



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

March 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, March 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, March 21st

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00 AM - Noon

Homelessness

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, March 28th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10:00 AM - Noon

Film Screening: Jean Kilbourne's "Killing Us Softly Vol. 3"

Moderated by members of Feminist Caucus HSNM

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

All the present and coming miseries and cataclysms to a great degree result from the subjugation and abasement of woman. The dreadful decline of morality, the diseases and degeneration of some nations are also the results of the slavish dependence of woman.

Woman is deprived of the greatest human privilege—complete participation in creative thought and constructive work. She is deprived not only of equal rights but, in many countries, of equal education with man. She is not allowed to express her abilities in the building of social and government life, of which, by Universal Law and Right, she is a full-fledged member. But a woman slave can give to the world slaves only.

The proverb “great mother, great son” has a cosmic, scientific foundation. As sons mostly take after their mothers, and daughters

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
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Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

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Send Newsletter submissions to:
Editor, Ashley Jordan, AshleyNJordan@GMX.
com. The deadline for Newsletter submis-
sions is the third Friday of each month. Web-
site 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.

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.

after fathers, great is cosmic justice! By humiliating
woman, man humiliates himself! This explains today
the paucity of man's genius.

Could the terrors and crimes of today be possible
if both Origins had been balanced? In the hands of
woman lies the salvation of humanity and of our
planet. Woman must realize her significance; she
should be prepared to take responsibility for the
destiny of humanity. Mother, the life-giver, has every
right to direct the destiny of her children. The voice
of woman, the mother, should be heard amongst the
leaders of humanity. The mother suggests the first
conscious thoughts to her child. She gives direction
and quality to all his aspirations and abilities. But
the mother who possesses no thought of culture can
suggest only the lower expressions of human nature.

The woman who strives to knowledge and the beauty
of this world, who realizes her lofty responsibility,
will greatly uplift the whole level of life. There will
be no place for disgusting vices which lead to the
degeneration and destruction of whole countries.

But in her striving toward education, woman must
remember that all educational systems are only the
means for the development of a higher knowledge
and culture. The true culture of thought is developed
by the culture of spirit (for lack of a better word)
and heart. Only such a combination gives that great
synthesis, without which it is impossible to realize the
real grandeur, diversity, and complexity of human life
in its continuing evolution.

Therefore, while striving to knowledge, may woman
remember those great minds who, verily, created the
consciousness of humanity. In approaching these
sources, humanity will find the way to real change.

Western woman is awake and realizes her powers.
Her cultural contributions are already evident.
However, the majority of Western women—as with
all beginners—start with imitation; whereas, it is in
original self-expression that real beauty and harmony
are found. Would we like to see man losing the beauty

of manhood?

The same is true about a man who has a sense of beauty. He certainly does not wish to see a woman imitating his habits and competing with his vices. Imitation always starts with the easiest. But we hope that this first step will soon be outlived and that woman will deepen her knowledge of Mother Nature and will find true, original ways of self-expression.

The universe manifests unity of law, but there is no repetition in its variety. Why then does humanity alone strive toward uniformity in everything, while at the same time it violates the fundamental unity of law? Uniformity of perception, uniformity of life, and especially uniformity of thought is cherished by man. It is forgotten that uniformity of expression leads toward stagnation and death.

Life and its power are in perpetual change of form. It is necessary to apply this life-giving principle in all expressions of our life.

Let us collect the most beautiful, heroic images of all times and countries, and with creative imagination let us apply their achievements in our life, taking into consideration the peculiarities of our current times. Only such imitation will give the correct foundation for further progress.

Only in observations and comparisons with human nature is it possible to find the keys to the solutions of many problems of everyday life. People, like parrots, love to repeat the favorite ancient formula “Macrocosm is microcosm”! Much is said, much is repeated without the proper attention to its meaning! The enforced dogmas, human laws, and the standard of life have caused humanity to neglect the process of thinking; and the human mind, with rare exceptions, has become an automaton.

Everybody is preaching various freedoms, but the most opposite schools of thought agree in one thing—they all are afraid of freedom of thought!

Therefore, woman must defend not only her own rights, but the right of free thought for the whole of humanity! Through the development of thinking, our abilities will expand. Let us think with the broadest, the purest thoughts. It is said:

“The kingdom is not made up of royalties or of subjects, but is created by global ideas.” Let us create our own cities, our countries, our planet! But let such thought be created by the heart, as only thought born of compassion and concern is vital.

Thus, I shall finish with the words about compassion. Let woman affirm this great action, which can transfigure the whole of life. It is said that a tree lives on its roots, and if you change the root, you change the tree. Likewise, mankind dwells in its heart. If you change the heart, you change mankind.

The mother, the life-giver, the life-protector—let her become also the Mother, the Leader, the All-Giver, the All-Receiver.

March Speaker Meeting

“Killing Us Softly Volume 3” Advertising’s Image of Women

Moderated by Members of the Feminist Caucus HSNM

In honor of Women’s History Month and in anticipation of the AHA Annual Conference to be held in Denver in May, we will screen a film by our 2015 AHA Humanist Heroine, Jean Kilbourne.

Jean Kilbourne continues her groundbreaking analysis of advertising’s depiction of women in her pioneering Killing Us Softly series. In fascinating detail, Kilbourne decodes an array of print and television advertisements to reveal a pattern of disturbing and destructive gender stereotypes. Her analysis challenges us to consider the relationship between advertising and broader issues of culture, identity, sexism, and gender violence.

Jean Kilbourne is internationally recognized for her

groundbreaking work on the image of women in advertising and her critical studies of alcohol and tobacco advertising. She is the author of the award-winning book *Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel* and *So Sexy So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids*.

The prize-winning films based on her lectures include *Killing Us Softly*, *Spin the Bottle*, and *Slim Hopes*. She holds an honorary position as Senior Scholar at the Wellesley Centers for Women. (<http://www.jeankilbourne.com/>)

Our thanks to the UNM Women's Resource Center for loaning us this film. While they did not ask for a fee, the HSNM Governing Board has approved and sent a \$50 donation to the WRC to support their important work. "Through a feminist model of empowerment and educational, social, and cultural programming, we seek to promote women's self-determination and political involvement; awareness and advancement of women's rights to ensure equality in all spheres of life; redress of inequities based on gender, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, and economic class. The WRC also seeks to promote understanding and mutual respect among women and men to achieve individual and social change as well as to create a positive campus environment." (from the WRC website. Learn more: <http://women.unm.edu/>)

Vision and Direction for this Year

By Ananda Parnell

As we approach the end of February, the main question becomes: What will be our driving direction for this year? It was brought up and discussed with some length at the February 14th Informal Meeting, held at the Center for Peace and Justice (as it is every month; check the calendar and join us!)

We will still remain present and active within the roles of the Feminist Caucus, as well as in the continued growth of our Sunday School program. One major goal that has been discussed is to be more active in

the political environment that surrounds education.

Is there a way that HSNM could be involved in getting information out regarding APS School Board members and investigating future candidates? Is there a way that we can work to ensure that education continues to meet high standards of secular standards and is not influenced by the religious right? How can we ensure that students' best interests are met by protecting teachers and their continued efforts? When students are not given the opportunity to fully exercise their minds and develop critical thinking, analysis, and exposure to a variety of concepts that will change their own cognitive, academic, and professional processes, we will find a continued deterioration of our own social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Focusing our vision specifically on education this year will continue to support our community, the Feminist Caucus, and our Sunday School as well.

Help Our Delegation Get to Denver!

by Zelda Gatuskin, HSNM past president

The American Humanist Association will hold their annual conference in Denver from May 7-10. As in past years, the HSNM Governing Board has approved an allocation of funds to cover costs for our president to attend the conference and, to the extent possible, to sponsor additional attendees. Those of you who are thinking of attending already know that expenses add up quickly: Full 4-day registration (includes 3 meals) \$399, hotel for 2 for 3 nights \$327 (plus taxes), plus transportation. One could easily spend \$1000 for the weekend.

I have been honored to attend several of these conferences as HSNM president and lead HSNM delegations large and small, and it is now my privilege to lead the drive to establish an AHA Conference Fund to raise sufficient money to: fully fund attendance by our new president, Ananda Parnell; fund in full or in part attendance by 2 or more Family CoOp members (with children); provide assistance to other HSNM

members in varying amounts as requested and available where that would make the difference in their being able to attend or not. To accomplish this, we want to raise \$3,000-\$5,000 by March 28, so that everyone can make their arrangements by the April 7 pre-registration deadline. I am delighted to report that we are off to a great start - Barbara White has seeded the fund with our first donation of \$500.00.

And I have more exciting news. Ananda reports that two high school students from the Humanists of Highland want to join our delegation to the conference. Their student registration costs will be modest, and an anonymous donor from the Highland community has already offered to pay for their travel and lodging. What a great opportunity for all of us.

If you are not saving up your pennies to attend the conference yourself - and we want that to be your first priority so we can send as big a delegation as possible - please consider making a donation small or large - but as soon as possible! Watch for a snail mail or email letter from me with donation envelope or link. Thank you from the entire HSNM Governing Board!

Note: Our HSNM delegation will report on the conference at our May Speaker Meeting.

Humanist Children's Sunday School Is Up and Running

Cheryl Gatner, HSNM Member at Large

Our Family CoOp continues to meet for Humanist Children's Sunday School on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1:00-3:00 PM. The group has found a friendly home at a North Valley charter school. Parents take turns planning and leading the lessons for a group that ranges in age from about 2 to 10 yrs.

Since this is not a "drop off" deal, the parents who are not leading class have an opportunity to socialize with each other and share in a peer humanist community. Families do not have to be members of HSNM to participate. Our organization sponsors the group by arranging for their meeting place, helping

with communications, helping when needed with supplies, activities and lesson plans, and always having at least one HSNM member present to assist with the facilities when classes are held.

You can read more about the program on our website under the Education tab. Please contact me for more information or to volunteer: 505-890-4176 or kewwlnurse@gmail.com

Come Hear Why the Time For ERA is NOW!

March 2nd, 2 PM, NM State Capitol Rotunda

By Sylvia Ramos

Much work is still going on nationally and in NM to have women's rights (which are Human Rights) written into our US Constitution. Laws, Judicial Decisions and Executive Acts help to ensure that women's innate and inalienable rights are protected.

However, all these are temporary remedies as they may be overturned, repealed, ignored and chipped away whenever a group of legislators decides women's rights are politically expedient and expendable.

Only a Constitutional amendment that explicitly states that women are entitled to "Equal Justice Under Law", will guarantee that laws that seek to discriminate against women on the basis of sex will receive the strictest level of judicial scrutiny by the Supreme Court. That is the same level of scrutiny that is already accorded to cases of discrimination based on race, religion and national origin.

The Equal Rights Amendment is as relevant now as it was when first written by Alice Paul 92 years ago because women's rights are constantly under attack and only a Constitutional Amendment will guarantee women equal justice under the law.

Where: NM State Capitol Rotunda

When: March 2, 2015 -- 2 to 3 PM

Participants:

Deborah Blanche - Emcee, Storyteller

Martha Burk, Ph. D. - Political Psychologist, Women's
Issues Expert

Jacob Candelaria - NM State Senator, UNM Law
Student

Carolyn Glen - AAUW, Activist for Equal Pay

Pamelya Herndon, J.D. - Executive Director, SWLC

Hoyle Osborne - Singer, Musician

Sylvia M. Ramos, M.D. - ERA Task Force Chair,
Albuquerque-NOW

Jane Voss - Singer, Musician

Ghada Zribi - UNM Student, Women's Rights
Advocate, Founder- Young Leaders
and Entrepreneurs of Tunisia

Sponsors: Albuquerque-NOW and several
professional and community organizations.

Contact: Sylvia Ramos, ERA Task Force Chair for
Albuquerque NOW

phone: 505 401-0601

email: smrcmd@hotmail.com

Twitter: @smrcmd

Some recent and relevant resources about women's
rights and the ERA are:

*Equal Means Equal: Why The Time for an Equal Rights
Amendment Is Now* by Jessica Newirth

featured in the Diane Rehm Show

Equal Means Equal: The Movie

The movie/documentary will come out this
year

Your Voice, Your Vote by Martha Burk

Byzantium Revisited

By Jean O'Hara

The intricacies of thought

Make this hard to decipher.

Light comes through what's taught;

Like, what's right, sir.

As we look back at life,

We see trails of strife.

Having suffered many wrong decisions,

We encounter old revisions.

Can one sort out eternities

Of many years of reviewing

These complexities

Of such old decisions that were our undoing?

Ah, yes, scholarship is not pure.

We have yet that to endure.

Food For Thought Quote

"One of the strangest anti-feminist stereotypes to me -- among the Birkenstock-wearing and bra-burning -- is the idea that we're unhappy. Angry. Bitter. Both because the foundation of the insult is the assumption that women should be perpetually happy, and because the truth is that the culture doesn't actually mind if women are unhappy, so long as we keep it to ourselves. Women's distress directed inward -- from eating disorders to feelings of inadequacy -- keeps the status quo moving along, with diet pills selling through the roof and women asking for promotions far less often than their male counterparts. But when our dissatisfaction takes an outward turn, people get uncomfortable. Then, women's emotions are 'hysterical' or over-the-top. Anything less than a bubbly disposition means that we're 'bitches'. Hell hath no fury like a man who finds a woman displeasing." - Jessica Valenti, AHA Humanist Heroine 2014, From "Why are women so 'unhappy'?"