



HUUmanists News

Newsletter of the HUUmanists Mar, 2012 No. 1 P.O. Box 185202, Hamden CT 06518-0202

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President's Corner

John B. Hooper

We HUUmanists have accomplished a lot this year in our quest to be a stronger voice for reason and compassion in Unitarian Universalism and in our society at large. Let me bring you up to date:

HUUmanists Association was enthusiastically accepted as a full member organization of the Secular Coalition for America at the SCA Annual Board meeting last January. By joining the other ten freethinking organizations we gain the opportunity to leverage our activities in defense of First Amendment principles. In turn, our partner organizations in SCA will benefit from the synergy of joining forces with thousands of Unitarian Universalists for whom the separation of church and state is a moral imperative. As specific issues emerge, I'll be calling on you to add your voice to our efforts.

Bill Murry's book, "Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life," was published by our new publishing arm *Religious Humanism Press (RHP)* in the fall of last year and has been very well received. Sales are going so well that we have recovered all the costs of publication and are planning on a second printing this summer. If you haven't bought your copy yet, you can order it on-line at www.HUUmanists.org. Volume discounts are available for study groups and congregation bookstores.

I am delighted to report a special gift to HUUmanists from the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lafayette, CO. The letter from BVUUF states, in part: "Please accept the enclosed checks for a total of \$326.05 from the Sunday Plate collection from members and clergy... We seek to lead generous lives that align our values with our actions, and have decided to donate ½ of our offering plate each week to other organizations and causes that align with our values of love, reason, justice, and compassion." Thank you BVUUF!

Our paid membership is growing steadily. We expect to make our goal of attaining a balanced budget by the next fiscal year, 2012-2013. We can now even more actively pursue programs in our focus areas

of (1) Scholarship, Teaching, and Ministry, (2) Promotion and Communication, and (3) Advocacy. I want to especially thank Greg Seaman, our Treasurer, for keeping our fiscal house in order.

The HUUmanists Board has unanimously voted to appoint Neil Gerdes to fill a vacancy on the Board. Neil is Library Director and Assoc. Prof. of Bibliography at Meadville Lombard Theological School (see http://meadville.edu/Ab_Fac_Gerdes.htm). Welcome Neil! He joins us at a very opportune time. HUUmanists are committed to fulfilling our responsibility as stewards of UU Humanist historical materials. Neil has agreed to join us in these efforts. Our goal is to bring together Humanist archival materials from all sources (including Meadville Lombard and other sites across the country), catalogue them for accessibility, and find a single site where they can be safely stored and easily retrieved for reference purposes. Scanning and electronic storage will also be investigated. If you are (or know of someone else who is) storing any Humanist publications or historical records that could be of use to scholars or students please let Neil and/or me know about it.

The 2012 UUA “Justice” General Assembly in Phoenix will be a very special one for UU Humanists. Our keynote presentation, our booth presence, and our annual meeting/reception will all be clearly focused on the GA theme of Economic Justice.

- Bill Murry will provide a keynote address entitled “Economic Justice: A Moral Imperative for UU Humanists,” which is scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2012, at 10:45 AM – 12:00 noon in Room 120 BC in the Phoenix Convention Center.
- Our booth in the exhibition area will be organized around the theme of economic justice and we will share it with several local social justice groups including the Secular Coalition for Arizona. A special issue of our journal, *Religious Humanism*, dedicated to the GA theme will be available at the booth, along with other publications and membership opportunities.
- The HUUmanists Annual Meeting and Reception will be held at approximately 9:00 PM, Friday, June 22, 2012, at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel. Just as last year, we expect to have dozens of UU Humanists (and fellow travelers) join us for fun conversation and refreshments. After a short business meeting, there will be presentations on important economic justice issues by representatives of local groups, including the Secular Coalition for Arizona, an update on our forthcoming publications, and a progress report on our archives project.

Keep checking our web site as plans become more definite.

Financial Status for This Fiscal Year

A condensed report of income and expenses so far for the HUUmanists for this fiscal year, July 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012, is shown below.

“Net sales” is the total sales income less sales expenses.

We are working to increase membership income, and to reduce expenses. We plan to present a balanced budget for fiscal year 2012-13.

Income and Expenses

July 2011 – March 2012

Income

Memberships & subscriptions	12,337
Donations	2,181
Net Sales	773
Misc income	26
Interest earned	112

Total Income **15,429**

Expenses

Associations	1,500
General Assembly	2,231
Journal	5,170
Newsletters & mailings	1,331
Membership Services	937
Admin	355
Data & Inventory Handling	808

Total Expense **11,330**

Net Income **3,099**

GA BOOTH 2012 IN PHOENIX

Going to the Justice GA in Phoenix? Want to engage in a little creative social action? A simple, perfectly legal, act of gentle defiance? Smuggle in a banned book!

Find room in your suitcase for a book. Just one book, but a very special, very powerful book. One of nearly 100 unique books.

Arizona law makes it illegal to teach ethnic studies, or any other course that promotes “resentment of another class of people” or “ethnic solidarity.” The state Superintendent of schools ordered the Tucson School Board to remove from classrooms nearly 100 books that allegedly contravene these standards, including Sandra Cisneros’ “The House on Mango Street,” Howard Zinn’s “Declarations of Independence” and “The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child” by Francisco Jiminez. Some of the books were removed as students sat at their desks.

In response, Latino author and activist Tony Diaz drove a van, loaded with ten sets of the "banned books" from Houston to Tucson, calling public attention along the way to this censorship, and establishing several "underground libraries" in the city, to receive and make available the collections.

At the HUUmanists booth in Phoenix, we will duplicate the actions of the “librotraficantes” with a display of these "contraband books," and here's how we plan to get them to Arizona: we're asking 100 people from around the country to carry one book each into the state - if you're willing, send an email to the booth coordinator at Rabrewin@aol.com that says "I'll smuggle a banned book into Arizona." I'll email you back with the author and title of one of the books. You purchase it – online or at your local

bookseller - and pack it in your suitcase. When you get to Phoenix, stop by the HUUmanists booth on Wednesday June 20, between 12:30 and 7:30 PM, and drop it off. We'll add it to our display, and on the last day, Sunday June 24, donate the entire collection to Tony Diaz's organization.

For participating you'll get your name printed in the Spring 2012 issue of the Journal of Religious Humanism, (see description elsewhere in this newsletter) a commemorative copy of that issue, and a "librotraficante" button.

Before GA, we also encourage you and your local congregation to hold a public event featuring your "smuggling trip." Take some pictures of you and your book, invite a couple of speakers on immigration and/or censorship issues, invite the local press, who tend to love these kind of human interest stories. We'll send you a sample press release if you like.

Not going to GA? You can still participate by being a sponsor. A \$20 donation to HUUmanists will help us meet the project expenses (buttons, display shipping, promotion, and help for low income smugglers), and will get you listed on the "patrons page" of the Journal. Or you can dedicate your effort in honor or in memory of another person, or on behalf of a congregation or UU group. Same commemorative copy, same button. You can even do the local event - just buy a copy of one of the books, and talk about the 100 people from around the country "who are smuggling in books like this." Just send me an email saying "I'll be a sponsor" and I'll get back to you with the simple specifics.

We're pleased to be working with Tony Diaz on this innovative effort, and hope you will join in.

What else will you find at the HUUmanists GA Booth? Books and literature and buttons on the GA themes - immigration, economic justice and inclusion, a guide to pro-labor organizing in congregations and other worker-justice issues, up to date Occupy materials, Bill Murry's latest book (see description elsewhere), an emphasis on activism from a humanist starting point, copies of the latest Journal of Religious Humanism, and some of the best conversation in the Exhibit Hall. Stop by - renew your membership, buy a book (you'll have room for at least one in your luggage going home) and join in making this a Justice GA for Humanists.

Roger Brewin, booth coordinator

Web Site Upgrades

We are working on upgrading the web site, providing more content and working toward moving our mailing list onto the site. You may have noticed that we already have added a store where you can buy past issues of the journal, several books, and humanist items from the zazzle site. When we complete the upgrade you will be able to log onto the site to update your address or mailing preferences, get copies of past journal issues, and download them to your e-reader.

Upcoming Journal of Religious Humanism

The Spring 2012 JRH, a dedicated issue for the "Phoenix Justice GA," will be mailed to members in June and be available for distribution at the HUUmanists booth in Phoenix.

Articles include a first draft of Bill Murry's GA talk : "Economic Justice as a Humanist Imperative," and Aaron McEmry's UU congregational labor organizing manual, "The Power of Union."

Kristin Lawler and Paul Langston Daly offer unique takes on media favorite Occupy Wall Street with “Fear of A Slacker Revolution” and “Occupy Everywhere,” while Denis McCarty and Michael Leonard bring two different sets of lenses to bear on the issue of “foreign workers,” with a set of case studies of Turkish immigrants in Germany, and the take of an American who taught English in Korea.

A round table of a dozen short opinion pieces on the central General Assembly themes - economic justice, immigration and inclusion, rounds out this issue. Get your name in it by signing up soon to be part of SmUUgling Banned Books into Arizona (see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Roger Brewin, editor, *Religious Humanism*

Religious Humanism Press

The HUUmanists publishing arm, Religious Humanism Press, for publishing books relevant to humanism, has produced the “green book,” third in a series by William R. Murry. It is available for \$16 plus \$4 for shipping and handling. Send a check to:

HUUmanists Association
PO Box 185202
Hamden CT 06518-0202

or go to our web site,

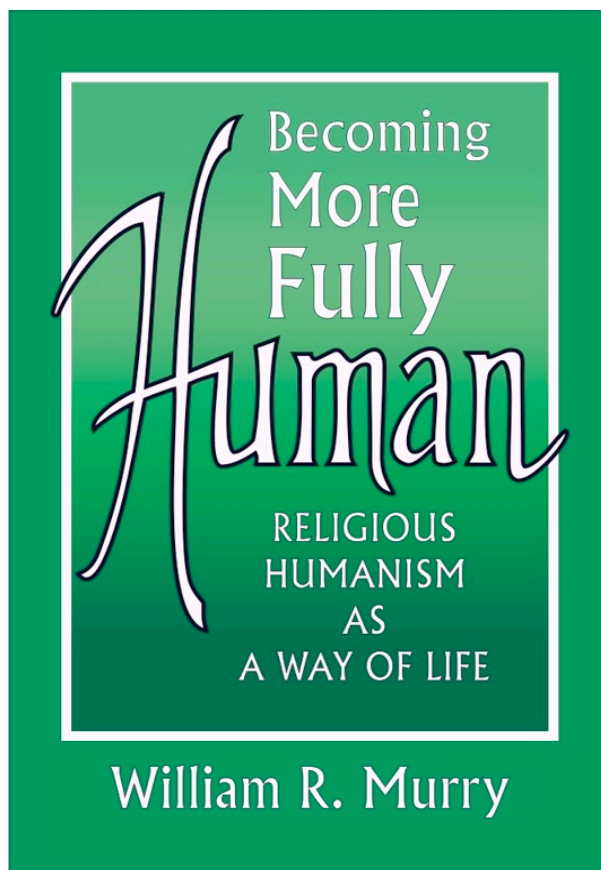
www.huumanists.org

to use a credit card.

BECOMING MORE FULLY HUMAN

Religious Humanism as a Way of Life
by William R. Murry

Becoming More Fully Human approaches Humanism primarily as a way of life rather than as a philosophical perspective, but also includes some discussion of philosophical foundations. Its purpose is to present Humanism as a basis for living in a meaningful and fulfilling way, which enables us to become more fully human. Describing Humanism in positive terms,



it emphasizes what Humanism affirms, rather than what it denies. It presents religious Humanism as a personally satisfying and morally responsible way to live, giving our lives meaning and purpose, hope and joy. Most importantly for many readers, it offers practical advice about the qualities that enable one to live well, and explores Humanism's resources for living ethically and dealing constructively with common human problems and personal crises.

For your minister and congregation?

Get copies of the book for your congregation! Some have bought a copy for their minister, and several congregations have ordered the book for their congregation's book cart. Book carts get a 25% discount from the list price.

HUUmanists coffee cups ...

You can get your HUUmanists coffee cup, bumper sticker or T-shirt from zazzle.com. Search for "zazzle" and "humanists," and there will be many choices on the site. You can also get to zazzle from our web site under "Store."



Renew Your Membership / Tax Deduction

If your membership has expired, please renew! If you are not sure if you are current, send an email to greghuu@snet.net to ask. Please note that we no longer offer subscriptions only except to organizations.

If you itemize deductions, 50% of your membership payment may be deducted as a charitable donation. The other 50% covers the cost of the journal and newsletters.

Memberships and donations can also be made by credit card on our web site, www.huumanists.org. One year is \$60, two years \$108. Student membership for one year is \$30. Or mail a check to HUUMANISTS Association, PO Box 185202, Hamden CT 06518-0202

Do we have your email address? If not, please send it to greghuu@snet.net. We are sending the newsletter by email to save printing and postage.

HUUMANISTS Officers, Directors & Others

2011-2012

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Term expires 2013
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Term expires 2012
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Editor, religious humanism
Roger A. Brewin