

# SECULAR COLORADO

Hub | HOC | BA | FFRF | SA | SVC | AU | JH

## Third Presidential Debate to be Shown at the Hub

Well, "debate" is probably stretching it, but something will take place and be shown. Reality-based comedy? Performance Art? A battle for the survival of the country? A nation looking in the mirror, all at the same time? Nobody is quite sure.

At the second debate we didn't last 5 minutes before blurting out comments at the screen. Maybe this passion is healthy for the country?

We'll be telling people about this campaign for decades. There has never been anything like it at the national level in the media age. Let's have fun again, October 19 at 7 at the Secular Hub.

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## Secular Hub Fundraiser

Please join us for a very special evening of food and friends, and support the secular causes in the process! This is our main fundraising event for 2016 where we host a semi-formal dinner to raise money for the Secular Hub.

This year we will again feature an elegant catered dinner, entertainment, and a few short presentations. The Secular Hub provides a meeting place for all of the secular community and needs capital to pay the rent, bring speakers from around the country, and the myriad of other things that keep this place going. It is also a chance to talk directly with the Hub board of directors and other leaders in the Secular movement in Colorado. We will close the evening with a few honors and awards to special members and dear friends who have made their own individual impacts in our organization.



Tickets are available online and at the Hub for \$80 per plate with all proceeds going to support the Secular Hub in the coming year. Your ticket fee and all additional donations are tax deductible and very much appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: The evening is catered, seats are limited and tickets are only available in advance.

WHEN: November 5, 2016 at 7 pm (Doors open at 630 pm)

WHERE: The Secular Hub 3100 Downing St Suite C, Denver CO

DRESS: Semi-Formal

INFO: [www.secularhub.org](http://www.secularhub.org)

EMAIL: [info@secularhub.org](mailto:info@secularhub.org)

# HUMANISTS OF COLORADO

## Audience Participation

The November Controversy! event is but one of several audience-participation events held by the HOC recently. The Improvisational Comedy workshop held last June was our favorite event within memory. And, we can include the presidential debate viewing last month, since despite good intentions, we were unable to keep from making audible comments. Be sure to check out the third and final debate, to be shown at the Hub, on Wednesday, October 19th, sponsored by the Hub. And hey, it's a kind of improvisational comedy, as well!

## HOC PO Box Change

The HOC's Post Office box lapsed in June when nobody visited it for a month or more just at the time when its renewal was due. (The only renewal notice is a note in the box. Yeah, the Post Office is a bit dated in its technology.)

When this was realized, the old box was still available! Unfortunately, the software used to give out a box cannot be used to specify which box, it can only pick one at random. The numerous personnel tried valiantly for an hour, with no success. (Yeah, the Post Office is a bit dated in its technology.) So:

Humanists of Colorado  
PO Box 460475

## Controversy Over Animal Rights!

"Controversy" is the name of a recurring event at the HOC, led by Jerry Gilbert, who presents some information on a controversial topic, then asks audience members - all of them - to work at defending one side or the other, and not necessarily the side they favor. This second edition will concern animal rights. Jerry writes:

Many people keep pets, mostly cats and dogs. Pet owners are willing to go to great lengths and great expense to ensure that their pets live long and happy lives. Some owners have even risked their own lives to protect the animals they love. So, it is natural to assume that we protect our animals by giving them legal rights. But, under most state and federal laws, animals primarily are regarded as property and have little or no legal rights of their own.

The Animal Welfare Act (1966) is the only Federal law in the U.S. that regulates the treatment of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by dealers. Most states have laws which protect some animals from cruel treatment; and there are laws which designate some animals as endangered and thereby qualified for special protection. However, the prevailing legal stance is that while human beings have some obligation to protect the welfare of animals, animals are merely the property of people.

Even those laws which protect animals are limited. What moral guidelines should we as humanists use to decide how to respond when the interests of human beings clash with the welfare of other species? We have to examine the whole area of food production in order to arrive at some fundamental principles of animal treatment. So, which animals should be protected? How much protection should we accord them? What about species that aren't considered animals—does it make sense to protect them? Where do we draw the line?

Be prepared to think, discuss, debate, and, above all, question the attitudes we hold about other life forms.

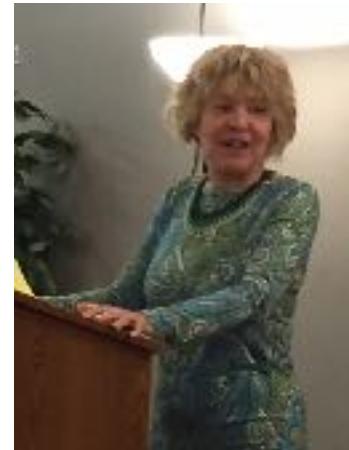
In a previous edition of CONTROVERSY, the HOC focused on Death with Dignity laws. On Election Day, November 9, there will be an amendment (prop 106) on the ballot about Colorado's proposed End of Life Options Act. Please vote!

# SECULAR HUB

In September, the Secular Hub celebrated Labor Day with a talk by Lynn Feiger, a well-known employment lawyer in the Denver area. She began her talk with the history of employee rights in the United States and how she herself became involved in employment law. In 1976, she and her partner took on the country's first sexual harassment case, which was against the company, Johns-Manville. At the time, sexual harassment was not illegal, but they won, laying the groundwork for employment law in this area. Ms. Feiger continued her work, moving into areas of "at will" employment and civil rights violations.

When asked what areas of employment law will become significant in the next several years, Ms. Feiger said that equal pay has become a bigger area for litigation, racial discrimination is still significant, and that discrimination cases against Muslims are expected to increase.

Banned Books Week at the end of September brought a talk by Secular Hub member Ken Goodman, a teacher-librarian who talked about the history of banned books and the challenges librarians face with parents or other patrons who want to restrict access to certain books.



September closed with the monthly Hub Hang, this time with a harvest theme. October's Hub Hang will be the annual fabulous Halloween party!

During October, the Hub will host viewing parties for Presidential and Vice-Presidential debates and will organize information sessions on local constitutional amendments where possible, including a debate on the Colorado Care Amendment 69 scheduled for October 15. The Secular Volunteer Corps will be working at the Bluff Lake Nature Center on October 8

(This newsletter will arrive too late for those events - Editor) Check the calendar for specific dates, times, and locations. Each week the Hub hosts Coffee & Community on Sunday mornings and Movie Night on Thursdays. Come join us!



# JEFFERSON HUMANISTS

## The Jefferson Humanists Happenings in October and Beyond by Tom Kellogg

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The Jefferson Humanists are growing! New members are signing up and going to events, so new regular events are slowly being added to the existing ones. Our Monthly Meetings feature amazing speakers, and include food and wine for a small donation. The FROG book club is also very popular.

The October Monthly Meeting is on Sunday the 23rd at 5:00 pm at the Jefferson Unitarian Church in East Golden. Everyone is welcome to our October program to learn about election forecasting. Our guest presenter is Dr. Michael Berry, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado, Denver. His talk, Forecasting the 2016 Presidential Election, is timely and will stimulate much discussion. For details go to <http://meetu.ps/30ztLV>

The JH book club, FROG (Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group) will meet on Saturday, November 12th at 1:45 pm at the Belmar Library. The November book is American Gods, a Hugo and Nebula award-winning novel by Neil Gaiman. In Gaiman's novel, gods and mythological creatures exist because people believe in them. Immigrants to the U.S. bring their old gods with them, but as people's beliefs fade, so too do the old gods. Meanwhile, new gods arise out of modern America's obsession with money, celebrity, media, technology and drugs.

A new monthly dinner social held at favorite local restaurants is in its 2nd month and getting established. This month on Thursday the 20th at 7:00 pm, we are going to Infinitus PIE in Wheat Ridge. It's a great pizza place where diners get their own personal pizza with anything or everything on it for a special price of \$7. They also have salads and other offerings as well as craft beers on tap. Everyone is welcome. For details go to <http://meetu.ps/313ZZz>

On October 1st the Jefferson Humanists sponsored the annual members retreat at a beautiful country club in the mountains. A lot of brainstorming and planning took place along with a presentation by a prominent Colorado State Senator, Pat Steadman, who talked about social justice issues facing Colorado.

**To see all of our event details on Meetup, go to:**

[www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists](http://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists)

**or visit our website at**

[jeffersonhumanists.org](http://jeffersonhumanists.org)

**to find out more about our organization and our activities.**

# GUEST OPINION

## Beyond Atheism by Tom Kellogg, October 2016

I recently listened to an incredibly fascinating and Mind Blowing interview on NPR with a person (I forgot his name) who used to be an atheist, but as he learned more about atheism, science and the Universe, went beyond being an Atheist until he finally arrived back into being a believer. I know this sounds really strange and when I first started listening to the interview, I thought it was strange, too. However, the guy presented such an amazing argument, my brain expanded three sizes that day.

The person being interviewed said that the more we learn about the Universe and science, the less we actually know about it, because as we start to uncover more knowledge, more questions are raised about all the things we don't know and we become aware that there is an infinite amount of knowledge to know. Our advanced animal brains can only comprehend a spec of this. The analogy he used to describe this is to imagine being at the end of a small pier on the edge of an infinite ocean peering out over it. We can only see a short distance into the unlimited depth and distance.

He described an unexplainable phenomenon that astronomers and scientist are starting to discover out in space of a new kind of space that defies any preexisting knowledge of what we know. There is some kind of unknown matter that exists where nothing should exist. This really got me thinking about some impossible and incomprehensible discoveries being made by science along with theories that are being proven to be true.

For instance, there is the particle theory where scientists are discovering that when two particles that have been associated with each other are separated by millions and millions of miles, somehow one of the particles reacts instantly to changes the other particle makes no matter how much time it would take light to travel that distance.

The Multiverse theory is the most mind blowing of all. It says that there are an infinite number of universes beyond our own, each with billions of galaxies each containing billions of stars, or something altogether different going on forever. Also, there is no beginning or end of time.

The point I am making here is that because there is infinite everything and we know less than a spec of sand's worth of knowledge on an infinite beach, it is impossible to rule out the existence of any kind of god-like thing, although it would still have to comply with every law of science and nature.

This also helps to prove that any kind of ancient scripture including the Bible is nothing more than made up stories of total mythology that have no basis in reality. The people who wrote these texts knew almost nothing about science or the world, and thought that the Sun, Moon and stars revolved around a flat Earth. Even science as we know it today will become fable in the future as totally new ways of looking at things will emerge.

I think this is what Neil Degrasse Tyson is getting at when he says that he is not an atheist. I'm still not ready to give up my Atheist banner, though.

**(Editor's Note: Disagree? Facts don't check? Have your own opinion:**

# SECULAR COLORADO

## Events

### Details in Online Calendar

#### *Monday, October 17*

6:00 PM (BA) Alter of the Brewpub, at Boulder Beer Company

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

#### *Tuesday, October 18*

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:30 PM (Hub) Secular Sisterhood Monthly Meeting

#### *Wednesday, October 19*

7:00 PM (Hub) Final Presidential Debate Viewing Party

#### *Thursday, October 20*

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Red Rock Coffeehouse, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "Westworld" (to prepare viewers for the new HBO series) at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

#### *Saturday, October 22*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

2:00 PM (FFRF) The True Meaning of Church/State Separation, with Attorney Edward Tabash, at the Hub

## More Events

### Details in Online Calendar

#### *Sunday, October 23*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

2:15 PM (BA) Lunch at the Med on Walnut

#### *Monday, October 24*

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

#### *Tuesday, October 25*

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

#### *Wednesday, October 26*

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation

#### *Thursday, October 27*

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

#### *Friday, October 28*

12:00 PM (BA) Monthly membership meeting, at Boulder Public Library Main Branch

7:00 PM (BA) Dinner in Lafayette

# SECULAR COLORADO

## Yet More Events Details in Online Calendar

*Saturday, October 29*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

*Sunday, October 30*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

10:00 AM (BA) Trash Pickup at Baseline Road, 28th Street Overpass

*Monday, October 31*

5:30 PM (Hub) Social Hour Southeast, at Darcy's Pub and Bistro

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

*Tuesday, November 1*

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

7:00 PM (BA) Monthly Evening Social at Murphy's, in Boulder

*Thursday, November 3*

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

## Yet More Events Details in Online Calendar

*Saturday, November 5*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

7:00 P.M. (Hub) Fourth Annual Fundraiser

*Sunday, November 6*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

*Monday, November 7*

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

*Tuesday, November 8*

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:30 PM (Hub) Newbie Night

*Thursday, November 10*

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

*Saturday, November 12*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

11:00 A.M. (Hub) S.N.A.P (Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests)

# SECULAR CONTACTS

This page contains contact information for the groups collaborating on this newsletter.

## *Secular Hub*

**Website:** <http://www.secularhub.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/SecularHub/>

## *Humanists of Colorado*

**Website:** <http://humanistsofcolorado.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/humanism-160>

## *Boulder Atheists*

**Website:** <http://www.boulderatheists.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Boulder-Atheists/>

## *Freedom From Religion Foundation*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/FFRF-Denver/>

## *Sunday Assembly*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Denver/>

## *Secular Volunteer Corps*

(Organized by the Secular Hub)

## *Americans United*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Americans-United-for-Separation-of-Church-State-Colorado/>

## *Jefferson Humanists*

**Website:** <http://jeffersonhumanists.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/jeffcohumanists>

## *Newsletter Inquiries:*

Send articles for consideration, letters to the editor, or inquiries to:

[info@humanistsofcolorado.org](mailto:info@humanistsofcolorado.org)