

The



HUMANISTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

August 2004

**OUR GOAL IS THE APPLICATION OF REASON AND SCIENCE TO UNDERSTAND
NATURE AND TO EXERCISE HUMAN COMPASSION TO SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS**

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MONTHLY EVENTS CALENDAR

General Meeting : 8.14. – 1:00 PM
Ormond Beach Library

Board Meeting : 8.18. – 10:00 AM *Ormond
Beach Library*

Brunch / Bunch : 8.29. – 10:30 AM
Riviera Country Club

will meet on Saturday

AUGUST THE 14TH

at **1:00 PM** at the Ormond Beach Library, located at
30 S. Beach St. in Ormond Beach.

The topic will be

“Political Lessons from Dear Abby”

The presenter will be Ellen Johnson, President of the
American Atheists.

Ms. Johnson received her Masters Degree in Political
Science from the New School for Social Research in
New York. She has served with American Atheists for
over two decades. She was also Chairwoman of the
Godless Americans March on Washington (GAMOW)
Task Force which in November, 2002, brought
thousands of Atheists, Freethinkers, Secular Humanists
and other nonbelievers to Washington, DC for an
unprecedented demonstration of unity.
Among her many activities Ms. Johnson has testified
before the National Commission on Civil Rights
concerning the problem of religious proselytizing in the
public schools. She is a frequent guest on national news
and public affairs programs including C-SPAN's
"Washington Journal," MSNBC "Scarborough Country,"
FOX NEWS CHANNEL'S "Hannity and Colmes,"
"Heartland With John Kasich," "The O'ReillFactor", and
"Dayside with Linda Vester."

**A brief coffee/social hour will again take place
after this meeting, giving our members and guests
the opportunity to exchange some thoughts with
our guest speaker.**

***The Humanists of
Northeast Florida***

After the above coffee/social hour we invite all members and guests to participate in a reception honoring Ms. Ellen Johnson. This reception will take place at the River Grill Restaurant located on US 1, north of Ormond Beach at the Tomoka River Bridge. Details of this luncheon as well as instructions are included on a separate mini-flyer in this newsletter.

Our pre-meeting lunch on August the 14th will take place as always at 11:00 AM in the Dining Room of the

Riviera Country Club

located at Calle Grande Ave. in Ormond Beach. If you wish to attend the pre-meeting lunch, please give Our very unique **Rosalyn** a call at **(386) 761-1456**.

July Meeting

Our very unique July meeting was attended by 43 members and guests. Apparently many of the first time guests were eager to find out what humanism is all about. The participation of our members as well as the guests was outstanding. The unique format created by our Dan Kennedy and Marti King led to a very active participation of all people present. At the coffee hour which followed we had ample opportunities to interact with many of our guests. I am certain it won't be the last time we see one or the other person. Apropos coffee hour- Thanks to our **Maria Lindsay**, who truly had outdone herself by preparing and setting up an exceptional, colorful arrangement of tasteful morsels which delighted evryone. Thank you, dear **Maria**.

September meeting

The meeting on September the 11th has not been finalized at the time of this writing and therefore shall be announced in our September newsletter.

August Board Meeting

The board meeting for the month of August will be as usual on the third Wednesday, which is

August the 18st

at 10:00 AM. It will take place in the Ormond Beach Library and is followed by our monthly luncheon at 12:30 noon in the **Riviera Country Club**, located at Calle Grande Ave. in Ormond Beach.

Brunch with the Bunch

Brunch with the Bunch will be on the **last Sunday** of each month; in this case it will be **August the 29th** at **10:30 AM** at the Riviera Country Club, located at Calle Grande Ave. in Ormond Beach. As usual it is always a casual, friendly get-together, which provides the opportunity to exchange those special and sometimes even trivial thoughts. **Everybody is welcome – we love your company!!** If you plan to join us, please give Rosalyn a call. Her phone number is (386) 761- 1456.

THOUGHTS OF THE EDITOR

Democracy or Plutocracy ?

The other day as I watched the convention of the "Green Party," I was struck by a phrase of the newly elected president, David Cobb, a lawyer from Texas, who said in this quite fiery speech: "Let's face it, We are really not a Democracy but a Plutocracy." This expression has not left my aging brain and it is still meandering from one brain cell to the other.

We all know pretty well what a democracy is supposed to be, but

the question is, what is a plutocracy? I had heard this expression before, many years ago when in the country of my birth a boisterous, dogmatic leader in a brown uniform accused the US of being ruled by plutocrats. Well, what is a plutocratic society?

Checking with my onboard Encarta Encyclopedia I drew a blank Nothing. So I pulled the Encyclopedia Britannica from my hard drive which provided the answer. It states: " A Plutocracy is a Society which is ruled by the Wealthy!" What a statement and eye opener ! Is this accusation really correct or far off track ? Let's look at it. The top political echelon of our society consists mostly of multi-millionaires. They are supported by huge rich corporations and the financial elite which donate vast amounts of money in the hope the Crew in power will be reelected, thereby gaining

or retaining influence to benefit their own hidden agenda.

Are you in doubt? Look at the outlandish Tax benefits many of them have received, not to forget all those lucrative government contracts. Naturally they also donate plenty of money to the party who is chasing them, because you never know. It is always good to have some insurance – just in case.

Don't you believe that the Crew who runs the ship- ok it's the nation- is in many ways not obligated to those Honorable Blood Givers? Do you really think the big boys are concerned about the well being of the little man? Unless it fits in their scheme of things, they don't seem to give a darn. Just look at the tremendous amount of outsourcing causing many hard working people to lose their livelihood. Who cares as long as the balance sheets of big business please the share holders and the profits as well as the value of their stock goes up. It does not seem to bother anyone, that with this manipulation the general tax base and the contribution to the social security fund will decrease considerably, thus driving the poor people another step down the poverty ladder.

So, the phrase plutocracy is not entirely off the mark. But then again everything is a matter of perception and interpretation. Though, I would feel much better if a truly qualified and honest leader emerges who really has proven and acceptable credentials to sit on the big board and not a person or a group of people who have been glorified and blown up by the media with millions of dollars like a big circus show.

MEMBERS FORUM

The Olympic Games, taking place in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympiad is just around the corner and I thought it would not be out of line to let Eva Szabo make a cute and poetic comment pertaining to Olympian philosophy.

Girl's Olympian Blessing

May Zeus charm you
And Hera not harm you
May the muses kiss you
And Apollo's arrows miss you;

Dionysus' orgies, join them without fears
May your thread resist Atropos' shears!
May Cupid shoot arrows, two at a time
And pierce the one you have in mind.

May Nemesis pass you with a smile,
May your proportions turn out "Venus-style"!
So that Narcissus should loose its cool
And never again look into that pool!

And , if to Hades you must go,
May Orpheus join you down below!

Eva Szabo

Dear Members & Friends

We are just a few short months away from the greatest national event in the year 2001, namely the ELECTION. I am certain you are all aware how important the outcome of this election will be for the American people. I venture to say the effect will be felt world wide. Therefore if you or anybody you know has not registered yet, please employ all your wisdom, skill and charm to convince those people of the importance of their participation.



The Board of 2004

The President	Dennis Deshaies (904) 794-2706
Vice President	Larry Mundinger (904) 471-6148
Treasurer	Michael T. Simmons (386) 615-6743
Secretary	James Christianson (386) 677-1176
Editor	Harald Podgora (386) 257-5628
Publication	Emily Seibert

Coordinator (386) 615-1920 Social
Chairperson Rosalyn Pluzynski
(386) 761-1456



Whatever you do -

Wherever you go

Please

Take good care of yourself !!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO ALL THE WONDERFUL
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*who entered this world during the months
of August and September .*

Dennis Deshaies	08.19
Cal Olmstead	08.22
Helga Law	08.31
Michael T. Simmons	09.20

SOMEBODY MISSING ???

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**Membership Application –and Renewal
Humanists of Northeast Florida
Dues per calendar year: Regular \$25.00.
Family \$35.00, Patron \$100.00**

Optional

**Name:.....Birth
date:.....**

**Address:.....
.....**

.....
Phone :.....e-mail:.....

To be paid by check or money order to the Humanists of
Northeast Florida
PO Box 1143, Ormond Beach, FL 32175

Please note
OUR WEB SITE:

<http://northeastflorida.humanists.net/>