



Humanist Society of New Mexico



February 2013

<http://humanistsocietyofnm.org/> zelda@amadorbooks.com

Quote of the Month

Well done is better than well said.

Benjamin Franklin

HSNM Family Co-Op

Alternative Children's Sunday School

Classes for kids of all ages are at 10:00AM
on the first and third Sundays of each month
at a local private School.

Call 505-292-4375 for more information
or go to www.MeetUp.com/Humanist-Family-CoOp/

Santa Fe Humanists

February 2nd, 2013 at 10:30am

A Technical View of the Legislative Process in New Mexico

Gordon Meeks, Jr.

Community Room, LaFarge Branch of the Santa Fe Public
Library
1730 Llano Street

For more information contact Martin Tierney
(505) 983-5001

Friendly Philosophers

Due to small attendance, the friendly philosophers'
meetings are temporarily suspended. if interested in
continuing, please contact Attila Csanyi -
drcsanyi@yahoo.com

Upcoming HSNM Meetings

Meetings are free and run from 10:00 to noon
(except where noted)

Saturday, February 9th

Informal Meeting

Informal Meeting starts at 10:10am

****With Special Guests****

HSNM Members please RSVP - See Inside

Refreshments: Joanne and Bob Prochnow
Summit Apartments, 3901 Indian School NE

Saturday, February 16th

Topical Discussion – Open to the Public

Humanities – Who Needs It?

Special Collections Library,
Central and Edith

Saturday, February 23rd, 10:00am

Speaker Meeting

Open to the Public

God, Goodness and Gays: A Positive Approach to Living

Bishop David Boyle

Humanist Minute: Sylvia Ramos

Refreshments: TBD

First Unitarian Church (Social Hall)
3701 Carlisle NE, Albuquerque

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.

The Humanist Society of New Mexico

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association.

The purpose of HSNM is to promote ethical, naturalistic, democratic Humanism among its members and within its community.

Officers/Committees

Zelda Gatuskin: President

Bill Kimbrough: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Leland Franks: Past President

Eric Pax: Treasurer

Jerry Gilbert: Secretary/Membership

Jay Lee Evans, Member-at-Large

Richard Grady, Member-at-Large

Ashley Jordan, Member-at-Large

Randall Wall, Member-at-Large

Ongoing Projects:

Ron Herman, HSNM Family Co-op Coordinator

Randall Wall, Newsletter Editor

Attila Csanyi, Friendly Philosopher's Director

Sylvia Ramos, Chair, Feminist Caucus-HSNM

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, Randall Wall, paragon2012@comcast.net or 1009 Childers NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. The deadline for Newsletter submissions is the third Saturday of each month. Website submissions may be sent 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.

President's Message for February 2013

by Zelda Leah Gatuskin

The February 12 anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth provides opportunity to consider the importance of Art to human civilization. Yes, we will celebrate Darwin's rigorous investigative method and how his theory of evolution by natural selection has contributed to our knowledge in every branch of Science. But, I ask you: How widely would Darwin's research and theory be understood without the Art - without the many detailed drawings of the fossils he collected and the illustrations commissioned by him and his collaborating authors for *The Zoology of the Voyage of H.M.S. Beagle*?

The Zoology was edited by Darwin and included five parts, each authored by an expert in a particular field: Richard Owen for Fossil Mammalia, George Robert Waterhouse for Mammalia, John Gould for Birds, Leonard Jenyns for Fish and Thomas Bell for Reptiles. While Darwin and his colleagues came out of a tradition of naturalist-artists, among the authors of *The Zoology*, only John Gould made his own drawings and paintings. And who made all of those other extraordinary illustrations?

I have been pouring over the Darwin Online website, where virtually every page of every Darwin notebook, manuscript and published work has been scanned and cataloged, and there is little credit given to the artists and lithographers who portrayed the physical evidence of Darwin's claim. In some cases, their names appear on the plates, along with those of printers and publishers. The 32 plates in Part I of *The Zoology* are inscribed with, "G. Scharf del et lithog [drawing and lithography]." But Scharf is not credited on the title page of the volume or even with the List of Plates.

Now consider the descriptive text by Richard Owen for the *Toxodon Platensis* of Plate I and how helpful it would be to have Scharf's drawing at hand. "...The general form of the skull, as seen from above, is pyriform; but viewed sideways, and without the lower jaw, it is semi-ovate; it is depressed, elongate, of considerable breadth, including the span of the zygomatic arches, but becoming rather suddenly

contracted anterior to them, the facial part thence growing narrower to near the muzzle, which again slightly expands..." And it goes on.

It seems to me that we owe some acknowledgment to those who documented the fossil record and the living record and conveyed graphically the fundamentals of evolution before the age of digital technology. So far, my search has yielded little about them. The lithographers named were often working from the sketches made by other artists. At least G. Scharf, being both artist and lithographer, lives on alongside Darwin's legacy. But what I read of his career saddened me:

"George Johann Scharf (1788–1860) was a water color painter, draughtsman and lithographer...He exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy from 1817 to 1850, and was a member of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours. His drawings brought him into contact with Charles Darwin, who commissioned Scharf for a series of illustrations of fossil bones from South America. But the two men had a falling out, for Darwin felt that Scharf's price was too high and that he was being "ripped off." After this event, Scharf's future commissions with scientific institutions began to dry up, and in his last years, Scharf struggled to sell his work." (Wikipedia)

I looked in vain for any decent drawing made by Darwin. He may have been an intellectual giant, but he needed his illustrators. Their visual record remains direct and universal, preserving the essence of his research and his times. In many ways, those drawings have drawn him for us, showing us the world through his eyes as he sought out significant details in organic forms. It is here, in the passionate, probing observation of nature that Science and Art overlap.

A Darwin Day for Albuquerque?

Yes, if HSNM has anything to do with it! We are submitting a request to Mayor Berry to proclaim February 12, 2013 as Darwin Day in Albuquerque, and we're helping him out by providing the suggested wording below. If you would like to help HSNM promote Darwin Day, please contact Jerry Gilbert right away: drjgilbert@aol.com, (505) 400-9649.

Proposed Darwin Day Proclamation

WHEREAS: Charles Darwin was the first to propose the scientific theory of evolution by natural selection, with the result that most of what we understand about the

diversity of life and the process by which it has adapted and changed has originated in his insights; and

WHEREAS: Charles Darwin recognized the importance of scientific discovery and, as a naturalist on board the HMS Beagle, demonstrated the scientific method with his important observations about the geological and zoological diversity of the lands he visited; and

WHEREAS: February 12 is the anniversary of Darwin's birth in 1809.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, RICHARD J. BERRY, Mayor of the City of Albuquerque, do hereby declare 12 February, 2013, to be 'DARWIN DAY' in Albuquerque, and

* RECOGNIZE the enormous benefits that science contributes to the advancement of humanity and,

* AFFIRM the importance of preserving scientific discovery and human curiosity as bedrocks of American society, and

* ENCOURAGE all citizens to celebrate the life and discoveries of Charles Darwin and to commemorate this day with appropriate events and activities.

Speaker Bio

David Doyle, is a bishop of the Old Catholic Church, with the parish of Christ the King Old Catholic Church, in residence in the Lovelace Women's Hospital Chapel in Albuquerque. He has been a bishop for 15 years and an ordained priest for 33. Since 2009 he has been Presiding Bishop of the North American Catholic Ecumenical Church, with clergy in Massachusetts, Louisiana, Colorado, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His BA is in Studio Art and Education, from Loras College, Dubuque, IA. He holds an M Div from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD, and MA from the University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. In 1993 he moved to New Mexico and was employed with University of New Mexico Hospital in Case Management. The two populations he worked with were individuals with developmental disabilities and those with HIV/AIDS. In 2003 his company, Acorns to Oaks, obtained a contract with the New Mexico Dept. of Health and established and ran a successful not-for-profit agency providing Family Living and Respite Services, and Day Habilitation services on the DD Medicaid Waiver for 5 years. In 2008 he joined the State of New Mexico Dept. of Health on the Quality Enhancement Survey Team observing and visiting

persons with developmental disabilities in their homes and service provider agencies. He worked with the New Mexico Dept. of Health Developmental Disabilities Support Division/Jackson Compliance Team, monitoring the quality of services of Jackson Class Individuals with developmental disabilities, and currently am with the DOH DDS Community Services Integration Unit, visiting individuals discharged from state institutions and making sure they are using and have access to natural supports such as SSI, Medicaid, Medicare, food stamps, and/or residential support.

As an educator he was a high school classroom teacher for 15 years, did seminars with adults while on the Board of Directors at the Mercy Spiritual Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and have been on the faculty at the University of Phoenix since 2004. He has been guest lecturer in religious studies, philosophy, and pastoral counseling at CNM, Lewis University and National American University.

The title of the talk is "God, Goodness and Gays: A Positive Approach to Living".

February 9th Informal Meeting at the Summit

Please RSVP to Joanne and Bob Prochnow (505-681-2143, jbrochnow@cableone.net) if you plan to attend and let them know if you can volunteer to help with chairs, food, set-up or clean-up. Here's what's up:

We will have 10 visitors representing 10 African countries accompanied by 3 interpreters, and Carmen Martin, their local ACIV Programmer, join us on February 9. The Albuquerque Council for International Visitors (ACIV) is an all volunteer non profit organization that works under the auspices of the U S State Department. This particular project is called "TOLERANCE AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE IN THE U.S. (ENGLISH/FRENCH), A Regional Project for Africa. From their prospectus:

"This project will provide an overview of religious freedom and tolerance amid diverse populations in the U.S. as well as the role of religious and faith-based organizations in various arenas, including community service, education, and electoral politics. The participants will also have the opportunity to learn about the role of faith in American secular society and interfaith programs that contribute to social cohesion. The project is designed for clergy, educators, and lay leaders of national or local religious groups of all faiths."

The group will be visiting with local religious groups over the course of their visit and specifically requested to meet with a nonreligious group. With 15 visitors, we will be asking members to RSVP and help with extra chairs and refreshments as needed.

Patrons and Trials

by Jean O'Hara

Fathers have to patronize many things
Like children, ideas and writing books.
Yes, directions for everything which brings
The human in contact with those human looks.
We see what we want when we examine
The life worth living that evaporates
As soon as deathdom comes to undermine
Our aspirations and leaves no room for mates.
If we can't live beyond the grave, then save
The wife left behind when a brave man dies.
Because the disease or killers do beckon their knave
And don't love, just sit for geld, that makes them
despise
A philosopher, a doctor or husband.
Lights out, Martin Luther King, you're now sand.

This War is Hell(arious)

"Yes, the long war on Christianity. I pray that one day we may live in an America where Christians can worship freely! In broad daylight! Openly wearing the symbols of their religion... perhaps around their necks? And maybe --- dare I dream it? --- maybe one day there can be an openly Christian President. Or, perhaps, 43 of them, consecutively."

Jon Stewart

First Unitarian HUmanist Group, 7pm

February 11th, 7pm to 8:30pm

Social Hall, First Unitarian Universalist Church,
3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE

Open to both Religious and Secular Humanists

Meets the second Tuesday of each month

Roswatheists

Saturday, February 2nd, 2:45pm

Saturday, February 16th, 2:45pm

Starbucks, 1309 N. Main Street, Roswell, NM