

# The



# HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175 PUBLISHED MONTHLY FEBRUARY 2006

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

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- **M**onthly Meeting
- **J**anuary Meeting
- **M**arch Meeting
- **M**onthly Board Meeting
- **B**runch with the Bunch
- **T**houghts of the Editor
- **M**embers Forum
- **H**appy Birthday

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

**General Meeting : 02.11. 12:30 PM**  
Ormond Beach Library

**Board Meeting : 02.15. 10:00 AM** Ormond  
Beach Library

**Brunch / Bunch : 02.26. 10:30 AM** Riviera  
Country Club

***The Humanists of NE Florida***

will meet on Saturday

## FEBRUARY the 11<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

### ***Why Print Journalism Still Matters***

to be followed by a short Q/A period.

The presenter of this very interesting topic will be the well known Daytona Beach News Journal columnist **MARK LANE..**

Mark does not require a big introduction. Anybody who reads our local paper has come across his many contribution on many issues.. **Lane has** worked for the News-Journal since 1980 as a reporter, copy editor, editorial writer and columnist. He has been writing his column full-time since 1999. He describes himself as having a "19th century career path," having started in the business as a copy boy when he was 17.

He has received a third place National Headliner Award, three National Society of Newspaper Columnist awards, seven citations from the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors, five Sunshine State Awards, four Florida Press Club awards and an FEA Media Excellence Award.

His blog, "Flablog", has been recognized as the longest-running blog on Florida politics.

Lane grew up in Daytona Beach and graduated from Seabreeze Senior High School. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in history from Boston University..

*Our pre-meeting lunch on February the*

11<sup>th</sup> 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 Mavis a call at (386) 677-3655

### **January Meeting**

*In January we came together to watch a very disturbing video presentation called*

#### **THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S SOUL.**

It was based on a 2005 speech by GN Coordinator Bruce Gagnon. The speech was delivered at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Gainesville, Florida during a speaking tour across that state. Mr. Gagnon is a former military person who in course of time believed he had learned the true nature of the American industrial / military establishment. It was a presentation which certainly forces one to reexamine the validity of the claimed lofty ideas of the US establishment

### **March meeting**

In our March 2006 meeting we will again welcome the well-known speaker Ken Hurley. He is the President of the ACLU in Jacksonville. He has spoken to our group a number of times and we are glad he can avail himself again. The topic will be announced in our March newsletter

### **February Board Meeting**

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

**February the 15<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 luncheon at 12:30 PM 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 February the 26<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 call Mavis and let her know of your intention, or just drop in. We are glad to see you.

### **Thoughts of the Editor**

#### **FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

What a wonderful phrase, but very often entirely misleading. The human species as with all other species in this world have very limited freedom of choice. Environment, physical ability, intelligence, education, background, just to name a few, dictate the framework in which any of them can function and exercise the freedom of choice. To give you a basic example; just imagine your son or daughter is of slight build, maybe even afflicted with a vision defect, desires to become a basketball star. It is obvious that due to the physical disadvantage he/she does not have a ghost of a chance to fulfill his ambition, regardless of desire. By the same token your daughter slightly build but tall and lanky, desires to become an Olympic gymnast. Her chances are equally zero. Let's consider another example. My neighbor's son has tremendous problems to understand basic mathematical laws which are prevalent in the field of science. His dream is to become an astronaut or a rocket scientist. Do you really believe that the selected choices of all the above is in any way achievable? I realize the above people could be successful in some other areas of enterprise but the phrase "freedom of choice" just does not apply. This misleading phrase becomes more pronounced in the field of economy and financial success of the individual. It is relatively easy to achieve financial success and independence when your wealthy **parents can send you to the finest prestigious institution** which among others prepares you for a life in the upper social stratosphere. On this level people are surrounded by professional people of every **caliber who, depending upon relationship, will advise and if needed assist them in all financial matters. Look at the political arena, which is saturated with well-connected people,**

*like the currently freely roaming 35,000 lobbyists in Washington, DC, who seem to favor each other but hardly the disadvantaged. They are a living example of the quote "the rich are getting richer and the poor ....." The simple truth seems to be our society does not provide an even playing field and the term freedom of choice should really read freedom of dreams. The above noun "choice" seems to me more or less a phrase of convenience to keep the little and disadvantaged people dreaming of the impossible.*

## **MEMBERS FORUM**

*This is the second of a series of monthly articles by Jim Strayer. The information comes from Internet sites and from the book Who's Who in Hell,*

by Warren Allen Smith.

### **Susan B. Anthony**

*Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820. She was raised in New York as a Quaker. She taught for a few years at a Quaker seminary and from there became a headmistress at a women's division of a school. At 29 years old, Anthony became involved in temperance and, later, abolition.*

*Her first involvement in the world of reform was in the temperance movement. This was one of the first expressions of original feminism in the United States and it dealt with the abuses of women and children who suffered from alcoholic husbands.*

In 1849, Susan gave her first public speech for the Daughters of Temperance and then helped found the Woman's State Temperance Society of New York, one of the first organizations of its time. In 1854, she devoted herself to the antislavery movement serving from 1856 to the outbreak of the civil war in 1861. She served as an agent for the American Antislavery Society. She then collaborated with Stanton and published the New York liberal weekly, "The Revolution" (1868-70), which called for equal pay for women.

In 1872, Susan demanded that women be given the same civil and political rights that had been extended to black males under the 14th and 15th amendments. She led a group of women to the polls in Rochester, NY, to test the right of

women to vote. She was arrested two weeks later and while awaiting trial, engaged in highly publicized lecture tours; in March 1873, she tried to vote again in city elections. After being tried and convicted of violating the voting laws, she succeeded in her refusal to pay the \$100 fine. From then on she campaigned endlessly for a federal woman suffrage amendment through the National Woman Suffrage Association (1869-90) and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (1890-1906), and by lecturing throughout the country.

Anthony, along with Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage, published the History of Woman Suffrage 4 vols. (1881-1902).

An agnostic, she claimed the Bible was a "He book" from beginning to end. It has a He-God, a He-Christ, and He-angels. Women have no glory anywhere in the pages of the Bible."

She died on March 13, 1906. In her final days she said, "To think that I have had more than sixty years of hard struggle for liberty, and then to die without it seems so cruel."

She never would have guessed that in 1979, her image would be chosen for the new dollar coin, making her the first woman to be depicted on US currency!

Here is an important message from Jim :

### **Darwin Day celebration.**

On February 12, 2006 I will lead a nature walk at Bicentennial Park in Ormond By the Sea.

The walk is short, only about one half mile over the secondary dunes. The purpose is understanding evolution. The environment of the dunes is a very good example of the evolutionary process.

Bicentennial Park is three miles north of Granada (Highway 40) on AIA. There is plenty of parking space, restrooms, drinking fountain and soft drink machine. The walk starts at 3:00 PM and will take about an hour (longer if some want to do the whole trail). Insects are not a problem. We will meet at the pagoda at the park entrance. and start the trip with a beautiful view of the ocean.

*There will be a Darwin table set up at the Feb. 1th meeting with much free material about Darwin and information about Bicentennial Park.*

Jim Strayer

## **OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR**

Due to some program changes of the **BIOGRAPHY SERIES**, Spring, 2006, the series had to be revised as follows:  
**Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 on the following dates:**

Session 7 January 5, 2006

**Baruch Spinoza by Don Kennedy**

Session 8 January 19, 2006

**John Curtis Marshall by Grace Shinell**

Session 9 February 2, 2006

**Anne Marrow Lindbergh by Ed Flanagan**

Session 10 February 16, 2006

**John Keats by Dottie Mann**

Session 11 March 2, 2006

**Dr. Herbert Shelton by John Lynch**

Session 12 March 16, 2006

**John C. Fremont by George Anderson**

Session 13 April 6, 2006

**Maya Angelou by Mimi Cerniglia**

Session 14 April 20, 2006

**Robert G. Ingersoll by Dan Kennedy**

Where: Unitarian Universalist Society  
386-677-6172

56 N. Halifax Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32175

## **Dear Members and Friends**

### **A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

At this time I wish to remind you again that it is the time of year when many of you have renewed your annual membership in the past. Please be so kind and mail your annual dues to the Treasurer. As of next month I will send a personal reminder if applicable.

I am pleased to announce, that Dan Kennedy stepped forward to become the sixth board member of our organization. Dan's wisdom and expertise will be a welcome addition to our group.

**Please note**

OUR WEB SITE:

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

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### **WISHES**

**TO ALL THE WONDERFUL  
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
WHO ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD**

**During the months of  
February and March  
many years ago !!!**

Dan KENNEDY	02.06
Eleonore NASH	02.06
Jim STRAYER	03.01

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

## **THE BOARD OF 2006**

The President **Jim Strayer**

**(386) 441-7410**

**Vice President** Dennis Deshaies  
**and Treasurer** **(904) 794-2706**  
**Secretary** Mavis Hamilton

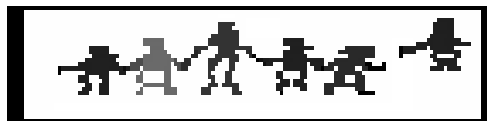
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**(386) 257-5628**

**Publication** Marti King  
**Coordinator** **(386) 672-2138**

**Board Member at Large** Dan Kennedy  
**(386) 672-2556**

## **Whatever you do**



**Wherever you go**

**Please**

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