

May/June 2017  
Issue 5.04

# Jefferson Humanists

Jefferson County Colorado Chapter of The American Humanists Association  
[www.jeffersonhumanists.org](http://www.jeffersonhumanists.org)

## Our May Program

May 28 at 5pm

*Jefferson Unitarian Church*  
*14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden.*

### The Evolution of SRI

From Socially Responsible Investing  
to Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing

Our speaker is Richard Kevin O'Keefe, CFP

**M**r. O'Keefe is Chief Investment Officer and a Managing Member of First Affirmative Financial Network, LLC. He chairs the First Affirmative Investment Committee and is responsible for overseeing portfolio design and investment strategy. His program will be about how careful investing can also transform society for the better.

Decades ago, many investment managers found ways to meet the needs of investors who refused to invest in "sin stocks" (tobacco, alcohol, gambling, pornography, etc.) major polluters, weapons manufacturers, etc. Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) allowed investors to align their money with their values. Many derided SRI as "feel-good" investing, an approach that allowed the investor to sleep well, but which did not demonstrably change society for the better.

The industry has evolved. According to the 2016 Trends Report published every other year by The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment (USSIF), SRI investing assets have experienced 33% growth in the previous two years, and a 14-fold increase since 1995.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors are now increasingly being woven into the investment selection process. Community investing has become integral to many organizations' investment objectives.



**Richard Kevin O'Keefe**

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**RSVP to Barb Bailey for this May Meeting**  
**Phone: 303-979-0508, [barbaile@aol.com](mailto:barbaile@aol.com)**

## More about our May Program

### Presenter

Mr. O’Keefe was born in Chicago, Illinois. He earned a master’s degree in counseling psychology at Loyola Chicago and was employed as a social worker on the city’s Near North Side for two years. He moved to Colorado in 1978 where he entered the financial services field. He earned the Certified Financial Planner designation in 1981. Mr. O’Keefe and his wife live in Centennial, Colorado. Their children are grown, and they have three grandchildren.

He joined the company that was to become First Affirmative Financial Network as a registered representative and financial planner in 1991. His previous background includes two years in the Russell Investments system and eight years with EF Hutton & Co. He has held Series 7 (Registered Representative), 63 (Uniform Securities Agent) and 65 (Uniform Investment Advisor) licenses. He is a Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA®) and an Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF®).

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### Our June Program

June 25 at 5pm

*Jefferson Unitarian Church  
14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden.*

### Separation of State and Church

**Why all the fuss? How the Freedom From Religion Foundation works to keep the “wall of separation” from crumbling**

by

Claudette St.Pierre

**M**s. Claudette St. Pierre, President, Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF)—Denver Chapter will present what FFRF is doing to maintain the separations between church and state. Claudette was born and raised in Long Beach, California where she received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing in 1986. She has worked in the health care arena ever since and is currently a Pediatric Nurse Case Manager at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

The US Constitution’s First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Violations to the establishment clause are accelerating as the religious right campaigns to raid the public till and advance religion at taxpayer expense. They continue to attack our public education system and promote the false notion of “Christian persecution” while attempting to establish Christian privilege.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) recognizes that the United States was first among nations to adopt a secular Constitution. The founders who wrote the U.S. Constitution wanted citizens to be free to support the church of their choice, or no religion at all. Our Constitution was very purposefully written as a godless document, whose only references to religion are exclusionary. Today you will learn how FFRF has been fighting every day since 1978 for freethinkers across the country. You will hear about some key “wins” and how those have kept the “wall of separation” from crumbling.



Claudette’s transition to freethinker and atheist began slowly. She was raised catholic, attending catholic schools for 12 years and always had doubts. She became a non-believer over time after reading, asking questions and learning more about being a freethinker.

It wasn’t until a few years ago that she could comfortably say: “I am an atheist. I believe that it is a process for everyone. Some people can immediately declare themselves, while other people need time to grow and evolve in their thinking”.

Claudette has been a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation since 2009. She has served on the board of directors of the local Denver chapter of the Freedom From Religion Foundation since its inception in 2013.

### Other Upcoming Meeting Programs

July 23: Annual Summer Picnic Potluck. Applewood Park

August 27: Soaring Past 7 Billion: Population Challenges for a Crowded World: John Seager, President and CEO, Population Connection. Jefferson Unitarian Church.

September 24: Planet Mars: History and Future. The speaker will be Dr. Steve Lee, Curator, Planet Science, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Jefferson Unitarian Church.

## Jefferson Humanists Book Discussion Group



**(FROG: (Freethinkers Reading  
Opportunity Group)**

Come join our Jefferson Humanists reading group. We meet every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month and have great discussions about thought provoking books on a wide variety of topics. We currently have around 30 FROG members with around 12-16 attending every meeting. You can find details about our upcoming books and topics on Meetup at [www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists](http://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists). If you'd like to join the group and be added to our email list, contact FROG leader Matthew Elisha ([mrelisha@msn.com](mailto:mrelisha@msn.com), 303.432.8694).

Our May book is *God No! Signs you may already be an atheist and other magical tales* by magician Penn Jillette (of Penn and Teller). Penn creates a scathing, amusing reinterpretation of The Ten Commandments retitled, The Penn Commandments, and shares his experiences as an atheist. In doing so, he reveals that doubt, skepticism and wonder should be celebrated and cherished, rather than suppressed.

For more information and to RSVP online, see <http://meetu.ps/382Y6k>.

**Date:** Saturday, May 13th  
**Time:** 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
**Reading Assignment:** *God No!* by Penn Jillette  
**Facilitator:** Carole Hughes  
**Location:** Lakewood Library, 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Miller, Lakewood

*If every trace of any single religion were wiped out and nothing were passed on, it would never be created exactly that way again. There might be some other nonsense in its place, but not that exact nonsense. If all of science were wiped out, it would still be true and someone would find a way to figure it all out again. ~ Penn Jillette*

Our June book is *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Flight for Life* by Edward O. Wilson. Wilson, Harvard Research Professor Emeritus, proposes a plan to save our Earth from what seems to be an inevitable human influenced sixth extinction: devote half the Earth to nature. Wilson creates a unique, visionary blueprint for saving our planet and argues that our current situation can't be solved piecemeal and requires a bold move by humans. Though the world continues to be rapidly developed, he contends that there are still broad expanses of nature, such as the Amazon

region, the Congo Basin, New Guinea, etc., that can be restored and corridors created for wildlife. Too, oceans can rapidly regain their biodiversity if we stop fishing in the open sea. His last reasonable proposal: do no further harm to the rest of life.

For more information and to RSVP, see <http://meetu.ps/38LVXm>.

**Date:** Saturday, June 10th  
**Time:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
**Reading Assignment:** *Half-Earth* by Edward O. Wilson  
**Facilitator:** Matthew Elisha  
**Location:** Lakewood Library, 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Miller, Lakewood

*Destroying a rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal. ~ Edward O. Wilson*

### Upcoming schedule:

- June 10<sup>th</sup> - *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Flight for Life* by Edward O. Wilson
- July 8<sup>th</sup> - *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – TOPIC: Overpopulation
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – *The Plot Against America* by Phillip Roth

## April 8 FROG Meeting Robotics: What Does the Future Hold? by Carol Hughes

On April 8 fifteen humanists gathered at the Stanley Lake Library to discuss the topic of robots. This month, rather than reading the same book, participants chose different material focusing on the same general subject matter. Fiction titles included *The Naked Sun* and *I Robot* by Isaac Asimov, *The Automatic Detective* by A. Lee Martinez, and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sleep?* by Philip K. Dick. Two non-fiction books (*Rise of the Robots* by Martin Ford and *The Second Machine Age* by Eric Brynolfsson and Andrew McAfee) as well as a number of research papers and magazine articles rounded out the reading done by the group in preparation for our discussion.

The conversation explored a number of fascinating questions. What is society's obligation to entire classes of people who have been made obsolete by automation and cannot be re-trained for the new economy? What will humans have as a purpose in life when automation reaches its full potential? Assuming society becomes dependent upon automatons, how do we avoid catastrophic disruption when those robots become inoperable or corrupted through

such events as an electromagnetic pulse or network virus?

While several among us expressed much trepidation about a future dominated by increased automation, some participants were more optimistic about the possibilities for improved conditions in a world where robots will undertake sophisticated tasks. There seemed to be agreement, though, that it is the robots' owners who are most likely to benefit from the new machine age.

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## Top Ten Challenged Books in Libraries in 2016 Published by the Office of Intellectual Freedom American Library Association

The list of the Top Ten Challenged Books of 2016 has been issued by ALA. This year's list explores a range of genres (young adult, fiction, memoir) and formats (novels, graphic novels, picture books), but they have one thing in common: each book was threatened with removal from spaces where diverse ideas and perspectives should be welcomed.

The annual list is compiled by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF); OIF calculates the Top Ten by documenting public media articles of challenges, and censorship reports submitted through the office's [reporting form](#). For an in-depth look at censorship trends, check out the [State of America's Libraries Report](#).

Unfortunately, the reasons for the challenges had very similar reasons. All of them were challenged because of some relationship to sex, mostly LGBT or transgender issues. Here are the books and why they were challenged and in some school and public libraries, they were removed from the shelves. Makes a good reading list.

*This One Summer* written by Mariko Tamaki and illustrated by Jillian Tamaki. This young adult graphic novel, winner of both a Printz and a Caldecott Honor Award, was restricted, relocated, and banned because it includes LGBT characters, drug use, and profanity, and it was considered sexually explicit with mature themes.

*Drama* written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier. Parents, librarians, and administrators banned this Stonewall Honor Award-winning graphic novel for young adults because it includes LGBT characters, was deemed sexually explicit, and was considered to have an offensive political viewpoint.

*George* written by Alex Gino. Despite winning a Stonewall Award and a Lambda Literary Award, administrators removed this children's novel because it includes a transgender child, and the "sexuality was not appropriate at elementary levels."

*I Am Jazz* written by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings, and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas. This children's picture book memoir was challenged and removed because it portrays a transgender child and because of language, sex education, and offensive viewpoints.

*Two Boys Kissing* written by David Levithan. Included on the National Book Award longlist and designated a Stonewall Honor Book, this young adult novel was challenged because its cover has an image of two boys kissing, and it was considered to include sexually explicit LGBT content.

*Looking for Alaska* written by John Green. This 2006 Printz Award winner is a young adult novel that was challenged and restricted for a sexually explicit scene that may lead a student to "sexual experimentation."

*Big Hard Sex Criminals* written by Matt Fraction and illustrated by Chip Zdarsky. Considered to be sexually explicit by library staff and administrators, this compilation of adult comic books by two prolific award-winning artists was banned and challenged.

*Make Something Up: Stories You Can't Unread* written by Chuck Palahniuk. This collection of adult short stories, which received positive reviews from Newsweek and the New York Times, was challenged for profanity, sexual explicitness, and being "disgusting and all around offensive."

*Little Bill* (series) written by Bill Cosby and illustrated by Varnette P. Honeywood. This children's book series was challenged because of criminal sexual allegations against the author.

*Eleanor & Park* written by Rainbow Rowell. One of seven New York Times Notable Children's Books and a Printz Honor recipient, this young adult novel was challenged for offensive language.

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## JH Board Report by Edna Miller

Traci Bickell reported that the new website is up. Check it out at [www.jeffersonhumanists.org](http://www.jeffersonhumanists.org).

- Jim Bole reported that 200 copies of the new brochure have been printed and are ready for the Jefferson Humanists Page | 4

March on Science Booth on 4/22/17.

- A process to hire an Executive Director has been developed and a Selection Committee will be appointed.
- Jim Bole presented the recommendation for Carole Hughes to be our 9<sup>th</sup> Board Member. The motion to approve Carole Hughes as a Board Member passed. She will fill Paul Deines term through 12/2018.
- A committee and chairperson are needed for the planned giving program. Chuck Mowry requested the Executive Committee check the data base for names and bring recommendations to the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- We are using a caterer, **A Personal Chef Catering Service**, for the April, May and June monthly dinners. RSVP's will be accepted until 6:00 pm the Thursday before the Sunday dinner
- Jim Bole and Tom Kellogg presented a proposal for a 2-tiered nature walk that could become a monthly event. (See Report) The first walk will be in May.

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## Carole Hughes Elected Board Director

by Jim Bole

**A**t the April 13 Board meeting, Carole Hughes was elected to fill the remaining 21 months of a 36-month Director position vacated in January by Paul Deines. Carole was raised in the California Bay Area, graduated from UC Berkeley, has professional experience in Human Resources, Employee Management and Contract Negotiations, and is a long-time Humanist. She and husband Ralph manage a business from their home. With the Jefferson Humanists, she is a prime mover and supporter of the Jeffco Political Action Taskforce and a frequent participant or volunteer in other chapter activities. We are delighted to welcome Carole into this leadership position!

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## A First for Colorado Humanists

**Another sign of the cultural shift toward Science and Humanism.**

**O**n Monday, May 1st Tim Bailey, an accredited American Humanist Association Celebrant, became the first Humanist to be invited to offer the Invocation to open the Colorado House of Representatives. Tim and his wife Jennifer are both Celebrants and members of Jefferson Humanists and the Secular Hub in Denver. To our knowledge this was the first time a secular person was invited to do the Invocation.

## New JH Monthly Event 2-Tiered Nature Walk in the Woods at Different Locations

by Tom Kellogg, Jim Bole and Matthew Elisha

**I**f you like walking or hiking and enjoying the splendor of nature, we invite you to join us for our new monthly event, a nature walk with two routes, each with a different level of difficulty for a variety of fitness levels. It is a great chance to get some exercise while enjoying the company of your fellow humanists.

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** is our initial kickoff of a recurring event that will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month at different scenic locations. Our first walk/hike will start in Downtown Golden on the Clear Creek Trail going west. We will meet at the Golden Visitors Center parking lot on the SW corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Washington on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. See below for more details.

**On Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am** we are planning on going to Genesee Mountain Park, a few miles up I70 from Golden. It has one of the most incredible panoramic views to be found anywhere. On Genesee Mountain, from the same spot, you can see most of Denver, then turn around and see a sweeping view of the Continental Divide. There are two routes up the mountain from the main parking/picnic area. For the slow walk, folks will be driven to the top of Genesee Mountain (or as close as possible) where they can walk around on some short trails to see the breath-taking views. The hike will start at the parking lot and go on a trail straight up the side of the mountain to the top. Carpooling will be available at JUC. More details will be announced soon, or email/call Tom Kellogg at [kellogg52@gmail.com](mailto:kellogg52@gmail.com), (720) 524-3972 (home) or (720) 397-7052 (cell).

**General Program Description:** The time of day may change during different seasons. In the summer, we may walk in the early evenings. We will always split into two groups by level of challenge or interest. One group will do an easy, slow walk for about a mile that is cane-friendly, and suitable for young kids. There will be stops along the way to study the natural beauty.

The other group sets out on a vigorous hike of about 2 to 3 miles at a much faster pace. Both groups will time their adventures to end up at the starting place around the same time, with not more than 1.5 hours of actual trail time. This will make carpooling and socializing easier.

**The kickoff Walk/Hike event on May 6<sup>th</sup>** will be on the Clear Creek Trail starting in Downtown Golden going west. The slow "Walk" will be on a paved path up to around the 6th Avenue Highway at the base of Clear Creek Canyon and loop back on the other side of the creek. The "Hike" will continue on up the canyon on the trail, and

return on a trail along the irrigation channel on the south canyon wall, looping back to the Clear Creek Trail.

Distance for the short walk is around 1.2 miles, round trip, with an elevation gain of about 50 ft. Anyone can go back along the path if tired. The hike will be over 2 miles, with an elevation gain of over 100 ft.

**Make sure to bring a water bottle and wear comfortable clothes with good walking shoes. Bring sunscreen and a hat.**

We also encourage you to bring a picnic lunch that can be enjoyed with your fellow walkers after the hike at Parfet Park, just East of the Golden Visitors Center.

For more information on the May 6th event, click on the link to go to the JH Meetup.com announcement: [Meetup for May 6 Walk/Hike or email Tom at kellogg52@gmail.com.](#)

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## Secrets We Aren't Proud Of

by Mari Crowley

I don't know about you, but I grew up in a dysfunctional family. I also spent time in group therapy and realized I had dozens of brothers and sisters who grew up in "dysfunctional" families much like my own. Over time I came to terms with the fact that my parents did the best they could.

Because of my personal circumstances, I always knew I'd take care of my Mom if and when she reached the point in her life where she could no longer take care of herself. For years, I always said "she'd never live with me," but as her situation deteriorated, it became apparent that she would live with me. I just had to figure out how to get over, around or through my feelings. Along with that decision came feelings I wasn't ready to acknowledge. In the movies, caregivers only have loving thoughts every moment of the caregiving day. I learned that in real life, most caregivers do not fall into that category. If you're like me, you'll likely feel better knowing others have had the same thoughts. Here are some of those frequent non-angelic caregiver thoughts:

1. I have no life of my own and I'm sick of it!
2. How much longer can I keep this up? There is no light at the end of this tunnel.
3. Mom (or Dad) has no clue what I give up to do this. He/she thinks their care is routine.
4. Everybody wants a piece of me – there's nothing of myself left for me.
5. Nothing I do pleases him/her – they are never happy.
6. I just want to scream, run away, hide somewhere, or change my identity.
7. Maybe if I just take all of my husband's sleeping pills I won't have to wake up to this again.

8. She is suffering so much. Why can't she just let go and die?

Obviously, some of these thoughts are more serious than others, however what is most important is the frequency of the thoughts and the duration. Let's look at them more closely.

**Caregiver Confession #1: "I have no life of my own and I'm sick of it."** Caregivers often run from person to person, job to caregiver, home to nursing home, never really having time to do something that they want to do just for themselves. If this describes your life, you are over-ready to get outside help. Whether that means some in-home care for respite so you can get away, or a sibling to step in so you don't have to spend every moment of every day as a caregiver, it's time to get a grip on your life. If you don't, you may burn out, get sick yourself, or even die before the care receiver. Who wins then? No one.

**Caregiver Confession #2: "How much longer can I keep this up? There is no light at the end of this tunnel."** If you have these thoughts on occasion, you may be just having a normal, down day. Caregiving can be tough and demanding. Caregivers often become exhausted. However, if you find yourself thinking like this often, you should seek medical help. You may have clinical depression, which can require therapy and/or medication (if a break from constant care isn't enough). Please see your doctor.

**Caregiver Confession #3: "Mom/Dad has no clue what I give up to do this. He thinks his care is routine."** This is a tricky one. As caregivers, we don't want to make the care receiver feel like he or she is a burden to us. The flip side of that however, is that sometimes caregivers are so giving and cheerful all the time, that the care receiver completely loses sight of the fact that we give up a lot of our lives to be caregivers. Also, some care receivers are not cognitively capable of even understanding the concept that the caregiver has other obligations. If you have a constant nagging thought that you are unappreciated, you may be in over your head. Getting some respite care may help. Once the care receiver understands that you need to have a break, he or she may be more appreciative. Either way, if you take a break, you will likely feel more refreshed and able to cope with the situation.

**Caregiver Confession #4: "Everybody wants a piece of me – there's nothing of myself left for me."** Nearly every woman has had this feeling, whether it's a new mother with a baby demanding to be fed, changed, and nurtured while the boss is sending her emails from work, or a caregiver of elders who still has children who are needy, or a spouse or partner who feels neglected. In most cases, we get through this, but if it's ongoing, you may need a third party to help you decide what you can give and what others must do. Say you are the primary caregiver for your dad and your

mother-in-law. Your spouse is whiny because he/she feels neglected. It may be time to say, "If you help me by picking up some of this extra caregiving, we'll have more time together." This won't always work, but some spouses just don't "get" the teamwork concept unless they are directly approached. If this doesn't work, look for some paid help. **You need some time to yourself!**

**Caregiver Confession #5: "Nothing I do pleases them – they are never happy."** See number two above. This behavior is often not about you. It's about them and their unhappiness over all of their losses. Do your best to detach from the criticism and get breaks when you can. Not taking criticism seriously is the best way to avoid resentment. Trying to understand why they are so critical can help (I'm not talking about historic family abuse here – just crabby, complaining behavior).

**Caregiver Confession #6: "I just want to scream, run away, hide somewhere, or change my identity."** This is likely to happen to even the most patient caregivers. It's human to feel overwhelmed by the constant neediness of others. It's time to get some help with your caregiving so you can have a break. However, if you feel like this consistently, you should check with your doctor in case you are depressed or have other health issues of your own.

**Caregiver Confession #7: "Maybe if I just take all of Mom's sleeping pills I won't have to wake up to this again."** Get thee to a doctor immediately. Even occasional thoughts like this can mean you are clinically depressed and feel life is hopeless. Please get medical help now.

**Caregiver Confession #8: "She is suffering so much. Why can't she just let go and die?"** Believe it or not, this is a common thought. **You aren't a bad person.** Why would you want to watch day in, day out suffering, where the quality of life, such as it is, is poor. Getting hospice care for the individual can help a great deal. Hospice staff counsels family members and they generally have volunteers who can help you. You need breaks, even if the care receiver could die when you are gone. You can't sit by their bed side every minute, for months. There are worse things than death, so drop the guilt. You aren't the only one who has had this thought.

Feel better, now that you know you aren't alone with your thoughts? I'm sure you can add your own "confessions" to this list. You may even think, "Oh, I've thought worse things than this!"

The main point is that having passing "bad thoughts" is normal. You are tired, stressed and pulled in all directions. People are crabby to you and seem ungrateful. It's human to have negative thoughts. However, if you find yourself consistently thinking in this negative manner, it's time for outside help in the form of respite care for your loved one, breaks for you, or even counseling and/or medication for yourself. You may be depressed. That doesn't mean you are bad. You are just human. It's time to accept your humanity and get help.

**M**any Jefferson Humanists members have found a way to feel better in these days of depressing national politics: regular political action that will eventually tip the scales in the 2018 election. The Jeffco Political Action Taskforce (JPAT), a JH working group open to the public, is charging ahead with work in three major areas: 1) we are about to publish the first edition of our voter-persuasion tabloid, 2) we are organizing a series of public debates, and 3) we hold regular demonstrations in highly visible areas around the Denver metro area. This work is progressing well, but we could really use the help of another 20 to 30 people to make it a raging success.

Regarding the tabloid, JPAT has designed the *Rational Inquirer* as a mild spoof on the National Enquirer, which has blindly supported the new administration before it was even inaugurated. In the place of fulsome, fictional headlines, however, we display fact-based statements of how the new president is struggling to deliver on the disingenuous promises made during the campaign and how middle-of-the-road voters are quickly losing faith in him.

We have designed a "like it or not" series for the public, as in like it or not "politicians lie when they say they can create jobs," or "America is too complicated to survive without strong regulation", or even "an oligarchy now controls the United States." The goal of these events will be to get people out of what Facebook now shamefacedly refers to the "filter bubbles" that they have created for its users, enticing them back into the marketplace of ideas where hopefully rational, self-interest can re-orient them to candidates who proffer a more positive, realistic, and constructive visions for our country.

Finally, we are having a lot of fun attending street demonstrations such as the Scientist's March, Medicare for All, and a regular protest held every Saturday at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Wadsworth. The latter is an especially easy and effective way to reach a large group of people because over 6,000 cars pass that intersection in the span of one hour.

Altogether, these efforts will have an impact, but we could really use some help. For example, we need people to find places to display the tabloid so that members of the public will pick up a copy for reading. We need others to help us contact speakers to participate in the teams that will face off at the debates. And we need people to stand with us for 60 minutes every Saturday at our protest in Arvada. The time is now. If you're reading this article, you \*are\* the resistance—that's the way democracy works.

Either people care about the incompetence, cronyism, and corruption taking hold our Federal government, or they let

it take hold and Americans will get the government they deserve.

Reach out to JPAT and see how you can make a difference. Attend one of our meetings (details below) or contact Ralph Hughes, JPAT's current chairperson to discover how you can add your weight to our collective efforts. See you soon!

JPAT meetings are held a twice a month on Mondays, 5:45pm to 8:00pm at Infinitus Pies (Pizza) 5807 W. 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge 2 blocks east of Harlan on 38th Ave, between Wadsworth and Sheridan. The second Monday of every month is a general meeting where we welcome new members and review the state of the resistance. On the fourth Monday of the month, we meet in our breakout groups (environment, healthcare, and government integrity) to roll up our sleeves and get something important accomplished.

You can learn more from our website, [www.actiontaskforce.org](http://www.actiontaskforce.org) or by contacting Ralph at 720.951.2100.

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## Future and Past Humanist Perspectives Meetings

by Jim Bole & Tom Kellogg

At our next 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday meeting, **May 20, 10-noon**, at JUC in M1/2, we will view and discuss the Bill Maher film "**Religulous**." A commentator-comic, Maher plays devil's advocate with religion as he talks to believers about their faith. Traveling around the world, he examines the tenets of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and raises questions about homosexuality, proof of Christ's existence, Jewish Sabbath laws, and violent Muslim extremists. Join us for good humor, stimulating insights, coffee and breakfast morsels. RSVP at [meetup.com/jeffcohumanists](http://meetup.com/jeffcohumanists) or to Jim Bole at [randjbole@gmail.com](mailto:randjbole@gmail.com).

For our **June 17** meeting, same time and place, we will draw on short videos and our own stories of how we found Humanism.

On **April 15**, we heard a fascinating presentation by Jim Barron, "**Why We Have Love and Community**." Jim presented marvelous images of the cosmos, our galaxy and solar system, and its overwhelming hostility to life. The fact of our existence beats incredible odds. We are the product of an incomprehensibly long and complex evolutionary history. An essential feature of our species' survival success can be attributed to our helping each other, cooperating, loving, and developing community.

## Update on the Monthly Dinner Social

by Tom Kellogg

The Jefferson Humanists monthly social dinner has a good foundation, and the restaurant we have been going to, Infinitus PIE, is great. However, it is time to find new favorite restaurants we can go to, so the May dinner social will be the last time at Infinitus for a while. We'll still go back to Infinitus on occasion, but need other places, as well. Chinese or Asian might be good for June, then maybe Mexican followed by Italian. When we find a place we like, it will stay on the rotation list.

We would like suggestions from members about good places you know in our hood. So, if you know of a gem of a restaurant, please post a comment on the Meetup page at <https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/238756313/>. Use this link to get more information, as well. You can also send an email to Tom at [kellogg52@gmail.com](mailto:kellogg52@gmail.com). Here are the criteria for selecting a restaurant:

- Good food and serves cocktails.
- Not too expensive.
- Humanist/heathen friendly.
- Group friendly.
- Not too noisy, or has a small banquet room we could reserve.
- Good ambiance/atmosphere.
- Centrally located in the Golden, North Lakewood, Wheat Ridge or South Arvada corridor (this is an issue because we cover a lot of turf).

So, join your fellow Humanists on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, for your last chance to eat a truly scrumptious personal pizza (really) or other delight at:

Infinitus PIE

5807 W. 38th Ave, Wheat Ridge

It is located two blocks east of Harlan on the north side of 38th, between Wadsworth and Sheridan.

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## Join us for 'An Evening with Richard Dawkins'

Evolutionary biologist and author Richard Dawkins will be at the Boulder Theater the evening of Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm, and we are gathering a group of Jefferson Humanists to go see his talk. We will be gathering in front of the theater between 5:30 and 6 pm and the doors open at 6pm. General admission tickets can be purchased online at [www.bouldertheater.com/event/1440874-evening-richard-dawkins-in-boulder/](http://www.bouldertheater.com/event/1440874-evening-richard-dawkins-in-boulder/).

If you plan to attend, please RSVP on Meetup at <http://meetu.ps/380VcT> or email Matthew Elisha, [mrelisha@msn.com](mailto:mrelisha@msn.com).

# Citizen Science from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

by Lindy Baer

For our March program, Mr. Wesley Jones and Dr. Michael McAteer, both from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS), presented information about how DMNS citizen scientists are helping to conduct scientific research into the genetics of taste. The Genetics of Taste Laboratory, adjacent to the Expedition Health exhibit at DMNS is led by Dr. Nicole Garneau, Ph.D., Curator of the Health Sciences at DMNS.

Dr. McAteer first proposed that “science,” contrary to many popular conceptions, is a process for discovering answers to the “what?, why?, how?, and when? questions about the many natural phenomena around us. He emphasized how the process gets us closer to the truth by incrementally identifying what is not true (rigorously proving the “null hypothesis”).

Then it was explained how the DMNS Genetics of Taste Laboratory recruits citizen scientists, provides certification training, and then enables these volunteers to conduct scientific research. The citizen science volunteers include students, a variety of professionals who are still working, and often, retired scientists who wish to continue to contribute. The concept of citizen scientists is not new in history. Charles Darwin was a theologian; Benjamin Franklin a printer and politician; and Thomas Jefferson a farmer and politician and yet all three made scientific contributions.

The Genetics of Taste Laboratory recently received a \$1M grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to perform four taste studies over the next four years. The current study focuses on the Science of Sour (like lemons and vinegar). Previous studies examined the taste of bitter, fat, and sweet. Besides the taste research itself, additional goals include:

- increasing public interest and scientific literacy
- build a community of science ambassadors

With the Public Participation in Scientific Research (PPSR) using citizen scientists and crowd sourcing the research subjects from guests of the museum offers:

- larger research sample sizes thus improving the scientific accuracy
- more economical research through the use of volunteer scientists
- the coverage of a broader geographical area

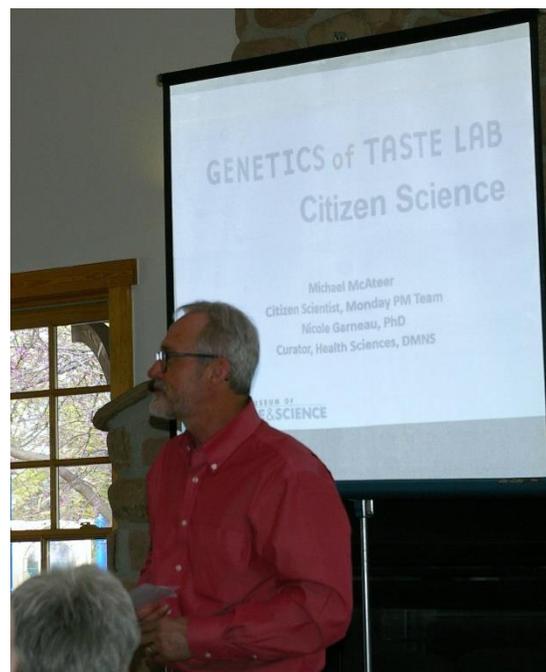
Dr. McAteer pointed out that citizen scientists are active out in the community helping professionals with bird counts, and fish surveys as well as with other disciplines in the museum such as paleontology, ornithology, earth science, and planetary science. He pointed out that with the PPSR experience in the museum, the participants (whether citizen scientists or public subjects) also enjoy some

educational and entertainment opportunities that typically do not occur in the more traditional university or corporate research setting.

After Dr. McAteer explained that he volunteers in order to teach about science, explore new disciplines, and continue to satisfy his scientific curiosity, he and Mr. Wesley Jones participated in a lively question and answer session. One of the 40-45 attendees commented that she was not aware of how involved the museum is in scientific activities.



Lindy Baer Introduces Dr. McAteer



Wesley Jones Presents

# The March for Science

by Traci Bickell

On April 22, 2017 (Earth Day) the Jefferson Humanists participated in the March for Science, a non-partisan protest against the current government's lack of appropriate scientific representation in the making of good policy. We arrived at 7:30 am to set up a booth in the Science and the Community section of the "Teach-ins" at the Civic Center. Many organizations were represented such as Nature Conservancy, 500 Women Scientists, The Secular Hub, and The Freedom From Religion Foundation. There were booths for kids to do some hands-on science as well.

The March began at 10 am with a short walk around downtown. All in all, it was a very quiet march, a side effect of introverted intellectuals marching. Some people tried to get chants going like "What does Democracy look like, this is what it looks like", but none lasted very long. There were a great many signs, with quite a few math equations protesting irrationality.

We staffed the booth until 2 pm and gave away almost all of our literature. A great many people seemed to be happy to see Humanists represented at the March. The numbers quoted were approximately 15,000 to 20,000 people attending in Denver.



Marching: Bronwyn Elisha, Tom Kellogg, Carole Hughes



Traci Bickell at March for Science



Jefferson Humanist Booth at March for Science  
Carol Hughes, Traci Bickell, Lindy Baer, and Mathew Elisha



## Nancy and Bob March for Science in Hawaii

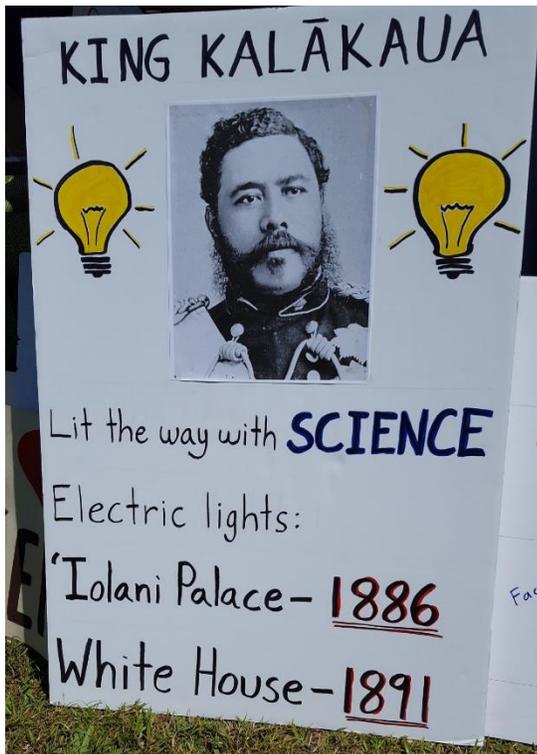
Your intrepid JH Newsletter editors are doing our editing from Hawaii this month. We were envious of our Denver JH friends marching in the March for Science so we found the March in Hilo, Hawaii. The March was held on Friday night instead of Saturday because this was the week of the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, a statewide dance competition that takes over the city.

The March was planned by people at the University of Hawaii-Hilo. Our group of 211 included people of all ages and ethnicity. The mood of the group was light and festive, yet with serious overtones. The event was kicked off with a blessing by a native Hawaiian Kahu a Kua (priestess) who described the March for Science as the beginning of a great arc of progress leading to a bright future.

We then enjoyed speeches delivered by a wide variety of scientists including middle school science teachers, college professors, and seven children who told science stories. One 9 year old girl described science as life. Another 8 year-old said she loved science because, "it is FUN!"

Other middle school students told about their experiences with robot competitions. A University of Hawaii Chemistry Professor explained that we are all scientists – exploring and testing and learning every day. She illustrated with an example of her two-year-old daughter who had spilled milk on her highchair tray and immediately began swirling it around with her hands. She then placed a large gob of it in her hair. Finally her lowered he face into the milk and came up with a huge smile of accomplishment for her mother. She was experimenting with, and enjoying the world around her.

The homemade signs and placards people carried were informative, creative and funny. One of Bob’s favorites was a photograph of Hawaii King Kalakaua surrounded by light bulbs.



Nancy carried a colorful sign that said: We Speak for the Trees.

We also learned that the March for Science group had booked a spot in the Merrie Monarch Parade the next day. They had room so Bob and Nancy marched in that as well. It was a long (1.8 miles) and hot (it is Hawaii) but great fun. Signs showed meaning and humor in support of science. There were over 90 entrants in the parade ranging from groups like ours to many military bands and of course large flatbed trucks occupied by all manner of hula dancers. The parade started at 10am and we finally began to enter at 11:30. The sidewalks along the route were lined with tents full of friends and families, and people cheered for us at every stop along the way.

Here are some more photos of our adventure.





Many Kindred Spirits March for Science  
On April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Hilo Hawaii



*Loving Humanity*

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



[meetup.com/jeffcohumanists](https://www.meetup.com/jeffcohumanists)



[facebook.com/jeffersonhumanists](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonhumanists)

## Schedule of Regular Chapter Gatherings

Jefferson Humanists has several Chapter Gatherings each month. We hope you will join us for any and all:

**Board of Directors Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays 4-6 PM, normally Jefferson Unitarian Church

**FROG Book Discussions:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays 2-4 PM Various locations – see Meetup

**Dinner Socials:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 7 PM, Infinitus PIE, Wheat Ridge

**Chapter Nature Walks** – First Saturdays. See Page 5 above for details about this new event

**Chapter Programs:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 5 PM normally Jefferson Unitarian Church. See above for May and June

**Humanist Perspectives:** May 20, JUC 10am - noon

**Legislative Action:** Watch for location announcements. See announcement on page

Note: Gathering details and RSVP choices may be found at [meetup.com/jeffcohumanists](https://www.meetup.com/jeffcohumanists)

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***IMPORTANT: If you have a change of contact information or would like to be removed from this email list, please reply via the form in the body of the email to which this newsletter was attached.***

**Coeditors: Nancy Bolt and Bob Hofmann**