

The HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175 PUBLISHED MONTHLY Mai 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 : 05.13. 12:30 PM
Ormond Beach Library

Board Meeting : 05.17. CANCELED
Ormond Beach Library

Brunch / Bunch : 05.28. 10:30 AM
Tomoka Oaks Country Club

The Humanists of NE Florida

will meet on Saturday

MAY the 13TH

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

“ SECULAR VERSUS RELIGIOUS MORALITY ”

This meeting will be conducted by *our first* time speaker to our group:

BUD MURPHY

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

Bud had been ordained as a Catholic Priest in 1967. He is now the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society in Ormond Beach, and describes himself as a “reverential agnostic”, Bud Murphy has the wisdom, experience and perspective to help us understand all sides of this issue.

A brief coffee/social hour will again take place after this meeting

Due to obligations and other commitments of our board members and frequent guests our pre-

meeting lunch on May the 13th will be cancelled.

April Meeting

In April we had the pleasure to welcome 35 guests who were interested to find out what happened to the mountain tops in West Virginia. We saw and heard more than we ever anticipated and I deeply regret that not more people could witness the unbelievable destruction taking place in this wonderful part of the Appalachians. All done for the purpose of extracting coal in the name of energy and therefore **MONEY**.

A very important comment concerning the above by Jim Strayer

The 4/8/06 meeting of the HONEF was an example of how Humanists can change things for the better. The speakers, Lenny Kohm and Austin Hall Presented the information on mountaintop removal mining in an easy to understand and scientific way. They explained why this practice affects Florida residents. I feel that the most important message they carried was how much a hand written letter means to politicians. E-mail does not carry the same weight as a personal letter. I believe that we should do what the speakers suggested and send letters to John Mica at his district office asking him to support the Clean water Protection Act (HR 2719) This a way for Humanists to be heard on important environmental issues.

This Act will amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that fill material cannot be comprised of waste from mountaintop activities - thereby sharply limiting mountaintop removal mining.

Send a short note to:

US Congressman John L. Mica
Maitland District Office
668 N. Orlando Ave. Ste. 208
Maitland, FL 32751-4495

June meeting

At the meeting in June we will have the pleasure to welcome our first time speaker to our group Dan Gribbin. The topic of the agenda will be "Inventing Yourself" in America.

May Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the month of May will also be canceled this month for same reason as listed on top of the page.

Brunch with the Bunch

Brunch with the Bunch will be on the **last Sunday** of each month; in this case it will be May **the 28th** at **10:30 AM** at the Tomoka Oaks 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

By The People For The People

How often have we heard this phrase used in conjunction with our free democratic society This phrase makes sometimes a mockery when it concerns the protection of the environment and the people who are part of it. It is amazing how nature is raped and destroyed as we had witnessed in the presentation of the Appalachian group during our April meeting in Ormond Beach. But it was not just nature which was obliterated, the people who called this their home and lived there for generations were to a large degree dispossessed of their homes and suffered from a tremendous emotional stress as well as financial loss. Just imagine a big corporation equipped with enormous earthmoving equipment dropped in front of your doorstep and apparently with the sanction of your government sets of explosions, moves a tremendous amount of earth from one place to another and in the process alters the landscape and with it established water levels and their natural flow pattern. We had witnessed how property values dropped subsequently by 75 %, people were robbed of their jobs and therefore their livelihood. Can anybody explain the application of this so very **frequently used** phrase "by the people for the people"! I am certain the people who suffer here enormously have not elected their representative to obliterate their existence.

MEMBERS FORUM

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

Sigmund Freud, (May 6, 1856 - 1939)

Sigmund Freud is known as the founder of psychoanalysis. His work on dream analysis and his theory of sexual behavior became famous. There were as many who disagreed with him as agreed with him. He is still quoted and studied today. In A & E's Ranking of the top 100 most influential people of the millennium Freud placed number twelve.

The principle that underlay his work was that mental experiences and entities, like physical ones, are part of nature. This meant that Freud could admit no mere accidents in mental procedures. The most nonsensical notion, the most casual slip of the tongue, the most fantastic dream, must have a meaning and can be used to unriddle the often incomprehensible maneuvers we call thinking.

His writings cover a variety of subjects. He wrote, "The state extracts the utmost degree of obedience and sacrifice from its citizens, but at the same time it treats them like children by an excess of secrecy and a censorship upon news and expression of opinion which leaves the spirits of those whose intellect it thus suppresses defenseless against every unfavorable turn of events and every sinister rumor. It absolves itself from the guarantees and treaties by which it was bound to other states and confesses shamelessly to lust for power and the private individual is then called upon to sanction in the name of patriotism."

What most of us are not familiar with is his stand against religion. Unlike many of the early researchers he never tried to hide his anti-religious feelings. He wrote, "Neither in my private life nor in my writings have I ever made a secret of being an out and out nonbeliever. When a man is freed of religion, he has a better chance to live a normal and wholesome life."

By the age of forty-two he had married his cousin and fathered six children.

TIME wrote of him: "Freud's ventures into culture — history, anthropology, literature, art, sociology,

the study of religion — have proved little less controversial, though they retain their fascination and plausibility and continue to enjoy a widespread reputation.

As a loyal follower of 19th century positivists, Freud drew a sharp distinction between religious faith (which is not checkable or correctable) and scientific inquiry (which is both). For himself, this meant the denial of truth-value to any religion whatever, including Judaism. As for politics, he left little doubt and said so plainly in his late — and still best known — essay:

"Civilization and Its Discontents" (1930), noting that the human animal, with its insatiable needs, must always remain an enemy to organized society, which exists largely to tamp down sexual and aggressive desires. At best, civilized living is a compromise between wishes and repression — not a comfortable doctrine. It ensures that Freud, taken straight, will never become truly popular, even if today we all speak Freud."

In mid-March 1938, when Freud was 81, the Nazis took over Austria, and after some reluctance, he emigrated to England with his wife and his favorite daughter and colleague Anna "to die in freedom." He got his wish, dying not long after the Nazis unleashed World War II by invading Poland.

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"Every library is an arsenal, and every truth is a monitor, ironclad and steel-plated."

Robert G. Ingersoll

It may be that ministers really think that their prayers do good and it may be that frogs imagine that their croaking brings spring."

Robert G. Ingersoll



Dear Members and Friends

Just a quick note to let you know that we finally found our 7th board member Russ Pizer. He is probably known by many as the president of the Freethinker/Humanist of Palm Coast . Russ has been leading the Palm coast group successfully for the last few years and we are certain will equally well contribute to the leadership of our chapter.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome our new member:
Albert JENKINS

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.

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
May and June
many years ago !!!

John KING	05.17
James DASH	05.20
Harald PODGORA	05.29
Mavis HAMILTON	05.30

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



THE BOARD OF 2006

The President	Jim Strayer
and Treasurer (temp)..	(386) 441-7410
Vice President	Dennis Deshaies
	(904) 794-2706
Secretary	Mavis Hamilton
	(386) 677-3655
Editor	Harald Podgora
	(386) 257-5628
Publication	Marti King
Coordinator	(386) 672-2138
Board Member at Large	Dan Kennedy
	(386) 672-2556
Board Member at Large	Russ Pizer
	(386) 447-1045



Please note
OUR WEB SITE:
<http://northeastflorida.humanists.net/>

Webmaster : Larry Munding