# **NOSHA NEWS**

## Newsletter of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association **Spring 2008**

### **New Orleans Secular Humanist Association** 520 St. Louis St., Apt. 3 New Orleans, LA 70130 (a 501c3 corporation)

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### **NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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

#### **MEETINGS**

3rd Saturday of month, 2:00 pm New Orleans Public Library 219 Loyola Avenue

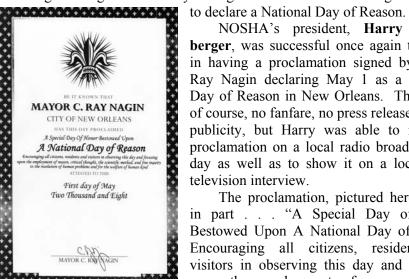
N.O. COX CABLE TV CH 76 "Humanist Perspective" Sat. midnight; Sun. noon CH 78 "Atheist Viewpoint" Tues. 10:30 am; 10:30 pm

#### A NATIONAL DAY OF REASON SHOULD TRUMP THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

As early as 1775, the Continental Congress issued a day of prayer to designate "a time for prayer in forming a new nation." But not until 1952, under President Harry Truman, was a bill passed proclaiming the National Day of Prayer. Then in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill into law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May. The intention was that members of all faiths could pray together, and that was intended to include not only Christians, Jews, and Muslims, but also Hindus, Zoroastrians, and even Pagans as well as those of "no organized religion" but who had a religious faith and wished to participate.

Shortly after Reagan's 1988 decree, the National Day of Prayer Task Force was created. Its sole purpose is to coordinate events for evangelical Christians on the National Day of Prayer. They coordinate prayer day events nationwide to "reclaim America as a Christian nation." That leaves out a lot of Americans who don't see this as a "Christian nation." Americans along with many traditionally religious allies, remain adamant about the value of the separation of religion and government, and there has begun a concerted effort to replace the idea of a National Day of Prayer with a National Day of Reason.

The National Day of Reason organizers have launched a website www.nationaldayofreason.org where their efforts are explained. encourage us to get involved by asking our own local and state governments



NOSHA's president, Harry Greenberger, was successful once again this year in having a proclamation signed by Mayor Ray Nagin declaring May 1 as a National Day of Reason in New Orleans. There was, of course, no fanfare, no press release or local publicity, but Harry was able to read the proclamation on a local radio broadcast that day as well as to show it on a local cable television interview.

The proclamation, pictured here, reads, in part . . . "A Special Day of Honor Bestowed Upon A National Day of Reason Encouraging all citizens, residents and visitors in observing this day and focusing upon the employment of reason, critical

thought, the scientific method, and free inquiry to the resolution of human problems and for the welfare of human kind."

#### THE "GOD BLESS AMERICA" TEST

(The following is excerpted from an op-ed piece written by David Domke and Kevin Coe, one a professor of communication and head of journalism at the University of Washington, and the other a doctoral candidate in speech communication at the University of Illinois. It first appeared in The Seattle Times on April 22, 2008.)

... In a CNN interview, Anderson Cooper put this question to [Barack] Obama: "Just for the record, you have no problem singing 'God Bless America'?" Obama laughed the question off, joking that his lack of vocal ability wouldn't allow it.

Three days later, though, Obama concluded a speech in Pennsylvania by saying "God bless America." The Chicago Tribune noted it was a departure from the norm, calling the closing "uncharacteristic." For the candidate perhaps, but certainly not for U.S. politicians.

. . . But the fact that Obama – or any other candidate – must face such a test points to the deterioration of the American political environment.

Consider this reality: The omnipresence of "God bless America" as a political slogan is an entirely recent phenomenon. We know because we've run the numbers. Analysis of more than 15,000 public communications by political leaders from Franklin Roosevelt's election in 1932 – the beginning of the modern presidency – through six years of George W. Bush's administration revealed that prior to Ronald Reagan taking office in 1981, the phrase had passed a modern president's lips only once in a major address: Richard Nixon used it to conclude an April 30, 1973, speech about Watergate.

But Reagan brought "God bless America" into the mainstream by regularly using it to conclude his speeches. Since then, presidents and other politicians have used it nearly to death. Like Nike's "Just Do It" or any other ubiquitous catchphrase, the words eventually lose their meaning. "God bless America" has become the Pennsylvania Avenue equivalent to consumerized Madison Avenue staples.

That's the problem with the "God bless America" test: Like most of the other tests that constitute modern political discourse, it doesn't mean anything.

If a willingness to profess one's faith and patriotism and to conclude speeches with "God bless America" were accurate indicators of presidential prowess, Bush family members would have long ago secured their places among the nation's greatest leaders. Both George H.W. and George W. used it to conclude more than 80 percent of their major addresses, with the son often offering this important twist: "May God continue to bless America."

Asking candidates to demonstrate their God and country bona fides by parroting a political catchphrase is insulting and unnecessary. Journalists' and pundits' time

would be far better spent interrogating the actual beliefs of those candidates so willing to ask God to bless America. After all, had the phrase not been rendered all but meaningless through overuse, "God bless America" would have to be taken as a serious theological proposition.

Today, it's just more of the noise that passes for serious political matters.

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"The United States of America have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature; and if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disabuse themselves of artifice, imposture, hypocrisy, and superstition, they will consider this event as an era in their history. Although the detail of the formation of the American governments is at present little known or regarded either in Europe or in America, it may hereafter become an object of curiosity. It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the influence of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture; it will forever be acknowledged that these governments were contrived merely by the use of reason and the senses."
--John Adams, from "A Defense of the Constitutions of Governments of the

--John Adams, from "A Defense of the Constitutions of Governments of the United States of America" (1787-88)

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## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO NOSHA'S FAVORITE COLUMNIST, JAMES GILL

Twice in the last couple of months, *Times-Picayune* columnist James Gill has spoken up for science and reason regarding the foolishness of Senator Ben Nevers SB733 (originally SB561), the so-called "Louisiana Science Education Act." James' first column on the topic appeared on March 30 as the bill was first introduced. The title of that column was "Creationist Attack Evolves Once Again." That column is excerpted here:

"The creationists are with us again, determined in the upcoming legislative session to make the whole of Louisiana like Ouachita Parish.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

... Nevers has filed Senate Bill 561 with the spurious premise that evolution is a matter of serious scientific debate and that both sides are entitled to a hearing. . .

... concept of academic freedom requires that 'any writing, document, record or other content' on the subject be allowed in science class. It is a license for crackpots.

His bill . . . closely follows the wording of the 'Science Curriculum Policy' adopted by the Ouachita Parish School Board in 2006. That policy was drawn up by the Louisiana Family Forum.

Nobody is more aggressively Christian than the Family Forum . . .

. . . but the underlying intent is the same as it always was

The Louisiana Family forum in its newsletter this month boasts that it has produced a 'bullet-proof science curriculum policy' and urges other school districts to follow the example of Ouachita Parish.

If Nevers' bill passes, there'll be hallelujahs all round."

Mr. Gill addressed the topic again after the bill had made it's way all the way through senate and house committees, is renumbered SB733 In its present form it refers to specific examples of the types of "alternative" scientific debate that Louisiana students should be able to discuss, including evolution, global warming, or human cloning, and the bill is about to come up for full vote of the House. His second column appeared on May 25 under the title "Survival of the Silliest." It is excerpted here:

"Although the standards of public education in Louisiana are low enough for most tastes, the Legislature is intent on making our kids even dumber.

We are poised to become the first state to fall for the creationists' latest monkeyshines and teach miracles in biology class.

- ... The Christian soldiers are never content to let faith and science flourish in their separate spheres. They are back in the fray, but in camouflage. They now cast themselves as champions of academic freedom. . .
- ... to help teachers promote 'open and objective discussion of scientific theories being studied, including, but not limited to, evolution, the origins of life, global warming and human cloning.'
- . . . At a House committee hearing last week we heard all the tired old pseudo-scientific arguments that are supposed to discredit Darwin.
- ... Nevers' bill is of no conceivable benefit to anyone save a zealot, for nobody else has any motive to quibble over theories that command near-universal acceptance and are vital to any understanding of physical sciences.
- ... The bill does try to cover its tracts with the disclaimer that it 'shall not be construed to promote any religious doctrine, promote discrimination for or against a particular set of religious beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against religions or non religion.'
- ...Bills remarkably similar to Nevers' have proved too unenlightened even for the Florida and Alabama legislatures. Discovery Institute officials have said Louisiana is their best shot.

They got it right.

The committee voted for Nevers' bill unanimously too. Let us pray for Louisiana."

Thank you, James Gill, for your continuing humor and voice of reason on all things uniquely Louisiana.

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#### **MEMBERS' PUBLISHED LETTERS**

The following letter, written by **Noah Reon**, appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* on April 6, 2008:

Listening to Gov. Bobby Jindal talk about removing children from failing schools or allowing them choice, I

wonder how a school can fail. The school itself is a brick and mortar project. The superintendent, principals, teachers and parents make up the portion that can allow or correct the failing.

Allowing a few students to have vouchers to escape these schools does nothing to fix the problem. It only worsens the problem as money is diverted when these students move to private or parochial schools where they are not evaluated by the same standards.

Instead of using public money for these diversions, the money would be better spent evaluating the cause of the failures and attacking the problem at the root cause. I dare say that the students themselves can point out these causes if simply asked. Moving students or tearing down buildings will have no effect on our educational institutions other than a rising cost to society as a whole.

Failing schools have evidently been identified. Is there no one willing to figure out how to fix them? It should not take a rocket scientist to figure this out and find suitable personnel to address and fix the problem.

The following letter, written by **Harry Greenberger**, appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* on April 19, 2008.

Sen. Ben Nevers' anti-science bill passed the Senate Education Committee "without opposition." The news was reported on Page 6, though it would have justified Page 1 coverage.

As amended, the bill authorizes teachers and students to analyze, critique and review scientific theories. But will they question the theories of gravity, nuclear physics, composition of the atom? No.

Their target is the time-tested and scientifically supported theory of evolution, which Nevers and his backers would like to have replaced with their religious explanation, now labeled "Intelligent Design."

How many times must the state of Louisiana be made subject to national ridicule by these same religious fanatics?

The following letter, written by **Barbara Forrest**, appeared in the *Hammond Daily Star* on May 14, 2008:

Since HB 1168 may be considered by the House Education Committee on either May 14 or 15, I would like to respond to comments that Rep. Steve Pugh and Sen. Julie Quinn made in the Sunday Star concerning this proposed legislation.

Sen. Ben Nevers's SB 733, the "Louisiana Science Education Act," and HB 1168, the "Louisiana Academic Freedom Act," sponsored by Rep. Frank Hoffman (West Monroe), are creationism bills.

Sen. Nevers let the cat out of the bag in his April 6 statement to the Daily Star that the LA Family Forum, on whose behalf he filed his original SB 561, believes "that

scientific data related to creationism should be discussed when dealing with Darwin's theory."

This legislation reflects the strategy of the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture, a national creationist think tank in Seattle.

The Discovery Institute's aggressive promotion of intelligent design creationism ultimately produced the Dover, Pa., school board's creationist policy that resulted in the legal case, Kitzmiller et al. V. Dover Area School District (2005), in which I served as an expert witness for the plaintiffs. The Discovery Institute's strategy is the subject of my book, "Creationism's Trojan Horse," which is why I was called as a witness. The plaintiffs won in the federal court with a decisive ruling that teaching ID is unconstitutional.

With their strategy exposed in court, the Discovery Institute creationists began promoting their "Model Academic Freedom Statute on Evolution" (http://www.academicfreedompetition.com/freedom.php).

The only trick they now have to get ID into public schools is to resurrect old creationist code words such as "academic freedom" since the terms "creationism" and "intelligent design" are legal liabilities.

The Louisiana bills, based on a creationism policy written by LFF operative Darrell White and adopted in Ouachita Parish in 2006, contain language taken verbatim from the Discovery Institute's model bill. Such bills were also introduced in Florida, Alabama, Michigan, and Missouri. The Florida and Alabama bills have fortunately died.

Rep. Pugh, who favors teaching creationism in public schools, should recall that, in 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court declared Louisiana's creationist "Balanced Treatment Act" unconstitutional. Not only did the court declare that teaching creationism violates the First Amendment, but it refused to buy the state of Louisiana's defense of the Act as an issue of "academic freedom." The state's defense was remarkably like what Sen. Nevers and Rep. Hoffman are currently promoting.

In declaring the 1981 law to be unconstitutional, the Supreme Court said, "The Act does not further its stated secular purpose of 'protecting academic freedom.' It does not enhance the freedom of teachers to teach what they choose, and fails to further the goal of 'teaching all of the evidence.'" (Edwards v. Aguillard, 1987)

As Yogi Berra said, "It's déjà vu all over again" – except this time, it's being done in code language in an attempt to skirt the 1987 Supreme Court ruling.

Sen. Quinn voted for SB 733, which started out as SB 561, the Senate original of HB 1168. She stated that the bill "merely allows a local school board to decide whether or not it will allow a debate of the issue."

However, any legitimate scientific issue can be discussed in any science class. There is no reason for this legislation unless its sponsors have ulterior motives.

Sen. Quinn does not identify the teachers who, she claims, "felt they could not allow such a debate" but could only discuss what was in the textbook. She is apparently referring to the Senate Education Committee testimony of Dominique Ditoro Magee, who spoke in favor of SB 561. Ms. Magee told an unsubstantiated story of how her high school biology teacher would not address her questions about evolution but discussed only what was in the textbook

However, Ms. Magee, who was only about 15 at the time of the incident she related, gave an interview at the time to the religious Family Voice magazine, telling how her promotion of "creation science" in her high school biology class was her way of offering her Christian witness at school.

Contrary to Sen. Quinn, the currently proposed legislation is exactly about promoting religious views in public schools.

The LA Family Forum is willing to use other people's children in their agenda to get their own religious views into public schools.

Readers should call or e-mail the House Education Committee immediately asking them to vote against HB 1168. They should also express their opposition to SB 733, which could be used as a compromise bill.

If this legislation passes, Louisiana, like the Dover, PA, School Board, could end up with a very stiff legal bill.

The following letter, written by **Barbara Forrest**, appeared in the *Baton Rouge Advocate* on May 21, 2008:

Today, the House education committee must make a decision about Sen. Ben Never's SB733, the "Louisiana Science Education Act," the stealth creationism bill that Rep. Frank Hoffman will apparently substitute for HB1168, the "Louisiana Academic Freedom Act." These bills, which Sen. Nevers and Rep. Hoffman are promoting on behalf of the Louisiana Family Forum, a religious right group, are equally bad.

The committee can allow SB733 to move one step closer to becoming law, or they can respect the U.S. Constitution by voting against it. They can respect the efforts of Louisiana's public school science teachers to properly educate our young people by voting against SB733, or they can broadcast their preference for the ice cream socials and "Family Day" activities through which the LFF lobbies for legislative influence.

The committee can make it easier for Louisiana students to get the education they need to compete with the rest of the country, or they can make it more difficult.

They can help enhance education in Louisiana, making it more likely that educated people will stay and that other talented people will come, or they can perpetuate Louisiana's image as backwater.

By voting for SB733, they can make the state less attractive even to its own young people who want scientific careers, not to mention scientists who might come here to work and teach.

Or, by voting against it, they can prove to our children and the nation (and the world), that we are serious when we say we want to improve education and the quality of life in Louisiana.

The House Education committee can allow an out-ofstate creationist think tank, the Discovery Institute (which has coordinated the introduction of such legislation in half a dozen states, including Louisiana), and the LFF to manipulate public policy, using other people's children in the service of their agenda.

Or, by voting against it, they can show our children that the U.S. Constitution is a living document that protects them from attempts by creationists to hijack their schools.

By voting for SB733, the committee can allow the state possibly to become embroiled again (after Edwards v. Aguillard 1987) in a costly lawsuit, or, by killing it outright, they can spare the state from the jokes and ridicule that will be broadcast around the world when the national and international media show up to cover the trial. That happened in Dover, PA., in the intelligent design legal case in which I was an expert witness – and which the Dover School Board lost in federal court. It's the committee's choice.

## NOSHA ALSO REPRESENTED IN BROADCAST MEDIA

On May 1, the date designated as the National Day of Prayer, **Harry Greenberger** appeared on Jeff Crouere's morning call-in show on WGSO-990AM radio to discuss changing the designation for the first Friday in May to a National Day of Reason.

That evening, Harry was joined by **Michael Malec** for an appearance on Terrie Guerin's NOA-TV program on COX New Orleans Ch. 8 to further the discussion regarding changing the National Day of Prayer to a National Day of Reason.

On Sunday, May 25, **Barbara Forrest** made a pretaped appearance on New Orleans CBS affiliate WWL-TV's Sunday morning show with Dennis Woltering. Barbara appeared with another in-studio guest Dominique Magee and state senator Ben Nevers (by telephone) to discuss Sen. Nevers SB733, the so-called "Louisiana Science Education Act."

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#### A TALK NOT GIVEN Harry Greenberger

On April 24, the MoveOn organization arranged for its members to gather at Senate offices and other public locations around the country to hold press conferences and release reports on their state-by-state polling data regarding "Iraq & Recession." These reports showed that voters strongly believe the Iraq war hurts our economy. In New Orleans, the conference was to be held in front of Senator David Vitter's offices in Metairie.

When the New Orleans coordinator was unable to attend that event, MoveOn asked me to take her place and to deliver a short talk, to which I agreed. But, it happened that on the same date Senator John McCain would visit New Orleans to address our Katrina recovery and MoveOn felt that was a unique opportunity to publicize the support he is getting from Reverend Hagee, who is credited with saying that Katrina was God's payback for Southern Decadence in this sinful city. McCain has not disavowed Rev. Hagee nor his statement. I did not participate with that protest group which met outside the Xavier University auditorium.

Following is the talk I had prepared for the original protest:

We here all agree that the deaths and injuries to tens of thousands of Americans and Iraqis is beyond tragic, but today we discuss the financial and economic effect the trillions of dollars of the war costs plus the billions in Iraq reconstruction money and the future cost related to use of the billion dollar embassy recently completed in Baghdad.

These staggering costs added to the other government expenditures are financed through the U.S. deficit (IOUsmainly to China, Japan and Saudi Arabia), so why worry? According to the Federal accounting system, which leaves out many of the contingent liabilities, the national debt is over \$9 trillion. What happens when those countries choose to stop lending or want to redeem their promissory notes? My under-standing is that the U.S. might offer higher interest rates and then we get higher domestic interest rates on business and home loan borrowings. Or, those countries can use their dollar IOUs to purchase U.S. assets – major corporations, valuable properties – turning us into a colony?

Let's just get out of Iraq – militarily and politically – and solve our oil problems in another way. Heed the warning from President Thomas Jefferson: "I place economy among the first and most important republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."

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<sup>&</sup>quot;The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of honorable but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish."

<sup>--</sup>Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1979-1955)

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR NOSHA

Unlikely as that sounds, consider this proposal from NOSHA. Many of you have received or will receive the unanticipated government "stimulus" check for \$600, \$1200, or more. If you don't need this for your own financial purposes, we propose that you use one-half of the \$600 (that's \$300) to become a Life Member of NOSHA, a newly-created membership level. We will publicly thank you for your contribution or maintain your privacy, as you prefer.

Everyone in the organization, the Directors and Committee members, contribute time and effort without compensation so all dues and contributions are allocated to other costs of our continued service to the secular people of our area.

Get the added pleasure of knowing that not only has the U.S. government paid for this membership, but you can also take a tax deduction if you itemize, as NOSHA is a 501c3 corporation. No stimulus check? Become a life member anyway. You may use the membership form at the end of the newsletter to make your donation.

A NOSHA-RELATED WEDDING

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On April 4, the St. Charles Avenue streetcar in New Orleans was the scene of the marriage of Sarah Smith and Jeremy Ballard. The bride is the daughter of NOSHA member **Grant** and Suzy **Smith** of Baton Rouge. Officiant at the ceremony was NOSHA member, the Rev. **Jim VanderWeele** of New Orleans Community Church Unitarian Universalist. NOSHA members **Connie Gordon** and **Dave Schultz** were guests at the reception.

About two dozen wedding guests boarded the chartered streetcar in front of Emeril's Delmonico Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue at 8:00 pm. After a 20-minute trip down St. Charles, the car turned onto Carrollton Avenue where it stopped. Rev. Jim officiated



over a brief, totally secular, yet dignified and eloquent wedding ceremony.

The next evening a crowd of 150 friends and family attended a reception above the Wax Museum on Conti St.

in the French Quarter. Connie, Dave, and the Rev. Jim were among the guests.

The Smiths were very complimentary of the secular ceremony officiated by Rev. Jim and highly recommend him any time a secular officiant is needed.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

On Sunday, May 3, The Rev. **Jim VanderWeele**, minister of Community Church Unitarian Universalist in New Orleans, was honored as the recipient of the Russell Lockwood Ministry Award, commemorating outstanding ministerial services to churches and communities within the southwest Conference of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Jim has been a NOSHA member for several years and comes highly recommended as a secular officiant. Congratuations to Jim for his award.

## \* \* \* \* \* NOSHA SPRING MEETING TOPICS

Over the last three months, two NOSHA members and one outside speaker have given meeting attendees food for thought and incited interesting discussions. Thanks to those who volunteered to give presentations. If you have a topic you would like to hear discussed and know someone who might lead a discussion, please let us know.

On March 15, NOSHA member **Jim Dugan**, a PhD candidate in anthropology at Tulane University gave us a slide tour through the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky and then explained where the young earth idea comes from and how it affects us every day. Jim's tour of the \$27 million 50-acre museum began with the entrance plaque which reads: "In six 24-hour days God made a perfect creation (~4000 BC)." Among the other equally ridiculous displays are ones depicting modern humans coexisting with dinosaurs and among the pairs of animals entering the model of Noah's ark, two dinosaurs immediately following the giraffes.

The speaker for our April 26 meeting was Dr. Walter Block, an economics professor at Loyola University and an avowed libertarian who discussed "Libertarianism, Objectivism, Atheism and Religion." Dr. Block had earlier participated in an interview on NOSHA's NOA-TV program. He is also an avid proponent of the works of Ayn Rand and applies her concepts to economic the principles he espouses.

And most recently, NOSHA member Glen Sandberg came over from Mississippi to discuss his essay, "Naturalizing the Magic of the Mind." There was a good turnout and lively discussion following.

Thanks to **Will Hunn** and/or **Connie Gordon** for bringing refreshments to each NOSHA meeting. If anyone wants to contribute cookies or other snack foods, please feel free to do so.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

Bebe Roberts Freeman died at her home in Starkville, MS on November 2, 2007. She was the daughter of the late Billy Roberts of Meridian, MS. She is survived by her mother, Mary Roberts of Flowood, MS, husband of forty-one years, Harry Freeman, of Starkville, MS, son, Ben Freeman, daughter-in-law, Missy Freeman, and grandson, Richard (Rick) Freeman, all of Louisville, KY. Bebe was born in Meridian, MS and graduated from Meridian High School. She was a graduate of Mississippi University for Women (MSCW), and held a Master's Degree from the University of Cincinnati. No services were held.

Bebe was a teacher of thirty years, teaching in the public schools in Meridian, MS, Luling, LA, Washington, DC, and Cincinnati, OH. She was a community activist, union organizer in Sacramento, CA, member of American Federation of Teachers, American Association of University Women, The Oktibbeha County Chapter of the Federation of Democratic Women, and a lifetime member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Bebe lived in New Orleans for twelve years, enjoying and loving the music, second-lining and diversity, and considered this wonderful city her home. Her passion was social justice.

**Bebe and Harry Freeman** have been regular supporters of NOSHA since 2001 when they hosted a wine and cheese reception in their lovely French Quarter apartment on the eve of New Orleans second Darwin Day celebration.

#### NOSHA MEETING DATES AND TOPICS

June 21 – Sadredin C. Moosavi, Ph.D., Tulane University Dept. of Earth and Environmental Sciences, "Science standards for teachers" - tentative

July 19 – Cathy Glaser, Regional Director Anti-Defamation League "Prejudice, Discrimination, Bigotry, etc."

August 16 – To be announced September 20 – To be announced

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#### **NOSHA T-SHIRTS**

We still have a number of NOSHA T-shirts on sale for \$10.00 each. They will be available at the NOSHA meeting on June 21. If you live out of town, I can send you one. If you want one to be mailed to you, e-mail me at crgordo@bellsouth.net. Here's what they look like.



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 in the following form:	mail
Check one:New MemberRenewing MemberMailing list only\$300 Lifetime Membership	
Name:	
Address:	
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<b>2008 Annual dues are \$15.00</b> . <b>Lifetime membership is \$300.00</b> . Make checks payable to "NOSHA" and m Connie Gordon, 2509 Giuffrias Ave., Apt. 603, Metairie, LA 70001.	ail to

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.

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