



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

MAY 2024

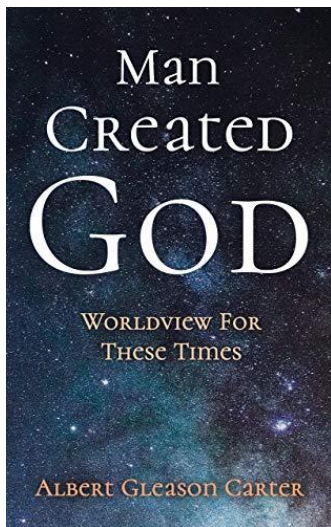
Join Us In Person Or On Zoom!

“How Then Shall I Live?” A Worldview for These Times

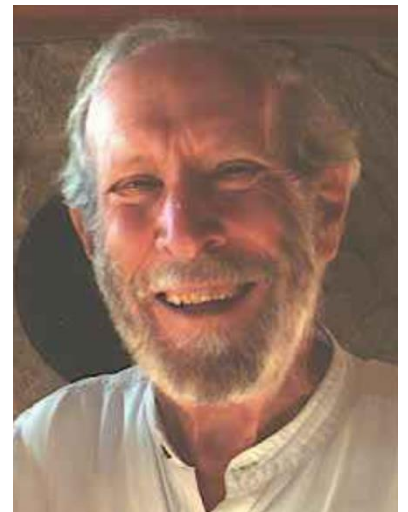
Our Program: We will explore the development of our own worldviews together as Dr. Carter describes his growth from a biblical worldview to what he calls a “mythopoetic natural worldview” and its implications.

Our Speaker: Dr. Albert Gleason Carter is author of the book, *Man Created God: Worldview for These Times*, which was reviewed in the March 2024 issue of *The Secular Circular* (The book is available on Amazon.com. Reading the book first may enrich your experience of Dr. Carter’s talk).

Dr. Carter received his Ph.D. from UC-Santa Barbara in Confluent Psychology: The effects of behavior and cognition on our lives.



Dr. Carter supervised Santa Barbara City College instructors at four Santa Barbara facilities for otherwise-abled adults. He spent several years camping with his family in Europe and Morocco, then traveled widely throughout Southeast Asia. Dr. Carter now lives in Carpinteria, CA.



Dr. Albert Gleason Carter

When: Saturday May 18, 3:00 – 4:30 pm PST.

Two ways to Participate: In person or on Zoom.

In Person: Fellowship Hall, Live Oak UU Congregation, 820 N. Fairview Ave., Goleta CA

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

**Congratulations to
HSSB member, Marian Shapiro:
A Central Coast Woman of the Year!**



Our Congressman, Salud Carbajal, received almost 100 nominations for his 2024 naming of six Women of the Year. Marian was nominated by the president of the Dem Women Board, on which Marian has served for the past 20 years. Marian's 22 years of local activism is well known in the community.

Noozhawk published this article about her life: "Shapiro's journey began in Berkeley, California, where she was shaped by the progressive spirit of the 1960s. Her time at UCSB marked the start of a lifelong commitment to activism, especially for women's and LGBTQ rights. In rural Kansas, while raising her children, she continued her advocacy, organizing workshops and lobbying for important causes.

"Shapiro returned to Goleta to begin a new chapter of teaching, community service, and political engagement, leaving a lasting impact on her students and peers. At 81, her passion for activism and creativity maintains, bridging

generations and causes through her photography and lifelong work."

The Noozhawk article just hits the highlights. We at the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara appreciate all of the support Maian has provided us over the years: as a board member, as our photographer, as a program presenter, a cheerleader, an activist, a loving supportive friend and confidante. Here are more of the details of the life of this remarkable woman including what she is particularly proud of.

Marian Shapiro grew up in Berkeley and first came to Santa Barbara in 1960 as a freshman at UCSB. After two years she returned to Berkeley where she got her BA in music and met husband Marty.

In 1968, Marty started his doctoral studies at UCSB. After earning his PhD in 1971, his job then took them to a small university town in rural Kansas, where Marian raised their two children and helped start a small Planned Parenthood clinic. She became Director of Education for Planned Parenthood of Kansas.

She was known throughout the state for doing sex education in the Bible Belt. She did programs for junior high, high school and college students on making good choices about sex, saying "No", using birth control, learning about STDs, and understanding consent and pregnancy options. Students always appreciated her openness and were very comfortable asking her questions.

She designed and led 2-part workshops for Parents & Daughters, and Parents & Sons, teaching them how to talk about puberty, dating, the feelings everyone has, and how to handle peer pressure. She says both parents and kids were hesitant to come to Part-1, but both were enthusiastic to come the following week for Part-2. Some parents told her they learned as much as their kids did, and were grateful that she could make these topics not

embarrassing. Several religious moms told Marian they were too embarrassed to say “period,” and so appreciated that Marian could teach their daughters about menstruation and what changes happened to males and females at puberty.

Marian lobbied legislators in Topeka, and always advocated for women’s reproductive rights, and LGBTQ rights. She fought against hatred and led the way in supporting civil rights when she witnessed discrimination.

She sang songs about women’s issues and played the guitar at many women’s movement events in the 1970’s and 1980’s.

In 1982 Marian recorded an album entitled *Songs of Social and Sexual Significance* which was sold to raise money for Planned Parenthood. It is still available on CD today, and sadly the women’s issues in the songs are still issues today, 42 years later.

Here are a few of the unique song titles she covered on the album: ‘Vasectomy’, ‘Mammary Glands’, ‘Strip Poker Massacre’, ‘Viagra in the Waters’, and ‘Boys Want Sex In The Morning’.



In retirement, the Shapiros were thrilled to return to Goleta (after Marty found out there was a Humanist Society here!). Marian taught The Psychology of Human Sexuality for 11 years at Santa Barbara City College. Once the word got out about the high student ratings of her class, she had a waiting list each semester of students wanting to get in.

One of her proudest accomplishments in retirement has been creating her *Big List* of individuals who share progressive views on caring for the planet and human rights, and who respond to her ‘Shapiro Action Alerts’. The group has grown to nearly 650 recipients who appreciate her easy-to-follow suggestions of actions they can take, such as writing to representatives in Sacramento or Washington, and her notices of important local events and protest demonstrations.

Marian is very happy being able to make helpful connections for people through the email group she calls her *Big List*. Recently she was trying to find someone with a room in their house who could help two different people needing places to live due to the war in Ukraine. One was a Russian War protester, Peter, who had been beaten, jailed and terrorized by the Russian police for opposing the war in Ukraine, and the other was a Ukrainian mother and daughter who fled their country when their town was attacked and terribly damaged. Marian’s *Big List* came up with 6 offers of rooms for the war protester, and helped raise almost \$5,000 for the immigration attorney’s fees for Peter’s request for refugee status.

The City Council of the City of Goleta issued a Proclamation to Marian wishing her health and joy on the occasion of her 80th birthday in 2022: a very impressive birthday card!

At 81 years old, Marian misses being able to sing as she once did. She still throws pottery on her wheel, has become a good photographer of

people, enjoys her kids and their families (who live too far away), and for several years cared for her sweet husband of 57 years who died in February. **All who knew Marty Shapiro are invited to a celebration of his life on June 29 at 2pm at Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation. [Marty's Obituary.](#)**

Marian served on the Boards of Democratic Women of Santa Barbara County, the Dem Service Club and the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara.

She has regularly volunteered to elect progressive candidates to office doing phoning, walking or mailings. For years Marian organized volunteers to staff voter registration tables. She volunteered many hours photographing and documenting events in the community for Dem Women, the Women's Political Committee, The Parkinson Association of Santa Barbara, the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara, and The League of Women Voters.

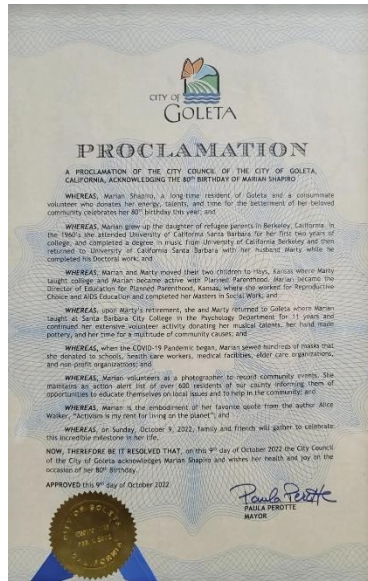
Another hobby of Marian's has been making books honoring and celebrating seniors for their life accomplishments. She made books for the first Mayor of Goleta, Margaret Connell, on the occasion of her 90th Birthday, and for Barbara Loebman, the much-beloved Adult Ed Ceramics teacher on the occasion of her retirement from running the Ceramics program at the Schott Center Studio for 40 years.

During COVID, Marian made 3000 COVID Face Masks and donated many to local organizations (Planned Parenthood, Friendship Center,

Cottage Hospital, an elderly Native American community, Homeless services, etc.).

Marian is also a member of the Craftivists for Change: progressive women who knit and crochet scarfs, hats, and blankets for children who have been abused, for babies in Thailand, for foster kids who have termed out and will soon be on their own, and many other good causes. They've raised thousands of dollars for Planned Parenthood selling 'pink pussy hats', as well as winter hats and scarfs for Ukraine, and have even made desks and masks for schools and teachers in Santa Barbara.

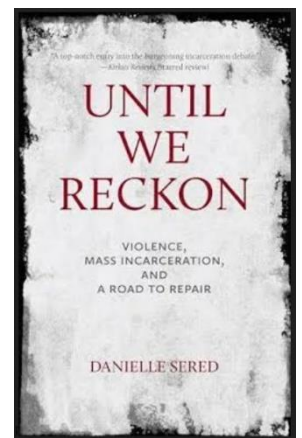
Marian has presented programs on gender for the Gray Panthers and the for our Humanist Society and led a discussion on the book *This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel, about a family raising a transgender child. Thank you, Marian Shapiro, for being a treasure in our country, community and in HSSB!



A Book Review By Nan Cisney *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and A Road to Repair*

Author Danielle Sered is the director of [Common Justice](#), an organization that has been extremely successful in the rehabilitation of persons who commit violent crimes, by offering alternatives to incarceration.

Her book, *Until We Reckon*, is a comprehensive analysis and critique of our justice system and describes in detail the constructive changes that need to be made. The author describes America as a country in which violence has been normalized. She sees us as an extremely violent and punitive society.



She states that the four core drivers of violence are shame, isolation, exposure to violence, and an inability to meet one's economic needs. She notes that these are the same four core features of prison, so why would we expect time spent in prison to reduce violence?

Studies show that prison has a criminogenic effect. Reforms need to be made. Most crimes resulting in incarceration are of a violent nature but reform has primarily been focused in the area of non-violent crime.

Sered shows that for many Americans, abiding by the law doesn't work. She digs deeply into the cause of violence, illustrating how it is caused by inequity, poverty, the inability to meet one's economic needs, and the resulting shame.

Incarceration increases that sense of shame, impotence and anger. It impacts the children, family, and communities of the people who are imprisoned and serves to perpetuate the cycle of violence and incarceration.

She claims that prison sentences are too long; that minimum sentence laws should be abolished; that many factors, including a judge's discretion, should be taken into consideration in determining the length of a prison sentence.

We need to get rid of three strikes laws and to make greater use of parole. For rehabilitation, a person who commits an act of violence needs to be accountable, acquire a sense of empowerment, of dignity, and of self-worth.

Programs such as providing a college education have been demonstrated to be successful in the rehabilitation process.

The book deals not only with the perpetrators of crime but of its victims (called 'survivors' in the book) whose needs, in her experience, are also not being met in our current system. The

book gives examples of the negative impact of trials on the victims of crime.

Incarceration is often portrayed as necessary to keep us all safe and to be 'tough on crime'. She states, "If incarceration worked to secure safety, we would be the safest nation in all of human history." We are very far from that ideal.

At Common Justice, perpetrators are rehabilitated by fostering accountability to the survivor of the crime who, if willing, participates in a dialog between the two. The survivor can share what actions would help in the healing process. This provides great benefit to both parties. Both gain power and a common narrative of what happened.

Here is their 5 Step Accountability Process:

Step 1. Acknowledging Responsibility for One's Actions. Accountability starts with telling the truth. She makes the point that the current criminal justice system is not primarily concerned with uncovering and dealing with the truth..

Step 2. Acknowledging the Impact of One's Actions on Others. This step is about giving up the right to remain hidden and, instead, deeply listening to the impact of the crime on others: to others' emotions, losses, family and community impact, "facing the people whose lives they've changed, as a full human being who is responsible for the pain of others." This acknowledgement can be both difficult and powerful, and of great value to those harmed by the responsible party/perpetrator.

Step 3. Expressing Genuine Remorse. Sered shared the value of remorse expressed by Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela of the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "[Empathy] is why a perpetrator can rise above guilt and shame to touch that place of remorse, which is a very vulnerable place. There, a perpetrator has to recognize

their own brokenness, because for them to have violated and dehumanized a victim, they had to dehumanize the self first. They rendered themselves inhuman in order to conduct their terrible deeds. So remorse is a recognition of deep human brokenness, and it is also the possibility-- the place where it becomes possible for the perpetrator to reclaim their rights to belonging in the realm of moral humanity."

Step 4. "Doing Sorry": Taking Actions to Repair Harm to the Degree Possible, and Guided When Feasible By the People Harmed. This is the step that moves the parties into the future. Sered emphasizes that the current system of incarceration and punishment do not require such acts. Accountability is not just a feeling; it is a set of actions that demonstrate remorse in practice.

Step 5: No Longer Committing Similar Harms. Sered states that this is not an easy step. This step is particularly challenging given that violence is often driven by structural and contextual factors that are not changed by the accountability process. "Still," she states, "it is the work of accountability to transform as much as possible within those constraints so as not to cause more pain to others."



And we Americans, in order to be rehabilitated as a nation, need to face and not hide from our past or from those structural and contextual factors that perpetuate the inequity we have wrought.

Here is an [interview with the author, Danielle Sered](#), on NPR's *Democracy Now*. Note that the League of Women Voters 'Overbooked' club discussed this book this month.

Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

Submitted by Diane Krohn & Melanie Jacobson

- May 1: [Suzanne Simard](#): *Finding the Mother Tree*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event.
- May 5, Sunday 10am, Live Oak UU: Megan Moyer: *Under the Influence of Spiritual Principles*. Where does our humanity meet our spirituality and how can we understand our spirituality in terms of human morality?
- May 7: [Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson](#): *What if We Get It Right? Visions of Climate Futures*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event.
- May 8: [Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross](#): *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event.
- May 12 Sunday 10am, Live Oak UU: *Mother's Day Service*. Susan Braden & Carolyn Chaney share their experiences of motherhood.
- May 18: [Judge Mary Beth O'Connor](#), Ret.: *From Junkie to Judge: Recovery Without God*. Virtual event, presented by Americans United For Separation of Church and State, Orange County.
- May 19 Sunday 10am, Live Oak UU: Rev. Jonathan Young. *Spirit of Life*. How do we generate enthusiasm and excitement to take on projects as individuals and community?
- May 19: [Seth Andrews vs. God](#): *Who is the Better Intelligent Designer?* Center for Inquiry West event, Los Angeles, CA.
- May 23: [Chef Jose Andres](#): *Changing the World Through the Power of Food*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event.
- May 26 Sunday 10am, Live Oak UU: Sue Reinhardt: *Nature Teaching the Sacred* author of the beautifully illustrated book, *Medicinal & Poisonous Plants*, shares what nature may teach us about the sacred.

Update on SB1196. Going Beyond Compassion & Choices Legislation

Marcia Hofer, founder of the organization *A Better Exit*, spoke to HSSB in March about bill heading to the CA Senate (SB1196-Blakespear) which would modify California's *End of Life Options Act* to make it available to more people in need.

The HSSB Board supports this expansion of eligibility and wrote a letter to State Senator Catherine Blakespear expressing our support. We outlined how the bill specifically aligns with humanist principles.

Unfortunately, the bill will not be moving forward at this time, after encountering objections on many fronts. Compassion & Choices, the organization responsible for enacting the current (2016) law, opposed this expansion of rights. The California Catholic Conference also opposed it, as did some disability rights advocates.

Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman who authored the original *End of Life Options Act* in 2016, came out against this most recent expansion. She posted on X that, "While I have compassion for those desiring further change, pushing for too much too soon puts CA & the country at risk for losing the gains we have made for personal autonomy."

Marian Shapiro hypothesized that Senator Blakespear may have thought it better to withdraw the bill at this time, and wait for more favorable conditions, rather than have it voted down now. Politico quoted Senator Blakespear's statement, "At this point, there is reluctance from many around me to take up this discussion, and the future is unclear... The topic, however, remains of great interest to me and to those who have supported this bill thus far."

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Submission deadline for the *Secular Circular* is the last day of each month. Our web site, www.SBHumanists.org, archives past. 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 to HSSB via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) (Paypal also accepts credit cards; you do not need to have a PayPal account). Include your name and contact information when submitting payments.



To pay by check, make checks out to *Humanist Society of Santa Barbara* and mail to Mary Wilk, P.O. Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130. mwilk722@gmail.com.

Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) where we post videos of our past speakers. 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 May 14. 5:00 pm. HSSB Board Meeting. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>. Members always welcome to attend.

Saturday May 18, 3:00 p.m. Albert Gleason Carter, retired habilitation psychologist and author of *Man Created God, Worldview For These Times*. In-person at Fellowship Hall Live Oak UU Congregation, 820 N. Fairview Ave., Goleta CA 93117 AND on ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88193881833>.

Tuesday June 11. 5:00 pm. HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

Saturday June 15. Noon-3pm HSSB Summer Solstice Picnic. Stow Grove Park, Area 2. RSVP to judithannfontana@yahoo.com. We will provide sandwiches and beverages. Please bring appetizers, salads, other sides, or desserts. Team Trivia will make an appearance so start cramming now. Cost will be \$10 per person.