



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

JANUARY 2024

Please Join Us On Zoom for our monthly speaker meeting...

Gen Z Humanists in The Hood

Our program: Although greater numbers of Black Gen Z youth (born between ~1997 and 2012) are identifying as non-religious, the mainstream media continues to focus on white "nones". What informs the critiques and viewpoints of young Black "nones"?

Our Speaker: Sikivu Hutchinson, Ph.D. is a Los Angeles-based educator, author, playwright and musician. She is a recipient of the 2020 Harvard Humanist of the Year award.

Her books include:

- A short story collection of speculative fiction, [*The Roar of Distant Engines*](#), (2023),
- *Rock 'n' Roll Heretic: The Life and Times of Rory Tharpe*, (2021) a finalist for the Lambda Literary foundation's 2023 drama awards.
- *Humanists in the Hood: Unapologetically Black, Feminist, and Heretical* (2020),
- [*White Nights, Black Paradise*](#) (2015), on Peoples Temple and the 1978 Jonestown massacre. (Note: This work is both a book and a sold-out play produced at the Blue Door Theater in Culver City in November 2023, and attended by a group from HSSB),
- [*Moral Combat: Black Atheists, Gender Politics, and the Values Wars*](#) (2011),
- [*Imagining Transit: Race, Gender, and Transportation Politics in Los Angeles*](#) (2003).



Humanist, Author, Educator,
Playwright, and Musician,
Dr. Sikivu Hutchinson

She is also the founder of [Black Skeptics Los Angeles](#) and the [Women's Leadership Project](#), a Black feminist mentoring program for girls of color in South L.A. Sikivu has also produced four original folk/rock/country genre singles as a [guitarist-singer-songwriter](#).

When: Saturday January 20, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm PST

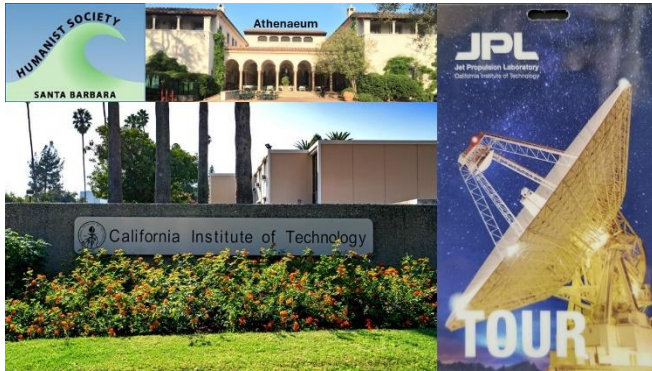
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.



The HSSB Secular Circular – January 2024

January HSSB Excursion To Caltech and JPL with lunch at the Athenaeum

Thirty lucky people will be joining HSSB Board member and retired JPL Systems Architect, Gary Noreen, on a tour of Caltech and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory on Monday January 29.



The excursion filled up within about 48 hours of being announced on December 29. There is no cost for the tour itself. Gary is assisting interested attendees in setting up personal carpools for transportation to and from the Pasadena area. Lunch at the Caltech faculty club, The Athenaeum, will be \$23 for the buffet or \$17 for soup and salad.

Gary plans on hosting additional excursions to other Southern California sites of interest to Humanists every 4 to 6 months. These include the Huntington Library & Gardens, the Getty Villa, and Mt. Wilson Observatory.

Thanks to Gary (yoda@ardio.com) for his diligence in reserving HSSB a slot on the very popular JPL tour schedule.

[Note that if you do not receive this newsletter via email, it means we do not have your current email address and you may miss out on short notice opportunities like the JPL excursion announcement. Please ensure we have your most current email address so you don't miss out on future opportunities. --Ed.]

HSSB Winter Solstice Party

Approximately 25 HSSB members and several guests celebrated the completion of 2023 and our anticipation of longer days to come at the HSSB winter solstice party held Friday evening December 15 at the Encina Royale Clubhouse.

The event was organized by Board Member, Judy Fontana, with the assistance of Anne H. Rojas.

The Chaps provided live musical entertainment.

Evan Clark, executive director of Atheists United in Los Angeles, traveled from LA to attend the event and to get to know us better.



A delicious buffet dinner was provided by Craft Catering (craftcateringcompany.com).

Images from the event are provided by our Board Member/journalist/photographer, Robert Bernstein. Thanks to our planners and to all who attended!



Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

Submitted by Diane Krohn

- January 16: Dr. Mark Reimers: *Further Reflection: Dogmatic Delusions and Conspiracy Theories*. This is a four-session course on Zoom sponsored by The American Humanist Association. [Dogmatic Delusions and Conspiracy Theories](#)

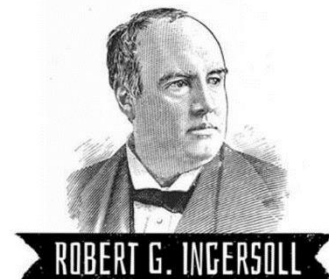
- January 20: Zoom screening of *Michael Flynn's Holy War*. The film screening is sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Orange County chapter. [Michael Flynn's Holy War](#)
- January 22: *Sarah Ray, Kris Tassone and Alison Gill: Town Hall: Protecting Transgender Rights*. Zoom presentation by The American Humanist Association. [Protecting Transgender Rights](#)
- January 29: *Ian Ruskin: The Anti-Slavery Efforts of Thomas Paine*. Zoom event presented by the Thomas Paine Memorial Association. [Anti-Slavery Efforts of Thomas Paine](#)
- January 31, 2024: Nita Farahany and Nicholas Thompson: *Your Brain on ChatGPT: How Artificial Intelligence Will Change Everything*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Your Brain on ChatGPT](#)
- February 23: Michael Mann: *Our Fragile Moment: How Lessons from Earth's Past Can Help Us Survive the Climate Crisis*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Michael Mann](#)
- March 6: Rev. Kevin Jagoe: *Practicing Compassion in Community*. Zoom presentation sponsored by The American Humanist Association. [Practicing Compassion in Community](#)
- March 28-31: American Atheists 2024 National Convention, Philadelphia, PA. American Atheists [2024 National Convention](#)
- April 3: Robert B. Reich: *What Really Happened to the American Dream? (And How Can it be Restored?)*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Robert B. Reich](#)

- April 16: Cristina Mittermeier: *Between Land and Sea: Saving Our Oceans to Save Ourselves*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Cristina Mittermeier](#)

Your 2024 Horoscope!

Aries	The stars won't affect you at all
Taurus	The stars won't affect you at all
Gemini	The stars won't affect you at all
Cancer	The stars won't affect you at all
Leo	The stars won't affect you at all
Virgo	The stars won't affect you at all
Libra	The stars won't affect you at all
Scorpio	The stars won't affect you at all
Sagit.	The stars won't affect you at all
Capricorn	The stars won't affect you at all
Aquarius	The stars won't affect you at all
Pisces	The stars won't affect you at all

"IF THE PEOPLE WERE A LITTLE MORE IGNORANT, ASTROLOGY WOULD FLOURISH – IF A LITTLE MORE ENLIGHTENED, RELIGION WOULD PERISH"



[AtheistRepublic.com](#)

Hike With HSSB

Robert Bernstein has been leading hikes for many years with other organizations. He recently offered to lead hikes for HSSB members and others who may be interested.

The first hike, to Gaviota Wind Caves, was held on Thanksgiving morning followed by a

Thanksgiving potluck meal hosted by a couple of the hikers at their home.

Robert publishes the location of the trailhead, the difficulty of the route, what to wear, what to bring, what to expect... and takes magnificent photos. Watch our [HSSB MeetUp site](#) for information on future hikes. Here are some of Robert's photos from the Thanksgiving Day hike.



HSSB Contact Information

Officers:

President: Judy Flattery,

sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com

Secretary: Diane Krohn, DJKrohn1@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Flattery,

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Board Members at Large:

Wayne Beckman, Robert Bernstein, Judith Fontana,
Gary Noreen, Mary Wilk

Newsletter Editor & Submission Deadline

Judy Flattery, sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com

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. Once at the site, select 'Send' then log into your PayPal account to complete the transaction.:



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

Saturday January 20, 3:00 p.m. Sikivu Hutchinson, author & activist. *Gen Z Humanists in the Hood*.

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

Monday January 29, 9:45 – 5:30pm. HSSB Excursion to Caltech, Jet Propulsion Laboratory with lunch at the Athenaeum (Caltech faculty club). Excursion is currently full. Contact Gary Noreen at

yoda@ardio.com for any questions.

Tuesday February 13, 5:00 pm. HSSB Board Meeting. Join as early as 4:45pm for socializing. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>. Members always welcome to attend.

Sunday February 18, 3:00 p.m. Jeffrey Jackson, Hollywood screen writer. *Atheists in the Movies*. Zoom

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

Tuesday March 12, 5:00 pm. 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 16, 3:00 p.m. Marcia Hofer, A Better Exit. *End of Life Rights: What's Next?* Zoom link:

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