

The



HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

April 2006

**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 : 04.08. 12:30 PM
Ormond Beach Library

Board Meeting : 04.19. 10:00 AM
Ormond Beach Library

Brunch / Bunch : 04.30. 10:30 AM
Tomoka Oaks Country Club

The Humanists of NE Florida

will meet on Saturday

APRIL the 8TH

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

MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL COAL MINING

The presenter of this program will be

Lenny Kohm.

Lenny Kohm is the campaign director for Appalachian Voices. Lenny worked for 15 years with the Gwich'in Indians of Northwest Canada and Northeast Alaska, traveling the country and presenting his slideshow presentation titled "The Last Great Wilderness," in support of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The heading of Lenny's slide presentation

"Appalachian Treasures"

demonstrates the struggle to "Save The Heart of Appalachia." A passionate advocate for both environmental protection and human rights, Lenny has devoted much of his life protecting the Arctic and an indigenous culture that he has grown to love. He now has taken that passion to Appalachia and the rich culture that resides there.

At the heart of this special presentation is the stunning Appalachian Treasures slideshow, featuring photos of Appalachia and mining sites, voice recordings from coalfield residents, and traditional Appalachian music.

Our pre-meeting lunch on April the 8th 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

March Meeting

In March we had the pleasure to welcome 60 guests who wanted to listen to Ken Hurlly as he presented the views of the ACLU concerning the present situation of the number ONE issue, namely the war in Iraq as well as the constitutional application of related issues.

May meeting

At the meeting in May we will be seeing the first time speaker to our group: Bud Murphy.

The topic of his presentation will be:

“ Secular versus Religious Morality”

Bud Murphy is the Pastor of the UU in Ormond Beach and as such the leader responsible for the spiritual well-being of his congregation.

April Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the month of April will be as usual on the third Wednesday of the month, which will be

April the 19th

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 April the 30th at 10:30 AM at the Tomoka Golf & Country Club, located at 20 Tomoka Oaks Blvd., North of Granada on Nova Rd. 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

The Promises of Freedom

It appears to me the word FREEDOM is one of the most frequent words used in the daily arena of politics. All activities and financial expansions undertaken or sanctioned by our Federal Government are claimed to be done for the purpose of protecting the freedom of the people of this great country. This noble sounding catch phrase used by people with authority permits them to use this as a tool to exploit the society in a multitude of ways. Just think for a moment of two events that we were confronted with lately .

1.The Government, represented by a few select people, was granted the right to spy secretly on the communication of its citizens and thereby of their guaranteed privacy.

2.The Government was selling (secretly?) important and very sensitive commercial entities (the operation of 6 Shipping Ports) to a foreign nation whose association with elements who had threatened the security of this country in more than one way was known. The country in question is as you well know the

United Arab Emirates.

This tiny country with a population of approx 2.5 million people which derive their wealth mainly from oil and gas export is supposed to be trusted with the awesome responsibility to manage the safe importation of a large variety of goods.

Can you imagine that this tiny country which harbors among its population 1.6 million non citizens of various origin, shall provide the US with a safe management operation?

Our “Wise Leader” is convinced of their integrity and reliability. It is astonishing how our administration can evaluate the complex nature of this almost unknown and mixed entity but were absolutely helpless to anticipate and plan properly to cope with the Katrina disaster in spite of plenty of warnings provided days before by the National Weather Bureau. The ensuing result to prevent human catastrophe

was as you all know Z I L C H . In light of this recently demonstrated incompetence, how can

anybody have faith in the judgment of our Commander in Chief and his inner circle?

MEMBERS FORUM

This is the fourth of a series of monthly articles contributed by Jim Strayer.

Clarence Darrow

by Art Thomas

Clarence Darrow, born in April 18, 1857 lawyer, Agnostic, liberal, defender of the "underdog" and fighter for civil rights, died on March 13, 1938. He had lived a full, useful, constructive life. As a speaker, he moved tens of thousands to an appreciation of Freethought and humanism. As a writer Darrow reached even a larger audience with his messages of enlightenment and realistic evaluations of supernaturalism.

Darrow, the lawyer, is known to most Americans. Darrow, the Freethinker, wasn't as widely known, but the spade work he did for Agnosticism stands out as a career in itself. He said many times that speaking and writing for Freethought were efforts he wanted to give to humanity, without financial rewards. Once, when asked his attitude toward religion, Darrow replied:

"I feel as I always have, that the earth is the home and the only home of man, and I am convinced that whatever he is to get out of his existence he must get while he is here."

At another time, Darrow said: "I am an Agnostic because I am not afraid to think. I am not afraid of any god in the universe who would send me or any other man or woman to hell. If there were such a being, he would not be a god; he would be a devil."

In July 1925, in Dayton, Tennessee the famous Scopes monkey trial took place. At this trial, the great moment came when Darrow made a monkey out of a creationist. Perhaps better said, Darrow caused the creationist, William Jennings Bryan, to make a monkey out of himself as he was pummeled into one tight spot after another, emerging each time breathless and in amazed chagrin, Bryan flushed, with spots of anger in his cheeks. His whole body sagged. Before our very eyes, he became a beaten man." Bryan died a few days after the trial.

The judge, himself a creationist, realized what

was happening and abruptly adjourned court. The next morning he ordered the cross-examination stopped and the record of the previous day's questioning stricken out. However, though officially off the record, the news was printed far and wide, thanks to the coverage of reporters like Herbert Davidson, who at that time worked for the Chicago Daily News.

Darrow never pulled his punches when firing away at supernaturalism. He envisaged the passing of Christianity and "all the mythology that has gripped the world so strangely through ignorance and yearning."

OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR

Here is another announcement of a

BIOGRAPHY PROGRAM SERIES

by the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

located at 56 N. Halifax Dr., in Ormond Beach.

Their phone is (386) 677-6172

Thursday, April 6, 2006

7:00 to 8:30 PM

Maya Angelou by Mimi Cerniglia

Thursday, April 20, 2006

7:00 to 8:30 PM

Robert G. Ingersoll by Dan Kennedy

IN MEMORIAM

With deep regrets we have learned that another long time member

“ Wayne Johnson “

has passed away. You probably remember having seen this tall rugged looking gentleman who lately attended our meetings with a patch over one of his eyes. Questioning him at one time about his pirate- look-a-like appearance I learned he had cancer in one eye which eventually led to the removal of the affected eye. In spite of this handicap he always appeared to be in good spirits. Apparently on March the 22nd he was admitted to the Ormond Memorial. Some administered medication did not agree and subsequently led to his demise. We all regret deeply his early departure. and wish to express our sincere sympathy to his family .

Dear Members and Friends

For the last two years the Humanist of Northeast Florida entertain a Website as expressed on the bottom of this column. Our former board member Larry Munding instigated, installed and maintains this window of our activities and presence. According to the monthly statistics we register a considerable amount of hits each month. We like to express our gratitude and appreciation for his expertise and effort.

Another Good Organization

The Center for Inquiry membership is made up of Secular Humanists. They do not hold monthly meetings, but they do have informative and interesting speakers every few months. We will try to keep our readers informed as to when the speakers will be in this area. Their web site is:
<http://www.centerforinquiry.net/daytona/>
 Their telephone number is (386) 671-1921

**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

Whatever you do

**Wherever you go
 Please**

Take good care of yourself !!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

WISHES

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

**During the months of
 April and May**

many years ago !!!

Marjorie DASH	04.20
Walter KONAK	04.22
Richard SIEGEL	04.23
John KING	05.17
James DASH	05.20
Harald PODGORA	05.29
Mavis HAMILTON	05.30

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

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THE BOARD OF 2006

The President	<i>Jim Strayer</i>
and Treasurer (temp)..	(386) 441-7410
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Please note



OUR WEB SITE:

**<http://northeastflorida.humanists.net/>
 Webmaster : Larry Munding**