for the low,

low price of \$1,500 not including all your own expenses.

His connection to the 7 Mountains movement is explicit as shown in this figure below. He has been very vocal in his support for Donald Trump but often displays his support in ways that reveal his extreme religious views. For example, he noted earlier this month that, "The spirit of witchcraft was in the Oval Office, it was about to intensify to a higher level demon principality, and God came along with a wrecking ball (meaning Trump) and shocked everyone, the church cried out for mercy and bam — God knocked that spirit out." He believes that demons, the devil, angels and other-worldly beings are real and control events here on Earth. He also believes America's destiny is controlled by god and thus we should be an overtly Christian nation.



David Barton also believes that America is a Christian nation and is known for citing the bible as proof. He claims to be a historian but has no formal education in that field (or, for that matter, any area of history) but is known in the skeptical world as the original "Liar for Jesus," a phrase which denotes someone who makes bogus - and sometimes outrageous - claims in the service of a Christian America. An example is his claim that much of the Constitution is drawn directly from the Bible.

Barton is far more politically active than Wallnau and spends much of his time promoting his extreme views. Ordinarily he could be considered just another Christian right-winger, but the fact that he has the ear of several congresspersons makes him dangerous. At the invitation of Republicans, he has spoken to meetings of conservative Republicans on his distorted, pseudo-historical origins of the Constitution.

Other names that you might be familiar with include Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Jr., Cindy Jacobs, Jim Bakker, Dennis Prager and many others. I once attended a lecture by Prager at Westmont College. He began by asking three questions: 1) Was America founded as a Christian nation, 2) Is America a Christian nation, and 3) Should America be a Christian nation. His answers were, of course, “yes” to all three questions.

If you have not heard much, if anything, about these people and the organizations they support, don't be surprised. In the past they have been relegated to the far fringes of conservative Christianity, regarded as kooks even by mainstream Christians. But that dramatically changed the moment Donald Trump announced his Presidential candidacy. Sure, he emboldened other fringe activists such as xenophobe, misogynists and the like, but less noticed was that he gave visibility, credibility and influence to these abhorrent notions of a Christian America.

Worse still is that these extreme ideas did not fade back into obscurity when Trump's campaign ended. Rather, they have become established at the highest levels of the federal government. While I don't think Trump is a Christian Reconstructionist (I don't even think he's a Christian), those around him are and, as we know, since Trump seems to be pretty rudderless when it comes to national policy, the ideas of a Christian America will not be relegated to the sidelines.

Thus, the answer to the “So What” question is that fringe ideas espoused by the far right have moved into positions of power, and that should trouble all Humanists. Next month, I'll explore in more detail how these ideas might play out in a Trump Administration.

### **Wanted: Newsletter Editor!** **Diane Krohn**

It's time to get a new editor for *The Secular Circular*. My last newsletter as editor will be June, 2017. Don't be afraid to consider taking this position – I will be available for assistance during the transition period and several other former editors are available for help and suggestions. Our newsletter is an important communication tool for our community and members. You can help with this by providing useful, thought-provoking and even humorous information for discussion and contemplation.

Interested? Contact me at [djkrohn@cox.net](mailto:djkrohn@cox.net) or talk to me at any HSSB Saturday meeting.



**February Speaker:  
Jim Stubchaer:  
Water History of Santa Barbara  
County  
Robert Bernstein**

*(Photos and slides courtesy of Jim Stubchaer and Robert Bernstein)*

Jim Stubchaer came to Santa Barbara County in 1958 to work on flood control. He was trained as a civil engineer.

Santa Barbara County lies within the Central Coast Watershed, one of nine hydrologic regions in California.

[http://swt.org/hssb/2017-0218-water-stubchaer/01-v3\\_slide0054\\_image004.jpg](http://swt.org/hssb/2017-0218-water-stubchaer/01-v3_slide0054_image004.jpg)

Prior to 1997, the Central Coast Watershed was the only watershed not connected to any other watershed. In 1997, we were connected to the State Water Project (SWP) via the 42 mile Santa Ynez Extension that ends at Lake Cachuma.

Major rivers in Santa Barbara County are: Santa Maria, Cuyama, Sisquoc, San Antonio and Santa Ynez. We also have a network of South Coast Streams that are small but important locally.

We have four major dams. Jameson, Gibraltar and Bradbury in the south county and Twitchell in the north. Twitchell is the only one with space allocation for flood control. Each dam is associated with a reservoir.

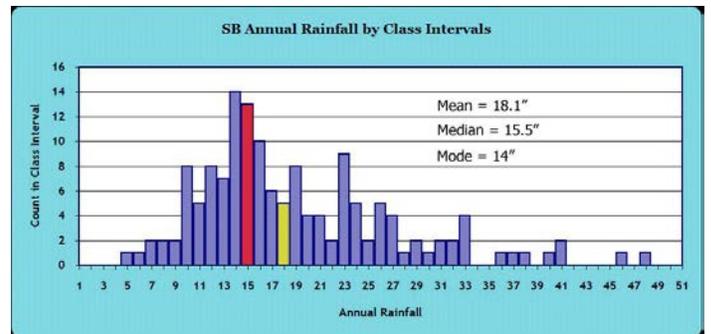


As big and visible as these dams and reservoirs may be, groundwater basins actually provide 75% of the water we use. Most water in the county is used for agriculture. The Cuyama groundwater basin is in severe overdraft by agricultural use. There is little hope of putting it back in balance.

Stubchaer showed us a rainfall graph from 1868-2015. Across the bar graph was a red line at 14 inches. That line represents how much rain it takes before any water goes into storage in the groundwater basin or into reservoirs. It is set by what is called the evapotranspiration rate. Evapotranspiration is the process of water transfer from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces and by transpiration from plants.

[http://swt.org/hssb/2017-0218-water-stubchaer/04-slide0047\\_image053.jpg](http://swt.org/hssb/2017-0218-water-stubchaer/04-slide0047_image053.jpg)

Average rainfall in Santa Barbara County is 18.1". But in most years there is less or more than that amount, ranging from 4-46". All of our water supply comes from high rain years. That is why we must have storage reservoirs.



Crop irrigation in Santa Barbara County from groundwater wells began around 1900. But over-drafting water from ever deeper wells caused accumulation of salts in groundwater, and in some cases seawater intrusion, making the water unusable for agriculture in places.

By the late 1890's, it was realized there was not enough local water for local needs. Joseph B. Lippincott was hired for a study. In 1896 the City of Santa Barbara proposed a dam at the Juncal site and a tunnel. From 1902-1913 there were various proposals for dams on the Upper Santa Ynez River. These were not built at that time.



*HSSB President Roger Schlueter (L) and our February speaker Jim Stubchaer (R). Photo by Robert Bernstein.*

But in 1918-1920, Gibraltar Dam and the Mission Tunnel were constructed. The Mission Tunnel mined water directly out of the mountains in addition to conveying it from Gibraltar. Lippincott warned correctly that the Gibraltar Reservoir would be subject to siltation.

In 1928, the Juncal site was sold to Montecito. Two years later the Juncal Dam was completed by the Montecito Water District and took water out through the Doulton Tunnel.

The 1930 Gin Chow case confirmed water rights for Santa Barbara and south coast lands outside the area of origin. Gin Chow claimed Santa Barbara had no rights to water from the Santa Ynez River. But the California Supreme Court ruled that the cities could take water that was excess to the needs of the Santa Ynez River area.

In 1938 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (BoS) authorized water supply studies for the South Coast. This was led by Supervisor Bradbury. The study concluded that groundwater levels were "dropping at an alarming rate." There was no sufficient water supply from the coastal area. Gibraltar was inadequate for future needs. And additional supplies would have to come from the Santa Ynez River. They recommended raising Gibraltar Dam to compensate for loss of capacity by siltation. This project was completed in 1949. And a new dam was recommended at the Tequepis site on the Santa Ynez River. This was not built.

In 1940, the BoS asked the Bureau of Reclamation to study countywide water needs. In 1944 the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) recommended seven dams: Three on the Santa Ynez River: Camuesa (upstream of Gibraltar), Tequepis or Cachuma, and Santa Rosa; one dam on Salsipuedes Creek; two dams on the Cuyama River: Vaquero (now Twitchell) and Cuyama Debris Reservoir; and one dam on the Sisquoc River at the Round Corral site. Only two of these were built: Cachuma and Vaquero (Twitchell).

The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) was formed to contract with the US Government (Bureau of Reclamation) for these projects. The Bureau proposed a 275,000 Acre-Foot (AF) reservoir at Cachuma. Local interests thought it was too large and expensive. They saved \$2 million by reducing the plan to 205,000 AF-- most unfortunate! We could have used that extra water capacity, as well as room for inevitable silt. At that time, 1 AF was about enough for two households. Our more efficient water use today stretches that to 3-4 households.

From 1950-1953, the entire dam, tunnel and South Coast Conduit were built. Stubchaer looks back fondly on those times when projects could be built so quickly. But then there was

little rain from 1953-1958 and those who built it were ridiculed. Then in April 1958, Cachuma filled and spilled. The dam was renamed for Supervisor Bradbury in 1971.

The Tecolote Tunnel carried the Cachuma water through the mountains to the coast and was very difficult to build. It was very hot inside the tunnel, methane gas entered the tunnel and there was shifting hard rock. Workers had to be brought in to work in "bathtubs" of cool water, fully clothed, so they would not overheat! The project was so difficult that the first contractor went bankrupt. But the tunnel was completed and we use it to this day.

Cachuma now holds just 187,000 AF due to silting. And steelhead trout restoration will take a lot of water. The safe yield of Cachuma will likely be lower in the future.

In 1960, Bob Edmonston was hired by the Water Agency to determine future needs. He estimated an additional 60,000 AF would be needed. State Water was seen as one solution to the long term shortfall of water in our area.

It was a difficult project to sell. Some opponents claimed that the years when we would most need water would be exactly those years when State Water would fall short. Stubchaer was invited to lunch by *Cadillac Desert* author Marc Reisner. Reisner said if San Joaquin Valley farmers would stop growing alfalfa, there would be plenty of water for urban users. Stubchaer asked him how this would help drought-stricken Santa Barbara, as there was no way to transport the water here.

More important was the influence of slow-growth or anti-growth advocates. Lack of water was one of the few ways to limit growth. As a result, voters rejected connecting to the State Water Project in 1979. But it was later approved in 1991 elections for 11 of 14 Santa Barbara County water purveyors.

In 1997 the Coastal Aqueduct was completed, which brought water to Cachuma from the State Water Project. The value of having a diversified water portfolio has been demonstrated in the last two years, when water from the State Aqueduct was the only flow into Cachuma.



Stubchaer went on to talk a bit about the politics of the Sacramento River Delta. He was up for appointment to the State Water Resource Control Board, but was getting resistance from slow-growth legislators and from the fishing people. Stubchaer was twice confirmed by the State Senate. In fact, the Board works by rules of evidence and sworn testimony, so there were few Board conflicts.

In general, there are competing interests regarding water policy: Environmental and Fishing Interests, Municipal and Industrial Users, and Agricultural Users. Any one of the three has the power to delay or stop large water projects.

Stubchaer also answered questions, offering more information. Evaporation from Cachuma can be as much as 18,000 AF which is quite a bit and has no practical solution. He also emphasized the need for water conservation as essential to water policy.

Stubchaer invited us to check out water information updates on the County web site.

Here <https://ra.in.cosbpw.net/home.php> you can get real time rainfall data as well as reservoir capacity.

*Note to interested readers: You can listen to Jim's talk at the HSSB website: <http://www.santabarbarahumanists.org/article/10213-audio-of-jim-stubchaer-water-history-feb-2017>*

*You can also read Robert Bernstein's write up with more slides at [edhat.com: http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?nid=182014](http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?nid=182014)*

## **On The Hill: AHA Holds Johnson Amendment Briefings**

**Matthew Bulgur**

*(Excerpted from [TheHumanist.com](http://TheHumanist.com), February 1, 2017)*

Yesterday, the American Humanist Association, along with co-sponsor the Center for Freethought Equality, held briefings in both the US House and Senate to discuss the Johnson Amendment, and why repealing this law would spell disaster for both the separation of church and state and American democracy in general. Speaking at this event were Amanda Tyler from the Baptist Joint Committee, Jennifer Ahearn from Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, and Ron Millar of the Freethought Equality Fund PAC. Attendees included staff of many congressional offices...

The Johnson Amendment refers to a change in the US tax code in 1954 that prohibited houses of worship and other 501(c)(3) charitable organizations from participating in campaign politics while receiving preferential tax status. (Under the amendment these organizations are

free to participate in campaign politics if they give up their tax-exempt status.)...

Unfortunately, President Trump and his religious right allies in Congress have promised to repeal the Johnson Amendment...

But what exactly does a repeal of the Johnson Amendment mean?

...Frighteningly, political donations to churches, which would eventually be given to candidates or causes, would become tax-deductible, unlike other forms of political giving...

Churches and other houses of worship would also be able to endorse candidates from the pulpit, and tie their endorsement to a religious imperative in order to sway their parishioners. Doing so would not threaten their privileged tax status, whereas today such actions, as a result of the Johnson Amendment, could result in a loss of that tax-free status.

But that's not all. Donations to churches for political ends would be anonymous, unlike most other forms of political giving. And while most 501(c) groups must file Form 990 tax returns that provide some information about the group and its activities, churches are exempt from that reporting requirement. As a result, their political spending would be nearly impossible to track...

Essentially, if the Johnson Amendment is repealed, churches will become the most efficient means to make political contributions. Donors will be anonymous, and they'll be able to deduct their political donations from their taxes (unlike any other form of political giving). Churches won't face oversight from the IRS and Federal Election Commission like other political committees do....

*Read the entire article here:*

[https://thehumanist.com/voices/on\\_the\\_hill/hill-aha-holds-johnson-amendment-briefings](https://thehumanist.com/voices/on_the_hill/hill-aha-holds-johnson-amendment-briefings)

## Beyond Trump Robert Bernstein

Beyond all of the shock, hurt and pain of the election of Trump is the fact that our side needs a strong, clear, unified positive message. A visionary message of the world that we want and how we are going to get there. Far more visionary even than Bernie Sanders, who “just” offered free health care, free college, a working infrastructure, a clean environment and a peaceful foreign policy. After all, most other industrialized countries have been doing that for years.

No, our side needs something really “Great!” as Trump said. It is about 50 years since we have rallied for such a unified positive vision.

My model of a great unifying vision? That vision I grew up with as a child watching *Star Trek* on television. A vision of a future with such abundance that no one worries anymore about inequality, let alone about basic human needs. Personal material wealth becomes meaningless and pointless when anything you want can be manufactured essentially for free.

Instead, *Star Trek* offered a future where people are free to pursue true fulfillment in whatever may be their passion. The central theme was a massive investment in collective efforts of science and exploration. Exactly the point that our January speaker, Marc Rayman, made about the NASA Dawn mission that he works on.

*Star Trek* showed that the positive collective vision is important. Yes, we need peace, love and unity. Yes, we need food, housing, education, health care, transportation and energy for everyone. All done in a manner that is sustainable in an environment conducive for all life.

But that is the “no-brainer” stuff! I think we can

dream much bigger! When we do so, we will offer our own Great vision that cannot be stopped by anyone. We better start soon! The next election will be here sooner than you know it!

## ***American Dreams:*** **A Staged Reading of a Play** **by Studs Terkel**

A Pulitzer Prize-winning author, broadcaster, historian and actor, Studs Terkel was known and loved for his oral histories of common Americans. In *American Dreams*, Terkel and his stage adaptor Peter Frisch, capture a colorful cross-section of America through one-on-one interviews with wildly diverse personalities including a cynical Miss America, an angry Native American, a happy farmer, KKK leader, celebrities Ted Turner and Arnold Schwarzenegger, and more.

Incorporating hardened cynics and hopeful optimists, the interviews create an American tapestry that delivers surprising honesty and candor. Taken together, these characters create a moving theatrical experience that is sometimes disturbing, frequently funny — but always deeply felt.

HSSB member **Meredith McMinn** is one of the featured actors in the play. There will be two performances only, on March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Alhecama Theater, 914 Santa Barbara Street. Tickets are purchased at the door via donation.

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“I am a humanist, which means, in part, that I have tried to behave decently without expectations of rewards or punishments after I am dead.”

---Kurt Vonnegut, author

## Non-HSSB Events of Interest

### Upcoming Events in California:

- March 5: Judith Freeman: *The Latter Days: The Case Mormon Influence in America Now*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/la/events/the-latter-days-3.5.17/>
- March 19: Prof. Leo Braudy: *Shaping Fear: A Brief History of the Monstrous*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/la/events/shaping-fear-a-brief-history-of-the-monstrous-3.19.17/>
- March 26: Dr. Lawrence Krauss: *The Greatest Story Ever Told...So Far: Why Are We Here?* Skeptics Society Science Salon #11, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/the-greatest-story-ever-told-so-far/>
- April 23: Dr. Andrew Shtulman: *Scienceblind: Why Our Intuitive Theories About the World Are So Often Wrong*. Skeptics Society Science Salon #12, Pasadena. <http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/scienceblind-why-intuitive-theories-about-the-world-are-often-wrong/>

**I hate those people who  
knock on your door and tell  
you how you need to be  
"saved" or you'll "burn"  
Stupid firemen.**

### HSSB Contact Information

#### Officers:

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Diane Krohn

David Echols

Pat Ward

Colin Gordon

Mary Wilk

#### Newsletter Editor:

Diane Krohn

[djkrohn@cox.net](mailto:djkrohn@cox.net)

#### 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. Students are free with a Student ID.

**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 [mwilk@cox.net](mailto:mwilk@cox.net).

For any information about HSSB, call 805-769-4772.

Copies of this newsletter are posted on the HSSB website.

See us on Facebook





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

### **HSSB Calendar**

**Tuesday March 14: Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday March 18: Monthly Meeting:** Officer Keld Hove of the Santa Barbara Police Dept. will speak on restorative policing in Santa Barbara; 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. Optional buffet dinner after the talk at Vista del Monte.

**Tuesday April 11 : Board Meeting:** 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

**Saturday April 15: Monthly Meeting:** Dr. Ali Rizvi will talk on Secularism, Science, and Muslim Reform. Location to be announced later. Meet at 2:30 p.m. for socializing. Talk starts at 3:00 p.m. Dinner after the talk to be determined.