



The Idaho Humanist

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

June 2009

<http://HumanistsOfIdaho.org>

Idaho@humanists.net

President's Message

HOI Organizational Change, Eventually

At our May meeting, our four main officers were re-elected with no challengers: Paul Rolig, President; Doug Van Curen, Vice-President; Nancy Rolig, Secretary; Jan Rowe, Treasurer.

Mary Diane Gutierrez volunteered to take over as Charitable Giving Coordinator. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the planning of programs for our meetings. Various other volunteer roles remain unchanged.

A healthy organization must always get some infusions of new blood, and HOI needs to grow and expand in this regard faster than it has lately. Some new members join, some members drift away, and the same core activists go on from one year to the next.

I have decided that this will be my last year as President of Humanists of Idaho. This will be my fourth year, and I feel someone else should step up to lead our organization, for several reasons.

First, I want to say that my commitment to Humanism remains as strong as ever, and I will be active in some specific efforts from time to time even after I leave office. I am willing to appear in public wearing the humanist label to promote human rights, to defend church-state separation, and so on. This willingness, and track record of doing so, earns me the reputation of being a leader. In the sense of being out front, leading a small squadron to charge on a particular front, then I am a leader.

However, I am not so effective a leader on the larger scale needed by a vibrant organization. A larger group needs a leader who has vision and charisma, who can excite a number of people to get active in the group, and who can and will initiate action by looking people in the eye and asking them to take on this role or that activity. I am way too *laissez-faire* in my general demeanor to lean hard enough on people to build a large, active group. I tend to react to events, when a dynamic organization needs a proactive leader.

So, I am hereby calling for all HOI members to be on the lookout for an effective leader to take over next year. I think we have some good candidates within the group now. We should attract some new members over the coming year, who may become candidates. Look around you, look in the mirror, and let's carry on proudly our vision that "Humanists of Idaho will be recognized and respected as Idaho's leading organization promoting and practicing Humanism."

Our next President should actively promote Humanism to the public as well as initiate new activities and programs for the benefit of HOI members.

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 supernaturalism, 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

Humanists of Idaho Monthly Meetings

From 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM we are now the Humanist Supper Club. We invite everyone to arrive whenever they can for dinner and join the group for informal discussion and socializing. At 7:30 we will start our program.

Dissecting a Bible

A Critical Analysis of the Holy Scriptures

By D G Van Curen, Celebrant
HSCCC

To purchase a copy directly from the Author:

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Send check or money order to:

D G Van Curen
1506 Rand St
Boise, ID 83709

4th Monday of the month
The Flicks in Boise
646 Fulton, at 6th and Myrtle
6:30 PM Humanist Supper Club
7:30 PM Program

HOI June Meeting Monday, June 22nd

There will be an open discussion on current events.

HOI Officer Elections in May

Elections were held at the May meeting. The HOI board was re-elected unanimously: President, Paul Rolig, Vice President, Doug Van Curen, Secretary Nancy Rolig and Treasurer Jan Rowe. Mary Di Gutierrez has offered to be the group's Charitable Giving Coordinator. Program Chair is still open. The other non-board positions remain unchanged:

- Webmaster and Yahoo Group Administrator. and Doug Van Curen.
- Newsletter Editor and Database Administrator. Nancy Rolig
- Building Fund Treasurer. Paul Rolig

BUUF Discussion Group –Sunday, July 12th

Second Sunday of the Month at **11:00 AM**

Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Library , 6200 Garrett, Garden City

Everyone is welcome whether you consider yourself a UU or not.

Summer Solstice Picnic

Come revel in the sun on the longest day of the year!

June 20, 2009 12:00 PM

Municipal Park

500 S Walnut St

Boise, ID

We'll be in the Silver Maple picnic area, which is the first one on the right as you enter the driveway.

This event is free to all attendees. All the Secular Idaho community have been invited: HOI, BSSSA, Idaho Atheist, Non-theist Meetup group as well as general invitation in the newspaper.

Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks. Beer and wine are OK.

Dogs are not allowed in Municipal Park.



“Secular Idaho” Umbrella Group Forms

A very exciting development on the organizational front is the formation of “Secular Idaho.” The leaders of Humanists of Idaho, Idaho Atheists, Atheist Meetup, Boise State Secular Student Alliance, Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship’s Humanist subgroup, and the recently founded Boise Secular Humanist Examiner met recently and agreed to form an umbrella group to promote communication and cooperation between the various groups. Initial plans include a central website with links to the constituent organizations’ websites, and to include common information and articles in a newsletter.

This newsletter will be the foundation for this new “Secular Idaho” newsletter and will include information about all the organizations’ calendars, programs, and contact information. The target date for the first issue will be September. The newsletter will begin to be published the first week of the month with a deadline for articles and calendar submission to be the 4th Monday of the month prior. The newsletter will be distributed to the leadership of each group electronically and will then be distributed to each group’s mailing list. If you are a member of multiple groups you may want to unsubscribe to one group’s list.

Boise Secular Humanist Examiner on the Web

Kris Hartung, who has recently started attending HOI meetings, is a writer on philosophy and freethought topics. He has started a website: <http://www.examiner.com/x-13669-Boise-Secular-Humanist-Examiner> on which he will be publishing articles related to the title. He welcomes submissions by other authors. See the URL above for details. The “Examiner” is a web presence that gives voice to local authors in many locations to publish essays on a wide range of topics.

The Humanist Perspective on Channel 11 Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

“The Humanist Perspective” now airs each Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and then repeats at 8:00-8:30 Wednesday morning on Boise’s local cable access television station, TVTV Channel 11 on CableOne. The Council for Secular Humanism (CSH) produces a weekly half-hour television program exploring issues of interest from a humanist point of view.

AHA's 68th Annual Conference

From AHA website: <http://americanhumanist.org>

Over 300 humanists were in attendance at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona to hear a number of engaging speakers such as author **William Lobdell**, Arizona State Representative **Kyrsten Sinema**, humanist chaplain **Greg Epstein**, professor **Abby Hafer**, comedian **Raul Martinez**, *Humanist* editor **Jennifer Bardi** and more shared their insight, humor and knowledge with delighted audiences.

In addition, attendees enjoyed amazing speeches by our Humanist awardees: astrophysicist **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, professor **Barbara Forrest**, social justice activist **Norma Ramos**, Americans United executive director **Barry Lynn**, biologist **PZ Myers** and paleoanthropologist **Donald Johanson**. Members were also treated to special musical performances by singer **Roy Zimmerman**, and "Tunes ‘n Toons" performers **Dan Barker and Steve Benson**.

Visit our [Flickr page](#) to see photos taken throughout the conference. To submit photos or video of your own, contact Patrick Connors at pconnors@americanhumanist.org. And check out the upcoming Fall 2009 issue of *Free Mind* to get a full report of the conference.

We want to send a special thanks to our awardees, entertainment, speakers, exhibitors, EvolveFISH, Camp Quest, Scotty Michaelsen (our volunteer photographer), the United Coalition of Reason and ArizonaCOR, the Board of Directors of the AHA and volunteers from the Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix for helping to make this event a success!

Parenting Beyond Belief: Greekology and the Regular American God

By DALE MCGOWAN, Ph.D. June 10, 2009

(HNN's Parenting Beyond Belief column provides a forum for humanist parents and parenting experts to share their wisdom, advice and knowledge of parenting and family issues. Edited, and sometimes written, by Dale McGowan, the monthly column features guest writers who provide information and support about issues affecting freethought parents and children in the 21st century.)

(My daughter Delaney, aged seven, takes *Bulfinch's Mythology* down from my office shelf and starts leafing through.)

DELANEY: Dad?

DAD: Mm.

DELANEY: Are there any people in Greek who still believe Greekology?

DAD: Not any more. Well...actually there are a few. But mostly not.

DELANEY: I don't get how *anybody* can still believe it. You said people climbed up to the top of Mount Olympics and didn't see any gods.

DAD: Well...if *you* believed in something like that, and somebody hiked to the top and said your gods weren't there, what would you say?

DELANEY: I'd say they were hiding. *(chuckles)* Or invisible.

DAD: HA! Perfect. *(She continues rummaging the shelves.)*

DELANEY: Oooh, this one's nice.

DAD: Yeah, I like that one. It's called the *Book of Common Prayer*.

DELANEY: Who uses that?

DAD: The Church of England.

DELANEY: What!? I thought England believed the same god as the regular America god.

DAD: Yeah, it's...well, there are different churches that believe in the same god but in different ways. They just do little things different.

DELANEY: Like what?

DAD: You remember the thing with the wine and bread? Some churches think the wine actually turns into the blood of Jesus, and the bread...

DELANEY: ...is his body, yeah. I thought they ALL believed that.

DAD: Well, some of them believe it's just supposed to make us think about his body and blood. But some think it really, exactly turns into his blood and body when you eat it.

(Long pause.)

DELANEY: Okay, I have a question. *(pause)* Where do people *get* these ideas? How do they...how do they think of stuff like that?

DAD: Different ways. This one they actually got from the Greeks. They used to think the spirit of the gods lived inside bulls and goats, so they'd take the animals up on top of a hill, slit their throats and drink their blood. They said they were taking the god into their bodies. So when the Christians...

DELANEY: Oh. My. *God*.

DAD: What?

DELANEY: That is just COMPLETELY disgusting.

DAD: But...you didn't seem freaked out about drinking *Jesus'* blood...

DELANEY: Well that's people blood. I'm already full of people blood. I could drink a little more.

Dale McGowan, Ph.D., holds degrees in the arts and sciences from UC Berkeley, UCLA, and the University of Minnesota. He is the editor of the 2007 book Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion

HOI Membership

To those of you who have received this newsletter complimentary, complimentary subscriptions are for 6 months maximum. I hope you will decide to join our group. Membership in Humanists of Idaho entitles you to voting rights in the organization's elections and the privilege of holding an office. Membership dues go towards the group's charitable works projects, Humanist awareness, sponsoring the Humanist Perspective on TVTV and contributions to community organizations with humanistic interests.

Please fill out the form below and send in the payment for the level of involvement you wish to the address below.

Nancy Rolig, Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Membership Administrator

<p style="text-align: center;">Humanists of Idaho Board</p> <p>President: Paul Rolig377-0535 or roligpd@spro.net Vice President: Doug Van Curen:.....376-5475 or CelebrantVan@aol.com Secretary: Nancy Rolig..... 377-0535 or nrolig@spro.net Treasurer: Jan Rowe376-5475 or janiejolee1@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Auxiliary Positions</p> <p>Webmaster/Yahoo Group Administrator:..... Van Van Curen 376-5475 OR CelebrantVan@aol.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor/membership Administrator:.....Nancy Rolig 377-0535 or nrolig@spro.net 9877 W. Ripley St. Boise 83704</p> <p>Charitable Giving Coordinator: Mary Diane Gutierrez 368-0516 OR mdg412@cableone.net</p> <p>Program Chairman:.....OPEN</p> <p>Permanent Building Fund:Paul Rolig 9877 W. Ripley St., Boise 83704</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Organization Information</p> <p>Your support of this local chapter with your membership, donations and ideas is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Mailing Address: Humanists of Idaho P.O. Box 44913 Boise, ID 83711-0913</p> <p>Website: http://HumanistsOfIdaho.org</p> <p>Yahoo Group: idaho-humanists@yahoogroups.com</p> <p>Email Address: Idaho@humanists.net</p>
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Humanists of Idaho Membership and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City, state, zip code _____

E-mail address and phone _____

- \$25 **Individual** annual membership and Newsletter subscription
- \$45 **Family** annual membership and Newsletter subscription
- \$10 Newsletter subscription only (U.S. Mail or Electronic)
- \$___ donation to help promote public awareness of Humanism
- \$___ Humanists of Idaho Permanent Building Fund Donation
- I would like my newsletter sent electronically.

U. S. Mail:
 Humanists of Idaho
 P.O. Box 44913
 Boise, ID 83711-0913

Newsletter/Membership Email:
nrolig@spro.net

Moments & Milestones

Weddings and other family celebrations Custom designed to suit the needs & preferences of the participants located in Boise, but serving most of Idaho

*Services performed by **D. G. Van Curen***

A Celebrant, Ordained through the Humanist Celebrant Certification Committee

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Humanists of Idaho
P.O. Box 44913
Boise, ID 83711-0913

Saturday, June 20th - Solstice Picnic
Municipal Park NOON

Monday, June 22nd - HOI Meeting
6:30 PM Humanist Supper Club, 7:30 PM Program

BUUF Senior Sages
2nd and 4th Thursdays of the Month, 9:30 AM at the Kopper Kitchen (2661 Airport Way)

Sunday, July 12th, 11:00 AM – BUUF Humanist Group
Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 Garrett, Garden City,