The current state of knowledge of our vibrant planet, Earth, and its inhabitants is unprecedented and ever-increasing due to the diligent work of countless thousands of scientifically minded investigators. Mountains of scientific facts and empirical evidence are being synthesized in such a way as to give us a holistic understanding of our ever-changing planet. Just as the story of Earth’s history becomes clearer and clearer, so too are the possible futures open to us.

Supplanting sooth-sayers of yesteryear are supercomputers that crunch through sophisticated models to project what the world might be like in the coming decades, based on different physical and socio-economic scenarios. These computer models, though useful, are necessarily imperfect – as all models are – because of manifold simplifying assumptions, and limited quantity and quality of input data.

As a tool for guiding government policy, these models set the stage upon which we all will act in the drama in which we strive to fulfill our dreams of a shared, sustainable future.

Professor Roger Pielke, Jr. started his scientific career at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). After eight years, he joined the faculty of the University of Colorado Boulder in 2001. There he teaches and writes on a diverse range of policy and governance topics.

(Continued on page 11)
We were unable to hold the first Salon on February 3, because of snow, and since February was tight, we've moved our first Salon to March. Barring snow, we plan to hold this first meeting on March 2, and appreciate your patience.

The Jefferson Humanists have a new regular monthly event! We call it the JH Salon. Much like the salons of France during the Enlightenment, we will discuss a variety of topics and lubricate the discussion with a few libations. Topics will be worded as questions and can be related to science, sociology, politics, philosophy, history, ethics and more. Attendees are not required to read anything in particular before the discussion, but it certainly helps to do some study before the discussion to be able to make a coherent argument and back it up.

Our first Salon question is: ARE HUMANS THE ULTIMATE ANIMAL?

Evolution shows us that we are animals, just like our fellow primates, bees, whales, cephalopods, birds and other within the kingdom, Animalia. Are we unique? Do we hold a special place on Earth among our fellow animals? Do we deserve to be at the top of the food chain?

What obligation do we have to others within our Kingdom? Are we the pinnacle of evolution or will we see homo sapiens replaced by a future branch of our primate Order (or, indeed, by some other animal)? What if we eventually find other carbon-based, intelligent life-forms in the universe that could be classified as animals?

PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP on Meetup https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/268646395/ or to president@jeffersonhumanists.org, so we can be sure to set up enough seats. We will provide beer, wine and snacks for a small donation.

A few JH Salon ground rules:

♦ Respect others and their opinions.
♦ Criticize ideas, not individuals.
♦ Don't make personal attacks.
♦ Allow everyone the chance to speak.
♦ Don't take things personally.
♦ Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views.

"THE AIM OF ARGUMENT, OR OF DISCUSSION, SHOULD NOT BE VICTORY, BUT PROGRESS." ~ Joseph Joubert

What started out being a 6-part series has expanded to a 7-part series with discussion programs on our finite planet and what we need to do to save it. We started with Overpopulation, the biggest problem facing humanity, because it is the major driver of other problems, such as climate change and pollution that are destroying the environment and our precious ecosystems. We simply cannot continue to keep dumping people on the planet without serious catastrophic consequences. How can we feed everyone with healthy food? When we do slow and reverse population growth, what happens to the global economy? There is hope for the future, but only if we take more action now.

Ralph Hughes has studied global economics and will tell us what we are in store for in a world of uncertainty where we are up against the limits of what the earth can sustain. If we do get the earth’s population to decrease, will there be enough new consumers to keep the economy strong? How will we pay for the new electric infrastructure to get off of fossil fuels? How do we make sustainability financially feasible? These are just some of the challenges we face.

Here are the tentative topics in the series:

- Introduction to the Series and Overpopulation (Jim Bole)
- Global Warming & Climate Change (Tom Kellogg)
- Global Economics in Challenging Times of Overpopulation and Resource Limitations (Ralph Hughes)
- Protecting & Healing the Biosphere - Air, Water, Land, Other Species (Lucy Deakins)
- Sustainable Agriculture, GMOs, and Livestock Production (Traci Bickell)
- Our World in a Hundred Years (Ian Kolsky)
- Voluntary Simplicity (Darlene)

Audience participation is encouraged. Breakfast pastries and beverages will be available, and donations are appreciated.

We meet in the Mills Building behind JUC. Park on the east side and take the walkway between the buildings to the side entrance.

The Jefferson Humanists Chapter of the American Humanist Association is very pleased to offer a regular explorations series every third Saturday, 10 a.m. to Noon, 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.

We need your help to tell us what topics you’d like to see explored at upcoming Humanist Perspectives programs. Let’s spend a few minutes discussing this. Which past presentations did you like that can be expanded? Maybe you’ve seen some good Humanist videos to show. We are also looking for people to get involved with Humanist Perspectives and help put presentations together as well as co-host sessions.

RSVP https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/268767918/ ▲
March is Women's History Month, so it is a good time to attend the Women Powering Change 2020 event at the EXDO Event Center located at 1399 35th St, Denver. This inspiring event brings together more than 1,000 community members, leaders, activists, volunteers and philanthropists with more than 100 Colorado-based organizations to showcase what women are doing to catalyze social change locally and globally to create a better world. This event is an expo-style event where you can meet community leaders and learn what is being done in Colorado, and explore how you can also be a part of it all.

Tickets are for a suggested $10 donation at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-powering-change-2020-tickets-81626742785, though they do offer free entrance to ensure that the event is accessible to all who want to attend.

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. just inside the Walnut Street entrance to the center. Look for event host Matthew Elisha, who will be wearing a Jefferson Humanists ballcap. The event runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., so feel free to come early to make sure you have time to visit all the exhibits.

PLEASE RSVP TO THIS at https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/268931008/ so we are sure to keep an eye out for you.

Questions? RSVP? Contact Matthew Elisha (ASC@jeffersonhumanists.org, cell: 303-898-5412).

In February, twelve humanists went to the Colorado Environmental Film Festival held at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden and enjoyed a screening of three different documentaries.

The first film was a short documentary called Horse Rich and Dirt Poor that tells about the overpopulation of wild horse and burros in Nevada and the west. https://www.charlespost.com/motion/horse-rich-dirt-poor/

The second film was an interesting documentary about a company that practice sustainable business practices called REBBL with a Cause. https://rebbl.co/film/

The final film was an excellent extended documentary called Microplastic Madness. The film showed how Brooklyn public school children learned more about the problem of microplastic in the environment and looked for ways they could make a difference. Their ultimate message was “buy less stuff.” https://filmfreeway.com/MicroplasticMadness ▲
The Jefferson Humanists’ mission is to expand an ethical and life-affirming Humanist Community devoted to science, reason, inclusion and social responsibility. Through community building, lectures and social activism we expand our members’ awareness, gain an understanding of the issues facing the world and provide learning opportunities through guest speakers on a variety of topics.

Jefferson Humanists Sunday Meeting and More Volunteers Needed

Carol Wilson

Now that I have your attention…

Jefferson Humanists have followed a tradition of having food before each monthly meeting and have found everyone loves appetizers. Here is how you can have an opportunity to keep that tradition alive and help in other areas too.

1. Appetizers: We need volunteers to help prepare appetizers for the monthly chapter meetings, once a year. Full instructions, supplies, budget and helpers will assist. Talk to me about this opportunity. RSVP: Carol Wilson newsletter@jeffersonhumanist.org.

2. Set Up: We need a few energetic volunteers to help set up for each fourth Sunday monthly chapter meeting. Come at 3:30 and help set up tables and chairs before the meeting. You can help put away tables and chairs and with other things as needed.

3. Humanist Perspectives: We are also looking for people to get involved with Humanist Perspectives and help put presentations together as well as co-host sessions. Call Jim Bole 303-968-9198 or Tom Kellogg 720-808-2825

Many of the same members volunteer to keep our chapter vibrant and interesting for all. The busiest people are the ones who volunteer and we also need you (membership not required) to help. Paying forward brings opportunities to get involved.
Please join us for the JH Movie Night, where we'll be showing “12 Years a Slave” (2013 rated R, run time: 2 hours 14 min). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts right at 7:00. Stay for discussion afterward. We will have snacks and drinks offered. Donations are accepted. You are more than welcome to bring a comfy chair or cushion.

Click here to see the official trailer:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z02Ie8wKKRg

Movie Description:
In the years before the Civil War, Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is kidnapped and sold into slavery in the South. Subjected to the cruelty of one malevolent owner (Michael Fassbender), he also finds unexpected kindness from another, as he struggles continually to survive and maintain some of his dignity. Then in the 12th year of the disheartening ordeal, a chance meeting with an abolitionist from Canada changes Solomon's life forever.

More information and RSVP: https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/268915739/

Game Time is held on the 4th Friday of the month from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We've played several different games since we started in June 2019. Everybody is welcome to join the fun.

We play at the Starbucks Coffee Shop at Barnes & Noble in the Denver West Shopping Center on West Colfax between Indiana and Denver West Blvd. The Starbucks bar has hot and cold drinks plus various snacks available for the usual prices. Look for the Jefferson Humanists sign on the table.

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Get involved with Jefferson Humanists’ many activities and meetings. Become a member and connect with like-minded people.

Checkout our Website, Meetup, Facebook page and Instagram from the link below.
https://www.jeffersonhumanists.org/
Join the Jefferson Humanists’ book group, FROG (Freenothinkers Reading Opportunity Group) for our March discussion of “Like War: The Weaponization of Social Media” by P. W. Singer and Emerson Brooking.

Singer and Brookings provide an overview of how propaganda/advertising has become exponentially more powerful via social media. Social media has been weaponized, as state hackers and rogue terrorists have seized upon Twitter and Facebook to create chaos and destruction. ISIS effectively used social media to attract new adherents and amazingly, used it to intimidate the Iraqi army such that they relinquished territory without a fight. (From reviews on Goodreads.)

We will be meeting Saturday March 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Lakewood Public Library. The library is located at 10200 W 20th Ave in Lakewood, just 3 blocks West of Kipling. Please feel free to join us even if you haven’t finished the book.

Please RSVP to https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/267193674/ so we know how many chairs to put out.

After the meeting join us at Mountain Tap Bar & Grill, just a few blocks away in the Applegrove Shopping Center at 1901 Youngfield St, Golden 80401, to continue the conversation over a beverage. http://www.mountaintap.com.

It is increasingly difficult to reserve a library meeting room on the second Saturday of each month. As a result, to provide a consistent meeting date I have booked a room in the Mills Building, which is behind the Jefferson Unitarian Church (JUC), 14350 W. 32nd Street, Golden beginning in April, for the next several months.

Looking ahead, our upcoming meetings will be:

Saturday April 11, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. - "The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas are setting up a Generation for Failure" by Jonathan Haidt and Greg Lukianoff. We will meet in the Mills Building, which is behind the Jefferson Unitarian Church (JUC), 14350 W. 32nd Street, Golden.

Saturday May 9, from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. - "Listen Liberal" by Thomas Frank. We will meet in the Mills Building, which is behind the Jefferson Unitarian Church (JUC), 14350 W. 32nd Street, Golden.

Happy reading everyone! ▲

To prepare for the meeting, the fourteen attendees watched a video or read a book or showed up with their curiosity. Many attendees also viewed beforehand the slide show put together by our facilitator, David Smith. A far-reaching discussion ensued. First, we looked at global energy consumption and supplies. We discussed the cost to Germany of moving away from nuclear power: burning low-grade lignite mined from beneath a

(Continued on page 8)
primeval forest has increased carbon output and electricity costs. We talked about the disparate impact on third-world countries that strict carbon emission limits would bring. What will happen to their efforts to raise their standard of living even close to that of rich countries without resorting to cheap coal-fired power?

Nuclear energy offers the prospect of plentiful, relatively cheap energy. That would be a boon to third-world countries. For one thing, it could help with freshwater shortages by making desalinization projects more affordable. Countries would not lose countless acres of farming land, or open space, to wind or solar farms. But of course, we also had to consider safety concerns. Who wants to live next to the next Fukushima? We discussed newer designs for nuclear power plants, that produce much less long-lived waste and are much safer. However, building new nuclear power plants takes a lot of time and money. A mass-produced standardized design, like in France, could lessen these drawbacks.

The majority of the group (by show of hands) agreed that nuclear power could play an important role in addressing climate change.

### FROG (Freethinkers Reading Opportunity Group)

**2020 Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>The Coddling of the American Mind How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas are setting up a generation for failure by Jonathan Haidt and Greg Lukianoff</td>
<td>Helena Goldstein</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Listen, Liberal by Thomas Frank</td>
<td>David Smith</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>The Little Book of Atheist Spirituality by Andre Compte-Sponville</td>
<td>Jim Bole</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula Le Guin</td>
<td>Roberta Larson</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>American Nations by Colin Woodard</td>
<td>David Smith</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Six Amendments How and Why We Should Change the Constitution by John Paul Stevens</td>
<td>Lucy Deakins</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>So, You Want to Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo</td>
<td>Greg Lauer</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Topic: Humanism as portrayed in movies</td>
<td>Helena Goldstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>The End of Men and the Rise of Women by Hanna Rosin</td>
<td>Susie Martinez</td>
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Infinitus Pie is where the 4H event started, about three years ago, and is a favorite. Each person gets a personal pizza starting at $5 with your choice of crust, sauce, and cheese, and up to around $8 for unlimited toppings. Infinitus also has salads, chicken wings, and other offerings, along with amazing dessert pies. They have a nice selection of beers on tap and wine. Check out their menu before going. https://infinituspie.com/

The Jefferson Humanists welcome you to come join fellow Humanists and Heathens for drinks, dinner and unique conversations, every third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. We'll try new places and go back to our favorites. This is a casual event, so don't worry if you're running late. https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/

It was a big success and a lot of fun. We had the private banquet room, and Tom went all out by creating a 12-question trivia contest using PowerPoint and showed it on a big TV using a PA to announce it, just like the real thing. The questions were about famous humanists, science, and politics. Teams and individual players competed. Each player or team got 12 slips, one for each answer and turned them in at each question.

The team Humanists (Traci and Matthew) won the contest, and there were some very nice prizes. People really liked the event, so we will do it again soon.
Speaker Glenn Tapia has worked in the field of prisoner justice in Colorado for 30 years and is currently Director of Leadership and Organizational Intelligence with ACJI. He began his program with statistics. In Colorado 85 thousand people were arrested in 2018. Of these, 33 thousand were in county jails or prisons. The balance were on parole, probation, etc. Over 50 percent reenter the system. Glenn explained the purpose of bail and how the bail system works in Colorado. He then made the case that the system is flawed. The reasons:

- A large proportion of High Risk defendants who can financially afford bail do get out – and often without any form of supervision; while poor people who cannot afford bail stay incarcerated.
- While in jail, people risk losing their jobs, falling behind in school, not getting needed medication, and losing housing and custody of their children.
- Many people in jail have behavioral health needs that would be better met outside the justice system. One in five jail inmates has a serious mental illness. Only 11% of people with substance-use disorders in the justice system receive treatment.

We need bail reform – What is the alternative? Preventative Detention (AKA Release/Detain) and Pretrial Supervision. Many factors to be accomplished.

The cost of incarceration ranges from $50 to $100 per day. The cost of pretrial supervision is $4 to $6 per day. Senate Bill 20-161 will accomplish many of these points, and is currently working its way through the legislative process in Colorado. Call your representatives today.
issues related to science, technology, environment, innovation, and sports. Roger is a professor in the Environmental Studies Program. At CU-Boulder, Roger founded and has directed the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, and also the Sports Governance Center. Roger was a Fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences from 2001 to 2016. CIRES, as it’s called, is sponsored jointly by NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and CU Boulder. CIRES was established in 1967 and is the oldest and largest of NOAA’s cooperative institutes nationwide. RSVP: https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/268971782/▲

AHLC Special Report
Spotlight on Appignani Humanist Legal Center
By Grace Gamm

Since 2006 The Appignani Humanist Legal Center (AHLC) has defended constitutional rights and strengthened the wall of separation between church and state in US courts. The AHCL is the legal arm of the AHA and can be found at www.humanistlegalcenter.org.

Four current cases are currently being worked at the AHLC, and at least two others are being developed for filing. The four current cases are presented in detail on the website, and this is a very brief description of the claims and the decisions about them to this point. All remain active due to further appeals.

In May 2018, a judge ruled against the city of Ocala, Florida, and found four complainants represented by the AHLC in their claim that the Establishment Clause was violated when the city sponsored and promoted a prayer vigil.

In a claim against Pensacola, Florida, the AHLC has prevailed in district court and again in an Eleventh Circuit Appeal, with a claim of violation of the Establishment Clause for ownership and maintenance of a large cross on public property.

In a case now pending in US District Court, the AHLC is seeking injunction and removal of a Ten Commandments monument that is on display outside the state capitol building in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The AHLC represents an inmate in a claim against the prison and chaplain charged with his care, for not providing Humanist privileges consistent with those provided for theist inmates. The case was dismissed in 2017 and the AHLC has appealed.

Two situations that may be addressed by AHLC in the next months involving a public school that invites missionaries to lecture students monthly, and forcing a student to attend this religious lecture despite her parents’ request to excuse her; and another prison complaint involving lack of recognition of humanism as a legitimate religious preference.▲

Grace Gamm is a JH member and also a long time member and supporter of the AHA. She also participates in national and international humanist meetings.
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f you like walking and enjoying the splendor of nature, we invite you to join us for our monthly nature hike. It is a great chance to get some exercise while enjoying the company of your fellow humanists.

Crown Hill Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is nestled between Kipling and Wadsworth between 26th Ave and 32nd Ave. This is an easy hike on well established trails around Crown Hill Lake and the Sanctuary.

After the hike, we'll meet up at a nearby restaurant for lunch.

Join us on the first Saturday of the month for a walk/hike, geared for easy and moderate hiking levels. We visit different interesting wild places and sometimes do an urban hike at special events. We'll either meet at 10:00 am or sometimes hike in the early evening.

Afterward, for those interested, we'll meet at a restaurant nearby or have a picnic.

Bring a water bottle, good walking shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. Be prepared for any weather.

https://www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists/events/269055438/