

March 2016

Issue 3.3

Jefferson Humanists

Jefferson County Colorado Chapter of The American Humanists Association

www.jeffersonhumanists.org

Featured Speaker Jeanne Nicholson

ColoradoCareYES would transform the way we pay for health care in Colorado, assuring every Colorado resident excellent affordable health care similar to the way Medicare covers seniors.

Retired State Senator Jeanne Nicholson. is a registered nurse and holds a Masters degree in Community Health Nursing. She has long been a strong advocate for universal healthcare and currently serves on the Board and as vice-chair of the Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care. Jeanne will discuss health care in Colorado and the role of ColoradoCareYES.

March 27th 5:00PM
Jefferson Unitarian Church
14350 West 32nd Avenue
Golden, CO 80401

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Jeanne Nicholson, RN

Chapter Fundraiser Scheduled for April 10

Mark your calendars now for a very special evening of entertainment provided by our own Thomas Poole and his troupe, *Opera and Beyond*.

Our show, *Love Songs in Springtime*, will include a variety of musical numbers ranging from Jazz to Opera. If you enjoy music with a touch of theater and comedy, join us on Sunday, April 10 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Jefferson Unitarian Church for this important Chapter fundraiser.

The performance company, *Opera and Beyond*, consists of a professional troupe of international artists, including guitarist Al Ferguson, Soprano Tricia Pine, and Tenor soloist Thomas Poole, accompanied by pianists Mallory Bernstein and Lia Davis.

Al Ferguson, a recording artist, is one of Denver's leading jazz guitarists.

International star Tricia Pine has performed in concerts, musicals and operas in New York City, Japan, Austria and England.

Thomas Poole, a soloist for Opera Colorado and Colorado Symphony, has sung with symphony orchestras and opera companies around the world.

It is rare that such world-renowned entertainment is brought to us in Golden.

Tickets are \$20 per person. They will be available at the door, at Chapter Meetings, and on line at:
Brownpapertickets.com.

This event is sponsored by the Jefferson Humanists Chapter of the American Humanists Association, a 501c3 organization.

Dinner Menu for March 27

March 21st. is the official beginning of Spring and March is the month when everyone gets to be Irish for a day. So this month we're going to celebrate both the Vernal Equinox and the Wearing of the Green! Our menu is:

Corned Beef and Cabbage Quiche
Homemade Chunky Soda Bread Squares
Spring Greens Salad w/Homemade Apple Vinaigrette
Peppermint Bonbon Fudge Swirl



!!! PLEASE RSVP IF YOU PLAN ON STAYING FOR DINNER NO LATER THAN FRIDAY MORNING, March 26, 2016!!!
RSVP at <http://www.meetup.com/jeffcohumanists>

Ready – Set Become a **FROG**

The Jefferson Humanists reading group, known as FROG (AKA Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group), meets the 2nd Saturday of every month from 2-4 pm to discuss interesting, thought-provoking books and examine their humanist themes. The group is growing quickly, with a total of 20 active members. We invite you to join us.

In February, 12 FROG members met at Davie's Chuck Wagon Diner in Wheat Ridge to discuss *Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis. We enjoyed an interesting discussion on a variety of topics including the Black Plague, how humans face such devastating pandemics, and time travel.

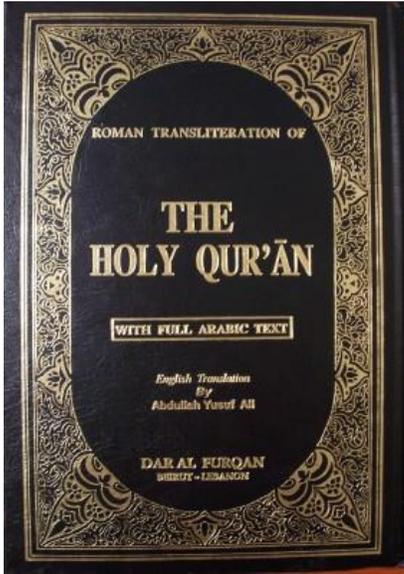
The most interesting topic: where would you go if you could travel through time? Some liked the idea of travelling back to an interesting point in the past, but others wisely chose travelling to the future, with the hope that humans will continue to progress and all will recognize and respect the dignity and worth of every human being.

On March 12th, we will meet at the Lakewood Library (10200 West 20th Avenue). Our topic of discussion is Islam and the Middle East. Members are invited to read any book on topic and share it with the rest of the group. It should lead to a lively discussion.

Facilitator: Gary Riskin

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP on Meetup (<http://meetu.ps/2VNh0R>) or email Matthew Elisha (mrelisha@msn.com). Or: 303-432-8694.

As we learned from Dr. Nader Hashemi at January's Humanist meeting, there is a major geo-political crisis in the Middle East that is more complex than it appears at first glance. The rise of ISIS has been created by history, differing religious philosophies, economics and the power struggle between nations in the region. For our March FROG meeting, we encourage members to read a book about Islam or the Middle East to better understand these issues. We'll each share important points from our books to help us better understand more about this volatile region, how Islam plays an integral part in its politics, and the relation between Middle East nations and their people. We invite you to read any book on the topic you like. If you need suggestions, here are a few:



- *A God who Hates: The Courageous Woman who Inflamed the Muslim World Speaks Out Against the Evils of Islam* by Wafa Sultan
- *The Caged Virgin: an Emancipation Proclamation for Women and Islam* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- *The Complete*

Infidel's Guide to the Koran by Robert Spencer

- *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes* by Tamim Ansary
- *Heretic: Why Islam needs a Reformation Now* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- *The History of the Sunni and Shia Split: Understanding the Divisions within Islam* by Jesse Harasta
- *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- *Islam: A Short History* by Karen Armstrong

- *Islam and the Future of Tolerance: a Dialogue* by Sam Harris
- *The Koran*
- *The Language of Secrets* by Ausma Zehanat Khan (local Denver author and wife of Nader Hashemi)
- *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam* by Reza Aslan
- *Rage against the Veil: The Courageous Life and Death of an Islamic Dissident* by Parvin Darabi
- *The Truth about Mohammed* by Robert Spencer
- *Understanding Muhammed and Muslims* by Ali Sina
- *What the Koran really Says* by Ibn Warraq
- *Why I am not a Muslim* by Ibn Warraq

Here is our FROG schedule for the next six months:

- **April 9th** - *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith and Love* by Dava Sobel
- **May 14th** - *Moral Tribes: Emotion, Reason and the Gap Between Us and Them* by Joshua Greene
- **June 11th** – Read a book about Thomas Jefferson or the Jeffersonian era to share with the group
- **July 9th** - *The Strange Case of the Ricketty Cossack and other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution* by Ian Tattersall
- **August 13th** – *Creating Change through Humanism* by Roy Speckhardt
- **September 10th** - *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Movie Night, March 5th: *Where to Invade Next*

Back in the fall, a group of JHA members got together to see *The Martian*, a movie based on a past FROG book selection. All agreed that it was a great time and something we'd like to do again. With that in mind, we are planning a movie outing on Saturday, March 5th.

We plan to see Michael Moore's new documentary, *Where to Invade Next*, in late afternoon followed by food and drink at a local restaurant. Since movie locations and times will change between the time of this publication and our planned date, please RSVP and find updated details about this event on Meetup at <http://meetu.ps/2VNjpd>. Contact Matthew Elisha (mrelisha@msn.com) with questions.

Documentarian and provocateur, Michael Moore, presents his latest documentary *Where to Invade Next*, a subversive and often humorous look at the social, political and economic state of our country. Moore



travels the world to find the best ideas from every country, and suggests we bring them back to the U.S.: from Italy with 30 guaranteed days of paid vacation; to France with nutritious and natural school lunches; to Finland a nation whose schools are ranked among the best in the world, yet students have shorter school days and little homework. In many case, these ideas began in the United States, but haven't progressed. As with past films, Moore asks what happened to the American dream and why hasn't our country progressed as far as many other first world countries?

Jefferson Humanists Library

The Jefferson Humanists has a library for our members. The collection includes books on humanist issues like science, evolution, history, religion, philosophy, politics, sociology, nature, and much more. We have over 200 books with works by Dawkins, Hitchens, Sagan, Vonnegut and many other excellent writers. A selection of library books are brought to monthly meetings for members to check out. The full collection is cataloged online at: <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/mrelisha/jeffersonhumanists>.

If you see books in the catalog that you'd like to check out, contact Matthew Elisha (mrelisha@msn.com), and he will bring the books to the next monthly meeting.

REMINDER: If you currently have books checked out from the library and are through with them, please remember to return them at the next monthly meeting.

Social Awareness

by Mari Cowley

Senior Hunger & Poverty in Colorado

Did you know that nearly 1 in 7 Coloradans struggle with hunger, facing times when there isn't enough money to buy food. Seniors are having to make the choice between buying food or buying life-saving medications. This should be unacceptable to Americans everywhere!

According to a study by the Economic Policy Institute, almost half of American seniors are in financially unstable situations. This doesn't mean they are living in poverty, but it does mean they are only one bad economic shock away from poverty. If something were to go terribly wrong, those seniors would struggle to do simple things like pay for food, medicine, and housing. While there are government safety net programs for seniors, they can't do everything. With today's political climate, those programs (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid) are under threat of being cut or eliminated entirely. These programs may be all a senior has, and without them they would not be able to pay for the essentials some of us take for granted.

Last week when you went to the grocery store did you have to choose between buying food or paying for a prescription? For most, probably not. In 2014, Food Bank of the Rockies served approximately 411,000 people. Of that number, 14% of the clients were seniors and 19% were grandparents who had the responsibility of grandchildren living with them. Seventy percent of those seniors have income that is at or below the poverty level. Of those folks 61% had to choose between medicine and food, 65% had to choose between mortgage or rent and food, 68% had to choose between transportation and food, and 72% had to choose between utilities and food.

Elder poverty, however you measure it, is not going away. While numbers can be massaged to present a brighter picture, there is the worrisome trend that senior poverty rates are projected to rise in the years ahead. The only question is by how much.

The Social Security Administration projects elderly poverty rising in the coming decades from 10.4% in 2010 to 17.9% in 2040.

Here are some of the factors identified as leading to this rise in elder poverty:

- Healthcare inflation has outpaced Social Security cost-of-living adjustments for two decades.
- Medicare premiums, deductibles, co-pays and out of pocket costs for those items not covered by Medicare, rose 34% from 1992 to 2010, or \$5197.00 in real terms.
- In 2013, Medicare's Trustees Report projects that the program will keep eating a bigger portion of Social Security benefits, going from 11.2% to 15.6% in 2025.

While many of us may not have considered living to 2025, here we are just a few years away.

According to Reuters, there are 10,000 people turning 65 every day and the fastest growing segment of homeless are among the elderly. Can you imagine being 85 and homeless?

When it comes to the story of aging in America, there are two bottom lines. The first is that everyone is getting older. That of course brings attendant health and mobility issues, as well as added costs. The second bottom line is that a huge portion of our rapidly aging population isn't going to have the financial resources to live out their lives in independent comfort and security.

To quote the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, "It's not the cost of living that's really the problem, it's the cost of trying to stay alive."

If we're committed to doing good outside a religious setting, what are you doing? Doing good isn't only measured by how much money you throw at a situation, but small personal acts of getting involved. You get involved by volunteering your time and energy, along with your finances. It's working side by side with others to make a better life for our elders. The new reality is that it's not an "us" or "them" situation anymore. It's a community situation. It needs to be a collaborative effort if we are to make a difference and *You* can make a difference!

ANOTHER LITTLE REMINDER

Please visit

<http://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/>
to RSVP when you plan on staying for dinner
after Chapter Meetings!

Member to Member Group to Meet in Early March

Member to Member (M2M) is a support group of and for Jefferson Humanists, designed to foster connectivity among our members by providing help to each other when in need.

The group will meet again on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 11:00am, at the home of Nancy Bolt and Bob Hofmann in Arvada. We will work through some logistics and telecommunications issues so that we can start serving our members soon. We will also discuss training for ourselves and all the volunteers.

Volunteers can sign up for any (or all) of the following Service Areas:

1. Providing **Rides** or assisting with carpooling. Examples: Driving a member to a doctor's appointment when they are unable to drive; helping members who do not drive at night to attend meetings; arranging carpools.
2. Preparing **Meals** for members when they are temporarily unable to cook for themselves. Delivering these meals might be done by these volunteers or the "Rides" group might help with this task.
3. **Equipment On-Loan:** Facilitating the loaning of medical and home repair equipment. Example: A member might prefer to borrow a walker or crutches to use for a few weeks rather than buy these. A member might wish to borrow a saw or ladder for a single use, rather than buy a new one.
4. **Caring for Pets:** Temporary care of a member's pets when they are incapacitated or even just on vacation.
5. **Greetings:** Sending out emails, email cards or paper cards to members who have had a significant event in their lives; a welcoming card could be sent to new members. These volunteers could also perform Outreach to see how members are doing after a difficult life event.
6. **Visiting/Listening:** Occasional visiting and/or phoning of members who are temporarily disabled. Visiting a caregiver to relieve him/her for a few hours.
7. **Other:** Miscellaneous assistance, such as minor help with cellphones and other technology; shoveling snow or lawn mowing; etc.

8. **Coordinating:** Includes establishing and maintaining a database of volunteers who are ready to provide services for JH members.

Please let us know if you will attend the next meeting or if you will volunteer when we are organized. To sign up or to RSVP for the meeting or for directions, please contact:

Paul Deines: Ockham1956@gmail.com
Eve Simpson: GiveAHoot7@Outlook.com
Nancy Bolt: nancybolt@earthlink.net

Hope to see you there!

JH Chapter Visits Denver Sunday Assembly (DSA)

Reporter Jim Bole

DSA meets at Swallow Hill 3rd Sundays at noon. A group of Jefferson Humanists visited Feb. 21 and enjoyed the speaker, John Krieger, CO ACLU Outreach Director, who discussed issues in Colorado: solitary confinement in prisons; laws criminalizing homelessness; the “Right to Rest” act, which the legislature currently is considering. Learn more about the latter at the CO ACLU web site and I recommend contacting your legislator to urge approval. I think becoming a member of ACLU and supporting their work is consistent with core principles of Humanism.



Jefferson Humanists lunch after attend DSA

We also heard a reading from “To Kill a Mockingbird,” honoring the life of Harper Lee, who recently died. The band Pale Blue, made up mostly of Hub members, treated us to rousing, foot-tapping music with singing words projected on a screen. We had the opportunity to say hello and talk with fellow DSA attendees. Two I met were Nick Carpenter, who organized the program, and Chauncey, a friendly young man sitting near me.

Nick asked me to say a few words to the audience about Humanism. I plugged our chapter by telling about 4th Sunday programs, reading our mission statement and fundamentals of Humanism from our chapter brochure and inviting all to visit us. Finally, most of the JH group enjoyed lunch together across the street at Colores Italian Restaurant. Let’s do this again March 20! Let me know if you want to go.

randjbole@gmail.com

Peggy North was there and told me she is moving to the Western Slope. Her last meeting with us is the Feb. 28 program. We wish you the best Peggy and hope you will be able to connect with fellow Humanists in your new surroundings!

Book Reviews and Editorials

A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos – by Dava Sobel (2014)

Book review by Jim Bole

One of the greatest scientists of all time, Nicolaus Copernicus, lived in Poland, 1473-1543, during a time of smothering Roman Catholic Church control and repression in response to the early growth of the Lutheran Church, which precipitated the Inquisition. The great man early in life became convinced the sun was the center of the orbiting, spinning planets, including earth, and spent until his last years making visual observations of planetary motions (telescopes were not yet available), thus collecting vast amounts of data supporting his sun-centered hypothesis and the rotating/orbiting motions of earth.

A young professor of mathematics convinced the aged Copernicus to publish his book, finally overcoming his fear of ridicule from other scientists and censure from the church and advancing the notion that the earth moves and is not the center of the universe. This assertion flew in the face of all “common sense.” No one could feel the earth moving!

The author brings Copernicus to life through personal letters, writings of contemporary scientists and the history of Central Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries.

If you were tantalized by Connie Willis' *Doomsday Book* description of life in the 14th century, you'll find Sobel's story much richer.

The Church's suppression of knowledge contrary to that of the Bible (e.g., at Joshua's command "the sun stood still") and its intimidating power to censure and punish are chilling and makes the 21st century feel wonderful. Our species has come a long way but there remain many challenges for Humanism.

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern – by Stephen Greenblatt (2011)
Book Review by Jim Bole

Thanks to fellow Jefferson Humanists member Lindy Baer for recommending this adventure story about the search for our humanist roots in writings of the Greeks Epicurus (4th century BCE) and his philosophical follower Lucretius (1st century BCE). The finding and publishing in the 15th century CE of Lucretius' ancient poem "On the nature of Things" was a major spur to the Renaissance, referred to by the author as the great cultural "swerve." The book projects major aspects of our intellectual history.

Outstanding to me was the thousand years of Catholic Church dogma, repression and intimidation (the Dark Ages) and the courage of a few scholars, particularly Poggio Bracciolini, in bringing to light ideas that eventually, in the 18th century, were written by Thomas Jefferson into the US Declaration of Independence, particularly "the right to the pursuit of happiness." Lucretius' beautiful poem includes the dangerous notions that "the universe functions without the aid of gods, that religious fear is damaging to human life, that pleasure and virtue are not opposites but intertwined, and that matter is made up of very small material particles in eternal motion, randomly colliding and swerving in new directions."

The small seaside resort of Herculaneum, playground of wealthy Romans, was destroyed along with nearby Pompeii in a massive eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. The ruins were discovered in the early 18th century and, in archaeological investigations to the present day, fragments of extensive libraries have been found, including writings of Epicurus and Lucretius. At least some people read widely and were drawn to these early Greek humanist writers. Much of



humankind's intellectual development was interrupted during the following fourteen centuries.

"No Agenda? A Humanist View of Justice Scalia" by David Niose

Submitted by Jim Bole

This article by David Niose was published Feb. 27, 2010 (6 years ago) in TheHumanist.com. I think it gives valuable perspective on Scalia's Supreme Court influence which began in 1986. Niose is the legal director of the American Humanist Association's Appignani Humanist Legal Center and author of *Fighting Back the Right: Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason*. He bases some comments on a 2009 biography by Joan Biskupic, *American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia*. I've selected a few salient quotations to provide an idea of Niose's points about Scalia and stimulate interest in the article.

"Yet as one begins to digest the details of Scalia's saga, one realizes that a psychology degree, rather than a background in law and journalism, might be the better qualification for putting Scalia's life and work in perspective. A qualified analyst, much more so than a legal scholar, could perhaps make sense of the seemingly inconsistent stew that is Scalia jurisprudence."

"Like no other Supreme Court Justice before or since, Scalia is famous (or infamous) for his uncompromising positions and combative style, his judicial opinions that often burst forth with brazenly injudicious rhetoric, and for his frequently sarcastic dismissal of opposing views."

"..., Scalia has arguably done more than any other single person to move the United States to the right over the last quarter century."

"...by championing the 'originalist' constitutional philosophy, which approaches constitutional issues mainly by considering what the Constitution literally says and asking what its framers intended, rather than attempting to apply evolving modern standards to the Constitution, Scalia is able to claim intellectual honesty. Though many will disagree with the outcomes of his analysis, he nevertheless claims without blushing that he applies a consistent originalist standard."

“Scalia’s ancestry, upbringing, personal development, academic background, and adult life all exude not just Catholicism, but often a conservative Catholicism, and the influence of this theological foundation on Scalia’s work would be difficult to exaggerate.”

“... he is a twenty-first-century man who, unlike many of the eighteenth-century men whom he claims to model, bases himself entirely on ancient revelation, prophecy, miracles, the incarnation, the ascension, and the legitimacy of a particular church that claims exclusive authority over all of this religious mysticism. ...therefore there is nothing improper about questioning the validity of these truth claims and asking whether a pluralistic, modern democracy should be dictated by such notions.”

“Within this framework there is little reason to think that young Nino, had he been born in a different time and place, would not have found great success in virtually any authoritarian environment, from the ecclesiastical environment of the Inquisition to the nationalistic and militaristic atmosphere of early twentieth-century Europe. It just so happens that he was born in modern America which, though at times hostile to his worldview, has ultimately proved to suit him and his views fairly well. As such, the humanist might ask: What does that say about modern America?”

Editor’s Note

Here are a few recent words on Justice Scalia by Jeffrey Toobin, “Talk of the Town.” *The New Yorker*, February 29, 2016. p. 17.

“Antonin Scalia, who died this month, after nearly three decades on the Supreme Court, devoted his professional life to making the United States a less fair, less tolerant, and less admirable democracy. Fortunately, he mostly failed. Belligerent with his colleagues, dismissive of his critics, nostalgic for a world where outsiders knew their place and stayed there, Scalia represents a perfect model for everything that President Obama should avoid in a successor.”

Give them their independence, give them their wings, and let them fly.

Earle Canfield, ANSWER Foundation

Program Review by Nancy Bolt

On February 28, Jefferson Humanists were pleased to host Earle Canfield, Executive Director of the ANSWER, a non-profit foundation that supports education of boys and girls in Nepal. Earle is a retired physician assistant and a longtime humanist. Twenty-two years ago, Earle visited Nepal for the first time, volunteering in a children’s hospital where he began to realize that health awareness would never improve until the people were educated to understand basic reasons for health care. This led to Earle moving from medicine to education.

Earle and his wife had sponsored a young woman through her education. He had been encouraged to expand his support to other children in the area. This caused Earle to consider how best to help educate young people and he began to also understand the difficulty of getting support from local populations. How do you help people without making them helpless? He felt that most efforts to help educate young women failed because the education is not supported long enough, that the students typically do not have to prove progress, and the sponsors are satisfied if the students get any job, rather than a good job that leads to a productive life. He felt there are three truisms which he calls “pearls of wisdom.”

- 1 Political and personal will – by government and individuals to improve their situation
- 2 Empowerment – of the people through education, this takes money
- 3 Sustainability—commitment to continue the effort with local resources

Successful programs understand these truisms and work to implement programs with these in mind. In 2000, Earl met with Madeshi migrants, landless tenant farmers in southern Nepal, one of the poorest population groups. He asked them how he could help. These completely uneducated people knew what they wanted: education and medicine. So he offered to teach the children in the morning and open a medical clinic in the afternoon.

At first they opened the school under a weather exposed trellis.

When Earle asked for a better shelter, the community built a school with help from a \$100 contribution from one of Earle's friends. The school was an immediate success - 60 kids attended and even adults began to study.

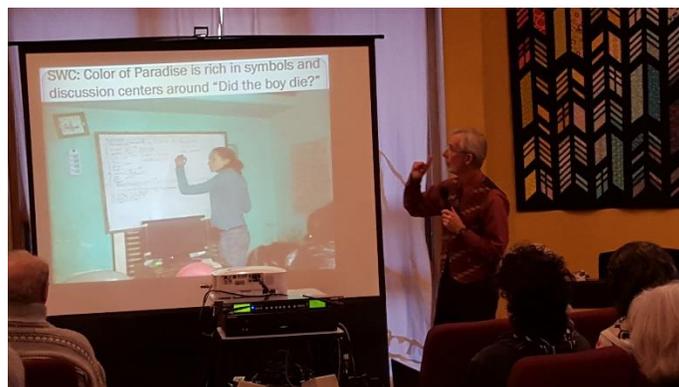
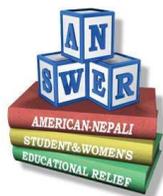
And fathers stood by with switches to beat the boys if they acted up. Earle found a better way. If they didn't behave and pay attention, they had to leave for the day. That was more successful than the switches.

As Earle conducted his school, he picked the brightest children to go to government schools and he raised money to buy them uniforms. Later he created ANSWER to allow others to sponsor children and sent them to the private school where teachers and curriculum are better and where they teach English.

Today, the original students are in college. At first, the community only allowed the boys to go to school. Earle made the case that the educated boys would not want to marry the uneducated girls in the community and girls were allowed to go to the school. Now more girls are in the program than boys.

All children are welcome to apply to become an ANSWER student, regardless of poverty or caste. To qualify, children must have supportive parents; they must keep their grades up (Earle sees their report cards); they must be committed to attending school regularly; and they must pass end of the year exams.

ANSWER has now educated 1200 children. They all go on to college and university. Most express interest in medical, scientific, and engineering careers. As they become educated, they become more inquisitive about the world in which they live. Earle encourages this with "social welfare" clubs there they show film, encourage discussion, and take on social projects. After the recent major earthquake in Nepal they helped rebuild homes of fellow students. They organized and were successful in a campaign to ban plastic bags in Nepal.



Earle Canfield discusses ANSWER at JH February Meeting

Earle has organized his education program using Humanist principles: He teaches social consciousness, inclusiveness, respect for the environment and life, free thinking, and pro-active response to community problems.

ANSWER is supported by people like you and me who agree to sponsor a student. I sponsor a 6th grade student named Nirjala. I pay \$300 a year for her tuition and books. In return I get a letter, photographs, and a report on her grades. I send her a letter every six months telling her about my life and children – and I get one back from her. If you would like to learn more about ANSWER or sponsor a student, go to <http://answernepal.org/>

Jefferson Humanists Chapter Programs through August 2016

March 27 – *Jeanne Nicholson, former Colorado Senator, Colorado Cares*

April 24 – *Devin Koontz, Public Affairs Director at USDA Food and Nutrition Service, The Importance of Vaccination*

May 22 – *Barbara Vasque, Nicaraguan environmentalist, The Economy vs the Environment: Building Artificial Reefs Nicaragua*

June 26 – *Jillian LAST NAME, Planned Parenthood, Helping Women*

July 24 – *Jefferson Humanists Annual summer Picnic*

August 28 – *Roy Speckhardt, Executive Director, American Humanist Association, Creating Change through Humanism*

Follow-up

by Nancy Bolt

In the January, 2016 issue of Jefferson Humanists, I wrote a review of the book *Flight and Rescue*, published by the US Holocaust Museum, about a little known route of escape of Jews from Germany to Japan. In the article I told the story of two lower level consulate officials, Jan Zwartendijk from the Dutch consulate and Chiune Sugihara from the Japanese consulate who signed the exit papers that allowed Jews to travel east. Earle Canfield, our February speaker read my review and sent the following message. It's truly a small world.

I want to congratulate you as being the first non-Japanese-American I have met who ever heard of Chiune Sugihara and knows his heroic deed, and then went on to share his heroic exploits with others. He is one of my personal heroes as he did this at great cost to his career and reputation....After the war he and his wife spent time in a Russian Prison Camp, and then deported to Japan. He was booted out of the diplomatic corps and could never get govt employment although highly educated. He spent some time selling light bulbs door to door until he landed a temporary position as a janitor on a US Navy Base in Japan.What you don't know is that I was 14 yrs old, I lived in Yokosuka Japan, the very Navy Base where Sugihara-san found employment. I remember our wordless encounter one afternoon in the Navy Exchange while I was reading the Jan 1961 issue of Mad Magazine in front of the magazine rack. A silent, elderly Japanese man with an air of erudition stopped in front of me with his push broom....our eyes met and I respectfully yielded, stepping back and let him and the broom sweep past. That moment where our eyes met said everything and I was haunted by his stare. I went back looking for him a few days later and couldn't find him, and sought out the petty officer managing the NX. He wasn't answering any questions, but wanted to know why I was looking for him. He finally said that he was working elsewhere. I never knew anymore than that for thirty or forty years when I learned about Sugihara-san and put all the facts together.

Earle Canfield

HELP WANTED

Jefferson Humanist Newsletter Seeking One More Column Editor

We are pleased with the response to the JH Newsletter. We would like to reinstitute two columns. Meet the Member includes interviews with JH members with a brief life story of their trip to Humanism. The second will be News from AHA, with brief updates on what is happening at the national level and a volunteer has now come forward for that column. Contact Nancy Bolt (nancybolt@earthlink.net) if you are interested in writing the Meet the Member column.

Nancy M. Bolt, 11710 West 76th Drive. Arvada, CO 80005

303 642 0338 (office). 303 905 9347 (mobile)

nancybolt@earthlink.net

Jefferson Humanists also needs a new Meet-Up Manager. John Roesch has the site up and running, but would like to turn it over to new blood. Thanks John for the start-up work.

Contact Barb Bailey if interested.

barbaile@aol.com

303-979-0508

Please Provide Us with Feedback

Thank you for reading up to the end of this Newsletter. We will very much appreciate your feedback about the content, layout, font size and style. We also welcome articles and editorials.

Editors: Nancy Bolt nancybolt@earthlink.net

Bob Hofmann hofmannr@earthlink.net



Loving Humanity

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