

scientia, artes, humanitas



January 2015 • Issue 2

Humanitas is a Latin noun meaning civility and kindness – getting along with each other and helping each other along. Stanislaus Humanists are people, without superstitious or supernatural beliefs, who come together to better the quality of life in our homes, our community, and around the world. Our compassion extends to all nations and to all living things. We hope this newsletter creates a supportive environment where people can cultivate and share insightful analysis, passion for human expression, and promotion of humane science-informed policies.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It has been an exciting first year for the Stanislaus Humanists, and as we launch into our second year we'd like to extend a special thank you to all of our members who help to make our chapter of the AHA an active, welcoming organization to be a part of.

At the beginning of 2014 we established our small but growing group as an officially recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, creating our first board of directors in the process. This has allowed us to begin generating, saving, and expending funds for current and future special projects. These projects, such as our float for the Modesto 4th of July parade and our future Humanist Hall, help us give a face and a home to Humanism in our area.

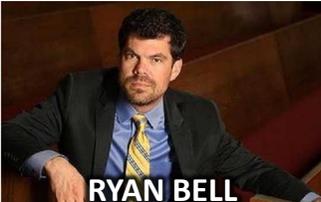
As we move into 2015 we look forward to our first Board of Directors election which you can read more about on the following page. We are also extremely excited to be co-hosting our first Darwin Day celebration (complete with cake!) in collaboration with our friends The Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers. Check out our Calendar on page 6 for a full list of monthly activities. We look forward to seeing lots of new and familiar faces at all our events in 2015.

Sincerely,
The Newsletter Team

DARWIN DAY 2015

FEBRUARY 7 ♦ 4 PM MANTECA LIBRARY





RYAN BELL



JERRY DEWITT



GLENN BRANCH



We're always looking for new content – articles, reviews, commentary, pictures, poems, events. Send submissions to StanislausHumanists@gmail.com, or send hard copy to: 1905 Kienitz Ave, Modesto, CA 95355

FROM FAITH TO REASON FEBRUARY 7, 4-7 PM

DAVID DISKIN

For the first time, the Stockton Area Atheists and Freethinkers and the Stanislaus Humanists will be co-hosting an event that focuses on the life of Charles Darwin and the transition from faith to reason.

This free event, held at the gazebo near the Manteca Public Library, is family friendly and

will offer the public an opportunity to recognize the scientific contributions made by Darwin that have changed our understanding of life on this planet.

Two guest speakers, Jerry DeWitt from Louisiana and Ryan Bell from Los Angeles, will provide their genuine and personal story of faith

DARWIN DAY CONT.



to reason, and share their uplifting message of secular hope and love.

The Cake is Not a Lie

Coinciding with the 206th birthday of Charles Darwin, cake and other festivities will be enjoyed this afternoon.

Family Friendly

Activities will be available for

children of all ages, but please mention that you'll be bringing children (and their ages) when you RSVP on our Meetup page.

Speakers

Jerry DeWitt: Pentecostal pastor from DeRidder, Louisiana, now an author and prominent member of the American atheism movement. After losing his faith in 2011, Jerry was the first member of the Clergy Project to drop anonymity and speak freely about his involvement in the project.

Jerry is the former executive director of Recovering From Religion, a group which helps people find their way after a loss of faith, and is the author of *Hope After Faith*.

Ryan Bell: Having recently resigned his senior pastor position at the Hollywood Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ryan is a researcher, writer, and speaker on the topic of religion and irreligion in America. In January 2014, Ryan began a yearlong journey exploring the limits of theism and the atheist landscape in the United States and blogs about that experience here at *Year Without God*. Ryan holds a Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan and a Doctor of Ministry in Missional Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Glenn Branch: Glenn Branch is Deputy Director of NCSE. Formerly a graduate student in philosophy at UCLA, where he won prizes both for scholarship and teaching, he is conversant with the philosophical debates surrounding creationism and "intelligent design." Branch is co-editor, with Eugenie C. Scott, of *Not in Our Classrooms: Why Intelligent Design Is Wrong for Our Schools*, and the author of numerous articles on creationism and evolution.

ELECTION TIME FAQ

WHAT'S THIS ELECTION BUSINESS?

Stanislaus Humanists was designed to put at least three seats up for vote on the board of directors every year at our major annual meeting. This ensures a healthy rotation of fresh faces and preserves a culture of openness and democracy.

WAIT, WE HAVE A BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

We do! It became clear early on, that if we ever wanted to be anything more than a loose collection of events hosted in homes scattered around the county, we would have to become a little more official. So, with the hope of having our own meeting place, Humanist Hall, and a greater positive influence in the community, we became a 501(c)(3) chartered chapter of the American Humanist Association. With the number of benefits nonprofit organizations receive, it became necessary to form a board of nine individuals who would be accountable and responsible for how the organization operated. As your board members, we promise to be open, democratic, and transparent in everything we do.

GREAT, HOW DO I VOTE?

Our annual meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 7pm at 1905 Kienitz Ave, Modesto. We will be voting on four candidates to fill the three available board seats. There will also be a rundown of our finances and

a critique of our successes and where we can improve. You are all invited to vote and attend regardless of membership status; however, only those with current memberships will have their votes counted. Votes will be cast on paper ballots and counted by the secretary. Absentee votes may be emailed to stanislaushumanists@gmail.com. If you want to join or renew your membership, visit <http://www.stanislaushumanists.org/membership.html> - \$24 for individuals, \$36 for couples, AHA members get 50% off at \$12 and \$18.



PHOTO BY MYKL ROVENTINE

PHOTO BY BETO O'ROURKE



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

BRANDILYN BROWN I believe humanism is the greatest of all causes; the love we promote is the most powerful force on Earth. Every other great cause is nestled beneath the umbrella of humanism. I am passionate about egalitarianism, democracy, peace and tolerance, and above all: love. The Stanislaus Humanists are a branch on a huge tree, and I'm proud to be a leaf on that branch. One leaf can't provide shade on its own, but many leaves together can provide much relief. I know as a member and participant I already help, but I'd like the chance to be more to our group, and help make the difference our community needs. I've been the recording secretary for the Stanislaus County Coin Club for five years, and a member of their board for four. Volunteering on their board, I've learned to work with people with diverse opinions and backgrounds for the purpose of expanding our hobby and keeping the annual coin show alive. I am proud to be a part of the Stanislaus Humanists, a group that works for the greater good in our community by spreading love and kindness with no strings attached. That is what set us apart from all the other "do-gooders". I feel that we should all take our turn at the helm, to spread the work evenly, and to ensure all voices get heard. Thank you for considering me as a board member for our wonderful group.

RICHARD BEATTY My name is Richard Beatty. I am running for the available seat on the Stanislaus Humanist Board. I believe my goals, interests, and skills make me a perfect candidate for this position.

My goals for the group include maintaining what we have already started, expanding it to a wider audience, and increasing membership. It is amazing how quickly we got the various sub-groups and activities going. There isn't much I would change here; I would just work to cultivate them. The importance of publicizing Secular Humanism can't be understated. The more people know about us, the better. Atheists, freethinkers, and secularist get a bad rap in the public arena; we need to change that. Increasing membership, my third goal, not only benefits our group, but it serves to bring awareness of us to the public. These goals are best achieved through education and the positive promotion of Secular Humanism.

I know I can achieve the goals I have for the group by combining my experience with my skills. I have experience as an educator (18 years), as a technology enthusiast (40 years), and as an avid social media user (10 years). I have two important skills that will also come in handy. I have a capacity for understanding huge amounts of complex information and I have the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing.

Please consider me for the available seat on the Stanislaus Humanist Board. No matter the outcome, I thank you for the opportunity to run.

TROY SPEARS In 2014, I served as Chair of Stanislaus Humanists. Since November 2013, we became a chartered chapter of the American Humanist Association. We created a California public benefit not-for-profit corporation. We developed a website, Meetup group, and an active Facebook group. We got logos, banners, and T-shirts. We were also the first atheist group to have a float in a public parade, thanks to Tracy Herbeck's initiative and the hard work of group members. At year's end, we finally began publishing a newsletter to advertise our events and to offer an avenue for local talent to share their work with the greater community.

I'm committed to our organization and hope to continue serving the board and its new officers. I would like us to become more visible in our community and to find ways to increase membership and encourage enthusiasm for the Humanist worldview. I feel our characterization as Humanist allows us to cooperate with atheist groups AND faith groups who are working on projects in line with our principles. As I've often quipped, I'd rather work on social issues with Reverend Martin Luther King Junior rather than an atheist meanie like Ayn Rand.

During the next year, I'd like to establish a Humanist 101 reading and discussion group to help members articulate our worldview to interested persons. I'd also like to establish relationships with local press to get greater exposure for our events. I would also like to find community service activities that would highlight our commitment to compassion.

LYSA DE THOMAS No Statement Submitted.



TROY SPEARS

Our September film-discussion, *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret* (2014), begins its investigation with a 2009 World Watch report, *Livestock and Climate Change*, written by World Bank analysts, Robert Goodland and Jeff Anhang.¹ Goodland & Anhang’s report makes the astounding claim that 51% of all greenhouse gases (“GHGs”) are caused by animal agriculture. Cowspiracy’s website, however, is more conservative, reporting animal agriculture creates 18% of GHGs while transportation accounts for 13% of total emissions.² That’s still one-fifth of total emissions, yet very little has been done to encourage people to switch to plant-based diets. Even if a vegan diet seems out of reach, there are still choices you can make to drastically reduce your impact on the planet. You can “choose down” when buying animal protein.

CO2 Equivalent Emissions

Besides carbon dioxide, GHGs include methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Climate scientists convert the effects of these gases into the amount of CO2 that would cause the same amount of global warming. This conversion results in CO2 equivalent emissions (CO2-eq) which simplifies comparisons between different products and activities. The UN Food & Agriculture Organization (“UNFAO”) produced several reports on livestock GHGs in 2013, including *Tackling Climate Change through Livestock*.³ Based on that report, I’ve gleaned the data in Table 1.

Extrapolating from the Data

Most of the units in Table 1 are stated as kilograms of carcass weight, but a lot of the carcass weight is connective tissue, not meat.⁶ To get a better understanding of GHG effects, we adjust for the percentage of carcass weight actually sold as meat. For beef, pork, sheep, and goats, I’ll use the

Table 1

Comparison of Animal Products in CO ₂ Equivalent Emissions as per UNFAO 2013			
Product	Unit	CO ₂ -eq (kg)	Report Citation
Beef Cattle, grazing	kg carcass	102.2	Page 24
Beef Cattle, grain & grazing	kg carcass	56.2	Page 24
Sheep/Goats	kg carcass	23.8	Page 31
Dairy Beef, grazing ⁴	kg carcass	21.9	Page 24
Dairy Beef, grain & grazing	kg carcass	17.4	Page 24
Poultry, industrial egg layers	kg carcass	6.9	Page 38
Poultry, backyard farms	kg carcass	6.6	Page 38
Pork, intermediate farms	kg carcass	6.5	Page 35
Pork, industrial farms	kg carcass	6.1	Page 35
Pork, backyard farms	kg carcass	5.6	Page 35
Poultry, industrial broilers	kg carcass	5.3	Page 38
Eggs, backyard farms	kg eggs	4.2	Page 38
Eggs, industrial egg layers	kg eggs	3.7	Page 38
Dairy ⁵	kg raw milk	2.8	Page 23

University of Kentucky’s 2010 consumer guide, *How Much Meat to Expect from a Carcass*.⁷ That guide doesn’t cover poultry, but after some searching, I found that roughly 60% of chicken and turkey carcasses are sold as meat. To adjust the emissions for meat products, we divide (a) the CO₂ equivalent emissions for carcass weight by (b) the percentage of meat-to-carcass-weight expressed as a decimal.

And cheese? A kilogram of hard cheese requires 8.7 kilograms of milk; a kilogram of soft cheese takes 4.3 kilograms.⁸ Multiplying these amounts by milk’s 2.8 kg CO₂-eq, gives us about 12 kg emissions for a kilogram of soft cheese and 24 kg for the same amount of hard cheese. My final chart (Table 2) adjusts the CO₂ equivalence to actual meat and incorporates cheese.

This chart can be used when making shopping choices to reduce GHG emissions by “choosing down.” Instead of beef, buy mutton. Instead of mutton, cheese. Instead of cheese, pork and poultry. Instead of pork and poultry, eggs. Instead of eggs, buy milk. What’s readily apparent from the chart is that avoiding beef is the quickest way to reduce your diet’s impact on the planet. One way I’ve done this is by switching my beef-based dog food to chicken-based. Another insight – running counter to my interest

YOUR DIET AND CLIMATE CHANGE (CONT.)

in humane farming – is that open-range cattle create more GHGs than grain-fed. This is attributed to grain's greater fuel efficiency.

These are just my thoughts. There are other studies that claim that the emissions for lamb are higher than beef, such as the 2011 *Environmental Working Group report, Meat Eater's Guide to Climate Change & Health*, by Kari Hamerslag.⁹ That report flatly states that grass-fed animals are better for the environment than grain-fed but acknowledges, at page 4: "studies of the impact on climate show mixed results for grass-fed versus confined-feedlot meat." Hamerslag's report also includes statistics on the amount of animal protein that is thrown out as waste as well as statistics on fish. At page 6, Hamerslag places farmed salmon emissions between pork and poultry.

Veganism and vegetarianism are admirable goals – both for humane and ecological reasons. But, if you don't think you can make either change right away, you can still reduce the impact of your diet on the planet's climate. Choose down.

Table 2

Comparison of Animal Products in Adjusted CO ₂ -eq including Cheese				
Product	Unit	% Meat	CO ₂ -eq (kg)	Adjusted CO ₂ -eq
Beef, grazing	kg meat	57.0	102.2	179.3
Beef, grain & grazing	kg meat	61.5	56.2	91.4
Goats	kg meat	47.5	23.8	50.1
Sheep	kg meat	51.5	23.8	46.2
Dairy Beef, grazing	kg meat	~57.0	21.9	38.4
Dairy Beef, grain & grazing	kg meat	~61.5	17.4	28.3
Hard cheese	kg cheese	-	24.2	24.2
Soft cheese	kg cheese	-	12.1	12.1
Poultry, industrial egg layers	kg meat	60.0	6.9	11.5
Poultry, backyard farms	kg meat	60.0	6.6	11.0
Pork, intermediate farms	kg meat	71.5	6.5	9.1
Poultry, industrial broilers	kg meat	60.0	5.3	8.8
Pork, industrial farms	kg meat	71.5	6.1	8.5
Pork, backyard farms	kg meat	71.5	5.6	7.8
Eggs, backyard farms	kg eggs	-	4.2	4.2
Eggs, industrial egg layers	kg eggs	-	3.7	3.7
Dairy	kg raw milk	-	2.8	2.8

ENDNOTES

- 1 Goodland, R. & Anhang, J. (2009) Livestock and Climate Change. *World Watch*. (pp. 10-19) Retrieved December 9, 2014 from www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Livestock%20and%20Climate%20Change.pdf.
- 2 Andersen, K. & Kuhn, K. (Producers). (2014) *COWSPIRACY: The Sustainability Secret* (2014) [Motion Picture]. *The Facts*. Retrieved December 9, 2014 www.cowspiracy.com/facts/
- 3 Gerber, P.J. et al., *Tackling Climate Change through Livestock – A global assessment of emissions and mitigation opportunities*. (2013) Retrieved December 9, 2014 www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3437e/i3437e.pdf.
- 4 Goodland, R. & Anhang, J. (2009) Livestock and Climate Change. *World Watch*. (pp. 23-25) Retrieved December 9, 2014 from www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Livestock%20and%20Climate%20Change.pdf. The much lower emissions from dairy beef is due to apportioning emissions between dairy and beef products.
- 5 Goodland, R. & Anhang, J. (2009) Livestock and Climate Change. *World Watch*. (pp. 26-27) Retrieved December 9, 2014 from www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Livestock%20and%20Climate%20Change.pdf Dairy's CO₂ equivalent emissions are a global average. Dairy emissions in industrialized countries are as low as 1.7 kg CO₂-eq.
- 6 European Commission. *Glossary: Carcass Weight*. Retrieved December 9, 2014 from epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Glossary:Carcass_weight. Carcass weight already excludes inedible parts such as head, tail, feet, offal, blood, etc., but not bone, ligament, and fat.
- 7 Rentfrow, G. (2010) *How Much Meat to Expect from a Carcass*. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Retrieved December 9, 2014 from www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/asc/asc179/asc179.pdf.
- 8 New England Cheesemaking Supply Company. *FAQ-Cheesemaking for Beginners*. Retrieved December 9, 2014 from www.cheesemaking.com/store/pg/246-FAQ-Cheesemaking-for-Beginners.html. FAQ #6 states that a gallon [3.9 kg] of cow milk can make a pound [0.45 kg] of hard cheese or two pounds [0.9 kg] of soft cheese.
- 9 Hamerslag, K. *Meat Eater's Guide to Climate Change & Health*. (2011) Environmental Working Group. Retrieved December 9, 2014 from static.ewg.org/reports/2011/meateaters/pdf/report_ewg_meat_eaters_guide_to_health_and_climate_2011.pdf.

EVENTS!

JOIN US FOR OUR REGULAR EVENTS!

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ST	SECULAR MEDITATION 10:00 AM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO		BOOK GROUP 7:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, CERES				THEATRICAL MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO
2 ND	VEGAN HEATHANS POTLUCK BRUNCH NOON PRIVATE HOME, TURLOCK	SIRENS & SATYRS OF SHARP CRAFT GROUP 6:30 PM PRIVATE HOME, MANTECA	MUSIC & MAYHEM 6:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, CERES			GAME NIGHT 7:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, SALIDA	THEATRICAL MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO
3 RD	COFEE KLATCH (QUEEN BEAN) 11:00 AM 1126 14TH ST, MODESTO		SECULAR MEDITATION 7:00 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO			DOCUMENTARY FILM DISCUSSION 6:30 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO	THEATRICAL MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO
4 TH	TURLOCK BRUNCH (PANERA) 10:00 AM 3050 HOTEL DR. TURLOCK		MUSIC & MAYHEM 6:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, CERES			FINAL FRIDAY KARAOKE (TORII'S) 8:00 PM 2401 E ORANGEBURG, MODESTO	THEATRICAL MOVIE NIGHT 6:00 PM 1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO

FOR MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS PLEASE VISIT US AT STANISLAUSHUMANISTS.ORG OR OUR [FACEBOOK](#) & [MEETUP PAGES](#).

FILM DISCUSSIONS

Watch and discuss an informative documentary in a comfortable living room setting. After the screening, we discuss what we disagreed with and what we liked about the presentation. Feel free to bring refreshments to suit your taste.

JANUARY 16

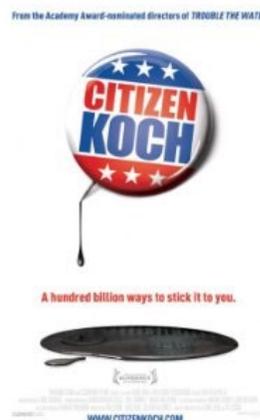
6:30 PM
1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO



What do an elderly topiary gardener, a retired lion tamer, a man fascinated by mole rats, and a cutting-edge robotics designer have in common? Nothing and everything in this unconventional documentary directed by Errol Morris. *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control* interplays, overlaps, and interrelates these four separate and highly specialized documentary subjects in order to in truth study all of humanity, raising questions about the future of mankind.

FEBRUARY 20

6:30 PM
1905 KIENITZ AVE, MODESTO



Set against the rise of the Tea Party in the aftermath of the US Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling, a citizen uprising to recall Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker collides with the Tea Party-aligned Americans for Prosperity, a group founded and lavishly financed by two of the world's richest men David and Charles Koch. As Republican working class voters find themselves in the crosshairs of their own party and its billionaire backers, they are forced to choose sides. Directed by Academy Award®-nominated directors Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (*Trouble the Water*; co-producers of *Fahrenheit 9/11* & *Bowling for Columbine*).

COLLOQUIUM: SARAH STRAND JANUARY 21, 7:15 PM



On the third Wednesday of every other month, we invite a fascinating speaker to our local area. This is a free event, open to the public, at the Manteca Library. Those of all worldviews and faiths are welcome. Doors Open at 7:15 pm.

Religion has been present in human society since the dawn of humankind. Dr. Strand of Sacramento State University will begin with a review of Charles Darwin and the theory of natural selection. This will provide a spring board for a discussion of the evolution of ideas, culture, and religion.

Next, Dr. Strand will discuss the psychological origins of religion, showing that human brains are built to believe that “agents” are at work in the

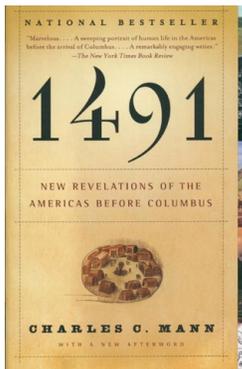
world. The talk concludes with evidence of how religion has “survived” by expanding and adjusting to changes in culture.

Sarah Strand earned her PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is currently a professor in the Psychology department at Sacramento State University and teaches courses on statistics, animal behavior, learning theories, sensation and perception, and introductory psychology.

Sarah has lectured on topics about the evolution and neurobiology of religion to multiple groups in the Sacramento and San Francisco area for the past 5 years, and is currently combining her three-part series of talks into a book.

BOOK GROUP, FEBRUARY 3 (1ST HALF) & MARCH 3 (2ND HALF) 7:00 PM (CERES)

On the First Tuesday of every month please come join us to talk, relax, and share discussions about the monthly book selection while we enjoy each others' company. Please come whether you enjoyed the book, hated the book, or didn't quite finish it! Every month we try to rotate through a variety of viewpoints and disciplines. This month's book seemed pretty dense so we split it into 2 months.



1491: New Revelations of The Americas Before Columbus by Charles C. Mann. Contrary to what so many Americans learn in school, the pre-Columbian Indians were not sparsely settled in a pristine wilderness; rather, there were huge numbers of Indians who actively molded and influenced the land around them. The astonishing Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan had running water and immaculately clean streets, and was larger than any contemporary European city. Mexican cultures created corn in a specialized breeding process that it has been called man's first feat of genetic engineering. Indeed, Indians were not living lightly on the land but were landscaping and manipulating their world in ways that we are only now beginning to understand. Challenging and surprising, this a transformative new look at a rich and fascinating world we only thought we knew.

TO GET THE ADDRESS, RSVP ON
OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR
MEETUP.

STANISLAUS HUMANIST T-SHIRTS



Available in S, M, L, XL, and 2XL. Currently, we only have black but we hope to expand. Get yours as an appreciation gift for donations of \$20 or more. Members can request one for donations of \$15. Make check or money order payable to Stanislaus Humanists, 1905 Kienitz Ave, Modesto, CA 95355, or donate online and tell us your size and where to ship

BECOME A MEMBER

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (CHECK ONE)

INDIVIDUAL (\$24/YEAR) COUPLE (\$36/YEAR)

AHA MEMBER (SINGLE \$12/YEAR - COUPLE \$18/YEAR)

PLEASE READ THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM AND CHECK THE BOX:

I HAVE READ THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM AND I SUBSTANTIALLY AGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLES STATED.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO STANISLAUS HUMANISTS. ACTIVE MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON CLOTHES AND MERCHANDISE. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OR TO SIT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SEND YOUR APPLICATION AND CHECK TO:

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MODESTO, CA 95355

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WWW.STANISLAUSHUMANISTS.ORG/MEMBERSHIP.HTML

PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM

Humanism is a naturalistic philosophy, informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. The document Humanism and Its Aspirations* states six basic principles with which AHA members and chapters should substantially agree:

1. Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis.
2. Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change.
3. Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience.
4. Life's fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals.
5. Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships.
6. Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness.

*The full text of Humanism and Its Aspirations can be found at www.americanhumanist.org/Humanism/Humanist_Manifesto_III



We're always looking for new content – articles, reviews, commentary, pictures, poems, events.
 Send submissions to StanislausHumanists@gmail.com, or send hard copy to:
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