



THE
HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO
NEWSLETTER

March 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, March 11th

HSNM Informal Meeting 10am – 12pm

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, March 18th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

Our Brave New World: Scary or Promising?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, March 25th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10am – 12noon

Transgender Rights: A threat of serial discrimination officially approved

Adrian Lawyer

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

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>)

President's Message

by Randall Wall

Wow! Our Planning meeting last week was great!! So many ideas about what we can do in the coming year. For the first time, we may be giving a scholarship to a deserving high school student instead of a college student! Opportunities for publicity were discussed. Ideas for picnics with other interested groups, new ideas for speakers and holiday parties were also shared. Other ideas included starting smaller meetings focused on discussing books, watching documentaries and movies and many other things. It's going to be a great year for HSNM!!

March Speaker Meeting

Adrian Lawyer is the director of the transgender speakers bureau here in Albuquerque/State of New Mexico. Adrian is a female to male transgender person and

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

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.

is a fierce fighter for transgender equality. He will be speaking on the plight of transgender persons as it's shaping up during the Trump Presidency, especially in light of Trump's executive order rescinding President Obama's allowing transgender students to use the bathroom of their sexual identity and not of their birth gender.

Informal Meeting

Saturday, March 11th, 10 to Noon
Special Collections Room
Special Collections Library

The Informal meeting is an open discussion of any topics anyone wants to bring up. The Special Collection Room houses old and valuable documents, so NO food or drink is allowed. Come and join the chat-fest!

2017 Q1 HSNM Board Meeting

Saturday, March 25th 12 Noon
Special Collections Library

Any and all HSNM members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Celebrate Women's History at the Roundhouse

Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize = Equality

Friday, March 10, 2017

12:00 to 1:00 - Program and Speakers

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Visit Legislators, network and get more information

NM State Capitol Rotunda Santa Fe
Sponsored by: Albuquerque-NOW, SWLC,
League of Women Voters, AAUW, Albuquerque
Center for Peace and Justice, SWOP, and others
Free and open to the public
For more information: now.abqnm@gmail.com

Program *Celebration of Women's History Month -
12:00 to 1:00*

- * honoring the importance of women in developing our democracy and building our state

- * recognizing the role that young feminists play in shaping our future.

The Program will have a diverse group of speakers who will highlight the ongoing work to achieve equal rights by:

- * ensuring existing laws to protect women's rights are strengthened and enforced, and

- * new laws to address unequal treatment based on gender are enacted.

Visits with legislators, Networking, Information Tables- 10:00 to 3:00

Participating organizations will have information tables along the East Hall. Participants and the public are invited to visit all our NM legislators to thank them for their work on behalf of women and ask for their support for the work that still needs to be done.

AHA Executive Director Roy Speckhardt Responds to President Trump's Decision to Reverse Protections for Transgender Students

“President Trump continues to show his complete disregard for basic human rights in his decision to reverse the Obama administration's vital protections for transgender students. We humanists oppose discriminatory claims, largely perpetuated by extremist religious groups, that transgender students are “wrong” to use the bathroom of their choice. We vehemently reject the harmful fear-mongering from these groups – Transgender students deserve equal protection under the law, and any removal of their right is an attack on our shared values.”

The American Humanist Association will continue to actively challenge religious extremism and

prejudice against the LGBTQ community as a longtime supporter of the rights of LGBTQ individuals. As an organization committed to defending freedom of speech, thought, and expression, we strongly condemn the repeal of these protections.

Rising Religious Authoritarianism in United States, Warns 2016 Freedom of Thought Report

(Washington, DC, Dec. 6, 2016)—The American Humanist Association, a member of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), is proud to share the release of the 2016 Freedom of Thought report, an annual publication that examines global religious freedom for and discrimination against humanists, atheists and other nonreligious communities. This year marks the first time that the report will be released as an interactive, online tool with unique web pages and ratings for each country.

The 2016 Freedom of Thought report emphasizes the threat of growing populism and religious authoritarianism, including in the United States, and its detrimental impact on freedom for nonreligious individuals. The International Humanist and Ethical Union warns that the simplistic nationalism of US president-elect Donald Trump could do serious harm to the rights of humanists, atheists and other non-theistic individuals as well as undermine the humanist values of democracy, liberty and secularism. The report also sharply criticizes Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland and Hungary, as well as other countries, for curbing freedom for the nonreligious as the expense of nationalism and authoritarian religion.

The American Humanist Association contributed to the report and included research on the persecution of humanists, atheists and the nonreligious in the United States. The American Humanist Association will also use the results of the report in its upcoming lobbying work, which will focus on urging the Department of State and Congress to support resolutions decrying blasphemy laws in other countries while also promoting legislation that includes anti-discrimination language to protect the rights of humanists, atheists and other nontheists. The

American Humanist Association is also dedicated to protecting the separation of church-state and will oppose any legislation, which Trump has indicated he would support, to repeal the Johnson Amendment, which forbids religious organizations from endorsing political candidates.

Hate groups increase for second consecutive year as Trump electrifies radical right

Southern Poverty Law Center, February 15, 2017
www.splcenter.org

The number of hate groups in the United States rose for a second year in a row in 2016 as the radical right was energized by the candidacy of Donald Trump, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) annual census of hate groups and other extremist organizations, released today.

The most dramatic growth was the near-tripling of anti-Muslim hate groups – from 34 in 2015 to 101 last year.

The growth has been accompanied by a rash of crimes targeting Muslims, including an arson that destroyed a mosque in Victoria, Texas, just hours after the Trump administration announced an executive order suspending travel from some predominantly Muslim countries. The latest FBI statistics show that hate crimes against Muslims grew by 67 percent in 2015, the year in which Trump launched his campaign.

The report, contained in the Spring 2017 issue of the SPLC's *Intelligence Report*, includes the Hate Map showing the names, types and locations of hate groups across the country.

The SPLC found that the number of hate groups operating in 2016 rose to 917 – up from 892 in 2015. The number is 101 shy of the all-time record set in 2011, but high by historic standards.

“2016 was an unprecedented year for hate,” said Mark Potok, senior fellow and editor of the *Intelligence Report*. “The country saw a resurgence of white nationalism that imperils the racial progress we’ve made, along with the rise of a president whose policies reflect the values of white nationalists. In Steve Bannon, these

extremists think they finally have an ally who has the president's ear.”

The increase in anti-Muslim hate was fueled by Trump's incendiary rhetoric, including his campaign pledge to bar Muslims from entering the United States, as well as anger over terrorist attacks such as the June massacre of 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

The overall number of hate groups likely understates the real level of organized hatred in America as a growing number of extremists operate mainly online and are not formally affiliated with hate groups.

Aside from its annual census of extremist groups, the SPLC found that Trump's rhetoric reverberated across the nation in other ways. In the first 10 days after his election, the SPLC documented 867 bias-related incidents, including more than 300 that targeted immigrants or Muslims.

Also, in a post-election SPLC survey of 10,000 educators, 90 percent said the climate at their schools had been negatively affected by the campaign. Eighty percent described heightened anxiety and fear among students, particularly immigrants, Muslims and African Americans. Numerous teachers reported the use of slurs, derogatory language and extremist symbols in their classrooms.

In contrast to the growth of hate groups, anti-government “Patriot” groups saw a 38 percent decline – plummeting from 998 groups in 2015 to 623 last year. Composed of armed militiamen and others who see the federal government as their enemy, the “Patriot” movement over the past few decades has flourished under Democratic administrations but declined dramatically when President George W. Bush occupied the White House.

The SPLC also released an in-depth profile of the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), an anti-LGBT hate group. Leaders of the legal advocacy organization and its affiliated lawyers have regularly demonized LGBT people, falsely linking them to pedophilia, calling them “evil” and a threat to children and society, and blaming them for the “persecution of devout Christians.” The group also has supported the criminalization of homosexuality in several countries.