



# The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

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

APRIL 2023

*Please join us for our April speaker meeting on Zoom!*

## The State of The World Scorecard: Getting Better? Getting Worse? Or Too Close to Call?

**Our Program:** This month we will review the trends of some key metrics in the areas of social development, political freedom, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. Were things really "better" in the "good old days"? Have longer-term trends shifted recently?



For the past four years, Dave Flattery has been leading an international team established over 15 years ago to develop a global scorecard of outcomes in these areas. The team works to find and report measures from credible data sources so that people who have an intention, a commitment, or a project for positively impacting some specific aspect of our world can see whether their work is having a statistically significant impact in specific country or global metrics.

These metrics are consistent with humanist values. In addition to the scorecard, we'll explore some topics on the practice of measurement - how averaged or aggregated data can hide key information, how to find bright spots and outliers that can provide insight, and some context for the topic by looking at a few metrics in more detail across the world and over much longer timescales than the 20 year history of the scorecard.

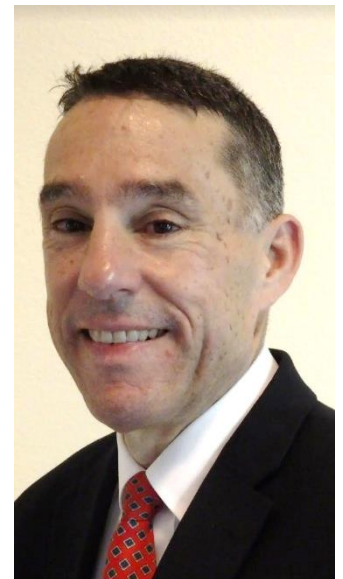
**Our Speaker:** Dave Flattery is the Strategic Initiatives Leader for one of the business units of DuPont. He is a certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt and has both taught and used methods to extract understanding from data through the application of statistical analysis.

Dave also leads the Scorecard Team as part of the Academy of Landmark Education which identifies, tracks, and reports a core set of metrics to validate how we are trending relative to a sustainable world of peace, freedom, and sufficiency for all.

In addition to being HSSB Treasurer, Dave also serves on the Board of the Santa Barbara County United Way.

**When:** Saturday April 15, 3:00 p.m. PST

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



Dave Flattery

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

By Robert Bernstein  
3-18-23

Susanna McIntyre is President and CEO of Atheist Republic. Last year she spoke to us about *Building Godless Community and International Engagement*.

Her latest talk was about the true situation of current revolutionary uprising in Iran, which is very different from what the corporate media portrays, and which is quite different from what Western feminists and progressives have portrayed.



Susanna McIntyre,  
President & CEO, Atheist  
Republic

She noted that March is National Women's History Month and March 8 is International Women's Day. She also noted that Southern California is home to the largest expatriate Iranian community in the world (including "Tehrangeles," a large Persian area of Los Angeles).

She asked us to imagine a movement for justice, freedom, and feminism that was met with silence from those who claim to champion those very values. What is happening now in Iran is the greatest struggle ever **for** women and **against** the religio-political ideology of Islamism.

**The Spark:** On September 16, 2022, 22-year old Mahsa Amini, was murdered by the Iranian "Morality Police" for allegedly wearing her hijab

(head scarf) improperly. She was taken into police custody, where she was brutally beaten which resulted in her death in a hospital a few days later. Susanna noted that brutality is an essential part of what the Islamic Republic is all about.



Mahsa Amini,  
Sept 2022

Mahsa was a Kurdish woman traveling with her family into Tehran. Outrage about the senseless and brutal murder started in Kurdistan in northern Iran, but spread throughout Iran.

Susanna noted that hatred of the Morality Police is a great unifier in Iran. Almost every young person has experienced their indignities. Every woman knows it could happen to them and every man knows it could happen to a woman he cares about. Being rich doesn't help, nor does being Persian in a country with ethnic divides.

The murder of Mahsa brought a bold response that the regime did not expect. Women took to the streets publicly to unveil themselves even burning their veils.

The chant at these events began in Kurdish as "Jin, Jiyan, Azadî." In Persian it's: "Zan. Zendegi. Azadi." In English: "Woman, Life, Freedom."

Here in Santa Barbara we have had many rallies in solidarity with these protesters. Susanna showed a series of powerful videos that have been shared online.

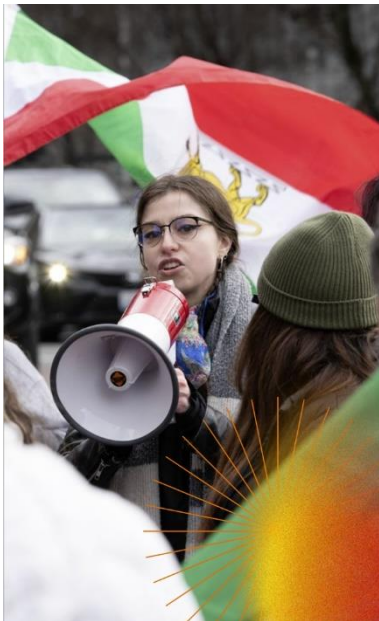
The first one she showed had this title on YouTube:

["Mahsa Amini Death Row | Protests Escalate in Iran, Women Burn Hijab | The Quint"](#)

**Dissecting the Hijab Issue:** It is more than just freedom to choose what to wear, though that is important. Modesty issues go back over 100 years in Iran. If the regime fails to enforce "modesty" it has failed in its mission. She showed a 1979 photo of a woman challenging a mullah, soon after the Islamist revolution.

Next she showed a video ["13 women against 13 clerics"](#).

My favorite was the first. A young woman responds to a cleric who is demanding that she put on a hijab. "I don't want to, you stupid man!"



Susanna at a recent protest

The cleric responded, "We have many martyrs". A reference to his view that many of his people died to achieve the Islamist state in Iran.

To end compulsory hijab wearing is to end Islamist rule. This has consequences for all Iranians, not just women.

Such compulsion is "fascist to the core," Susanna explained. It requires government overreach: lashes, imprisonment, torture, forced confessions on TV. To reject the hijab is to reject the Islamist Republic.

**Barandaz:** Clear and bold calls to overthrow this government go back years. What is new is widespread support and the rate of increase. "Barandaz" is a word to listen for in chants. It means "overthrow".

Susanna went on to play more video clips. She said to pay attention to what is said and what is not said.

October 8: "Islamic Republic, we don't want. Guns, tanks, and fireworks, mullahs go to hell!"

December 5: A parody of a Shia worship song with twisted and reversed words: "I hate your religion, your ethics, the callus on your forehead. Your hypocrisy. Death to [Supreme Leader of Iran] Khamenei."



The callus on the forehead refers to supposedly devout worshipers who pray so much with their foreheads to the ground that they develop this callus ("virtue signaling"). Susanna noted that some people fake these marks of devotion in a true display of hypocrisy.

December 16: In a conservative Sunni area in eastern Iran, Susanna showed Baluchi women in full veiling in a niqab chanting, "Death to Khamenei. Death to this child-killing government. You are our ISIS. You are our terrorists."

This is a big deal. The Baluchis and Kurds are minorities that are treated especially badly by the regime.

January 5: "No to Islam, no to the Koran. My life is only for Iran."

Susanna noted it is "wild" to see this en masse. Openly anti-Islamic. A shift of the "Overton Window" of what is normal.

The final clip she showed was at a concert. The song stated, "Until the mullahs become covered



in a funeral shroud, this homeland is not a homeland."

Susanna went on to talk of "Wielding Blades". Women cutting their hair became a symbol of rejecting the regime. Historically it was done as grieving for a loved one. Becoming like a man. A woman stated, "If you will kill me for cutting my hair, better to have no hair at all."



Minoo Majidi's daughter at her grave, head uncovered, defiantly holding her cut hair.

She showed an iconic image at the grave of Minoo Majidi, a 62-year old peaceful protester. She was shot dead on September 20, leading to even wider protests. At her burial on September 22, women unveiled and chanted against the regime. The iconic image shows Majidi's daughter standing at the grave, unveiled, holding her own cut hair, with a white scarf

around her neck. "This is who the regime has to fear. You have taken everything from me. What more do I have to lose by fighting this regime?"

Susanna went on to talk about "Civil Disobedience" and how she can barely scratch the surface in her talk. She showed an ordinary scene of two women eating in a cafe, unveiled. But not ordinary in the Islamic state of Iran. They were arrested.

Male and female students refused to continue to eat in segregated campus cafeterias. Some ate outside together. Others tore down the partitions inside their dining hall. She said it

reminded her of the lunch counter protests during the U.S. Civil Rights movement in the South.

The chador is the Persian equivalent of the total veil of a burqa. Susanna described scenes of a chador-clad woman spray painting, "death to the dictator". "This is powerful and significant."

Another chant to listen for is "Azadi", meaning "Freedom" or "Liberty".

Protests have spread worldwide, due to the Iranian Diaspora, perhaps on every continent except Antarctica. "Let me know if there was a protest in Antarctica!"

She showed a photo of a Berlin rally attended by 80,000-100,000 protesters. Atheist Republic members were there! She showed another photo of a rally in L.A. with 100,000-180,000 that she attended.

As of February, Susanna had this tally:

1280 protests

165 cities

530 protesters killed

71 children killed

70 regime forces killed

19,763 arrested

4 protesters executed: Mohsen Shekari, Majidreza Rahnavard, Mohammad Mehdi Karami, and Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini.

Susanna noted that the 70 members of the regime forces who have been killed is a record in the history of the Islamic Republic.

The brutality is extreme. Systematic and intentional torture, and rape of protesters, both men and women. Doctors attempting to treat wounded protesters have been killed. Protesters have deliberately been blinded. The regime has been doing that for years. Such cruelty is intended to terrify the population against protesting.

Recently, there have been [mass poisonings of Iranian school girls](#). Each injustice increases the people's resolve to overthrow the regime. It all started with the regime killing people to show that it didn't kill Mahsa.

This is not a protest. This is a revolution.

**Betrayal:** How have people in the West responded? In Susanna's view it has been a betrayal: dismissing and diminishing the protests. She singled out this sort of misinformation:

- "Iranians are protesting against sanctions." As if it is all about the U.S., rather than about the rage of the Iranian people against a brutal regime.
- "Iranians just want to end the mandatory hijab."
- "They just want to abolish the Morality Police." That sounds like reform.

There are no chants about sanctions, hijabs, or the Morality Police. The chants are for overthrowing the regime and ending Islamist rule. Many chants are against Islam itself.

It drove Susanna crazy to see Kim Kardashian retweet a post by @parmidabarez: "Iranians are not protesting against Islam or any religion. They are fighting for basic rights."

No! They are protesting against Islam!

Someone called @feminist with 7 million followers tried to compare the compulsory hijab with abortion rights in the U.S. Yes, the overturning of Roe is terrible. But it is dismissive and diminishing to compare this to the oppression of women in Iran.

Professor Ed Husain at Georgetown University went so far as to say that burning a hijab is as silly as the government imposing it by force. He implied that these women were inspired by French women burning their bras. As if the

women of Iran have no autonomy to think for themselves.

An Iranian immigrant woman had an art exhibit at McAllister College that portrayed women in Muslim garb defying Muslim limits. They posed in sexually suggestive ways, and one was giving the finger. McAllister College shut it down as "offensive". They said that it caused "deep pain" and "harm" against Muslims: an inversion of the reality of Islam causing real pain and real harm to real women.

Under protest, the college reopened the exhibit, but the art was shrouded with black cloth. Just as the Islamist regime does to real women in Iran! They also posted a "content warning".

The Swiss ambassador to Iran met with Iranian officials in February in a full length black veil, which is far beyond the hijab requirement. This was a great photo op for the oppressors, both an insult to Iranians and to the Swiss. The ambassador was validating the oppression. Susanna questioned why she was even there during this time of protest.

Since 1980, the flag of Iran has had a symbol of Allah on it. Susanna showed a video of people pushing Allah off the flag. Iranians are sick and tired of this Islamism.



Protestors Pushing Allah out of Iran

Susanna thinks that those on the left squirm when there is talk of regime change in Iran because of the disastrous history of U.S. interventions in the region, notably the 1953

overthrow of the democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh and the installation of the hated Shah.

Susanna finds this frustrating, as the Iranian diaspora is clear in saying that they don't want foreign intervention. They just want foreign leaders to "stop supporting our murderers."



She went on to talk about some relevant positive work by Atheist Republic: a web site "[Operation Iranian Renaissance](http://OperationIranianRenaissance.com)" (opirren.com).

It provides practical information of how to maximize safety while protesting, such as how to deal with tear gas, and how to treat gunshot wounds. She invited us to donate to that site.

She said that Iranians are very appreciative of support from non-Iranians. Reach out to Iranians and show your support. Attend local rallies.

She took questions from an on-line Zoom audience that included people from Iran, Canada, Australia, and Great Britain.

One man asked what internet access is like in Iran. She said that the regime uses a "throttle system" where it can get very slow during crises. It is very rare that it is cut off, because when that happens it causes panic and alarm.

Internet access also depends on the region within Iran. Tech literacy can help. Some use a VPN to conceal their location. She suggested contacting Elon Musk and asking for more Starlink access there as he has done for Ukraine.

Some asked how to network with Iranians. She suggested looking for a local Iran community center or Persian market. A lot happens on Instagram. She noted a page called "Middle East Matters" and "ps752justice". If there is a rally, show up and see who is in charge. Talk to them. It will mean a lot for an outsider to show them support.

She also suggested contacting Democratic legislators and asking them to support the Mahsa Act. Just talking about the situation with others helps.

I would like to add my own comments. Susanna gave an excellent presentation about the horrors in Iran. She set the record straight that this is a total revolution in progress. Not just against the regime and not just against Islamist control of Iran, but against Islam itself.

She emphasized that Western liberals make things worse when they get "politically correct" about Islam.

I would like to point out that it is the Republican Party that has been the bigger problem. It was under Eisenhower that the Dulles Brothers engineered the coup in 1953. The major airport for D.C. is still named for them.

And it was Reagan who rushed to send weapons to the Islamic Republic as soon as he took office. I was very active and aware at the time. There were stories of how Reagan's team struck a deal with the Islamists in Iran to keep holding the American hostages in order to help defeat Carter. The expression at the time was "October Surprise".

Some of those stories were debunked, but it is important to remember the scene of Reagan being sworn in as president simultaneous with the hostages being released. The New York Times published an article on March 18 about a man named Ben Barnes who said he was unwittingly a part of the nefarious deal, who was taken to the Middle East by his mentor, John Connally, to broker the deal.

Reagan sold weapons to these Iranian terrorists and illegally used that money to fund "contra" terrorists who were blowing up schools and hospitals in Nicaragua. I was in Nicaragua at that time and saw some of the effects.

It is similar to the situation with the Climate Crisis. Democrat Joe Manchin is an infamously corrupt obstacle to moving to sustainable energy. We must remember that every single Republican is an obstacle as well. It is good to call out Democrats and progressives when they are at fault. But we should remember who is the real problem. End of rant.

Again, I do thank Susanna for her good work in support of the people of Iran and for all of her work with Atheist Republic!

### **UCSB Establishes Mahsa Amini Scholarship**

*By Debra Herrick*

[Reprinted from *The Curent*, 2/27/23 8:15]

She was a young Iranian woman on vacation — just days before starting college — who died while detained by the country's morality police. Mahsa Amini's death in September 2022 set off women-led protests across the country and brought international attention to the dangers women face in Iran. Inspired by these events, UC Santa Barbara's tight-knit Iranian community has created a path for women like Amini to pursue graduate studies at UCSB.

"I grew up in Iran with all the gender apartheid that the Islamic Republic is forcing on women," said Salva Salmani-Rezaie, who completed her

doctoral studies in material science at UC Santa Barbara in 2021. "And still, I always thought that the only way out for women in countries like Iran is through education." Salmani-Rezaie is now a Kavli postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University and will join The Ohio State University's faculty next fall.

Shortly after Amini's death was reported, Salmani-Rezaie, Mohamad Nasr-Azadani Ph.D. '13, and another Ph.D. alum who requested to remain



anonymous, along with retired staff member Venus Nasri, came together to create the Mahsa Amini Graduate Fellowship for Iranian women studying non-STEM fields at UCSB. They secured [initial funding](#) from UCSB's alumni community with donors from the world over.

The group decided to target non-stem majors, fields that are often inaccessible to Iranian students, particularly women. Of the dozens of recent Iranian graduate students at UCSB, nearly all have been in STEM fields, noted Nasr-Azadani, who studied mechanical engineering.

"You have seen the value of the left brain of Iranian society, which is logic, engineering and science, but not the right brain," he said. "The right brain is what you're hearing now in the news: the passion that women have, the leadership they have taken, the beauty of the innovation they have taken in the demonstration." Nasr-Azadani now works in applied research focused on artificial intelligence at Accenture Labs in San Francisco.

Most of the initial funding was raised in a GoFundMe campaign that Salmani-Rezaie and Nasr-Azadani created, pulling in over \$13,000 from friends, family and fellow alumni. Meanwhile, Nasri helped bring the proposal to



UCSB's Division of Student Affairs, where she worked for many years, connecting the fellowship to the university. Though retired from UCSB, Nasri continues to volunteer as a lead advisor for graduate students in the Islamic Society of Santa Barbara. Her years-long involvement and support in the Iranian student community brought her into the lives of both Salmani-Rezaie and Nasr-Azadani when they were students.

"Well, I was an international student myself and I know how difficult it can be because you're away from your homeland," Nasri said. "Iranians are very attached to their families, parents and friends. And then when I was at Student Affairs, one of the questions that we would ask undergrads was: 'How did you manage your freshman year?' And then I was thinking, do they ask the same question to international and graduate students? And I said, 'Well, I want to be that person. I want to be the person who they come to if they have a problem.'"

The fellowship was set up at UCSB with the support of Interim Graduate Dean Leila Rupp and Assistant Dean John Lofthus.

"The Mahsa Amini Fellowship is world-changing in so many ways," said Rupp. "It honors not just the death of one woman, but the courage of all the Iranian women and others who take to the streets in protest. Here on campus, it honors the Iranian community of faculty, staff and students who, in the face of oppression back home and anti-Iranian sentiment in the U.S., bravely go about their work and studies. And it recognizes what Iranian graduate students bring to our university community, from the sciences to the humanities and social sciences."

Lofthus noted the relatability of Amini's plight. "As a father of a bright and motivated 11-year-old girl, I cannot imagine a society where she is prevented from basic rights such as the freedom to dress as she wants or to pursue higher education in the subject of her choosing," he

said. "I was incredibly inspired when I first heard of what Venus, Mohamad, Salva, and others are doing and am delighted that I can help them make this fellowship a reality."

UC Santa Barbara is believed to be the first university in North America to establish [a graduate fellowship in Mahsa Amini's name](#). The program aims to award the first fellowship in the 2024-25 academic year. For information, contact [john.lofthus@ucsb.edu](mailto:john.lofthus@ucsb.edu).

### Let's Ask ChatGPT!

*By Judy Flattery*

You've likely heard about ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022. I thought it might be interesting to ask it some questions of interest to Humanists. *What do you think of its answers?*

**My Question.** Do you believe religions are a net positive or a net negative for humanity?

**ChatGPT Answer.** As an AI language model, I do not have personal beliefs or opinions. However, I can provide some information and perspectives on the potential impact of religions on humanity.

Religions have played a significant role in shaping human societies, cultures, and worldviews throughout history. They have provided people with moral and ethical frameworks, guidance for personal and communal practices, and a sense of belonging and meaning. Religions have also inspired great works of art, architecture, and literature, and have served as a source of comfort and hope in times of distress.

On the other hand, religions have also been associated with conflicts, intolerance, discrimination, and oppression. Some religious beliefs and practices have been used to justify violence, inequality, and human rights violations. Moreover, religions have sometimes clashed with scientific discoveries and rational



thinking, leading to tension and resistance to progress in certain areas.

Overall, it is difficult to make a definitive statement about whether religions are a net positive or net negative for humanity. It depends on various factors, such as the specific beliefs and practices of a religion, the historical and cultural context in which it operates, and the ways in which people interpret and apply its teachings.

### **My Question. Is God real?**

**ChatGPT Answer.** The existence of God or a supreme being is a matter of belief and faith that has been debated by humans for centuries. Different religions and philosophical traditions have proposed various concepts of God or gods, and there is no definitive proof or disproof of their existence.

From a scientific standpoint, the question of whether God exists is not a question that can be tested or falsified through empirical methods. Science is concerned with the natural world and seeks to explain natural phenomena through observable and measurable data. The existence of God is not something that can be observed or measured in this way, so it falls outside the scope of scientific inquiry.

Ultimately, whether or not one believes in the existence of God is a matter of personal faith, worldview, and interpretation of evidence and experience. Some people find comfort and meaning in the belief in God, while others find it unconvincing or unnecessary.

### **My Question. Which religions are growing, and which religions are shrinking?**

**ChatGPT Answer.** It is difficult to provide a definitive answer to this question, as religious trends and demographic patterns can vary greatly depending on the geographical location, cultural context, and political climate of a particular region or country. However, based on

recent research and projections, here are some general trends regarding the growth and decline of different religions:

**Christianity:** Christianity remains the largest religion in the world, with over 2.3 billion adherents. However, its overall share of the global population is declining, mainly due to declining religious affiliation in Europe and North America. At the same time, Christianity is growing rapidly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, where it is expected to continue to expand in the coming decades.

**Islam:** Islam is the second-largest religion in the world, with over 1.9 billion adherents. It is also the fastest-growing major religion, with projections indicating that it will surpass Christianity as the world's largest religion by 2070. Islam is growing in both Muslim-majority countries and non-Muslim-majority countries, particularly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Hinduism:** Hinduism is the third-largest religion in the world, with over 1.2 billion adherents. It is primarily concentrated in India and Nepal, but is also growing in countries such as the United States and Canada due to migration and conversion.

**Buddhism:** Buddhism is the fourth-largest religion in the world, with over 500 million adherents. It is declining in many Asian countries, such as Japan and South Korea, but is growing in some Western countries such as the United States, Canada, and Australia.

**Judaism:** Judaism is a relatively small religion, with around 14 million adherents worldwide. Its population is growing slowly due to a combination of factors such as high birth rates in Israel, immigration to Israel from other countries, and conversion.

Overall, the trend seems to be that Christianity is declining in many parts of the world, while

Islam and Hinduism are growing. Buddhism is experiencing mixed trends, while Judaism is growing slowly. It is worth noting, however, that these trends can be influenced by a variety of factors, and there is a significant degree of variability and uncertainty in projections regarding religious growth and decline.

**My Question.** What difficulties do apostates face?

**ChatGPT Answer.** Apostates, or individuals who leave a religious faith, can face a range of difficulties depending on their personal circumstances, the religious community they are leaving, and the societal and cultural context in which they live. Some common challenges that apostates may face include:

**Social isolation:** Leaving a religious community can often mean losing relationships with family members, friends, and community members who may no longer accept or approve of the individual's beliefs or lifestyle. This can lead to feelings of loneliness, isolation, and rejection.

**Discrimination and stigma:** In some communities and cultures, apostasy is viewed as a serious offense or even a crime, and apostates may face discrimination, ostracism, or persecution. This can include denial of basic rights such as education, employment, and housing.

**Psychological distress:** Leaving a religious community can be a traumatic and emotionally challenging experience, particularly if the individual has been deeply involved in the community or if their decision to leave was met with hostility or rejection. Apostates may experience feelings of guilt, shame, or anxiety as they try to make sense of their new identity and navigate the challenges of life outside the community.

**Legal challenges:** In some countries and regions, leaving a religion or openly expressing atheism

or skepticism can be illegal, and apostates may face legal penalties or persecution.

**Lack of support:** Apostates may struggle to find support or resources to help them navigate the challenges they face, particularly if they live in communities or cultures where apostasy is stigmatized or taboo.

Overall, the experience of leaving a religious faith can be complex and challenging, and may require significant emotional, social, and practical support.

**My Question.** What are the benefits of apostasy?

**ChatGPT Answer.** Apostasy, or the act of leaving a religious faith, can have both positive and negative effects on individuals, depending on their personal circumstances and the context in which they live. Here are some potential benefits of apostasy:

**Greater freedom of thought and expression:** Apostasy can provide individuals with the freedom to explore new ideas and perspectives, to question previously held beliefs, and to develop a more nuanced and critical approach to knowledge and truth.

**Increased personal autonomy:** Leaving a religious faith can allow individuals to make their own decisions about their beliefs and values, rather than feeling bound by the beliefs and traditions of their community or family.

**Improved mental health:** For individuals who experienced psychological distress or trauma within their religious community, leaving the community can lead to improved mental health and well-being.

**New sense of community:** While leaving a religious community can result in social isolation and loss of support networks, it can also provide opportunities for individuals to

build new relationships and communities based on shared interests or values.

Personal growth: Apostasy can be a challenging and transformative experience, providing individuals with the opportunity to learn about themselves and to develop new skills and coping strategies.

Overall, the benefits of apostasy are highly individual and depend on a variety of factors such as personal values, cultural context, and community support. While leaving a religious faith can be difficult and challenging, it can also be a positive and empowering experience for some individuals.

### Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

- April 6-9: American Atheists National Convention. Phoenix, AZ. [American Atheists 2023 Convention](#)
- April 16: Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway: The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us Loathe Government and Love the Free Market. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway](#)
- 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 18: Maria Ressa: *How to Stand Up to a Dictator*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Maria Ressa](#)
- May 21: Mick West: *The Grey Birds of UFOlogy*. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Mick West](#)

### HSSB Contact Information

#### Officers:

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#### Newsletter Editor & Submission Deadline

Judy Flattery, [sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com](mailto:sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions to the Secular Circular is midnight, the last day of each month. Our web site, [www.SBHumanists.org](http://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](https://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](mailto: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.



- June 18: Daniel Phelps: Kentucky's Creation Museum and Ark Encounter: Anti-Science with Government Assistance. Center for Inquiry West, Los Angeles. [Daniel Phelps](#)





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

### HSSB Calendar

**Tuesday April 11, 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 April 15, 3:00 p.m. Dave Flattery: *The State of The World Scorecard: Getting Better? Getting Worse? Or Too Close to Call?*** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.

**Tuesday May 16, 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 May 20, 3:00 p.m. Prof. Rick Phillips. *Mormonism Today*.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.

**Sunday May 21, 1pm. *The Book of Mormon*.** Granada Theater, Santa Barbara, CA

**Saturday June 17, noon - 3pm. HSSB Summer Solstice Picnic.** Stow Grove Park. Bring a dish to pass.