

The HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175 PUBLISHED MONTHLY February 2007

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
- **L**unch with the Bunch
- **T**houghts of the Editor
- **M**embers Forum
- **H**appy Birthday

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

CALENDAR

General Meeting : 02.10. 12:30 PM
Ormond Beach Library
Pre- Meeting Lunch : 10:30 AM Riviera C.C.

Board Meeting : 02.21. 10:00 AM
Ormond Beach Library

Lunch / Bunch : 02.25. 12:00 Noon
Tomoka Oaks Country Club

The Humanists of NE Florida

will meet on Saturday

February the 10TH

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

“The Status of Humanism”

This meeting will be conducted in the form of a round table discussion as we had done last fall. Many members enjoyed this type of presentation and subsequent interaction of all members. The moderators of this meeting will be our well known and eminently qualified members Dan Kennedy and Russ Pizer.

Our pre-meeting lunch on February the 10th 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

A brief coffee/social hour will again take place after this meeting. It will provide you with an opportunity to exchange thoughts with all the other members and guests

January Meeting

Our first meeting of the year 2007 was a very special and provocative one. Dr. Leonard Lempel took all 38 listeners via an excellently executed time line through the history of the middle east, thereby touching on the many elements of western political influences, which at times were bordering on subjugation of some Arabic – Islamic states. It is really no wonder that many of the subjugated people feeling oppressed by the western colonial masters harbor resentments transcending generations. Just look at any political map of our globe and it becomes very apparent how the western cultures dominated many parts of the world.

March meeting

The program and its topic for the month of March appears to be another topic of special interest to many of us. It is called

"A Comparison of Judaism, Islam and Christianity."

We are very fortunate to have as our speaker for our March 10th meeting, Mr. Stan Driban.

Mr. Driban is a retired lawyer now living in New Smyrna Beach,

This being a subject of enormous interest and importance to all of us, we can look forward to a robust discussion afterwards!

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 21st

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.

Lunch with the Bunch

*Lunch with the Bunch will be on the last Sunday of each month; in this case it will be **February the 25th** at **12:00 NOON** 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 Hamilton and let her know of your intention, or just drop in. We are glad to see you.

Thoughts of the Editor

The Dream Merchants –

" a journey of probability"

Long before the "Glitter Kings" of Hollywood dazzled the masses with their fantasies, the primitive homo sapiens huddled around their campfires and probably were looking often in bewilderment at the changing evening sky speculating about themselves and the world around them.

Regardless, of how primitive they were, they surely, after they mastered some sort of language, voiced opinions about many reoccurring events, such as rain storms, lightning and thunder just to name a very few. With the advent of intelligent speech and later on the ability to record their thoughts by some means, information or better the spread of information and ideas was born. In the absence of scientific investigation and subsequent proof, mankind fabricated in many various ways the perceived truth about themselves and the world around them.

This type of fabrication eventually found its way into many stories which frequently became the gospel of their culture. Not knowing better, the gospel eventually was accepted by them as historical truth. All religions in this world developed in a similar fashion. To make it creditable or believable what better way was there than the imaginary creation of a supreme power called God. In the course of thousand of years this God concept became so solidified that the majority of mankind could not accept any other possibility of explaining the millions of questionable wonders of our world. It stands to reason that the majority of mankind, in absence of knowledge, rather turn to the phrase " I believe" instead of searching for proof of their assumptions.

Only after the first scientists gradually drew the curtains of ignorance and fallacies did more and more people seriously question the prevailing stories of the various religions. It is absolutely amazing, that, in spite of the overwhelming majority of the scientific community, approximately 80%, not believing in the proclaimed truth of the holy scripture, the general public and their spokes-

people adhere to those unreal and never proofed dreamlike fantasies. What does it take to make the people on our earth face and accept reality? Is it ever going to happen?

In the absence of evidence, I have to say :

“ I do not think so !”

Before mankind achieves the wisdom of accepting the world in service for the good of all mankind, the fanatics of this world will use the acquired technology of nuclear destruction to blow us all to smithereens. They will transform our world into a dooms day inferno. Let's hope with them below..... it never will happen!



MEMBERS FORUM

This is the thirteenth of a series of monthly articles under the heading: “Humanists and Freethinkers,” contributed and created by Jim Strayer.

Sir Hermann Bondi (1919-2005),

Austrian-Jewish-British mathematician and cosmologist

He was a Self-described Humanist who never “felt the need for religion.”

At the age of 19 in 1938 he arranged his parents escape from Germany. He advanced in mathematics to become Professor of Mathematics and a Master of Churchill College, Cambridge. He retired from that position to become President of the Rationalist Press Association. His humanist activities are too numerous to be listed here.

One of his well known quotes;

“ Every one of us ... has met the criticism that in ethics we humanists live on Christian capital, that our moral attitudes are derived from Christianity. I believe this to be utterly wrong and that, on the contrary, what goes for modern Christian ethics is in fact derived from humanist values. For most of its history Christianity was ‘red in tooth and claw’. ... It is only in the last couple of centuries that Christian attitudes have gradually become ‘civilized’

and humane. Why? Because of the rise of humanism and skepticism. We have given Christianity its modern face, which often quotes the very nice things Jesus is reported to have said, and carefully omits the nasty sayings such as “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

In a witty discussion with Bishop John Robertson in 1987, “God,” said Bondi to Robertson, “was recently applying for a grant from a scientific institution to study the origins of Creation. It was declined on three grounds: first that there was no visible evidence that He had done any work on the subject for a long time; second because no one had been able to replicate the experiment; and third because the only records of it had not been published in any recognized scientific journal.”

Bondi is a good example that humanism is a world-wide movement and has been for centuries. He signed the Humanist Manifesto II and was extensively interviewed by Free Inquiry Magazine.

Humor and Laughter the Great Equalizer!

If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

Do you remember the dizzy looking blond called Tammy Faye Bakker Messner? Here is her message :

“I take Him shopping with me and I say ‘OK, Jesus, help me find a bargain.’”

Ingmar Bergman, Swedish film director and son of a Lutheran minister, was overheard saying:

“I hope I never get so old I get religious.”

Remember!

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.

Dear Members and Friends

It might be of general interest to know how many members and guests honored us with their presence at our monthly meetings during the past year. A total of 380 people came to our meetings and presumably enjoyed our presentations as well as our fellowship. We sincerely hope we can with your help continue in the same fashion. If you have any ideas or suggestions how to improve or expand our operation including this little monthly Newsletter, please do not hesitate to let us know. We definitely will appreciate any suggestion you may have.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome our new member:

Hal Amberg

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.



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
Jim Strayer 03.01
Bob Fiske 03.07*

**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

**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 !!!



Please note

OUR WEB SITE:

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

Webmaster : Larry Mundinger

