



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

November 2017

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, November 11

HSNM Informal Meeting 10am – 12pm
Standard Diner, 320 Central Ave. SE

Saturday, November 18

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE
Government on the Rocks. Solution: Multiple Party System?

Saturday, November 25

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Basic Income for a Happier Society
Presented by David Stelle

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)

Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque
(www.meetup.com/FFRABQ)

New Mexicans for Science and Reason (www.nmsr.org)

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

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

President's Message

by Randall Wall

Last month's president's message voiced my concern about the New Mexico Public Education Department's attempt to leave out critical science concepts from its adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards. As promised, I sent a letter on behalf of HSNM to the PED to voice this concern (see page 3.) The good news is that as result of overwhelming public expression, the PED was forced to withdraw the changes it was pushing for. Although not everything is perfect regarding what standards are to be adopted, a victory for science and the citizens who support it was won!

I'm excited to say that our own David Stelle will be November's speaker. He'll be talking about Basic Income and how it could be a benefit to society. Sounds interesting! Also, there's a rumor that Richard Grady, another of our members, will return next year to give us more of his excellent presentation on classical music!

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

Randall Wall: President

Vacant: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Jeanette Smith: Member-at-Large

A subscription to the 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). Youth/student membership (24 years or under) is \$5.00 per year.

Send subscription or membership requests to: Humanist Society of New Mexico, P.O. Box 27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293.

To join or renew membership on line, go to the website at <http://humanistic/join.html>.

HSNM dues are now paid separately from AHA dues. Visit www.americanhumanist.org for more information about the American Humanist Association.

Send Newsletter submissions to: Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.net. Send Website submissions to president@humanistsocietyofnm.org. The deadline for Newsletter submissions is the third Friday of each month.

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.

Now for the bad news. Regrettably, Tara McCaughin has resigned her office as Vice President. I would like to thank her for providing some excellent programming this past year and wish her luck.

November Speaker Meeting

HSNM member David Stelle will present the idea of Basic Income as a key ingredient in the recipe for solving many of our society's systemic problems. Crime, drug-abuse, joblessness, homelessness, personal stress and environmental abuse would be reduced, while self-determination, freedom, greater education and the strength of our economy would be increased. If it were implemented, Americans would be relieved of much of the fear we feel simply due to lack of money. The goals are happiness and a better society. To get there we must keep our eyes on the prize as we prepare our thoughts for a change in paradigm.

David is not an economist or a lawyer or a financial planner. He simply sees the great potential Basic Income would be to his own life, the lives of others around him and society in general.

Basic Income is not new. It has already been implemented on an experimental basis in many places around the world.

As he states, "I'm a designer and systems-thinker. And the more I thought about it and wrote about it and read about it, Basic Income appeared to me to be the best single answer to solving the most problems. It's literally the most bang for the buck!"

David's Bio

After growing up in the suburbs of Boston during the 1960's and early 70's, David earned both a Bachelors in Math

and a Masters in Landscape Architecture. He's also had a long career in software development mixed with a stint in abstract sculpture. Currently he is pursuing abstract oil painting and game design.

Informal Meeting for November

November's informal meeting will fall on Nov. 11th, which just so happens to be Veterans Day. You know what that means? That means we won't be able to use the Special Collections Library as our usual meeting place. The alternative meeting location will be the Standard Cafe at 320 Central Ave NE. That's one block west of the library, on the South side of the street. Join us there and we'll talk while having some great food!

HSNM Board Meeting

There will be a board meeting following the Speaker Meeting on November 25 in the New Mexicana Room at the Special Collections Library. All HSNM members are invited to attend.

Letter to the NM Public Education Department by Randall Wall

I am writing on behalf of the Humanist Society of New Mexico to voice our opposition to the proposed changes to New Mexico STEM-Ready Science Standards. Our state is one that is well known for its role in the advancement of science. It should be the aim of our public schools to educate our students in the most up-to-date scientific knowledge. This involves teaching accepted science as represented by scientists working in the relevant fields whose work stands up to rigorous peer review and forms the consensus that drives them to further research. It would be a mistake to give sway to politically motivated groups or individuals who wish to distort, water down or just plain censor the findings of the scientific community.

The adoption of the proposed changes would not only deny our students of the full knowledge of our world but would also have an economic impact, as potential industry would look elsewhere to find a work force having the requisite education.

We ask that the Next Generation Science Standards be adopted as is so that New Mexican students can benefit from them as well as students in other states.

Humanist Society Holiday Lights Party

December 9, 4:30 pm to 7 pm

Unitarian Church Memorial Hall
301 Carlisle NE (Corner of Comanche)

Please note new time

This is a potluck- bring whatever you like to eat, enough for 4-6 people. A lot of people bring desserts, so we could use a few main or side dishes. Since I only cook when threatened with grievous bodily harm, I usually get a dish from Costco to bring.

The room (Memorial Hall) has a couple of coffee-makers, microwave, stove, refrigerator and lots of tables and chairs.

I have a supply of table cloths, paper plates, disposable cups/glasses, utensils and napkins, and will bring them. I also have a CD player and a CD of "redneck" Holiday songs. ("My Mother Got Run Over by a Reindeer," and such classics.) If you have a CD of faves, please bring it.

I plan to arrive at 4 pm to set up tables, start the coffee, etc., and could use a couple of helpers... Also suggestions for games, door prizes, or...?

We also have a couple of people who have offered to give rides to anyone who needs one- If you need a ride, or want to offer one, please call me (Cynthianne) at 410-2998 to make arrangements for a ride, if you have any questions about the party, or if you want to help out (help!).

-Cynthianne

HSNM's holiday tradition is to give a group donation to the Roadrunner Food Bank after the party each year. To participate, please bring a bag of non-perishable food or a check to the party.

Humanists Rail Against Trump's Theocratic Speech

www.americanhumanist.org

(Washington, D.C., October 13, 2017)

The American Humanist Association (AHA) denounced, in the strongest terms, President Trump's speech at today's Values Voter Summit as un-American and an attack on all who don't subscribe to his right wing religious political extremism. Hosted by several organizations listed as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Trump used that platform to call this a "nation of believers" strengthened and sustained by the "power of prayer."

"Trump's blatant contempt for the Establishment Clause and the First Amendment should alarm every American, regardless of their political affiliation or belief," said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association. "This isn't only an assault on nontheists, but lays the groundwork to further discriminate against those in the LGBTQ community, those who support women's reproductive rights, and many others committed to improving our nation."

Trump's apparent disregard of Jefferson's Wall of church-state separation was on display today as he referred to the Johnson Amendment, designed to prevent government/religious entanglement, as "horrendous" and he vowed to "not allow government workers to censor sermons or target our pastors, our ministers, our rabbis. These are the people we want to hear from and they're not going to be silenced any longer."

Speckhardt explained that, "The Johnson Amendment is a key protection for everyone's constitutional right to be free from religious coercion in government. And Trump's false claim that it's silencing ministers is just a smoke screen for his real agenda of setting aside the Johnson Amendment so he can open up churches to be used as political action committees. Trump knows it's to his personal benefit to have his rich cronies

be able to support his re-election via unlimited, anonymous, tax-deductible donations through churches. For all his rhetoric, he really just wants to use churches and tax payers as pawns in his attempts to extend his own influence."

"Today the President openly attacked established law, disregarded the fast growing demographic of nontheist Americans, ignored religious minorities, and endorsed the agenda of the religious right to discriminate against all they disagree with by using religion as a shield for their bigotry," Speckhardt concluded.

Excerpts from *Creating Change Through Humanism* by Roy Speckhardt

Roy writes: "When you no longer need to feign an identity that isn't yours, you'll discover confidence and the ability to say, 'This is who I am' and speak out on any issue that stirs your heart and mind. By announcing your presence, others will come out to you who you didn't previously know shared your nontheism. You'll finally be able to meet other nontheists and build relationships based on truth and honesty. You can love and be loved by people who know the real you. No matter what you've been told, that person deserves to see the light of day.

"Foundationally, fundamentalists believe that all goodness derives from their god, so the presence of anyone being good without their god is a constant reminder that something is wrong with their belief on the source of goodness.

"Our tax dollars are spent on religious charitable organizations that refuse to employ us and even bar us from using their services.

"Nonreligious Nelson Mandela expressed his humanism as *ubuntu*. A Nguni Bantu word translated as 'humanity toward others,' *ubuntu* incorporates aspects of sharing, community, respect, caring, trust, and unselfishness."