



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

APRIL 2026

The Best of Times – The Worst of Times



Dr. Jeremy Berg

Our Program: Since World War II, The United States has enjoyed an enviable international leadership position in science driven by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. The potential for science to address key societal challenges is profound.

However, the first year of the current administration has been tremendously damaging to the American scientific enterprise with unprecedented grant delays, terminations, ‘realignment with agency priorities’, staff terminations, and more.

The traditional scientific establishment has largely either complied in advance, cowered in fear, or worked ‘behind the scenes’, but some groups have stepped up with more activist approaches. Members of the public, who depend on advances made by science for health and economic prosperity, must be engaged to understand what is happening and to speak out.

Our Speaker: Jeremy Berg is a Professor of Computational and Systems Biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Berg received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry. He started as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University in 1986. He moved to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine as Director of the Department of Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry in 1990. In 2003, he became Director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) at NIH. He served at NIGMS until July 2011 when he moved to the University of Pittsburgh. Berg served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Science* family of journals from 2016-2019. His efforts have been recognized with numerous research, teaching, and public service awards. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

When: Saturday April 18, 3:00-4:30 pm Pacific

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

What The Heck is Objectivism?

Charlie Painter 3-14-26

By Robert Bernstein

Sometimes a talk can be a learning moment. Perhaps not for the reason intended by the speaker. But, still, a valuable opportunity.

I need to start this article with some background on my understanding of Objectivism, a philosophy invented by Ayn Rand. I have never read any of Ayn Rand's books. But, when I was a student at MIT, I was inundated with Objectivist ideas. The Objectivist Club was one of the larger clubs at MIT. They published a newspaper called *Ergo*. Many of us derisively called it *Ego* because of the emphasis in Objectivism on the self and on the ego.



Ayn Rand, 1943
Source: Wikipedia

Whatever the news of the day, *Ergo* had an Objectivist interpretation and recommendation. During my senior year, President Carter had become very militaristic. He wanted to build a mobile nuclear missile system called the MX Missile. It would have been the largest construction project in U.S. history.

It would place hundreds of missile launchers on railroad cars in the Western desert to keep the Soviets in the dark on where the missiles were located. One of my MIT classmates from Germany provocatively pointed out that the U.S. didn't have a properly functioning railroad system for humans, yet it had money for putting missiles on railroad cars.

One issue in the news regarding the MX Missile project was the environmental cost. *Ergo's* take on this? They said that this was a meaningless concept. The environment is not a participant in

the economy; therefore, it makes no sense to talk of the cost to the environment. The environment only has value to the extent that it generates profits for humans. The Western desert had no such value.

I minored in philosophy and my physics degree included a math degree. In these fields we were taught about a method of proof called "reductio ad absurdum". In some cases, it is difficult to prove something. In some of those cases you can do the reverse: show that a particular set of axioms leads to an absurdity, thereby proving the original set of axioms is flawed.

To me, *Ergo's* statement about the environment having no inherent value (other than to humans) was a reductio ad absurdum for Objectivism. As a Humanist, this certainly goes against our principles.

Still, I was open to hear what Charlie Painter had to say.

His talk got off to a shaky start because he had some trouble with his slides. I mention this because I am not sure if we got to see the presentation as intended. But I think we pretty much got an understanding of his ideas by the time we finished with the Q&A.



Charlie Painter

He started his talk explaining that everyone has and needs a philosophy. If you think you don't have a philosophy, you probably have one anyway, but it may not be a well-considered philosophy...and it may be flawed.

He explained that Objectivism is logical in form. It starts with simple axioms that everyone can agree on. From those axioms, Objectivism derives its principles. Even though some principles may seem strange or wrong, they

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

must be true because they derive from solid axioms.

He laid out five branches of philosophy that are important to Objectivism.

Metaphysics. The study of existence. This starts with Aristotle's Law of Identity: A=A. Existence exists. Contradictions are not possible.

In Objectivist metaphysics, consciousness comes from existence. Not the reverse. This contrasts with some Eastern philosophies that take the material world to be a product of a deeper reality that is a kind of cosmic consciousness.

Epistemology. Epistemology is about the proper methods of acquiring and validating knowledge.

Did you get your idea from a dream? From a Bronze Age book? Or is it from logic? From observations?

Ethics. Painter claimed that Ethics is built on the first two. Like the floors of a building. Ethics is a code of values to guide man's choices and actions. Ethics begins with explaining why man needs values at all. The standard is: What is needed for man's survival as man.

Painter mentioned that he had been speaking with a former girlfriend. She said she wishes she wasn't a mother. She wanted to start a business. She wanted to travel. She married a military man and had a child while she was still young and now regrets it.

Painter told her: That is ethics. It is about your life and your happiness.

Everything a human needs has to be discovered by their own mind.

Painter spoke of Rational Egoism. It emphasizes long-term self-interest, rationality, and personal

happiness over altruism. Ayn Rand published a collection of essays about this in 1964 called *Virtue of Selfishness*. Painter does not like the title but agrees with the sentiment.

Politics. Objectivist politics are built on the first three branches. Free market capitalism is the most moral system because it is the most rational. It is based on property rights. All property should be privately owned. Objectivism says that physical force must be banished from human relationships. The government's only role is to protect against physical force.

Aesthetics. He was missing this slide. It is the area he knew the least about, and Rand said less about this.

Painter went back to talk about capitalism. He explained that there is only one valid form.

Most current forms are a 'mixed economy'. In the U.S. we have a central bank. We have regulations on banks, trade, food, and health. We have taxes at all levels.

We have building codes and eminent domain. "A bit of fascism" in his words.

He gave the example of Trump regulating an AI company and calling them a threat. Trump has also pushed a bill that said if you have certain stock shares then you can't buy homes.

Painter said that some of the U.S. Founders understood this idea, notably Jefferson and Madison. This form of capitalism relies heavily on individual rights. "Rights do not impose obligations on others," Painter claimed.

At this point he took questions and comments. I had a page of handwritten questions off the top of my head based on a lifetime of hearing these ideas. I did not know if I would get to ask more than one. I started with this one: Has this

Objectivist version of capitalism ever been implemented anywhere?

"Not exactly." It has been implemented "on a spectrum". Painter invited us to look at countries that have prospered: The U.S., Hong Kong, Scandinavian countries. They prosper to the extent that they follow capitalism, he claims. Economic prosperity leads to better longevity. He said that, contrary to widespread belief, "Sweden is pretty capitalist."

A participant asked about 'Subjectivism'. Painter said he doesn't know what that would mean. "Religion" was participant's reply.

Painter said, "Religion is an abomination, to use a religious term."

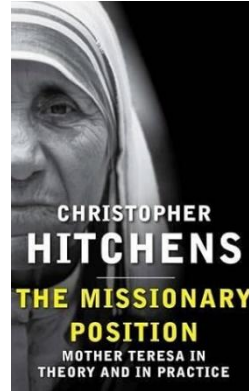
He went on to say that you can't just be against something. You have to know what you are for. He said that Objectivism is "pro-reason". Reason is our only guide to knowledge. Mysticism undermines that.

The participant was converted to religion early in high school, then left it. "Maybe religion is God's test to see who is smart enough not to buy into religion!" Kind of the inverse of Pascal's Wager! [I like this!]

Humanist Society President Judy Flattery said that one of the biggest criticisms of Objectivism is that it diminishes the role of compassion and empathy. In February 2025, Elon Musk stated on the Joe Rogan podcast that "the fundamental weakness of Western civilization is empathy."

Painter replied: Empathy for who? People who are trying to bomb me? Communists? Those trying to take my property?

Painter said that Rand is misunderstood. She is all for people showing empathy for those they choose to have in their life. He said Mother Teresa was the extreme of one who only cared about others with no regard for herself.



[I highly recommend reading Hitchens' short but powerful book *Missionary Position*, that shows that Mother Teresa was nothing like the figure that she projected to millions of her followers. – R.B.]

[Also recommend the podcast, *The Turning: The Sisters Who Left* podcast, about the dark side of Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity Order – ed.].

Painter said that multiculturalism is a form of 'suicidal empathy' and that maybe that is what Elon Musk meant.

I was surprised that no other hands were raised. So, I asked some more questions from my list. I noted that there are collective problems that can only be solved collectively. Most notably: The Climate Crisis. I noted that Germany and China have invested tens of billions of public dollars in solving these problems.

Painter challenged me to check my premises. He said I was treating Mother Earth as some kind of virgin, precious, sacred thing. He said that Earth doesn't want us here at all. It is violent and anti-human life.

Why should we think that we should have no impact on Earth? That we should not extract any oil? That we should not irrigate our crops? "It is only our impact that has allowed us to live."

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

Rather than dispute whether other species have any rights to live, I raised the point that our impact on Earth are impacting other humans; for example, unless we change course dramatically, much of Florida may soon be under water.

Painter said he does not care about 'indirect' effects. He proudly said that he does not recycle. He doesn't care if that causes the landfill to fill up faster. That is "down the road." This is "not a moral claim on me."

I asked him if he is aware of the concept of externalized costs... like the cost of our military trying to secure the flow of oil. He said he has heard the term, but he is not very familiar with it.

Noah interjected that "government is a company that has unlimited money because of taxes."

Painter said that government is a taker. It doesn't make anything, and it chooses winners.

I said that government indeed chooses winners and invests in those winners. For the past hundred years it has invested tens of trillions of dollars in subsidizing private motor vehicle use. The rest of the world invested in public transit.

Which is why it can often take me up to three hours to get to Los Angeles, versus our experience in Japan where it only took 45 minutes for a similar trip on high-speed rail.

I also pointed out that vaccines as we know them would not exist without government support. Government funds the research, as Obama did with mRNA vaccines. When COVID hit, everything was in place from that research so that we could just plug in the COVID information and produce the mRNA vaccine at scale.

Private companies profited from the vaccines for two more reasons beyond government funding of research: Government bought the

vaccines to be distributed to the public, and government provided insurance in case people were injured by a vaccine. This is one of many cases where funding comes from the public while profits are privatized.

The same is true for Elon Musk's profits from his contracts with NASA.

Painter claimed that the COVID vaccine was not funded by the government, "A couple of scientists came up with that."

[You can Google, *What was government's role in the COVID vaccine?* to find out for yourself.]

Judy Flattery asked if there is a role for cooperation in Objectivism. Painter said there is, but it must be "voluntary". He acknowledged that we evolved to need each other.

I asked Painter if he believed there should be public schools. He replied, "Public education is a violation of human rights."

Nancy asked why. He said that what is his is his. He deserves to keep the fruits of his labor. All property is intellectual property. It is rational to give 5% for courts and police. But not 30% for "an alphabet soup of agencies". And property taxes are just wrong.

[I will note that there is a philosophy called 'Georgism' that says that all land should be publicly owned and land should be taxed to fund government and public services. This is a way to maximize the efficient use of land, which is quite well aligned with Humanist philosophy.]

I brought up the story about the MX Missile. He said that the environment has no rights; nor do animals. "Animals are not conscious reasoning beings."

Judy Flattery asked about free will. Painter said that Objectivists are about the only ones left who

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

still believe in it. Or at least "free won't". Free will is axiomatic for Objectivism.

I came back to the issue of us versus animals. I noted that we are creating an entirely new species of intelligent beings on the planet through our development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). They might come to find us annoying at best, and a threat at worst. If you apply Objectivism to this situation, do they have a right to get rid of us?

He said that we are very far from that. I said the biggest explosion in AI is the ability of AI to write code. Which would include writing code to create superior AIs. We will be like insects to such AIs.

He dismissed this, but Judy followed up. He said that an AI doesn't have any values. Living and dying is the standard of all values. And an AI can't die. We are biological. We feel fear. "An AI has no rights."

He said that animals have no morality. We have morals that say it is wrong to kick a dog for no reason, but the dog has no morals about what it does.

Participant K. Keranen noted that whales communicate. They seem to be sentient beings that have a sense of self. Painter agreed that he is open to some animals being conscious, but communication can't be the standard. "Ants communicate."

I could say a lot more. But I will conclude with a few points:

1. Painter said that "Rights do not impose obligations on others". We live in a modern, interconnected industrialized world. Almost everything we do affects at least some other people. We may legally have the right to drive a huge vehicle or post false information on Facebook. But can we acknowledge that

this imposes obligations on others due to the harm to others?

2. He said: "Objectivism says that physical force must be banished from human relationships. The government's only role is to protect against physical force."

Again, due to the interconnected nature of our world, perhaps 'physical force' and 'violence' need to be understood in a broader context. We already have mass migrations and wars due to the very early stages of climate change.

Painter seems to have this answer: That is "down the road". This is "not a moral claim on me". Do you agree? If you burn your share of fossil fuels, it may not cause a war, but can we accept the possibility that our actions multiplied by tens of millions doing the same thing does have a moral claim on us?

Even if it is not about personal behavior, can we feel a moral obligation to call for government action to solve this collective problem? If not, how will billions of humans survive at an acceptable level of comfort? (Not to mention other species' survival.)

3. Painter asked if we should have empathy for: People who are trying to bomb me? Communists? Those trying to take my property?

During the Gilded Age, there was a vast concentration of wealth in the hands of a few 'Robber Barons' (Concentration of wealth now is comparable to that time). This was the start of people throwing bombs, talking of taking property, and a spread of interest in Communism as a solution.

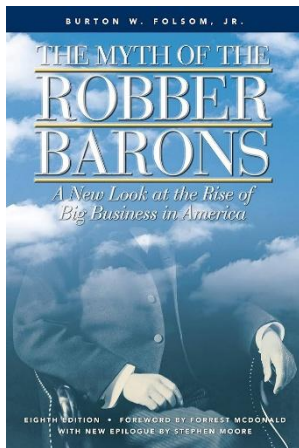
Franklin Roosevelt was the biggest friend that capitalism ever had. He was able to keep the bomb throwers and Communists at bay in the U.S. How? By offering programs that

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

gave everyone a 'New Deal' from the deck of cards that had enriched a few and left the majority barely able to survive.

Everything from banking insurance (and regulation) to Social Security to Federal public works projects ensured that everyone could thrive and that vital work got done.

Vital work that was not profitable for any one individual or for any one company, but that makes life worth living for everyone.



[Painter later told me I should read *The Myth of the Robber Barons*; that challenges this narrative. That book claims that the

Robber Barons brought prosperity along with inequality, and that the real bad guys were the crony capitalists who got special government favors.]

Objectivism seems to be aligned with Humanism in some ways. It claims to support reason rather than blind belief. It supports human liberty. Both are optimistic about the creative power of humans when they are allowed to flourish.

But there are notable differences. Objectivism denies the complexity of what it means for humans to live together in a technologically advanced, interconnected society. Where billions of individual choices can affect billions of other people. Pure free market capitalism is essentially a voting system where your vote is based on how much you pay.

A further exchange with Painter led to his promise that markets can solve problems that economists call 'market failures', including climate and public health. But these are well established market failures exactly because

markets, in principle, cannot solve these problems.

Humanism has a strong emphasis on altruism, compassion, and collective well-being. Objectivism claims to have discovered the one, true path to knowledge and progress. And the one, true way for people to govern themselves. Humanism recognizes that we don't have all the answers and that we must stay open to new approaches.

This talk was valuable for me: It deepened my appreciation for Humanism.



Three Humanists at Santa Barbara's No Kings Rally: Suzanne, Marian, and 'the other' Judy.

Photo Credit: Marian Shapiro

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

Petition To Reduce Jail Expansion Plans: Should HSSB Formally Endorse This Plan?

By Marian Shapiro & Judy Flattery

Marian Shapiro recently learned about the jail expansion question that Santa Barbara County Supervisors will vote on during the spring budget deliberations beginning on April 13th.

Since Humanists care about social justice and rational approaches to solving human problems, Marian asked that we inform HSSB members about this issue and see if either individually or as an organization, we'd like to support a certain proposal advocated by 23 local organizations.

Marian invited Judy Flattery to join her in a conversation with Gail Osherenko about the upcoming vote on jail expansion and why some groups are supporting a more modest (256 bed) expansion in the North Branch Jail.

The groups supporting the more modest expansion are the League of Women Voters (LWVSB and LWVNSBC), Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE-SB), Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN), Indivisible SB, NAACP of Santa Barbara and NAACP of Santa Maria and Lompoc, a number of churches, 2 SEIU unions, NAMI, Families ACT! and more.

We spoke with Gail and learned that many people in our jails are non-violent (including those with mental health or substance use disorders), who do not need to be in jail to protect public safety. People with these issues generally don't improve by confinement alone. When released, without a 'warm handoff' to community services, and without a useful diagnosis, the same issues that brought them into jail in the first place bring them back again, and again.

LWVSB, CLUE-SB and SBCAN assert there is no need for the larger expansion advocated by Sheriff Brown (384 beds). The groups

mentioned are advocating for the County Board of Supervisors to build just one housing unit (256 beds) and defer or cancel further jail expansion. Non-violent offenders would be much better off with treatment for mental health or substance use disorders in the community rather than in a jail setting. These groups created a petition supporting this position.

There are economic implications. It costs ~\$394/day to incarcerate someone in County jail. If effective interventions would address the underlying issue and reduce recidivism, the County could save additional expense and positively impact the lives of some of our most troubled neighbors. LWVSB, CLUE-SB and SBCAN also point out that our County is facing \$23 million in cuts to social and safety-net programs next fiscal year and a \$66 million deficit over the next five years. The petition to the Board of Supervisors states that this will save the county \$147 million over 20 years and lead to better outcomes in terms of reduced recidivism. Gail emphasized that if the extra jail beds are available, they will be used rather than connecting these people in crisis to the services that would help them.

Gail spoke positively of the North Branch jail and its facilities, which opened in 2022, saying its Sheriff Deputies were trained as mentors; it has nice clean quiet rooms, and facilities for conducting self-help and other educational programs. This jail currently has 376 beds within a 133,000-sf facility, providing housing for both male and female inmates in a mix of medium and high security areas.

Note: Judy recommends listening to an excellent podcast produced by Tradeoffs and the Marshall Project; a series called [The Fifth Branch](#), which details several cities which funded social services teams to respond to 911 calls involving individuals in crisis (drugs, homelessness, mental health), thus reducing the chance of escalation/imprisonment, while directing

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

people in crisis to appropriate support services. Santa Barbara County has 3 operating Crisis Response Teams and hopes funding will be available to staff a 4th one. These each have a Sheriff's Deputy and a mental health counselor from Behavioral Wellness. They have been able to de-escalate many dangerous situations and thus avoid sending an individual in crisis to jail.

Below is the petition:
[Click here](#) to sign it or scan the QR code at right.
 (c.org/7yVTy5BNdF).



PETITION TO LIMIT FUNDING TO JUST ONE HOUSING UNIT AT SANTA BARBARA COUNTY'S NORTH BRANCH JAIL

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is considering approval of over \$460 million (including long-term financing and staffing) to expand the North Branch Jail by 1-1/2 Housing Units (384 beds). We call on the Board to limit the addition to just one housing unit (256 beds) at a savings of approximately \$147 million.

The Board's current plan would more than double the capacity of the Santa Maria jail and lock the County into decades of financing and higher operational costs. Our County is facing \$23 million in cuts to social and safety-net programs next fiscal year and a \$66 million deficit over the next 5 years.

Our jails hold many non-violent residents (including those with mental health or substance use disorders) who do not need to be in jail to protect public safety. Our jails are not designed as treatment facilities. Expanding jail capacity instead of community rehabilitation services will not improve public safety.

Sign this petition to:

- *Save approximately \$147 million in construction, financing and operational costs.*
- *Enable closure of most of the outdated South County Main Jail.*
- *Enable funding to be redirected toward Board accepted jail population reduction measures, such as mental health counseling, addiction treatment, and other essential services.*
- *Choose crime prevention over incarceration to make Santa Barbara a safer place to live.*

We respectfully but firmly call on our County Supervisors for their votes in support of a fiscally smarter, more affordable and humane choice. Build just one housing unit (256 beds) and defer or cancel other jail expansion.

Background: in 2017, the Murray v. Santa Barbara Case alleged that the South County jail on Calle Real was old and dilapidated, severely overcrowded, and understaffed; that prisoners lived in dangerous, unsanitary conditions, and that the jail did not provide adequate health care for them, overused solitary confinement, and failed to appropriately accommodate people with disabilities.

This case resulted in 2020 with a Remedial Plan. The Remedial Plan required that Santa Barbara County improve the jail in nine areas: medical care, mental health care, suicide prevention,



Santa Barbara County Main Jail
 Credit: Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

disability accommodations and access, environmental health and safety, custody operations/segregation, staffing for health care services, and training related to treatment of prisoners with special needs.

The North Branch Jail opened in 2022, addressing many of these issues in its design and staffing. The current issue is about how to implement further expansion of the North Branch Jail in order to close all but 116 beds in the Main Jail in South County that are in the Intake and Reception Center (IRC).



Santa Barbara County North Branch Jail

*Credit: Above -Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
Below- Lompoc Record*



Sheriff Brown originally wanted to expand the North Branch Jail by 2 housing units (512 beds).

The current compromise proposal is 1-1/2 units (384 beds, \$460 million), and 23 local groups support just a 1 housing unit (256 bed) expansion and restrict the use of the dilapidated, outdated Santa Barbara County Main Jail to just handle intake and reception.

Atheist Republic & The War in Iran

By Judy Flattery

Our friends at Atheist Republic have been closely following and sharing the situation in Iran since well before the first missile strike. Atheist Republic cares deeply about the freedom of the Iranian people and is standing for regime change to eliminate theocracy in Iran. They support Israel and the U.S. taking action to bring about this change. They support Reza Pahlavi, the crown prince, as the next leader of a secular Iran.



Follow their live analysis and reporting on YouTube at youtube.com/@AtheistRepublic.

With nearly 90,000 subscribers and 6800 recorded videos, Atheist Republic is a powerfully informed voice for freedom and secularism in Iran. They have spoken to HSSB on several occasions, most recently when CEO [Susanna McIntyre urged western nations to support the Iranian people](#) who were bravely demonstrating for their freedom after the death of Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

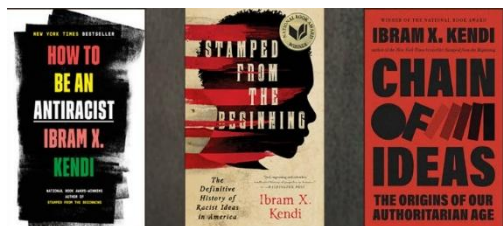
The HSSB Secular Circular – April 2026

HSSB stands in solidarity with the Iranian people in their fight for freedom and a secular, democratic government in alignment with our humanist principles.

Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

Submitted by Diane Krohn

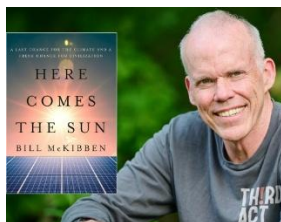
April 7, 7:30 pm: *Chain of Ideas: The Origins of Our Authoritarian Age.* UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Ibram X. Kendi](#)



April 14, 7:30 pm: Masha Gessen: Politics of the Past; Politics of the Future. UCSB Arts & Lectures Event. [Masha Gessen](#), author of *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*.

April 19, 11:00am – 12:30 pm. *Jon Cohen and Molly Bentley: The Next Pandemic.* Center For Inquiry, 2535 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA. [The Next Pandemic](#).

April 21, 7:30 pm: *Bill McKibben: Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.* UCSB Arts & Lectures Event. [Bill McKibben](#)



April 25-27: Summit for Religious Freedom, virtual event and in-person in Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC. Sponsored by Americans United For Separation of Church and State. [Summit for Religious Freedom](#)

May 6: Ed Yong: The Amazing Nature of Animal Senses. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Ed Yong](#)

HSSB Contact Information

Officers: *President & Editor:* Judy Flattery,

sbhumanisteditor@gmail.com

Secretary: Diane Krohn, DJKrohn1@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Flattery,

david.flattery@post.harvard.edu

Board Members at Large:

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

To Join or Donate to HSSB: Annual Membership dues \$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 QR code below). At the PayPal site, select 'Send' then log into your PayPal account to complete the transaction. Or
- Zelle (HSSBpayments@gmail.com) or
- Checks made out to *Humanist Society of Santa Barbara* and mailed to Mary Taylor, HSSB, P.O. Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.
- Please include your name and contact information when submitting payments.
- Membership questions? Contact Mary Taylor at HSSB.Membership777@gmail.com

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

[Meetup](#)  [YouTube](#)



June 11-14: CSIcon 2026, Buffalo, NY. 50th Anniversary of the Center for Skeptical Inquiry. Speakers include Mary Roach, Bill Nye, Stuart Vyse, Benjamin Radford, Banachek, Eugenie Scott, and many others. [CSIcon 2026](#)



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

HSSB Calendar

Tuesday April 14. 5:00 pm Pacific. HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

Saturday April 18, 3:00 pm Pacific. Dr. Jeremy Berg: *The Best of Times – The Worst of Times.* On

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

Tuesday May 12. 5:00 pm Pacific HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

Sunday May 17. 3:00pm Pacific. Dr. David Orenstein: *Humanity's Debt to Africa.* On Zoom.

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

Tuesday June 16., 5:00 pm Pacific. HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83592300667>.

Sunday June 21, noon - 3:00 pm Pacific. HSSB Summer Solstice Picnic Location TBA.