

The HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175 PUBLISHED MONTHLY NOVEMBER 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 : 11.12. 12:30 PM
Ormond Beach Library

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

Brunch / Bunch : 11.27. 10:30 AM Riviera
Country Club

The Humanists of NE Florida

will meet on Saturday
November the 12TH

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

THE AMERICAN WAR ON TERROR IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

This extremely hot issue will be reviewed and presented by

DAVID SCHWAM-BAIRD, Ph.D.

He is a Member of the faculty of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida. His credentials are more than impressive.

He received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Tulane University (1993); a Masters in Public Administration [MPA] from the University of New Orleans (1986); and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of New Orleans (1976).

Many of us had had the pleasure more than a year ago to get thoroughly acquainted by David with this middle east hot-spot. His insight is not just academic; he had immersed himself in the mid-eastern culture by living in Israel from 1977 to 1983. He served in the Israeli army for a year-and-a-half, where he mainly functioned as a researcher for international political issues related to the Middle East.

Our pre-meeting lunch on November the 12th will take place at 10:30 AM at the Riviera Country Club, located at Calle Grande Ave. in Ormond Beach. If you wish to attend the pre-

meeting lunch, please give Emily a call at (386) 615-1920.

October Meeting

Our October meeting welcomed 45 members and guests, who wanted to learn all about

“ the secret of intelligent design”,

our top banana is so vehemently pushing upon the teaching profession in this country. Needless to say our Jim Strayer who taught Biology for all his life on various levels, High School and College, had no problem to point out that intelligent design has no scientific basis whatsoever and is used by the religious right to promote and insert religion into the field of science within the public school system.

December meeting

Our December meeting will be dedicated to the impending holiday season. For that reason we will omit the usual lecture and instead will celebrate with good food and company our annual end of year get together in the Halifax Plantation Clubhouse. Anybody who wishes to participate is asked to get in touch with Jim Christianson to make reservations for this event

November Board Meeting

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

November the 16th

at 10:00 AM. It will take place in the Ormond Beach Library and is, if agreed upon by the participants, followed by a luncheon at 12:30 noon in a suitable restaurant.

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 27th 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 drop in; we are glad to see

you.

Thoughts of the Editor

The Freedom of Expression

One of the greatest liberties a society can grant its citizenry is the freedom of speech.

While it opens the door for an unbelievable amount of creativity in all aspects of human life, it also provides an outlet for any media in particular the television and motion picture industry to exercise control and influence over the viewing public. Just think for a moment and realize that your television is accessed by a nationwide network which attempts in a multitude of ways to influence your thinking and feelings day and night..... After all the intention of their programs is to have as many people as possible watching their presentations. The more people, the better their ratings and therefore their profit. This is the goal and purpose of the free enterprise system which most of us accept and more or less participate in.

What bothers me personally is the tremendous amount of violence delivered each evening to our homes as well as the tasteless sexual innuendos permeating even the most innocent appearing family programs. If this type of free expression represents the standard of the general population then one can very well project what lies ahead of us. Several times during the year we witness how many of those mindless programs are honored and awarded all kind of trophies. They even have established halls of fame for a whole variety of entertainers and sports figures. I shudder to think that this is supposed to be a presentation of a great country which claims to be a leading example of a civilized culture. Why don't we see more of those people who really contributed so very much to the great life we all enjoy. I think here of the great inventors, scientists, teachers, doctors, philosophers, etc., who influence and shape our world and make it possible that we live the way we do. Isn't it time that they are properly honored and set up as an example for our society. But there is probably not enough profit and public interest in putting those people on an appropriate pedestal.

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

As already expressed in the previous newsletter issue, we will nominate and elect the new board for the year 2006 at this meeting. According to our Bylaws we require 7 (seven) board members to enable us to continue our organization. Should it not be possible, for any reason, to obtain seven new board members, then we are forced to change our bylaws and establish a new requirement. At our last board meeting we agreed should this occur then we will reduce the board to 5 (five) members. At the present time the following people have volunteered to be nominated for the new board:

- 1 Mavis Hamilton
- 2 Marti King
- 3 Harald Podgora
- 4 Jim Strayer
- 5 Dennis Deshaies ? (on stand by)

We sincerely hope, that one or the other member will step forward at the November meeting to be nominated and elected for the remaining position.

MEMBERS FORUM

HISTORY OF RECENT HURICANE AND THE REACTIONS OF THE RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIONS

President: Nixon

Category 5 Hurricane *Camille* (August 1969)
Area: About the same area as that affected by Katrina.

Response: Nixon prepared the National Guard in advance, ordering rescue ships from Tampa, FL and Houston, TX to stand waiting along with over a thousand regular military, 24+ helicopters to assist the Coast Guard and National Guard about as soon as the hurricane passed.

President: Bush (the Elder)

Category 5 Hurricane *Andrew* (August 1992)

Area: Florida

Response: In the middle of a re-election campaign, Bush ceased campaigning the day before the hurricane, went to Washington, and assembled one of the largest military forces ever mustered on U.S. soil. 7,000 National Guard. And 22,000 regular military were sent in with the necessary equipment shortly after the hurricane passed through.

President: Clinton

Category 3 Hurricane *Floyd* (September 1999)

Area: Virginia and Carolinas

Response: Meeting with China's president Jiang in New Zealand, Clinton immediately declared the hurricane-affected areas as federal disasters, allowing the military and National Guard to move in and help. Clinton flew home immediately, one day before the hurricane hit, to help coordinate the rescue.

President: Bush (the Lesser)

Category 5 Hurricane *Katrina* (August 2005)

Area: Gulf Coast

Response: National Guard troops are down to about 8,000 members because they are in Iraq with much of the needed rescue equipment. Bush was on vacation, riding his bike for two hours the day before the hurricane landed. On that day, Bush attended a birthday party for John McCain and played golf. The levees began to crack. While emergency 1.5-ton sandbags were ready to be placed to strengthen the levee and exclude water, there were insufficient helicopters and pilots to set them before the levees broke.

New Orleans :

Mayor Ray Nagin pleaded for federal-level assistance and got none. Bush went to San Diego to play guitar with a country singer and end his vacation early-- but not until the next day, because he had tickets to a San Diego Padres game.

Above history submitted by : Joann Kennedy

OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR

For a number of years we enjoy the companionship of many UU members who share many of the same values we the humanists hold dear. Many of them have become members of our organization. Therefore we reached the mutual agreement to announce our monthly programs in our respective newsletters. The activities for the month of November were not known at time of writing our newsletter yet, but in the future it will appear at this spot.



Dear Members and Friends

Please note:

With deep regret I wish to inform you that our dear friend, member, friendly greeter and last but not least, publishing coordinator **EMILY SEIBERT**, suffered a few days ago a stroke. She is currently in the Memorial Hospital in Ormond Beach and fighting to get back on her feet. I think I speak for all of us when I wish her speedy recovery and hope to see her soon back in action.

I am pleased to let you know, that at time of mailing this newsletter Emily's condition has improved considerably and it appears she will go into rehab within a few days.

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The Board of 2005

- The President** Dennis Deshaies
(904) 794-2706
- Vice President** Larry Munding
(904) 471-7410
- Treasurer** Jim Strayer
(386) 441-6743
- Secretary** James Christianson
(386) 677-1176
- Editor** Harald Podgora
(386) 257-5628
- Publication Coordinator** Emily Seibert
(386) 615-1920
- Social Coordinator** Mavis Hamilton
(386) 677-3655



Please note

OUR WEB SITE:

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

Also we have an automatic telephone service which informs you about ongoing activities and permits you to leave a message for any of our board members.

The number is: (386) 672-7272

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO ALL THE WONDERFUL**

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

who entered this world during the months of November and December many years ago

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

SOMEBODY MISSING ???

Please let us know !!!

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We wish to welcome our new member:

Russel PIZER

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 seeing you in our midst.

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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:.....

....

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

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