

The HUMANIST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANISTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

PO BOX 1143 ORMOND BEACH FL 32175

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

November 2007

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 : 11.10. 12:30 PM
Ormond Beach Library
Pre- Meeting Lunch : 11:30 AM

Board Meeting : 11.21. 10:00 AM
Ormond Beach Library

Lunch / Bunch : 11.25. 12:00 Noon
Greggs Restaurant

The Humanists of NE Florida

will meet on Saturday

NOVEMBER the 10th

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

**DEFINING ATHEISM:
Exposing the myths, exploring the taboos,
and defending its honor.**

The speaker on this hot topic will be
Earl Coggins.

He founded the First Coast Free thought Society, Jacksonville, FL. in 1998 as a social organization where atheists, agnostics and other non-believers could meet and discuss ideas. Now the organization is ramping up its educational and public-relations efforts to oppose religious intrusion in government.

"Atheists are almost being forced to become activists," Coggins said. " We know we are being pushed to become a little bit of an activist association."

Description of talk: Defining atheism: Exposing the myths, exploring the taboos, and defending its honor.

A pre-meeting lunch is planned for this meeting. It will take place at Greggs located on US 1, a quarter mile North of Granada on the east side of US 1 in Ormond Beach. If you wish to attend please give Mavis a call (386) 677-3655 or Jim Strayer at (386) 441-7410.

October Meeting

Our October meeting was attended by 15 members in addition to six of our board members. As planned and announced in our October issue the main agenda was the future of our organization. Up front let's say, we still could not

establish a new board which would continue to guide HONEF through the next couple of years; instead some suggestion were made with following outcome:

No. 1:

Discontinue the organization.

No. 2:

Find volunteers who for the next 6 to 10 months are willing to deliver a speech/topic or provide a speaker at our monthly meeting which would be of interest to the majority of our members. Questioning the members at the meeting about this idea at least 8 of them were willing to support and undertake such a venture. That means each month we would have a different speaker who would act also as the group leader of the month. His/Her responsibility would include to inform by phone or post card the membership of the next meeting as well as the proposed speaker and topic. No more dues and also no more news letter. After three months the general membership would review the success of this approach and decide if this method is acceptable.

No. 3:

You, the membership should express on attached form if you desire to continue the existence of this organization. From enclosed membership list pick a person whom you wish to see as a future president and vice president. The person(s) with most votes will be approached by the current board and asked to form a new board of his or hers choosing. The number of board members, if desired, could be reduced from 7 to 5 or if desired even to 3.



Enclosed with this news letter will be a list of all current members with the exception of those of the present board who elected not to be re nominated. In addition you will be supplied with a self-addressed and stamped

envelope. We ask you to express you opinion and return the envelope as soon as possible.



December Meeting

As in previous years we plan to meet for our annual end of year party. Details as far as location and time will be announced in our next news letter.

November Board Meeting

The Board meeting for the month of November will be as usual on the third Wednesday of the month, which will be **November the 21st** at 10:00 AM. The agenda for this meeting will be the future of "HONEF". 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 November the 25th at 12:00 NOON at **Gregg's** on US 1 a quarter mile north of Granada Blvd. 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. Since we are considering finding a better location for our monthly lunch it is very important to check with her or any other board member if time and location is unchanged. In any event we are glad to see you.

**Thoughts of the Editor
Crusade or Invasion**

Recently I had the pleasure to spend four weeks in the land of my birth - GERMANY. While there I learned a few things which were not totally

forgotten but were brought back to the surface of my mind. In a little town named Lorch I visited a cloister which was located in the midst of the "HOHENSTAUFFEN" clan. The Hohenstauffen were the rulers of a specific part of Germany many centuries ago. In this cloister was among many rooms a big special old circular room which accommodated a huge circular 10 by 30 oil painting depicting the history of the Hohenstauffen. What caught my attention was the fact that in the twelfth century a King called Frederic Bar Barossa with approval (or by demand) of the **HOLY FATHER** gathered a big army and continued the famous crusades through Southern Europe covering parts of Italy, Spain, Northern Africa and Turkish Empire to fight and destroy the influence of the Islam and its people. Within two centuries 7 crusades were undertaken by various European rulers. I do not know what they told their population at home why they were risking the lives of thousands and squandered valuable resources of their native population. One thing is certain, it all was done in the name of religion sanctioned by the prevailing Pope.

Those historical events reminds me of our current situation. Certainly, the names have changed, monarchies were replaced by democracies, instead ruled by kings we are ruled

"By the People for the People".

It seems to me that we in essence do something very similar/? O.K., we are not calling it crusades; but what is really the difference between a crusade and an invasion? The crusaders as well as the invaders pursue a similar purpose, namely to depress the existing social or economic structure and expand their influence and thereby power. What is or was our real purpose of invading a country of 25 million inhabitants? A country which did not have the ability or means to build airplanes or any ships of significant size or purpose. Nobody in its right mind could believe they were a thread to the most powerful nation (according to our leadership) on earth. I can not believe that we or any other society has the right to change by force the structure or philosophy of another civilization. So, what was the real reason?

I probably should not raise this question because no global power in mankind's history ever invaded another country or nation just for the love of mankind.

Members Forum

Did you know this utterly useless fact ?

Creationists believe that the Earth was created on **Oct. 23**, 4004 B.C., an idea attributed to the 17th-century Anglican Archbishop James Ussher. Strangely there was no mention of this in the newspapers. It would seem that this date should be more important than Christmas.

The Calf-Path *By --Sam Walter Foss*

One day, through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home, as good calves should;
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail as all calves do.

Since then two hundred years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead.
But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral ale.

The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;
And then a wise bell wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,
And drew the flock behind him, too,

As good bell wethers always do.
And from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was
made;

And many men wound in and out,
And dodged, and turned, and bent
And uttered words of righteous wrath
Because 'twas such a crooked path.
But still they followed---do not laugh---
The first migration of that calf,
And through this winding wood-way
stalked,
Because he wobbled when he walked.
This forest path became a lane,

That bent, and turned, and turned again;
This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with his load
Toiled on beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles in one.
And thus a century and a half

They trod the footsteps of that calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street;
And this, before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare;
And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis;
And men two centuries and a half
Trod the footsteps of that calf.
Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed the zigzag calf about;
And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.

A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.
They followed still his crooked his way,
And lost one hundred years a day;
For thus such reverence is lent
To well-established precedent.
A moral lesson this might teach,
Were I ordained and called to preach;
For men are prone to go it blind
Along the calf-paths of the mind,
And work away from sun to sun
To do what other men have done.
They follow in the beaten track,

And out and in, and forth and back,
And still there devious course pursue,
To keep the path that others do.

But how the wise old wood-gods laugh,
Who saw the first primeval calf!
Ah! many things this tale might teach--
But I am not ordained to preach.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
WISHES
TO ALL THE WONDERFUL
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD
During the months of
November and December**

Frank SEIBERT	11.05
Bonnie BOSTROM	11.18
Barbara EVELEIGH	11.21
Orvetta BRISTOL	12.07

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



THE BOARD OF 2007

The President and Treasurer (temp).	<i>Jim Strayer</i> (386) 441-7410
Vice President	<i>Dennis Deshaies</i> (904) 794-2706
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Please note

OUR WEB SITE:

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