

Enjoy the Winter Solstice, December 21

December 2017

Issue 11.04

# Jefferson Humanists

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

## CURRENT PROGRAMS

*Its Party Time*  
*Join us for our Seasonal Celebration*  
*December 30<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm*

*Jefferson Unitarian Church*  
*14350 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Golden, CO*

*RSVP to Barb Bailey: [barbaile@aol.com](mailto:barbaile@aol.com) or 303-979-0508*

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## ***Our Party Menu and Program***



### ***Hors D'oeuvre***

#### **Imaginatively Designed Cheese Tray**

A perfect combination of cheeses garnished Strawberries +Grapes

Salami & Peperoni wrapped around Cheese sticks

Artichoke Dip, Humus, Assorted crackers

**Chipotle Chicken & Vegetable Filo Cups**

**Raspberry Meat Balls**

This wonderful meat ball bakes four hours to a melt in your mouth delight with our own

Special Sauce

**Asian Crab Slider's**

Spicy Crab cake topped with our own Asian Cole Slaw

Served in Pastry Cup

**Dates Delights**

Almond stuffed inside of dates

**Kababs Shrimp & Cheese Tortellini**

with dill lemon sauce

Food is complimentary

Selected Wines and beers for a small fee

***Entertainment:***

***Jonathan Hofmann: Pianist performs seasonal secular music***

***Secular singalongs***

***Pitchblende Quartet performance***

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### **January Chapter Program: Origin of the Dog: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing?**

**By Dr. Robin Starr, Retired Veterinarian**

**T**he former *Canis familiaris* is now known as *Canis lupus familiaris*, recognizing that the dog is a subspecies of gray wolf, *Canis lupus*. However, the dog has evolved striking differences from the wolf in both behavior and structure. Learn about the death of the alpha wolf – and that dogs' social behavior is characterized by family relationships and cooperation, NOT a constant struggle to be top dog.



# 2017 Annual Meeting

By Matthew Elisha

On Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, over 40 members met for the Chapter Annual Meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Barb Bailey at 4:30 pm and Secretary Edna Miller, verified that we had a quorum. The 2016 Annual Meeting minutes were included in the handout materials given to members.

Vice President Matthew Elisha offered an overview of the Annual Report that appears elsewhere in this newsletter, emphasizing the Board's efforts at outreach in 2017 to help grow our community, and our achievements during the year. He also pointed out the many volunteer opportunities for Members to help achieve the Chapter's mission and encouraged them to contact a Board member if interested in volunteering.

Treasurer Dave Beato shared a copy of the 2018 preliminary budget, which totals \$40,000. Dave reported that the Board also elected to put aside reserve funds of \$10,000 toward the future expense of a paid staff member and \$5,000 toward the cost of rental of a space for our Chapter. Vice President Jim Bole shared facts about the current Chapter fund drive and encouraged Members to contribute to help support this ambitious budget. Both made it clear that the budget is aspirational and would be modified in January depending on the outcome of our pledge drive.

Past President Chuck Mowry conducted the election of officers and directors. All candidates were duly elected to the following terms:

- **Ralph Hughes** – to begin a 3-year term as Board Director
- **Tom Kellogg** - to begin a 3-year term as Board Director
- **Dan Green** – to serve out a 1-year term as Board Director and a 1-year term as Treasurer
- **Edna Miller** – to serve out a 2-year term as Board Director and a 1-year term as Secretary
- **Carole Hughes** – to begin a new 3-year term as Board Director and a 1 year term as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- **Jim Bole** – to serve a 1-year term as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; continuing into his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as a Board Director
- **Matthew Elisha** – to serve a 1-year term as President; continuing into his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Board Director

**Chuck Mowry** will continue to serve in the role of ex officio to the Officers and Board. Other continuing Board Directors are **Thomas Poole** (in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and **Pat Nickel** (in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year).

Jim Bole, Chair of the 2017 Nomination Committee, acknowledged the work of committee members Robin Baer, Edna Miller, and Chuck Mowry in finding and selecting this year's slate of candidates. Chuck asked the audience to offer our thanks to departing Board Directors and Officers, **Barb Bailey** and **Dave Beato**, who received hearty applause from all.

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## ANNUAL REPORT, JEFFERSON HUMANISTS, November 26, 2017

*"Humanism is a democratic and ethical life stance that affirms that human beings have the right and responsibility to give meaning and shape to their own lives. Humanism stands for the building of a more humane society through an ethics based on human and other natural values in a spirit of reason and free inquiry through human capabilities. Humanism is not theistic, and it does not accept supernatural views of reality."*

- The International Humanist Ethical Union's Minimum Statement on Humanism

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**T**he Jefferson Humanists, a Chapter of the American Humanist Association, is almost 4 years old. Founded in January 2014 with a handful of members, the Chapter now has almost 100 members. The Board is looking at strategies to boost this growth in 2018. This report offers a brief description of our achievements in the past year, goals for the future, and areas where we are seeking to improve.

The Jefferson Unitarian Church continues to offer us a space for Chapter programs and meetings at a very generous rate, a steep discount from the costs we'd incur in renting a space elsewhere. We realize, however, that at some point, we will need to find a place of our own and have begun putting aside reserve funds for renting a space when the time is right. In the beginning, a new rented facility may be too small for our monthly programs, but will give us a place for business meetings and smaller gatherings like monthly book discussions and Humanist Perspectives meetings. It will provide a place for our files, the library, and for necessary materials and equipment such as our Jefferson Humanists banners. It also offers opportunities for a place to hold impromptu meetings and new events (a weekly humanist coffee break gathering perhaps?).

We continue to get out the message about humanism. In March, we had a booth at the March for Science and in June we shared a booth with the Secular Hub at the annual PrideFest Parade. We met hundreds of curious people who left with literature on humanism, the AHA, and our Chapter, including many who signed up to receive our newsletter and email announcements. We also marched in both events with our Jefferson Humanists banner, publicly acknowledging our support for these important scientific, social, and political efforts. Both were very successful events that we plan on participating in again next year. We are seeking other avenues for marketing our message to those who don't know about humanism or our secular community.

Our newsletter continues to publish regularly on a monthly basis, letting our members and other interested parties know about what we've been doing and what is coming up. Our newsletter editors continue looking for ways for greater member engagement, recently adding a Monthly Reader Survey.

The addition of a paid webmaster enabled us to introduce a new, refreshed website ([www.jeffersonhumanists.org](http://www.jeffersonhumanists.org)) which includes a Chapter calendar and new emails so members can more easily communicate with Chapter leadership. On Meetup ([meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists](http://meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists)), we've added 67 new members in 2017 (so far) for a total of 233, and our Facebook site ([www.facebook.com/jeffcohumanists/](http://www.facebook.com/jeffcohumanists/)) offers an online space to keep people informed about our Chapter and humanist issues. The Chapter IT group is looking for other ways to promote our Chapter and our message and hopes to eventually expand to other social networking sites, like Twitter.

The Program Committee coordinated a full slate of thought-provoking, informative programs for our monthly meetings. They are working on the 2018 program schedule, which looks to be as engaging as ever.

The Jeffco Political Action Taskforce (JPAT) was created in late 2016 and quickly gained a large following of people looking to be more politically active after a divisive national election. The group made our voices heard in a variety of ways, including protest marches, publication of the *Rational Enquirer* (subtitled, "Free Speech from the Center), an attempt to reach moderate voters, and creation of a website at <http://actiontaskforce.org/>. Recently, the group began collaborating with a number of other organizations to promote the American Anti-Corruption Act (AACA) campaign. A kickoff event on November 4<sup>th</sup> drew 35 people and gained 22 signatures on the "Call for city & county resolutions" petition.

We engaged in a few social responsibility efforts in the past year, including a coat drive for the Pine Ridge Reservation, monthly donations of toiletries and other personal items to the Action Center, and food packing at the Action Center's warehouse. We are working to do more and are looking for members to help lead us in these efforts.

We introduced our first scholarship program to encourage Chapter members to attend the annual American Humanist Association conference, offering six scholarships of \$175 toward conference registration. Though only two members accepted the scholarships this year, we plan to continue this promotion in 2018.

In addition to existing programs like our monthly reading group (called FROG - Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group), we expanded other member events considerably this year, adding a monthly happy hour, regular nature hikes, and a Humanist Perspectives program to explore the many aspects of humanism.

In September, 29 members attended the annual retreat to discuss their aspirations and goals for the Chapter in 2018 and beyond. That was followed up by a short survey of members in October to help Chapter leaders gain further insight into what our members want from the organization. Leaders will be meeting in January to examine this input and refine our initiatives for the year.

The Board and a Search Committee exerted considerable effort defining a chapter position of Executive Director, but eventually concluded that hiring a person this year is premature. In 2018, we intend to hire a staff person to help enhance chapter operations. Our long term goal is to eventually hire an Executive Director.

All these efforts take time and great effort, so we are looking to engage more members as volunteers to help run our Chapter. Volunteer needs include:

- additional people to help on the Program, Membership, and IT committees
- help in planning and running monthly dinners
- additional newsletter staff, including a photographer
- co-leaders for our new Social Responsibility committee
- a new librarian
- and co-leaders to help run our various monthly programs such as the reading group, nature hikes, Humanist Perspectives and happy hours,

If interested in volunteering to help in any of these areas, please see a Board member.

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## **Dr. Tom Noel (Dr. Colorado) Speaks at JH November Chapter Meeting**

**By Robin Baer**

November's meeting featured Dr. Tom Noel, known as 'Dr. Colorado.' Dr. Noel is a professor of history at the University of Colorado Denver, specializing in the history of Colorado. He began his self-described "breezy," look at Jefferson County landmarks by noting that the City of Golden was the Territorial Capitol, Denver being designated the Capitol later after Colorado became a state. The arch over Washington



Street in Golden is one of our most recognizable landmarks, as is the much more recent Jefferson County Building, affectionately known by locals as "the Taj Mahal." He mentioned that Jefferson County was



named for President Thomas Jefferson, and that the dome of the County building was designed after the dome of Jefferson's Monticello.

Golden was also a rail hub, so it is fitting that the Railroad Museum is in Golden. In addition, Dr. Noel showed an old photo of a funicular railway that once climbed South Table Mountain. Nearby, on Lookout Mountain is an attraction that brings people from all over the world: the museum and grave of "Buffalo Bill," William F. Cody.



His remains are very securely buried there, after famous challenges by two other towns, Cody, Wyoming, and North Platte, Nebraska. As Dr. Noel said, “Cody taught the world to play cowboys and Indians,” and he showed a photograph of Cody riding the little train at Tiny Town, also a local landmark.

Dr. Noel stated that there were no state parks in Colorado early on, but many cities and counties established them, notably those established by Denver. The first was Genesee Park on I-70 and now the site of the bridge which opens to a spectacular view of the Front Range as well as the location of a herd of bison.

Many other notable and familiar sites were mentioned, such as Chief Hosa Lodge, established in 1918, the Boettcher Mansion, once the summer home and hunting lodge for the renown Colorado family, the Rooney House in the Rooney Valley just west of C-470, the Humphries House, the Bradford House, and the big grey stone Mercantile Building in Buffalo Creek, which is still run by the daughters of the original owner. He had an interesting story about the Meyers Ranch on Highway 285, a beautiful yellow home and the outbuildings, which famously housed the owner’s small airplane. Meyers had donated land across from his house for a Jefferson County park. Dr. Noel related that once he was offered a ride in Meyers’ plane, but the pilot was then in his 90’s and planned to take off from a field behind the house, so Noel prudently declined.

Other photos and comments were of the “Summer White House,” planned to be built in 1911, which now sits in ruins on Mr. Falcon; the “Cony Island Hot Dog” stand, which was in Aspen Park until redevelopment pushed it to a site in Bailey; Sam Arnold’s “The Fort,” a replica of Old Bent’s Fort in southeast Colorado; the JCRS (Jewish Consumptive Relief Society), a TB sanitarium where people came to recover in the mountain air, part of which is now the JCRS shopping center and site of Casa Bonita; and the Lakewood Heritage Center and 20th Century Museum, where the city is locating and restoring old west-Colfax businesses and houses.

Most notable is Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater, which Dr. Noel described as one of the three best-preserved examples of a Civilian Conservation Corps project, undertaken during the Great Depression in the 1930’s.



Needless to say, Dr. Noel is a font of information about Jefferson County history, as well as all of Colorado, and his narrative is always delivered with a healthy dose of humor. For all of us who wanted more, Dr. Noel will be back to speak to Jefferson Humanists in May 2018. Or, check out titles of his dozens of books on his website, at the Tattered Cover bookstore, or at your library.

Photos of Landmarks by Tom Noel.

Photos of Dr. Baer and Dr. Noel by Traci Bickell



Ralph Hughes, Nov 22, 2017

**F**or the second half of this year, JH's Jeffco Political Action Taskforce (JPAT) has taken on a new and productive focus. We've established ourselves as the Jefferson County chapter of *Represent.Us*, and have thus become the local spearhead of the American Anti-Corruption Campaign (AACC).

For those who haven't been to a chapter meeting for a few months, the AACC is a non-partisan, nationwide, grassroots movement to get anti-corruption resolutions adopted by cities and countries across the U.S. The campaign's legal scholars have drafted an extensive boilerplate resolution. It's up to the local groups to approach their city council and county commissions to "negotiate" a specific resolution for each municipality. The campaign coordinators support us through a national group called *Represent.Us* which provides training, email facilities, and publicity for our events.

The JPAT members have been impressed with the campaign and *Represent.Us* so far. They provide a step-by-step guide to achieving the anti-corruption goal, and have already succeeded in passing resolutions in over 50 cities, three counties, and one state (South Dakota).

For each city, for example, the campaign proceeds in four steps: 1) gather signatures on a petition calling for the city to pass an anti-corruption resolution; 2) approach the mayor or city council with that evidence of support and negotiate a specific resolution for them to pass; 3) gather signatures again on a petition of support for that specific resolution; 4) submit the resolution to the city council again and again until they pass it.

The national organization envisions getting enough city, counties, and states to enact anti-corruption resolutions that the politicians elected under that system will be primed to support a national anti-corruption act. The full act has many provisions that will end dark money in politics and take away the advantages that extremist candidates have enjoyed, including:

- Preventing parties from both lobbying members of Congress and making contributions to their campaigns
- Making all contributions instantly reportable in a searchable, online format that can be aggregate by donor
- Outlawing fund raising by elected representative during congressional "business hours"
- Making legislators wait five years before working for the industries that lobbied them while in office
- Redrawing congressional districts through independent, non-partisan commissions rather than state legislatures
- Making all primary elections open to any voter, not just those registered for a given party
- Determining election winners by rank-choice voting rather than highest vote total
- Public financing of elections by giving every voter a voucher they can award to the candidate of their choice



JPAT started Step 1 at the beginning of November, and already we have 80 signatures covering the cities of Arvada, Golden, Lakewood, Littleton, and Wheat Ridge. We feel that once we have 200 signatures for a given city, we can move on to Step 2 for the locale.

With a bit of funding from the JH board, we held a rally for the AACA on November 4<sup>th</sup> where we had speakers from Common Cause and *Represent.Us* plus and appearance by Colorado state representative Joe Salazar. 35 people attended and we gained 22 signatures there. We also attended the “Crossing Bridges” educational event in Golden a couple of weeks later and gained another 15 signatures.

Looking ahead to 2018, we’ll be setting up tables at all the major events in Jefferson county. As always, we can accomplish far more if you will lend us some help. Contact Ralph Hughes, JH’s chair for Legislative Affairs to find out the roles that need support and where we’ll be canvassing for signatures next. He can be reached at 720.951.2100 or [ralph.hughes@yahoo.com](mailto:ralph.hughes@yahoo.com).

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Jefferson Humanists Book discussion group  
(FROG: Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group)



In December, the Jefferson Humanists reading group will be reading *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt. Social psychologist Haidt challenges conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion to speak to everyone on the political spectrum. His premise is that moral judgment arises not from reason, but from gut feelings. He examines how liberals, libertarians, and conservatives have different intuitions about right and wrong. Haidt tries to increase our understanding to help close the gap and help generate cooperation between people with different viewpoints. RSVP to join the conversation at <http://meetu.ps/3f3LSB>.

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).

**Date:** Saturday, December 9th

**Time:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Reading Assignment:** *The Righteous Mind: Why good people are divided by politics & religion* by Jonathan Haidt

**Facilitator:** Ralph Hughes

**Location:** Lakewood Library, 20<sup>th</sup> & Miller, Lakewood

**Date:** Sunday, January 14th

**Time:** 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Reading Assignment:** Reading topic: The Enlightenment. Read a book about the Enlightenment (“the Age of Reason”, 1685 – 1815), written during that era or about a major enlightenment thinker. You can also watch a documentary or movie about the Enlightenment.

**Location:** Lakewood Library, 20<sup>th</sup> & Miller, Lakewood

**Upcoming schedule:**

- February 10<sup>th</sup> – *Lamb: The Gospel according to Biff, Christ’s childhood friend* by Christopher Moore
  - March 10<sup>th</sup> – *The Political Mind: Why you can’t understand 21<sup>st</sup> century American politics with an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century brain* by George Lakoff
  - April 14<sup>th</sup> – *Trust us, We’re Experts: How industry manipulates science and gambles with your future* by John Stauber
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# Social Responsibility with Jefferson Humanists

By Carole Hughes

A devotion to social responsibility is part of the mission of our Chapter. I've asked over the past few months for suggestions for future Jefferson Humanist projects. Several JH members have responded with ideas for a variety of possible activities, so let's have a discussion to decide which of these projects we'd like to undertake as a group. Should we gather stuffed animals to donate to Children's Hospital? Should we do our part to clean up streets in our community? Are there knitters interested in making hats to distribute to a homeless shelter? What about working with a group of teens on a joint charitable project? Should we offer to provide a meal for the Family Promise project for homeless families? Let's prioritize the many worthwhile ways for us to collectively contribute our time and resources. To attend a Social Responsibility Committee meeting, please contact Carole Hughes at [cathug51@yahoo.com](mailto:cathug51@yahoo.com) or 303 234-1304.

***February 3, 2018***

***Join Jefferson Humanists as we Pack Groceries for Families in Need***

We're set to pack groceries for the Action Center on **Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 9 AM until Noon**. Those of us who helped with this project in October really enjoyed it, so we're repeating it. We'll be working at a warehouse near the Action Center. Children and teens are welcome to join us, but the limit for our group is twenty, so if you're interested, please contact Carole Hughes at [cathug51@yahoo.com](mailto:cathug51@yahoo.com) or call at 303 234-1304.

***Donate Toiletry Items at Monthly JH Chapter Meetings***

Thank you for your continued generosity. Please keep bringing personal hygiene necessities (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, floss, toothbrushes, lotion etc.) to Chapter Meetings and we'll see that they are donated 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. Any size toiletries will be appreciated....travel sizes are great for individual clients, and larger families find the larger sizes useful. Bathroom tissue and disposable razors are also helpful. Look for the donations box at the Chapter Meetings.

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## Board Update

By Edna Miller

At its November Board meeting, Committee chairs were invited to do an update so this report includes the committee information as well as Board action:

- Set a planning day for January 13, 2018, from 9:30am – 2:30pm. All Committee chairs are invited.
- Lindy Baer, Program Committee Chair, proposed an earlier start time for the Chapter Meetings to allow for time to present a 15 minute presentation on Humanism. After discussion, Jim Bole moved to start the Chapter Meetings at 4:30 pm starting in January 2018. The motion passed. Lindy Baer presented an outline of the programs presented this year and the schedule for what has been planned for 2018. Watch the JH newsletter for information.

- Lindy Baer presented several options for a fund raiser in the Fall of 2018. The first choice would be Thea Deley, a female comedian from Las Vegas, who is connected with the AHA. This would be a separate event from the Chapter Meeting. Ralph Hughes moved we express support for the fund raiser idea and ask the new volunteer coordinator to establish a committee with 2-3 new volunteers to plan the event and hold it 6-9 months in the future.
  - Ralph Hughes, JPAC Chair, reported that the meeting to learn about the anti-corruption act went well, with 30-35 people attending. We will have additional JH Brochures printed to use at future political action meetings.
  - Traci Bickell, Chair of the IT committee recommended that the webmaster's hourly fee be raised to \$20 an hour and the Board agreed.
  - Carol Hughes, Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee, reported that the food packing event for the Action Center had 18 attendees. The next packing date is 2/3/18. RSVP a week before the event to Carol.
  - 2018 Budget: The proposed 2018 Budget was presented by Dave Beato and Jim Bole. Jim Bole moved we approve this budget as our preliminary budget to be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on 11/26/17. The motion passed. Chuck Mowry moved we ask Dave Beato to set up a savings account for the funds we do not immediately need. The motion passed.
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**Report of FROG for November**  
***DeBunk IT: How to Stay Sane in a World of Misinformation***  
**By Traci Bickell**

The FROG reading group read the book *DeBunk It* by John Grant. This is actually a book written for an adolescent reader, but we found it to be interesting and on point in terms of critical thinking and evaluating information. Because of its target audience it is a very easy book to read with many well researched anecdotes.

The book discusses some of the ideas to help the general uninformed public and offers a strategy for detecting lies and deceit from those who look to gain from selling snake oil. The author offers a checklist of how to detect "Bullshit" and a strategy to build your own "Bullshitometer". Some of the items incorporate the scientific method, such as don't take data at face value; being alert to false balance in news reporting; know the difference between a scientific theory and a hunch; and don't except the first answer that comes your way just because you don't know the answer – it is okay to do some research.

The author spends some time discussing some of the major subjects of bad information present today, such as climate change deniers, Anti-Vaxers, and fake history such as evidence of aliens starting the human race. The book ends with a lot of anecdotes of bad information. Ultimately, I think it is a good book for getting people to think a little more critically about the information they take in on a daily basis. Overall the book was well received by the group and all agreed it would be a good read to pass on to others, especially younger readers.

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# Humanist Perspectives: Secular Community Building with Tom Kellogg

Saturday, December 16, 2017

The Jefferson Humanists Chapter of the American Humanist Association is very pleased to offer a regular explorations series on 3rd Saturdays, 10-12 AM, at Jefferson Unitarian Church (JUC). Each session will be slightly different and include several segments to showcase aspects of Humanism through a presentation, videos, movies, forums and explorations, followed by discussions. We will include time for participants to socialize and get acquainted, in keeping with our chapter goal of building community. Saturday, December 16, 2017, 10am to Noon, Jefferson Unitarian Church, 14350 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Golden, In the Mills Building behind the mail building.

Tom Kellogg has studied and practiced secular community building for years from actual experience working with local groups and networking with others. He has written articles about it published by the American Humanist Association in their online magazine, theHumanist.com. Here is a link to the articles: <https://thehumanist.com/tag/secular-community/> Tom is now completing a book titled, The Roots of Building a Secular Community - a Study of the Secular Movement in Colorado. He has interviewed most of the major players and AHA is very interested in publishing the book.

Tom will talk about the history of the Colorado Secular Movement along with a comparison of the successful groups, including the Jefferson Humanists. How did they get started and how are they organized? What is unique about each group and what do they all have in common? Branding is a major component to the success of any organization. Tom demonstrates some of the "Laws of Branding" and how they can be applied to secular groups for attracting and keeping members.

The talk will be followed by discussions and socializing.

Please RSVP through this Meetup, to Jim Bole ( [randjbole@gmail.com](mailto:randjbole@gmail.com) ), or Tom Kellogg ( [kellogg52@gmail.com](mailto:kellogg52@gmail.com) ), so we have an estimate of food and drinks required.

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## Humanist Heathen Happy Hour

### New Terrain Brewing

Hosted by Tom Kellogg, Wednesday, December 20, 2017

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

New Terrain Brewing Company  
16401 Table Mountain Parkway · Golden

From the Golden Fwy/Hwy 58, take McIntyre Street north a block and turn left on 44th Ave for 2 blocks. Turn right on Table Mountain Pkwy for about 2 blocks, on the left.

This place is so new, it's not even on Google satellite maps yet. New Terrain Brewing in Golden is amazing and out in the middle of nowhere, it seems, until you realize it is actually centered in a mecca of outdoor activities - hiking and biking trails going up and around North Table Mountain, Golden Bike Park, a dog park, sports park, horseback riding, archery range, scenic views and more. Unfortunately, we won't be



able to appreciate all of that on our first visit. I have a strong feeling, though, that this place is going to have a future with the Jefferson Humanists.

Some great craft beers are brewed onsite in their state-of-the-art brewery. Instead of a restaurant, New Terrain has a series of rotating gourmet food trucks. Burger Radio is scheduled on 12/20.

Please RSVP to this Meetup at <https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/245365598/> or contact Tom Kellogg at [kellogg52@gmail.com](mailto:kellogg52@gmail.com) . Tom's cell phone is (720) 808-2825. This is always a casual event, so drop in anytime from 6 to 8.

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

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## **Not again.....**

By Mari Crowey

**A**s I started to write this article I was hoping we'd get through the month of November with no more acts of terrorism (NYC) or random multiple shootings (Thornton, CO) and that the worst thing on the horizon was winter weather. Of course, the President has been on a southeast Asia tour, his twitter account is on fire, and there's still political infighting making headlines. As it turns out, I was wrong and my heart goes out to the folks of Sutherland Springs, TX.

I know, no one wants to believe or accept that these terrible events can happen to them..... but they can! If you haven't been directly or personally affected by recent events, you are truly fortunate. So, is there anything you can do to be more safe in your daily activities?

To be honest, I just hate that I even feel compelled to write about this topic, but it is what it is..... and without real thought about what to do and when to do it, you are at risk! So here are some basic thoughts on how a church or a group who meets at a church, can prepare for an active shooter situation.

**DON'T BE IN DENIAL.** Church shootings are increasing every year in America. And while the percentage of churches with shootings is relatively small, this issue is one where you need to be prepared. If you don't prepare, the downside is just too great. Remember, it doesn't have to be a Sunday morning service, it could be an evening gathering for the Jefferson Humanists or a Tuesday night potluck with friends and family.

**Does the church or group have a security plan?** This plan should include all issues of security, from active shooters to child abuse. Local law enforcement is almost always willing to work with organized groups and make recommendations.

**Remember that church or meeting group security is more than an expense.** To be honest, I find it incredibly foolish for any church or group to say they can't afford security. If that's truly the case, then maybe the doors shouldn't be open if you can't afford to keep people in your walls safe and secure. This also holds true for any place you choose to hold your meetings. You may have to spend some money to go to a training seminar or to retain a local police officer every weekend or meeting, but that is an investment in security, not an expense. And to put it in very crass terms, preparation is cheaper than paying for funerals.

**Keep security in mind every time you enter the building.** Are you working as hard as possible to make your church or meeting place as secure as possible? This is a change in mindset that requires constant attention. For many, its so easy to think something like Sutherland Springs couldn't possibly happen in their neighborhood. Well, it can... and it does!

**Organize a church security ministry or group security team.** It goes without saying you need leaders who are passionate about this issue. And it is especially helpful if those leaders have a background or experience in security, safety or law enforcement. No one with the background experience? Then find someone who is willing to learn!

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**From *theHumanist*, AHA's Online Newsletter**  
**A Message from the Communications Manager, Amy Couch**  
**Published with permission from AHA**

Sometimes I think the South is a completely different solar system. A place where society accepts and often expects men to date girls; where women are encouraged to be helpless—actually told that the role of submission is one of honor. My parents not only allowed but *encouraged* my fourteen-year-old sister to date a twenty-one-year-old man. He was a “good, Christian man. He’d make a respectable husband,” they said. That was in the 1990s, not the ’50s.

The national reaction to Roy Moore has been interesting to me as a woman coming from that alternative solar system. Of course it’s heinous; of course it’s predatory behavior. But is it so unusual? Maybe in California or Boston, but definitely not in Alabama. I felt similarly when watching the news about Al Franken last night. The picture of him groping a sleeping woman is just like a thousand other pictures I’ve seen my whole life from frat parties, college camping trips, and church lock-ins. “Oh, he was just playin’ around!” or “He didn’t hurt her or anything, what’s the big deal?” No harm, no foul.

But it does harm, and it certainly fouls women’s self-confidence, career choices, ambition, and general feelings of safety. It perpetuates the objectivity of the female body and equates feminine value with this objectification. The definition of a professional woman includes being in some way attractive to men. I think most women would agree that the prettier you are, the quicker your path to success in this country. What if we turned the tables and made men dress for women the way we dress for them, just to get ahead professionally? What if great biceps and a butt that looks hot in leather pants were a job requirement? “Sure, you’re smarter than this other guy who looks like the Rock, and you’ve got much more experience than him.... But you also have a muffin-top and no ass. I’m sorry, but office morale dictates we go with the hot guy, not the smart guy.”

What if men always asked that cliché question: Honey, do these pants make me look fat?

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**# Me Too....From Two Generations**  
**by Nancy Bolt and Traci Bickell**

*From Nancy*

After the JH IT Committee meeting in October, Traci, her daughter Bronwyn, and I went out to dinner. The recent news about harassment of women got us talking. We represent three generations. I’m 22 years older than Traci and she is 30 years older than Bronwyn. So we told stories. Here are some of those stories.



I've been lucky in life. I've never been assaulted. I've often had a leadership position in an organization that discouraged physical harassment. But I have experienced it early in my life and my career. My sister and I had a step-uncle who tried to get us alone to "cop a feel." He managed to do it once for each of us and then we stuck together and never again followed him into the barn alone to see the animals on the farm. When we finally told my mother and she told my step-father we were never asked to go to the farm again. In fact, none of us went to the farm again because my mother was afraid that my step-father would "kill" my step-uncle. BUT, we didn't raise it with the rest of the family and we have no idea how many other kids he tried that with. We stayed silent.

I remember early in my library career where a leader in the state-wide library community pulled me down on his lap at a public reception. I stayed a very uncomfortable 10 seconds and got up and left. I didn't need to report him because everybody saw it. And nobody said anything. I have no idea if he did this or worse with people who directly reported to him. We were afraid of retaliation. We stayed silent.

I had another job where the director was notorious for propositioning women, including me. I just laughed it off. It didn't occur to me to report him to anyone. We knew he was having an affair with one staff member who responded reluctantly, but again, we felt it was her business and she didn't stop it. We stayed silent.

At another library, I was a reference librarian and one of the library users liked to harass us by staring. He sat at a table near the reference desk and stared at us. Just stared. It was very uncomfortable for all of the women. When we complained to the Director, he and the Assistant Director just laughed and told us to lighten up.

It's hard to explain how we felt. We weren't outraged. It was just normal. It was the way things were. Most men didn't force it. They took rejection well. They laughed about it to other men and we laughed about it to other women. Some of the men who propositioned me are still friends. We knew who to stay away from; who not to dance with at parties because their hands wandered; who to just laugh it off with.

More insidious to me was having my opinion ignored. Saying something to no reaction and then having a man say the SAME THING and people acknowledging "what a great idea." Not being allowed to speak because as soon as I did a man started talking and all heads turned toward him. There was a peer from another state, a man, who when he saw this happening, would step in and say "Nancy, were you going to say something?" I appreciate that this man did that, BUT, it meant that it happened because a man legitimized me.

And it impacted promotions. If you complain about this causal harassment or the jokes, you weren't a team player. You didn't "fit in." I remember one man saying, (really, he said this): "How can women participate in decision making when they don't use the men's restroom" implying that's where men discussed the really important issues.

Traci told her own stories. She said when she would resist causal harassment or jokes about the way women looked, she was told to "lighten up" or "just relax" or "can't you take a joke"? "No one wants to be around a prude." She said "Being called a prude was supposed to be a comment on your personality and not in a good way." Traci remembers being in middle school and being called a "libber" by the boys because she didn't back down to bullies. She was called a "lesbian" (and she cleaned that up) because she was tall.

Traci's own insidious moments came as she raised a boy and a girl. The son was praised for his high test scores, Bronwyn was not, even though her scores were higher than her brother's. Traci has friends at work who say it is better have a pretty daughter than a smart one.

When I sent this to Traci, she added her own thoughts.

#### *From Traci*

I have to confess, I have not added my name to the Me Too campaign. That does not mean that I have not had my own experiences, I have. I have just not wanted to talk about it. The fact that I don't really want to talk about it, is the topic I do want to talk about. My experiences range from the average everyday types of sexual prejudice to an introduction to the criminal justice system at the age of 11.

When I didn't like being bullied I was told that I needed to lighten up. Relax and smile, don't be so uptight. When I complained about the rudeness of middle school/high school boys, I was told that meant that I liked them. I was told that I wasn't really mad, that I was just putting on a show for attention. That criminal case was not that big a deal and you just need to get over it and grow up. I kept hearing about the need to shut up and keep it to myself. After years of hearing this you can start to believe it. But, more time goes by and you realize you never believed it.

As time went by I began to notice when people around me were not listening. When no one is listening, I stopped talking. I have to wonder how many people have done the same. How many women out there are looking at that Me Too! campaign as a cry for attention and automatically dismiss the cries of injustice? We all need to speak up and we all need to listen to each other and all need to give ourselves credit for being the bigger person, every time.

#### *From Traci and Nancy*

What can we do? What can you do? Pay attention in the groups you are in. If someone's opinion gets stepped on, ask the person, man or woman, to share their opinion. Recognize them for the value they bring to a conversation. If you see harassment, say something. If men joke about how women look, say something. Don't be silent any more. Hopefully, we are at a turning point in harassment, both physical and intellectual. Let's not let this moment slip away.

We welcome others to share their viewpoint on this topic. Men particularly are welcome to share their thoughts.

### **Here is a Ralph Hughes item just for fun!**



## November, Monthly Reader Survey

**Y**our intrepid editors get to share their opinions all the time. Now it's your turn. We are going to ask a question each month and hope you will send in your answers. We'll publish them the following month. Here is November's question and answer:

*What are the best movies that demonstrate humanism? Send up to three movies and a brief (two or three sentences) of why you chose that movie.*

We got suggestions of fourteen movies, shown below in no particular order. Some dealt with the impact of religion on people's lives; some show living in a rational, humanistic world; others were openly anti-religious; some humorous. Here they are and it's a great list for Humanist Movie Nights.

*The Majestic*, starring Martin Landau and Jim Carrey, directed by Frank Darabont.

Set in 1951, a blacklisted, antagonistic and narcissistic Hollywood writer, Appleton, gets into a car accident, loses his memory, and settles down in a small town where he is mistaken for a long-lost son, Luke. In the weeks that follow, the townspeople "remind" Appleton why Luke was so well-liked, and he finds himself living up to a new set of values he never possessed prior to his accident -- and liking himself the better for it. 2001

*The Most Hated Woman in America* (2 votes), Directed by Tommy O'Haver. As America's leading Atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair was also known as America's most hated woman. 2017

*Religulous* (3 votes), Prominent atheist, Bill Maher's take on modern religion. Directed by Larry Charles. 2008

*Inherit the Wind* (3 votes), starring Spencer Tracy, Fredric March, and Gene Kelly. Directed by Stanley Kramer. Famous challenge to the teaching of evolution in the schools. 1960

*Philomena* (2), starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. Directed by Stephen Frears. Based on the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee* by journalist Martin Sixsmith, it tells the true story of Philomena Lee's 50-year search for her son who was forcibly taken from her by a Catholic home for unwed mothers. 2013

*Agora* (2), starring Rachel Weisz and Max Minghella. Directed by Alejandro Amenabar. A historical drama set in Roman Egypt, concerning a slave who turns to the rising tide of Christianity in the hope of pursuing freedom while falling in love with his mistress, the famous philosophy and mathematics professor Hypatia of Alexandria. 2009

*Captain Fantastic*, starring Viggo Mortensen. Directed by Matt Ross. In the forests of the Pacific Northwest, a father devoted to raising his six kids with a rigorous physical and intellectual education is forced to leave his paradise and enter the world, challenging his idea of what it means to be a parent. 2016

*The Martian*, starring Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Directed by Ridley Scott. An astronaut becomes stranded on Mars after his team assume him dead, and must rely on his ingenuity to find a way to signal to Earth that he is alive. 2015

*The Invention of Lying*, starring Ricky Gervais (and written and directed by him and Matthew Robinson.) A comedy set in a world where no one has ever lied, until a writer seizes the opportunity for personal gain. It gets interesting when he invents god. 2009

*Silence*, starring Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, and Liam Neeson. Directed by Martin Scorsese. In the 17th century, two Portuguese Jesuit priests travel to Japan in an attempt to locate their mentor, who is rumored to have committed apostasy, and to propagate Catholicism. It does not end well. 2016

*The God Delusion*, with Richard Dawkins, John Lennox, William H. Pryor. Directed by Patrick McRee. Inspired by his New York Times bestseller, renowned scientist Richard Dawkins examines the indoctrination, relevance, and even danger of faith and religion. 2007

*Kingdom of Heaven*, starring Orlando Bloom and Liam Neeson. Directed by Ridley Scott. Balian of Ibelin travels to Jerusalem during the crusades of the 12th century, and there he finds himself as the defender of the city and its people. 2005

*Planet of the Apes*, starring Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, and Kim Hunter. Directed by Franklin J. Schaffner. An astronaut crew crash-lands on a planet in the distant future where intelligent talking apes are the dominant species, and humans are the oppressed and enslaved. A little known aspect of the movie is the role of religion in the Ape culture and Heston's attack on religion in general. 1968

*Magic in the Moonlight*, starring Colin Firth, Emma Stone, and Marcia Gay Harden. Directed by Woody Allen. A romantic comedy about an Englishman brought in to help unmask a possible swindle. Firth is almost taken in by Stone's apparent ability to talk to the dead until he says to himself something like, "This is ridiculous, I'm an atheist," and proceeds to unravel the scam. 2014

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### **December Member Input Question – Harassment of Women: Me Too!**

Thanks to all of you who submitted your favorite Humanist Movies. Here is December's Question.

Please read the two articles on harassment of women that are in this newsletter. Every day, there are more stories that bring awareness to this issue. As a Humanist, what is your reaction to our articles? What else might you share? We would like to hear from men and women.

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## **REGISTER TODAY!**

**The American Humanist Association's 77th Annual Conference will take place on May 17-20, 2018 at the Flamingo Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada!**

**Online registration is now open! Register today to lock in our discounted early-bird price for our Full Registration package. Deadline for early registration is January 1, 2018! [Click here to register.](#)**

Online booking for discounted hotel rooms is now available! **Learn more and book today** — rooms are limited at the discounted rate and only available until April 24, 2018!

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## **Jefferson Humanists Protest New Tax Law**

Ralph and Carol Hughes, Tom Kellogg, and other JH members protested the proposed new tax law on the Colorado Capitol steps. This was an activity of the Jefferson Humanists Political Action Committee.



## **JH's Ralph Hughes teaches class in "Overcoming Oligarchy in the U.S."**

JH's chair for Legislative Affairs, Ralph Hughes, will be teaching a class in Overcoming Oligarchy in the US through Colorado Free University on Dec 13th and Feb 5th. It will start by documenting the extent and destructiveness of the U.S. oligarchy to date, then examine how the Progressive Movement of the early 20th C. overcame a similar predicament. We'll finish with a look at legislative and social changes capable of correcting the situation today, plus a list of local groups already working for those reforms.

This course was developed to meet JH's social action and outreach objectives. Yet the content could easily enrich a discussion among current humanists regarding a more activist mission for AHA chapters, so Ralph encourages all JH members to attend. Register for 8628A or 8628B at [freeu.com](http://freeu.com). (Note CFU charges a nominal fee to cover room rental.)

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## **Jefferson County Public Library Exhibit on Voluntary Simplicity**

From December 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, there will be a display at the Lakewood library on the subject of VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY. Please stop by and check it out. Following even some of the practices of voluntary simplicity is very beneficial not only to the practitioner but also to the world. Come see what it's all about!

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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.***

Co: Editors: Nancy Bolt and Bob Hofmann



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