

NOSHA NEWS

Newsletter of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association
Fall 2004

New Orleans Secular Humanist Association (a 501c3 corporation)

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NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

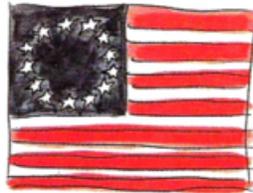
Council for Secular Humanism
American Humanist Association
Atheist Alliance International
American Atheists, Inc.

MEETINGS

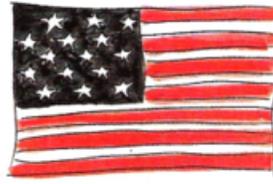
1st & 3rd Sundays
1:30 p.m.
Smith Branch Library
6301 Canal Blvd.
New Orleans

Since 09/11/01, there have been those who have suggested that god was seeking retribution on America for its liberalism and perceived immoralities. And there have been others who have advocated a preemptive strike on a sovereign nation suggesting that it was God's will. If there is a god, what would she/he really think about America and Americans?

Vengeance's Mine By EDWARD SOREL



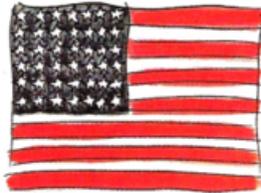
ONCE FREE OF ENGLAND'S OPPRESSIVE REGULATIONS, THE COLONISTS WASTED NO TIME IN BRINGING MORE AND MORE SLAVES INTO AMERICA.



THEN WITH GOOD OLD AMERICAN "KNOW-HOW," THEY BROKE ALL TREATIES WITH THE INDIANS AND BEGAN PUSHING THEM FURTHER AND FURTHER WEST.



THE INDIANS THAT WEREN'T KILLED WERE THEN IMPRISONED ON RESERVATIONS, LEAVING THE ARMY FREE TO USE ITS GUNS ON MEXICANS, FILIPINOS AND NICARAGUANS.



RETURNING TO THE STATES, THE ARMY THEN CAME TO THE RESCUE OF HARD-WORKING INDUSTRIALISTS, WHO WERE BEING THREATENED BY MONEY-MAD STRIKERS.



THEN, AFTER THE DEFEAT OF GERMANY IN 1945, HIGH-RANKING NAZI SCIENTISTS WERE IMPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES TO WORK ON NEW DEATH MACHINES.



WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO? EVERY SUPERPOWER DOES THINGS THEY DON'T BRAG ABOUT. I TRY TO BE AS UNDERSTANDING AS I CAN.



BUT WHEN THEY CHANGED THEIR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO INCLUDE THE LINE "ONE NATION UNDER GOD," I REALLY GOT MAD!!



BLAMING ME FOR THEIR ATROCITIES! THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN SENDING THEM GLOBAL WARMING, AND SHMUCK PRESIDENTS...



... AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!!

Reprinted with permission from the July 5, 2004 issue of *The Nation* magazine. For subscription information, call 1-800-333-8536. Portions of each week's *The Nation* magazine can be accessed at <http://www.thenation.com>.

AMERICANS OPPOSE ‘CHRISTIAN NATION’ AMENDMENT, POLL FINDS

A nationwide poll released in late July showed strong opposition to a constitutional amendment declaring that America is a Christian nation.

That same survey, however, also revealed widespread support for teaching creationism in public schools and displaying religious symbols, such as the Ten Commandments, on public property.

The poll, conducted by a California consulting firm, found that 66 percent of Americans are against a constitutional amendment “to establish Christianity as the official religion of the United States.” Thirty-two percent favor it.

While the public at large opposed the amendment, evangelical Christians were for it. The survey found that 66 percent of evangelicals favored the proposal.

The Barna Group, an agency with a conservative religious orientation, also revealed that 79 percent oppose removing Ten Commandments displays from public buildings; 84 percent oppose removing “In God We Trust” from currency; 84 percent oppose removing “Under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance; and 59 percent favor teaching creationism in public schools.

(Reprinted from the Americans United for Separation of Church and State Bulletin, September 2004)

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UNCONSTITUTIONAL

On October 6, a near-capacity, appreciative, audience at the Prytania Theater witnessed the first New Orleans screening of the documentary film, "Unconstitutional," produced by Robert Greenwald and being shown around the country under the primary sponsorship of the ACLU.

The hour-long documentary detailed the shocking way the civil liberties of American citizens have been infringed upon, curtailed, and rolled back since 9/11/01. It revealed how paranoia, fear and profiling have led to the subjugation of our constitutional rights. Through personal stories, it explored detentions, false imprisonments and police infiltration effecting ordinary American citizens.

At the conclusion of the film a number of attendees took the opportunity to address the audience, adding more details and expressing their own concerns about these losses of freedoms.

The New Orleans event was co-sponsored by New Orleans Secular Humanist Association (NOSHA) and the Arab-American Anti-Defamation Committee, with each sponsoring group making introductory comments before the screening. NOSHA, along with others, had an information table in the lobby offering our materials and obtaining names and addresses of people who wished to be placed on our mailing list.

CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION DISCUSSION

NOSHA board member **Barbara Forrest** discussed church and state separation at a meeting of the Florida Parishes Democrats on October 7. Her talk was one in a series of "Issue Night" discussions sponsored by the group in advance of the November 2 presidential election. Forrest began by emphasizing the extensive religious diversity in the United States, pointing out also that the second largest group in the country consists of secular people who are not affiliated with any church. She illustrated the country's religious diversity by showing a newspaper ad in the Hammond Daily Star listing all the numerous churches in the Hammond area. This diversity is accounted for by the fact that church and state separation is constitutionally mandated.

Turning next to the prospect of changes on the Supreme Court that might threaten church and state separation, Forrest noted that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia believes that the government is properly regarded as the minister of God and that democracy has been detrimental to acceptance of this concept. She further informed the group of President Bush's appointment of representatives of members of the extreme Religious Right to positions of authority in his administration.

The last segment of Forrest's talk addressed the question of what types of political activity are permissible for ministers, churches, and religious organizations, all of which are 501(c)3 organizations and are thus bound by the same IRS guidelines as other tax-exempt entities, including educational organizations and charities. Such groups have much wider latitude with respect to political activity than many religious conservatives acknowledge. They can address political and moral issues and are permitted to endorse or oppose legislation. The only thing they cannot do is endorse or oppose political candidates and become involved in partisan political activity. Forrest distributed literature from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, which itself is a 501(c)3 organization and therefore prohibited from partisan political activity.

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“The great conflict of the 21st century will not be between the West and terrorism. Terrorism is a tactic, not a belief. The true battle will be between modern civilization and anti-modernists; between those who believe in the primacy of the individual and those who believe that human beings owe their allegiance and identity to a higher authority; between those who give priority to life in this world and those who believe that human life is mere preparation for an existence beyond life; between those who believe in science, reason, and logic and those who believe that truth is revealed through Scripture and religious dogma. Terrorism will disrupt and destroy lives. But terrorism itself is not the greatest danger we face.”

--Robert Reich, Treasury Secretary, Clinton Administration; from “Bush’s God” in *The American Prospect*, July 2004

OF INTEREST TO HUMANISTS . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—The University of Utah recently agreed to let students opt out of activities that would conflict with their religious beliefs. This was in settlement of a lawsuit brought by a Mormon drama major who refused to recite lines in an acting class that contained an obscenity and “took the Lord’s name in vain.” It won’t be long until a Mormon biology major refuses to take a required class in evolution. What a lousy precedent to set at a state university!

HAMMOND, LA—The Tangipahoa Parish School Board recently agreed to settle the latest lawsuit brought against them by the ACLU. While agreeing to drop prayers before football games and other school events entirely, they could have made it easier on themselves. They had earlier rejected a recommendation to adopt a policy that would limit prayers before board meetings to “non-sectarian, nonproselytizing” invocations. Public school groups continue to ignore the First Amendment and waste tax dollars later in court.

BRIELLE, NJ—An 8-year-old girl who suffers from a rare digestive disorder and cannot eat wheat has had her first Holy Communion invalidated by Roman Catholic doctrine. The same doctrine that will not allow a rice wafer as replacement does allow a low-alcohol wine substitute for alcoholics. It should be noted that this ridiculous rule about wafers is only church doctrine, it is not biblical law. The child’s mother is appealing to the Vatican.

SPRINGFIELD, MA—A man who married his long-time partner after gay marriage was legalized in Massachusetts has been denied a passport under his new name. The man submitted his marriage license as proof of name change and checked the appropriate box on the name change form. The letter of denial from the National Passport Center cited the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which states a marriage could only be between one man and one woman.

SIOUX FALLS, SD—Under pressure from a Catholic bishop, the state (South Dakota) library website has deleted a link to Planned Parenthood’s teenwire.com website. The bishop’s beef with the link was that it provided information on abortion. The Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State has suggested state governments “are supposed to be making [those] decisions based on the Constitution and not attempting to impose their religious view-point on everyone in the state.”

NEW YORK—At the August Republican National Convention, the Washington-based Family Research Council (now headed by former Louisiana legislator Tony Perkins) handed out fortune cookies to conventioners

with sayings such as “Real Men Marry Women: Support a Constitutional Amendment to Protect Marriage” and “#1 Reason to Ban Human Cloning: Hillary Clinton.” There are no lengths to which evangelicals won’t go to forward their cause—how very Christian of them.

MADISON, WI—A former pharmacist recently refused to fill a college student’s prescription for birth control pills because he didn’t want to offend God, saying, “I could have trouble sleeping at night. I could be suffering the worst kind of pain, spiritual pain.” Now he is looking at another kind of pain, unemployment. Not only did he refuse to fill the prescription, he refused to refer the woman to another pharmacist. Facing proceedings before the state’s licensing board, the pharmacist said, “It’s good for a person to be persecuted. Really, it helps you grow in your faith.”

MADRID—On October 4, by a near unanimous vote, the government of Spain gave the go-ahead for the legislation of same-sex marriage. “Why are we doing this? Because people have to be in charge of their own destiny,” said Jose’ Blanco, a leading member of Spain’s socialist party.

The socialist government of Spain has a strong secular agenda. The Spanish Prime Minister, Jose’ Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said shortly after his March landslide victory, “The time has come for extreme respect for the sexual opinions of every individual, a time for a secular vision.”

While the concept of same-sex marriage in Spain has enraged church leaders, there is widespread public support. A Gallup poll taken in 2003 reported 68% of Spaniards support gay marriage. Joining the Netherlands and Belgium in their sanction of same-sex unions, Spain’s first gay marriages are expected to take place early in the New Year.

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NOSHA MEMBERS PUBLISHED LETTERS

The following letter by **Dave Schultz** appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* on July 17, 2004 (the **bold print** represents what the *T-P* omitted from Dave’s original submission):

Thank you for featuring Christopher Reeve and his thoughts on stem cell research. Christopher Reeve clearly explained how stem cell research will likely provide treatments for many maladies. He also explained the illogic of opposing stem cell research while not opposing *in vitro* fertilization.

Test tube production of human embryos has become a common medical procedure and a miracle for couples who can’t otherwise conceive. However, this normal procedure for *in vitro* fertilization creates some human embryos that are never implanted **and must be eventually destroyed. As in normal fertilization, not all embryos implant or develop normally.** Study of the

Letters continued from page 3 . . .

cells of the otherwise wasted embryos of *in vitro* fertilization can provide knowledge that will likely lead to cures for the maladies of fully developed humans.

I can only hope that our legislators took the time to read Mr. Reeve's comments. Banning stem cell research in our state will likely delay treatments for our citizens.

Of course, stem cell research will continue in other states and other countries. **Even without the efforts of researchers in Louisiana**, the benefits will eventually come, they will be called miraculous and the illogic of banning stem cell research will be made clear.

Clearly, if our legislators followed their own reasoning in opposing the use of embryos in research, they would also pass legislation that bans *in vitro* fertilization and that bans the use of all medical procedures that are the product of stem cell research.

J. Michael Malec's letter written in response to an editorial cartoon which depicted presidential candidate John Kerry's "too liberal voting record" appeared in the *Times-Picayune* on August 14, 2004:

The Aug. 13 Steve Kelley editorial cartoon ("His Purple Hearts I admire . . . it's the bleeding heart that worries me") deftly illustrates the bias that other writers have pointed out.

His has succinctly depicted the compassion-less conservative.

The following letter by **Mike Jolley** appeared in the *Times-Picayune* on September 20, 2004:

Thanks for informing me that Mandeville Mayor Eddie Price has "no problem at all" with violating church-state separation. You've reminded me of the importance of renewing my membership with the American Civil Liberties Union.

I think Mayor Price would find many like-minded supporters in nations such as Iran, Sudan or even Iraq. They also harbor no such problems. When his term expires, he should run for office in one of these countries.

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SECULAR INVOCATION GIVEN IN TAMPA

Michael R. Harvey of Atheists of Florida delivered the following opening invocation to the meeting of the Tampa City Council on July 29, 2004:

"An invocation is an appeal for guidance from a supernatural power, but it is not only that. It is also a call, a petition, to positive action on behalf of and for a diverse citizenry. On behalf of Atheists of Florida, I would like to express our gratitude in being invited to deliver today's invocation.

We are committed to the separation of state and church as defined by the United States Constitution. It is the core value of that remarkable and visionary document to protect the human-derived rights of all people in the continuous struggle for equal opportunities to pursue a safe and decent quality of life.

When an invocation takes on the form of public prayer, it is also a violation of the very principles upon which our country and Constitution were founded. Although we are dismayed that the practice of public prayer by governing bodies charged with representing all citizens still continues in violation of the Constitution, we also recognize that this practice has become deeply embedded in the national psyche.

Elected and appointed leaders who wish to seek the guidance of a deity can do so in private, as is their right. But not in the public arena where the establishment of religion is an assured end-result.

History – that ever-unfolding, ever-flowering story of human civilization – teaches us that the rights and accomplishments of humanity are the results of its past struggles, and that the road less traveled is many times the highest path to human progress. We therefore invoke this council and all of our leaders to be guided and inspired by the invaluable lessons of history, the honest insights of science, the guileless wisdom of logic, and the heart and soul of our shared humanity – compassion and tolerance.

So rather than clasping your hands, bowing your heads and closing your eyes, open your arms to that which truly makes us strong – our diversity. Raise your heads and open your eyes to recognize and fully understand the problems before you and know that ultimately, solutions to human problems can come only from human beings.

Thank you."

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FREETHOUGHT DAY PROCLAIMED IN SACRAMENTO

Congratulations to the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area who were successful in having October 12 proclaimed as Freethought Day in Sacramento, California by that city's mayor. The Proclamation issued by Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo reads as follows:

WHEAREAS, the Enlightenment and the individuals who thought freely concerning the relationship of natural law and government is a cherished history; and

WHEREAS, October 12th marks the anniversary of the date on which it was declared in the Massachusetts colony that "spectral evidence" would no longer be admissible in court, terminating the infamous Salem Witch Trials; and

WHEREAS, this declaration by Governor William J. Phipps of the Colony of Massachusetts was the first of its kind requiring that evidence admitted in court be

Freethought Day continued from page 4 . . .

observable by the natural senses rather than supernatural; and

WHEREAS, this day commemorates our nation’s Constitution and Bill of Rights, courts and judges, heritage of a fair trial for all, the Enlightenment values of our nation’s founders and the establishment in our public courts that evidence of innocence or guilt lies in the domain of natural reason rather than supernatural beliefs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Heather Fargo, Mayor of the City of Sacramento, do hereby proclaim October 12, 2004 as Freethought Day in the City of Sacramento.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Two internationally renowned humanists and non-believers were lost within the last three months. We remember them here with their own words:

Francis Crick (died July 28, 2004)

“I have no doubt, as will emerge later, that this loss of faith in Christian religion and my growing attachment to science have played a dominant part in my scientific career not so much on a day-to-day basis but in the choice of what I have considered important. I realized early on that it is detailed scientific knowledge which makes certain religious beliefs untenable.”

(shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology, 1962, for the discovery of the structure of DNA)

Christopher Reeve (died October 11, 2004)

“. . . while I don’t believe in God per se, I believe in spirituality . . . there is more than just us, there is an inner strength . . . I don’t know where exactly it comes from, but it’s the best that humans can be and perhaps what it is . . . perhaps really what it is love.”

“Even though I don’t personally believe in the Lord, I try to behave as though he’s watching.”

(Superman of the movies paralyzed after horseback riding accident; avid supporter of embryonic stem cell research)

The clergy, by getting themselves established by law and ingrafted into the machine of government, have been a very formidable engine against the civil and religious rights of man.

-- Thomas Jefferson

In religion and politics people’s beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing.

--Mark Twain



Joe Atheist

All Wars

We salute the
Atheist in foxholes
Whose existence,
Heroism, & patriotism
Has been denied.

Harry Greenberger, Pres.
N.O. Secular Humanists

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

On November 11, the *Times-Picayune* will, as last year, run a page of tributes to U.S. servicemen, under the heading above. After accommodating last year’s rigid requirements, we had our tribute to “Joe Atheist” included on this page. The *T-P* required that the honoree be a single person (not “atheists”); had to include a picture; and could not be submitted by an organization. Following the same parameters, Harry Greenberger once again submitted a similar tribute.

This year, The *T-P* has declined to run our ad. When Harry spoke with the publisher, he was told the decision had been made and would not be changed. When asked if there were religious objections to the ad, Harry was told the *T-P* doesn’t discuss its reasons for rejection.

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Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

History teaches that war begins when governments believe the price of aggression is cheap.

--Ronald Reagan

BUSH'S FAITH-BASED GIVEAWAYS

(The following report is reprinted from the Voice of Reason, the quarterly newsletter of Americans for Religious Liberty.)

A report by the Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy concludes that the Bush administration, despite “the absence of new legislative authority” has used its executive powers to widely implement the Faith-Based Initiative throughout the federal government.” The report describes changes in federal regulations that “increase partnership with faith-based groups to provide a vast array of human services.” The report, *The Expanding Administrative Presidency: George W. Bush and the Faith-Based Initiative*, finds that, “Religious organizations are now involved in government-encouraged activities ranging from building strip malls for economic improvement to promoting car seats to distributing Medicare prescription cards.”

The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy is a project of the Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, New York, and is supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The report was issued in August. Among the reports findings:

- “In the absence of new legislative authority, the President has aggressively advanced the Faith-Based Initiative through executive orders, rule changes, managerial realignment in federal agencies, and other innovative uses of the prerogatives of his office.”

- “Among those innovations is the creation of a high-profile special office in the White House, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, connected to mini-offices in ten government agencies, each with a carefully selected director and staff, empowered to articulate, advance and oversee coordinated efforts to win more financial support for faith-based social services. These ten agencies include: the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, and Veterans Affairs, as well as the Agency for International Development and the Small Business Administration. A similar office has also been created within the Corporation for National and Community Service. In addition, the Initiative has been promoted in a myriad of other government offices overseeing programs ranging from homeownership and business development to energy conservation.”

- “With assistance from the White House Office, these federal agencies have proposed or finalized a host of new regulations that together mark a major shift in the constitutional separation of church and state.

Examples of these regulatory changes include:

- The federal government now allows federally-funded faith-based groups to consider religion when employing staff.

- The Department of Justice now permits religious organizations to convert government-forfeited property to religious purposes after five years, replacing the previous policy prohibiting such conversions.

- The federal government now allows federally-funded faith-based groups to build and renovate structures used for both social services and religious worship.

- The Veterans Administration no longer requires faith-based social service providers to certify that they exert ‘no religious influence.’

- The Department of Labor now allows students to use federal job-training vouchers to receive religious training leading to employment at a church, synagogue, or other faith-based organization.

Who pays for this egregious shift in national policy? The “full extent of federal funding for faith-based social services” is not known, say the report’s authors. The majority of contracts and grants is awarded by state and local governments, and “few public programs record whether or not contractors are faith-based.” Five federal agencies granted \$1.17 billion in fiscal year 2003 to faith-based groups, but that may only be the tip of the iceberg.

The report also finds that Bush has “pervasively and methodically implemented” his “personal beliefs” in the implementation of this initiative.

“The Bush Administration has made concerted use of its executive powers and has moved aggressively through new regulation, funding, political appointees and active public outreach efforts to expand the federal government’s partnerships with faith-based social service providers in ways that don’t require Congressional approval.”

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EARTHLINGS IN A WORLD OF TROUBLE

From The Associated Press

GENEVA—Humanity’s reliance on fossil fuels, the spread of cities, the destruction of natural habitats for farmland and over-exploitation of the oceans are destroying Earth’s ability to sustain life, the environmental group WWF warned in an October 21 report.

The biggest consumers of nonrenewable natural resources are the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Kuwait, Australia and Sweden, who leave the biggest “ecological footprint,” the World Wildlife Fund said in its regular Living Planet Report.

Humans currently consume 20 percent more natural resources than the Earth can produce, the report said.

“We are spending nature’s capital faster than it can regenerate,” WWF chief Claude Martin said in releasing the 40-page study.

NOSHA THANKS . . .

. . . All who participated in taping new programs for NOA-TV: Dr. **Barbara Forrest** discussed her book, *Creationism's Trojan Horse* and the wedge strategy imposing the teaching of creationism in lieu of evolution with NOSHA members **Lanny Goldfinch** and **Michael Malec**. PFLAG's President **Julie Thompson** and Scholarship Committee Chair **Joe Melcher** discussed the problems and challenges of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays with **Harry Greenberger** and **Connie Gordon**. **Dave Schultz** and **Lanny Goldfinch** discussed "The Question of God". And **Lanny Goldfinch** and **Dave Schultz** discussed the state of juvenile justice with **David Utter**, Director and co-founder of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana. And, of course, thanks to **Harry Greenberger** who moderates all of the programs taped locally for airing on "The Humanist Perspective."

. . . **Phyllis Johnson, Michael Malec, Healthier Hall, Joseph Billingsley, and Joe Cook** for all their work in support of Banned Books Week and the special presentation at the House of Blues, an event wholeheartedly supported by NOSHA.

. . . All who volunteered at the annual art auction on WYES-TV, part of NOSHA's community outreach, **Harry Greenberger, Gina Cedotal, Connie Gordon, Dave Schultz, Ida Stone, and Donald McCune**.

. . . **Harvey Stern** for arranging for yet another program on cable access television. "Atheist Viewpoint" is can now be seen in Orleans Parish 10:30 am and 10:30pm on Tuesdays.

. . . **Ida Stone** and **Harry Greenberger** for helping with NOSHA's support of the ACLU's showing of the film "Unconstitutional" and the Prytania Theater.

. . . **Sally Mooney** who continues to organize NOSHA's potluck-movie nights, and to **Gina Cedotal** who baked and decorated a delicious cake for NOSHA's fifth anniversary party in September.

. . . Speakers at the last several NOSHA meetings:, including PFLAG's **Julie Thompson** and **Marie Jeanne Trauth**, and **Pat Evans**, Founder of the International Project on Nonprofit Leadership.

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PLEASE HELP NOSHA!!

After 5 years of existence, and approximately 120 Sunday meetings, the NOSHA leadership is running out of ideas for speakers and discussion topics. **We need your help.** If you know of someone who can speak to NOSHA on a topic that may be of interest to humanists, please make an initial contact to determine if the person is willing to speak to NOSHA and, if so, let **Harry**

Greenberger know of the person's willingness. Or, if you would like to speak to NOSHA yourself, or lead a discussion on any topic, please let us know and we will gladly accommodate you.

NOSHA recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. While there are more than 200 interested persons on our mailing list, 100 of whom are dues-paying, you can see from our thank you column on this same page, that a cadre of 8 to 10 members consistently volunteers for NOSHA activities.

As NOSHA continues to grow in numbers, we would like to see some of our newer members step up to take on some of the organization's day-to-day administration. We would also like to have your input about what types of programs you would like to see in the future and what community activities or social causes you would like to see NOSHA take on. To keep NOSHA going, we need your help. If you have any suggestions, your input is welcome. Please feel free to submit your ideas to NOSHA administration at any time.

Remember, NOSHA belongs to its members and will only continue to exist if those members are willing to help.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 30 – Potluck Movie Night – four movies available to choose from – at the home of Harry Greenberger, 5331 Bancroft, 6:00 pm – let Sally Mooney know what dish you're bringing at smoone@dcc.edu or 483-9862.

November 7 – regular meeting - speaker David Utter, Director and co-founder of the Juvenile Justice Project.

November 20 – Albert D'Orlando Lecture on Social Justice, First UU Church of New Orleans, 5:00 pm – speaker – Rev. Veazy, president of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

November 21 – regular meeting – speaker Bruce Nolan, religion page editor for the *Times-Picayune*.

December 5 – regular meeting – topic to be announced

December 19 – Winter Solstice Celebration – details to be announced

January 16 – regular meeting – topic to be announced

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Our civilization is not Christian. It does not come from the skies. It is not a result of "inspiration." It is the child of invention, of discovery, of applied knowledge – that is to say, of science. When man becomes great and grand enough to admit that all have equal rights; when thought is untrammelled; when worship shall consist in doing useful things; when religion means the discharge of obligations to our fellow men, then, and not until then, will the world be civilized.

Robert Green Ingersoll, 1882

New Orleans Secular Humanist Association (NOSHA) was formed to provide an opportunity for like-minded people to meet and exchange ideas and to promote awareness of secular humanist viewpoints in the community. We are committed to the application of reason and science to the understanding of the universe and to the solving of human problems. We reject efforts to explain the world in supernatural terms and to look outside nature for salvation. We strive to make the public aware of the importance of the separation of church and state, to oppose the teaching of creationism and other religious doctrines in the public schools, and to provide a voice of reason when superstition is presented in the media. We believe in enjoying life here and now, and in cultivating moral excellence. We believe in the fullest realization of the best and noblest we are capable of as human beings.

To become a friend of THE NEW ORLEANS SECULAR HUMANIST ASSOCIATION, complete, clip, and mail in the following form:

Check one: New Member Renewing Member Mailing list only Newsletter by mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or e-mail: _____

2005 Annual dues are \$15.00. A renewing member can bring in a new member, two for one -- \$15 for two when one is new. Mail to Connie Gordon, 2509 Giuffrias Ave., Apt. 603, Metairie, LA 70001.

Please send \$4.00 if you are a non-member and would like to receive the newsletter by regular mail.

**NOSHA
5331 Bancroft Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70122**