

# The



# HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

March 2005

**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 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

**General Meeting : 03.12. 12:30 PM  
Ormond Beach Library**

**Board Meeting : 03.16. 10:00 AM Ormond  
Beach Library**

**Brunch / Bunch : 03.27. 10:30 AM Riviera  
Country Club**

***The Humanists of NE Florida***

will meet on Saturday

## **March the 12<sup>TH</sup>**

at **12:30 PM** at the Ormond Beach Library, located at 30 S. Beach St. in Ormond Beach. The topic will be

**“A CULTURE OF PEACE --  
yours to imagine --  
to create and nurture”.**

Our speaker will be **Peg McIntire**, who is a well known activist on the local political scene. She has spoken to groups such as the League of Women Voters, the Homeless Coalition and was spending 8-10 hours a day working for the Kerry/Edwards campaign. She is a truly dynamic advocate fighting for social justice and peace. In her younger years she attended the prestigious Vassar College and accompanied her husband during his 20 year tenure for the UN while stationed in Italy.

Our pre-meeting lunch on March the 12<sup>th</sup> will take place as always at 10:30 AM in the Dining Room of the

### **Royal Floridian Hotel**

located at 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**.

## **February Meeting**

In February we had the pleasure to listen to Mario Kamenetzky as he expressed his views

concerning the world crises and the shortcomings of education sadly affecting our current situation in the world. Fifty-three guests followed Mario's verbal journey as he took us through the world of educational deficiency. Personally I would have liked to hear more specific details about those shortcomings as well as the positive transition of the Argentinian educational system. Well, 60 minutes probably did not give Mario enough time to illuminate all those questions people had stored in their minds.

### **April meeting**

At time of preparation of this newsletter the speaker for our April meeting was not known yet and therefore it will be announced at a later date.

### **March Board Meeting**

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

**March the 16<sup>th</sup>**

at 10:00 AM. It will take place in the Ormond Beach Library and is, if agreed upon by the participants, followed by a 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 **March the 27<sup>th</sup>** 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.*

### **Thoughts of the Editor**

#### **The last Hurrah**

With deep regrets I have to inform you that my tenure as the editor of this newsletter has come to

an end. My eye problems, macular degeneration, make it extremely difficult to navigate my computer through all the paces required to provide you with this mini publication. Despite being surrounded by all kinds of magnifiers while staring at the text and the monitor my eyes and even my mind is going after a short while through agony. Needless to say at times I get very discouraged and even depressed fighting to conquer this stumbling block.

I hope somebody out there is willing to continue to provide our members with written information pertaining to the activities of our small organization. If needed, I will gladly assist the person who is willing to take on the chore to become the new editor.

I will create some sort of a template which would enable a new person with relatively little effort to continue and even enlarge upon this undertaking. As you are all aware there are many ways to create new things and translate ideas. Even a relatively small newsletter like ours has room and space for your imagination. It will allow you to express yourself and address an audience reflecting your personality and wisdom.

Personally I regret that the element of creativity had to come to an end. I surely will miss it. Well, that is life! Nothing will last forever.

I enjoyed many moments this little enterprise provided for me and last but not least the many nice people who became friends because of it. At this point I like to express many special thanks to Emily Seibert who helped me to navigate through the pitfalls of the English language while maintaining the integrity of my thoughts.

### **MEMBERS FORUM**

#### **A man's search for intelligent design**

By Michael Allen –

**Ohio State Director for American Atheists,**  
Believers will often ask me, "How can a person not see evidence for a god? It is all around us!"

But does this evidence point to a god of divine perfection?

Let' s take a look.

I walk outside and take in a big breath of fresh air. The air flows into my body via my nose, which begins to clog just as my eyes start to itch and water in response to particles floating around me. As I walk farther, my lower back begins to ache because my species was imperfectly "designed" for upright locomotion. Why do I react so strongly to harmless particles? Couldn' t a perfect designer, working from scratch, be able to program me so that I know the difference between toxic substances and harmless pollen? And why aren' t there any extra bones between my ribcage and pelvis to give support and keep my now vertical spinal column from collapsing in pain? As I continue to walk, I see a fruit stand through my watering eyes. I purchase an orange knowing that vitamin C is healthy for me. I see a squirrel in a tree, and ponder the fact that it doesn' t need to take in vitamin C. He makes it himself, like most animals do. My body includes a gene for making vitamin C, but it' s broken. Chimps and other primates possess the same broken gene. This causes me to ask two questions.

First, why would a perfect designer give me a broken gene for making vitamin C? And second, if we are not related to other species and are created separately, how did all the other primates get the same flawed gene that we have? Would a perfect designer intentionally share broken DNA code among separate species, making it look as if we come from a common ancestor? I ponder these questions as I reach back and scratch my tail, which doesn' t exist, even though the blueprint for making a tail does exist in my DNA code. Why do I have a genetic code for making a tail when I have no tail? Creationists tell me that humans are corrupted because of the "Fall of Man." The Bible doesn' t say anything about genetic corruption, but somehow they manage to find the meaning there anyway. Some

creationists give up trying to find it and just blame everything on Satan.

Since my watering eyes are pretty worthless for the moment, I sit down and relax a bit, listening to my surroundings. I try to twitch my ears in different directions to locate sounds. Dogs do this all the time. Like a dog, I have these great ear muscles designed just for this purpose, but the perfect intelligent designer forgot to hook nerves up to the muscles, so my ears remain stationary.

I suppose it could be worse. The perfect designer is alleged to have made whales with the same ear muscles, but they don' t even have any external ears. Perhaps the whale ear genes got corrupted by the "Fall of Whales." On my way home, I come upon a church. Inside, the minister is giving a sermon about how a loving god wanted to forgive humanity. How nice! This god was all powerful, and that meant he could forgive humanity by any method he chose. The loving god chose to forgive by having his only son tortured and killed. While attempting to retain the two contradictory concepts of a "loving, forgiving god" and "via torture" inside my single working brain, I start to develop a migraine. So realizing this church has nothing to offer me (besides a headache), I walk on by as they speak about the peace of knowing Jesus and sing "Onward Christian soldiers, marching off to war." I pass by the Salvation Army building where they' re selling a donated television. They will use the money to feed hungry people as long as the hungry people first agree to sit through a religious message about a god who gives free forgiveness via torture and human sacrifice. The television shows explosions over Baghdad from a bombing ordered by our Christian president. The president says this bombing is in retaliation for the bombing done by some other god believers who are from Saudi Arabia. Baghdad is in Iraq. My head hurts again.

I find a street preacher standing on a corner just outside a children' s cancer center. I ask

him, "Why would a loving god create a world in which a children's cancer center is even needed? He tells me that God allows evil in the world in order to give us free will. I wonder whether the children had a will to get cancer. Perhaps the god in this man's mind is more concerned about the free will of the cancer cells. The street preacher asks me, "If you don't believe in God, how can life have any meaning?" I walk off, smiling.

Soon, I arrive back at my own home and go through the front door. My young son jumps up with a big grin. He is very happy to see me and we throw our arms around each other. I pick him up and twirl him around. No meaning, indeed. With his excited voice, my son begins to tell me about his day and all his new discoveries here in the real world. Now, this is something I can believe in.

**The Board of 2005**

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Please note

OUR WEB SITE:

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

**Dear Members and Friends**

*Please note:*

Due to lack of volunteers to assist we have regrettably suspended our after meeting coffee and cookie hour. If there is anybody who is willing to support our board in this social activity please step forward. All members and guests will surely appreciate it.

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

*who entered this world during the  
months of March and April  
many years ago.*

Jim STRAYER	03.01
Bert GIEBEL	03.08
Marjorie DASH	04.20
Walter KONAK	04.22
Richard SIEGEL	04.23

**SOMEBODY MISSING ???**  
Please let us know !!!

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We wish to welcome our new member:

Bernice **TIGHE**

We hope you will find the same companionship and intellectual stimulation as many of our current members have learned to appreciate. We are looking forward to see you soon.

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**Whatever you do**

**Wherever you go**

**Please**

**Take good care of yourself !!!**