



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

December 2015

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

<http://humanistsocietyofnm.org/>

<http://hsnm.wordpress.com>

president@humanistsocietyofnm.org

HSNM Meetings in Albuquerque

HSNM meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, December 12th

HSNM Human Light Party 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Our annual holiday festival!! See President's Message for details.

For HSNM members and their guests only.

Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice
202 Harvard Dr. SE

Saturday, December 19th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00 AM - Noon

Has religion contributed to our social evolution?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, Decemer 26th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00 AM - Noon

No meeting this month. Happy Holidays!!

Meetings by HSNM Affiliates are held throughout the month.

For more information please visit their websites.

Atheist Skeptical Kingdom of Albuquerque (www.meetup.com/ASK-Atheist-Skeptical-Kingdom-of-Albuquerque)

New Mexicans for Science and Reason (www.nmsr.org)

Freedom from Religion Albuquerque

(<http://www.meetup.com/FFRABQ/>)

Santa Fe Atheist Community

(<http://www.meetup.com/Santa-Fe-Atheist-Community>)

Roswatheists (<http://www.meetup.com/Roswatheists>)

President's Message for December by Ananda Parnell

Come one, come all, to our HSNM Human Light Party, which will be held in lieu of our usual 2nd Saturday Informal Meeting, at the same time/place: Saturday, December 12, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice. This will be a potluck brunch to meet and greet - and eat, of course - and, most importantly, to collect food and donations for the Roadrunner Food Bank, as is our annual tradition. We will open the Peace Hall at 10:30 for set up, please come early if you can to help make things festive. We also need volunteers for clean-up and help with the donations afterwards. Family and friends are welcome. Let's get together to celebrate, commiserate, and just enjoy our friendship in this nut-nut-nuttiest time of the year.

Human Light Party Info:
Potluck Signup - Carolyn...

Rides Needed/Offered -
Cynthianne...

The Humanist Society of New Mexico
A Nonprofit Corporation

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association
Member of The New Mexico Coalition of Reason

The purpose of HSNM is to promote ethical,
naturalistic, democratic Humanism among its
members and within its community.

Officers/Committees

Ananda Parnell: President
Randall Wall: Vice President/Speaker Programs
Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary
Zelda Gatuskin: Past President
Richard Grady: Treasurer
Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Subscription to HSNM Newsletter, published
monthly, accompanies HSNM membership or
can be obtained by nonmembers for \$20 an-
nually, HSNM membership is \$20/year (\$30
for two adults in the same household. Send
subscription or membership request to:
Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box
27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293.

Send Newsletter submissions to:
Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.
net. The deadline for Newsletter submissions
is the third Friday of each month. Website
submissions may be sent to presi-
dent@humanistsocietyofnm.org.
HSNM dues are now
paid separately from AHA dues, visit www.
americanhumanist.org for more information
about the American Humanist Association.

Humanism is an ethical philosophy that derives
its principles from science and reason rather than
theology. It asserts the worth and dignity of ev-
ery person, advocates personal liberty tempered
by social and environmental responsibility, and
promotes democracy, compassion, and justice. It
sees human beings as natural organisms, whose
values arise from culture and experience and
holds humanity responsible for its own affairs.

Donations of non-perishable food, cash and checks will
be collected by Jerry and Zelda, make checks payable to
Roadrunner Food Bank.

We will hold a December Topical Meeting the following
Saturday, which will be our last official HSNM meeting
of the year. We will not have a Speaker Meeting in
December. Read on for more opportunities to share
secular cheer this month.

2nd Annual Happy Hitchmas Holiday Happening
by Babs Mondschein

Hear ye! Hear ye! The Atheist Skeptical Kingdom
(ASK) is hereby announcing to the realm, (okay HSNM
members), that a joyous event is fast approaching. It
behooves you to place it upon your calendar, the date
being December 19th and the time 6:00 p.m.

This event is the 2nd Annual Happy Hitchmas Holiday
Happening. Thou shalt bring foods to tantalize the
taste buds (yeah, it's a pot luck), wrapped gifts suitable
for Kings or Queens (gender neutral and can't cost you
more than eight bucks) and tasty non-perishable foods
for those in our kingdom who are less fortunate than we.

The preferred method of announcing your attendance is
by messaging (RSVP) the ASK Meetup Site. Following
the third of December, Babs will be honoring the
offerings of your bringings, (so we don't wind up with
30 desserts.) On this site, you will also become privy to
the address of the festivities.

So hail to thee potential partiers. Your attendance
is looked forward to, your celebratory countenance
expected, and your RSVPs appreciated.

An Invitation to Visit Lois Kimbrell
by Charles Kimbrell

Members of the Humanist Society of New Mexico. My
mother, Lois Kimbrell was one of the founding members
of the society and an ex-president. Now, she is 94 years
old and in assisted living. If any members of the society
or old friends of Lois want to visit her, please contact me,
Charles Kimbrell at 510-499-4007 to schedule a visit.
Mother would appreciate it.

HSNM Financial Statement YTD 2015 through 11/27/15

by Richard Grady, HSNM Treasurer

Balance at 1/1/15	7,894.02
Dues + contributions*	2,205.00
Expenses:	
Insurance	315.00
Venues:	
Peace center	120.00
Annual PO box rental	126.00
Postage, Misc.	227.92
Newsletter printer	338.50
AHA Conference expenses - Ananda with six students	2,000.00
State corporation commision	20.00
Total Expense	3,147.42
Balance at 11/27/15**	6,951.60

*includes \$1,215 toward AHA convention expenses and \$30 to scholarship fund

**includes scholarship fund of \$2,300

Words Matter

by Zelda Gatuskin

(Zelda's notes and quotes from HSNM October Speaker Meeting with Dr. Jamal Martin, public health scholar and peace activist.)

- * Violence is a serious public health problem.
- * Peace is not merely the absence of violence.
- * Race is a myth but racism is still a reality.
- * Supremacist Ideology: "I am better; the Other needs to be dominated."
- * State-sponsored structural violence is a human rights violation.
- * Why doesn't the United States adhere to the UDHR?
- * The term "disparity" is used to mislead and should be replaced with "inequity" and "inequality".
- * You can't have a healthy economy without healthy people.
- * Our public health system suffers from Prevention Deficit Disorder.
- * Working to maintain the status quo will not achieve peace and health.
- * Tolerance? Who wants to be just tolerated?
- * Would you rather have Charity or Justice?

* Conflict Resolution results in winners and losers; how about Conflict Transformation?

* In "Multidisciplinary" approaches, departments work in tandem but are not integrated; a "Transdisciplinary" effort would be more productive.

* The U.S. should have a Department of Peace!

Report of General Membership meeting

by Cynthia Yabut

Attending:

Board Members and

Paul Deal

Charles Kimbrell (representing Lois Kimbrell)

Attila Csanyi

Floyd Schock

Tara McCaughn

Jeanette Smith

Jerry Wesner

Eliza Schmid

Michael Krasnow

Dick Kirschner

Carolyn Glen (who was also representing Barbara White)

1. Ananda introduced herself and the board and then we went around the room and everyone else introduced themselves.
2. We discussed the HSNM Family Coop and Humanist Sunday School; Zelda and Cheryl gave some history.
3. Ananda reported on the needs of the Humanists of Highland and her ideas for moving HSNM meetings to the school, starting with the informal meeting. Concerns expressed about finding, parking, walking, and also visibility/appeal to general public. Wide-ranging discussion about outreach and needs of children and teens, family schedules, logistics and theory.
4. Resolved that Topical and Speaker meetings will remain at Special Collections Library for now and Informal will move to Highland High in January. Jeanette Smith will accompany Ananda to the school to help determine best location for our group.
5. Proposal to schedule "special events a few times a year, beginning with a special speaker event at Highland, to be held specifically with the family coop and general

public in mind - best time would be Sunday afternoon, child care would be provided, enough lead time to promote. This was eagerly accepted, looking ahead to spring '16, details to be determined.

6. Human Light Party, will be held in lieu of Informal Meeting at the Peace Center on 2nd Saturday in December (12/10) from 11-1, with set-up starting at 10:30 and clean-up 1-1:30. Discussion of past years' parties and party preferences, but this year's will be scaled down due to short time frame for planning - a potluck brunch and collection for Roadrunner Food Bank. For newsletter notice: Carolyn (503-6463) will organize food and be contact for food-related questions. Cynthia (410-2998) will be contact for needing/ offering rides. Jerry will deliver donations; Zelda will collect and record the monetary donations for him.

7. Richard provided a printed financial report and explained the entries, in particular the large one for conference expenses. This led to Ananda giving a report on the AHA conference and the good things that have come about for the Highland students who participated.

8. The GB was asked if we had set directions and goals for the year to come. Our emphasis is on education, but there was much discussion of what age groups to target and how to implement plans. Other suggestions for tasks/goals: focus on educating about the Constitution and rebutting statements that US is a Christian nation; work on transgender issues. Ambitious ideas for a Humanist Charter school or Academy, for a building for HSNM, and for partnering with the other secular groups to attain these goals, were met with enthusiasm.

9. How do we make any of these things happen? How does HSNM work? Zelda distributed copies of our bylaws and discussed committees. Ananda asked for volunteers to fill the empty GB position(s) and Floyd and Tara expressed willingness to serve. Most of our goals concerned education, and an Education Committee was formed: Ananda, Attila, Tara and Dick; they will meet following the December Topical meeting.

10. Charles Kimbrell gave an update on Lois, one of our founding members, and Carolyn called for a committee for making visits. Other committees discussed but not resolved: Membership, Publicity. Members were encouraged to use the Newsletter as a place to share their interests and ideas and seek fellow members to work with on specific tasks and issues.

11. Adjourned and all fired up!

Notes on procedure:

When the education committee meets, they should appoint a Chairperson. When the next GB meeting is called, our new member-at-large volunteers should be invited to sit in. We should agree among ourselves beforehand if they will be appointed then and there, or if we need to go through more of a process. The Chair of the Education Committee and any other committee chairs and members should be invited to attend GB meetings.

Let's Lighten Up

A driver was stuck in traffic on the highway outside Washington D.C. Nothing was moving. A man walks up and knocks on the car window. The driver rolled down his window and asked, "What's going on?"

"Terrorists have kidnapped the entire U.S. Congress, and they're asking for 100 million dollars in ransom. Otherwise they are going to douse them all in gasoline and set them on fire. We are going from car to car collecting donations."

"Well, how much is everyone giving on average?" the driver asked.

"Roughly a gallon."

Food For Thought Quote

The difference between a wise and foolish man is this--the former sees much, thinks much, and speaks little; but the latter speaks more than he either sees or thinks.

William Scott Downey, Proverbs