



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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, November 8th

HSNM Informal Meeting 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

For HSNM members and their guests. For invitation or questions, please contact Ananda Parnell at 505-480-6377.

Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, 202 Harvard SE.

Refreshments provided.

Saturday, November 15th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00 AM - Noon

Humanism and The Light Of Science Fiction

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, November 22nd

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00 AM - Noon

The Aid in Dying Movement: What is Happening in New Mexico and Around the Country?

By Adrienne Dare

Free and open to the public

Botts Hall, Special Collections Library

423 Central Ave. NE, Albuquerque

Humanist Minute: TBA

Meetings by HSNM Affiliates are held throughout the month.

For more information please visit their websites.

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

First Unitarian HUManist Group

(<http://www.uuabq.org/classes.html>, 505-344-8930)

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

By Ananda Parnell

With any kind of “changing of the guard,” the challenge I run into is how to introduce myself in a way that embodies the vision I have for the momentum of HSNM, as well as to incorporate the overall sense of the current work that is ongoing.

I had a relatively fascinating childhood. Popular music was never really played much in our house, as my parents have an extensive record collection that covers practically every genre from classical, to World War II and 1950s popular and not-so-popular music. My days were filled with jazz, the Grateful Dead, and Janis Joplin. My mom played guitar as well, filling our living room with the sounds of protest, joy, blues, and the pains we feel throughout and leaving childhood. I still ask her to sing *Puff the Magic Dragon* when I'm up there, just for nostalgia's sake, as well as *Paradise* by John Pryne.

Being the offspring of a hippie mother and a father who was a member of the Coast Guard, I have come to embody activism with the

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
Ashley Jordan: Member-at-Large, Newsletter Editor
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, Ashley Jordan, AshleyNJordan@GMX.com
or to Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box
27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293. The dead-
line for Newsletter submissions is the third Friday
of each month. Website submissions may be sent
to president@humanistsocietyofnm.org. HSNM
dues are now paid separately from AHA dues, vis-
it www.americanhumanist.org for more informa-
tion 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.

understanding of learning the rules so I can bend them
properly. I have a beautiful picture of my mother pushing
daisies down the gun barrels of the National Guard in a
protest in the 1960s, and I have a fantastic picture of my
father in his Coast Guard uniform, standing in line with
my grandfather and my uncle. My grandfather was a
fighter pilot in World War II and flew over the Himalayas
among other things; my uncle was in the Army and flew
helicopter missions in Vietnam. My uncle was gay and
came out after the war; he died of AIDS in 1988.

I also grew up stuffing envelopes at the local Teachers'
Union office. My childhood was over-toned with
knowing that the moment I could work was also the
moment I joined the union; on the first day I was hired
as a public school teacher, I was back in the union office
to fill out the paperwork for the dues I would pay. There
are days I still wonder why we ever agreed to a non-
strike clause, but I also believe that positive changes can
be made without the risks strikes involve.

Protecting the rights of laborers in this country has
been at the heart of many conversations held between
my parents and me. My most favorite illustration of
how my family supports labor movement was my dad's
most recent purchase: A Dodge Dart, which is the first
automobile that was designed by Fiat and manufactured
in the United States (only the transmission was
manufactured in Italy). It was purchased as a way to
show support for maintaining the solvency of the motor
industry and manufacturing jobs within the United
States.

It makes sense, in many ways, why I would be drawn
to the activist, logical, ethical, and reasonable voices
that embody the Humanist Society. We live in a society
that has been molded by the turmoil that has been
drummed up before us, and understand that there are
more opportunities to make changes because of the
technological advances that we currently have. Because
we know that we are a powerful force, we also know
that we will continue to be pushed into silence by those
who do not want their power and absolute control to be
compromised by change.

What will HSNM's "the next generation" look like? I
envision taking what has been happening already and
maintaining it as it has been on many levels. I don't like
the idea of coming in and changing *everything*, especially
when so little really needs to be changed. It is true that

too few people are doing so much of the work, and there are ways we can lessen the burden of those who are involved while also expanding as an organization.

We have an amazing opportunity to expand our ideas and connect with the nearby universities of UNM and CNM to inject young voices and young energy into the efforts that have been so carefully developed over the years. I look forward to expanding opportunities to high schools with the initiation of the Humanists of Highland. I will also encourage them to take up a couple of hours on their Saturdays and join us when they can. In this way, our efforts will not only be solvent, but will have a foundation on which to thrive!

Nothing happens without community; nothing happens without cooperation. I am thrilled and honored to be so actively involved in this community that has embraced me with excitement and cautious optimism, as is only to be expected by those who investigate their circumstances based on reason and logic. I will continue to strive to lead and be led by you with integrity, honesty, honor, and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued encouragement!

November Speaker Meeting

The Aid in Dying Movement: What is Happening in New Mexico and Around the Country?

By Adrienne Dare

What is Aid in Dying?

The presentation will explain what Aid in Dying is and include a brief review of Oregon's Death With Dignity act which has allowed the medical practice of Aid in Dying for 16 years now. Aid in Dying is rarely used but brings control and comfort to those who choose this option. Speaker Adrienne Dare will share her personal experience of being with her 90-year-old mother in Oregon with terminal cancer when the pain could not be controlled. This choice of using Aid in Dying in 2002 brought much comfort to her mother and family.

What is Happening In New Mexico? The Trial

The court was being asked to declare that physicians who provide Aid in Dying to a mentally competent, terminally ill adult would not be subject to prosecution. The result of the December trial came on Jan 13, 2014 when the Court found Aid in Dying is a fundamental right under the New Mexico Constitution. The case has been appealed but in the meantime Aid in Dying

is an option in Bernalillo County. Compassion & Choices NM is concentrating on educating the medical community and our local communities on Aid in Dying and other end of life issues.

What Can You Do To Help Guarantee a Peaceful Death?

Start the conversation. Communication with family and doctors about your end of life wishes and choosing an agent to speak for you if you cannot is so important. You also need to be aware of your rights as a patient. The default for doctors is to do everything to save the patient.

What Is Happening Around the Country?

You will also hear about more happenings across the country concerning Aid in Dying and end of life issues.

Adrienne Dare has been an active member with Compassion & Choices NM since the beginning of 2012 when the Morris vs. New Mexico case was filed. She is a member of the Executive Council with Compassion & Choices NM and an Action Team leader in Silver City.

HSNM Election Results

By Zelda Gatuskin

Voting for the HSNM Governing Board and ballot questions about meeting locations closed on October 15. On October 18, Jeanette Smith, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and committee member Jerry Wesner, along with HSNM Treasurer Richard Grady tabulated the email and snail mail ballots. The current Governing Board then convened and Jeanette reported the vote counts, which were unanimously approved by the board. Here are the results:

15 HSNM members-in-good-standing
submitted ballots.

<i>President:</i> Ananda Parnell	10
<i>Vice President:</i> Randy Wall	13
<i>Treasurer:</i> Richard Grady	13
<i>Secretary:</i> Cynthia Yabut	13
<i>Member-at-Large:</i> Ashley Jordan	12
<i>Member-at-Large:</i> Cheryl Gatner	11

Congratulations to all of the above new Governing Board officers and members. I will remain on the board as Past President, and I look forward to working with this excellent team.

Regarding our meeting locations, the votes came in as follows:

Meeting/Location	Stay	Seek	New	N/A
2nd Saturday at Peace Center	6	4	5	
3rd Saturday at Sp. Collections	6	2	4	
4th Saturday at Botts Hall	8	1	5	

The majority rules. We will continue at our present locations; however the 2nd Saturday meeting time was changed to 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM in October, and since it worked out pretty well, we will stick with that in November.

Many thanks to Jeanette, Jerry and also to Salem Smith for serving on the Nominating Committee, to all those who have volunteered to serve on the Governing Board, and to those who participated in our election process.

Financial Report

By Richard Grady

As of October 20th 2014, the number of membership renewals we have received for the 2014-2015 year is 48.

General fund	\$6,222.31
Scholarship fund	\$2,260.00
Total	\$8,482.31

Columbus Day With Young Humanists

By Ashley Jordan

The HSNM Family CoOp October class was taught by Kristen Cram, who gave a rousing lesson to our humanist children about Columbus Day-- or, as the kids learned, what is now being celebrated as Indigenous People's Day. Music, art and crafts, reading, and a short recess that was interrupted by some rain all made for a fun, exciting, and ethically educational lesson.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, November 8th. If you are interested in joining the program or in volunteering to teach a lesson, please contact HSNM Board Member and Family CoOp Coordinator Cheryl Gatner at kewwlnurse@gmail.com.

Adopt a Newsletter Venue

By Zelda Gatuskin

Now that we send the majority of our monthly newsletters by email, we have many print copies left over every month. Yes, we could print fewer - but HSNM would be better served by circulating them in the community. Do you frequent a library, community center or other venue where local notices and publications are distributed? Could you drop off a small stack of our newsletters there once a month?

Anyone who is willing to adopt a venue for newsletter distribution may contact me at zelda@amadorbooks.com or 505-344-6102 and we will figure out how to get the newsletters to you each month.

Human Light Party: Save The Date

Humanists tend to put off thinking of or planning for the inevitable winter holiday season as much as possible. Still, each year it rolls around and demands our (unwilling) attention. While HSNM's Human Light party is a rather low-key, easy going potluck, we still like to get a little bit of fun and entertainment in, plus we collect donations for Roadrunner Food Bank.

We don't know yet exactly where or exactly when, but as per tradition the HSNM Human Light Party will replace the December informal meeting on December 13th, so be sure to mark your calendar. More details will follow with the December Newsletter.

What Can A President's Friend Be?

By Jean O'Hara

Friendship is like a sunbeam –
sparkling and touching all.

In Washington it may not be clear.

Be careful of a Whitewater.

A friend may come before or after.

Do not know anyone in a Washington lobby,

You may wind up with beating dead horses as a hobby.

Friendship can sour within two days,

In Washington one never knows what plays.

Food For Thought Quote

"If you invest in people, if you upgrade your infrastructure and increase the choices available to all, you will have a more stable society." - Khalid Malik