



# HUMAN VOICE

Humanist Association of Salem (HAS)  
PO Box 4153, Salem, Oregon 97302  
www.salemhumanists.org

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Dedicated to the Pursuit of Reason, Peace, Justice, and Democracy

**AUGUST MEETING:** At 10:00 a.m. on August 6, 2011, a catered Annual Business Meeting will commence and we will proceed in discussion on the future of HAS, dealing with what shape its future will take, or whether there even will be one.

After much discussion, the board has identified four options that will be outlined, discussed, and *decided on* at this meeting. Briefly, these are:

- ◆ Should HAS forfeit its 501c3 status and become a social group only?
- ◆ Should HAS re-establish its relationship with the American Humanist Association and continue as an active chapter?
- ◆ Should HAS become a satellite of CFI (Center for Free Inquiry) with their large visibility and community outreach?
- ◆ Should HAS cease to exist?

We will present the pros and cons of each option at the annual meeting.

Therefore, I strongly ask **ALL** members and interested individuals to please come and participate in the discussion and decision-making process if you would like to see a continued secular presence in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

**Dean Georgacopoulos, President  
Humanist Association of Salem**

**PREVIOUS MEETING:** The meeting featured excerpts from the 90-minute documentary *Facing Evil*, hosted by Bill Moyers, initially broadcast on PBS in 1989, documenting the Understanding Evil conference held in Texas to examine the nature of evil. The speakers included Maya Angelou, Barbara Jordan, Philip Hallie, and Raul Hilberg. They look at racism, cruelty, and the bureaucracy that fostered evil during the Holocaust. Included in the video is the discussion of human goodness and its role in counter-balancing evil, as well as the potential of good emerging from evil.

**BRUNCH:** 9:30 a.m. Saturday, August 20, 2011, at McGrath's Fish House, 350 Chemeketa St NE, Salem. RSVP to Josh, via HAS Meetup site, 503-364-6255, or e-mail [joshreese2008@gmail.com](mailto:joshreese2008@gmail.com) (also if you need a ride).

**Religious freedom should work two ways: we should be free to practice the religion of our choice, but we must also be free from having someone else's religion practiced on us.**

~ John Irving, novelist (b. 1942)

# The 2010-2011 Year in Review at HAS

By Shawn Walker

This past year HAS continued its interesting and educational programming from a talk on the consequences of NAFTA to a discussion regarding what it means to be a Humanist. Our members have enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter thanks to the Human Voice Editor, Carol Stoddard. We've also continued to increase our visibility through Meetup.com and have had quite a few find us through that website. HAS members and newcomers alike have enjoyed PUB nights at f-stop Fitzgerald's Public House. And of course, the monthly brunches at McGrath's continue to be popular thanks to Josh Reese's organizational efforts.

To support the President of CHILD's Rita Swan's lobbying efforts, HAS hosted a talk at Louck's Auditorium in which Rita shared her own personal story regarding faith healing and her lifelong work to change laws to better protect children. Even with inclement weather, we had attendees from HAS and several from Portland who heard about our event from the multiple CFI Meetup sites that we were allowed to post it on. Through our publicity, Robert Sanford, the organizer of the NW Freethought Conference was able to get in touch with Rita and have her speak at the Conference as well. Ultimately, the good news is that HB 2721 was passed unanimously by the House and by 25-5 in the Senate. Since it was made an emergency bill, it became the law as soon as the Governor signed it!

Speaking of the NW Freethought Conference, this year's was sold out! Six of us from HAS attended and we were able to provide two scholarships for our members. One of the sessions involved representatives from all organizations available to come together and share organizational activities and brainstorming. The highlight of the weekend, however, was the Saturday evening keynote speaker, P.Z. Meyers, scientist and 2009 Humanist of the Year.

Additionally, HAS is supporting science education for girls through the Da Vinci Girls Program. We began with an update on their progress at a monthly meeting that brought four separate non-profit agencies together: HAS, Oregonians for Science and Reason, YWCA, and Gilbert House Discovery Center. All four of these organizations are involved in and supportive of science education. Following the presentation, the HAS board received a formal grant request from the YWCA for the sole purpose of supporting the Da Vinci Girls after school program. After much discussion and Neil's hard work in getting specific questions answered, the board approved a \$3,500 grant. Oregonians for Science and Reason are also providing a grant.

It's been a busy year at HAS. We have achieved some good things, faced some challenges and had some fun along the way. Now, we find that it is time to reassess where we have been, where we are now, and where we may be heading. That's what this year's annual meeting will be about: our need to discuss the future and the choices that are before us. ☺

*Human Voice* is the official publication of the Humanist Association of Salem, a chapter of the American Humanist Association, a member of the Atheist Alliance International, and an associate member of the Council for Secular Humanism. HAS members receive the newsletter as a membership benefit. To subscribe to the newsletter or to become a member, send a check payable to "Humanist Association of Salem" to PO Box 4153, Salem OR 97302. Treasurer Bev Nodzak will also accept cash or checks at meetings. Fees for the last six months of 2011:

*Individual Membership - \$10 Couples - \$17.50*

*Visitors are welcome*

## HUMANIST ASSOCIATION OF SALEM OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

President: Dean Georgacopoulos  
Secretary: Shawn Walker  
Web Master: Brian Boswick  
Member at Large: Neil Sherwood

Vice President:  
Treasurer: Bev Nodzak  
Past President: Stan Seleen  
Newsletter Editor: Carol J. Stoddard

**Email: [info@salemhumanists.org](mailto:info@salemhumanists.org)**  
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## Write, Right Now!

This feature of *Human Voice* reprints submissions and acknowledges those who have been committed enough to the Humanist philosophy to write a Letter to the Editor, or a Guest Opinion to area newspapers. Send clippings (with full attribution) to: Editor, 3129 Steven St., Woodburn, OR 97071, or e-mail to [mostlysunnycjs@yahoo.com](mailto:mostlysunnycjs@yahoo.com).

Artifacts as old as 10,000 years B.C. suggest an appreciation of homosexual eroticism. Romans and Greeks legalized homosexuality. The first law against same-sex marriage was promulgated by Christian emperors.

Netherlands and Belgium pioneered modern legal recognition of same-sex marriage. Massachusetts was the first U.S. state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples while Mitt Romney governed.

After Spain, Canada and South Africa made marriage equal for everyone. Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, the District of Columbia and New Hampshire wisely followed this natural course of action along with Norway, Sweden, Mexico City, Portugal, Iceland and Argentina.

The first same-sex couple within the borders of Oregon got married under the jurisdiction of the Coquille Tribe. Oregon Gov. Kulongoski signed SB 2 barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and HB 2007 providing legal recognition of same-sex couples. Now, Oregon should continue that momentum by adopting a Marriage Equality Act just like New York.

Gays and lesbians receive the death penalty because homosexuality is illegal in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Somaliland, Mauritania and Sudan.

I am married (to a woman) but I am not narrow-minded, so I think that society should allow reason, not religion, to define our laws.

~ David Pearl, Salem, SJ, 7/5/11

On Monday at 3 p.m., we came to the Riverfront Park Fourth of July celebration and brought our blanket, folding chairs and cooler for a relaxing day until the fireworks started.

We were turned away at the gate nearest A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village after we had prepared all morning for the event.

The women at the entrance told us they had turned away dozens of others. It was really maddening!

So why wasn't it posted in the *Statesman Journal* that no food or drink of your own was to be allowed? And which city government officials or representatives are responsible to bar local citizens from enjoying one of their own parks on the pre-eminent day of celebrating our supposed liberties?

It appears that vendors' profits trumped the people of Salem enjoying the freedom to picnic in their own city park on a national day of celebration as generations have. It's disgraceful.

~ Dean Georgacopoulos, Salem, SJ, 7/6/11



### *Message from Newsletter Editor*

*Those of us who have held leadership roles in HAS have struggled for many years to keep it going. Personally I have wavered among feelings of encouragement, disappointment, hope, futility, enjoyment, and just being fed up.*

*That pretty much mirrors my overall feelings about the future of rationalism in this religiously deluded world. I wonder if there's any hope—then I read the Freedom From Religion Foundation newspaper and other atheist/humanist literature, or attend a Freethought conference, and feel there might be...but then again...*

*I have quit as newsletter editor a few times but always take it back because no one else will do it. And we have had a tough time filling the board positions and coming up with programs.*

*If you don't care what happens to HAS, don't bother coming to the August meeting. If you DO care, attend and participate in the meeting, or otherwise make your opinion known to a board member by e-mail, letter, telephone, telegraph, or telepathy—whatever works for you. As my dear darling Tom would say (and has said), "Get off your butt and do something."*

~ Carol



# AHA Humanists of the Year

2010	Bill Nye	1991	Werner Fornos	1973	Thomas Szasz
2009	PZ Myers	1990	Ted Turner	1972	B. F. Skinner
2008	Pete Stark	1989	Gerald Larue	1971	Albert Ellis
2007	Joyce Carol Oates	1988	Leo Pfeffer	1970	Phillip Randolph
2006	Steven Pinker	1987	Margaret Atwood	1969	Buckminster Fuller
2005	Murray Gell-Mann	1986	Faye Wattleton	1968	Benjamin Spock
2004	Daniel Dennett	1985	John K. Gailbraith	1967	Abraham H. Maslow
2003	Sherwin T. Wine	1984	Isaac Asimov	1966	Erich Fromm
2002	Steven Weinberg	1983	Lester Kirkendall	1965	Hudson Hoagland
2001	Stephen Jay Gould	1982	Helen Caldicott	1964	Carl Rogers
2000	William Schultz	1981	Carl Sagan	1963	Hermann J. Muller
1999	E. O. Wilson	1980	Andrei Sakharov	1962	Julian Huxley
1998	Barbara Ehrenreich	1979	Edwin H. Wilson	1961	Linus Pauling
1997	Alice Walker	1978	Margaret E. Kuhn	1960	Leo Szilard
1996	Richard Dawkins	1977	Corliss Lamont	1959	Brock Chisholm
1995	Ashley Montagu	1976	Jonas E. Salk	1958	Oscar Riddle
1994	Lloyd & Mary Morain	1975	Betty Friedan	1957	Margaret Sanger
1993	Richard Lamm	1975	Henry Morgenthaler	1956	C. Judson Herrick
1992	Kurt Vonnegut	1974	Mary Calderone	1955	James Warbasse
1991	Lester R. Brown	1974	Joseph Fletcher	1954	Arthur F. Bentley
				1953	Anton J. Carlson

**The deadline for submitting items to the newsletter is the 15th of every month.**

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