



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

April 2015

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, April 14th

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, April 18th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00 AM - Noon

What Does Humanist Activism Look Like?

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, April 25th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00 AM - Noon

Festival House, 1951-1961: Colorful Stories From a Festive Inn

By Judy Aron and Madeline Aron

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)

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>)

Humanists of Highland on Their Way to Conference

The Humanists of Highland is a club that was initiated by Robert Frausto and supported by Ananda Parnell as a means to get students together to explore ethics and social responsibility without the necessity of religion. This year, there are four students who have registered to go to the American Humanist Association National Conference in Denver. One of the students, Brian Gonzales, spoke with the Humanist Society of New Mexico on January 24th in the Highland High School Lecture Hall. As a team, these high school students were overwhelmed with the support that they received from their local community and were grateful to accept an anonymous donation from a member of HSNM for a room at the conference. Brian and his twin brother, Billy, will use that gift and are thinking of ways to generate a heart-felt thank you to all of those involved in the HSNM. Without a greater community support, it wouldn't be possible for these young voices to feel validated, or that they truly belonged.

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
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, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.
net. The deadline for Newsletter submissions
is the third Friday of each month. Website
submissions may be sent to president@hu-
manistsocietyofnm.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 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.

We are still asking for help! Please consider donating
funds to support these young high school students going
to the AHA National Conference this year. It is really
something to know that we can fully believe in Good!

April Speaker Meeting
Festival House, 1951-1961:
Colorful Stories From a Festive Inn

By Judy Aron and Madeline Aron

(Ed. Note - This talk was re-scheduled from February to
April.)

Judy and Madeline Aron will share memories and
photos of Festival House of Lenox, Mass., an interracial
hotel and cultural center whose doors were open to all.
Their parents, Bruno and Claire Aron, originally of New
York, had bought the neglected estate and turned it into
Festival House, mindful that people were coming to the
area because of the Tanglewood music center only to find
that the county's few inns were closed to them because
they were Jewish or black -- "because of their name or
appearance," as Bruno Aron said in an interview.

Since the closure of Festival House, the old Ventfort
Hall estate has continued as a cultural center and
museum. The Aron sisters, both longtime residents of
Albuquerque, recently returned to offer this talk and
slide show at the very site of their many fond girlhood
memories. Visitors to their home included Lorraine
Hansberry, the playwright of "Raisin in the Sun," Pete
Seeger, jazz legends Randy Weston and Dizzy Gillespie,
and New York artists Anthony Toney and the brothers
Moses and Raphael Soyer, among others.

Judy Aron has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico since
1973. She and her husband have two daughters and
three grandchildren and have an independent financial
planning business. Judy was born in Pittsfield, Ma. in
1948 and lived there with her parents, Claire and Bruno
Aron for 3 years. They then moved to Lenox, Ma. where
her parents purchased Festival House.

Judy graduated high school from Bronx High School of
Science, went on to college at University of New York, and
to University of California Los Angeles. She then earned
a Masters in Education at Northeastern University of
Boston in 1970. After moving to Albuquerque she spent
several years working in the alcoholism field both with a
non-profit organization and with the state. In 1980 she

earned a Masters in Business at UNM, and has been in the financial planning field since then.

Madeline Aron is the younger daughter of Clair and Bruno Aron, owners of Festival House, a hotel run at Ventfort Hall from 1951-1961. She earned a bachelor of General Studies at the University of Michigan. Since 1974 she has been living in New Mexico, where she earned a Bachelors of Fine Arts and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She has been an educator in the Albuquerque Public Schools, and ran a private piano studio. She is now a massage therapist. Growing up in Berkshires, and especially in Lenox, near Festival House, has fostered her lifelong love of nature and the arts. She has recently produced a multicultural compilation CD of NM artists that supports environmental causes, entitled "In the Heart of the Wild Flame."

Here is an excerpt from a typed manuscript about Festival House found among the Arons' papers. (author unknown; date would be between mid-1950s and 1961):

"The mansion, built in Elizebethan style was built with imported woods and marble. Even the landscaping brought together the rarest species from China and Germany, Japan and Africa, to make it a showplace. Some forty years ago, the Morgans sold what was known as Ventfort Hall, to W. Roscoe Bonsal, a leading industrialist of the time. The old estates were dying. Income taxes made it difficult to maintain too many places and fancy brought them to new areas. After a decade of neglect this property was acquired by Bruno and Claire Aron and renamed Festival House.

"Mr. Aron approached it from a very unusual angle. By training he was a social worker. A graduate of the New York School of Social Work he had been working with young people for many years and from 1945 to 1950 in neighboring Pittsfield. Mr. Aron felt the need for a place that would accomodate so many of the people who wished to attend the many activities which the area offered, but were limited by the high cost of the area. Also, he felt that there was need for a place that operated on democratic principles - that was open to all, regardless of race or creed.

"Festival House lives this principle, and in consequence has become one of the unusual spots in that section of the country. Since its inception Festival House has served as a Hostel for members of the American Youth Hostel.

In quarters located in the carriage house of the estate as many as forty people who choose to see this country by bicycle or by hiking find quarters there. Often Festival House is host to foreign student groups. In the main building which serves as the hotel, the moderate rates and this infomal, friendly atmosphere prevail. Programs include folk dancing and folk singing, art classes and disussions. Festival House boasts one of the biggest and finest record libraries to be found anywhere. The staff has much to contribute to the guests.... Certainly, the thousands who have come to Festival House are glad that there is such a place available to them, and such people as the Arons, whose interst in people is so rich and deep."

HSNM Supports Community Radio...

On Friday, April 17, HSNM will provide a team of four - Ananda Parnell, Richard Grady, Cynthianne Yabut and Zelda Gatuskin - to help answer phones for the KUNM pledge drive during the Democracy Now/All Things Considered shift. We have worked the phones for KUNM several times; it is great fun, supports our community, and brings a little publicity to HSNM. If you are a regular contributor to KUNM or are ready to pitch in, consider calling to pledge during our time slot to support both HSNM and community radio. KUNM pledge drives are held in spring and fall. If you would like to join our HSNM phone team in the future, please let us know.

...and Southwest Literature

Once again HSNM is sponsoring the Philosophy category for the 2015 NM/AZ Book Awards, as we have done since 2011. Formerly a strictly New Mexico competition, this awards program has become a major event since its inception in 2007. In 2012, our book community stepped in to help our neighbors in Arizona when their book awards program folded. That makes the competition tougher for everyone. The 2014 winner in the Philosophy category was an Arizona title, "Spiritual Pathways" by Richard Schain (Virtual Bookworm Press). Know about a great new book with a NM author, a NM publisher or a NM (and maybe a humanist) focus? Entries are still being accepted for 2015. More information about the awards at: <http://nmbookcoop.com/>.

Humanist Children's Sunday School Report **by Zelda Gatuskin**

I was delighted to attend our Family CoOp Humanist Children's Sunday School meeting in February while Cheryl was on vacation. Four parents and six children attended. The session on mobius strips was led by one of the students, age 10, with help from his dad. After about 45 minutes of connecting our strips of paper with one twist, two twists, etc., and then drawing or cutting all the way around to see what would happen (try it!), we spent the remainder of the time on the playground, where the children mostly entertained themselves while the parents had a chance to visit with each other. I have to say, I was out of my league! When plans for future activities were discussed, I seemed to be the only one present - of any age - who did not know about non-Newtonian fluids... Family CoOp meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1:00-3:00 PM, at a North Valley charter school. Read more about the program on our website under the Education tab. Please contact Cheryl Gatner for more information or to volunteer: 505-890-4176 or kewwlnurse@gmail.com

BYLAWS OF HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO (2011)

A. The Humanist Society of New Mexico ("HSNM" or "the Society") is a non-profit educational chapter of the American Humanist Association (AHA), a 501-(c)(3) organization. HSNM is governed by an elected Board of Directors ("the Board").

B. Purpose: The purpose of HSNM is to educate its members and non-members concerning humanist ideals and approaches to solving personal, social, and environmental problems.

C. Membership: Membership in HSNM is open to those individuals who are in general accord with the purpose of the organization and wish to support and promote its efforts. HSNM is a voluntary organization and no member will be compensated for services rendered on its behalf, although the Board may reimburse members for expenses incurred on behalf of the Society. Meetings will be arranged for the Membership at least monthly, and some will be open to the public. Meetings may include speakers, discussion, social activities, and/or business as determined by the President with approval

of the Board.

D. Dues: Dues for HSNM are set by the Board periodically with approval of the Membership. Dues are payable during the month of August of each year to the Treasurer of HSNM. Members in good standing are those current in dues payment.

E. Governance:

1. The Board: The HSNM Board will consist of seven to ten (7-10) members. Seven (7) of these will be elected by the Membership: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Past President, and two (2) Members-at-Large (MaL). The President with consent of the Board may appoint up to three (3) additional MaL. Elected officers will serve for a two year term commencing the first day of November following his/her election, or if appointed, from the date of appointment and ending October 31 of an election year.

2. Board Meetings:

a. Regular Meetings: The Board will meet one or more times per quarter.

b. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the President, or at the request of at least two other Board members, or by written petition from at least five HSNM members, to consider urgent business affecting the Society.

3. Notice: The President will arrange advance notice of all Board meetings to the general membership via newsletter and other means.

4. Quorum: The physical presence of a majority of Board members will constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

5. Voting: Decisions and actions of the Board become effective only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present. A minimum of four (4) votes is necessary to approve a motion.

6. Vacancy: In the event of the President's resignation, incapacity, or death, the Vice-President will complete the unexpired term. In the case of resignation, incapacity, or death of any other Board member, the President, with approval of the Board, shall appoint a

successor for the unexpired term. Should the vacant position be that of Past President, the President shall appoint a previous past President or Vice-President to fill the position.

7. Removal: Any Board member, whether elected or appointed, may be removed for cause by the Board. This requires a majority of a quorum, but at least 4, to vote in favor of the removal. This action will be recorded by the Secretary in the minutes of the Board meeting and communicated to the Membership in the Newsletter.

F. Duties and Responsibilities of Board Members:

Compliance with Applicable Laws: The HSNM Board is responsible for assuring compliance with the Federal and State laws regarding 501(c)(3) organizations.

1. President: The President, when present, will preside at all meetings. All meetings will be conducted according to accepted parliamentary procedures. The President will present a proposed agenda to the Board at least three (3) days in advance of each Board meeting. The President will appoint chairpersons of all committees, subject to Board approval, who will serve at the pleasure of the President. The President may act as an ex-officio member of any HSNM committee. The President may speak publicly on behalf of HSNM in accordance with established humanist principles and may designate others to do so on specific topics. The President, with Board approval, shall choose a knowledgeable HSNM member to conduct a biannual review of the Society's financial records. The President will be responsible for handling all correspondence but may designate the Secretary, or others, to share responsibility. The President will set the time and place of all meetings of the Board and of the Membership, and will give notice in accordance with these Bylaws.

2. Vice-President: The Vice President will arrange for speakers and meeting places, and will preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

3. Treasurer: The Treasurer will keep a record of all income, disbursements and account balances of HSNM, and will report on these at each meeting of the Board, and to the Membership when requested to do so. The Treasurer will submit periodic financial reports and an annual report suitable for distribution to the Membership. The Treasurer will deposit all

HSNM receipts in bank accounts under the name of HSNM. All disbursement of HSNM funds will be signed by either the Treasurer or the President. The Treasurer will ensure that HSNM is in full compliance with all IRS regulations, and will retain all pertinent financial records for the time required by the IRS. The Treasurer will also register HSNM annually with the New Mexico Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Organizations. The Treasurer will promptly transfer all HSNM funds, records and account information to his/her successor.

4. Secretary: The Secretary will take minutes of all meetings where official business is conducted, which will include details of formal motions as well as the essence of oral or written reports made by the Treasurer, committee chairpersons, or anyone else providing relevant information to the Board. The Secretary will provide copies of minutes of meetings within seven (7) days for review by the Board. The Secretary will retain all records of minutes. Members wishing to see minutes of previous meetings may do so upon their request. The Secretary will assist the President in initiating and responding to correspondence. The Secretary will promptly transfer all records to his/her successor.

5. Past President: The outgoing President will continue as a Board member for the two year term or terms of the next serving president.

6. Members-at-Large: Members-at-Large (MaL) will perform duties assigned by the President with Board approval.

G. Elections: Election of Board members by the Membership will take place each even-numbered year. The President will appoint a chairperson to form a Search Committee of at least two other members, all of whom have the approval of the Board, by July 4 of the election year to seek candidates to stand for election. The Committee will announce, in the August Newsletter and through other appropriate means, that nominations (including self-nominations) are being accepted for Board positions including four (4) officers and two (2) MaL. Candidates will submit proof of membership in good standing and a short biography to the Committee by September 15. The Committee may conduct a formal interview of any candidate and may recommend one or more candidates for each position. The Committee will

arrange for the names and biographies of each candidate, indicating the position they seek, to be published in the October Newsletter. Sealed ballots, approved by the Board, will be distributed with the October Newsletter to all Members in good standing by September 15. Ballots must be returned by October 15 to be counted. Each Member in good standing by September 15 will be entitled to one vote for each elected position.

Votes will be tallied and recorded by the Board and those elected by a simple majority will be entitled to take office on November 1. Tie votes will be settled by a coin toss.

H. Standing Committees: Chairpersons of Standing Committees may select from the Membership the other members of his/her Committee. Chairpersons will keep records of Committee activities and make those available to the Board. The Standing Committees are:

1. Public Information: It will:

a. assign an editor to produce and distribute to all members a monthly Newsletter which will announce the time and place of meetings and all other HSNM events and activities. Newsletter content will advance the goals and ideals of Humanism.

b. assign a webmaster to create, maintain, and update an HSNM website.

c. disseminate to the general public, through various media, information about humanism, HSNM, and HSNM events.

2. Education: It will arrange Society programs for adult and child education about humanism. All programs must be approved by the Board.

3. Membership: It will recruit and retain members in the Society, keep records of all members and their status, and stay aware of member needs and views.

4. Social: It will arrange social events and see that refreshments are provided at general meetings and social events.

I. Ad-Hoc Committees: The President, with Board approval, will appoint chairpersons for Ad-Hoc Committees to perform special services or complete special projects as needed. These chairpersons will keep records of all Committee activities and make these available to the Board. The President will dissolve Ad-Hoc Committees when they are no longer needed.

K. Amendments: All HSNM members, including Board members, who wish to propose an amendment to the Bylaws must submit a written proposal to the Board. If the Board does not approve the proposed amendment, it must communicate to the Membership what the amendment was and why it was not approved. If the Board approves, the proposed amendment will be submitted to the Membership in the form of a ballot to all members in good standing by all appropriate means. The Board will count the votes, and if a majority approves, the amendment will immediately become a part of the Bylaws. The Board will arrange for the results to be communicated to the Membership.

Adopted by the Board of Directors and subsequently ratified by the Membership on October 15, 2011

The HSNM By-laws can always be found online here: <http://www.humanistsocietyofnm.org/By-laws-for-vote.pdf>

Food For Thought Quote

"...Man is stronger the more fully he is in touch with reality. As long as he is only [a] sheep and his reality is essentially nothing but the fiction built up by his society for more convenient manipulation of men and things, he is weak as a man...Man qua man has an inherent tendency to enlarge his knowledge of reality and that means to approximate the truth. We are not dealing here with a metaphysical concept of truth but with a concept of increasing approximation, which means decreasing fiction and delusion. In comparison with the importance of this increase or decrease of one's grasp of reality, the question whether there is a final truth about anything remains entirely abstract and irrelevant. The process of increasing awareness is nothing but the process of awakening, of opening one's eyes and seeing what is in front of one. Awareness means doing away with illusions and, to the degree that this is accomplished, it is a process of liberation." Erich Fromm