



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

MARCH 2023

Please join us for our March speaker meeting on Zoom!

The Great Betrayal: How Western Left-Leaning People Have Failed Iran

Our Program: In recognition of **National Women's Month** and **International Women's Day**, Susanna McIntyre will speak about the ongoing revolution in Iran and the missed opportunity/inadequate response of Western left-leaning people to the uprisings.

The talk will delve into the factors that sparked the protests, the profound underlying reasons why the Islamic Republic enforces mandatory hijab for women, and how these demonstrations have transformed into a widespread revolution that encompasses far more than just the issue of hijab. She will share her view of the hypocrisy of those who claim to support freedom while only giving lip service to the Iranian people's struggle.

Susanna will describe the efforts of Atheist Republic, in assisting the people of Iran. She will share details of their exciting project, **Operation Iranian Renaissance**, which aims to support those inside Iran as they fight for their freedom. Through this initiative, Atheist Republic seeks to promote free expression and enlightenment values in Iran.

Our Speaker: Susanna McIntyre, an ex-Catholic atheist, currently serves as the President & CEO of Atheist Republic, the world's largest community of atheists. Atheist Republic is a non-profit organization with entities in the U.S. and Canada, and local chapters spanning 70 countries worldwide.

Her primary focus is on championing free expression and raising awareness about the perils of global blasphemy laws. Following the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman at the hands of the Iranian Morality Police in 2022, Susanna has become deeply committed to the fight for freedom in Iran. She has actively worked towards raising awareness about the oppressive conditions in the country and advocating for the rights of the Iranian people.



Protest sparked by the killing of Mahsa Amini in 2022 for improperly worn head covering.



Susanna McIntyre, President, and CEO of Atheist Republic

When: Saturday March 18, 3:00 p.m. PST

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.

The HSSB Secular Circular – March 2023

Fighting Secular & Skeptical Legal Battles on New Fronts: CFI's Legal Challenges to Homeopathy

By Robert Bernstein

2-11-23

Nicholas Little is vice president, general counsel, and legal director of the Center for Inquiry (CFI).



Nick Little has filed CFI's groundbreaking consumer protection suits against CVS stores and Walmart for their deceptive marketing of homeopathic products.

CFI is also suing Boiron, the world's largest homeopathic manufacturer, as well as the FDA to access information regarding homeopathy, which the agency is refusing to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Little explained this is not a typical lawsuit for CFI. Groups like American Atheists and the Freedom From Religion Foundation have typically sued over matters like displays of the Ten Commandments or crosses on public land.

The Supreme Court (SCOTUS) appears to have a 6-3 "conservative" majority, but it may actually be worse than that on religious matters. He said that Kagan is no friend of the secular. Jackson is new and unknown. Only Sotomayor is a true friend.

Federal courts are threatening to make a nationwide ban on chemical abortion. They are not even trying to pretend to make fair decisions. The Bladensburg Peace Cross is a 40 foot cross in one of the busiest parks in Maryland. SCOTUS ruled it is not a religious symbol.

As reported at our last HSSB talk by Eugenie Scott, Sotomayor introduced a photo of public prayer at a high school football game, which SCOTUS declared was not public prayer at a high school football game.

Historically, SCOTUS has been against rights and blocked progress. The Warren Court gave us great successes. But this was an aberration, not the norm.

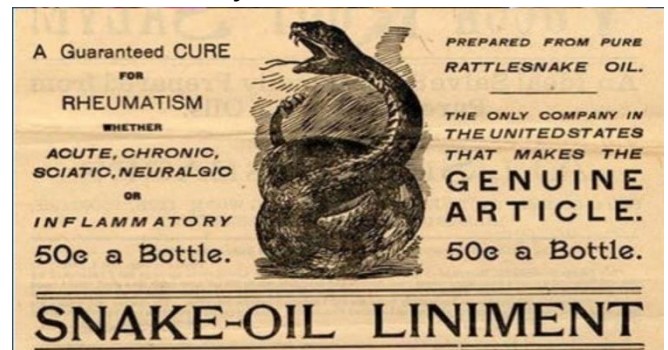
The Voting Rights Act has largely been eviscerated by the current Court and the Civil Rights Act is also under attack, notably, in the case of the infamous gay wedding cake case. This is a throwback to the 1950s era where businesses claimed they did not have to serve Black people as a matter of choice.

There is no magic bullet to solving this. The Pastafarians and Satanists have stepped up to demand equal time as religions. But this may not work.

The topic of Little's talk was quite practical: Corporations profiting from making and selling fake treatments. Why doesn't the government stop this?

The default "protection" in the US is "caveat emptor"; let the buyer beware. The magic of the marketplace will ensure that people won't buy junk. "If you believe that, you have never been to Wal-Mart a week before Christmas!"

In fact, corporations have profited from scams for hundreds of years. Remember "snake oil"?



More recently, the tobacco industry sold doubt about cancer along with their cigarettes. Just as the fossil fuel industry has done with the Climate Crisis and VW knowingly gamed smog tests on their diesel cars.

What do you call alternative medicine that works? Medicine.

Government is supposed to legislate and regulate medicine. Litigation is supposed to provide enforcement. But there are many problems.



The U.S. has an ongoing battle between the legal roles and responsibilities of state and federal governments. This was supposed to have ended with the Civil War, but it didn't. Multiple agencies have overlapping authority. In the case of drugs, this includes the FDA and the FTC.

From 1995-2011, 4,312 Federal laws were passed. Federal regulations to enforce these laws take up over 180,000 pages in the Federal Register. No one knows what is in there. By some estimates, the average American commits two felonies a day without knowing it.

"Agency Capture" describes the phenomenon of lobbyists buying favor. Even without direct corruption, government officials turn to industry for advice on areas they don't know about. Some of it is pure sloth.

Nick Little is focusing on homeopathy. Why? Because it is utter nonsense. It is "the Scientology of alternative medicine"!

German physician Samuel Hahnemann invented homeopathy in the 1700s based on two utterly nonsense premises:

- 1) Like treats like. Little likens this to having a gunshot victim walk into a hospital and the medical staff shoots him some more to cure him.
- 2) More dilution of doses makes the medicine more powerful.

A common dilution is "200C". Which is a dilution of one in 100 repeated 200 times. There are only about 10 to the 78th atoms in the universe. It is impossible at 200C dilution to have even one atom of the alleged medicinal substance left in the bottle.

When the atomic theory was developed, a third principle was invented: Water memory. That somehow the water "remembers" what is dissolved in it. More nonsense.

The 1938 Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act includes the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States (HPUS). Anything listed in this counts as a drug under federal law.

For a new product to be approved, it must demonstrate safety and efficacy to the FDA. No homeopathic product has ever been proved to be safe and effective.

It is easy to show why we mistrust Big Pharma: Thalidomide, Oxycontin, and the bad behavior of the Sacklers that resulted in vast numbers of opioid addicts. This distrust helped create the world of "alternative medicine" in the 1970s.

1988 brought the FDA Compliance Policy Guide (CPG) that was supposed to regulate homeopathic medicine. This was never enforced, was revoked in 2019, and replaced with a "risk based policy". The government would target clearly harmful products, such as a baby teething tablet with deadly nightshade in it. One might ask, what harm is there if it is diluted so there is nothing but water? Well, they

got the dilution wrong and there really was [deadly nightshade in it and children died](#).

The FTC regulates drug advertising and marketing. In 2016 they made an Enforcement Policy Statement requiring scientific evidence, But this is not enforced.

Homeopathic Housecall appears to be concierge medicine, run on line. But is just crazy stuff. They offer a disclaimer that it is “not intended to replace qualified medical attention”.

There are problems with lawsuits. Who to sue? You can't sue the government for not doing its job.

In a democracy, the claim is this can be solved at the ballot box. That is absurd. There are dozens of issues in every election. It is almost impossible for any one issue to decide an election.

But it is possible to go after manufacturers and retailers. One powerful force behind homeopathy is the claim that it is challenging the power of Big Pharma; however, homeopathy is also a Big Pharma industry with its own lobbyists.

Wal-Mart and CVS claim to be your friend in health. Boiron is a major corporate manufacturer of homeopathic nonsense. They won't settle, because selling this nonsense is the basis of their profits.

As we have learned in previous talks, challenging “standing” is one way to block lawsuits. Most of the people who buy homeopathic products like them. If you are not a user, and if you have not been harmed by them, you may not have standing to sue; however, D.C. law allows certain non-profit organizations to sue on behalf of others.

Oscillosocinum is made from the heart and liver of wild ducks. It is diluted to the point of

being pure water and it has over 25,000 five star reviews on Amazon!

All homeopathic pills are the same: highly diluted ingredients in sugar pills. Amazon and Chewy also sell this nonsense for pets.

The legal system does science badly. It is all about persuasion, not about facts and evidence.

One thing that would help in CFI's work: complaints by people who bought homeopathic products by mistake and discovered they did nothing.

One good thing about the lawsuit moving forward: they are able to do discovery and obtain internal documents from homeopathic manufacturers.

Little took audience questions and I raised the first point: it seems that the FDA not only allows nonsense treatments to be sold, they also make it almost impossible to approve products that are truly safe and effective. The process can cost tens or hundreds of millions of dollars. Big Pharma has a monopoly on being able to game this system to their advantage. Little agreed.

Judy Fontana gave the example of cigarettes: shaming retailers into refusing to sell them. Little agreed there will be a role for public pressure on retailers.

Wegmans is a supermarket chain with pharmacies. They do not allow their pharmacists to recommend homeopathic products.

There is a lot of money to be made selling these products.

One man asked why they are suing the FDA. Little explained this is a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) issue. The Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia is controlled by the homeopathic industry. They charge \$20,000 per

year to access it. The FDA will not release their copy of the current book.

Lynda noted that using a homeopathic treatment for early stage cancer can be fatal if it delays real treatment until it is too late. Little agreed there can be significant opportunity cost.

Roger complained to a local pharmacist about homeopathic treatments being on display. She told him she has no control over the store display. Little said it is necessary to complain up the chain.

Our Dinner With the Speaker and the Field Trip to CVS

By Judy Flattery

After Nick Little's talk, a group of us met for pizza at Rusty's on Carrillo and took a stroll over to CVS to see how to identify homeopathic items.



Casual dinner at Rusty's

At the dinner, Dr. Bill Meller spoke briefly about one positive aspect he sees in the peddling of homeopathic cures: these claims spur those of us who are evidence-based to do better science.

He commented that in his adolescence within the hippie culture, there was mistrust of Big Pharma. "Natural" cures were popular and appealed to him until he attended medical school and became more educated.

Meller stated that both the blind and the double blind testing methodologies were devised as a way to test homeopathic claims. The single blind was used by Benjamin Franklin and Antoine

Lavoisier to investigate Franz Mesmer's claims of animal magnetism ("mesmerism").

The first double blind study was conducted in 1907 by William Halse Rivers on the effects of caffeine and alcohol and the interplay of physical and psychical (sic) factors. In 1917 Rivers reported at the final Fitzpatrick lecture:

"As medicine has progressed and has been differentiated from magic and religion, [the] play of psychological factors has not ceased.

"Few can now be found who will deny that the success which attended [many remedies and treatment regimes] of the last generation was due mainly, if not entirely, to the play of faith and suggestion. The salient

feature of the medicine of today is that these psychical factors are no longer allowed to play their part unwittingly, but are themselves becoming the subject of study, so that the present age is seeing the growth of a rational system of psychotherapeutics."



William Halse Rivers
Conducted First Documented
Double-Blind Study

Jim Underdown, Executive Director of The Center For Inquiry West in Los Angeles, accompanied Nick Little on his drive up to Santa Barbara. Jim spoke briefly at the dinner inviting all to attend CFI-West *Feed Your Brain* talks typically on the third Sunday of the month at 11am at CFI West in L.A. See CFIwest.org for event details.

CFI West is also the home base of the Independent Investigations Group (IIG) which investigates paranormal claims. Jim announced

that the prize has just been doubled to \$500,000 for scientifically validated claims of the paranormal. They have been investigating claims for 23 years and none have made it past the first round of testing.

Jim also announced *SkeptiLab: The Bunk Stops Here*, a show on CFI's YouTube channel. And he announced that they will be hosting an irreverent Michael Jackson show, *For the Love of a Glove*, from the perspective of MJ's glove at the Carl Sagan/Ann Druyen Theater. Check it out!



An example of ineffective homeopathic nonsense



Top: Jim Underdown & Nick Little.

Bottom: Nick Little, Judy Flattery, and Dave Flattery in the Cold & Flu section of CVS

One of the homeopathic medicine we found at CVS in the Cold and Flu aisle was Oscillococcinum. The back of the package disclosed that it was homeopathic; however it is sold alongside effective treatments.

CFI's suit is not asking retailers to stop selling these products—just to place homeopathic remedies in their own section and not under signs identifying them as valid treatments.

200CK HPUS

"These 'Uses' have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration."

**C, K, CK, and X are homeopathic dilutions: see www.boironusa.com for details

Drug Facts		Directions	
Active ingredient** Anas barbarica	Purpose* To reduce the duration and severity of flu-like symptoms. The letters HPUS indicate that this ingredient is officially included in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States.	Age Adults and children 2 years of age and older	Dose Dissolve entire contents of one tube in the mouth every 8 hours, up to 3 times a day.
Uses* ■ temporarily relieves flu-like symptoms such as: ■ body aches ■ headache ■ fever ■ chills ■ fatigue	Warnings Ask a doctor before use in children under 2 years of age. Stop use and ask a doctor if symptoms persist for more than 3 days or worsen. If pregnant or breast-feeding, ask a health professional before use. Keep out of reach of children.	Other information ■ do not use if glued carton and flaps are open or if the tray seal is broken ■ each 0.04 oz dose (1 g) contains 1 g of sugar ■ store at 68-77°F (20-25°C)	Inactive ingredients lactose, sucrose
Questions or comments? www.oscillo.com or www.boironusa.com info@boiron.com 1-800-BOIRON-1 (1-800-264-7661)		Distributed by Boiron Inc. 6 Campus Boulevard Newtown Square, PA 19073-3267	

*These "Uses" have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.
**C, K, CK, and X are homeopathic dilutions: see www.boironusa.com for details.

Read labels carefully!



Nick Little and Dr. Meller at CVS

Songs for Humanists and Atheists

By Diane Krohn

Despite what Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers say*, there are songs for us non-

believers—not just secular, but that have a specific atheist, humanist, or science message. Finding them, though, can be a challenge, especially among more well-known artists. Here's a sampling of not-overly obscure songs, and some that are a little more obscure!

First, these two seem to be the classic atheist songs: *Losing My Religion*, by R.E.M.; and of course, *Imagine*, by John Lennon. Videos here: [Losing My Religion](#) and [Imagine](#).

A couple of songs that question the existence of God are *Dear God* by Sarah McLachlan: Dear God; and *What If No One's Watching*, by Ani DiFranco. [What If No One's Watching](#)

In the Name of God by Ziggy Marley. This is a very powerful anti-religion song. [In the Name of God](#). Some songs focus on living the only life that we are given. Two of these songs are *When I'm Gone*, by Phil Ochs. [When I'm Gone](#); and *More Than This*, by Roxy Music. I have listened to this song for many years, but it was Wayne who noted that the sentiment is non-religious; that our life that we have now is what there is. I will add, though, that some interpret this as a love song. [More Than This](#).

Singer/songwriter Shelley Segal has recorded a number of atheist songs. This one, *I Don't Believe in Fairies*, covers just about every supernatural belief. [I Don't Believe in Fairies](#)

Tom Lehrer has done many humorous and thoughtful songs. *The Vatican Rag* is, not surprisingly, a satirical take on Catholicism. [The Vatican Rag](#)

There is even a song about Charles Darwin! *Charlie* by Chumbawamba. The video and sound are not great, but the link includes the lyrics: [Charlie](#). And, in a similar vein, a song about the Scopes Trial, *Part Man, Part Monkey*, by Bruce Springsteen. [Part Man, Part Monkey](#)

Many songs about science and evolution tend to be focused more for children, but these have great lyrics and fun graphics. *Science is Real*, by They Might Be Giants. [Science is Real](#). *Ages of Rock*, by Ray Troll and the Ratfish Anglers, will give you a refresher course in geology and paleontology. [Ages of Rock](#)

And finally, we have our local atheist choir, Voices of Reason. [Voices of Reason](#)

Note: If you only have time to listen to a couple of these, the two recommended ones are *Dear God* and *I Don't Believe in Fairies*.

To end this article, this song by AC/DC is essential; after all, isn't this where all us atheists/humanists are going to end up anyway? *Highway to Hell*, by AC/DC: [Highway to Hell](#)

*Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers *Atheists Don't Have No Songs* [Atheists Don't Have No Songs](#)

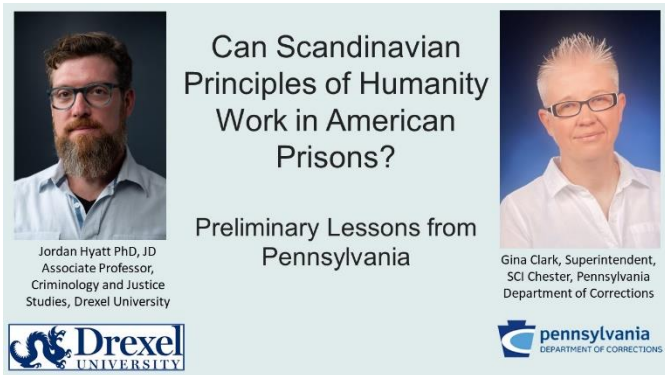
Four New Videos on HSSB YouTube Channel

By Judy Flattery

Four videos have been added to our Youtube channel this month. If you missed these presentations, you can watch them here. They are excellent. Three of the presentations are from the SoCal Secular Coalition conference we co-hosted in November and one of the videos is Dr. Eugenie Scott's January 2023 presentation on new threats to the teaching of evolution in public schools. Here are the summaries and the links:

1. [Can Scandinavian Principles of Humanity Work in American Prisons?](#)

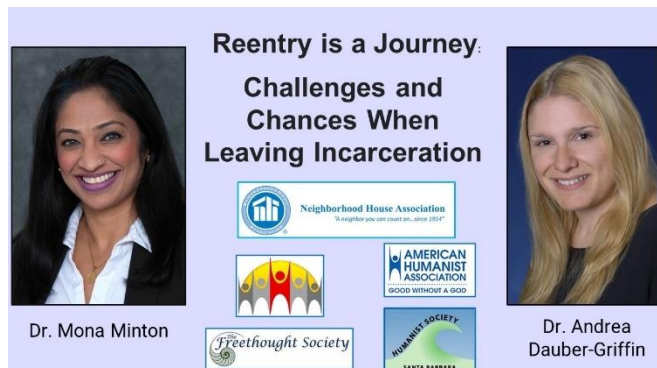
Summary: The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is conducting a fascinating experiment: Can Scandinavian principles of humanity and restorative justice work in American prisons? Superintendent Gina Clark describes her workplace, known as Little Scandinavia, a unit within a prison in Chester, PA which opened in May 2022. Martin Gilla from the Swedish Prison & Probation Service,



describes how the Swedish prison model works. A short video is referenced which describes [Little Scandinavia - Chester's journey](#) both in terms of physical facility remodeling and retraining/reorienting prison employees. Dr. Jordan Hyatt, Associate professor of Criminology & Justice studies at Drexel University talks about how the program is working so far and shares preliminary results. This is an exciting experiment with the potential to make a meaningful and cost effective difference in our incarceration system, reduce rates of recidivism, and ultimately, improve public safety.

2. [Reentry is a Journey: Challenges and Chances When Leaving Incarceration](#)

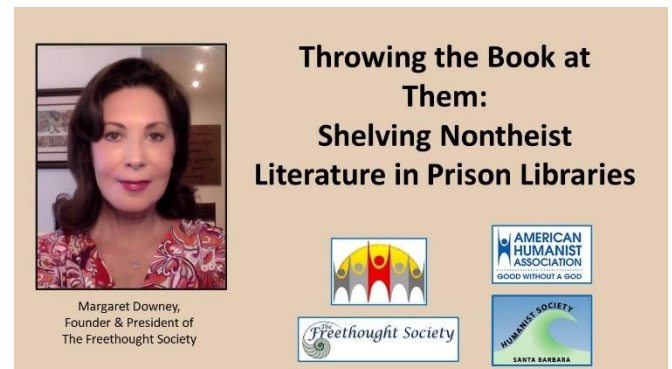
Summary: Dr. Mona Minton and Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin of the Neighborhood House Association in San Diego County speak about the challenges faced by people as they complete their time in jail or prison, leave custody, and re-enter the free world. Neighborhood House Association is a non-profit which, for the past 10 years, has successfully supported this reentry process by assisting formerly incarcerated



people in meeting the enormous challenges (e.g. obtaining a valid ID, transportation, housing, employment, physical & mental health issues, etc.) associated with this critical life transition. Project In-Reach also assists in the successful linkage to community resources and services pre- and post-release, helping guide the transition process and assisting in a positive new beginning.

3. [Throwing The Book At Them: Shelving Non-Theist Literature in Prison Libraries](#)

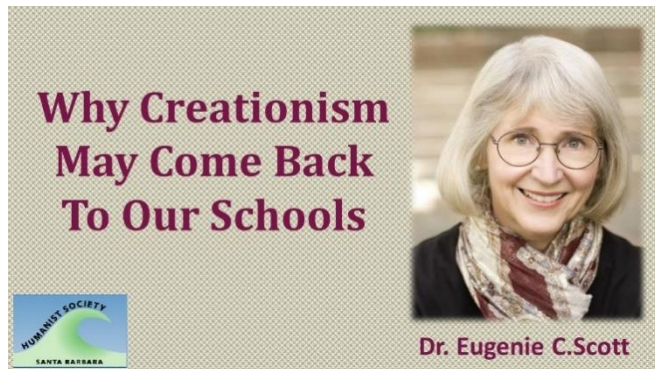
Summary: Margaret Downey founder and president of the Freethought Society (FS) describes the history, challenges, and impact of their work to provide nontheist, humanist, atheist, and skeptic literature to prison libraries as they seek to support inmates with a



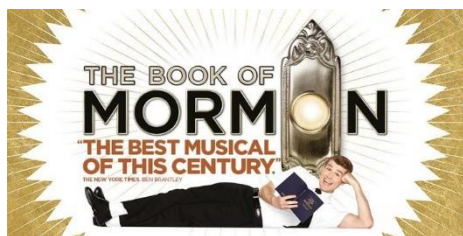
nonreligious worldview. The FS Prison Library Freethought Literature Placement Program started in the early 2000s shortly after Richard Dawkins provided a copy of his book *The God Delusion* to every prison library in the United States. Because the Anti-Discrimination Support Network (an FS committee) was listed as a reference in the back of the book, incarcerated freethinkers started writing to the organization asking for additional literature and help in dealing with incidents of discrimination. Leslie Zucker is also featured in this video as the person, then a member of the Secular Student Alliance, who convinced Dawkins to make his book available, and consequently inspired the FS Prison Library Freethought Literature Placement Program.

4. [Why Creationism May Come Back to Our Schools](#)

Summary: For over a decade, the creationist movement had largely abandoned efforts to become ensconced in the public schools. Previously, biblical creationism, creation “science”, and intelligent design creationism had made efforts to be taught alongside or instead of evolution in public schools, but after a series of court cases, including most recently, the 2005 *Kitzmiller v. Dover* intelligent design trial, the public-school classroom has mostly been left alone – at least as far as organized campaigns are concerned.



Teachers are still approached to deemphasize or omit teaching evolution, and each year a few state legislators try to pass anti-evolution legislation, but the concerted efforts of the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s largely have ceased. Then in June 2022, the Supreme Court decided in a Washington state case, *Kennedy v. Bremerton*, that a high school football coach was permitted to pray on the 50-yard line. The decision included a reference to the demise of an earlier Supreme Court case, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, which – with other recent approaches by the court – may be a huge game changer in the seemingly perpetual struggle to keep good science in, and creationism out, of the public-school science class.



**There's
Still Time
To Reserve
Your
Tickets!**

On Saturday May 20, our HSSB Zoom speaker will be Professor Rick Phillips of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of North Florida. He will be talking about Mormonism and the LDS church which should expand our group appreciation of *The Book of Mormon* musical comedy the following day (at the Granada, May 21, 1pm performance).



Professor Rick
Phillips

If you are interested in attending the show, we still have time to reserve tickets at a special group rate of \$96 per person in the orchestra section. This is well below retail price. RSVP to sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com. Mail a check to HSSB, PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130 or use PayPal to confirm your spot.

Professor Phillips' area of expertise is on the construction and maintenance of religious identity, and on the factors contributing to denominational growth and decline, particularly within the Mormon church.

Looking forward to this fun, social and educational weekend in May!!

El Pilar Master Forest Gardener Honored with UCSB Chancellor's Medal

By Judy Flattery

In January 2021, our HSSB speaker was Dr. Anabel Ford, of UCSB. She is also President of Exploring Solutions Past~The Maya Forest Alliance and Director of ISBER/MesoAmerican Research Center at UCSB. She spoke to us about her team's archeological work at El Pilar on the border of Belize and Guatemala. We learned about traditional, sustainable Maya practices of forest gardening using a [4-Stage Milpa Cycle](#): 1. transform the forest to a field, 2. Transform the field to an orchard, 3. Transform the orchard to a forest garden, 4. Convert the forest garden to forest regeneration.

Dr. Ford acknowledged the expertise of Maya master forest gardeners. In January 2023, one of these master gardeners, Narciso Torres, was honored at UCSB with the Chancellor's Medal. The Chancellor's Medal has been described as the UC's version of an honorary doctorate. Here is the video of the [Chancellor Medal presentation](#).

A delegation gathered in Santa Barbara to attend the ceremony and honor Narciso Torres including Maya from Belize, Maya from Nebraska (an unexpected location of ~8000 of the Maya diaspora (see [Pixan Ixim](#)), Garifuna dignitaries from Belize, and others dedicated to the principles of regenerative agriculture and environmentally responsible land use. We hosted several of the visitors at our home.

I was not familiar with the Garifuna people. Here is what Wikipedia says: "The Garifuna people are a people of mixed free African and indigenous American ancestry that originated in the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent and speak Garifuna, an Arawakan language, and Vincentian Creole. The Garifuna are the descendants of indigenous Arawak, Kalinago, and Afro-Caribbean people.



Chancellor Henry Yang and
Master Forest Gardener
Narciso Torres

The delegation was in Santa Barbara for 10 days during which they visited Lotus Land, the Botannical Gardens, among several other sites.

One evening we watched the movie [The Biggest Little Farm](#), a 2018 documentary about Apricot Lane Farm, a farm in Moorpark dedicated to



Dr. Anabel Ford & the delegation at Santa Barbara
Botanical Gardens

regenerative agriculture. The next day we toured the farm. It was a spectacularly beautiful and ecologically vibrant place.



Top: Luis Marcos of Pixan Ixim speaks at the group
reception. Lower Left: Dr. Anabel Ford with honoree,
Narciso Torres. Lower right: Anabel Ford with Dave & Judy
Flattery

HSSB hosted a farewell reception for this group where HSSB members were able to interact with the visitors, and with Dr. Ford and her team. Judy Fontana organized this successful event.

The delegation was very interested to learn about humanism. We gave each of them a copy of the Humanist Affirmations by Paul Kurtz and AHA's 10 Commitments of Humanism. Dr. Ford

commented that HSSB's kindness and interest in their work was deeply appreciated and that we were demonstrating our humanist values by welcoming and celebrating these environmental heroes of the forest.

Ponder this quote from Julian Beck:
 "We are a feelingless people. If we could really feel, the pain would be so great that we would stop all the suffering ... we would go into the streets and stop the war, stop slavery, stop the prisons, stop the killing, stop destruction."

Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

- March 8: Siddhartha Mukherjee. *The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Siddhartha Mukherjee](#)
- March 26: Glenn Branch: Hell or High Water: Religion and Climate Change Denial, Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Glenn Branch](#)
- April 6-9: American Atheists National Convention. Phoenix, AZ. [American Atheists 2023 Convention](#)
- April 23-24: *Summit for Religious Freedom*, a collaborative conference sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Washington, D.C. This event is live and virtual. [Summit for Religious Freedom](#)
- May 5-7: American Humanist Association 82nd Annual Conference, Denver, CO. Event is in-person and online. [AHA 82nd Annual Conference](#)
- May 10: Charles Montgomery. *Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Charles Montgomery](#)
- May 21: Mick West: The Grey Birds of UFOlogy. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Mick West](#)

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Deadline for submissions to the Secular Circular is midnight, the last day of each month. Our web site, www.SBHumanists.org, archives current and past issues of the *Secular Circular*. Non-members may subscribe to hardcopy of this newsletter for an annual fee of \$20. E-mail copies provided to members and interested non-members at no charge.

To Join or Donate to HSSB: Annual Membership dues are \$36 for an individual, \$60 for a couple, \$100 for a Society Supporter, and \$300 (or more) for a Society Patron. Dues payments and other donations can be made via PayPal (Paypal.me/SBHumanists) or check. Include your name and contact information when submitting payments. Make checks out to *Humanist Society of Santa Barbara* and mail to Mary Wilk, P.O. Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. mwilk@cox.net. Dues, donations, and payments can also be remitted via this PayPal QR code:



Watch our speaker videos on [YouTube](#). Subscribe to our [Meetup](#) page to be notified of upcoming events.





Humanist Society of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 30232
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

HSSB Calendar

Tuesday March 14, 5:00 p.m. HSSB Board Meeting. Join as early as 4:45pm for socializing. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>. Members always welcome to attend.

Saturday March 18, 3:00 p.m. Susanna McIntyre, President & CEO of Atheist Republic. *The Great Betrayal: How Western Left-Leaning People Have Failed Iran.* Zoom link for the presentation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.