

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ..."
The first words of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution

September meeting program

Science Fiction with an atheist theme

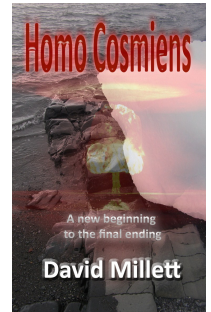
At this month's meeting author David Millett and San Francisco Atheists Web Master will present and give readings from his new book:

Homo Cosmiens, a new beginning to the final ending

The book is Science Fiction with an atheist theme. One of its goals is to show how irrelevant and destructive theism is to society. Utilizing the medium of Science Fiction the book is a vehicle to deliver the atheist message in an entertaining and imagined way.

David will explain where his inspiration came from for the book, the atheist message in it, and introduce its structure. Millett will use both verbal presentation and audio visuals to enlighten and entertain.

Come and join the San Francisco Atheists as we learn the future of humanity.



Meeting at Schroeder's Restaurant, rear dining room, Saturday September 25 at 4:30, 240 Front St San Francisco, CA 94111
Schroeder's Restaurant is two blocks north of Market Street, between California and Sacramento Streets.
Use California Street cable car, or BART/MUNI Embarcadero stop. Parking on street or at nearby Embarcadero garage.

If you hadn't heard

Monthly meeting time change!!

SFA's monthly meeting at Schroeder's will begin at 4:30 pm instead of 6 pm. You are welcome to eat, drink, and socialize as usual. We will begin the program presentation around 5 pm. We hope that this change frees you up for your other Saturday night activities, though of course you are welcome to stay afterwards.

See you at 4:30 pm

August meeting roundup

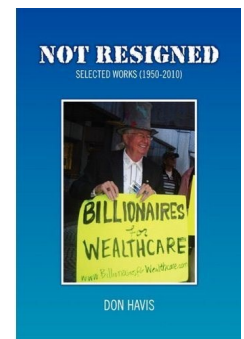
Not Resigned

Our own Don Havis showed us all that he is certainly not resigned and has never been. Havis gave a synopsis of his new book "Not Resigned" (available in paperback, hardcover, and Kindle from Amazon.com). The book is a 60-year collection of essays, ideas, and poems from a man who has tried to improve the world he finds himself in, for himself and everyone else.

Don espoused the message: there is no purpose to life, so you have to find one for yourself. He then read several of his poems and quotable quotes. Some of his readings were quite emotional. However, Havis was always entertaining and humorous.

If you think you know everything there is to know about being an atheist then this book is for you. It overflows with the

insights and experiences of a man who has spent his life exploring what it means to stand apart from the mainstream, and resist the stupid ideas forced on us by theists.



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East Bay Atheists

Annual Picnic

This month will feature our annual picnic at Tilden Park in Berkeley. There will be plenty of good food, beer and soft drinks. And of course there will be lively conversations. Join us to relax and welcome the change in the seasons. Please bring a dish to share with everyone else. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, beer and soft drinks, along with plates, cups and utensils.

Contra Costa Atheists & Freethinkers will join us for this event.

We ask a donation of \$8.00 to help offset the considerable costs of food and site rental.

Directions:

By car drive up Marin Avenue to Spruce. Take a left on Spruce and proceed to the top of the hill, where you will encounter an intersection with multiple streets, including Grizzly Peak Blvd. Take a soft left onto Canon Drive and proceed to the stop sign at Central Park Drive. Take a right and Big Leaf is on your immediate left. Parking is in front of the area.

By car from eastern Contra Costa, take 24 to the Fish Ranch Rd. Exit . Turn slight left onto Fish Ranch Rd. In .3 miles, turn right to stay on Fish Ranch Rd. In .7 miles turn right onto Grizzly Peak Blvd. In 5.3 miles turn right to stay on Grizzly Peak. You will immediately come to the an intersection with multiple streets, including Wildcat Canyon. Take a right onto Canon Drive and proceed to the stop sign at Central Park Drive. Take a right and Big Leaf is on your immediate left. Parking is in front of the area.

By bus take AC Transit #67 from Downtown Berkeley Bart. It runs every hour on weekends. The bus will enter the park and Big Leaf Picnic Area will be the first or second stop.

Sunday, September 19, 2010 12:00 - 4:30 PM Big Leaf Picnic Area Tilden Park



Find out what' is coming up

Click a graphic below to open that calendar

Monthly Meeting
Saturday, September 25th, 2010
4:30pm



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Science Fiction with an atheist theme

Homo Cosmiens, a new beginning to the final ending

Reviewed by: Gary Sorkin, [Pacific Book Review](#)

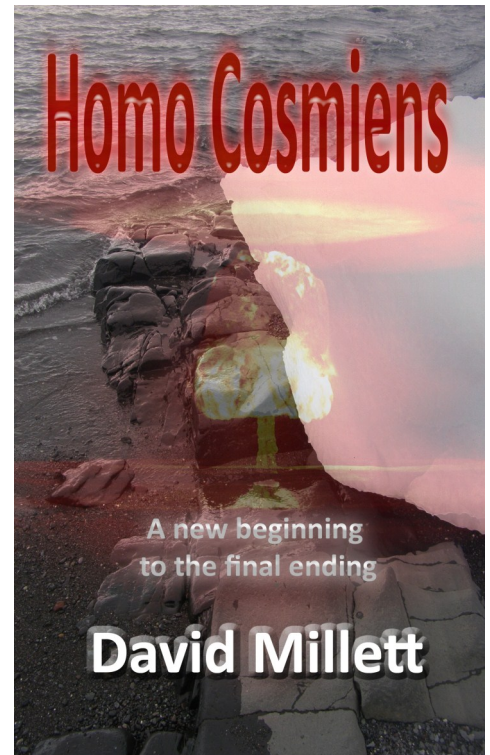
I knew from the start I needed to fasten my mental seat belt when I began *Homo Cosmiens: A new beginning to the final ending*, as David Millett blasted off bringing the reader up to speed on the creation of the universe beginning from the Big Bang in just the first few pages. Then in chapter one, titled *The Quaternary Period*, Millett covers the many epochs of unique characteristics of life adapting to changes in climate and geography. This still moves quickly in his literal use of book-time, however slows us down from warp speed to sub-light, like in *Star Trek* when they shut down the antimatter drive and go to impulse power. Next he gets us ready to land on earth, in the present day to begin the story of the discovery of a dot in the sky, interestingly named *C/2020 AS* by astronomer Judith Morgan; as she must have had 20/20 vision to see this little thing heading towards us! The human “fight or flight” instinct dealing with what was believed to be an asteroid threatening mankind’s annihilation turned out to be a moot point. The “thing” fell into a high earth orbit, released a series of lower orbit satellites, and began communication to all people, in every language, on all topics, everywhere.

Earthlings simply called it “The Vessel” as it was a mechanical device, a computerized probe if you will, which began a series of electronic communications revealing – get this -- the unabridged cumulative knowledge of the entire universe making it available to all of mankind. Roll over Rod Serling, as this Vessel didn’t even want “To Serve Man” on a dinner plate, it offered only free advice and asked nothing in return except immunity from censorship. There was no need for it to say, “Take me to your leader,” because it already knew everything there was to know about the leader, all leaders for that matter, it was omniscient. What does mankind do with so much information available to everyone? That’s easy, with destructive knowledge so available to radical extremist factions; we blow ourselves up in no time at all.

So unfolded the storyline by David Millett; expertly embellished with his extraordinary use of vocabulary, vernacular and vision. With a finesse gained from his proficiency as a very technical person in real life, and possessing acumen of English due to his British heritage, David Millett revealed a story unlike any I have read before.

Charles Darwin is credited with the scientific theory of natural selection, in his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*. David Millett brings Darwin’s wisdom to the reader by beginning the chapters with one of his quotes. One in particular I liked, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.” Adaptability is the characteristic of the humans that survive the nuclear holocaust end of the planet, and frolic in the new beginning. Like turning an Etch-A-Sketch upside down and shaking it, David Millett once again kicks in his warp drive and transports the reader some 10,000 years into the future. All of society is different, expect everyone still speaks English and wine has aged 10,000 years without turning to vinegar or even having the cork dry out. Millett cleverly created characters including an anthropological scientist along with his colleagues, looking back to our current day with the wisdom of their history, our future, known to them.

Homo Cosmiens: A new beginning to the final ending, allows David Millett to put his fictional creativity using factual technological terms to the test of credibility, fantasy and philosophy. Demonstrating how complex a person he is in real life, this book seems to have been as much fun to write as it was to read. I feel David Millett unleashed his creativity in a manner affording him a wide breath of topics within the scope of a futuristic anthropological investigation. Although at times I’d like to hear more about the details of the technologies envisioned, he has certainly covered a broad array of issues including religion, abortion, politics, human rights and the innate instinct of sentient life forms. This book is about as original a work as I have experienced; a bit rough in places due to the fast time changes, yet a classic of creativity that should grace the bookshelf of any Sci-Fi enthusiast. You might say that David Millett takes humanity out of the forest so that we can all see the trees.



Web site

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Atheist News

God Hinting At Retirement

THE HEAVENS—At a press conference Tuesday, God Almighty, our Lord and Heavenly Father, gave his strongest indication yet that he might soon step down from his post as the supreme ruler of all things.

Following a routine address during which God confirmed the recent extinction of several thousand species, the Divine Creator fielded questions regarding rumors of his possible retirement.

[Read more](#)

New Video and Podcast

Quick report on a new video and podcast of me some of you might be interested in.

Richard Carrier Blogs

[Read more](#)

Fury over Richard Dawkins's burka jibe

The outspoken atheist Professor Richard Dawkins has re-ignited the furore over the burka, describing it as a ‘full bin-liner thing’.

The 69-year-old author and scientist told of his ‘visceral revulsion’ when he sees women wearing the controversial Islamic clothing.

But he stopped short of calling for the UK to follow the French in banning them, insisting such legislation would not be in Britain’s liberal tradition.

[Read more](#)

A Test of Tolerance

The "Ground Zero mosque" debate is about tolerance—and a whole lot more.

By Christopher Hitchens Posted Monday, Aug. 23, 2010, at 2:01 PM ET

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf Two weeks ago, I wrote that the arguments against the construction of the Cordoba Initiative center in lower Manhattan were so stupid and demagogic as to be beneath notice. Things have only gone further south since then, with Newt Gingrich's comparison to a Nazi sign outside the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum or (take your pick from the grab bag of hysteria) a Japanese cultural center at Pearl Harbor. The first of those pseudo-analogies is wrong in every possible way, in that the Holocaust museum already contains one of the most coolly comprehensive guides to the theory and practice of the Nazi regime in existence, including special exhibits on race theory and party ideology and objective studies of the conditions that brought the party to power. As for the second, there has long been a significant Japanese-American population in Hawaii, and I can't see any reason why it should not place a cultural center anywhere on the islands that it chooses.

[Read more](#)



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Quote of the month

Don Havis

Acceptance of anything on faith denies all reason.

Ha Ha Heathens

Stand-up comedy featuring some of the Bay Area's funniest atheists

San Francisco radio and stand-up legend Johnny Steele, Keith Lowell Jensen and John Ross of the Coexist Comedy Tour, and Indian Jewish atheist comedian Samson Koletkar offer up smart and hilarious comedy.

Get your tickets

Joke of the month

