



THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

April 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, April 14

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

Saturday, April 21

HSNM Topical Discussion 10am – Noon
Special Collections Library 423 Central Ave. NE
The Ethics of Regulating Gun Ownership

Saturday, April 28

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

Literacy: A First Step Out of Poverty and Crime

Margaret Barker

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

One of the great things about this group is the kind of speakers we can draw in. Last month's talk by Derek Roff on Esperanto was fantastic! It was a great opportunity to learn about this ingenious language that was created over one hundred years ago for the purpose of making it easier for humans to communicate. And we were even able to share in a conversation with some Esperanto-speaking Germans! It was such a great time!

As I communicated in last month's newsletter, we are endeavoring to host speaker meetings this year that promote solutions to societal problems. To that end, April's speaker will be on the promotion of literacy. Margaret Barker, who is the founder of *Reading Works*, will be speaking on that topic. See below for more information on that.

Looking forward to a great Spring!

April Speaker Meeting

New Mexico is ranked 50th for poverty in the nation. Child welfare, according to the *Annie Casey Foundation*, is 49th. Low literacy rates and low English language skills among

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.

the adult population are contributing factors to a myriad of social issues: gender inequality, economic disparity, poor health, and poor outcomes for children.

Come learn about how literacy impacts our community and what *Reading Works*, a nonprofit here in Albuquerque, is doing about it. *Reading Works* is a volunteer-based organization that has been providing free literacy tutoring to adults since 2009.

Reading Works provides free literacy and English as a Second Language tutoring for up to 200 adults a year. The Library of Congress named *Reading Works* a 2017 “Best Practices in Literacy” Honoree. It was one of 18 programs from six countries honored in 2017.

Speaker's Bio

Margaret Barker is the founder of *Reading Works*, a community-based adult literacy program located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

She left her successful law practice in 2000 for health reasons and volunteered at a local community college as a reading tutor. That experience motivated her to create *Reading Works* in 2007.

Ms. Barker received a Distinguished Service Award for Adult and Family Literacy in the State of New Mexico from the *New Mexico Coalition for Literacy*. In 2015, she received the City of Albuquerque Mayor’s Certificate of Appreciation for Impactful Service.

For more info on New Mexico literacy programs , see:

<https://newmexicoliteracy.org> and
<http://www.reading-works.org>

Celebrate Spring with an Evening Potluck at Charlene and Allen's!

When: Saturday, April 7th at 6 pm

Where: Located on Loretta Dr near the intersection of Coors and Alameda Blvd NW. Please call Charlene at (505) 350-2436 for directions and to let her know you are coming.

There will be lemonade, iced tea and wine, but bring what you wish for drinks and food to share. Bring a favorite joke or magic trick!

Board Meeting April 28

An HSNM board meeting will take place on Saturday April 28th at 12noon following the speaker meeting. All HSNM members are invited to attend.

Amador Publishers Day at Treasure House Books & Gifts Sunday, April 29, 2018

(old books, new books, fantasy & true books)

Amador Publishers will hold a clearance sale at Treasure House Books in Old Town, Albuquerque on Sunday, April 29, 2018, from Noon to 4:00 pm.

The press was established in Albuquerque in 1986, and continues to publish a variety of books, many of them award winners. Author-artist Zelda Leah Gatuskin, who took over the press in 2010 from founders Adela Amador and Harry Willson, will be on hand throughout the day, and will give brief talks at 1:00 and 3:00 pm. All titles will be on sale, as well as collectible art and artifacts from Amador's pre-digital days. "This is not a going-out-of-business sale. We are making room (and dough) to grow!" Featured titles include:

Duke City Tales (short stories)

World for the Meek (novel)

Myth and Mortality (philosophy)

by Harry Willson

Eva's War (WWII memoir)

by Eva Krutein

Hitler's Last Gasp (WWII novel)

by Manfred Krutein

Caesar of Santa Fe (historical fiction)

by Tim MacCurdy

Undercurrents (New Mexico *cuentos*)

by Adela Amador.

Also featured are: *The Time Dancer* and *Castle Lark* (novels), *Ancestral Notes* and *Time and Temperature* (creative nonfiction), and the recent NM-AZ Book Award winner *Digital Face* (short stories) by Zelda Leah Gatuskin, as well as Zelda's new fantasy novel *The Two Magicians*.

Short Talks by Zelda Gatuskin:

1:00 pm. The history of Amador Publishers, and how book publishing has changed.

3:00 pm. The future of Amador Publishers, with tips for prospective authors.

Treasure House Books & Gifts is located at 2012 S. Plaza St NW, Old Town, in Albuquerque; phone (505) 242-7204.

Additional information about this event and Amador Publishers' titles and authors can be found at www.amadorbooks.com.

Humanist Women in History

by Jennifer Bardi

www.americanhumanist.org

"Move over a little more gracefully, boys!" —*Eleanor Smeal, responding to those who reportedly weren't thrilled with the idea of Katie Couric being the sole anchor of the CBS Evening News when it was announced in 2006.*

Eleanor Smeal, born on July 30, 1939, in Ashtabula, Ohio, has been one of the foremost proponents of women's rights in the United States. Her activism started upon her arrival in 1957 at Duke University, where she fought for integration. She received an honorary law degree from Duke and also has a master's in political science from the University of Florida.

Smeal joined the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1970 after attending a large conference at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of women's right to vote. When she saw the news coverage of the convention, she was outraged: "The eleven o'clock news made the whole conference look like we were absolutely stark raving crazy. That was the day I said, 'I'm joining NOW. With these kinds of misstatements and lies they need all the help

they can get.” She later became the president of the organization and served from 1977-82 and again from 1985-87.

In 1986 Smeal organized the first national abortion rights demonstration. One hundred thousand women’s rights activists marched on Washington, DC, demanding to have their opinions heard. She also led the largest nationwide grassroots and lobbying movement in the history of the women’s rights movement to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. She stood up for women’s political participation and was the first to identify in her 1984 book, *How and Why Women Will Elect the Next President*, the concept she called the “gender gap”—the differences in the way women and men vote. She highlighted the concept in election and polling analyses to enhance women’s voting clout.

After leaving NOW in 1987, Smeal started the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF). She has made many important legislative contributions with this group, including the Free Access to Clinic Entrances legislation, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991. She has helped to change American culture by working to integrate little league baseball teams and motivate women to make positive changes in their lives. In 2001 FMF took control of *Ms.* magazine and Smeal came aboard as publisher.

In the area of women and medicine, Smeal also helped bring attention to the drug mifepristone (still commonly referred to as RU-486). After a twelve-year struggle for the drug’s release, the FDA finally approved its use for early term abortions in 2000. Smeal continued to fight for testing of the drug on breast and ovarian cancer. “I never could have believed when we started on this journey in the sixties and seventies that we could have an opposition that would even politicize cancer research,” Smeal laments. “And that they’ve gotten away with it.”

Both FMF and Smeal have received much recognition, and Smeal has appeared on most network news and talk shows, also taking on right-wing hosts like Pat Robertson and Bill O’Reilly. She has testified before Congress on a variety of women’s issues and is a public speaker for many varied audiences. Some of Smeal’s most notable awards include being named one of *Time* magazine’s “50 Faces for America’s Future” and one of *U.S. News & World Report*’s most influential Washington lobbyists.

In 1994 the Freedom From Religion Foundation honored her with its Freethought Heroine Award. “We went to church every Sunday,” she said in her acceptance speech, recalling her childhood. “And every Sunday my father’s habit was to count how many times they passed the hat. Frankly, I think I learned in that period the importance of separation of church and state. Discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and religion is a very serious quarrel with me.” The Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association named her its 2008 Humanist Heroine for all of her work and dedication to women’s rights, and in 2015 Smeal was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Quote of the Month

“Today is the beginning of spring, and tomorrow is the beginning of democracy. Now is the time to come together, not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans. Americans of the same flesh and blood that care about one thing, and one thing only, and that’s the future of this country and the children that are going to lead it.”

-Parkland student David Hogg