

NOSHA NEWS

Newsletter of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association
Spring 2005

New Orleans Secular Humanist Association

5331 Bancroft Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70122
(a 501c3 corporation)
<http://nosha.secularhumanism.net>

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Barbara Forrest
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Vitas Paukstaitis

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

BANNER WEEKEND COMING, MAY 21-22

TONY HILEMAN, AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO VISIT NOSHA

We are doing it again with a national leader coming to New Orleans to meet our members and speak at our May 22 meeting.

Saturday evening a reception and potluck supper will be held in his honor at 5331 Bancroft Drive in New Orleans at 7:00 p.m. To arrange to attend, contact Sally Mooney at smoone@dcc.com, or phone Harry Greenberger at (504) 483-9862.

The Sunday, May 22, NOSHA meeting at Smith Branch Library, 6301 Canal Blvd., is open to the public and begins at 1:30 p.m.

An accomplished writer and energizing speaker, Tony Hileman is the Executive Director of the American Humanist Association (AHA), the oldest and largest Humanist organization in the nation. Tony coordinated the AHA's move to Washington, DC, and works to ensure an active voice for those with an outlook based on reason and experience by providing regular responses to events of the day from a uniquely Humanistic perspective. Tony has also laid the groundwork to stimulate the AHA growth and rejuvenate the Humanist Movement by regularly promoting the Humanist outlook at conferences, forums, and chapter events across the country. As Tony often expresses to Humanist and non-Humanist audiences alike, "the need for a strong Humanist voice in the national dialogue has never been greater than it is today."

(Tony Hileman continued on page 2)

(Tony Hileman continued from page 1)

Tony began his first career in business renovating large homes into multiple-unit residences in his native Indianapolis, and then developed a chain of small retail shops in Central Indiana. He and his wife, Betty, spent a number of years living in Europe where Tony began his second career in wire service journalism working in Europe, the Middle East, and Northern Africa for United Press International. It was during this period, when he was able to take advantage of ready access to rich academic and cultural resources in history, literature, and philosophy, that Tony laid the foundation for an active role in the development of Humanism.

His thriving journalism career led Tony and Betty back to the U.S. and eventually to Washington, DC, from where he continued to travel extensively around the globe as an executive for Agence France Presse (AFP). Disenchanted with corporate life, Tony left AFP and began his next career as an independent consultant, first in the field of journalism and then more broadly. He eventually specialized as an executive coach helping individuals achieve personal as well as professional success while simultaneously discovering the vast numbers of people who support a Humanist lifestance similar to his own. These years saw the full development of Tony’s lifelong views on Humanism and eventually led to his position as executive director of the American Humanist Association in 1999.

NOSHA is honored to have Tony visiting our Humanist community and hope all of you will come out to meet him.

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HARRY’S IN DEMAND

In the last month, Harry Greenberger has appeared on television three times, twice locally and once nationally.

He was interviewed (for about a half hour) for the local NBC affiliate about the Terry Schiavo case, and was actually on air about 15 seconds on the March 21 5:00 PM news broadcast. Following that, he was invited to appear on “Ringside TV” half-hour program on the PBS affiliate, WLAE-TV with host Jeff Cruere and another guest to debate the Terry Schiavo case. The taped broadcast was aired on March 25.

Then Harry went national. He appeared live on the Fox News Channel’s “Hannity & Colmes” on April 5 to discuss the ACLU’s lawsuit against the Tangipahoa Parish School Board regarding that board’s sponsoring Christian prayers.

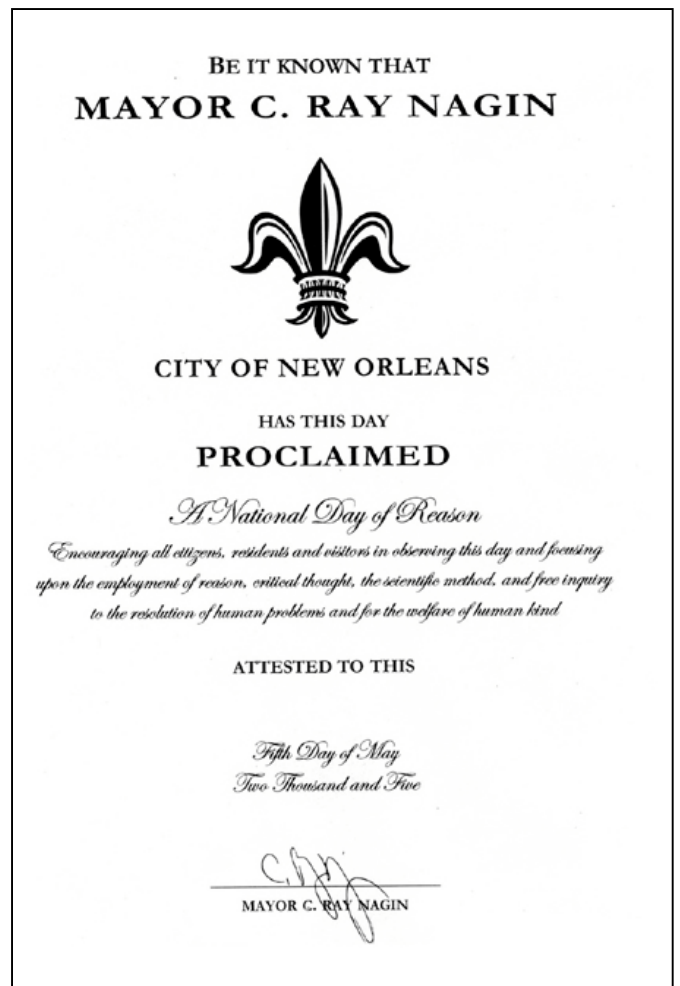
NOSHA is getting some recognition. Keep up the good work, Harry!

NATIONAL DAY OF REASON

In 1952 President Truman signed a joint resolution by Congress for a National Day of Prayer and in 1988 President Reagan made the day fall on the first Thursday of May each year.

As a superior alternative, secular groups have promoted a National Day of Reason to be commemorated on the same date as the National Day of Prayer. Since its inception in 2003, the National Day of Reason has been endorsed by American Humanist Association, Atheist Alliance International, Institute for Humanist Studies, Internet Infidels, Secular Student Alliance and other organizations, along with individuals from 46 states. Up-to-date information can be found at www.nationaldayofreason.org.

Following is the proclamation signed by Mayor Nagin of New Orleans declaring May 5, 2005, a National Day of Reason in our fair city.



OF INTEREST TO HUMANISTS . . .

RICHMOND, VA—The Virginia House of Delegates has approved an amendment that would erase church-state protections from the state constitution. The proposed amendment would “permit the exercise of religious expression, including prayer and ‘religious beliefs, heritage, and traditions’ on public property, including public schools...” Though the bill has overwhelmingly passed the Virginia House, it is still pending in the Senate. Americans United’s Barry Lynn said of the bill, “The Virginia delegates . . . have a shockingly ill-informed understanding of religious freedom.”

PIERRE, SD—A bill has passed a State Affairs Committee in South Dakota that would make abortion a crime in that state, with the only exception being the life of the mother. This proposed bill is in preparation for the possibility that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn *Roe v. Wade* in the near future. Right to Lifers in that state expect a fight should the abortion rights decision be overturned, so they are laying the groundwork early. One supporter said the bill would “send a message that South Dakota is more than just prepared to protect the rights of the unborn, but eager to.”

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Attorney General is demanding abortion clinics in that state turn over the complete medical records of nearly 90 women and girls, saying he needs the material for an investigation into underage sex and illegal late-term abortions. Sex involving someone under the age of 16 is illegal in Kansas, and it is illegal in that state for doctors to perform an abortion after 22 weeks unless the mother’s life is at risk. Once they uncover the criminals by delving into their personal lives, will the punishments be equal to the crimes, I wonder?

PORTLAND, OR—The Oregon Court of Appeals recently upheld a ruling that Portland Public Schools discriminated against atheist students by allowing the Boy Scouts to recruit during school hours. The 6-3 decision stated, “Because eligibility to join the Scouts depends on religious belief, there is substantial evidence that the district thus subjects persons to differentiated treatment in a school activity on the ground of religion.”

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—A judge in San Francisco County has ruled that withholding marriage licenses from gays and lesbians constitutes discrimination and it can no longer be justified. Nothing can happen right away as there is an automatic 60 day stay to allow for appeals, but there is a good chance that the state of California will follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to marry.

CHARLESTON, SC—IMAX theaters in this and several other southern cities have decided not to show a film on volcanoes out of concern that its references to evolution might offend the religious fundamentalists in their midst. The film, “Volcanoes of the Deep Sea,” makes a connection between human DNA and microbes inside undersea volcanoes. The director of the Charleston IMAX theater is afraid that such a topic would not sell tickets, stating, “Many people here believe in creationism, not evolution.” She didn’t say if she was one of them.

THIBODAUX, LA—In mid-February, the fledgling Gay-Straight Alliance at Nicholls State University held its first meeting in secret to talk about founding the school’s first gay support group. But a local minister’s group known for picketing the funerals of AIDS victims plans to protest future efforts of the group’s organization. Their demonstration, scheduled for April 18, will include signs that read, “You cannot live like the devil himself.” One wonders how they know that Satan is homosexual and further if he was born that way or chose it.

DENVER, CO—In a 3-2 vote, the Colorado Supreme Court threw out the death penalty for a convicted murderer because jurors discussed Bible verses. Defense lawyers for the convicted man learned that at least five of the jurors had looked up such Bible verses as “eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth” and then discussed them with other jurors during deliberation. One defense attorney, arguing before the Court said the jurors had gone outside the law when they “went to the Bible to find out God’s position on capital punishment.”

WASHINGTON, DC—Several advocacy groups are demanding the U.S. government take down one of its new web sites saying it presents biased and inaccurate advice to parents on how to talk to their children about sex. The site – 4parents.gov – stresses the promotion of abstinence with little or no mention of condoms for safe sex or the use of contraceptives. One spokesman for the health department said about abstinence only education, “One thing we do know about abstinence is that if you practice it, you will not have an unintended pregnancy or risk catching a sexually transmitted disease.” That’s true, so it serves them right if they dally – they deserve to have twins with gonorrhea.

If you aren’t completely appalled you haven’t been paying attention.

-- bumper sticker

Our ignorance is God; what we know is science.

--Robert Green Ingersoll

Science built the Academy, superstition the inquisition.

--Robert Green Ingersoll

MEMBERS' PUBLISHED LETTERS

The following letter, written by **Robert Carver**, appeared in *Time Magazine*, February 28, 2005:

What's scary is the evangelicals' blatant attack on the separation of church and state, a concept that has long protected all U.S. citizens. The battle between the forces of enlightenment and those of religious fundamentalism will determine whether we slide back into the shadowed past when religion and the state were one. Our children are depending on us to preserve their civil liberties and prevent them from having to grow up under a Christian version of the Taliban.

The following letter, written by **Harry Greenberger**, appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 7, 2005:

Your editorial and preceding news story describe the Thomas Jefferson obverse side as a "new version." What's new, in addition to the Jefferson profile, are the words he now stares at: "In God we trust."

Jefferson, author of the wall of separation between church and state, would turn over in his grave to see on the coin those words which replaced our original national motto in the mid-1950s (long after the original buffalo nickel was minted) with these religiously inspired ones.

My nostalgia is for "E Pluribus Unum."

The following letter, written by **Lanny Goldfinch**, appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 8, 2005:

I can't help but wonder why no church I have ever seen has a monument out front inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

Instead, some people want to force such a monument into the public square and the courts. Why don't they just put one up where it could be done legally and without controversy?

Hypocrites!

The following letter, written by **Cathy Cohen**, appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* on March 22, 2005:

I am baffled by a Congress and administration that started an ill-conceived and poorly planned war, which is taking the lives of thousands of people, but then choose to spend their time keeping alive a brain-dead woman who has been in a persistent vegetative state for 15 years.

* * * * *

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING PRAYERS BANNED

On February 25, 2005, a federal judge ruled that the Tangipahoa Parish School Board's practice of opening its meetings with a prayer was unconstitutional. U. S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan's ruling stated in part that

prayers offered by board members, teachers, or members of the public violate the U.S. Constitution's mandate that government must remain neutral with regard to religious traditions. The suit was brought against the school board by the Louisiana ACLU on behalf of a Tangipahoa father and his two sons.

Unfortunately, almost immediately after the ruling, several area school boards defiantly continued opening their meetings with prayer and declared their intention to continue doing so. Many area citizens and officials openly declared their defiance to the ruling, including our own Governor Kathleen Blanco.

Governor Blanco's statements to the local press declared the ban on prayer to eliminate "... a practice in our nation that dates back to the Continental Congress." She further disagreed with previous court rulings that curtailed prayer in our public schools.

At least one NOSHA member was greatly affronted by Governor Blanco's statements and wrote to her directly. **Ray Bartlett** who lives in Tangipahoa Parish shared his letter to the governor with us. At this writing he has not received a response from her office. Following is the letter Ray Bartlett wrote to Governor Blanco on March 1:

Dear Governor Blanco:

As a resident and voter in Tangipahoa Parish, as well as a staunch supporter of your candidacy for governor of this state, I was distressed to read that you were encouraging the Tangipahoa School Board to appeal the recent school board prayer case, perhaps even including use of the State's resources of filing a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the board and its prayers.

I respectfully disagree with your opinion that "... such prayers are entirely appropriate, constitutional and in keeping with a practice in our nation that dates back to the Continental Congress." The Founding Fathers established a secular government in the U.S. Constitution. It does not mention any "God" or "Christianity" and its only references to religion are exclusionary. John LeLand, a Baptist minister, threatened to run for Congress against James Madison unless Madison took up the banner of ensuring that the new Constitution included an amendment concerning the "...protection for the person to believe or not believe, to worship or not to worship." Of course, this became part of the First Amendment to the Constitution. The Founding Fathers opposed the entanglement of religion and government so much that one look at the Constitution would prove their intent: total separation of religion and government.

Government at ALL levels must maintain the total separation of religion and government ere we fall into the despotism of eighteenth century Europe. Whenever a public official uses their office to advance religion, someone will be offended. The wisest policy is one of neutrality.

Further, I submit that prayers prior to the business of state legislatures and the Congress of the United States are both a flagrant violation of the intent of the Founding Fathers because these actions by legislative bodies DO establish a religion by invoking any deity. As for this being a "Christian" nation,

perhaps citizens should research the Treaty with Tripoli, signed in 1797, which declared that "... the government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." This document was written during Washington's second term in office and approved by the Senate under President John Adams.

We are one nation under the U.S. Constitution, which established a republican form of government and guaranteed each state that type of government (Art. IV, Sect. 4). The Bill of Rights was adopted to uphold individual and minority rights on Constitutional matters; we do NOT have majority rule. Majority rule can lead to all kinds of mischief and immoral acts against others in the minority. Don't forget, it hasn't been that long ago when majorities in southern states legalized the segregation of blacks, which the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional in 1954. Let us live by the U. S. Constitution!

Under the "due process" clause of the 14th Amendment, the entire Bill of Rights applies to all officials at all levels of government and each public official must not violate the civil rights concerning the separation of religion and the State.

Is what I state anti-religious? Of course not! No one is deprived of worship in America. One has merely to watch/hear the numerous religious-affiliated stations and religious broadcasts to understand that. Each one is free to worship or pray at home, in church, at the synagogue, mosque, or temple, or not to engage in any religious activity.

In conclusion, I beseech you to preserve your wonderful accomplishments as our governor by abiding by the spirit and letter of the First Amendment. Otherwise, it is (respectfully) possible that your place in history might be viewed as one similar to Gov. George Wallace blocking the entrance of a black student at the University of Alabama. As one who supported you when I voted for you, I believe that you are a good person and I prefer that your legacy will be one of jobs creation, excellence in education, equal opportunity for all, and other positive issues.

I thank you for your kind attention to my concerns about this issue.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS R. BARTLETT

(We share this with our readers because it is a fabulous lesson in American history and the legacy of our Founding Fathers. Thanks, Ray, for sharing your eloquent words with us.)

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ONE OF NOSHA'S OWN IS FETED

The Louisiana ACLU this year recognized our own **Barbara Forrest** at their annual Benjamin E. Smith Civil Liberties Award Dinner. The event was held in the famous "Blue Room" at the Fairmont Hotel, and the keynote speaker for the evening was the Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Barbara was honored for her many years of untiring efforts in advocating for religious liberty as well as in exposing the Biblical creationists' efforts in imposing their religious views of life's origins into public school

science curricula. Not only is Barbara dedicated to this cause, she and a colleague, Paul R. Gross, have recently published *Creationism's Trojan Horse: The Wedge of Intelligent Design*, which addresses this very real threat to rational science curricula in our nation's schools.

Also recognized at the dinner were the father and sons who asked the ACLU to represent them in the aforementioned suit against the Tangipahoa Parish School Board. It was an honor to be in their presence and to applaud their courage.

NOSHA was well-represented at the dinner to honor Barbara. NOSHA members Sally Mooney and Don Bruce attended as Barbara's guests, and a NOSHA table was attended by Harry Greenberger, Tom Stine, Connie Gordon, Dave Schultz, Cathy Cohen, Charles Foster, Bill Sierichs, Serena Bodolini, Carole Cambon, and Dilia Montoya Palgrave. It was an honor not only to be there in honor of Barbara Forrest, but to have met and spoken with Barry Lynn was a real treat.

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BEGINNINGS, ENDS, AND BRAINS

Edd Doerr

By now nearly everyone is tired of hearing and reading about the tragic Terri Schiavo case and Republican grandstanding over it. Yet there are more aspects of it that need to be discussed. As it happens, these inadequately considered issues were neatly bracketed by two debates in which I was involved recently.

Both debates were before fairly large groups of Jewish high school students, sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values' "Panim el Panim" (Hebrew for "face to face") seminar in Washington program. In the first program, on February 21, I debated abortion rights with Miss (sic) Nellie Gray, organizer of the annual January anti-Roe demonstration in Washington. In the second, on March 21, I debated Paul Weber, a legislative aide to Rep. Dave Weldon (R-FL), one of the main organizers of the congressional intrusion into the Schiavo case, on the subject of the "right to die" (remarkable timing, that).

These two issues deal with the all important central question, when does human "personhood" begin and end? The question is not when "life" begins and ends but when personhood begins and ends. Human life began millions of years ago when our ancestors reached a stage of evolution that permitted what we call consciousness (which, we have learned in the last fifty years, is shared with us to a degree by our nearest relatives, the great apes). Human life will end when our species becomes extinct.

Roe v. Wade and the Fourteenth Amendment define personhood as beginning at birth, a view similar to that of

neurobiologists. This issue was examined at a conference on May 30, 1987, sponsored by Americans for Religious Liberty and organized by myself and former AHA board member and developmental psychologist Jim Prescott. The conference featured addresses by theologians, attorneys, neurobiologists, and social scientists. The papers were collected in a book published in 1989 and reissued in 1990, *Abortion Rights and Fetal 'Personhood'*.

The neuroscience presented at the conference became the basis of an *amicus curiae* brief to the Supreme Court that I organized in 1988 in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, signed by twelve Nobel laureates and 155 other distinguished scientists. The brief concluded that “the neurobiological data indicate that the fetus lacks the physical capacity for the neurological activities we associate with human thought until sometime after 28 weeks of gestation.” The brief added that “the cerebral cortex is relatively nonfunctional even in normal newborns.”

Parenthetically, it might be noted that this scientific framework bears a certain resemblance to the traditional Judeo-Christian view that humans are created “in the image of God.” Since “God” is not conceived of as flesh and blood and DNA, but rather as “spirit” and will and consciousness, it is reductionist and crudely materialistic to regard embryos and fetuses prior to 28 weeks or so as persons. This was essentially the view of the leading Christian theologian Thomas Aquinas, as well as of English/American common law until the early 19th century.

So, to science the idea of personhood makes little sense until quite late in gestation, when the cerebral cortex is “wired up” and ready to function.

Now, as for the end of life, which is what the Schiavo case is all about, modern medicine regards “brain death” or permanent cessation of cerebrocortical function or being in a “persistent vegetative state” as the end or personhood. At that point viable organs may be removed and used to help other people.

Isaac Asimov used to say that a person can live without many body parts or with heart, lung, kidney, or other transplants, but not without a functioning cerebral cortex. Dr. Ronald Cranford, a neurologist who has examined Terri Shiavo, has said that a CT scan of her brain shows very little but scar tissue and spinal fluid, and that an EEG showed no evidence of continued cortical function.

Thus it seems clear that the many courts and judges who have dealt with the Schiavo case were correct in deferring to her husband’s request to end life support. Also, a CBS News poll released on March 24 found that 82% of respondents believe that the President and Congress should not have intervened in the matter.

Incidentally, it is interesting to note that President Bush, who has made such a big fuss about the Schiavo

case, signed a bill into law while governor of Texas that allows hospitals the right to remove life support if the patient can’t afford to pay and there is no hope for survival, no matter what the family might wish. That law was used on March 16 to unplug a baby against his mother’s wishes. As one writer put it, “Bush killed that baby so that hospitals can make more money.” So much for being a “pro-life” politician.

Personhood is precious. All human persons the world over have equal rights to life, sustenance, and freedom. That is the proper business of governments, not restricting reproductive rights or the right of a mature sane person facing a painful death to seek medical help in dying. The Supreme Court, by the way, has announced that it will hear an appeal in former Attorney General John Ashcroft’s challenge to Oregon’s physician assisted suicide law.

Government should concern itself with the lives and welfare of persons, something that Bush and his pals in Congress should think about.

(Edd Doerr, president of Americans for Religious Liberty, headed the American Humanist Association for 14 years.)

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ABSENT BUT STILL SUPPORTIVE

If you haven’t paid your 2005 membership dues yet, please do. They are only \$15.00 a year and you are supporting a good cause. In fact, we have at least two members who have moved away from the New Orleans area and continue to support us. Comments that accompanied their 2005 dues payments attest to their continuing support:

Howard and **Helen Bostock** moved from Baton Rouge to the Houston area over two years ago and continue to renew their membership. Howard writes that while they are members of a humanist group and attend a Unitarian church, those groups are largely social support for their members, adding “we do little to advance the cause of humanism other than to wear in your face tee shirts in public.” The implication is that NOSHA does much more than socialize.

Continuing member, **Steve Voelkel**, has retired to the hills of Tennessee. In a recent note from him he says of his neighbors that they are “very hardworking and generally focused two feet from their daily realities” and that people talk about things in a “whimsical” way and tend not to “coordinate in a formal or intellectual way.” We think Steve likes to stay attuned to NOSHA’s doings for some rather more intellectual stimulation.

Thank you both for your continued support, and come see us whenever you’re back in town.

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NOSHA'S PUBLIC ACCESS TV PRODUCTIONS

NOSHA is in its second year of sponsorship of the national *Humanist Perspective* television programs, along with our production of *The New Orleans Humanist Perspective* for viewing on New Orleans Cox Cable channel 77.

A franchise agreement between the City of New Orleans and Cox Communications provides funding and four channels to support New Orleans Access Television (NOA-TV.) The goals of NOA-TV are to encourage, create, and produce quality programming which serve the needs of the New Orleans community; improve the economic, cultural and social diversity of the city; provide media access for a variety of community/social perspectives; teach technical, creative and critical thinking skills; create opportunities for economic development; and provide governmental and educational information.

NOA-TV membership is limited to individual residents and non-profit organizations. Those in Orleans Parish get priority positions, but those from other parishes may also apply subject to much higher membership fees. Membership fee for NOSHA, as an Orleans Parish non-profit, is \$100 a year. We must supply the professional quality videotapes for our shows. Excellent graphics and music for the NOSHA programs were designed and executed by the NOA-TV staff, which also provides camera operators and technical staff for our shows recorded at their studios.

Through March 2005, NOSHA has produced more than thirty shows, often with NOSHA members presenting topics as “guests,” and with frequent other special guests, including Edd Doerr, Executive Director of Americans for Religious Liberty; David Goldberg, with End of Life Choices; Christina Cucera, Planned Parenthood of La.; David Utter, Juvenile Justice Project; Joe Cook and Heather Hall, Louisiana ACLU; Larry Darby, founder of Atheist Law Center in Alabama; Barbara Forrest, author and NOSHA Board member; Julie Thompson, President of PFLAG, Russell Henderson, political activist; Christopher Tidmore and GiO, both of “talk radio,” and Jeff Cruere of both talk radio and the public television venue. Many of these programs have been taped by NOSHA members and may be borrowed by others who do not get N.O. Cox cable. NOSHA members who would like to participate in these productions should contact Harry Greenberger, who is producer and host of the shows.

The following photograph was taken at a recent taping of a NOSHA NOA-TV production. Pictured from left to right are **Michael Malec, Robert Jackson, GiO,** and **Harry Greenberger**. Thanks to Philomusia Concern of Covington for providing the photograph.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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| May 1 | Regular Meeting – speaker Joe Cook, Executive Director, Louisiana ACLU will give an update on upcoming state legislation |
| May 5 | A “National Day of Reason” declared in the City of New Orleans |
| May 7 | NOSHA members will travel to Lafitte for dinner and a night out for the Caravan Stage Company’s presentation of “Vanishing Currents: a Play of Global Intrigue and a Circus of Collective Artristry” |
| May 15 | NO MEETING |
| May 22 | Regular Meeting – speaker Tony Hileman, Executive Director, American Humanist Association – topic to be announced |
| June 5 | Regular Meeting – speaker Anthony Marr, author of <i>Omniscience Cosmology</i> , will summarize his book |
| June 19 | Summer Solstice Celebration – details to be announced |
| July 3 | NO MEETING – Independence Day |
| July 17 | Regular Meeting – topic to be announced |

The 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.

NOTE: For those of you who receive the newsletter by standard mail, the year for which you have last paid membership dues is reflected in the upper right corner of the mailing label.

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