



THE  
HUMANIST SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO  
NEWSLETTER

July 2016

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

<http://humanistsocietyofnm.org/>

<http://hsnm.wordpress.com>

[president@humanistsocietyofnm.org](mailto:president@humanistsocietyofnm.org)

### HSNM Meetings in Albuquerque

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

Saturday, July 9th

#### HSNM Informal Meeting

The informal meeting usually held on the second Saturday of each month is being suspended until further notice. Topical and Speaker meetings will continue as usual.

Saturday, July 16th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

What Would a Humanist Party Espouse as Their Platform?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, July 23rd

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00AM – Noon

*AHA 75th Annual Conference*

Babs Mondschein

Humanist Minute: Richard Grady

Botts Hall, Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

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

New Mexicans for Science and Reason ([www.nmsr.org](http://www.nmsr.org))

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

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

### Next Speaker Meeting

The American Humanist Association had its 75 annual conference on May 26th thru 29th. Its an entire weekend full of all of the scientists, scholars and intellectuals we humanists love!!! We are fortunate to have Babs Mondschein attend the conference so she can fill us in on all of the wonderful talks, people and special events.

### Our Speaker's Bio

Babs Mondschein claims to have been born a Secular Humanist, but that she was "found" by a nice couple who reared her in a culturally Jewish household. Even though she maintains that one of her favorite quotes is "*I have never let my schooling interfere with my education,*" (Twain), she holds a B.A. in Sociology (emphasis in Social Welfare) and an M.A. in Special Education (emphasis in bat-

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

Ananda Parnell: President

Randall Wall: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Zelda Gatuskin: Past President

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Tara McCaughin: 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.

shit crazy, learning disabled, ADHD adolescents!) Babs is currently the Meetup Organizer for ASK (Atheist Skeptical Kingdom: a secular community) and is in the process of starting the first chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State in New Mexico. Babs represented the HSNM at the 75th Annual AHA Conference in Chicago in May of 2016 and took copious notes at each session. She will be sharing information and impressions at this Speaker's Meeting.

### On the Horizon

August Speaker Meeting:  
Kristina Whitney from UNM  
Anthropology Dept.

Please provide speaker suggestions to Randy Wall - Paragon2012@comcast.net

**Women's Equality Day – August 26**  
by Sylvia Ramos

On June 4, 1919, 71 years after the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments, Congress approved the woman's suffrage amendment and sent it to the states for ratification.

The national campaign for ratification by the states was led by suffragists, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, who used different tactics but got all the states needed by August 18, 1920. Women's right to vote in the US became the law of the land when it was added to the Constitution on August 26, 1920.

In 1971 Bella Abzug, Representative from New York, was successful in having a bill passed in Congress to have August 26 recognized annually as Women's Equality Day.

Over the past few years the Humanist Society of NM and the Albuquerque Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) have held public celebrations of Women's Equality Day to remind all citizens that the right to vote comes with the responsibility to vote and that our work for women's inclusion as equal partners with men in our country will not be done until the Equal Rights Amendment, written by Alice Paul in 1923, is ratified by 38 states and added to the Constitution.

The Southwest Women's Law Center, collaborating with Abq-NOW, League of Women Voters and other women-focused local and statewide organizations, will hold a rally at Civic Center Plaza in Albuquerque on Friday, August 26 between 11 AM and 1 PM. There will be real-time linkages with women around the state focused on getting women registered to vote.

This will be a non-partisan event aimed at building a community of strong women who will get engaged and get to the polls in 2016 to vote.

For more information and to participate in this event, please contact Pamela Herndon, Executive Director SWLC, at 505-244-0502 or [pherndon@swwomenslaw.org](mailto:pherndon@swwomenslaw.org).

### **Amador Publishers Marks 30 Years of Independent Publishing with New Titles, Reprints, Ebooks**

Persistence has paid off for Albuquerque's homegrown press.

Now in its 30th year, Amador's newly released short story collection, *Digital Face* by Zelda Leah Gatuskin, has received accolades from *Foreword Reviews* [Summer 2016 issue] and their highest 5-Heart rating: "Fantasy and reality blur in this science fiction collection, full of eerie, otherworldly moments."

Gatuskin (HSNM's Past President) will make two appearances in Albuquerque this summer:

**Saturday, July 30, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Treasure House Books, 2012 S. Plaza St. NW, Old Town**

and

**Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 3:00 PM at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd. NW**

Amador Publishers was founded in 1986 by Harry Willson and Adela Amador, who dedicated their press to "peace, equality, respect for all cultures and preservation of the biosphere." They published Harry's fiction and philosophical works, as well as Southwest and literary fiction by local authors, while Adela gained notoriety in her own right with her recipe books and a 13-year stint as the author of the "Southwest Flavor" column in *New Mexico Magazine*.

Among the authors Harry and Adela took under wing was Zelda Leah Gatuskin, who later became a partner in the reorganized Amador Publishers, LLC. In 2010, when both Harry and Adela were in failing health, Gatuskin took the helm as editor-in-chief, and commenced the task of bringing the traditional print publisher into the digital age. Most of the Amador titles are now available in ebook, and some are also being re-issued for international print distribution.

Amador gained national and international recognition early on with the fiction works of acclaimed literary scholar Gene H. Bell-Villada, and the WWII memoirs and fiction of Eva and Manfred Krutein. A number of Amador's books have been winners and runners-up in regional competitions over the years. Most recently, *Feeling the Unthinkable: Essays on Social Justice* by Donald Gutierrez, and *From Fear To Love: My Journey Beyond Christianity*, Harry Willson's philosophical memoir, were first place winners in their categories in the 2013 NM-AZ Book Awards (Both Harry and Don were active members of HSNM and frequent contributors to this Newsletter.)

Both books were edited by Gatuskin, who has also been recognized for her poetry (*But Who's Counting?* first place, NM Book Awards 2010) and young adult fiction (*Where the Sky Used to Be*, runner up, NM-AZ Book Awards 2012). An artist as well as an author, Gatuskin's other books include the fantasy novels *The Time Dancer* and *Castle Lark*; two creative-nonfiction collections, which she also illustrated, *Ancestral Notes* and *Time and Temperature*; and *Zelda's Cosmic Coloring Book*. Her next book will be *The Two Magicians*, the long-awaited sequel to *The Time Dancer*.

[This press release was provided by Amador Publishers, LLC. More information online at [www.amadorbooks.com](http://www.amadorbooks.com),]

### **Humanist Group's Anniversary Conference Celebrates 75 Years Advocating Humanism**

[www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org)

(Washington, D.C., May 25, 2016)—From May 26-29, the American Humanist Association will host its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference celebrating three-quarters of a century of advancing humanist philosophy and activism. Held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel in Chicago, Ill., the conference will feature thought-provoking speakers, panel discussions and award banquets, one of which will recognize Pulitzer-prize-winning author Jared Diamond with the 2016 Humanist of the Year Award.

**Jared Diamond** is a renowned author of five best-selling books: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*; *Collapse*; *Why is Sex Fun?*; *The Third Chimpanzee* and *The World until Yesterday*. He also serves as a geography professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he researches and teaches in many fields including biology, conservation biology and digestive physiology.

"Jared Diamond's accessible and informative writing has introduced general audiences to the intellectual curiosity and critical thinking central to humanist philosophy," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "His contributions to science, writing

and humanism have enriched our society with a deeper understanding of human society and evolution."

The American Humanist Association will also honor other outstanding individuals including: leading human rights activist and co-founder of Code Pink **Medea Benjamin** (Humanist Heroine), openly atheist and longest-serving state senator of Nebraska **Ernie Chambers** (Lifetime Achievement Award) and critically-acclaimed actor known for his roles in *Breaking Bad* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, **John de Lancie** (Humanist Arts Award). Other individuals receiving awards include Texas atheist activist **Victoria Gettman** (Presidents Award), psychologist and researcher **Elizabeth Loftus** (Isaac Asimov Science Award), and advocate for liberal Christianity **John Shelby Spong** (Religious Liberty Award).

The conference will also include informative talks by notable speakers. Professor and advocate for evolution **Jerry Coyne** will present a keynote address explaining how science leads to atheism and humanism. **Leighann Lord**, stand-up comedian and co-host with Neil Degrasse Tyson on the *Star Talk* podcast, will host a talk panel with former *Saturday Night Live* cast member **Julia Sweeney** to discuss the role of humor in humanism. On a more serious note, **Rafida Bonya Ahmed**, moderator of the award-winning Bengali blog *Muktomona (Free Mind)* will discuss recent attacks of humanists in Bangladesh, including her late husband, Avijit Roy. A full list of conference speakers is available here.

2017 American Humanist Conference will be held on June 8-11, 2017, in Charleston, South Carolina. Look for more details on [www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org) as they become available.

#### **Quote of the Month**

"Fanaticism consists of redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim."

George Santayana