

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In the previous newsletter I put out a challenge to become more involved with Stanislaus Humanists, so today I'm checking in. How did you do?

Did you go to a new event? Have you introduced yourself to someone you didn't previously know? Did you officially join the organization? Have you made a one-time donation or set up a recurring one? Well summer is here, and we have so many opportunities for you! We'll need volunteers in the fireworks booth—you can find a sign-up link below. Humanism 101 will be starting soon, see page 2 for more information. Check out page 4 for a calendar of our regular events and join our Facebook and meetup pages for additional opportunities, including our monthly Atheists Helping the Homeless giveaways.

I'm looking forward to seeing you! ■

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FIREWORKS!

BRANDILYN BROWN

Four years ago an opportunity fell in our lap—a non-profit organization had decided not to have a fireworks booth in Hilmar, leaving an opening for a new group to make itself known in the area. None of the other organizations in town wanted to it, so the Stanislaus Humanists were approached with the idea. While we were asked too late in 2015 to make it happen, we did sign on for a 2016 booth on Lander and First, and we wound up raising over \$5,300! Last year in the same spot, we raised over \$5,400. It's our biggest fundraiser, and now it's time to do it again!

Yes, it's in Hilmar. Yes, it's hot. Yes, it's dusty. But it is also a lot of fun and a great way to get to know one another. We've got a portable air conditioner and plenty of water.

There's a Walgreens across the street if you find yourself in need of popsicles. Having a fireworks booth gets us out in the public eye, giving us a bigger opportunity to introduce ourselves to our community than we normally have. Plus it will help push Stanislaus Humanists toward our goal of having our own meeting space! What's not to love?!

Shifts this year are in 4 hour increments. We are asking every member to please sign up for 2 shifts. With the Fourth of July in the middle of the week this year, we are in need of daytime shifts the most. Help us reach our goal of \$5,000 again! Check out the schedule and sign up for 2 shifts (or more)! We will be operating from June 28th to July 4th. <http://signup.com/go/RaHEjtj> ■



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

HUMANGELISM 101

TROY SPEARS

This year's Humanist reading group will be broken into a first meeting discussing Humanism and three meetings going over George Lakoff's must-read book for progressives - *The ALL NEW Don't Think of An Elephant!* The meetings will be held at Lorraine Nilson's home on the third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9 PM. The guiding question throughout the four groups will be whether Humanism should be reaching out to grow membership, and ultimately, achieve the political clout needed to reverse the pro-religious favoritism entrenched in today's America.

MEETING #1 - JULY 17

The first meeting will be an introduction to, and explanation of, the modern Humanist movement. We'll look at 19th century Unitarians who outgrew God and the Ethical Culture movement who emphasized deed over creed. We'll do a quick overview of the largest Humanist organizations, and parse the AHA's Humanist Manifesto III. We'll also look at Stanislaus Humanists' Bylaws and discuss the portion dealing with our group's goals. We'll each try to nail down a short positive answer to the question "What exactly is Humanism?"

We'll also cover a short history of why these moderns revived the term "Humanist" to describe their worldview, looking back at the Renaissance umanisti, who in turn took their name from concept of humanitas developed by the rediscovered Cicero. We'll also try to do a quick distinction of Humanism vis-a-vis atheism and skepticism. Finally, we'll do a quick run through of Humanist positions and disagreements on political and lifestyle issues.

MEETING #2, #3 & #4 - AUG 21, SEP 18, OCT 16

We will be reading the 2014 edition of "The ALL NEW Don't Think of An Elephant! Know Your Values and Frame the Debate" by George Lakoff.

George Lakoff is a professor of linguistics at UC Berkeley. Called the "father of framing" by The New York Times, Lakoff explains how framing is about ideas—ideas that come before policy, ideas that make sense of facts, ideas that are proactive not reactive, positive not negative, ideas that need to be communicated out loud every day in public.

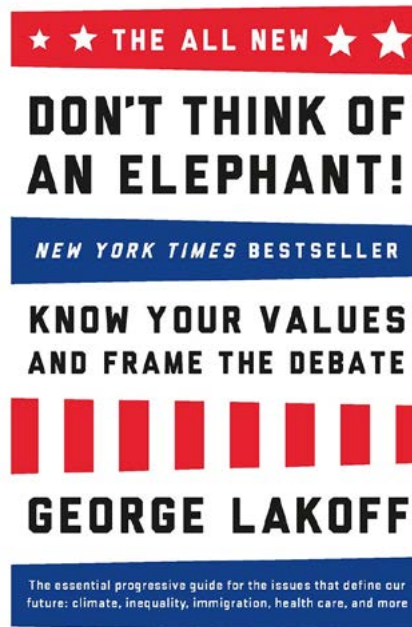
These three meetings will be held with the understanding that participants will have read the assigned 50-60 pages of the book. I hope to have assurances from at least four participants before the meeting or else the formal meeting will be canceled. Folks may still meet up at Lorraine's for an informal get-together, but there will be no attempt to go over the reading. In the past, meetings where people haven't done the reading tend to flop along and may have discouraged some people from attending again. In the event that a meeting is canceled, the assigned reading will be pushed to the next month. We may have make-up sessions in November or December if people are interested in finishing the book.

MANDATORY CIVILITY, NO KIDDING

Participants will be expected to conform to Humanist principles of civility, kindness, and compassion. The meetings will be gentle explorations of our values and how our organization should comport itself to further those ends. Interruptions will be frowned

upon and cut short to allow each person to finish their thought. This is not about being right, one-upmanship, or name-calling. Emotions sometimes run high when discussing values and politics, but this is precisely when our commitment to Humanist ideals is necessary.

If you're interested in participating or auditing the meetings, contact me at tspears@damrell.com or call me at 209-204-0418 to give me your contact information. ■



DONATE TO THE STANISLAUS HUMANISTS

Did you know that it's easy to set up a recurring donation with PayPal?

Visit our homepage at stanislaushumanists.org and click the yellow "donate" button at the bottom of the page.

This link will take you to our PayPal donation page. Just enter an amount

and click the "Make this a monthly donation" box!

Twenty percent of all undesignated donations goes into our Humanist Hall fund. Your regular support will help us get our own meeting space. Thanks for your generosity! ■

A VIRTUOUS WOMAN IS NOT SILENT

#METOO FINDS PREACHER WHO SANCTIONED ABUSE AND DEMONIZED DIVORCE

AMY COUCH • THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE MAY 2018 ISSUE OF THE HUMANIST.

Ok, ladies, ready to be submissive to your man in every way you can? Ready to pray the domestic violence away? Yeah, me neither.

Paige Patterson is the president of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who, in a newly surfaced interview from 2000 by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, stated that for women in domestically abusive situations and relationships, prayer, faith, and submission to husbands—not divorce—were the paths God provided for women. “I have... said that I have never recommended or prescribed divorce. How could I as a minister of the Gospel? The Bible makes clear the way in which God views divorce.” Patterson defended his position in a personal statement last month, declaring that he has never been abusive to any woman. “I have never counseled or condoned abuse of any kind. I will never be a party to any position other than that of the defense of any weaker party when subjected to the threat of a stronger party. This certainly includes women and children. Any physical or sexual abuse of anyone should be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities, as I have always done.”

Considering that Patterson believes divorce is never an appropriate solution for a woman in an abusive relationship, I beg to differ. Holding that position as a spiritual leader of thousands of people, thousands of women, is categorically abusive itself. According to the Violence Policy Center, three women die from domestic violence every day in the United States. And Patterson is doing nothing to protect the women in his flock from this violence. If anything, he’s encouraging them to put themselves in danger because apparently the sanctity of marriage is more important than the sanctity of life.

In the 2000 interview, Patterson tells the story of a woman who came to him for spiritual counsel about abuse happening in her marriage. He counseled her to pray at night beside her bed for God to intervene. Apparently the woman came back to him after following his advice. She had two black eyes. “She said: ‘I hope you’re happy.’ And I said ‘Yes ... I’m very happy,’” because it turned out her husband had heard her prayers and come for the first time to church the next day, he said.”

Her husband heard her prayers but God didn’t? Patterson seems to equate the husband’s hearing of the wife’s prayers as answered prayer in and of itself. This juxtaposition between god and husband is utterly disgusting. So there’s no difference between deity and husband? Do you pray to both? Do you go with the first albeit weak answer you get, even if it means two black eyes? Men, I guess you should be glad you have a penis; it means you’re a god. Women, I guess we need to invest in strap-ons.

The damage that religious leaders like Patterson inflict on women and children who look to them for guidance, safety, and spiritual counsel is criminal. According to the Department of Justice, women are far more likely than men to be the victims of violent crimes committed by those they’re romantically involved with, especially when a weapon is involved. And most of these types of violence occur in the home. Wife beating was made a crime in 1920 (less than 100 years ago) but only since the 1970s has the criminal justice system treated domestic violence as a serious crime rather than a private family matter.

The Southern Baptist denomination has long been known for misogynistic worldviews and religious laws. They are a fundamental sect that teaches women and little girls Bible verses that define a virtuous woman as a silent woman. A vessel. A “helpmate” who serves her husband and family, never herself. Oh yeah, and she is also supposed to make herself look beautiful.

Patterson should be ashamed of himself. He should be ashamed to have his wife and daughters and granddaughters read his words and the stories of women who came to him for counsel and returned home to dangerous predators because he said marriage was more important than their safety, and possibly their lives.

As the #metoo movement continues to unearth the unspoken and previously accepted instances of misogyny saturating our culture, I hope religious leaders will also be held accountable for their advice to women and girls who are facing often life-threatening abuse from boyfriends or partners, brothers or fathers. A good sign is the open letter signed by 2,000 evangelical women condemning Patterson’s position:

The world is watching us all, brothers. They wonder how we could possibly be part of a denomination that counts Dr. Patterson as a leader. The Southern Baptist Convention cannot allow the biblical view of leadership to be misused in such a way that a leader with an unbiblical view of authority, womanhood, and sexuality be allowed to continue in leadership.

A virtuous woman is one who stands up for herself; who leaves her marriage when she or her children are in danger; who calls the authorities and reports abuse; who speaks out against misogynistic leadership at home, in government, and in church.

More than 2,000 evangelical women have signed an open letter condemning his words. I think it’s necessary to point this out and even quote male and female Baptist leaders who have condemned his demonization of divorce. ■

PATHWAYS STILL NEEDS ITEMS

STEPHANIE MARSON

Thank you to everyone who donated to the March collection for Pathways. They were excited to receive our gift, especially the box of condoms. Our next donation drive will take place June 17 at our Coffee Klatch event at Queen Bean, 1126 14th Street, Modesto. We hope to see you at brunch, and please bring a little something for these young adults who are striving hard to overcome adversity.

Pathways provides apartments and practical life training while helping these young people find jobs and save for independent living. From their website: “Pathways is a transitional living and supportive services program for young adults ages 18-21 years. The program serves homeless young adults, many of whom are former foster care youth, who have limited financial and emotional support.”

Current needs include:

Household Items:

- Twin mattress pads – new and heavy duty
- Towels (Large Bath) – new or gently used
- Vacuums- New or used
- Clothes Baskets
- Hangers

Cleaning Products:

- Pine Sol
- Dish washer detergent
- Laundry Soap
- Bleach
- Comet
- Toilet paper / Paper Towels
- Carpet cleaning solution

Personal Hygiene products:

- Shampoo /Conditioner
- Tooth paste and brushes
- Body wash
- Feminine Hygiene products - tampons
- Razors
- Mouthwash

Large items:

- Mini Blinds for several apartments

Outside items:

- Flashlights (heavy duty)
- Patio area (create a garden)
- Patio furniture (all weather)
- Additional security camera (installed)
- Welcome Mats

Recreation:

- Movie passes
- Pizza coupons
- Art supplies
- Bus passes ■

2018 READING LIST

JULY - *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America* by Nancy Isenberg ~322 pages

AUGUST - *At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails with Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Albert Camus, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Others* by Sarah Bakewell ~328 pages

SEPTEMBER - *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome* by Mary Beard ~536 pages

OCTOBER - *Consciousness and the Brain: Deciphering How the Brain Codes Our Thoughts* by Stanislas Dehaene ~266 pages

NOVEMBER - *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan & Ann Druyan ~434 pages

DECEMBER - *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* by Alfred Crosby ~308 pages

EVENTS!

JOIN US FOR OUR REGULAR EVENTS!

| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------|---|--------|---|--|----------|---|----------|
| 1 ST | | | BOOK GROUP 7:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, CERES | | | CRITICAL DRINKING 7:00 PM MINNIES RESTAURANT, MODESTO | |
| 2 ND | | | | | | FINALLY FRIDAY KARAOKE 9:00 PM TORII'S RESTAURANT, MODESTO | |
| 3 RD | COFFEE KLATCH 11:00 AM QUEEN BEAN MODESTO | | HUMANISM 101 7:00-9:00 PM PRIVATE HOME, MODESTO | COLLOQUIUM (BIMONTHLY) 7:15 PM MANTECA LI-BRARY, MANTECA | | | |
| 4 TH | TURLOCK BRUNCH 10:00 AM PANERA TURLOCK | | | | | | |

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

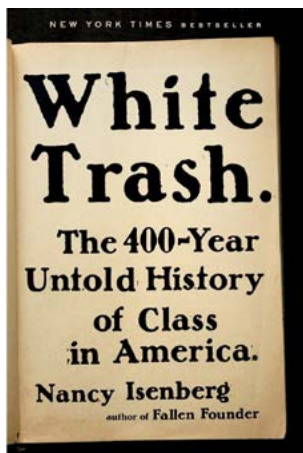
BOOK CLUB

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 subjects. Sometimes that's fiction, history, biology, economics, theology, or philosophy.

RSVP ON OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR MEETUP FOR THE ADDRESS.

JULY 10
7:00 PM

WHITE TRASH: THE 400-YEAR UNTOLD HISTORY OF CLASS IN AMERICA

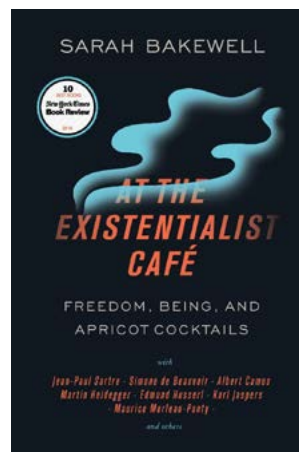


NANCY ISENBERG

“The wretched and landless poor have existed from the time of the earliest British colonial settlement to today’s hillbillies. Surveying political rhetoric and policy, popular literature and scientific theories over four hundred years, Isenberg upends assumptions about America’s supposedly class-free society—where liberty and hard work were meant to ensure real social mobility. Marginalized as a class, white trash have always been at or near the center of major political debates over the character of the American identity.”

AUGUST 7
7:00 PM

AT THE EXISTENTIALIST CAFÉ: FREEDOM, BEING, AND APRICOT COCKTAILS



SARAH BAKEWELL

“Featuring not only philosophers but also playwrights, anthropologists, convicts, and revolutionaries, *At the Existentialist Café* follows the existentialists’ story from the first rebellious spark through the Second World War to its role in postwar liberation movements such as anticolonialism, feminism, and gay rights. Interweaving biography and philosophy, it is the epic account of passionate encounters - fights, love affairs, mentorships, rebellions, and long partnerships - and a vital investigation into what the existentialists have to offer us today.”

BECOME A MEMBER

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (CHECK ONE)

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

STANISLAUS HUMANISTS 1905
KIENITZ AVENUE MODESTO, CA
95355

YOU CAN ALSO APPLY ONLINE AT:

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 and chapter members should substantially agree:

1. We hold that knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis.
2. We understand that humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change.
3. We derive our ethical values from human needs and interests as tested by experience.
4. We find fulfillment in our lives from individual participation in the service of humane ideals.
5. We are social by nature and find meaning in relationships.
6. We have found that working to benefit society maximizes our individual happiness.
7. We respect those with differing yet humane views working for an open, secular, democratic, sustainable society.

*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 a hard copy to:
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