

The HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175 PUBLISHED MONTHLY November 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 : 11.13. 1:00 PM
Ormond Beach Library

Board Meeting : 11.17. 10:00 AM
Ormond Beach Library

Brunch / Bunch : 11.28., 10:30 AM
Riviera Country Club

will meet on Saturday

November the 13TH

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

The topic will be

Modern American art
and The Abstract Expressionists

The speaker will be

Steve McLachlin who retired as art director after 40 years with the Daytona Beach News-Journal. Perhaps many of you will recall his unique editorial illustrations. He will be discussing Modern American Art and the growth and out-growth of The Abstract Expressionists as well as touching on some of the modernists who were absorbed with the inequities of the world human condition. He is also known as a noted authority and collector of antique arms, especially American Longrifles which he restores and recreates.

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

The Humanists of Northeast
Florida

Our pre-meeting lunch on November the 13th will take place at 11:00 AM in The Dining Room of the

ROYAL FLORIDIAN HOTEL,

located A1A opposite Granada Ave. in Ormond Beach. If you wish to attend the pre-meeting lunch, please give **Rosalyn** a call at **(386) 761-1456** or any of the board members listed on last page.

October Meeting

After having the past two meetings cancelled or relocated we finally could welcome 38 guests to listen to our guest speaker **Idris A. Muhammad**, what he had to say about Islam. It was for most of us very informative. One thing became quite apparent, namely that this world wide fastest growing religion must have a tremendous appeal to many people. It basically advocates and promotes in their own way the goodness in people by obeying Allah's rules as expressed by the messenger **Muhammad** in the seventh century AD.

December meeting

Our meeting in December will deviate from our regular monthly get together in as much as we will celebrate the beginning of the annual holiday season. It is going to take place on December the 11th from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM in the clubhouse of the Halifax Plantation in Ormond Beach. We arranged with this establishment a special luncheon menu which is as listed on the enclosed colored insert.

November Board Meeting

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

November the 17th

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 dining room of

the **Royal Floridian Hotel**, located A1A opposite Granada 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 **November the 28th** 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. If you can not reach her please contact any of the other board members listed on last page of this newsletter.

Message from the President

When you read this , I hope the results of the election will please us all. Whatever the outcome, I sincerely believe that both political parties have lost touch with the electorate and are in need of reorganization to better represent the common good.

On a more cheerful note, I' m happy to report our successes this year. We continue to experience a membership level comparable to other humanist groups in our region of the state. As of the end of last month, we had 54 members. That we are maintaining this level can be attributed to the drawing power of our public meetings, which have offered an excellent roster of timely, informative and interesting speakers, and an opportunity for people to meet and socialize at the end of these meetings, on the other hand. There were meetings in which almost 100 people attended. I am grateful for the work Marti King, our immediate past president, did in leading the effort

to identify and recruit these speakers. Additionally, thanks are in order to Emily Seibert for publicizing these meetings and arranging for news stories in the News Journal and the Orlando Sentinel on the

talk given by Ellen Johnson. We owe special thanks to Rose Pluzynski, a founding member, who has been responsible for organizing the pre-meeting luncheons and our annual parties for as long as I can remember. For several years, Harald Podgora has been doing outstanding work as the editor of our newsletter. I enjoy reading his monthly commentaries. This year Jim Christianson. has taken the lead in setting up our annual party at the Halifax Plantation.

We are doing well financially, considering that we are still growing as an organization. Michael Simmons, Treasurer, reports that our balance at the beginning of this month was \$2267.26. I believe this is the largest balance in our history. Part of this amount is from a grant of \$996 we received from the American Humanist Association Chapter Assembly Fund for Chapter Expansion. We are using these funds to run a small, appealing display add in the News Journal, announcing our monthly meetings.

Another first for HONEF is that we have our own Internet web site. Thanks to the diligence and efforts of Larry Mundinger, Vice President, we are now accessible to virtually anyone in the world who might be interested in learning about us.

At the November meeting, after our feature speaker and a short break, we are going to spend a little time sharing ideas on the mission, goals and objectives of HONEF. This is the one meeting you should make an extra effort to attend. It will be your chance to provide your board with guidance and direction for developing a 3 year strategic business plan. I will be conducting that part of the meeting. I can assure you that I will give everyone there an opportunity to express their views, that we will listen to what you say and incorporate your thinking into the plan. Finally, once we formulate this plan, we will return to our membership for approval, before attempting implementation.

I have mixed feelings about the annual party on December 11. I won't be able to attend. Instead, I'm happy to report that will be in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the wedding of my daughter Catherine. However, I'll be thinking of you, hoping you are having a good time at the party and wishing you the best for the coming year.

Dennis Deshaies

ROAD MAP FOR THE FUTURE

Frequently we are approached by guests at our meetings and even some members who ask what is really our philosophy, our goals
Etc.

Here are the answers to most of those questions compiled and approved by the board of HONEF and edited by Jim Christianson.

HUMANISM is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human being, it supports the maximization of individual liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility. It advocates the extension of participatory democracy and the expansion of the open society, standing for human rights and social justice. Free of super-naturalism, it recognizes human beings as part of nature and holds that 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 or ideological abstractions and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

(American Humanist Association)

MISSION

Build an organization of humanists and freethinkers from the Northeast Florida area, which will provide a social context for its members together in an open, entertaining, comfortable, and democratic environment.

There they can receive presentations by competent speakers on various subjects and/or discuss and freely exchange ideas, information, concepts or beliefs about relevant social, political, intellectual, cultural and ethical issues.

VISION

We will be an organization that is admired for meetings that challenge the intellect, for the warm welcome all newcomers encounter, for supporting social, economic, and political justice within our

community and for a membership that demonstrates it is truly living by its' stated values.

VALUES

1. Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation and rational analysis.
2. Humans are an integral part of nature, the *result of unguided evolutionary change*.
3. Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience.
4. Life' s fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of human ideals.
5. Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships.
6. Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness.

GOALS

Membership Development and Support build and provide supportive services to a membership of freethinking/humanist individuals from the Northeast Florida area. This membership should be diverse in age, ethnicity, marital status and sexual composition.

PROGAMS

Develop a set of ongoing programs and discussions that result in increased membership and dialogs that elevate attendees understanding of humanism and issues that impact our members and the world around us.

COMMUNICATIONS

Define and implement the set of communications and publicity requirements that enable the organization to achieve and maintain its membership goals. This will include providing publicity and information to the general public at large as well as coordinating communications among the organization' s internal functional groups.

FUND RAISING

Develop sources of income to supplement membership dues.

ADVOCACY

Our advocacy goal, or pleading the cause of others, is consistent with our value of working to benefit society. HONEF will develop and implement programs designed for individuals or organizations who share our values and are in need and receptive to our assistance in form of time and money.

FACILITIES – PHYSICAL SITE

Develop a business plan that will enable HONEF to make a decision regarding acquisition (build, buy or rent) of a building for HONEF and potential coalition member uses.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES

TO ALL THE WONDERFUL

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

who entered this world during the months of *November and December*

Frank Seibert	11.05
Ray Pluzynski	11.07
Bonnie Bostrom	11.18
Barbara Eveleigh	11.21
Orvetta Bristol	12.07

The Board of 2004

The President	Dennis Deshaies
Vice President	Larry Munding
Treasurer	Michael T. Simmons
Secretary	James Christianson
Editor	Harald Podgora
Publication Coordinator	Emily Seibert
Social Chairperson	Rosalyn Pluzynski

Please take note

OUR WEB SITE:

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