



# THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

March 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, March 10

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

### Saturday, March 17

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon  
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE  
*What is the Basis of Ethical Behavior?*

### Saturday, March 24

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

*Esperanto: A Language for Humanity*

Derek Roff

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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

A magnificent amount of ideas has resulted from our recent Brainstorming membership meeting last month. We've set ourselves on a course on what we think matters most to this group, and a way to achieve it! For one thing, our essay contest is back on track! Thanks to Cynthianne's hard work it is launched and awaiting results. A committee is now formed to follow up with the entries, evaluate them and announce the winner! We've also set a couple of worthy goals for ourselves for the time to come. The first is achieving greater visibility in our community. The second is to identify and promote humanist solutions to societal problems. Literacy promotion will be the first of these solutions. More on that next month. On a minor point, we've resolved to conduct any group business during the first fifteen minutes of the informal meeting. All in all, it was a richly productive meeting and I thank all of you who participated!

I'm also very excited to have Derek Roff speaking to us next month about the language of Esperanto. I'd like to thank Charlene and Allen for making this possible!

## **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.

## **Next Speaker Meeting**

*Esperanto: A Language for Humanity*

Subtitle: Esperanto has thrived by building an international bridge culture on a humanist foundation.

What is Esperanto? You may have heard a variety of guesses. A language created 130 years ago to promote peace and intercultural communication? A Utopian experiment doomed to failure? A fun way to meet like-minded people? A thriving international community of dilettantes and dreamers? Part of the International Jewish Conspiracy? A unique example of hybrid linguistic evolution? An abomination, which goes against God's will? An effective communications tool? A code without culture? A curious example of a self-sustaining international community inspired and spread by people embracing humanist ideas?

Derek Roff will discuss the errors and truths in the many characterizations of Esperanto language and culture, and why it inspires such enthusiasm and antipathy. He will argue that the success of the language is really driven by the humanistic foundation, which predates even the 1887 publication of the first book in Esperanto. He will trace the history of Esperanto's wedding of a language tool with a philosophy of compassion, which outraged certain intellectuals and politicians, but unified and sustained the adherents. Derek will show how humanism shaped and guided Esperanto from a language of one speaker to the diaspora community of over two million closely-connected humans today.

And we will have some fun. How would you like to learn the entire verb structure of a language in six minutes? Hear a beautiful song or two. Get a glimpse of how Esperanto's entirely non-European way of building words

and meanings produces clarity and nuance with simplicity that leaves the Romance languages blushing. Learn a few jokes and puns in Esperanto. If the technology will cooperate, we will video-chat with Esperantists from another country or two, allowing you to ask your questions about how this whole international culture thing really works.

Derek Roff began learning Esperanto in the mid-seventies, from Charlene Baker. Enchanted with both the language and the people he met using it, he advanced his knowledge of the language and culture by attending college level intensive courses at San Francisco State University, The School for International Training, the University of California San Diego, and William Peace University. He worked briefly for the World Esperanto Association in Rotterdam, and connected with Esperantists at gatherings large and small in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Derek spent his career at the UNM Language Learning Center, where he helped professors develop language learning materials. For the last ten years, he has been a board member of the Esperantic Studies Foundation, which supports research and education in intercultural communication and language justice.

<http://www.esperantic.org/en/home/>

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### **HSNM Financial Report for 2017**

Balance at 1/1/17	\$6,029.64
Dues and Contributions	\$1,016.95
Bequest-estate of Barbara White	5,000.00
Expenses:	
Insurance	\$315.00
Annual PO Box Rental	\$126.00
Postage, printing, misc	\$428.65
Venue Rental for Human Light Party	\$60.00
Total Expenses:	\$929.65
Balance at 12/31/17	\$11,116.94

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## **Humanists Speak Out in Support of Empowering Women Against Harassment: Lawrence Krauss Allegations Raise Concerns Throughout Atheist Community**

[www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org)

(February 23, 2018 | Washington, DC) –

The American Humanist Association (AHA) is extremely concerned about the serious allegations of sexual misconduct that have been brought against Dr. Lawrence Krauss, a previous AHA Humanist of the Year Award winner who has been published in both *The Humanist Magazine* and on *TheHumanist.com*. AHA leadership expressed their support for the brave women who speak out against any type of sexual misconduct.

“As humanists, we positively affirm a woman’s bodily autonomy and support those women who speak up and hold men accountable for misogyny and bad behavior. We encourage women to be empowered,” said Rebecca Hale, president of the AHA. “Sexual misconduct violates humanist concerns for equality and compassion.”

“Many have voiced concern that there will be little response to these allegations within our movement, and I want to assure them as a leader of the humanist community, that the AHA will not ignore these assertions,” said Roy Speckhardt, executive director of AHA.

The AHA works actively for gender equality and against harassment through its advocacy programs and with a special emphasis from the AHA’s Feminist Humanist Alliance. “Men benefit from a patriarchal culture that encourages male entitlement and predatory behavior,” said Sincere Kirabo, social justice coordinator at AHA. “Atheists aren’t exempt. It’s our job to work against this programming, to divest from it, and to actively challenge it.”

## HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 27293, Albuquerque, NM 87125-7293

[www.humanistsocietyofnm.org](http://www.humanistsocietyofnm.org)

Randy Wall, President

[president@humanistsocietyofnm.org](mailto:president@humanistsocietyofnm.org)

March 1, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Humanist Society of New Mexico Announces High School Writing Contest

*Winner will receive a scholarship to attend CNM*

The Humanist Society of New Mexico (HSNM) is now accepting applications and essay entries from graduating high school students who want to attend Central New Mexico Community College (CNM). Students are asked to submit an application form along with an essay of 600 to 800 words on any aspect of humanist values. The application form and complete details are posted on the HSNM website, [hsnm.wordpress.com](http://hsnm.wordpress.com), along with information about humanism, and links to local and national humanist resources.

The selected student will receive a scholarship grant to cover the first year of tuition at CNM, renewable for a second year if the student maintains a 3.0 average. The winner may enroll in academic or certificate programs. The contest is open to any student in the Albuquerque school system who will graduate before the start of the CNM fall term. The selection will be made by a committee of HSNM members (relatives of the selection committee or HSNM board are not eligible to enter). All applications are confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of HSNM.

The deadline for application is May 1, 2018. There will be a personal interview for the finalists between May 10 and 15. The winner will be announced on May 26 at HSNM's May Speaker Meeting, to be held at Botts Hall, Special Collections Library, 423 Central Ave. NE, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

The winning essay will be published in HSNM's June 2018 *Newsletter*.

Humanism is an ethical philosophy that derives its principles from science and the natural world, promoting personal liberty, shared social and environmental responsibility, scholarship, creativity, democracy, compassion and justice. The Humanist Society of New Mexico strives to provide opportunities for our members and our wider community to learn about and share these principles in a friendly and mutually supportive setting. HSNM holds three meetings per month, all free and open to the public.

The Humanist Society of New Mexico (HSNM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization based in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is a chapter of the American Humanist Association.

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