



THE  
HUMANIST SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO  
NEWSLETTER

February 2018

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

<http://humanistsocietyofnm.org/> <http://hsnm.wordpress.com> [president@humanistsocietyofnm.org](mailto:president@humanistsocietyofnm.org)

### HSNM Meetings in Albuquerque

HSNM meetings are free and open to the public (unless otherwise noted.)

#### Saturday, February 10

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

#### Saturday, February 17

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon  
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE  
*Oligarchy and Income Equality*

#### Saturday, February 24

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

#### *Brainstorming Session*

(held in the New Mexicana Room)

For Member and Prospective Members

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

Albuquerque Skeptics

([www.meetup.com/ABQSkeptics](http://www.meetup.com/ABQSkeptics))

Freedom From Religion, Albuquerque

([www.meetup.com/FFRABQ](http://www.meetup.com/FFRABQ))

New Mexicans for Science and Reason ([www.nmsr.org](http://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

First of all, I want to commend Richard Grady on a great job with his talk on classical music. Going through the ages and learning about as well as hearing the progression of music in the Western world was delightful!

Our annual general membership “Brainstorming” session is set to be held on February 24th. This is where we come together and exchange ideas and make plans for what we want to accomplish in the coming year. How about Darwin Day 2019? Our Human Light Party 2018? A big one on the radar is reviving our essay contest. This will require a lot of work and energy and I think we have it this year! Please bring yourself and some ideas along and let's see what we can do!

Lately, I've been thinking of Humanism. Yeah, I know, those who know me aren't that surprised. What is Humanism and why do so many Humanists feel passionate about advocating for it?

A video I watched recently is an excellent explanation of both. The video, which is from a BBC television special (The Big Questions), explores

## **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](http://www.americanhumanist.org) for more information about the American Humanist Association.

Send Newsletter submissions to: Editor, Randall Wall, [Paragon2012@comcast.net](mailto:Paragon2012@comcast.net). Send Website submissions to [president@humanistsocietyofnm.org](mailto: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.

the question, "Should humanists have equal rights to religions?" (Found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIoj9Xd3ZfA>).

The question was asked whether Humanists should be allowed to officiate at weddings. A Christian man stated that he thought humanist weddings were demonic, then added that Humanism was a first class ticket to a "sea of wantonness and debauchery." Andrew Copson of the British Humanist Association gave a great reply when next asked what Humanism is: "Humanism is in a genuine sense more of a first class world view than has been depicted. Humanism is a non-religious world view that instead of looking to revelation or authority, we look to reason and evidence to understand the universe. Instead of looking to moral rules that come from outside human beings, we look to other human beings to generate values in the here and now."

What a great response- but he was just getting started! He continued "And also to generate meaning out of life instead of looking externally for some meaning to give value and sanction to the existence that we're having. A Humanist view is that men and women, in the course of our life, must create and sustain meaning together by giving our life's purpose and a sense of fulfillment. Now I think that is a very satisfying world view. A world view that has made a massive contribution to human progress and achievement."

I hope you find that as powerful a statement as I found it! Wow! It makes me proud to read such succinct and articulate statements made by spokespersons in our movement!