



The Secular Circular

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

www.SBHumanists.org

OCTOBER 2026

Join Us For This Month's Program...

Adversarious Liberation: Reason, Rebellion, and Religious Liberty



Kapro Scious,
Executive Officer of The Satanic Temple

Our Program: *Adversarious Liberation* explores the evolution of Satanism from a feared accusation to an adopted religious identity. Kapro Scious, an executive officer of The Satanic Temple, will trace the emergence of modern Satanism and examine the transformation of Satan into a symbol of compassion, reason, bodily autonomy, and religious pluralism.

Our Speaker: Kapro Scious is an Executive Officer of The Satanic Temple and serves as liaison to co-founder Lucien Greaves. He chairs the Executive Oversight Commission and oversees the Satanic Ministry and Chaplaincy, guiding the practical application of Satanic doctrine.

When: Saturday October 24 at 3 - 4:30pm

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



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Public Works Improvisational Theatre: Lee Boek's Confessions of a Pulpiteer 9/19/26

by Robert Bernstein

Lee Boek held the attention of the crowd filling the room at Live Oak Unitarian Society. His one-man performance of his life story was accompanied by Paul Fleisher on the bass clarinet... not to be confused with a saxophone!

Lee was once an evangelical preacher and that experience has never left his being. Clearly, he can channel that way of being at any time.

He started by portraying himself listening to the radio at age 6 in 1947. He heard a preacher on Yreka Radio warning of a life after death that would go on forever and ever. As horrible as hell sounded, Lee wasn't sure heaven would be much better if it really went on forever and ever.

These were scary times. 'Duck and cover' drills were common at school (as if ducking under your desk would protect you from nuclear war!).

After school Lee usually got home and made himself a huge sandwich: a 'Dagwood' sandwich named after the Dagwood Bumstead character in the Blondie comic strip.



Stage Manager Paul Andrade introduces the show.



Lee Boek on stage at the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation venue.

One day Lee arrived home and saw that another couple was in the living room with his parents. They were converting his parents to a new evangelical fundamentalist religion.



Dagwood Bumstead with a 'Dagwood Sandwich'

From that day forward, life would be very different. No more vacations in Los Angeles. No more movies. No Christmas celebrations. No Christmas presents. Christmas was declared 'pagan'... or perhaps even worse: 'Catholic'.

Life was about one thing: Jesus and the Judgment Day. Jesus will arrive on a fiery golden throne. He will consult a book of who would be saved. Your name better be in that book!

One day in 8th grade Lee learned of a competitive school dance competition. He nervously asked Nancy Brown to be his partner and was delighted when she said yes.

At the event, one by one, other couples were called off the dance floor, but he and Nancy Brown kept on dancing. They won the competition. He was so excited! Lee ran home to tell his parents.

They were not pleased. It wasn't just that his father condemned his dancing. His father wanted Lee to see for himself that dancing is a sin. Lee would never dance again until he was almost 30 years old.

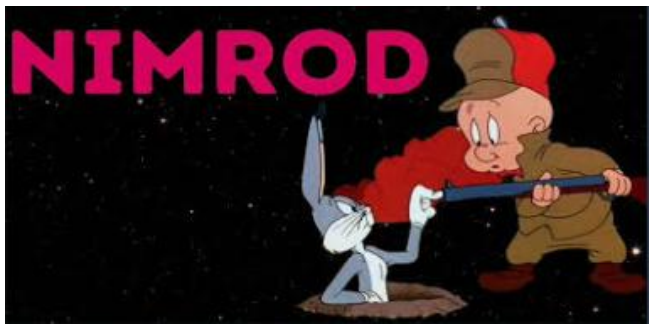
Surprisingly, Lee told his father he wanted to be a preacher. He would have to intern with an experienced preacher. He would have to hit the road, traveling and preaching.

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I was amused by Paul Fleisher's musical riff at this point of 'See the USA in your Chevrolet', which I remember from my childhood!



Lee described a long stretch of time as an intern with a preacher named Nimrod. This name is amusing to people of my generation. Nimrod was a Biblical hunter who was greatly respected. But my generation knows the term as an epithet Bugs Bunny called Elmer Fudd as a term of ineptness.



In any case, Lee was 18 and Nimrod was 36 and they shared hundreds of rides together on both Greyhound and Trailways buses.

Nimrod had his own songbook. Another preacher was jealous of Nimrod's songbook and had a racket going selling his own songbook.

Lee also described deep divisions among various Christian sects over what seems like silly, pointless issues such as whether the communion wine should be offered serially to congregants out of a single cup (the practice

allegedly used by Jesus at the Last Supper) or out of multiple cups (the so-called 'One Cup' issue).

One night Lee was lying in bed in a dark and musty room, feeling very lonely. At 2 a.m. he heard a Black congregation singing 'Oh Happy Days'. They sounded so much happier than how his life was going.

He had been traveling throughout the South, and at this point he was in Mississippi. Lee noted that not everyone there was a racist bigot.

They traveled on up to the Virginias, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. They skipped New England. They even ventured into Mexico. Sometimes they traveled 50 nights in a row.



Paul Fleisher provides musical accompaniment with his bass clarinet.

In 1961 Lee was 21 years old and wanted to get married.

He married Lola, whom he had held hands with when he was 12 years old.

He got married in Sacramento, with Nimrod officiating.

Lee got his own church in the deep South. He noted that in some of those places 'Caucasian' is spelled with three Ks!

One time, a good old boy told Lee, "Strange fruit done been hung on that tree as recently as 1937," which was a reference to Black people being murdered, and hung in the trees.

Black people technically had been emancipated from slavery, but they were forced into a life of

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debt that could not be escaped. They lived on the same old pre-Civil War plantations but now had to pay for housing and food from their \$15/week salary, which meant that they never actually got paid and were constantly hounded to pay money they didn't have.

In some ways, it was worse than being a slave.

Lee naively took a job collecting debts from these people. He became so horrified at his own use of the 'N word' that he quit that work.

Lee mentioned that this cruelty to Black people was not just in the South. His own grandfather had burned KKK crosses in Los Angeles.



Lee Boek and Paul Fleisher on stage performing *Confessions of a Pulpiteer*.

Lee went on to describe the tensions that occurred when he tried to let an occasional Black person even sit in the back of his church. This was a time when Black churches were being burned by the Klan. Lee was very lucky that someone intervened on his behalf.

Once, when it came time to erect a revival tent, some workers were not happy that a Black man was supervising the set-up. Lee had to tell them that the Black guy was the only one who knew how to erect the tent.

At this point, Lola had given birth to their second son, Daniel. Daniel started having epileptic seizures when he was 9 months old that would

not end. Lee was advised to institutionalize Daniel, but he and Lola wanted to keep Daniel with them.

Daniel never learned to speak. Daniel savored "eating dog turds" yet Lee is grateful to Daniel for helping him see the world differently. Daniel became the 'catalyst for his Liberation'.

Increasingly, Lee questioned what he had been taught and what he had been preaching.

Lee moved on to use his persuasive skills in new ways. People had paid him for his preachings. Now he used that talent to sell vacuum cleaners!

Notably, one vacuum cleaner was called 'The Rainbow'. It used water to filter the dirt and keep the air clean. It could be used for other creative purposes, too.

At the end of this powerful performance, we had a chance to ask questions. We then took Lee and his team to dinner.



Paul Andrade (stage manager), Dave Flattery, Melvin Ishmael Johnson (director), Paul Fleisher (musician), Judy Flattery, Lee Boek (former preacher & actor), and Robert Bernstein. *Confessions of a Pulpiteer*.

I followed up on what he meant about Daniel being a catalyst for his liberation. Lee explained that he realized that Daniel's problems could not be prayed away.

I have to say I was a bit surprised by this explanation. He had done hundreds of revival events, and I would have thought he would have

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noticed that other people also had problems that could not be prayed away.

I was curious as to what he believes now. He believes in love. He is not sure if there is a god. We should just “do what is right.”

Confessions of a Pulpiteer is a one-man show about life at the crossroads of politics, religion, and liberation produced by the Public Works Improvisational Theatre company and directed by Melvin Ishmael Johnson. Click [here](#) for more information on the Public Works Improvisational Theatre Company.

Lee Boek is an actor, a playwright, a producer, a poet, and a storyteller. He was known as Brother Lee Love of the Survival Revival Hour on KZAP-FM radio in Sacramento before moving to LA.

Thanks to Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation for co-sponsoring this event, and to Jim Underdown and CFI West for providing funding for the west coast tour of *Pulpiteer*.



LOUUC Administrator, Melanie Jacobson welcomes us to *Confessions of a Pulpiteer*.

2026 Secular Student Alliance Scholarship Winners Announced By Judy Flattery

The Humanist Society of Santa Barbara, along with several other Southern California secular organizations contributed funding for three scholarships to secular students. HSSB along with the other organizations provided input into the selection process. The top candidates then had their references and backgrounds checked by the staff at Secular Student Alliance. We are proud to be able to partially fund scholarships

for the following 3 winners. Information on all forty 2026 SSA scholarship winners can be found [here](#). SSA will provide HSSB with contact information for all SSA scholarship applicants to facilitate them in connecting with us if they wish.

Joy is an activist and graduate student at the University of California, Irvine, pursuing a Master's Entry Program in Nursing with a concentration in Community and Population Health. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, where her research and advocacy focused on women's rights, LGBTQ+ equality, and inclusion.

Joy's secular identity grew from learning to think independently about the beliefs she was raised with and deciding what values she wanted to carry forward.



Her experiences inspired research on the suppression and discrimination of Iranian gender and sexual minorities, as well as her continued advocacy for equality and compassionate healthcare.

In the future, Joy hopes to become a nurse practitioner and create a clinic that provides equitable, whole-person care while continuing to advocate for underserved communities.

Madie is a senior at the University of Pacific in Stockton, California, where she majors in Communication, English, and Philosophy.

Madie first discovered the Secular Student Alliance as a high school freshman, when she often felt isolated due to her secular beliefs. Five

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years later, she founded Pacific's first SSA chapter and has led a community of more than 40 students. She has organized educational discussions on atheism, morality, and religion, built partnerships with local organizations, and led community service initiatives. In particular, she helped SSA to partner with the Stockton Animal Shelter to clean cages, sort food supplies, and care for animals.



This year, while studying abroad through Semester at Sea, Madie hopes to establish a secular student community that connects critical inquiry with human rights, global inquiry, and ethical responsibility.

Siva is an activist and MBA student at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business with a passion for engineering and social entrepreneurship. His activism focuses on environmental justice and housing equity, working toward creating change by organizing protests against abusive Section 8 management and deploying Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) systems in low-income municipalities.



Siva's secular identity is rooted in scientific inquiry and humanistic ethics, forged by dismantling inherited dogmas through empirical global collaboration. This connection inspired his activism for equitable infrastructure.

As a caregiver, Siva has seen firsthand how systemic barriers prevent marginalized populations from accessing safe housing and clean energy. He has built intersectional coalitions to demand transparency from subsidized housing authorities.

Siva hopes to engineer an inclusive global supply chain, relying on secular, empirical planning to construct a just society.

RUSSELL'S TEAPOT

RUSSELLSTEAPOT.COM



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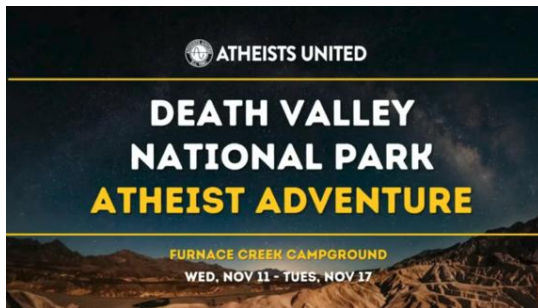
Upcoming Events of Interest to Humanists

Submitted by Diane Krohn

October 10-11: *California Freethought Day* at the CA State Capitol. Featuring speakers, networking/tabling opportunities for organizations, recognition of secular activists. [California Freethought Day](#).



October 15-17: *Freedom From Religion Foundation 2026 National Convention*, Baird Center and the Hilton Milwaukee Hotel, Milwaukee, WI. Speakers include Jared Huffman, Ron Reagan, and Jim Obergefell. [FFRF 2026 Convention](#)



November 11-17: *Death Valley Atheist Adventure*, hosted by Atheists United. This campout features hiking and viewing of iconic locations in Death Valley. Camping will be at a group site. [Death Valley Atheist Adventure](#)

November 19: *Rana Foroohar: Sea Change: America's New Great Game in the Arctic*. UCSB Arts & Lectures event. [Rana Foroohar](#).



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Wayne Beckman, Robert Bernstein, Judith Fontana, Gary Noreen, Roger Schlueter

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.

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Humanist Society of Santa Barbara
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HSSB Calendar

Tuesday October 20. 5:00 pm Pacific, HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend.

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

Saturday October 24. 3:00pm Pacific. Kapro Scious: *Adversarious Liberation: Reason, Rebellion, and Religious Liberty*. An explanation of contemporary Satanism.

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

Tuesday November 17. 5:00 pm Pacific. HSSB Board Meeting. Members always welcome to attend.

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

Saturday November 21, 3:00 pm Pacific. Program TBD.