



# THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

October 2015

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, October 10th

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

We are going on a field trip!

516 ARTS Gallery

516 Central Ave. SW, Alb.

(Downtown, across the street from the Kimo Theater, between 5th & 6th Streets)

We can also form carpools from the Peace Center

see inside for details!

Saturday, October 17th

**HSNM Topical Discussion** 10:00 AM - Noon

TBA

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, October 24th

**HSNM Speaker Meeting** 10:00 AM - Noon

*Peace Studies*

By Dr. J.E. Jamal Martin

Free and open to the public

Botts Hall, Special Collections Library

423 Central Ave. NE, Albuquerque

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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))

**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

Now is the time for all good humanists to come to the aid of... ourselves! We have joined together as a group of thoughtful, caring people to educate ourselves and our community about humanism, defend secularism, and explore the world from the perspective of science and not superstition. We do it because it makes sense and feels right, not in service to a higher power. And it works because we make it work.

In other words: It's renewal and enrollment time for HSNM. You will find a membership enrollment form in your newsletter. Please send it in with your low, low annual dues.

If you have paid your dues already, please make a note on the form and fill out the survey questions, so we can get everyone's input regarding HSNM meetings and activities, as well as your preferences for inclusion in our HSNM directory.

You may also pay your dues and make donations online with our new secure Paypal shopping cart (a Paypal account is not required) by going to this page:

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  
Cheryl Gatner: 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 submissions to:  
Editor, Ashley Jordan, AshleyNJordan@GMX.com or to Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293. The deadline for Newsletter submissions is the third Friday of each month. Website submissions may be sent to [president@humanistsocietyofnm.org](mailto: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 humanity responsible for its own affairs.

[www.humanistsocietyofnm.org/join.html](http://www.humanistsocietyofnm.org/join.html)

You will receive a follow-up email with the survey questions - once again, we really want to hear your comments and ideas, and to make sure we are handling our member information conscientiously.

HSNM is a democratically run organization. While our activities are open to all, your membership dues entitle you to vote in our bi-annual elections and on significant issues identified by the Governing Board, as well as to serve on the Board and to lead committees. We intentionally keep our dues low so that no one will be prohibited from having a voice in our group due to financial hardship. Anyone who wants to be a member of HSNM but is unable to pay annual dues should speak to a board member, as we do have sponsorships - anonymous for both recipient and donor - to assist members with their dues when needed.

Keeping dues low to keep our organization as inclusive as possible means that we cannot rely on dues alone to cover our operating expenses and special projects. Generous additional donations have kept us flush over the years. Please give what you can to insure that we can continue to:

- \* Participate in AHA National Conferences
- \* Sponsor a Humanist Family CoOp and Sunday School
- \* Offer scholarships for higher education
- \* Maintain our ambitious schedule of monthly meetings, our monthly HSNM Newsletter, and our community partnerships with the Peace Center, the Humanists of Highland High, and other progressive and freethought organizations whose work overlaps with ours.

Thank you for your support of HSNM.

**Next Speaker Meeting**

Dr. J.E. Jamal Martin, who is the Director of Peace and Justice Studies at UNM will speak to us on a topic involving Peace Studies. Although the details have yet to be worked out at press time, Dr. Martin is well versed in Peace Studies which involves subjects such as the dynamics of violence and anti-violence, concepts of peace and war, security, the effects of media on social transformation, genocide, justice, religion, race and much more. This will be a talk not to miss!

## **Saturday, October 10th Field Trip Humanists Meet Art Meets Science**

We are taking our October Informal Meeting downtown to check out a set of exhibitions that are part of “HABITAT: Exploring Climate Change Through the Arts” at the 516 ARTS Gallery. From the gallery website ( [www.516arts.org](http://www.516arts.org)): “516 ARTS is an independent, nonprofit contemporary arts organization, which operates a museum-style gallery in Downtown Albuquerque and presents exhibitions, public programming and educational activities.... [HABITAT is] a collaborative season of public programming in the fall of 2015 that explores climate change through the arts to create a platform for education and dialogue.”

The 3 exhibits currently showing are:

“Knew Normal” - Each artwork in the exhibition tells a story about how our physical and psychological environments are shaped by current climates, whether social, political or environmental.

“Warm and Fuzzy” - An installation of responsive objects by Mark Lee Koven that integrate scientific data with art.

“Off the Charts” - Examines the visual language artists use to document, process, map and manipulate a better understanding of the ever-evolving world we inhabit.

We have arranged for the gallery to open especially for us at 11:00 AM (they normally open at noon); and 516 ARTS Associate Director, Rhiannon Mercer (and “Off the Charts” co-Curator) will be on hand to show us around and answer questions. There are several cafes nearby where those who would like to chat afterward can gather to discuss what we have seen and what’s on our minds.

Please RSVP to Zelda at [zelda@amadorbooks.com](mailto:zelda@amadorbooks.com) or 344-6102 if you are planning to attend, and we will follow up with more info on carpooling from the Peace Center and parking near the gallery.

### **Jack Fuller Obituary**

by Gail Rubin

Jack Fuller, 83, has laid down his hiking poles for the last time. Only a month ago, he and his wife Helen returned from a hiking trip to Iceland, which included soaking in the natural hot springs there. Multiple Myeloma unexpectedly cut short his vital life.

Jack was a man ahead of his time. A native of Palestine, Texas, he graduated high school at age 16, graduated college at 20 and got his PhD in physics by age 24. After graduation, he taught physics for two years at Baylor University, his alma mater.

It’s also where he met his future bride, Helen Langston. They took a chemistry class together. He thought she was a little weird because she brought her pet rat to class and kept it on the windowsill. They married on August 23, 1953.

In 1959 they moved to Los Alamos where they reared two daughters: Karen (married to Dave Ruelli) and Lori (married to Martha Coder). Jack is also survived by his brother, Jerry Fuller, sister Jean Conroy (married to Martin Conroy), and great-granddaughter Korrine Blossom.

He worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1959 until he retired at age 55 in 1988. He started in space physics and later became a group leader for satellite detection and then weapons engineering. He listened to group members and was known as being a good man to work for.

Jack was a man of enthusiasm – for hiking and fitness, for piloting planes, for skiing and tennis, and enjoying classical music and reading books. He was a vegetarian who ate bacon. He loved Mexican food, especially Helen’s chile rellenos.

After his daughter coerced him into going skiing the first time, he bought equipment for the family, skied two days every weekend and later served on ski patrol. In 1968, after reading Aerobics by Ken Cooper, Jack started running and ran regularly for the next 30 years, after which running was replaced by hiking.

When hiking, Jack was well known for getting off the trail. He liked to explore and bushwhack, and preferred fresh vistas on loop trails over out-and-back hikes (hence the bushwhacking). He designed and constructed personalized hiking poles for himself and their humanist hiking friends.

While Jack liked dogs, the family didn’t have their own. He’d get his doggie fix by interacting with the canines he encountered hiking and talking with the neighbors.

According to their daughter, Jack and Helen were the “poster children” for maintaining weight and fitness while aging. They vigorously hiked in the Sandia foothills on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, and worked out at the gym on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Jack was very much a scientist in his thinking and studied scientific subjects all his life. He was a great

teacher and was good at explaining without making you feel stupid. When helping with physics homework he would patiently say, “Let’s look at it this way,” and “Did you draw a picture?” and proceed to explain how to approach the problem. He taught his sister, wife, daughters and grandson how to drive. His sister Jean recalls that she spent more time in reverse than drive.

After retirement, Jack was instrumental in organizing the Retired Public Employees of California – New Mexico chapter. He served as president of the organization for 17 years. He and Helen have also been active in the Humanist Society of New Mexico. 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 advocating personal liberty tempered by social and environmental responsibility. Humanism promotes democracy, compassion and justice, and holds humanity responsible for its own affairs.

Jack was a man who was “all in” when he decided to do something. Then, when he was finished, he was finished. Jack Fuller has finished with this life, and it was a good one.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests you get outside and take a hike in Jack’s honor. Or, consider making a donation to the American Cancer Society specifically to help those with Multiple Myeloma.

*Leland said it best when he spoke at Jack’s memorial on Sept. 13: “It’s hard to say good-bye to a good friend.” We are missing Jack greatly, and holding Helen close in our hearts.*

### **Humanist Group Secures New Mexico Student’s Right To Sit During the Pledge of Allegiance**

americanhumanist.org

(Washington, DC, Sept. 18, 2015)—The American Humanist Association’s Appignani Humanist Legal Center successfully defended the First Amendment rights of a student at Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro, New Mexico, who was reprimanded by a teacher for exercising the right to remain seated during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

On September 15, 2015, the Appignani Humanist Legal Center sent a letter to officials at the charter school and the superintendent of Socorro Consolidated Schools. The letter was sent on behalf of a parent, whose fourth grade student has been struggling since last school year to sit during the Pledge without pushback from teachers. The parents informed the school that they supported their child’s decision and even sent resources explaining that under the 1943 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, students have the right to nonparticipation in the Pledge exercise. However, the student’s teacher insisted that the student stand, hand over heart, and participate in the exercise. The teacher even threatened to withhold the student’s recess privileges for failing to stand for the Pledge.

In response to the legal center’s letter, the charter school principal sent an email making written assurances that the student would be permitted to opt out of the Pledge without harassment or discipline from teachers.

“We here at Cottonwood Valley Charter school completely agree that students have the right to opt out of this formality. And in fact a few of our own faculty do chose to opt out,” the principal stated in the email.

“The school has responded promptly and positively to our concerns, and we are confident that the student’s right to freedom of speech and conscience will be upheld,” said David Niose, legal director of the American Humanist Association.

The American Humanist Association has received dozens of emails and calls about students in similar situations, many of whom reach out through the [BoycottthePledge.com](http://BoycottthePledge.com) website, the hub of a campaign to provide resources to students who sit out the Pledge and inform them about how the “under God” language in the Pledge, added in 1954 during the McCarthy Era, marginalizes humanists and atheists by making them look like second-class citizens.

#### ***Food For Thought Quote***

*“Do not go where path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*