



# THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

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

FEBRUARY 2011

## February Program

### The First Amendment: a Public Discussion

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The February meeting will be led by **John Suarez**, MD, retired Professor of Psychiatry. John is also a Trustee of Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Outreach Coordinator at the Center For Inquiry, Los Angeles; and a member of the Community Advisory Board at KCET-TV.

**When:** Saturday, February 19, 2011

**Where:** The Patio Room at Vista del Monte, 3775 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara.

**Time:** Doors open for socializing 2:30pm. Meeting starts at 3pm.

**Fee:** Optional. \$2 student, \$5 general donations appreciated.

**Dinner Following:** Dinner will be at Del Pueblo Mexican Restaurant, 5134 Hollister- in the Magnolia Shopping Center, at 5pm. Please e-mail [Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org](mailto:Activities@SantaBarbaraHumanists.org) to reserve your seating.

**For more information:** 805-689-2716

**Website:** <http://www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org>



**Please park only in spaces behind the church marked "VDM"**

## Welcome New Members!

**Donald Archer**, Santa Barbara  
**Lloyd Simms**, Lompoc

### HSSB Book Club by Marty Shapiro

The HSSB Book Club will be meeting on Wednesday, February 16, at 1:30pm, at La Casa Shapiro, my modest home at 249 Savona Avenue in colorful northern Goleta. (It's near Costco.) 968-0478 Call me for directions.

Our Book-of-the-month is "The Big Short", acclaimed writer Michael Lewis' blockbuster study of the 2007-8 Wall Street implosion.

## Condolences to John Ise

**Dorothy Ise**, wife of long-time member **John Ise**, recently passed away. As a flight attendant, Dorothy met John 53 years ago on a flight from Albuquerque to San Francisco. After raising their two children she concentrated on various charitable organizations such as the Women's auxiliary of Children's Home Society, Transition House and the Braille Society.

In spite of being wheelchair bound in recent years, Dorothy will always be remembered by those who loved her as a cheerful and plucky fighter. She is survived by John, two children, and three grandchildren.

## HSSB Membership Directory

The HSSB Board recently decided to make available by email, later this Spring, a roster of club members. Entries in the roster will include members names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. The information is identical to that published in booklet form in 2009. Members who do not wish to be included, or to have certain of the above items excluded, should notify Mary Wilk to

that effect by April 30. Mary can be reached at 805-967-3045, or <mailto:mwilk@cox.net>.

## Newsletter Delivery

A large number of our members receive their Secular Circular by email, our preferred method of distribution. If you are in that group, and are satisfied with that mode of delivery, you can disregard the rest of this notice.

Some Board members are concerned that there are some that receive the newsletter by email that don't read it as frequently or as thoroughly as when they received it by regular mail. If you are in that category, let us know and we'll switch your delivery to regular mail.

On the other hand, if you now receive the newsletter by regular mail and would like to try receiving it by email let us know. We'd be very happy to send you a copy by email and await further instructions.

## HSSB Opt-in List

On occasion, events of interest to Humanists are presented in the Santa Barbara area before they can be publicized in the next Secular Circular. For that purpose, HSSB maintains an "opt-in" list for members who would like to be notified of those events. If you would like to subscribe to this list, simply notify Wayne Beckman, HSSB webmaster, at: <mailto:hssbwebmaster@cox.net>. It is just as simple to unsubscribe.

## Thank You, Roger Schlueter! by Dick Cousineau

Roger has been an effective, dedicated, and imaginative leader for many years, serving as President, Board Member, as our consultant and correspondence to the State and Federal Bureaucrats, but mostly as the philosophic, historical, and intellectual face of the Humanist

Society of Santa Barbara. As President, his ideas and insights were instrumental in guiding our group to expand the membership threefold since the early part of the past decade. As Newsletter Editor he has lifted our communications to levels unknown before him. As adviser to the Board his suggestions have been focused, practical, and most of the time, even correct. The formation of the First Amendment Defense Fund was all Roger's doing and our thanks go out to him. I respect this man and know that our Society would never have attained its distinctive position of local and national recognition without him.



**Roger Schlueter**

### **From the President by Ron Kronenberg**

Only in America could a mentally disturbed, young White man legally purchase a combat weapon and attempt to assassinate a Jewish, Democratic Congresswoman, whose life is saved by a devoted, gay Mexican-American aide and a Korean-American doctor. Part of the collateral damage was the killing of a Republican-appointed Federal judge and a wonderful Catholic child. The whole tragedy was beautifully eulogized by an African-American President, all in a state that has demonstrated heightened fears of immigrants and diversity.

Our Humanist Manifesto states that "Humanists are concerned for the well being of all, are committed to diversity, and respect those of differing, yet humane, views. We work to uphold the equal enjoyment of human rights and civil liberties in an open, secular society and maintain it is a civic duty to participate in the democratic process..." Clearly, in this world our values play an important role in our lives. Our world view helps free us from the

fears of immigrants and diversity and compels us to seek just solutions to our societal problems. We in HSSB continue our efforts to expand our Society and increase our diversity. We have also succeeded in filling up our meeting hall at Vista del Monte several times in the recent past. It is not welcoming to newcomers if they have difficulty finding a place to sit during our meeting. They must feel that we have room to welcome them, so they can comfortably return. Our March meeting will bring in members of the LGBT community and the ACLU. So that we can welcome all, we are meeting in a new location for March, at the Live Oak UU Congregation on Fairview, which has more than twice the seating capacity of Vista del Monte. We are going to give it a try and see if it is the right fit for our Society.

Of course more information about the meeting and the new venue will be in March's Secular Circular. After we try this location, let your board members know what you think, so we can decide if this is a good fit for us. It is not bad to be required to deal with growth, just challenging.

### **Hey! What is this Humanist Name Anyway? By Dick Cousineau**

Recently, I received an academic brochure from the Humanities Department of U.C. Riverside concerning one of their upcoming symposiums on Humanism. I recognized absolutely none of the speakers or presenters or organizers of the symposium, and I was mystified. Then it dawned on me that this was another (and the original) meaning of Humanism, i.e. the study of the ancient Greek and Roman literature, architecture, and culture. This is a field dominated by historians, sociologists, and archeologists, not philosophers, and by no means associated with secular humanism of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries but rather from the 14th, and 15th during the Renaissance.

The creators of the Renaissance were individual dissenters who wished to send Europe in a new

direction from the plague-ridden, corrupt, and oppressive Late Middle Ages. They wanted a “New Birth” of Christian Culture. The best known of these was the poet and historian, Petrarch, born around 1300 in Florence of Tuscany. From his despair over the then-existing conditions of civilization, he roamed Europe in search of ancient documents that would answer his never-ending question “How can a person learn to be good?”

Because the Roman Church was hopelessly corrupt and morally bankrupt at the time, he began to fashion his own moral program molded after the writings of Cicero, Livy, Martial and other Roman era writers. The all-powerful Church did not hinder his searching through its old monasteries until it realized that the moral system being promulgated by Petrarch was based upon Pagan and non-Christian sources. He was soon officially discouraged, but his ideas took hold and emerged in the late 14th and early 15th centuries with a group of Italian and French thinkers known as “humanists”.

The term did not have connotations that it does today. These “humanists” argued that the proper worship of God involved admiration of his crowning achievement, humanity, and humans’ work to improve the cycle of life. They believed that by celebrating the human race and its capacities and accomplishments they were worshipping God more appropriately than through the words of uneducated and gloomy priests who continually harped on the depravity of mankind and the need to show unending humbleness before the Almighty. The goal of the humanists of the Renaissance was

to recapture the pride, spirit, and creativity of the ancient Greeks and Romans by emulating their intellectual curiosity and accomplishments.

To this day “Classical Humanism” endeavors to further uncover and decipher the Ancient’s grasp of the Good Life in an academic setting of rhetoric, translations, and history. This movement shifted to the present type of Humanism in the Late-16th century by a quiet and modest, but ultimately more subversive way, by Michel de Montaigne (mon-tane) who questioned “What do I know?” By that he

meant that we have no right to impose our beliefs on other societies, when such beliefs rest upon cultural habit rather than Truth. His question represented the beginnings of the Enlightenment that eventually reshaped the freedom of inquiry, not only for philosophers but for society in general. If we cannot be certain that our values are god-given then we have no

right or duty to impose them on others. This radical doubt gave birth to unbiased scientific study dedicated to getting closer and closer to Truth while knowing that knowledge is always growing, aware of its limits, and never absolute. It depends not on dogma or arbitrary authority, but on evidence and reason for its credibility and very existence.

These ideas were germane to the French polymath Rene Descartes (day-cart) who tried to reason through dogma in defense of Christianity, and to discredit Montaigne’s skepticism, in favor of the certainty of Christian teachings. Of course he failed, with the result that individuality, freedom and change replaced community of thought, authority



**Buffet Line at Winter Solstice Party**

of Kings, Popes, Preachers, and Tradition, as core European values. This is seen in Europe today by the irrelevancy of the Roman Catholic Church and the death throes of the Protestant Reformation movement, and the all but the total elimination of Monarchy in the civilized world.

The new core humanistic values of the Enlightenment were further promoted in the 18th century by Voltaire and Rousseau, in France and Locke, Hume and many others in England and deeply influenced the emerging American "Civil Religion" of Washington, Franklin, Paine, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and later numerous others including Ingersoll, Dietrich, Sanger, Dawkins, Wine, Sagan, Wilson, Crick, Kurtz, Salk, Russell, among them.. These thinkers insisted combining something called "reason" which consisted of common sense, observations, and skepticism, with freedom of inquiry.

Today, we are the Children of the Enlightenment and we keep its morals and insights and goals alive and growing with our support of skepticism, critical thinking, free inquiry, tolerance, individuality, separation of Church and State, the scientific methods of questioning, rational thought, and love of Humanity, all without reliance on mythological or supernatural help, and we do it proudly and with respect!

## A New Year's Prayer

Dear God: For 2011, all I ask for is a big fat bank account and a slim body. Please do not mix up the two like you did last year. Amen

## Humanists Launch Large National Advertising Campaign

A national multimedia ad campaign – the largest, most extensive ever by a godless organization – was launched last November to directly challenge biblical morality and fundamentalist Christianity. The campaign, sponsored by the American

Humanist Association, features ads on national television, in major national and regional newspapers and magazines demonstrating that secular humanist values are consistent with mainstream America and that fundamentalist religion has no right to claim the moral high ground.

The ads juxtapose notable humanist quotes with passages from religious texts, including the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Quran. The ads then ask the audience to "Consider Humanism." Here is a sample:

**What some believe**

"The people of Samaria must bear their **guilt**, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground, their pregnant women **ripped open.**"

GOD, HOSEA 13:16 (NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

**What humanists think**

"I cannot imagine a God who rewards and **punishes** the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own—a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty."

ALBERT EINSTEIN, COLUMN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES, NOV. 9, 1930 (REPRINTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES OBITUARY, APRIL 19, 1955)

[WWW.CONSIDERHUMANISM.ORG](http://WWW.CONSIDERHUMANISM.ORG)

Ads will also appear on Metro trains in Washington, D.C., on billboards on I-95 near Philadelphia and in Moscow, Idaho, and on buses in select cities. The Stiefel Freethought Foundation was the primary sponsor of the Consider Humanism campaign with a \$150,000 donation. Another \$50,000 was raised from supporters of the American Humanist Association for the launch of this campaign, bringing the total ad buy to \$200,000 so far.

For more information about the campaign visit: <http://www.considerhumanism.org>.

## Getting to Know: Charlie Archibald

The **Reverend Charlie Archibald** was born in 1925 and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, trained as a Chemist at Middlebury College and worked for the Breck Shampoo company. Limited by respiratory problems since birth, he had 40% of his lungs removed when he was 17 for Chronic Bronchitis, and finally moved to New Mexico when

he was 25 for his health, where he was based for the next 50 years before coming to Southern California for better breathing in 2006. He has enjoyed three wives and five children.

Alone in Albuquerque in 1950, he turned to "The Church" for a home, was ordained a Baptist Minister while getting a BA in Social Work at the University of New Mexico, and went on to seminary training at Hardin Simmons University. Gradually, frustration with Southern Baptist fundamentalism drove him to the seemingly more liberal Methodists, but finally he faced the fact that he was no longer "Walking hand in hand with the Lord Jesus Christ," so he left the Christian ministry to obtain an MSW in Psychiatric Social Work at Florida State University. There he also found Unitarianism, a truly American ideal religion of acceptance of each person with their personal faith, and the American religious diversity this implied, although principally a Humanist group of 200,000 members in 1,000 churches.

After experience in mental health clinics and public and private mental hospitals, he embarked on a career with the U.S. Public Health Service, first at the Clinical Research Center of the National Institute of Mental Health treating Heroin addicts and then offering mental health services to American Indians on 26 reservations for 15 years. Through specialized training, he qualified as a Fellow of the American Group Psychotherapy Association and the American Orthopsychiatric Association, on whose National Board he served.

During his Mental Health career he continued his Unitarian Universalist Ministry, and was even ordained a Humanist Minister by the American Humanist Association, and was Chair of their



**Rev. Charlie Archibald**

Division of Ministry. He now serves as Ministerial Associate of the UU Community of Cambria, but has also been a UU Community Minister for 25 years, combining his background of the Ministry and Social Work. He often is called upon to offer the Blessing at public gatherings, as Chaplain of the local Senior Center, when he offers "Thanks" for the people in our lives who Bless us, rather than the typically trinitarian-directed blessing that insults all other faiths, offered unthinkingly or intentionally by those who assume they have the only Truth. He is 85 years old, and in remarkably good health for a sickly person.

### **From THE CASE FOR GOD, by Karen Armstrong**

"Have you ever thought of how much time you've wasted in invariably counter productive discussions of whether or not there is a personified God? I know I hadn't in 60 years of ministry, but now I realize how little this has to do with why people do what they do, in other words carry out their religion. We really have virtually no difference in what all religions are seeking in their relationship with others to make this a better world, including Humanists, Unitarians, and Atheists being just as committed to some version of the Godless Golden Rule as the Christians.

"We start as children being taught that Santa Claus and God are two supernatural personalities who keep track of each one of us, rewarding or punishing us for what we do, as long as we believe in them. Most people mature, and are able to see the obvious impossibility of the Santa Claus story, which they still talk about as it serves their purposes. However, although equally fanciful, God is somehow harder to let go of, because we really wish that there was such an all knowing and all powerful super person who we could call on for help when no human help can solve our problem, including the wish of most to live longer than our allotted four score years and ten.. "

Karen Armstrong, a leading scholar on religion, has made this obvious point, that God is not a personified entity of any kind, but rather is seen as

a super version of us for easy imaging, and the fact that only a personified entity can DO anything for you, good or bad. But for us the open doubting of the concept has been nothing but a stumbling block in keeping us from being able to work side by side with others who may or may not need to still hold on to this childhood wish, but why they do what they do has nothing to do with this, but rather comes naturally from their personalities. I have resolved to no longer enter into such fruitless discussions, saying simply that since it is both irrelevant and unknowable, we should move beyond it to show our true beliefs by what we can do together for one another. What do we have to lose, compared to the possible improvement of our acceptability ?

**Rev. Charlie Archibald**



**Table Levitation at Solstice Party**

## **Violence and Humiliation in Arizona**

by **Thomas J. Scheff**, HSSB member, and Professor Emeritus of Sociology, UCSB.

“...Loughner’s recent years have been marked by stinging rejection — from his country’s military, his community college, his girlfriends and, perhaps, his father...” NYT, Jan. 16.

Why did Jared Loughner shoot Gabrielle Giffords and nineteen others? If he is anything like the 200+ cases of multiple killers in Websdale’s study (2010), he would have a history of humiliation like theirs: so ashamed of his humiliation that he would hide it not only from others, but also from himself.

Humiliation is painful but harmless when it is acknowledged; it becomes lethal only if it is kept secret (Gilligan 1997).

What does acknowledgment look like? A tiny example occurred between husband and wife. The wife yelled at him about something he did or didn’t do. Instead of yelling back, his usual response, he said: “Ouch.” She said: “Ouch?” He said: “That hurt.” They both laughed, quarrel over. It lasted about a hundred seconds.

Can a quarrel last a hundred years? Yes, if one party is so secretly humiliated that it refuses to negotiate, because it wants to humiliate the other party in return. The problem with this strategy is that humiliating the other party for revenge sets up a chain reaction, revenge breeding counter-revenge.

The three wars that caused the most casualties in human history seem now, in retrospect, to fit this pattern (Scheff 1994). The French felt humiliated after their defeat by the Germans in the Franco-Prussian War (1871), so plotted revenge for 43 years. They were able to involve Russia, England and the US on their side. In the months between the assassination of the Archduke and the beginning of the war, there were NO negotiation meetings between the two sides. After losing the resultant war (WWI), the Germans, in turn, felt humiliated, which led to the rise of Hitler and WWII. 1871 to 1945: almost a hundred years and more than a hundred million casualties.

9/11 and the Iraq war may be a more recent example. In a broadcast on Al-Jazeera TV on Oct. 7, 2001, Osama bin Laden said:

“What the United States tastes today [9/11] is a very small thing compared to what we have tasted for tens of years. Our nation has been tasting...humiliation and contempt for more than 80 years. “

Bin Laden is referring to the final fall of the Ottoman Empire (1918) when the Allies dismantled it after WWI. Predictably, Bin Laden’s vengeance

against the US touched off what may have been counter-revenge by the US. The official reason for the invasion of Iraq was their supposed attempt to develop nuclear weapons, even though the administration knew that there had been none, and that Iraq had not been involved in 9/11. One of several reasons for the invasion may have been the humiliation the regime suffered because 9/11 occurred on their watch.

Why is secret humiliation sometimes lethal? There are two patterns. Some of the multiple killers in Websdale's study merely swallowed their humiliation until they could stand it no longer. After being fired, one of the men would pretend to go to his now non-existent job until the day he shot his family members and himself. All of the women killers followed this pattern.

However, much more frequently, the cases involve men with a history of anger and/or aggression. Their pattern was to cover over their humiliation with anger. Fortunately, although most of us seldom acknowledge our humiliation, the cover-up with anger is much less frequent than simply swallowing the painful feelings, often resulting in silence or even depression, but not violence.

What can be done to stop the humiliation-vengeance pattern? A future note will consider approaches to acknowledgement.

#### References.

Gilligan, James. Violence – reflections on a national epidemic. 1997. New York: Vintage Books  
 Scheff, Thomas. 1994. Bloody Revenge: Emotion, Nationalism and War. Westview Press (Reissued by iUniverse 2000)  
 Websdale, Neil. Familicidal Hearts: The Emotional Style of 211 Killers. 2010. Oxford: Oxford University Press (660 words),

#### Quote of the Month

The world, we are told, was made especially for man--a presumption not supported by all the facts... Why should man value himself as more than a small part of the one great unit of creation?  
 -John Muir, Naturalist and explorer (1838-1914)

## Dumbth Award

"Dumbth" is a word invented by Steve Allen to mean the combination of ignorance and stupidity that often seems to rule the world. His book, "Dumbth", has many witty true stories of dumbth, but also suggests ways to reduce one's own level of dumbth.

The Secular Humanist Society of New York presents an annual "Dumbth Award" to a nationally-recognizable personality who "must not be just wrong, but wrong-headed – denying of or clueless about reality". Here are the nominees for their 2011 award.

***Rep. Michele Bachman***, receiving her second-straight nomination, who revealed her belief in spooky-silly prognostication with her statement in March that, *"I said I had very serious concerns that Barack Obama has anti-American views. And now I look like Nostradamus."*

***Ex-House Speaker Newt Gingrich***, a perennial Dumbth hopeful, made his bid for the 2010 Award on Fox News recently with this that gobsnacked even Chris Wallace: *"The secular socialist machine represents as great a threat to America as Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union once did."*

***Rep. Hank Johnson***, Democrat from Georgia's 4th District, who in questioning Pacific Fleet Admiral Robert Willard about the Navy's plans to increase the number of people on Guam, warned: *"My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsize."*

***Actor Craig T. Nelson***, who for unknown reasons was interviewed on the Glenn Beck show and, in fulminating against government bailouts, reminisced about his own history prior to getting rich on TV: *"I've been on welfare and food stamps ... did anyone help me?"*

***Not-a-Witch Senate-hopeful Christine O'Donnell***, for a double-barreled blast of ignorance, that *"there is just as much, if not more, evidence supporting"* the Biblical six-day creation

story as there is for “*physics*,” and “*Evolution is a myth; why aren’t monkeys evolving into people?*”

**Rev. Pat Robertson** pronounced that the Haitians themselves were responsible for the January earthquake because their ancestors “*swore a pact with the Devil*” to rid themselves of their French colonial masters, and “*ever since, they have been cursed by one thing after another.*”

If you would like to participate in this contest, send your vote to John Rafferty, at [jrafferty1@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jrafferty1@nyc.rr.com).

### The Scattered

*"He that believeth not is condemned already."  
St. John 3:18*

There were the sheep that scattered from the herds,  
Who stood in doubt beyond the glowing rim,  
Beyond the circumscription of John's words,  
"Whosoever believeth not in him . . . ."  
There are the later ones who have their choice  
Of many meadows watered with His name  
Who walk in sand of questioning. What voice  
Will shepherd them, or give their wanderings aim?

Our awe of the ineffable has stemmed  
From ancient wonder. He who stands apart  
From prophets who declare his soul condemned  
Will find his heaven in the human heart,  
Elysium in gardens he is planting,  
Eternity in seasonal recurring,  
The grace of nature at its most enchanting  
The force of life defiantly enduring.

~ Helen H. Gordon

**Helen Heightsman Gordon**, M.A., Ed. D., HSSB member, published five textbooks while a Professor of English at Bakersfield College, Bakersfield, California. Her chapbooks of poetry and humor are available on the publisher's website, [www.anacade.biz](http://www.anacade.biz). “The Scattered” was published in *Above Us Only Sky, Atheist Poetry, Volume Two*, Incarnate Muse Press, 2008.

## What's Going On Here? by Andrew Hankin

- Every Friday during the academic year, a trio of UCSB students publishes a full-page Opinion column entitled "Ask An Atheist" in the Daily Nexus newspaper. Recent topics have included:

"What evidence would force you to admit your belief that God does not exist is false?"

"Why can't atheists be more open-minded about God?"

"Isn't atheism technically a religion too? Both require faith/belief, so what's the difference?"

The printed Daily Nexus column is available online at: <http://www.dailynexus.com/category/opinion/ask-an-atheist>

- "If you're a Christian and you're saved ... it makes you and me brother and sister. Now I will have to say that, if we don't have the same daddy, we're not brothers and sisters, so anybody here today who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their savior, I'm telling you, you're not my brother and you're not my sister, and I want to be your brother." -- Governor Robert J. Bentley, R-Alabama, in Montgomery, AL, on the day he was sworn into office. Full story at:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-alabama-governor-20110119,0,4351953.story>

- "A Senate Finance Committee investigation into several high-profile TV ministries went badly off track when staffers recommended that Congress repeal a federal ban on partisan politicking by churches and other non-profit groups," says Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Four of the six televangelist ministries under scrutiny did not cooperate with the investigation, responding either inadequately or not at all to Senate demands for documents, records and information. Full story at: <http://www.au.org/media/press-releases/archives/2011/grassley-investigation-of-tv.html>

- Magicians Penn & Teller will be performing at the Chumash Casino in Santa Ynez, 8pm Friday, February 25th. Tickets are \$45-\$95. Penn Jillette, the larger and louder half of the duo, is an outspoken atheist, as eloquently explained in his essay for NPR, "This I Believe - There Is No God".



**Diane Krohn, Wayne Beckman at the Winter Solstice Party**

### **Non-HSSB Events of Interest by Diane Krohn**

Upcoming events of interest to humanists, atheists, skeptics, and freethinkers.

#### **Events in California:**

- February 13: Dr. John Long: Celebrating Darwin's 201st Birthday: How 3-D, 380-Million-Year-Old Fossil Fishes from Australia Contribute to Understanding Our Own Evolution. CFI West, Los Angeles:  
<http://www.cfwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#long>
- February 13: A duel event – How Old is the Universe? (presented by astronomer Dr. David Weintraub) and The Shape of Inner Space

(presented by physicist Dr. Shing-Tung Yua. Skeptic Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena:  
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>

- February 20: Eddie Tabash: Taking Atheism to the General Public. CFI West, Los Angeles:  
<http://www.cfwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#long>
- March 6: Dr. Mark Kurzban: Why Everyone Else is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind. Skeptic Society, Cal Tech, Pasadena:  
<http://www.skeptic.com/upcoming-lectures/>
- March 6: Cathryn J. Prince: Benjamin Silliman and the Rise of American Science: CFI West, Los Angeles:  
<http://www.cfwest.org/calendar/FeedYourBrain.htm#long>

#### **Events Outside of California:**

- April 7-10, 2011: American Humanist Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA. Featuring Rebecca Goldstein, Bart Ehrman, Judy Norsigian, and Steve Wozniak, among many others.  
[http://www.americanhumanist.org/What\\_We\\_Do/Annual\\_Conference/2011](http://www.americanhumanist.org/What_We_Do/Annual_Conference/2011)
- April 21-24, 2011: American Atheists Annual Convention, Des Moines, IA. Featured speakers include Christopher Hitchens, PZ Myers, Jeff Sharlet, Rob Sawyer, and Greta Christina. Many more speakers are scheduled.  
[http://www.atheists.org/events/National\\_Convention](http://www.atheists.org/events/National_Convention)
- May 19-22, 2011: Secular Coalition for America, Biennial Strategic Summit, Washington, D.C. This is a one of a kind participatory meeting of leaders, activists and thinkers all from within our secular movement. You will collaborate, network, and strategize with them to improve our Secular Decade plan.  
<https://www.secular.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=18>

### HSSB Contact Information

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Andrew Hankin	Mary Wilk

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**Newsletter Deadline:**

Deadline for submissions to the Secular Circular is Midnight, the last day of each month.

HSSB meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 2:30 pm, usually in the Patio Room of Vista del Monte, 3775 Modoc Rd., Santa Barbara. More information is available at our web site:

[www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org) or by contacting any board member. At meetings, a donation of \$2 from members and \$5 from non-members is appreciated. First-time visitors are welcome on a complimentary basis.

To send a copy of this newsletter to someone interested in our Society, please send their contact information to: PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, or contact Mary Wilk at 967-3045, or [mwilk@cox.net](mailto:mwilk@cox.net). Newsletters are also available at the above web address.

Annual HSSB membership dues are \$36 for a single person, \$60 for a couple, and \$100 (or more) to become a sponsor. One may subscribe to our newsletter only for an annual fee of \$20.

Link to HSSB Photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Humanist.Society.of.Santa.Barbara>



**Susie Thielmann, LaRae Johnson at Winter Solstice Party**



**I wonder how he does that.**

**Winter Solstice Party Photos by Robert Bernstein.**

### HSSB Calendar

**Wednesday, February 16**, at 1:30pm, **HSSB Book Club** meets at the home at **Marty Shapiro** 249 Savona Avenue to discuss "**The Big Short**", by Michael Lewis. A study of the 2007-8 Wall Street implosion.

**Saturday, February 19**, 2:30pm. **Monthly Meeting. John Suarez**, will lead a discussion on the First Amendment. The Patio Room at Vista del Monte,

**Sunday, February 27** (and the last Sunday of every month), 10am, **Secular Sunday Brunch** for humanists, atheists, agnostics, skeptics, freethinkers, singles, couples and families. No cover charge; membership not required. Pay only for your food and drink. Cody's Cafe, 4898 Hollister Ave. in the Turnpike Center, Goleta in the room to the right as you enter the restaurant. For information phone Board member, Mary Wilk at 805-967-3045.



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