



COWTOWN HUMANIST

Volume Eight No 10 - November 2006

Please note our new meeting place!



**Friends of the Fort Worth Library Book Store is unable to find volunteers to maintain the facility during our monthly meetings. We are now gathering at Angel of Hope Church located at 901 Page Street in Ft Worth
Time 7:00 PM**

Directions to our new digs follow:

**Traveling on I 30 – exit at Summit Ave and proceed south (Summit becomes 8th Ave)
Turn left at the traffic light (2500 block) into Elizabeth Blvd, which becomes Page St.
For those coming from the south, take McCart (which becomes 8th Ave) and turn right at Elizabeth Blvd. If you lose your way, call me on my cell phone 817-205-8603 and I'll guide you.
Many of us will gather at Luby's Cafeteria just south of Elizabeth Blvd on the west side of 8th Ave at 5:30 prior to the meeting – All are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation!**

The program for November 8th will be a showing of a DVD based on the book, "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train," by Howard Zinn, followed as always by discussion. Presentation by Dick Trice.

Zinn is the author of the pivotal "A People's History of the United States." Historian and activist Howard Zinn has been at the forefront of progressive thought in America for decades. Through archival materials, interviews with Noam Chomsky, Marian Wright Edelman, Daniel Ellsberg, Tom Hayden and Alice Walker, and commentary from Zinn himself, this documentary chronicles the influential thinker's inspiring commitment to social change. Matt Damon narrates.

Our co-chairs have moved from the area and will no longer be attending our meetings. I'm sure we will all miss both Ken and Rollyn and wish them both the best of luck.

As per our Bylaws, Vice-chair Jim Cheetham will officiate until another chairperson is chosen by the membership.

A statement from our Humanist Neighbors to the north

PRINCIPLES OF HUMANISM From The Humanists Association of Canada

Short Definition:

Humanism is a non-theistic, non-religious ethical philosophy of life based on the principle that human beings are responsible for giving meaning and purpose to their lives relying upon their human capacities of reason and responsibility and natural and social resources.

The Humanist Life-stance:

The Association considers Humanism to be fully secular and non-religious, and Humanism is, therefore, not to be considered a religion.

Although the Association endeavors to provide certain rites of passage and other services traditionally provided by religious institutions, this fact does not in any way imply that Humanism is a religion. The Association defines Humanism as being inherently and intrinsically secular, non-religious, non-theistic, and non-supernatural.

Declaration of Humanist Principles:

- (1) Humanism aims at the full development of every human being.
- (2) Humanists uphold the broadest application of democratic principles in all human relationships.
- (3) Humanists advocate the use of the scientific method, both as a guide to distinguish fact from fiction and to help develop beneficial and creative uses of science and technology.
- (4) Humanists affirm the dignity of every person and the right of the individual to maximum possible freedom compatible with the rights of others.
- (5) Humanists acknowledge human interdependence, the need for mutual respect and the kinship of all humanity.
- (6) Humanists call for the continued improvement of society so that no one may be deprived of the basic necessities of life, and for institutions and conditions to provide every person with opportunities for developing their full potential.
- (7) Humanists support the development and extension of fundamental human freedoms, as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and supplemented by UN International Covenants comprising the United Nations Bill of Human Rights.
- (8) Humanists advocate peaceful resolution of conflicts between individuals, groups, and nations.
- (9) The humanist ethic encourages development of the positive potentialities in human nature, and approves conduct based on a sense of responsibility to oneself and to all other persons.
- (10) A fundamental principle of humanism is the rejection of beliefs held in absence of verifiable evidence, such as beliefs based solely on dogma, revelation, mysticism or appeals to the supernatural.
- (11) Humanists affirm that individual and social problems can only be resolved by means of human reason, intelligent effort, critical thinking joined with compassion and a spirit of empathy for all living beings.
- (12) Humanists affirm that human beings are completely a part of nature, and that our survival is dependent upon a healthy planet which provides us and all other forms of life with a life-supporting environment.

Your officers may be contacted as follows:

Vice Chair: Jim Cheatham 1582 CR 2730 Glen Rose, TX 76047 Phone 817-254-797-0277 email halfrey@hyperusa.com

Secretary: Reed Bilz 6316 Walburn Ct Ft Worth, TX 76133 Phone 817-292-7974 email rbilz@earthnet.net

Treasurer: Dolores Ruhs 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook, TX 76126 Phone 817-249-1829 email ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net

Past Chair: Don Ruhs 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook 76126 Phone 817 249-1829 email ruhds@sbcglobal.net

Past Chair Mike Haney 924 Roaring Springs Rd Ft Worth, TX 76114 Phone 817-737-7047 mhaneyinfw@charter.net

Past Chair and Webmaster: Russell Elleven 6120 Comfort Dr Ft Worth, TX 76132 Phone 817-370-2171 email info@hofw.org

Program Director : Jeff Rodriquez 5612 Odom St Ft Worth, TX 76114 email schnooks@netzero.com

I'd like to solicit articles from members who may wish to contribute anything of interest to our membership.

Newsletter Editor: Ray Weil: Phone 817-205-8603 (cell) or 817-346-2402 (home) email alphamail@myway.com

For newsletter comments, complaints and/or suggestions.

For more info about us and an archive of our past newsletters, go to: www.hofw.org