



The Idaho Humanist

Humanists of Idaho is a chapter of the American Humanist Association and the Council for Secular Humanism. We are a non-profit corporation organized to promote ethical, democratic, and naturalistic Humanism in the state of Idaho through public awareness, education, and community involvement.

Nov 2002 - Jan 2003

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Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. It affirms the dignity of each human being and supports individual liberty consonant with social and planetary responsibility. Humanism advocates participatory democracy, the open society, human rights, and social justice. Free of super-naturalism, it recognizes human beings as part of nature and holds that all values—be they religious, ethical, social, or political—have their source in human nature, experience, and culture. Humanism thus derives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than from theological and ideological abstractions, and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

—*The Humanist*,
Official publication of the American
Humanist Association

Winter activity update

Greetings, fellow humanists. We hope you found time to enjoy the winter season despite all the commercialism and religiosity that pervade the air at this time.

Humanists of Idaho has gotten a lot done in the past few months, but once again our busy schedules have made it hard to keep up with everything.

At the November meeting there was a lively discussion of the election results and war issues. Several members helped answer phones at IPTV for video sales. These volunteers were invited back to appear on the air for the December membership drive.

In December, Humanists of Idaho filed a grant application for the Institute for Humanist Studies Fund Grant program. We asked for \$1380 for three outreach projects: advertising, next year's Hyde Park Street Fair, and humanist book donations for area libraries.

Also in December, our members generously donated to help us sponsor a family's holiday gift list through the WCA. Thanks for all your help.

Paul Rolig has been overseeing the Permanent Building Fund which has quietly grown to over \$700 in the past year. \$600 has been moved into a CD to get a better interest rate. Paul and Nancy also hosted a solstice potluck party with some great food and conversation.

January brought sadness to our community as Pat Hall, longtime humanist and peace activist, died on January 2nd. Pat was truly a special lady who will be missed by all. A service to celebrate her life drew hundreds of people from the community. Members are invited to send us their thoughts and memories.

Our January meeting was a baby shower for Nicolle and Daniel Foster, who are expecting their first baby early next month.

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Celebrating Pat Hall

On January 2nd, Patricia Martha Krone Hall died at home among family.

Pat was a founding member of Humanists of Idaho, and an active member for many years.

Pat is probably best known for her efforts in the Boise Peace Quilt project, of which she was a founding member. She travelled extensively to present the group's quilts as statements of peace, visiting England, Russia, Nicaragua, Switzerland, and other nations to reach out to people in countries the U.S was hostile to. American recipients of the quilts included such figures as Sen. Frank Church, Rosa Parks and Mr. Rogers.

In the 1960s, she worked with local activists to create the Idaho Human Rights Commission. She was also one of the founders of the Snake River Alliance, an environmental watchdog group.

A celebration of her life held on Jan 10th drew hundreds of people from the community. A humanist statement was read by Nicolle Foster.

Pat's quilts will be displayed in the Capitol Rotunda during Idaho Human Rights/Martin Luther King Day this month.

Pat Hall was an outstanding example of humanist ethics in action. If the world is going to be a better place, people have to roll up their sleeves and make it happen. Pat did a lot of that.

She will be missed, not just because of her convictions, but because she was a fun person to

be around.

Pat is survived by her husband Dale, daughters Julie and Dayle Ann, and son Clif. She has asked that memorials be made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, your local Humane Society, local scholarships, or the Humanists of Idaho

Donations to the Humanists of Idaho in Pat's name will be placed in the Permanent Building Fund.

We would also like to hear from members who knew Pat and would like to share any personal thoughts. We would like to post them on the web site in a special memorial section. Send your thoughts to idaho@humanists.net

March draws thousands

On November 2, 2002, between 2000 and 3000 secular people turned out for the Godless Americans March on Washington.

They came from almost every state, carrying signs like "Secular Humanists for a Secular America", "Reason is not Treason" and "Uncle Sam wants Religion out of Government". Over 150 organizations endorsed the event, with speakers from many of them taking the podium for the four-hour event. Media coverage ranged from the Washington Post to C-SPAN to a Chilean TV crew.

One of the highlights was when veterans and members of the armed forces were asked to take the stage, the stage could not contain them all. So much for "no atheists in foxholes."

Critical Eye examines extraordinary claims

Skeptical Inquirer magazine and the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) have furthered their expansion into broadcast media with *Critical Eye*, a one-hour television program that examines extraordinary claims from a scientifically responsible point of view.

The ten episode show, which debuted in

October on the Science Channel, is hosted by actor William B. Davis, formerly of the *X Files*.

Initial episodes have covered such topics as alternative medicine, myths, fortune telling, and black magic, and feature interviews with leading scientists and skeptics. Some segments were shot at the Center for Inquiry in Amherst, NY.

Member News

Nicolle and Daniels Foster's baby is due in early February.

Nancy Hendricks continues to give presentations on her time in Afghanistan. She will be speaking to the Frank Church symposium in Pocatello the week of Feb 17th.

If you have any member news, please contact LeAnne Struble at 229-6427.

A season of giving

by *LeAnne Struble*

Once again we had a successful season of giving. We again sponsored a family through the Woman's and Children's Alliance and were able to purchase for them almost two hundred dollars in gifts and food. In years past we have tried very hard to get what is asked for on the list, this year however many of the things that the children asked for were very expensive or of a violent nature that we felt may be inappropriate for their age. So we used their list as a guide to the types of things that they liked and purchased toys towards this end.

We were able to get everyone in the family a new outfit as well as new blankets for the children. We were able to find a microwave at a good price to get for Mom. I hope that we will continue with this holiday giving although it may be through a different agency

Next meeting: Progressive Action

The next membership meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:30 PM, at the Flicks Theater, 646 Fulton, Boise.

Chris Struble will lead a discussion about the future direction of the Humanists of Idaho.

Humanists of Florida has increased activity and membership by focusing on progressive social action as a more positive way to promote humanist values and issues, going beyond just

religious criticism or providing an alternative to religion.

With war coming fast, should we consider being more active in the peace movement? Should we join such groups as the Idaho Peace Coalition or United Vision for Idaho? How can we more positively effect social change in Idaho?

We would like to hear from you, our members, on our direction and what activities you would like to be involved in. Please attend or send us your thoughts and ideas.

next year. If you have any suggestions as to a charitable group who may need our help, please let us know.

We also spent two days volunteering at Idaho Public television. We answered phones for their video sales and for their year end on air campaign.

Study blasts faith based programs

A new study on the faith-based "charitable choice" program that President George Bush championed while governor of Texas, and continues to champion, has been released by the non-profit Texas Freedom Network.

After five years of providing state funds and loosening regulations on religion-based drug treatment programs and charity providers, the study finds that the program has been a disaster and has devastated

They are still running photos of some of our members, so look for us when you watch Idaho Public television. Humanists of Idaho is also mentioned in the January issue of Idaho Public Television's magazine Channels.

people in need.

The study found no positive outcomes to the program, and numerous cases of violations, abuse and state funds being used for religious activities. Confirmed cases of abuse were 25 times higher in the alternatively licensed religion-based programs than in state licensed programs. Texas abandoned the alternate licensing program last year.

The study is online at <http://www.tfn.org>.

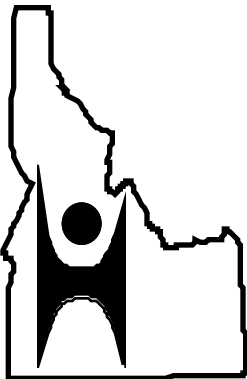
Upcoming Events

Feb 5, 2003 Meeting at the Flicks Theater, 646 Fulton,
Boise 7:30 PM.

Feb 12, 2003 Charles Darwin's Birthday

Feb 15, 2003 Darwin celebration at the Struble's, 3742 N
Chatterton Way, Boise 6 PM See map inside.

Apr 11-13, 2003 One Nation without God? Secularism Society and
Justice Conference, Washington, D.C. More
information at www.secularhumanism.org



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