



THE  
HUMANIST SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO  
NEWSLETTER

November 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, November 12th

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, November 19th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

TBA

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, November 26th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00AM – Noon

Membership Meeting

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

Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque ([www.meetup.com/FFRABQ](http://www.meetup.com/FFRABQ))

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

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

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

### Next Speaker Meeting

Fall is finally here and the leaves are falling. Our next speaker meeting in November will be used to announce the new board officers for the Humanist Society of New Mexico!! Everyone is invited to come and discuss what direction you want to go for the new year. Please bring your ideas on what you would like to see HSNM become and accomplish. We would love to hear and discuss everyone's ideas!!!

### HSNM Needs You!

By Cynthiaanne, Secretary

HSNM is starting out a new year. In order to get more member participation in running the organization, HSNM needs:

1) At least one board member to chair meetings and serve as a greeter WITH one member volunteer to act as backup if the board member cannot make it.

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](http://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.

2) Assistant to newsletter editor- at least one volunteer member (more would be great).

3) Volunteers to publicize the speaker meetings:

Press releases

ABQ Free Press calendar

Facebook

Other

4) Volunteers to participate in phoning members who can't make a meeting to solicit help in various tasks.

5) Volunteers to restart the informal meetings and find a location.

6) Volunteers to help update the website and calendars

7) Volunteers to help plan the Human Lights Party (December 9?) at the Peace Center?

Most of these tasks only require a few hours a month- less if the duties are shared. I will bring sign-up sheets to the HSNM meetings. Please take a little time to help us out.

**Book Reivew: How to Stop Worrying and Start Living**  
by Barbara White

Worried? Help is on the way!

Recently a friend told me she was worried about something. She tended to worry a lot, so this time I suggested a remedy: a book I'd read years ago, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, by

Dale Carnegie, who'd written *How to Win Friends and Influence People* earlier. Both books were written way back in the forties. I was a chronic worrier back in those days and it "cured" me. Now I thought it might be hard to get but to my surprise my local library had four copies in brisk circulation. Weeks later (after my request went in) the copy arrived. And I think it's as relevant now as it was then. Once again the depth of the coverage amazed me. Each chapter was given over to some problem the "worrier" is wrestling with, ending in a "rule" illustrated by that chapter. There is no need to plow through the whole book, as something will ring a bell (or bells) and in due course, I think you'll find something fitting your case. I did, and so did my friend.

### **Conservatives and Human Nature**

by Harry Willson

December 2003

Courtesy of Amador Publishers, LLC

The following three paragraphs were first written in 1986, the year Amador Publishers offered its first title to the world:

"The American people have the government that they do because a majority of the voters voted for it, twice, being themselves greedy, racist, uncompassionate, fearful, eager for simplistic explanations of complex problems, not interested in future generations, and lacking in faith in the human spirit or the physical/ biological process which is life itself.

"The Reagan administration will not be outmaneuvered politically. It will be superseded, or changed, when the American people grow up, learn to care, learn love, learn to walk in each other's moccasins, learn to value this precious moment and the future, and learn to find value in deeper things than profit and self-indulgence.

"These things are hard to teach, and impossible to communicate by means of TV ads. These books which we offer to the world may help. They are offered with that hope.

A voice crying in the wilderness...

A light shining in the darkness...

A cup of water offered to the thirsty..."

Reagan, and Bush I after him, and Bush II now, all claim to be conservatives, but they are not. They use a phrase about getting the government "off our backs" to attract voters, but what they really mean is deregulation of business, allowing for poisonings and "accidents," setting up a long series of scandals and incidents of large-scale theft Savings and Loan, Pentagon procurement, HUD, Enron, World.com and many others. The deficit which the bail-outs and tax cuts created now stands as the excuse for not rebuilding social betterment programs like free inoculations, universal health care, universal education and the general welfare. At the same time these "conservatives" have put the police and the military into our homes, our schools, our libraries and our entire lives -- "on our backs" more than ever.

The gang of thugs who now operate the government are called, "neo-cons," short for "new-conservatives." Norman Podhoretz, Jeanne Kirkpatrick and William Kristol provided the original theoretical arguments, which are now being implemented by Wolfowitz, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Perle. I used the term "neo-con" recently and triggered an explosion. "They are not neo-conservatives! They are not conservatives at all! They are Fascists!"

The label does fit, indeed. With Fascism, huge corporations attempt to take over the world, using military force, and using it pre-emptively, as Hitler did. He did not seek international approval, nor even his allies' approval, to invade Poland, Denmark, France, Norway and the USSR, to name only a few of his targets. He proudly called his technique, "Blitzkrieg" – our neo-cons call it "Shock and Awe." The aftermath, in both cases, is a total mess. Steinbeck wrote an excellent novel, *The Moon is Down*, showing how difficult occupation is. "The flies have conquered the flypaper." Hitler's retreat from Moscow was almost as miserable as Napoleon's. Iraq today surprises very few real students of history.

These people are not conservatives. Their attitude toward surpluses and deficits proves that. The tax cuts indicate that they are greedy, that is,

merely human. Greed is human.

Lying and greed are merely human. It seems to indicate that socialism is idealistic, only, and totally unrealistic – to think that we are all in this together, that together we can solve problems, that together we can disapprove of and limit greed. It seems to fly in the face of human nature.

Yet it is clear that the extremes of lying and greed are made worse by our culture, especially lately. Secrecy, which is a form of lying, and stealing, especially from the public by public officials, businessmen and bankers, is not merely "natural," and could be greatly lessened.

Perhaps Amador Publishers is simply out of step, not only with this culture, but with our very humanity. I don't think so, but if so, then so be it. We still believe it is shameful, harmful, disgusting and dangerous to lie, cheat, steal, sell one another, trade in blood and lives and body parts and hopes and dreams. It is very bad to have leaders who lie and murder, who approve of it, encourage us to approve of it, hire it done, recommend it, order it, ask us to pay for it. We do not approve.

We withhold our consent.

### **Teachers Can't Lead Prayer at "See You at the Pole," Humanist Group Tells Texas School District**

Press Release - [Americanhumanist.org](http://Americanhumanist.org)

(Humble, TX, Oct. 3, 2016)—The American Humanist Association's Appignani Humanist Legal Center demands that teachers in Humble Independent School District in Humble, Texas, stop violating the Constitution by leading students in prayer.

On September 28, teachers at Eagle Springs Elementary School participated in and led prayers with students during a "See You at the Pole" event, which is organized by Christian groups across the country to encourage students to pray in front of

their schools' flagpoles. The event took place as students were arriving for the school day, with staff visibly participating in a prayer circle with students. A concerned parent reported the incident to the American Humanist Association's legal center, which sent a warning letter to the district superintendent and the elementary school principal.

"Non-Christian students are marginalized by their teachers when they see them participating in sectarian, religious activity," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "Public school teachers should be welcoming to all students, not appearing to privilege students of one religion over all others."

"Public school teachers and staff violate the Establishment Clause when they participate in group prayer with students on school grounds," said David Niose, legal director of the American Humanist Association. "All students should have the right to be free from religious intrusion in their school."

The American Humanist Association demands the school district to provide written assurances that teachers will no longer participate in future "See You at the Pole" and any other religious activities.

### **Let's Lighten Up!!**

A mafioso's son sits at his desk writing a Christmas list to Jesus. He first writes, "Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy the whole year, so I want a new..." He looks at it, then crumples it up into a ball and throws it away.

He gets out a new piece of paper and writes again, "Dear baby Jesus, I have been a good boy for most of the year, so I want a new..." He again looks at it and throws it away.

He then gets an idea. He goes into his mother's room, takes a statue of the Virgin Mary, puts it in the closet and locks the door. He takes another piece of paper and writes, "Dear baby Jesus, if you ever want to see your mother..."