



THE
HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO
NEWSLETTER

May 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, May 13th

HSNM Informal Meeting 10am – 12pm

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, May 20th

HSNM Topical Discussion 10:00AM – Noon

States of Ecstasy

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, May 27th

HSNM Speaker Meeting 10am – 12noon

LGBTQ Issues and the New Mexico Legislature

Amber Royster

Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

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

The March for Science has been a great success!! In Washington, D.C. and in 600 cities worldwide people of all kinds marched in support of science! The stated goals of the march are to strengthen the role of science in policy making, improve science outreach and communication, advance science education and scientific literacy, and foster a diverse and inclusive scientific community. And the mission statement is just inspiring: “The March for Science champions robustly funded and publicly communicated science as a pillar of human freedom and prosperity. We unite as a diverse, nonpartisan group to call for science that upholds the common good and for political leaders and policy makers to enact evidence based policies in the public interest. “ You can see the rest at:

www.marchforscience.com.

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

Tara McCaughin: Vice President/Speaker Programs

Cynthianne Yabut: Secretary

Richard Grady: Treasurer

Cheryl Gatner: Member-at-Large

Jeanette Smith: 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 submission to: Editor, Randall Wall, Paragon2012@comcast.net. The deadline for Newsletter submission is the third Friday of each month. Website submission may be send 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 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 humanist responsible for its own affairs.

I recommend you take a look and keep abreast of coming developments.

We have a great slate of meetings on offer this month! There's the ever popular informal meeting where each of us get to speak their mind. Then the topical meeting will be discussion concepts from the book "Stealing Fire" by Steven Kotler and Jamie Wheal. Lauren, who suggested the topic, describes it this way 'I think of this book as a guide to hacking happiness. Understanding ecstatic states, how they've led to mystical thinking, and how to tap these states without any woo woo required. By understanding the incredible power of altered states in a population, we can definitely see why church AND state want to keep it contained. I'd love to hear people's experiences with altered states, and hear people's perspectives on their place in society.'" Sounds like a great topic!

Our speaker meeting will be Amber Royster speaking on LGBTQ issues and the New Mexico Legislature. It sounds like another great one! See below for more details.

Next Speaker Meeting

Amber Royster, Executive Director of Equality New Mexico (EQNM) will speak on LGBTQ issues in New Mexico pertaining to the legislature's work this session. She will also relate some of her own personal life

experience as a gay woman.

Our Speaker's Bio

Amber has served as Executive Director of EQNM since 2013 and has worked diligently throughout New Mexico communities, empowering and uplifting voices in advocacy efforts for LGBTQ equality, women's rights, immigrant rights, racial and economic justice, and more.

Amber grew up in Albuquerque, her family having roots in New Mexico that span six generations. Her professional career started in the U.S. Navy, serving honorably on active duty for six years, including two year long tours in the Persian Gulf. After finishing her enlistment, Amber enrolled at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, completing both her B.A. in Communications and Master of Public Administration/Public Policy degrees. During her time in Olympia, Amber worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation, CHOICE Regional Health Network, and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

About Equality New Mexico

Equality New Mexico is the state's oldest and largest LGBTQ advocacy organization, and is committed to uplifting the voices and leadership of our community in creating a reality of equity, full access, and sustainable wellness for LGBTQ New Mexicans. Visit them online at www.eqnm.org.

Minutes for HSNM Governing Board Meeting

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Prepared by: Cynthia Yabut, Secretary

Financial Report-
\$8,453.44 in the General Fund
\$2,495.00 in the Scholarship fund
Barbara White, a long time member who died recently, left HSNM a bequest of \$5,000 in her will. Randy is going to write a thank-you letter.

Scholarship-
Tentatively decided that the scholarship would be

for a low-income high school senior to go to CNM.

Cynthianne will contact CNM financial aid office. Cynthianne will summarize the scholarship proposal for submission to the membership.

Spring Picnic/Ice Cream Social (Date, location)-
Instead of a picnic or social, Jeannette suggested having a Humanist Lunch after the speaker meetings. We will put this special event for May 20 in the newsletter and on Meetup, and see how it goes.

Publicity-

Cynthianne has the info for the Venue and Alibi calendars (Free Press no longer has a print edition), and will list HSNM events with phone number 505-554-1156 for confirmation. Cynthianne will check with KUNM about participating in their fund-raising drives and what their rates are for advertising spots.

Proposal for HSNM Scholarship by Cynthia Yabut

Humanist Society of New Mexico has a scholarship fund, currently at \$2,495, which has been inactive for the past few years.

Following is a proposal to reactivate it:
To be awarded to a low-income graduating high school student who wants to attend CNM.
Grant to cover the semester's tuition (\$624), renewable if student maintains a 3.0 average.
Not related to any HSNM board members or members of the selection committee

Suggested Required Submissions:

- Short statement of why student wants to attend college
- Interests and hobbies
- Family and personal circumstances
- Recommendation from a teacher
- Essay on humanist values in the modern world
- Personal interview for finalists

Applicants should not be related to any HSNM board members or members of the selection committee.

Applications will be confidential- not shared with

anyone outside of HSNM.

Please review this proposal and let me have your ideas, improvements and comments.

Also, I need a volunteer to be on the selection committee.

Going Pro: Humanist Celebrants Launch Professional Network

by Rachel Berman, 21 April 2017

www.americanhumanist.org

According to a 2015 study by the Pew Research Center, the percentage of the American population that identifies as Christian dropped 7.8 percent between 2007 and 2014. As the population of “nones” continues to rise in the United States, we as a community need to be equipped to provide these individuals with all the services and support typically offered by traditional, religious clergy members. The Humanist Society is an organization working to fill that gap by endorsing individuals as humanist celebrants to legally perform nonreligious ceremonies. As the number of nones continues to rise, the need for humanist celebrants will grow. Recognizing the increased demand for humanist celebrants, the Humanist Society recently launched the Humanist Celebrant Professional Community to better support current humanist celebrants through mentoring, collaboration, professional, and business development.

The goal of the Humanist Celebrant Professional Community is to provide opportunity for community and peer support for humanist celebrants. It will also provide skill development opportunities to increase the level of professionalism in the services they deliver. The Humanist Celebrant Professional Community formally introduced their upcoming initiatives via teleconference last month. Kathy Diedrich, secretary of the Humanist Society Board of Directors, announced that the Professional Community will provide free quarterly teleconferences and webinars to all humanist celebrants. These quarterly conferences will range in topics from tips for growing your humanist

celebrant business to creating an effective website to ways in which to increase your visibility as a humanist celebrant. The purpose of these teleconferences is to professionalize, educate, and create a community for currently endorsed humanist celebrants.

In an effort to increase support and guidance for newly endorsed humanist celebrants, the Humanist Society Board of Directors decided to create a Humanist Celebrant Mentoring Program. Steven Bechtel, vice president of the Humanist Society Board of Directors, announced that this program will officially launch in July of this year. Newly endorsed celebrants will now have the opportunity to be matched with a mentor who will assist and guide them through the process of writing a wedding and memorial service ceremony. The goal of the mentoring program is to provide personalized support to newly endorsed humanist celebrants and ensure consistency in celebrant performance.

The Humanist Society wants to drastically increase the visibility of humanist celebrants. In order to do this, it is in the process of creating an effective marketing and advertising plan for humanist celebrants. Joshua Berg, treasurer of the Humanist Society Board of Directors, is leading this new marketing initiative by first surveying current humanist celebrants and inquiring about their current marketing strategies. He will then compile the information and present “effective marketing strategies” at the next teleconference. These strategies will include effective website platforms, best places to advertise your services, and how to increase your visibility.

Humanist celebrants provide vital services to the humanist and nonreligious communities. The Humanist Society is committed to increasing its support and resources for humanist celebrants, who perform professional, personalized, nonreligious ceremonies for the nones.