



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

DECEMBER 2017



Join Us For:

WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY

At CODY'S CAFÉ, 4898 Hollister Ave, Santa Barbara, CA
93111 (near Turnpike & Hollister)

Come celebrate and join your fellow humanists for a wonderful dinner, sparkling wine and a repast to satisfy all palates.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 5:30 PM

BUFFET MENU: Sparkling wines with appetizers.



4 ENTREE OPTIONS: Sirloin, Salmon, Chicken or vegetarian selection.
SALAD, SIDE DISHES, CHOCOLATE MOUSSE AND FLAN DESSERT.

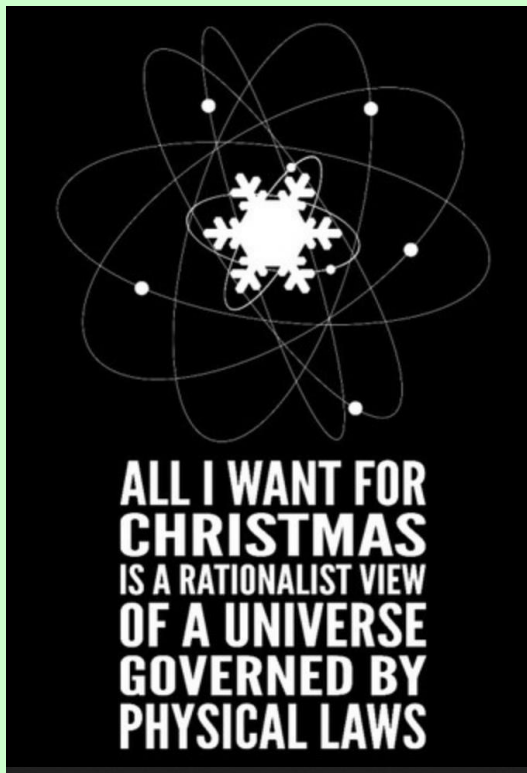
Coffee, tea, soft drinks included. Extra charge for wine or drinks by the glass.

An all-inclusive bargain at just \$25.00.

TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

Please mail your check made out to HSSB for
\$25.00 to: Nancy Cisney,
649 Verde Mar #E, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

No payments will be accepted at the door.
Reservations accepted until Wed. Dec. 13.
Cody's Café has a 40 person maximum so
please reserve today. We will fill up fast!



The HSSB Secular Circular -- December 2017

St. Raphael's Church Bulletin Declares "Secularism is Alive and Well and Thriving" and "Secularism is diabolical." HSSB President Responds.

[Editor's note: A visiting relative showed me St. Raphael's weekly church bulletin, impressed with the size of the bulletin, the breadth of featured participation activities, and its bi-lingual articles. The "Pastor's Corner" (analogous to our "President's Column"), written by Rev. Msgr. Jon F.

Majarucon, addressed the topic of Secularism.

I found it interesting to read what my Catholic neighbors are being told about Secularism and how it is being contextualized and literally demonized within the local Catholic community. The Pastor's column is reprinted below in its entirety followed by our President's Column response on the following page.]

Pastor's Corner

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. Americans do not relate well to kings. In 1776 we officially estranged ourselves from any kind of oppressive monarchy. We Americans like to think of ourselves as "fiercely independent" and tolerate no one person wielding power over us and telling us what to do. Because of that the very title "Christ the King" can be a major noise factor for Christians. The Feast day itself is not very old. It was begun in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. He was essentially making an adamant statement against Secularism. 92 years later, Secularism is alive and well and thriving. Too many Catholics have bought into it. They tell me, "Oh Father, I am a spiritual person, not religious". *What the heck is that supposed to mean?* (It's a cop-out e.g. they substitute an hour of prayer for 5 seconds of happy thoughts). **For many Catholics organized religion is oppressive. Participation in the Mass and Sacraments is an inconvenience:** "I can obtain God's grace through other means." "I'm a nice guy and don't cause any trouble. That's enough, is it not?" "No priest, deacon, bishop, Pope or King tells me what to do." Left to their own designs, Catholics have created very self-centered egotistical sphere around themselves. Satan delights in that. Secularism is diabolical because it is subtle, insidious, reasonable and oh-so-selfish. *Our lives are created for a most noble purpose: the assistance and betterment of the lives of our brothers and sisters by leading them to Jesus.* Christ is our King, a king who has made life so much more wonderful for his subjects and encourages his beloved to go out into the kingdom and do the same. Unlike a secular king who wields all power, our King, Jesus Christ has **empowered us to do his bidding**. As we enter a NEW Church year (2018), I pray you become loyal and faithful subjects of our most wonderful King: Jesus Christ. Life is not about you, rather, it's about you *leading people to Jesus Christ our King*.

- Rev. Msgr. Jon F. Majarucon, St. Raphael Church bulletin, November 26, 2017



St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Church, founded in 1896, belongs to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

St. Raphael's school educates more than 300 local students in grades K-8.



President's Column

On Life's Purpose: Response to the *Pastor's Corner on Secularism*

By Roger Schlueter

The Pastor's short commentary neatly divides itself into two distinct parts. The first part ends with the sentence that begins "Left to their own designs..." The first part left me slightly amused and I felt a tug of kinship with Majarucon. The second part found that kinship rapidly falling away as he advocated for a life purpose that I find repugnant.

Let's begin, like Majarucon, with the Feast of Christ the King. Knowing nothing about this feast I turned to Wikipedia for some information. The information provided is correct but left out a piece regarding when that feast takes place that somewhat bemused me. It occurs on the final Sunday of "Ordinary Time" which naturally led me to question what "Ordinary Time" could possibly mean. I cannot do better than quoting, again from Wikipedia:

"Ordinary Time comprises two periods: the first period begins on Epiphany Day (in the Anglican Communion and Methodist churches) or the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (in the Catholic Church) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent."

I still have no idea when the final Sunday of Ordinary Time is - it could be February 29th, for all I know. No wonder I'm not a Christian!

But the remainder of the first part was where I could sympathize with Majarucon as he lamented the all too many reasons why his flock is less devout than he would like, even acknowledging that Catholicism is "oppressive"

to some. They came off as quite human - even Humanistic (gasp) - as they related why they just can't be bothered with the Church. I was reminded how difficult it is to get some of our own "flock" to be more involved in our Society. No doubt we are fellow humans with all the foibles and traits that define what being human really means.

But the second half of Majarucon's commentary contained the substance of his message so it will be the serious substance of my own thoughts.

Majarucon states that life is about "... leading people to Jesus Christ our King." That is a frightening statement, especially as he attempts to convince the youth of his congregation that this is what they should devote their life to. It is close to the very worst tenet of Christianity in my view, the one that declares we are all born in sin and must repent. Both of those notions are offensive to any thoughtful Humanist. That one should devote their own life to a mythological being but, worse, try to draw others into the same fantasy is to advocate for one to waste an entire lifetime.

Majarucon's states that secularism is "subtle, insidious, reasonable and oh-so-selfish." The inclusion of "reasonable" in his list is quite complimentary. I would be quite happy to be accused of being reasonable and I would be quite happy to think of myself, contrary to evidence, as subtle. But Majarucon is not attempting to be praising secularism, which is evident in his claim that secularists are selfish. This is a common accusation by the religious when they claim we don't serve a god. We don't, and would rather devote ourselves to fulfilling multiple roles, some of which involve the betterment of society, friends, associates and family. No god is required to see the value in such a stance.

I am a Humanist and quite happy at that. I hope you are too.

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Report On November's Program Miracle or Science: A Talk By Brian Dunning

By Judy Flattery

Science writer Brian Dunning, the host and producer of the podcast *Skeptoid: Critical Analysis of Pop Phenomena* (www.skeptoid.com), and the author of five books based on the podcast was the main speaker at the November 18 HSSB meeting held at Vista del Monte.

Full audio for the presentation, "Miracle or Science: A Talk by Brian Dunning" can be found on the HSSB website at this link: [Brian Dunning Audio](#). Here is what I gleaned from the audio:

Brian addressed five "miracles" in his talk. His point of view is that simple debunking is just as useless as uncritical belief; the real excitement comes from learning the history and the context of reported miracles.

Miracle #1: Dashi-Dorzho Itigilov (1852-1927). The first "miracle" discussed was that of the Russian Mongolian Dashi-Dorzho Itigilov, a Buddhist lama in the Tibetan tradition, best known for the lifelike state of his corpse, which is reported to be impervious to decay.

The speaker then described the practice of self-mummification, or "sokushinbutsu", a relatively uncommon practice of Buddhist monks who observe asceticism to the point of death and enter a state of near-mummification while alive. This process of self-mummification takes about 3000 days (>8 years) and was mainly practiced in Northern Japan between the 11th and 19th century. ~20 are known to have been successful so far.

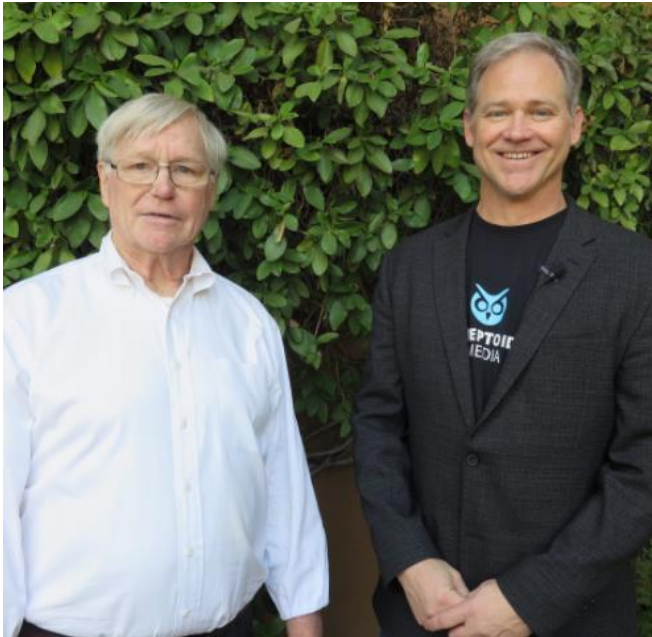
The process begins by eating only nuts & seeds for 1000 days to rid the body of fat. Then for the next 1000 days eating only bark and roots and then drinking tea from a poison oak tree

(presumably to render the body toxic to parasites) then sealing oneself into a tomb and ringing a bell each day until death at which time the tomb can be opened. Dashi-Dorzho instructed that he be packed in salt which would further dehydrate and preserve the body—an updated version of sokushinbutsu. Practitioners view this as a form of heightened enlightenment.



Dashi-Dorzho Itigilov in life and his exhumed body seated in the lotus position in which he died. Neither mummified nor embalmed, his body is said to still bleed (not tested) and to sit in a state of deep meditation. Itigilov was a Buddhist scholar with a degree in pharmacology.

Photos from Wikipedia



HSSB President Roger Schleuter and Skeptoid Podcast Host & Producer, Brian Dunning. *Photo by Marian Shapiro.*

Miracle #2: Angel of Mons. The second “miracle” discussed occurred during WWI at the Battle of Mons, France (August 1914) between the British expeditionary forces and the Germans. The story goes that the British were outnumbered 4:1 but a host of angels, summoned by a soldier’s prayer to St. George, came to their rescue and shot the Germans with arrows. Germany lost 5000 troops while Britain lost 1600. Our speaker attributed the initial success to superior British infield rifles, a highly trained fighting force and air-bursting shrapnel. The Germans prevailed within a couple of days—the British actually lost this battle. The Angel of Mons story was relayed by Brigadier General John Charteris, Chief of British Intelligence, in a fake letter to his wife and the story started circulating as a morale booster. British Intelligence is also responsible for disseminating propaganda & disinformation. A month after the battle, Welsh author Arthur Machen published the Angel of Mons story in a London newspaper. Various churches picked up the story and it took on a life of its own despite the author insisting that the story was pure fiction. This story has

inspired authors such as J.R.R. Tolkien. Another example of British wartime disinformation is the idea that eating carrots improves your vision. This rumor was circulated to obscure the fact that the British had successfully mounted radar equipment on aircraft; the pilots’ superior bombing success was attributed to eating carrots—disinformation we still tell our kids today.



Standing room only crowd at Brian Dunning’s talk. *Photo by Marian Shapiro.*

Miracle #3: The Miracle of Calanda. In 17th century Spain 20 year old Juan Miguel Pellicer was working on his uncle’s farm when a mule cart ran over his leg. After a short stay at a local hospital and a subsequent 50 day journey to a hospital in Zaragoza the gangrenous leg was reportedly amputated and buried in a special plot. Juan then received the special permission required at that time to become a beggar. At some point he returned to his parents’ home and found he had to sleep on the floor that night since a visiting soldier was sleeping in his bed. In the morning his mother noticed two legs sticking out from under Juan’s blanket. A miracle! The contemporary investigation and certification of the incident as a miracle was extensively documented—including digging up the special burial plot to reveal the leg was gone.

Our speaker claims there is a suspicious hole in the evidence: there was no documentation or witness accounts confirming the leg was ever amputated in the first place. He proposes that the leg never developed gangrene and was never amputated but that during the period

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when it was broken, Juan could not work, turned to begging and found that a missing leg may have been even more lucrative than a broken leg so tucked it up and bound it behind his thigh (similar to Eddie Murphy in *Trading Places*), and exploited the handicap. When discovered by his mother, the story of the miracle was a way to hide what he had been up to.



Dunning asserted that despite extensive records and contemporary sources there was no evidence he was ever treated at the hospital in Zaragoza or that the doctors he named had ever been interviewed by the delegation or the trial that certified the miracle.

Miracle #4: John From, Cargo Cults on Vanuatu. The 4th example described the rise of Cargo Cults on Vanuatu celebrating John From Day (Feb. 15) in which cult members using local materials (sticks and vines) recreate WWII military aircraft, equipment, accessories, and ceremonies reminiscent of the “glory days” when jobs and supplies were plentiful due to wartime Pacific staging operations.

The speaker described the Vanuatun history of armed 18th century Scottish Presbyterian missionaries’ efforts to outlaw “offensive” native island practices (drinking, polygamy, swearing, adultery, etc.) with hard labor punishment. WWII brought Coca-Cola, the miracle of refrigeration, food & medicine. Seeing their influence waning, missionaries recruited Yali, a charismatic New Guinean, to

convince the Vanuatuns of the benefits of Christianity and adopting Christian beliefs & practices. Yali traveled to Australia for training and while there learned about: 1) the wealth gap between Australia vs. Micronesian islands, 2) the cache of sacred New Guinea artifacts in Australian museums (the power of which, he reasoned, explained Australia’s prosperity) and 3) evolution. Reportedly he felt that if the missionaries were wrong about evolution they probably were wrong or lying about other things as well. Upon his return he switched sides and supported the Cargo Cults opposing the missionaries. Today Cargo Cult ceremonies are performed as tourist attractions.

Miracle #5: Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Finally Brian Dunning took on Our Lady of Guadalupe, a revered Catholic icon throughout Southern California and Mexico. The miracle story goes that in 1531 a glowing image of the Virgin Mary (Virgin of Guadalupe) told a baptized Aztec (Juan Diego) where to build a great basilica (which is now a world heritage site in Mexico City) and gave him a bundle of flowers wrapped in local cactus fiber cloth. Juan reported this to his priest who marveled that the flowers were native to Spain (not to North America) and that the cloth now was imprinted with an image of the Virgin herself (3 miracles!).

At the time the Dominican order of Catholic missionaries were faced with converting millions of Aztecs to Catholicism. They were interested in leveraging beliefs in an Aztec virgin goddess, Tonantzin, to assist in the conversion process. They were quite successful converting 8 million Aztecs in 50 years. The Franciscan order of missionaries thought it was immoral to leverage native beliefs in this way. There was a well-documented trial in 1556 concerning the use of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Tonantzin in which the Juan Diego story was NOT even mentioned. Why? Because it had not been invented yet. It was written later

that year and the painting on the cloth commissioned to support the story. The style of the painted cloth is that of artist Marcos Cipac de Aquino. The name “Juan Diego” is akin to the name “John Smith” in English—almost a generic name. In 1990 Our Lady of Guadalupe was beatified partially based on more evidence created in 1990 (with several historical inaccuracies such as the way the date was written). Brian Dunning suggests that the painting is arguably the single most influential artwork in history given its role in converting the Aztecs to Catholicism which is startling given that its entire attribution history is falsified.

Brian Dunning then took questions from the audience. He mentioned séances held by the UK Society for Psychical Research with chemists and physicists as participants who reportedly were amazed at the event and convinced of its authenticity. Brian suggested that the society would have been better served by having magicians more familiar with the techniques of deception than scientists take part in this staged event.

He also described other important work undertaken by Skeptoid Media including the documentary *Principles of Curiosity* which is free on YouTube at this link: [Principles of Curiosity](#). It describes a 3-step process to separate what’s real from what’s not.

In 2018 the documentary *Science Friction* will be released which gives scientists the opportunity to set the record straight for all the times they’ve been unfairly edited and had their views misrepresented on TV. It will include lesson plans for teachers.

In 2019 Skeptoid Media will be releasing *Before Your Very Eyes*, a 40 minute documentary appropriate for schools to show how your senses can deceive you. Brian Dunning invited HSSB members to become members of

Skeptoid.com. It is funded by private grants and donations.

[Editor’s note: The following LA Times OP ED was shared with me by a neighbor: a troubling indictment of home-schooling and Christian evangelicalism.]

Adult Men and 14-year-old Girls

By Kathryn Brightbill

We need to talk about the segment of American culture that probably doesn’t think the allegations against Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore are particularly damning, the segment that will blanch at only two accusations in the Washington Post expose: He pursued a 14-year-old girl without first getting her parents’ permission, and he initiated sexual contact outside of marriage. That segment is evangelicalism. In that world, which Moore travels in and I grew up in, 14-year-old girls courting adult men isn’t uncommon.

I use the phrase “14-year-old girls courting adult men” rather than “adult men courting 14-year-old girls,” for a reason: Evangelicals routinely frame these relationships in those terms. That’s how I was introduced to these relationships as a home-schooled teenager in the 1990s, and it’s the language that my friends and I would use to discuss girls we knew who were in parent-sanctioned relationships with older men...

As a teenager I attended a lecture on courtship by a home school speaker who was popular at the time. He praised the idea of “early courtship” so the girl could be molded into the best possible helpmate for her future husband...

In retrospect, I understand what the speaker was really describing: Adult men selecting and grooming girls who were too young to have life experience. Another word for that is “predation.”

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Much of the sexual abuse that takes place in the Independent Fundamental Baptist (IFB) churches involves adult men targeting 14-16 year old girls. If caught, the teenage victim may be forced to repent the "sin" of having seduced an adult man. Former IFB megachurch pastor Jack Schaap argued that he should be released from prison after being convicted of molesting a 16-year-old girl, asserting that the "aggressiveness" of his victim" inhibited [his] impulse control."...

The allegations against Roy Moore are merely a symptom of a larger problem. It's not a Southern problem or an Alabama problem. It's a Christian fundamentalist problem...

The evangelical world is overdue for a reckoning. Women raised in evangelicalism and fundamentalism have for years discussed the normalization of child sexual abuse. We've told our stories on social media and on our blogs and various online platforms, but until the Roy Moore story broke, mainstream American society barely paid attention. Everyone assumed this was an isolated, fringe issue. It isn't.

[Excerpted from Los Angeles Times, OP ED page A-20, 11/12/17. Kathryn Brightbill is legislative policy analyst at the Coalition for Responsible Home Education, a non-profit advocating for the interests of home-schooled children.]

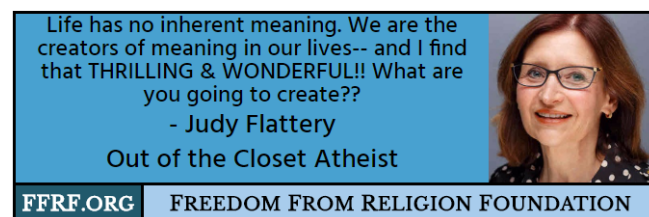
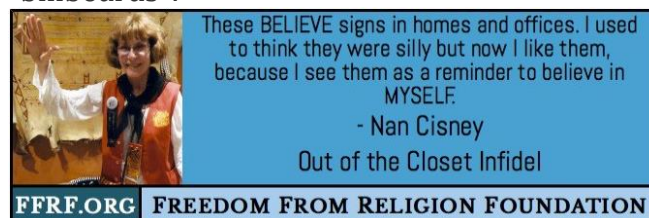
Still Time To Declare Yourself!

By Judy Flattery

Last month HSSB President, Roger Schleuter, invited members to participate in the Freedom from Religion Foundation's (FFRF) initiative to create a personal billboard "coming out" as a non-believer. **Although 1 in 4 American are non-believers, most Americans have never knowingly met one (!).**

"You can help dispel myths, educate and promote reason by adding your voice, face and message to FFRF's friendly neighborhood freethinker campaign. ... Now it's time for atheists and agnostics to come out of our closet. Many faces make Enlightenment work."

Here are our first two HSSB member "billboards":



Create your own at [this page](#) and then please send it to our newsletter editor (flattejl@cox.net) for inclusion in an upcoming issue of the *Secular Circular*.

More from CSI CON Las Vegas '17

By Diane Krohn

Wayne Beckman and I attended the Center for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI) annual convention in Las Vegas, NV, on October 26-28. In the November *Secular Circular*, three of the talks were summarized. Here are summaries of three more talks:

Maria Konnikova: What's Luck Got to Do With It?

Maria Konnikova is a journalist who has written about confidence games. For this presentation, she asked, "What is luck?" One answer is preparation meeting opportunity. Another answer is a lucky break in a career. But

Konnikova defines “luck” as total randomness – things you have zero control over. It is the noise of the universe.

One extreme definition of luck is the religious one: it is fate. Another extreme is that you make your own luck; for example, the self-help book, *The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne, claims that thoughts can change the world directly. Konnikova feels that many things, maybe most things, are pure random coincidence. Due to selective memory, we tend to remember the things that look like luck, and forget all the predictions that never came true.

Konnikova has spent a year playing poker, and she learned several lessons about “luck” during her year of playing: 1) Control is an illusion: for example, coin tosses or picking stocks; 2) The law of small numbers: our minds are bad at figuring out large numbers. Runs (such as coin tosses or stock market picks) will happen and it is natural; 3) The “hot hand” fallacy: the idea that people get “hot” and go on winning streaks. In some sports, though, being on a hot streak can result in better performances because of psychological influences—feeling confident in one’s abilities. Confidence can result in success, sometimes. It can make chance work in our favor.

If the lottery is a special tax on people who are bad at math maybe tithing is a special tax on people who are bad at science...

Britt Marie Hermes: The Bloody Work of Naturopathic Doctors

Hermes is a former naturopathic doctor. She was licensed in Washington State. She attended Bastyr University, a private school that describes itself as an integrative medical school. It offers enough courses that are actually scientific so that the attendees feel they are getting a real M.D. degree. But the pseudoscience and quackery courses

outnumber the real science courses. The naturopathic schools are producing students who believe they are medical doctors and have learned legitimate medicine.

There is no standard of care for Naturopathic Doctors (ND’s). Hermes provided several examples of gross negligence in ND practices, such as advising against vaccinations, treating cancer patients with high doses of vitamin C and herbs, and various “de-tox” protocols.

Hermes has determined that ND’s are not qualified to practice medicine. They do not receive proper medical education or training, including little or no clinical training; and then patients get duped into fake medical treatments. Her recommended policy positions include: naturopaths should not be permitted to use the title “doctor” or “physician”; naturopaths should be prohibited from treating children; and naturopaths should not be granted medical licenses.

Kevin Folta: Genetic Engineering of Plants and Animals: Hot New Techniques, Same Old Resistance

Kevin Folta is professor of Horticultural Sciences at the University of Florida. Dr. Folta described a project that he was working on in Uganda, to study the food banana, matooke (East African highland banana). This is a very important food crop for Ugandans and most are grown on small farms, mostly by women. Unfortunately, this crop is threatened by bacterial wilt. Bacterial wilt does have a biogenetic solution: genetic modification (GM). However, anti-GMO activists have prevented the distribution of the GM banana.

Folta described different ways that humans have made plants better. The problem is how to get the good properties from wild plants (mainly insect resistance) to domestic plants, while keeping the good properties of the domestic plants (flavor, size, shelf life). These

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techniques include cross-breeding (slow, and does not necessarily give favorable results), and genetic engineering.

Genetic engineering can be done by inserting genes from one species into the genome of a different species, or by gene editing, in which a change is made in the native DNA of a plant or animal (no foreign DNA is added). Gene editing results in changes that are specific and precise; for example, the removal of allergens from peanuts and wheat.

There has been resistance to gene editing in the US and the UK due to anti-GMO activists. Folta said that he has received good support from the scientific community who understand that GMO advances can (and should) be separated from corporate activities—in other words, you may dislike the way Monsanto acts, but the technology should not be confused with a corporation behaving badly.

As for the food bananas in Uganda, Folta reported that the biosafety law was passed in Uganda, allowing for the use and distribution of the GM banana. This was good news for the many small farmers in Uganda who depend on this crop for food and income. This project was done by Ugandan scientists (Monsanto had nothing to do with it).

Recommended Reading

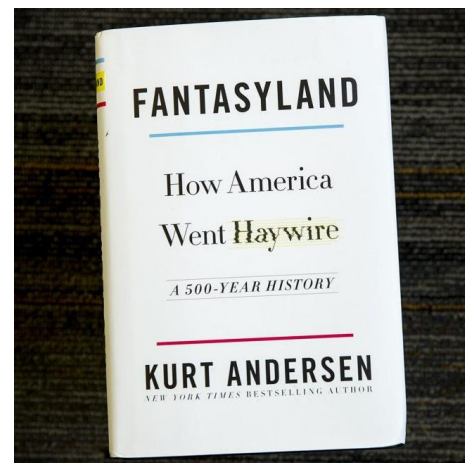
Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History

Book by Kurt Andersen, Ebury Publishing, Oct 12, 2017 - History - 480 pages

Google review: "If you want to understand Trump's America, how the lines between reality and illusion have become dangerously blurred, you have to go back to the very beginning and take a dizzying road trip across five centuries of crackpot delusion and make-believe from Salem to Scientology.

"From the Pilgrim Fathers onward, America has been a place where renegades and freaks came in search of freedom to create their own realities with little objectively regulated truth standing in their way. To invent and believe what the hell you like is in some ways an unwritten constitutional right. Every citizen is more than ever gloriously free to construct and promote any vision of the world he or she devoutly believes to be true. That do-your-own-thing freedom - run amok since the individualism and relativism of the 1960s and later the unprecedented free-for-all world of the Internet, is the driving credo of America's current transformation where the difference between opinion and fact is rapidly crumbling.

"Fantasyland is a journey that joins the dots between the disparate crazed franchises of true believers - America's endless homespun rebooting of Christianity from Mormons to charismatics, medicine shows to new age quacks, conspiracy theorists of every stripe, showmen hucksters from P T Barnum to Trump himself, Creationists to climate change deniers, extra-terrestrial obsessives to gun-toting libertarians, anti-Government paranoia, pseudoscience, survivalists and satanic panic. Along the way Kurt Andersen has created a unique and raucous history of America and a new paradigm for understanding our post-factual world."

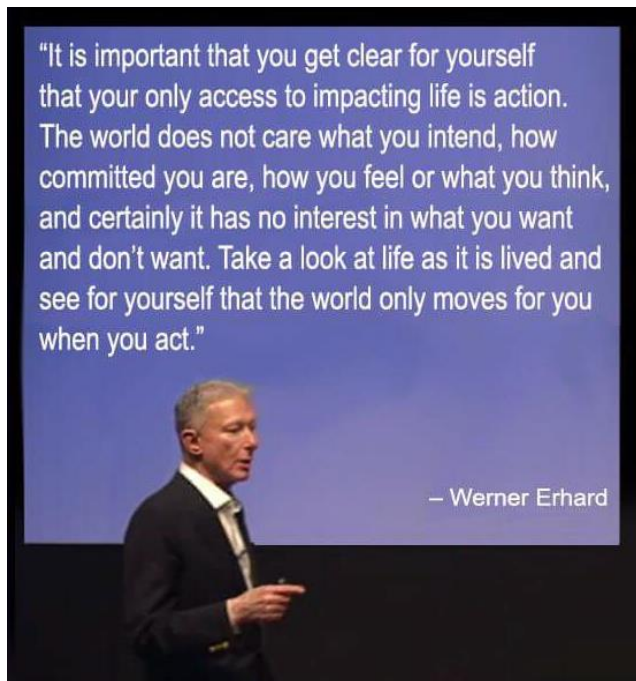


Coming Soon! El Pollo Magico!



Upcoming Non-HSSB Events in California:

February 9-11, 2018: LogiCAL – LA, Los Angeles. Registration started November 10, 2017. This event includes a Friday night Magic and Mentalism show and a geological field trip to the La Brea Tar Pits on Darwin Day (February 12). Dr. Lawrence Krauss will be the featured Sunday speaker and other speakers to be announced. <http://logically.com/blog1/>



Does this mean “thoughts and prayers” don’t work??

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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. 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, P.O. Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, Attn: Mary Wilk. For membership information contact Mary Wilk at mwilk@cox.net.

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

Copies of this and past newsletter are posted on the HSSB website.

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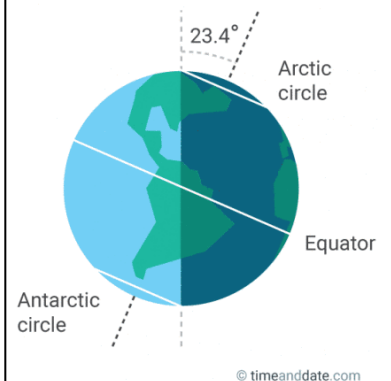
HSSB Calendar

Tuesday December 12, 2017: Board Meeting. 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members invited to attend.

Sunday December 17, 2017: Year End Solstice Party: Cody's Café, 4898 Hollister (Turnpike exit), Santa Barbara, CA 93111. \$25 Paid in advance to Nan Cisney. 649 Verde Mar #E, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. No payments accepted at the door. Reservations accepted until December 13.

Tuesday January 16, 2018: Board Meeting. 5:30 p.m. Home of **Mary Wilk**. Members are invited to attend.

Saturday January 20, 2018: Monthly Meeting 3:00 pm. Speaker: Rick Wayman, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Location: TBD.



PARTY