



HUSBAY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

LEGOS, DNA AND GODS

LEGOS:

1. Let's start out small...electrons, protons, neutrons...aka atoms. Inside the atom are also numerous other bits...quarks and more. Hydrogen is the simplest atom with one electron, Helium has two, and the beat goes on, up to over 100 if you consider extremely short-lived man-made critters.

2. Now let's build something out of some of these atoms, for instance Water. A simple grouping of two Hydrogen atoms and one Oxygen atom. These three atoms stick together because the outer electron ring of the Oxygen atom would like to have two more electrons to become most stable, so it likes having two Hydrogen atoms...each having one electron. A symbiotic relationship.

3. Now imagine this molecule (Water) as a Lego. It's a simple creature. It doesn't do much. It has a certain shape, size and weight, and is relatively happy being itself. It's a building block. Now of course, in the universe there seem to be plenty of molecules that might combine into a wide array of sizes and shapes and possibilities. But let's just call them Legos... building blocks.

DNA: Deoxyribonucleic Acid

1. DNA is the information molecule. It stores instructions for making other large molecules, called proteins. These instructions are stored inside each of your cells, distributed among 46 long structures called chromosomes. These chromosomes are made up of thousands of shorter segments of DNA, called genes.

2. All DNA and components are made of atoms...Legos.

3. All the instructions are in this DNA. Where to put the ear, the beak, the feathers, the legs, the wings. What color are your eyes, skin...do you walk on two or six legs, etc.

4. CRISPR (Clusters of Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is a new method to dissect and manipulate DNA, but that's not the purpose of this discussion.

5. Not only are the results of this Lego work extremely complicated and diverse, but they know how to make more of themselves...humans, viruses, ants and giraffes. Even the little "No-See-Ums" do the same things. To survive, we all need air, shelter, food and water, and make babies.

6. I have a nephew who loves Legos. He built a chess set out of them, and I've seen a great variety of things built with Legos, but they're just Legos and they don't build themselves into

anything.

7. Many scientists surmise that DNA propagation was a stellar event, that is, some form of DNA spread throughout the universe, and we humans and all other life forms are just variations that were able to take advantage of the most abundant earthly elements, C, N, H and O.

8. CRISPR has discovered significant sections of our DNA that have nothing to do with the formation of humans, so what else is in there? If it landed somewhere with Sulfur, Copper and Methane as the Legos, what would it make? How about Magnesium, Chlorine and Boron?

9. Estimates for the biologically functional fraction of the human genome based on comparative genomics range between 8 and 15%. How many other life forms could be made of the other 85 to 92%?

The GODS:

1. Back to my nephew...How did he know how to take his Legos and build something? How did he know what to put where? How did his thinking drive him to attach one Lego to another? And then another until he built a complete town, a railroad, or even the ISS?

2. There seems to be a set of instructions in DNA, but I shy away from crediting gods, because so much of religion is based on human control, division, power, money, race, ethnicity, ego, supplication, and most of all fear of the unknown and death. I find prayer the most difficult action to understand. Do they believe that someone/something is listening and will do something?

3. I hate the phrase: "God Bless America". Why isn't it: "God Bless the World and All Life"? After all, the religious tell us that their god(s) are all powerful, so why would her/she/it pick one tribe over another?

The ANSWER:

Sorry, I don't have them, I just ask questions. Who built DNA? How does it know what to do? Perhaps humans are not smart enough to ever answer the question. A dog can be trained to open a door but can't figure out himself. Are we that much smarter? Hell, we can't even get along with most of the other humans.

May 23, 2021 Printed with permission of the author.

Haiku Quintets: dandana.us/fivepalms

First Things First

my to-do's pile up
saving the world, for instance
but first, I must nap

finding cancer's cure
preventing climate crisis
must wait for my nap

I'll stop covid plague
I'll save our democracy
need to nap first, though

set priorities
do most important things first
right after my nap

loads of wood to chop
I'm Paul Bunyan's equal, but
first, sharpen my axe



Photo: The haikuist Sharpening his axe.

Why People Fall For Conspiracy Theories

By [Kaleigh Rogers](#) and [Jasmine Mithani](#)

Think of a conspiracy theorist. How do they see the world? What stands out to them? What fades into the background? Now think of yourself. How does the way you see things differ? What is it about the way you think that has stopped you from falling down a rabbit hole?

Conspiracy theories have long been part of American life, but they feel more urgent than ever. Innocuous notions like whether the moon landing was a hoax feel like child's play compared to more impactful beliefs like whether vaccines are safe (they are) or the 2020 election was stolen (it wasn't). It can be easy to write off our conspiracy theorist friends and relatives as crackpots, but science shows things are far more nuanced than that. There are traits that likely prime people to be more prone to holding these beliefs, and you may find that when you take stock of these traits, you aren't far removed from your cousin who is convinced the world is run by lizard people.

For the rest of this article please click [HERE](#).

THE WISDOM OF GEORGE CARLIN

For a while, I thought of myself as an atheist until I realized it was a belief, too. It's a shame everything has to have a label.

Well, if crime fighters fight crime and fire fighters fight fire, what do freedom fighters fight? They never mention that part to us, do they?

I'm not concerned about all hell breaking loose, but that a PART of hell will break loose... it'll be much harder to detect.

I put a dollar in a change machine. Nothing changed.

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, *without theism or other supernatural beliefs*, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good. To learn more go [here](#).

TV ADVENTURES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Bob La Salle

I watched some great TV programs while forced to stay home during the pandemic. Here are some memorable ones I think you might enjoy.

On Amazon Prime:

First, is "Bosch" which is a police detective series adapted from Michael Connelly's series of books and featuring Titus Welliver as the intrepid detective Harry Bosch. It is well produced and very enjoyable.

Second, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" is an American period comedy-drama created by Amy Sherman-Palladino who also created the "Gilmore Girls". Taking place in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the series stars Rachel Brosnahan as Miriam "Midge" Maisel, a New York housewife who discovers she has a knack for stand-up comedy and pursues a career in it. Very funny and well-acted and produced.

Third, an English Detective series, "New Tricks." This is a well done detective/comedy series produced by the BBC. The Metropolitan Police decide to create the Unsolved Crime and Open Case Squad to tackle some of the unsolved cases in its archives. They appoint a female

Chief Detective Inspector to head up the squad but bring back three retired detectives to do the investigating, hence the name from "you can't teach old dogs....." This leads to some very funny and poignant moments. It is well acted, written and I liked it very much.

On Netflix:

First, a series that appeared on ABC called "Private Practice" a spin off from "Grey's Anatomy." It chronicles the life of Dr. Addison Montgomery, played by Kate Walsh, as she leaves Seattle Grace Hospital in order to join a private practice, located in Los Angeles. *Private Practice* especially revolves around Addison's co-workers at Seaside Wellness Center, and how they deal with patients and the practice while still finding time to live their everyday lives. This is one of my favorite shows and I was sad to see it end.

Second, for those of you that liked the series "Mad About You" starring Helen Hunt and Paul Reiser, Netflix is airing a reboot of the show again using the same cast but moved 20 years from the date that the former show ended. It is interesting to see them all aged 20 years, but the same good comedy is used. If you like the first show, you will like this as well.



Special Interest Groups

Here is a list of Special Interest Groups (If you have an idea for one, please let us know).

SIG Names

Current Affairs (CAF):

Life's Experiences (LEX):

Non-Fiction Review (NFR):

Creativity (CRE):

Roundtable (RT):

Science Technology & Medicine (STM): What have you learned, and would like to share

Open Forum (OF):

Focus of the Group

Events discussed during the current news cycle

Your memorable experiences to share with the group

Reviews of non-fiction books, magazine articles, films and TV

Includes short stories, poetry, blogs; in other words fiction writing (including reviews) as opposed to non-fiction review.

A discussion of a topic selected by the SIG hosts

What have you learned, and would like to share

This SIG will happen on dates when no one has stepped up to do a presentation on any of our previously existing categories.

Check our website for specific information by clicking [HERE](#).

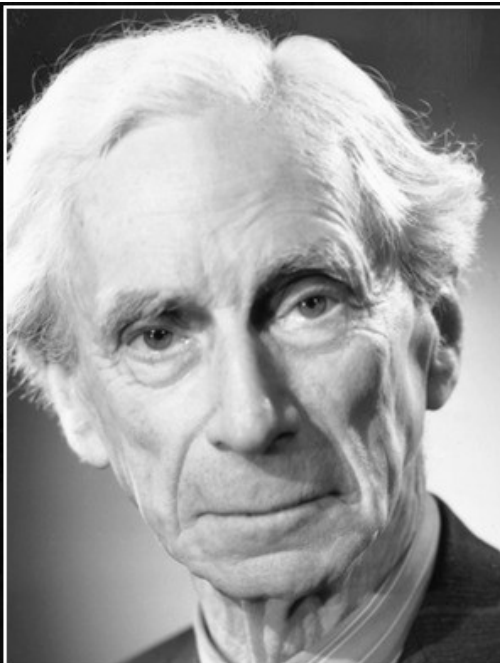
We need members to step up and help us develop programs for our SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings! Do you have a story to tell? A book to review? A rant? Do you have a career experience or hobby to share? A talk about a technology you like? A topic you would like covered? (We can find a speaker.) Have you written a book? Let us know ASAP!

Monthly Meetings

Summer lectures will be planned depending on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic

Link to Zoom meeting will be provided the day of meeting.

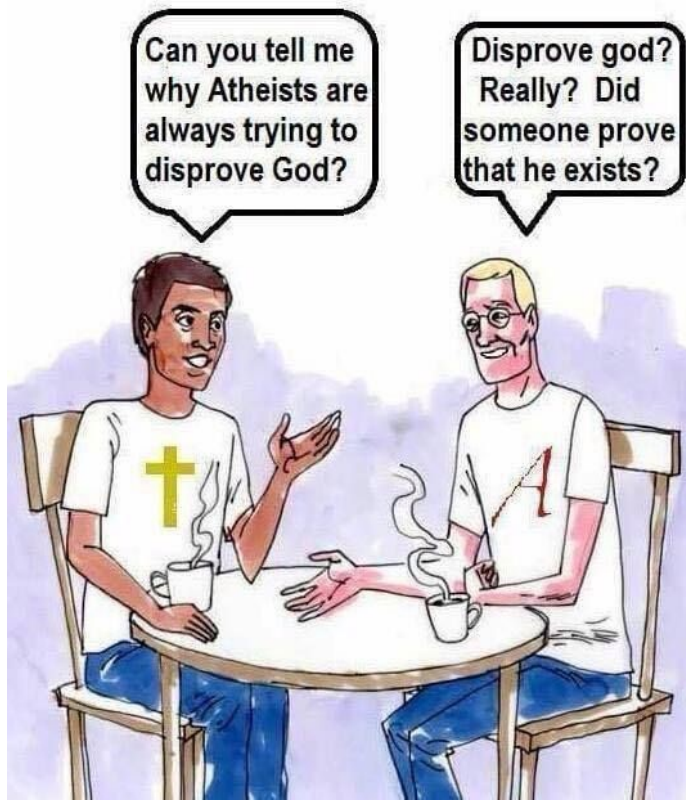
Next Board meeting June 17, 1:30 (Members contact Dave Helgager for link to attend meeting)



The first step in a fascist movement is the combination under an energetic leader of a number of men who possess more than the average share of leisure, brutality, and stupidity. The next step is to fascinate fools and muzzle the intelligent, by emotional excitement on the one hand and terrorism on the other.

— *Bertrand Russell* —

AZ QUOTES



Calling it a “failed experiment,” a federal judge overturned California’s 32 year assault weapons ban.

The judge, Roger T. Benitez, appointed by President George W. Bush, wrote his ruling that the firearms banned under the state’s law were “fairly ordinary, popular, modern rifles,” describing the AR-15 assault rifle as a “perfect combination of home defense weapon and homeland defense equipment.”

The judge granted a 30-day stay to allow the state’s attorney to appeal the decision, where it is likely to join a number of other closely watched gun rights cases on appeal. The judge’s vividly worded opinion, comparing military-style firearms to Swiss Army knives, underscored the growing boldness of gun rights advocates.

From the New York Times.

Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World’s Most Dangerous Man
 By Mary L. Trump, PhD
 Reviewed by: Karen R. Koenig

Part memoir, biography, and clinical case study, *Too Much and Never Enough* hits all the right notes. It is deadly serious, achingly sad, grave, chillingly surreal and though deeply psychological, reader friendly and even humorous at times. For those who are wise enough to heed its warnings, it is also a cautionary tale of how the tsunami of relational dysfunction washes over families generation after generation and how those in its path become its victims.

While initial excerpts from the book made it appear to be a mean-spirited compilation of the president’s greatest bloopers, it is actually an in-depth, insightful, intelligent analysis of how he came to be who he is

today. Readers seeking a presidential roast might be disappointed, as anecdotes showing the president at his worst are as heart-wrenching as they are humiliating. Sadly, no one can make him look as small as he manages to make himself look.

This book is a remarkably compassionate story of emotional family horror from which neither uncle nor niece could easily escape. Donald J. Trump’s family history is intimately intertwined with that of the author, his oldest brother’s daughter, Mary L. Trump, who has been the proverbial fly on the wall since childhood. To tell this story, she deftly juggles the roles of curious, empathically detached psychologist, victimized family member, and witness to the ongoing cruelty and abuse that her uncle and grandparents inflicted mostly on her father, but on her mother and brother as well.

For more please click [HERE](#)

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