



THE SECULAR CIRCULAR

Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara

July, 2008

<http://www.sbhumanists.org>

The Power of the Sun A Documentary Film About Solar Power

By Andrew Hankin

The Power Of The Sun, a 56-minute documentary film explaining solar power, and narrated by John Cleese, will be presented at our July 19th meeting. Following the screening, UCSB Professor Walter Kohn, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Chemistry and featured in the film, will be present to answer your questions.

More important than ever in this era of rising fuel prices, photovoltaic cells generating electricity from sunlight can realistically be expected to produce as much as 25% of the world's energy in the next 30 years. New developments and materials highlighted in the film show how rising output, improved conversion efficiency and lower costs of modern solar cells are powering the developing world, off the grid.

This informative and educational film aims to bring schoolchildren, energy consumers and public policy makers up to speed with the history and future of solar energy, so it can again power homes and businesses. Industrialized nations have become dependent on previously cheap fossil fuels, while rooftops and parking lots stand uncovered and vacant instead of supplying energy from the sun.



Dr. Walter Kohn

The Power of the Sun

Saturday, July 19th, 3-5 p.m.

In the Patio Room at Vista del Monte
3775 Modoc Road (Las Positas exit off 101)
in Santa Barbara.

Join us for socializing at 2:30 p.m.
Meeting will start promptly at 3 p.m.

Contact Information

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Officers:

President: Roger Schlueter
962-6316 drogers@cox.net

Secretary: Hope Smith
967-5143 hsmith1923@aol.com

Treasurer: Ray Stone
682-2123 rstone@west.net

Board Members/At Large:

Jim Balter
Dick Cousineau
Andrew Hankin
Bea Novobilski
Anne Rojas
Marian Shapiro
Ray Stone
Nancy Wahl
Mary Wilk

Committee Chairpersons/Other Contacts

Membership: Mary Wilk
967-3045 mwilk@cox.net

Publicity: Andrew Hankin
965-3739 green_helmet@hotmail.com

Programs: Dick Cousineau
687-2371 dkcgeo@cox.net

Social Action: Marian Shapiro
968-0478 marianshapiro@cox.net

Book Club: Marty Shapiro
968-0478 martinshapiro@cox.net

Activities Director: Anne H. Rojas
564-6086 annehrojas@cox.net

Membership Directory: Ray Stone
682-2123 rstone@west.net

Newsletter Editor: Diane Krohn
djkrohn@cox.net

Web Master: Wayne Beckman
569-5503 hssbwebmaster@cox.net

Membership Notes

By Mary Wilk

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

www.SantaBarbaraHumanists.org

or by contacting any of the board members listed in the left-hand column of this page.

If you would like a copy of this newsletter mailed to a friend or someone who might be interested in our Society, please send their contact information to: PO Box 30232, Santa Barbara, CA 93130, or call Mary Wilk. Alternatively, all of our newsletters are available at the web address shown above.

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join our Society. Annual membership dues are \$36 for a single person, \$60 for a couple, and \$100 (or more) for a sponsor. Members receive the monthly newsletter and have the option of attending meetings, outings and special events sponsored by the Society.

Those unable to attend our monthly meetings may subscribe to our newsletter for an annual fee of \$20, but are not entitled to other membership privileges. When attending our meetings, a donation of \$2 from members and \$5 from non-members is appreciated. First or second-time visitors are welcome on a complimentary basis. For more information, please contact Mary Wilk or any member of our Society.

News About Members

By Hope Smith, Andrew Hankin, Michelle Rhea, and Mary Wilk

Please note change of address:
 Lucianna Cramer
 311 W. Canon Perdido #B
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101
 Tel: 967-3568

Letters to the Editor:

Merle Betz, May 5th, *News-Press*, questioning Capps' support of Obama.

Hugh Smart, June 3rd, *News-Press*, wonders whether Doreen Farr, candidate for 3rd District supervisor, is also being groomed as eventual replacement for Lois Capps.

John Coppejans, June 16th, *News-Press*, says it's time for our country to live up to its potential of really being the champion of democracy and justice.

☩

On June 8th, Micki Stern attended the 15th Annual Benefit Auction of the Environmental Defense Center, held at the Stow House. Carol Palladini (with husband Bill) was a member of the event's Host Committee.

Nancy Walker Koppelman is pictured with other UCSB Arts & Letters Ambassadors in the current brochure of A&L offerings.

Robert George, a son of Jane and member Clarence "Budge" George, was married to John Rundin on June 17th, the first day of legal same-sex marriage in California.

☩

As we look forward to our new year with our incoming president, Roger Schlueter, we would like to commemorate the dedicated service of our past presidents:

1995/1996: Dick Cousineau
 1996/1997: Paul Koehler
 1997/1998: Charlotte Carver
 1998/1999: Robert Michael
 1999/2000: Jim Alexander
 2000/2003: Roger Schlueter
 2003/2004: Robert Perry
 2004/2006: Dick Cousineau
 2006/2007: Ron Kronenberg
 2007/2008: Adrian Wenner

☩

On Sunday, June 29th, HSSB members Ellie Lambrou, Andrew Hankin and James Kimberly visited CFI West in Hollywood for a talk entitled, "Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother's Boyfriend!" HSSB members are encouraged to join the Center for Inquiry and other like-minded organizations, voting with dollars for Humanism, science and critical, rational thought.

<http://www.cfiwest.org/info/index.htm>

☩

Michelle Rhea has one of her photo/poem combinations displayed in the "Taboo Topics" exhibit at the Ventura Artists Union Gallery from June 14th through July 20th. The piece is called *Wholly Blood* and is critical of religion:

Wholly Blood

There is not enough red
 in the world
 to paint the history
 of religion.

The photo and poem are visible on Michelle's photo site:

<http://www.pbase.com/ethicalheretic/image/98540637>

Notes from the President:from the Past By Adrian Wenner

Upon assuming this post, former president Ron Kronenberg assured me that only a few hours a month would suffice, but I found otherwise. In the process, I gained an appreciation about efforts by all society presidents in the past who have helped keep our organization functioning so well. The same holds true for the board members, book club head, Secular Circular editor, and our web master — all who have devoted much time and effort (and whose names appear elsewhere in this newsletter). I am thanking all of them personally.

Much as I have appreciated the trust that goes with the job, for unexpected personal reasons, I cannot serve another year. In that regard, I appreciate that the highly efficient Roger Schlueter will take the helm once again.

This past year has been a good run, with exciting speakers and excellent social events. Our membership has remained fairly stable, though I would have liked to see an increase — particularly among younger people (we tried, though). A few of our members died during the year, but that fact comes out only through the diligent efforts of Mary Wilk. She investigates non-renewals and has deduced that we lost William McCurdy, Thomasine Orsburn, and George Reams (who died 9/9/07).

On the upbeat side, we had a special donation of \$1000 last October by Bea Farwell Duncan, a welcome sum that helps us bring in exciting speakers. With that note I thank all of you members for your interest, attendance, and continued renewals of your membership — and don't forget the sponsorship category.

...from the Future By Roger Schlueter

Our society has done well while Adrian has had his hand on the tiller. I am sure I speak for all of us when I express a hearty, “Thank you for all of your efforts, Adrian. While you may not be able to participate at the same level as you have in the past, I look forward to seeing you at our events and engaging with your sharp intellect on the Humanist issues of the day.”

The presidential transition is not the only change taking place as you can see by the list of new HSSB Board members on page 2. James Kimberly is also leaving the Board after several years of involvement. “JK,” as he is widely known, is an important player on the national (and even international) Humanist scene as a result of his fund-raising work for the Center for Inquiry, and I hope to regularly see him at all of our events.

These departures have created an opening for the participation of two new members to the Board, Bea Novobilski and Jim Balter. I hope Bea and Jim find their Board “legs” quickly and make their own unique stamp on our Society.

Welcoming these new Board members leads me back to Adrian's point about the involvement of all the people who expend a lot of effort to make this Society work. They really are the ones who make the Society the success that it is.

In conclusion, thanks Adrian. And thanks to past and present Board members.

Now let's all go out and be the best Humanists we can be.

Social Scene

By Anne Rojas

We celebrated Summer Solstice in grand style! Thanks to all of you for your attendance and wonderful culinary contributions to the picnic at Stow Park on June 22nd. We had close to 50 persons, with a few new drop-ins due to Andrew's wonderful publicity. Thanks to the Copejans, the Barskys, Bea Novobilski, Mary Wilk, Ray Stone, and everyone else who helped to run the games and check-in. Couldn't be done without you! Bob Perry made lovely remarks in presenting the gift certificate to outgoing President, Adrian Wenner.

Here is a rough break-down of how the \$20 is spent. Some of you have asked and I am happy to provide you with the following information. If you would care to change the format – pure potluck with no cooks, donate your home to avoid park cost, etc. – I am happy to hear all suggestions and receive your help to make changes that the majority might want.

Intake: \$880

Food Cost: \$15 per person

Gift for President and Raffle: \$75

Park Space Rental: \$55

In addition, there are costs for beverages, wine, ice, tableware, and any supplemental food.

If you “do the math,” you can see that we just about break even. There is no profit to our parties.

This month, we will have Nobel Laureate Walter Kohn and his wife Mara (a world famous photographer). He will be speaking on his solar activities. They will join us for dinner at the Ming Dynasty, after his talk.

I am accepting reservations now for the dinner. The Board members (not partners or spouses) will have first priority at sitting down to dinner with Walter and Mara; also those with regular monthly duties, such as the newsletter, etc. This is only fair for the countless hours that they spend on running HSSB.

If you are on the Board and don't care to have this option of one of the 10 seats, please let me know, as many will want to sit with the Kohns.

Don't forget the monthly Sunday brunch! It's at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 27th, at Cody's Cafe, 4898 Hollister Ave. in the Turnpike Center, Goleta. Reservations and Humanist Society membership are not required and there is no cover charge. We will be in the room to the right as you enter the restaurant.

News From the Program Committee

By Dick Cousineau

We are privileged to welcome Nobel Laureate, Professor Walter Kohn (a friend and neighbor of Anne Rojas) as our speaker on Saturday, July 19th. Professor Kohn, a world renowned Physicist from UCSB, will show a short film and will discuss with us *The Power of the Sun*.

For our August 16th meeting, Jay Glass, psychologist, neurobiologist, brain researcher, and author, will be with us to discuss his work in gene research on “The God in our Genes.” Sounds like a provocative subject for Humanists! We are attempting to reserve Fe Bland Auditorium at SB City College for this event but we are still working on this. Stay tuned.

Solstice Party Pictures!

Photos by Ray Stone, Ellie Lambrou, and Robert Bernstein. Captains by Diane Krohn



Roger Schlueter carefully determines whether the discs are enclosing the ducks properly in the "Duck Off" competition.



L to R: John Coppejans, Ray Stone, Richard Martin, and Adrian Wenner. Ray toasts Adrian's duck-off challenge with an imaginary wine glass!



Humanists, friends and guests at the Solstice picnic at Stow Grove Park.



L to R: Jean Smart, Adrian Wenner (outgoing president); Bea Novobilski; Bob Perry (president, 2003-2004); and Roger Schlueter (incoming president).

HSSB Book Club By Marty Shapiro

The Humanist Book Club will meet on Wednesday, July 18th, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Art and Elaine Brody.

Our chosen selection, which seems to be quite a reader favorite, is *The Jesus Mysteries*, by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy. This book is a study of the (modern) theory that Jesus never really existed, but was an amalgam of various Pagan and Jewish models. Here's a short comment by the authors:

It is hard for us today to imagine the Jesus story being consciously created, but this is because we have misunderstood ancient spirituality. Myths were not seen as untruths as they are now. They were understood as allegories of spiritual initiation, which encoded profound mystical teachings. Reworking old myths to create new ones was a standard practice in the ancient world.

When: Wednesday, July 18th

Where: Art and Elaine Brody's house

1125 Camino del Rio

(off Cathedral Oaks, between Tucker's Grove and Highway 154)

692-8898

brodybiz@cox.net

Upcoming Summer Events By Andrew Hankin

Part of Humanism is enjoying arts and music. Santa Barbara welcomes many performers to town, who can be enjoyed for no ticket costs. Thursday evenings 6-8 p.m. on July 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th; August 7th, 14th and 21st, have music in Chase Palm Park, the Santa Barbara waterfront on Cabrillo Blvd. near Calle Cesar Chavez. Sunday afternoons 3-4:30 p.m. on July 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th in Alameda Park, East Micheltorena and Anacapa Streets, also have music. Shows will include blues, soul,

oldies, Hawaiian music and a tribute to Elvis Presley. Download the schedule from the Santa Barbara City website:

http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/Departments/Parks_and_Recreation

and click on "Concerts in Parks 08." Join Andrew Hankin, Josette and Louis Barsky, and other friends at these marvelous events sponsored by the City of Santa Barbara - your tax dollars at work!

UCSB Arts & Lectures has a series of films in Campbell Hall, 7:30.p.m. on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. Click on <https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/index.aspx> for the schedule. Each film is only \$6 per person and \$3 per vehicle for parking.

Humanists Stand on Global Warming By Roger Schlueter

I was unaware that Humanists had a unified stand on global warming. But according to [this site](#), we do. Here is just one snippet from that site (bolding in the original):

If the Humanists **really** believed the world was getting warmer, they would be telling us not to be alarmed because "Man will rise to the occasion!" Instead, they huddle in the corner like terrified mice. Why? Because they want **Americans to huddle in the corner like terrified mice** so they can gain more power over us. Humanists hate America.

Yes, yes you did guess correctly. It is a Christian site.

George Carlin on Religion

...Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever 'til the end of time!

But He loves you. He loves you, and He needs money! He always needs money! He's all-powerful, all-perfect, all-knowing, and all-wise, somehow just can't handle money! Religion takes in billions of dollars, they pay no taxes, and they always need a little more. Now, you talk about a good bull** story. Holy Shi**!

...I've begun worshipping the Sun for a number of reasons. First of all, unlike some other gods I could mention, I can see the Sun. It's there for me every day. And the things it brings me are quite apparent all the time: heat, light, food, a lovely day. There's no mystery, no one asks for money, I don't have to dress up, and there's no boring pageantry. And interestingly enough, I have found that the prayers I offer to the sun and the prayers I formerly offered to God are all answered at about the same 50-percent rate.

-George Carlin, American satirical comic (1937-2008)



The Humanist Society of
Santa Barbara
PO Box 30232
Santa Barbara, CA 93130