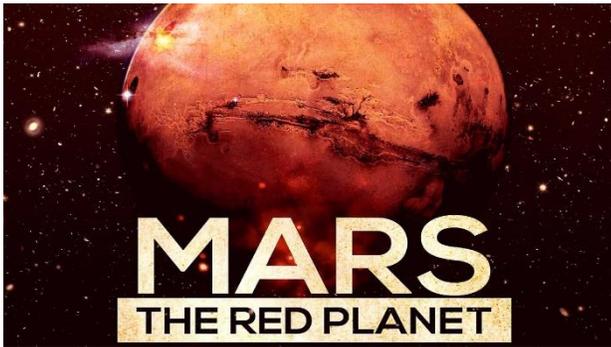


Enjoy a Happy Labor Day

September 2017
Issue 8.04

Jefferson Humanists

Jefferson County Colorado Chapter of The American
Humanists Association
www.jeffersonhumanists.org



Steve Lee

Dr. Steve Lee, a Space Science Content Specialist at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and a Research Scientist at the Space Science Institute in Boulder will discuss how our understanding of the Red Planet has changed over the years — from the canals of Mars (based on early telescopic observations), to recent missions (eight actively exploring Mars today) that have revealed details about present considerations on Mars and provided glimpses into the past history of the Martian surface and climate. Recent results from several ongoing missions — the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Opportunity and Curiosity rovers — will be highlighted.

When: Sunday September 24, 5:00pm

Where: Jefferson Unitarian Church
14350 West 32nd Ave., Golden, CO

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BE SURE TO RSVP FOR the 9/24 DINNER

barbaile@aol.com or

303-979-0508

<https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/242975727/>

About Our Speaker

Dr. Steve Lee is a Space Science Content Specialist at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS), and is a Research Scientist at the Space Science Institute (SSI) in Boulder, CO. He received a PhD in Planetary Geology from Cornell University, and has been at DMNS since 2001 and SSI since 2006. Steve's research focuses on interactions between the surface and atmosphere of Mars -- primarily by mapping the patterns of wind-blown dust deposits across the planet utilizing spacecraft observations. He was part of a team that observed Mars with the Hubble Space Telescope for more than a decade following launch in 1990. He is also a Co-Investigator on two of the camera systems launched aboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter in 2005; data have been streaming back from Mars since late-2006. These observations help refine our understanding of Martian weather and long-term climate variations, and how Martian landforms have been shaped over time.

Upcoming Jefferson Humanists Chapter Programs

October 22 – Carter Wilson, author of the Colorado Humanities Thriller Book of the Year Award for *Revelation* will be our speaker in October. *Revelation* tells the tale of a college student who decides to start a religion, just to see if he can convince people to follow him. He does and the consequences are detailed in Wilson's award winning thriller. Wilson novels had received critical acclaim, including starred recommended reviews from Publishers Weekly and Library Journal. In addition to the Colorado Humanities Award, Wilson has also won the International Book Award and the National Indie Excellence Award. Wilson will speak on *How to Start a Religion*, discussing "what made me think of that topic and what fascinates me about writing on the topics of religion and cults." Join us at 5pm for the discussion, followed by time for wine and dinner.

November 26 – Tom Noel, Historic sites of Jefferson County, CO

December 30 – Seasonal Celebration

January 28, Robin Starr, a retired veterinarian, speaking on *Origin of the Dog: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*

Soaring Past 7 Billion: Population Challenges for a Crowded World

by Robin Baer

The August Chapter meeting had a couple challenges of its own when, four days prior, we received word that speaker John Seager, President and CEO of Population Connection, would be unable to attend due to an urgent medical issue. Lindy Baer was able, through local and national Population Connection contacts, to obtain both a video of a previous Seager address and collateral material. The program was presented to an audience of about 80, one of Jefferson Humanists' best attended programs to date.

Lindy explained that Population Connection began in 1968 as Zero Population Growth, and John Seager reported that the early organization was co-founded by Paul and Anne Erlich, authors of "The Population Bomb." He stated that the organization strongly supports science and has been a force for population stabilization worldwide. In his video, John showed a photo of a very young girl, only eleven, and then panned out to show that she was with a much older man. John explained that this was a picture of the couple on their wedding day. He stated that Population Connection works to eliminate this kind of cultural abuse of women and girls, working through K-12 curriculums, not to tell people in various cultures what to do, but teach them to think. The organization also works with Congress to try to make a case for allowing women choices in planning their families and their lives. He made a strong case for education for women, saying that statistics show the more education women have, the lower the birth rate.

John stated that since 1790, when the human population was one billion, it has rocketed to over seven billion. He mentioned that Martin Luther King understood the relationship between human population growth and quality of life, saying that we live in two different worlds: the developed world where population growth and density is lower and life is better, and the undeveloped world where population growth is high and people are much worse off.

The question, he said, is "How do you want to live?" And there are other implications as well, such as survival of other life forms, diversity of life that we may be putting at risk, and the risk of depleting resources. He then showed a dramatic graph that

demonstrated a very flat trajectory for population until about 1800, which roughly coincides with the industrial age, when it shot almost straight up. The interesting item on his graph was an accompanying line showing discovery and use of fossil fuels tracked almost exactly the same trajectory.

On the cultural/social front, John reiterated that part of the solution to population explosion is giving women education, helping them protect their children with medical care, and making family planning available. Although the U.S. has a low birth rate commensurate with other developed countries, we aren't doing a good job of promoting women's choices, he said, citing some other countries that are doing a better job. Two were unexpected: Iran, which has free birth control and pre-marital family planning and is cutting its birth rate dramatically; and Mexico, where the population is decreasing due to a strict separation of church and state in that Catholic country, as well as readily available sex education.

He finished by saying that in the U.S. we are underfunding population stabilization efforts and experiencing opposition, but that it is an effort worth fighting for, because everywhere in the world where there is high fertility, there is also high unrest. The message is: population stabilization could stabilize the world.

A question/answer/comment session, led by Lindy Baer, followed.

Jefferson Humanists Book Discussion Group

(FROG: Free Thinkers Reading Opportunity Group)



FROG Report: 7.5 Billion (and counting)

By Matthew Elisha

The Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group (FROG) met on Sunday, August 13th to discuss our reading topic, *Overpopulation*. We each read a book or articles on topic and joined to discuss the issues related to this pressing problem. Book titles varied from Thomas Malthus's ground-breaking *Essay on the Principle of Population* from 1798, to more recent books like Albert Bartlett's compilations of essays and presentations on overpopulation from *The Essential Exponential! (For the Future of Our Planet)*,

to fiction books by Isaac Asimov (*The Caves of Steel*), Harry Harrison (*Make Room, Make Room*) and John Hershey (*My Application for More Space*). They even included a cunning infographic book titled, *The World as 100 People: A Visual Guide to 7 Billion Humans*, in which the author/illustrator, Aileen Lord, presents facts about world population by presenting the total population of the world of 7.5 billion people as 100 people, a much more manageable number for the reader to contemplate. (As an example, in a world of 100 people, 48 people currently live on less than \$2 per day while 1 person owns 48% of the world's wealth, an extrapolation of the 48% of humans who live in poverty and the 1 percent who controls almost half of the world's wealth.)

Much of our discussion centered on the conflict between expanding populations of people and limited resources. Even as far back as the 17th century, Malthus discussed the idea of the Earth as an island that can only support a certain number of humans. As humans procreate and produce offspring beyond the rate of simple replacement, their increasing numbers overburden available food production and fresh water supplies, leading to conflicts and inequality in resource sharing. Though several members read materials that support the idea that technology and innovation has led to increased food production and may continue to do so, we all wondered if these innovations will be able to continue at a pace to match population growth.

We further discussed the concept held by some, including the UN, that our global population will eventually reach a peak and start to decline, creating a bell curve. For example, the populations of Europe and Japan are at levels below the replacement rate and other advanced economies are seeing similar results. As economies stabilize and women gain more political power and widespread birth control provides more reproductive choices, it is thought that third world countries will see similar population balances that will eventually begin a decline.

The biggest question we had was: will this limit happen soon enough? Have we already stressed our planet to a point beyond easy recovery? Will we spread out too far into wild spaces and send more-and-more species into irrecoverable decline, including the various plants that provide the oxygen that animals (ourselves included) need to breath? Will agricultural innovation be able to continue to produce at increasing rates or will have we depleted our most bountiful farmlands where yields will fall?

Our final discussion included a round-robin answer to the question; do you think that humans will be able to solve the problems of overpopulation? Most, unfortunately, were less than optimistic, but a few thought that we can and will solve the problem, though admitted that the task is daunting, especially in a world fraught with tribalism and uncooperative political groups. Progress can only be made through a concerted worldwide effort. While we all agreed that the planet is likely to recover, many of us conceded that it may not happen for many thousands of years, perhaps after humans are long gone.

As citizens of the world, we have a few suggestions for our fellow Humanists to help make small changes that will help the cause, including:

- Contribute to Planned Parenthood to help them in their mission of providing reproductive choice to all, no matter their income, marital status, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, nationality or residence. Find out more and donate at www.plannedparenthood.org.
- Join and donate to nonprofit groups dedicated to reducing overpopulation such as World Population Balance (www.worldpopulationbalance.org), Population Connection (www.populationconnection.org), Population Council (www.popcouncil.org) and Negative Population Growth (www.npg.org). Find more organizations at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_population_concern_organizations.
- Take steps to reduce your consumption of resources, be it food, energy, water or purchasing less personal goods. See <https://sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2013/08/25/consumption-2/> and www.gracelinks.org/blog/1514/going-green-12-ways-to-reduce-your-impact-on-the-food-water for some suggested ways to reduce consumption.



FROG

Freethinker Reading
Opportunity Group



The Jefferson Humanists reading group typically meets the 2nd Saturday of each month to discuss humanist themes in fiction & non-fiction literature. We discuss stimulating books to gain new understanding of humanism, & how to progress the dignity of humanity.

Schedule

- **Sept 9th** - *The Plot Against America* by Phillip Roth
- **Oct 15th** - *Revelation* by Carter Wilson (on a Sunday this time)
- **Nov 11th** - *Debunk it! How to stay sane in a world of misinformation* by John Grant
- **Dec 9th** - *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt
- **Jan 13th** - TOPIC: The Enlightenment
- **Feb 10th** - *Lamb: the Gospel according to Biff...* by Christopher Moore
- **Mar 10th** - *The Political Mind* by George Lakoff
- **Apr 14th** - *Trust us, We're experts* by John Stauber

Dates & times are subject to change. See upcoming meeting info and locations at www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/

For more info, contact Matthew Elisha, mrelisha@msn.com, 303-432-8694.

More about the Jefferson Humanists can be found at www.jeffersonhumanists.org



News from the JH Board

Submitted by Jim Bole

The Board:

- Reviewed the goals of the annual Planning Retreat to be: “ideas drawing strong support for 2018 goals and activities.”
- Added to the budget of the annual retreat to cover a new location and lunch
- Received a report from Ralph Hughes that 25ed00 copies of the JH funded tabloid from the Jefferson Political Action Committee have been distributed with a new addition coming out in September, also to be funded by JH
- Heard a report from Carol Hughes that personal hygiene items will be collected at all program

meetings for donation to the Action Center. On Saturday 10/7, 9-12, JH members will gather to pack food boxes. Service projects of this type will be arranged quarterly.

- Heard a report from Pat Nichols that she and Janice Mowry will call all members to verify contact info for the data base and anticipated member directory. They will try to encourage inactive ones to join ongoing chapter activities and solicit their ideas on additional activities. Also, they will provide written material (JH brochure, FROG book list, monthly program list, etc.) to all leaders of chapter activities for distribution to visitors. All chapter members will be asked to be welcoming to visitors, help them learn about the chapter and become acquainted with them.

Social Action with Jefferson Humanists

by Carole Hughes

Charitable activism is part of our mission. Consider joining with other Jefferson Humanists to organize regular community service activities for our chapter. Interested in participating in the Social Responsibility Committee? Contact Carole Hughes at cathug51@yahoo.com or call 303 234-1304.

Donate Travel-Size Toiletry Items at Monthly JH Chapter Meetings

Starting with the **August 27 Chapter Meeting**, we'll be collecting personal hygiene necessities (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, disposable razors, floss, toothbrushes, lotion etc.) to donate to The Action Center, a local non-profit organization that provides basic human needs and pathways to self-sufficiency for residents of Jefferson County and the homeless. Bring in those travel-size hygiene items you've picked up on your trips and deposit them in the box you'll see at the welcome table at the Chapter Meeting. We'll bring the collected goods to The Action Center, where such items are regularly distributed to participating clients in need.

Join Jefferson Humanists in a Community Service Project on Saturday, October 7

Spend a Saturday morning supporting The Action Center's self-select grocery program as we pack boxes of food at a warehouse. A group of up to 20 Jefferson Humanists will work from **9AM to noon on Saturday, October 7**. Kids or grandkids are welcome to join in and everyone will need to wear closed-toe shoes for safety reasons. We'll need to get a final headcount no later than **Friday, September 29**, so if you and maybe some of your family members want to be part of this effort, contact Carole Hughes at cathug51@yahoo.com or call 303 234-1304.

Perhaps you've ideas for other donation projects or suggestions for group volunteer service projects that the Social Responsibility Committee should consider undertaking. Join the Committee or contact Carole Hughes with your ideas.

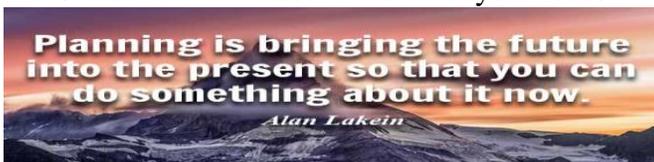
Chapter Planning Retreat on September 23 All members are encouraged to attend!

by Jim Bole

Jefferson Humanists members have been sent invitations to our Annual Planning Retreat, to be held Saturday, 9/23, 9-3 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn, located at 55th Ave. and Olde Wadsworth in Arvada, just SW of the Olde Town movie theaters. Members and non-members who wish to participate should **reserve a space by RSVPing to Kaaren Hardy** at k.k.hardy@Q.com by 9/18. We encourage non-members who come to seriously consider becoming members.

The **purpose of the Planning Retreat** is to **obtain broad input** on possible goals and activities for 2018 and, with the guidance of a facilitator, **derive areas of consensus and priorities for our Chapter**. This is a great opportunity to make your voice heard, helping our leaders foster a community that meets your needs and fulfills the mission of our organization.

The day will begin at 9 am with a chance to meet fellow members over coffee and mini desserts. At 9:30, Vice President, Matthew Elisha, will give a presentation on the **state of the Chapter**, providing a baseline for later discussion on the course we wish to set for 2018. We will consider major organizational aspects such as **chapter outreach, activities, community building, and governance**. A buffet sandwich lunch, with vegetarian options, will be provided at no charge. Please come. We welcome and need your ideas!



Be Welcoming

An Excerpt From

Building and Growing Your Secular Group

by

Michael Werner as modified by Fred Edwards

With permission from Fred Edwards, Board Member
of American Humanist Association
compiled by Tom Kellogg

One of the biggest reasons new people fail to join a group after one or two visits is because the group is perceived as being insular, cloistered, closed, unfriendly, and cold. The visitor feels shut out, ignored, not valued, and unwelcome. Don't let this happen to your visitor! Be inclusive without being pushy or putting the visitor on the spot. Allow room in the conversation for your visitor. Smile. Ask general, non-threatening questions and listen when they speak. Seek topics of common interest. Do not dominate the conversation and do not allow your more outspoken members to trample on your visitor when he or she has something to share. Don't be pushy and don't gang up!

A new visitor often feels uncomfortable when all eyes are on her or him. Give a person time to acclimatize and feel comfortable. New visitors need space to observe, to breathe, and to evaluate their place within a group. Recognize when your visitor needs space. Respect that breathing space and let them know they are welcome. Let your visitor get comfortable with you one or two people at a time, every visit. Don't be the only two people your visitor gets to know. Friends make all the difference for turning new visitors into new members.

Ten Ways to Lower Your Stress Level in Today's World

by Mari Cowley

With all of the nonsense going on in Washington and the very real threat of military action in so many places, I've had a hard time deciding on what to write this month. I've been feeling out of sorts with the daily bombardment of multiple media sources telling me this country is teetering on the brink of who knows what, and almost nightly we hear about immigration issues tearing families apart. Everywhere I turn, there are scary things going on and it seems there's a really long list of disasters just waiting to happen.

Stress is a routine expectation in everyday events and can overwhelm every other aspect of life. The good

news is that most of us can overcome or at least minimize our stress levels to a significant extent. Effective stress management is all about taking charge of our lives, emotions, thoughts and how we cope with problems. Here are just a few ideas to help lower everyday stress.

1. Take time to meditate. I know we've all heard about meditation and while it's nice to get away, you don't have to travel to a mountain top to do it. It really is possible to meditate anywhere, clear your mind and give yourself some silent time. The purpose of meditation is to let your mind run free, refocus your attention and eliminate any jumbled thoughts that may be crowding in. It's also time to focus on your breathing. Deep breathing slows the heart rate and lowers blood pressure. The best part about meditation is that the benefits do not end when you return to your usual activities; it also helps us carry on more calmly throughout the rest of the day.

2. Focus on one thing at a time. You'll feel better and less stressed if you just do one thing at a time. This applies whether at home, work or in your private life. This focus helps us do a better job the first time and not have to go back and tweak repeatedly.

3. Write everything down. Forgetfulness isn't just the territory of the old. If your memory is anything like mine, it can be a leaky bucket more often than not. So write everything down; ideas, tasks and stuff you just have to remember. By writing things down, you free up your mind for focusing on other things rather than worrying about what you might forget.

4. Exercise. Exercise is closely related to meditation since it gives us a chance to be alone with our thoughts or an opportunity to let them go. Exercise in any form can act as a stress reliever. Whether you prefer the gentler forms of exercise like yoga or tai chi or you prefer more energetic forms, both styles give us a break from the day's worries.

5. Keep your daily "to-do" list VERY short. When I was working, one of my managers had us write a daily "to-do" list and cross off each task as completed. It really was amazing to see how much more we actually got done. Avoid the temptation to overload the list which in turn can cause feelings of stress and being overwhelmed. The trick is to keep the list very short with only 1-3 of the most important tasks.

6. Mountains vs. Molehills. One of the best ways to make your day and life easier and less stressful is to not build mountains out of molehills. Try not to create extra drama, over think or create a problem out of something that doesn't matter much or even out of thin air. One of the ways to control this bad habit is to pause for a moment and ask yourself if the problem will matter in five (5) years or even five (5) weeks from now? Hitting the pause button will help you build fewer mountains in your life.

7. Massage. Nearly everyone enjoys a message whether they're stressed or not. Historically this technique has been used in many different cultures to open up blocked energy channels, relieve muscle tension and calm the mind. Relaxing muscles, relieving pain and improving circulation can do wonders for the mind. Take a few minutes and give yourself a scalp or foot massage.

8. Sleep. Another very natural stress reducer is getting a good night's sleep. We all know that NOT getting enough sleep leaves people irritable, cranky and on edge, while getting too much sleep will have the effect of making us sluggish and depressed. Finding the balance between too much and not enough can be tricky at times. Older adults need adequate sleep too and the old adage of needing less sleep as we age is a myth!

9. Cut out screen time. A unique stress factor today is the excessive use of screen time. Be it cell phones, computers, laptops or television, all add to the stress equation. Regulating screen time can help block out at least some of the channels through which stress is stimulated. It is particularly important to do this before going to bed as it has been proven to cause insomnia and other sleep disorders. Watch the early news rather than the 10 o'clock news if you're feeling stressed. Or better yet, don't watch at all on occasion.

10. Organize. Of all the natural ways to lower stress, organization may be the most obvious but the most neglected. Organization offers a natural sense of control and peace of mind. If you feel on edge in your home, tidying up may help, since studies have shown that the mere sight of clutter can put people on edge. If you find yourself always running around, it makes sense to prepare lists and organize some of the chaos in your life.

If it doesn't get done, remember there is always tomorrow!

Sometimes life interferes or you just have a bad day

and you don't get done what you had planned or hoped for. Beating yourself up or getting angry will only add stress that will suck the energy, self-confidence and motivation out of you. And really, isn't life too short for that?

JH Monthly Hike in July Dragon Boat Festival, Sloan Lake

On July 29, six intrepid JHers hiked around Sloan Lake and then indulged in the food, art, races and festivities at the Dragon Boat Festival.



The hikers: Robbie and Tom Kellogg, Nancy Bolt and Bob Hofmann, Traci Bickell and Mathew Elisha.



Dragon Boat Racers Paddling Hard

There were dozens of boats like this one operated by highly competitive teams representing businesses and local institutions. There were big dragon parades as pictured next, and a little silliness as in the final picture.



Dragon Boat Festival Parade

Wheat Ridge and Golden. It is a beautiful wooded nature corridor right through the city. You hardly know that the city is even there. It is easy paved walking the whole way.



No, it's not what you are thinking. Tom, Matthew, and Bob are indulging in frozen CO2 delivered through truly terrible tasting fruit puffs.

From Anderson Park, we'll head east and go as far as we want to before turning back, going underneath Wadsworth. When we get back to the park, we'll walk across 44th Ave to Pietra's for lunch, a nice Italian and pizza place with beer and wine.

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

"Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves." - John Muir, Our National Parks.

This is a recurring event that is held on the 1st Saturday of each month, unless specified, at different scenic locations. The time of day may change during different seasons. In the summer, we may walk in the early evenings. We may sometimes split into two groups by level of challenge or interest.

Monthly Walk/Hike on October 7th Clear Creek Trail between Wadsworth and Kipling with Pizza

Saturday, October 7, 2017 10:00 AM
Anderson Park

9190 W 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO

We'll meet at Anderson Park on the south side of 44th Ave, a block east of Garrison Street between Wadsworth and Kipling.

If you like walking and enjoying the splendor of nature, we invite you to join us for our monthly nature walk/hike. It is a great chance to get some exercise while enjoying the company of your fellow humanists.

We are discovering more and more of this amazing resource known as the Clear Creek Trail open space in

Nancy Bolt wins International Library Award

Nancy Bolt, editor of the JH Newsletter, was honored to receive the Scroll of Achievement Award from the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) at their 2017 annual conference in Wroclaw, Poland. Bolt won the award for her work over the years with Government Libraries and library service to people with special needs. Presenting the award was IFLA President, Donna Scheeder, and IFLA Secretary General, Gerard Lightner. This conference was attended by more than three thousand librarians from around the world.



The Humanist Perspectives Workshop on Street Epistemology with Anthony Magnabosco

by Tom Kellogg

Once in a while, you get really lucky and did we ever on Saturday, August 19th. Anthony Magnabosco, a nationally recognized expert on Street Epistemology, just happened to be coming to town that weekend to teach a workshop at the Secular Hub. The timing was perfect to get Anthony to do the same workshop at our regularly scheduled monthly Humanist Perspectives event. Sixteen people showed up and were captivated.

Who is Anthony Magnabosco? What is Street Epistemology you ask? It is a new technique that is catching on like wildfire worldwide for engaging in a friendly dialog with people of different beliefs or faiths that gets them to open up about why they hold that belief and what makes them sure it is true. This can plant a seed to allow them begin to question that belief. Here is the official definition:

“Street Epistemology is a conversational approach that helps people reflect on the beliefs they have formed and examine the methods used during their belief formation process. Based on the Socratic method and book by Dr. Peter Boghossian, Street Epistemology is gaining momentum in the skeptic

community and helping people re-evaluate their deeply-held beliefs without backfiring and causing a person to drive deeper into certainty. Anthony Magnabosco is a leading practitioner and proponent of Street Epistemology, has given several talks on the subject, and has conducted hundreds of conversations with people about a wide variety of supernatural and sociological beliefs, many of which have been filmed and uploaded to YouTube so others can emulate the technique. Watch your conversations on controversial topics shift from aggressive debate that go nowhere to productive dialogues that actually make a difference.”

Peter wrote the book on Street Epistemology and gave a great talk. The book is called *A Manual for Creating Atheists*, where he created the technique of Street Epistemology.

Anthony Magnabosco works closely with Peter and has mastered the technique. Anthony goes out into public and tapes conversations of Peter talking to religious persons, or anyone who has a strong belief about something. Some of these interviews are fascinating. By asking questions and really listening to the other person, Anthony gets the person to start thinking about why they believe what they do. Reason begins to take hold.

Come to the Humanist Heathen Happy Hour Denver Beer Co. in Olde Town Arvada

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Denver Beer Co. Olde Town Arvada
5768 Olde Wadsworth Boulevard, Arvada, CO
One door down from the Southeast corner of Ralston Road and Olde Wadsworth in Olde Town Arvada

The monthly dinner social is switching to a new format by combining it with a happy hour social and starting an hour earlier. Brewpubs are a favorite.



Denver Beer Company opened up a trendy new brewpub in Olde Town Arvada, the new olde hot-spot in the area. Denver Beer brews great craft beers right on the premises. Gourmet burgers are served from their semi-permanent Airstream trailer. The place is big with a nice outdoor patio. It's a real party.

This is always a casual event, so drop in anytime from 6 to 8.



For questions or comments contact Tom Kellogg at kellogg52@gmail.com . Tom's cell phone is: (720) 808-2825.

This event takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. We'll try new places and go back to our favorites.

The Great American Eclipse 2017

by Mathew Elisha

August 21, 2017 was a great reminder of the wonders of science. Only through scientific observation, mathematical calculations, and testing of hypotheses can we predict the exact location and time of celestial phenomenon like solar eclipses, predictions so accurate that the Great American Eclipse of 2017 became a scheduled event that drew millions of Americans to the heart of the country. In ancient times and through the dark ages, our ancestors speculated that an eclipse was a portent of bad omens or a sign of god(s), but thanks to science, we know that it is a natural, predictable phenomenon created by the movement of celestial bodies in space. Over time, scientists have used eclipses as evidence that the earth is spherical and to assist in proving that light bends. The element Helium, named after Helios the Greek god of the sun, was discovered during a 19th century eclipse.

Covering a swath 68 miles wide, the recent total solar eclipse crossed the United States diagonally from Oregon to South Carolina, directly in the path of many cities, including Salem, Casper, Kansas City, St. Louis, Nashville and Charleston. Speculation is that as many as 20-30 million people viewed the total eclipse and a total of at least 150 million people viewed the eclipse from all parts of the U.S. And a few of your fellow humanists were in that group.

Jefferson Humanists members, Matthew Elisha and Traci Bickell, travelled to Guernsey, WY to see the total eclipse, leaving Denver at 4 am to make the 4-hour trip. They viewed the eclipse from a pleasant spot in a town park right next to the North Platte River, joining about 50-60 others who found the spot inviting after seeing a three-mile backup of cars attempting to get into Glendo State Park.

Everyone seemed in a great mood of anticipation and expectation, armed with their solar glasses and laying on blankets and sitting in chairs positioned for the best views of the eclipse in the southeast sky. When the moon started its first traverse of the sun around 10:20 am, eyes rose upward. As the light of sun waned and the shadow of the moon got bigger, we all looked forward to the point of totality where we could remove our glasses and view the darkness of the moon, crowned by the flares of a solar corona. At 11:45:46 AM, there was an audible gasp by the audience as the sky darkened, street lights went on, stars could be seen in the sky and temperatures dropped considerably. We enjoyed the spectacle for 2 minutes and 15 seconds, until the moon began to leave the sun revealing the beauty of a phenomenon known as Baily's Bead, the diamond ring effect. It was a vision that has to be seen to be fully appreciated, and we all were pleased to be witnesses to this amazing natural event. Even spending 7-8 hours travelling back to Denver among a mass of southbound traffic couldn't dampen the pleasure of seeing the Great American Solar Eclipse.

Members, Robin and Lindy Baer, viewed the 2017 total solar eclipse from near Stanley, Idaho. With help from Robin and others, Lindy took photographs for the Berkeley/Google Megamovie Project. Robin and Lindy's granddaughter, Anna Kathryn, collected temperature, cloud, and animal behavior data for NASA. The group experienced two minutes and 14 seconds of totality. Late in the first partial eclipse stage, the temperature began to drop from approximately 69 degrees F (the group was located at an altitude over 6,700 feet; already a bit cooler) to around 53 degrees. It took some time for the temperature to recover. All in all, it was an amazing and rare experience. You can see the Eclipse Megamovie at: <https://eclipsemega.movie>

We invite other Jefferson Humanists members to share their experiences during the solar eclipse. Email Matthew Elisha (mrelisha@msn.com) with your stories, and we will share them in a future newsletter or on our Facebook page or website.



Need a Celebrant?

Tim and Jennifer are a husband and wife team, creating ceremonies to match your lifestyles, philosophies and values. www.celebratingtimes.com



Tom Kellogg and Evolve Fish Offer Pins and Hats



Humanist Lapel Pin

\$9

Available for purchase at monthly meetings and special JH events.

Proceeds go to membership building



Jefferson Humanist Hat

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Loving Humanity

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