



THE
HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO
NEWSLETTER

January 2017

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, January 14th

HSNM Informal Meeting 9am – 11am (Note the time!)

Mimi's Cafe

The 25 Way, Albuquerque, NM (near I-25 and Jefferson)

Saturday, January 21st

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

How Do You Determine Sources of Truth?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, January 28th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10am – 12noon

Kink and the Sexual Underground

Nancy Ava Miller

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)

Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque (www.meetup.com/FFRABQ)

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

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

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

**Back by Popular Demand:
The Informal Meetings are
Back!!**

We are experimenting with restarting the informal meetings as coffee mornings, held at various restaurants. The first for 2017 will be on January 14 at Mimi's Cafe on The 25 Way, just off of Jefferson near I-25. Come and bring friends! If you have a favorite resto you would like to see as a site for the meetings, please give the info to Randy or Cynthia.

January Speaker's Bio

Nancy Ava Miller is a graduate of the University of Maryland. She has a degree in Hypnotherapy, MEd, CHt and is a former teacher of TM. She also is a former Maryland school teacher.

Nancy's real interest is in what used to be the sexual underground and lately is becoming very mainstream. Do you see people out and about with piercings, tat's

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.

Officer/Committees

Randall Wall: President

Tara McCaughin: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Ananda Parnell: Past President

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Jeanette Smith: Member-at-Large

Subscription to HSNM Newsletter, published monthly, accompanies HSNM Membership or can be obtained by nonmembers for \$20 annually, 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 submission to: Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.net. The deadline for Newsletter submission is the third Friday of each month. Website submission may be send to president@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 every 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 humanist responsible for its own affairs.

and leather? The "Shade's of Grey" books are popular now, introducing the Fetish lifestyle to many. However, before there was "50 Shades of Grey" there was Nancy Ava Miller.

Throughout the 80's and 90's Nancy was being published and giving many workshops on what today we would call alternative sexual lifestyles. If you are curious about Kink and have a open mind please don't miss this talk. Nancy will also have handouts, read from one of her books and have some at the talk for sale. She currently resides, when not traveling doing workshops, in the East Mountains of New Mexico.

New South? Nope, Still the Same Old Racist South!
by Tara McCaughin

This years election has proved that the American South is still a very racist area. This year was the perfect storm for an evangelical protestant to win the Republican nomination as most of the early primaries were in the south. This was Ted Cruz's area, his evangelical southern base would be the area of the first Republican primaries. Well that was not to be.

Instead the southern primaries were dominated by Donald Trump, who made no effort not to use race baiting, fear of immigrants, and promised to make America great again. A candidate who rose to prominence by being a most vocal birther demanding for years that President Obama was born in

Kenya. He attacked and bullied his opponents viciously, far beyond the norm of a political campaign.

Trump swept the southern primaries, all except Texas, Cruz's home state. Now if southern Republicans were the god fearing evangelicals they are portrayed to be and no longer racist, why did they overwhelmingly support a loud, brash, foul mouthed, three time married New Yorker against one of their own? Quite simply he played the race card and Cruz didn't.

So much for the new, non-racist south! The primaries showed that there is no such animal and as long as the south is stuck in their Southern mentality of the so called "Lost cause" and hatred of the federal government there will never be a new south.

The AHA Calls for Removal of Texas Courthouse Nativity

www.americanhumanists.org

(La Grange, TX, Dec. 20, 2016)—The American Humanist Association's Appignani Humanist Legal Center demands that a stand-alone nativity scene displayed on the lawn of the Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange, Texas, be removed immediately.

The nativity display, also called a crèche, depicts the Christian birth of Christ with statues of baby Jesus, the Virgin Mary and Joseph, as well as other figures typically depicted in nativity scenes. The display does not include any other holiday symbols and is the only decoration in front of the courthouse. The county, which is believed to have purchased the nativity display, has maintained and installed it early in December for at least the past three years. The American Humanist Association's Appignani Humanist Legal Center sent a letter to Judge Ed Janecka on behalf of a local resident who objects to the display's unconstitutional endorsement of Christianity.

"The Fayette County Courthouse's crèche is sending a divisive message to non-Christians that contradicts the values of tolerance and compassion that everyone should practice during the holiday

season and all year round," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "The county is wasting taxpayers' money to maintain an unconstitutional Christian display that signals to non-Christians that they are unwelcome in their own community."

"The US Supreme Court and numerous lower courts have determined that a Christian crèche on public property is a form of religious endorsement that violates the Establishment Clause," said David Niose, legal director of the American Humanist Association. "A Christian display in front of a courthouse gives the impression that Christians are favored citizens, calling into question the ability of non-Christians to receive fair and equal treatment."

The American Humanist Association demands a response from the Fayette County Courthouse regarding the crèche within seven days. The letter can be viewed at <https://americanhumanist.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/AHA-Texas-creche-letter-12-20-16-final.pdf>.

Last year, the American Humanist Association prevailed in a lawsuit challenging Baxter County, Arkansas, which was forced to remove a Christian crèche displayed on its courthouse lawn.

International Religious Freedom Bill Signed by President, Includes Language to Protect Humanists, Nontheists

www.americanhumanists.org

UPDATED DECEMBER 16, 2016: President Obama has signed the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act into law.

"The American Humanist Association is proud to see this historic legislation signed into law and looks forward to working with the US Department of State to ensure religious liberty for non-theists and religious minorities abroad," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "That non-theists are now recognized as a protected class is a significant step toward full acceptance and inclusion for non-religious individuals, who are still far too often stigmatized and persecuted around the world."

Read the full text of the International Religious Freedom Act at

<https://americanhumanist.org/featured/frank-r-wolf-international-religious-freedom-act-signed-law/>

(Washington, DC, Dec. 15, 2016)—The American Humanist Association celebrates the passage of HR 1150, the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, in the U.S. Congress, and urges President Obama to sign the bill into law. This legislation supports freedom of thought and religion and protects both theistic and nontheistic beliefs “as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion.” If signed into law, it will be the first law that includes the term “non-theist.”

The American Humanist Association lobbied both Democrats and Republicans for inclusive language in HR 1150 that would recognize the rights of humanists, atheists and other nonreligious individuals, in addition to defending theistic religious minorities. The Act states that “the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion is understood to protect theistic and non-theistic beliefs as well as the right not to profess or practice any religion.” The Act also condemns “specific targeting of non-theists, humanists, and atheists because of their beliefs” and attempts to forcibly compel “non-believers or non-theists to recant their beliefs or to convert.” The persecution of openly humanist and atheist writers has become an area of increasing concern especially after the string of murders of secular bloggers and publishers by religious extremists in Bangladesh. The American Humanist Association, along with other international advocates for religious freedom, have also been critical of the flogging of secular writers in Saudi Arabia, as well as a Saudi law that equates atheism with terrorism.

“Legislators are finally recognizing the human dignity of humanists and granting the nontheistic community the same protections and respect that have been given to religious communities,” said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. “With the increasing global persecution of humanists and atheists at the hands of religious authoritarians, we’re proud that Congress and the US Department

of State are standing for the liberty of all people, both religious and non-religious,” Speckhardt added, in reference to findings from the recent release of the International Humanist and Ethical Union’s 2016 Freedom of Thought report.

“A historic piece of legislation that for the first time in our nation’s history recognizes non-theists, the International Religious Freedom Act is the result of extensive advocacy efforts from the humanist community and the support of our religious allies,” said Matthew Bulger, legislative director of the American Humanist Association. “Religious freedom for all people, theists and non-theists, is an American value we must protect.”

Once signed into law, the International Religious Freedom Act will strengthen the standing of the International Religious Freedom Office and the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and promote other actions meant to foster religious freedom abroad.

On A Lighter Note – Jokes from John Cleese

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent events in Libya and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."