



THE
HUMANIST SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO
NEWSLETTER

January 2018

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, January 13

HSNM Informal Meeting 10am to Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE

Saturday, January 20

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE
What is the Proper Response to the Alt-Right?

Saturday, January 27

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

Where Did Classical Music Come From and Where Is it Going?

Richard Grady

Meetings by HSNM Affiliates are held throughout the month.
For more information please visit their websites.

Albuquerque Skeptics

(www.meetup.com/ABQSkeptics)

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

It was wonderful seeing all of those who attended our Human Light Party in December. There was good food and better company to be had and it was great! Also, we raised \$310 for the local Road Runner Food Bank, which was matched by another donor, making a total of \$620 for the food bank! I'd like to thank Tara McCaughin and Cynthia Yabut for their roles in making it all possible

The Alt-Right

Formerly known as the Nazis, white nationalists, or just racists in general. What should we do in regards to them? We thought maybe they were gradually fading into history, but last August, in Charlottesville, VA, we had a rude awakening. There they were, tiki torches in hand, in their polo shirts and khakis, marching through the streets. And then there was the violence. One young lady, Heather Heyer, lost her life. These are serious matters, and what should be the humanist response to all of this be? Will punching them just take care of it? If only it were that easy. Should we blame both sides? One person lamely tried that with no success. What should we do? I'm interested in your ideas on this.

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

David Stelle: 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.

Another issue tied to this is the issue of free speech. How does the right to free speech in relation to the alt-right work? Recently many controversial speakers have been stopped from speaking on college campuses due to various forms of protest. Most people will clearly support a person's right to free speech, but what happens when that speech veers into what some might consider hate speech? Should we implement certain restrictions to speech when it serves no purpose but to denigrate human beings? Is the government capable of doing this without overstepping its authority? Here's another area where we can discuss with each other, and I look forward to having that discussion.

For our next speaker meeting we have the pleasure of having our own Richard Grady return to tell us more about the classical music that he loves. In fact, he'll not only tell, he'll play some for us. Richard's presentation last August was very enjoyable and this one will be no less of a treat.

Speaker Meeting Bio

Richard is a former music professor and trumpet player who has loved classical music since he was a teenager. He was a professor at Arkansas Tech University where he taught trumpet and music history. He has played in many community symphony orchestras, most notably the Tulsa Philharmonic. He has 3.9 college degrees, one in accounting and 2.9 in music. His favorite composers, in no particular order, are Beethoven, Mozart and Stravinsky.

2018 General Membership Meeting

The HSNM General Membership meeting will be held February 24 at the Special Collections Library. We will plot... er, discuss, plans for 2018. Please note the date & plan to come. We'd like to hear from everyone. -Cynthianne