

The Hoosier Humanist Herald

FreeThought Fort Wayne, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 10

Message from the President

Since we are approaching the end of this year, perhaps we should start thinking about 2019. What do we need to do better? Our most successful event this year in terms of the largest turnout was the Loftus-Spiegel debate. We had a poor turnout for the recent Dr. Maloney presentation. We've also seen a certain amount of previous members and one-time drop-ins not returning.

As such, it seems important to consider what our group offers. It seems that the most basic answer is "community." We are a community of free thinkers, agnostics, and atheists. Therefore, our target audience should be people with similar viewpoints that may be looking for a group like FreeThought Fort Wayne. Our most successful event followed that theme.

In order to stage an event like the debate, we need to follow a well thought out process, devoting enough time to ensure a successful outcome. The AHA grassroots manual suggests up to 90 days from conception to presentation. That would limit us to no more than four such events per year.

Finally, we need to develop a plan to follow up with new people in order to retain them as members. I hope we can take the time to discuss these thoughts and any others that can help our group grow. We want, indeed need, our members to help guide us in the direction they would like to see us move forward. Please consider contacting any board member with your thoughts/ideas AND consider volunteering or running for a board position when we hold our annual member meeting and board elections early next year!

Robert Brandt, Former President of FTFW

FTFW CafePress Shop

The [CafePress storefront](#) for getting your own piece of FTFW merchandise is now open! We have a number of shirts/hoodies and stickers/buttons/magnets/signs currently available, with more products to come! FTFW gets a small commission from each purchase, so we greatly appreciate your contribution!

Karen's Corner

OCTOBER IS FREETHOUGHT MONTH



*Nearly all people stand in great horror of annihilation,
and yet to give up your individuality is to annihilate yourself.
Mental slavery is mental death, and every man who has given up
his intellectual freedom is the living coffin of his dead soul.*

*In this sense, every church is a cemetery
and every creed an epitaph.*

~ Robert G. Ingersoll

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

Letter to the Editor

Here's your chance! Have an idea for our group? Have a question for us? Have

you experienced frustrations as a non-believer? Do people question you about what Humanism means? Just want to vent a bit? Have a funny story to share? Have a question for our Celebrant, Victoria Gipson? The Hoosier Humanist Herald committee will do its best to respond to your concerns. Submit your letter via e-mail to fortwayneaha@gmail.com with the subject line of "Letter to the Editor" or "Ask a Celebrant," then watch for a response in our next month's newsletter! Please note that letters may be edited for clarity and space.

Upcoming Events

FreeThought Month

All October

October is the month to celebrate freethinking communities.

"Declaring October the Month of Freethought was inspired by the work done in Texas to commemorate the many German Freethinkers that emigrated to this area, and several others across the US, during the 19th Century.

From 1845 to 1861, large numbers of Freethinkers from Germany settled in the Texas hill country, founding several communities that were often without churches and other influences of organized religion. Modern-day freethinkers in Texas celebrate this heritage by organizing Freethought Festivals and they have also worked very hard to erect a permanent cenotaph commemorating the German settlers of yesteryear.

Freethought Month also features a special day entitled: Freethought Day - often celebrated on October 12." [Source](#).

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

October 18, 2018 (Thursday): 7:00-8:00 pm

FTFW hosts a semi-monthly local access TV show called We Are Atheists through the Allen County Public Library's channel, Access 2 (also broadcast on Comcast 57 and Frontier 27). You can [view it live](#) and/or call in (260-422-3902) with any questions, thoughts, or concerns that you might have for the hosts. You may also leave comments through [Facebook](#), [Discord](#), or email (WeAreAtheistsTV@gmail.com).

Single Payer Healthcare and Understanding the Current US Healthcare System: Paying More and Getting Less

October 24, 2018 (Wednesday): 6:00-8:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

FTFW is pleased to host this [presentation](#) by Jonathan D. Walker, M.D., at the UUCFW. That will be followed by a Q&A session. Please join us for this free educational presentation that is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Additional Information:

Life expectancy vs. health expenditure, developed countries, 1970 to 2017; bad US trend since 2015. https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DXEgPf8VoAAut_d.jpg
https://cdn-images-1.medium.com/max/1600/0*AwcDJXl0tp3qs5uZ.png
<https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/health-spending-u-s-compare-countries/#item-u-s-similar-public-spending-private-sector-spending-triple-comparable-countries>

Reference:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-payer_healthcare
<http://www.pnhp.org/facts/what-is-single-payer>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_tax
<http://www.pnhp.org/news/2017/august/for-profit-insurance-model-cant-be-fixed>
<http://www.pnhp.org/news/2018/october/immigrants-paid-247-billion-more-into-private-insurance-than-was-spent-on-their-ca>

FTFW Monthly Board Meeting

October 29, 2018 (Monday): 6:30-8:30 pm at the Allen County Public Library (main branch), Business & Technology meeting room

Paid members are welcome to join the FTFW board of directors at their monthly meeting. Details will be revealed on Facebook and on the website calendar.

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

November 6, 2018 (Tuesday): 7:00-8:00 pm

FTFW hosts a semi-monthly local access TV show called We Are Atheists through the Allen County Public Library's channel, Access 2 (also broadcast on Comcast 57 and Frontier 27). You can [view it live](#) and/or call in (260-422-3902) with any questions, thoughts, or concerns that you might have for the hosts. You may also leave comments through [Facebook](#), [Discord](#), or email (WeAreAtheistsTV@gmail.com).

Community Harvest Food Bank Volunteering

November 10, 2018 (Saturday): 8:30-11:30 am at Community Harvest Food Bank

FTFW will be helping hand out food to the needy at the Community Harvest Food Bank. We accept non-perishable foods all year long and will deliver them that day. Please keep in mind that only those who are 14+ years old can hand out food, while children 5-13 can work in the grocery store area. The first 30 minutes will be a safety talk, followed by handing out or organizing food. Please wear comfortable clothing that is weather-appropriate, including closed-toe shoes. Plastic gloves will be issued to all participants. If you own a [FTFW shirt](#), please wear it to volunteer. Please [register](#) beforehand if you wish to volunteer.

FTFW Monthly Board Planning Meeting

November 11, 2018 (Sunday): 1:15-3:30 pm at Tim Horton's (4210 Crescent Ave.)

Paid members are welcome to join the FTFW board of directors at their monthly planning meeting. Details will be revealed on Facebook and on the website calendar.

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

November 15, 2018 (Thursday): 7:00-8:00 pm

FTFW hosts a semi-monthly local access TV show called We Are Atheists through the Allen County Public Library's channel, Access 2 (also broadcast on Comcast 57 and Frontier 27). You can [view it live](#) and/or call in (260-422-3902) with any questions, thoughts, or concerns that you might have for the hosts. You may also leave comments through [Facebook](#), [Discord](#), or email (WeAreAtheistsTV@gmail.com).

FTFW Monthly Board Meeting

November 26, 2018 (Monday): 6:30-8:30 pm at the Allen County Public Library (main branch), Business & Technology meeting room

Paid members are welcome to join the FTFW board of directors at their monthly meeting. Details will be revealed on Facebook and on the website calendar.

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

December 4, 2018 (Tuesday): 7:00-8:00 pm

FTFW hosts a semi-monthly local access TV show called We Are Atheists through the Allen County Public Library's channel, Access 2 (also broadcast on Comcast 57 and Frontier 27). You can [view it live](#) and/or call in (260-422-3902) with any questions, thoughts, or concerns that you might have for the hosts. You may also leave comments through [Facebook](#), [Discord](#), or email (WeAreAtheistsTV@gmail.com).

Festivus for the Rest of Us

December 8, 2018 (Saturday): 6:00-8:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

This FTFW annual event is going to be different from previous years, as we are not holding it at a restaurant. What we are asking of you this year is to bring a side dish to complement the main entree, which will be provided by FTFW. If you are a vegetarian, then you may want to bring a corresponding side dish, as the main entree will be some kind of meat. We are also looking into designing a special shirt to help celebrate this annual event by FTFW. The event, itself, is designed to be a nice dinner among friends, so please dress/plan accordingly. Details to come.

Festivus is a secular holiday celebrated on December 23 as an alternative to the pressures and commercialism of the Christmas season. Festivus entered popular culture after it was made the focus of the 1997 episode "The Strike." The event includes a Festivus dinner, an unadorned aluminum Festivus pole, practices such as the "Airing of Grievances" and "Feats of Strength," and the labeling of easily explainable events as "Festivus miracles." The episode refers to it as "a Festivus for the rest of us." See [here](#) for the source of this event description.

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

December 13, 2018 (Thursday): 7:00-8:00 pm

FTFW hosts a semi-monthly local access TV show called We Are Atheists through the Allen County Public Library's channel, Access 2 (also broadcast on Comcast 57 and Frontier 27). You can [view it live](#) and/or call in (260-422-3902) with any questions, thoughts, or concerns that you might have for the hosts. You may also leave comments through [Facebook](#), [Discord](#), or email (WeAreAtheistsTV@gmail.com).



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