

The Hoosier Humanist

Herald

FreeThought Fort Wayne, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 11

Message from the President

America's mid-term elections are upon us so I thought I would share some talking points from our ACLU talk by Ashley Toruno. Her talk, titled "The Seven Point Plan to Protect Civil Liberties," is a set of steps for how the ACLU hopes to address the challenges of living in America's democratic society in today's political climate.

First, we need government accountability and transparency.

Second, protect immigrants' rights.

Third, defend reproductive rights.

Fourth, protect first amendment rights.

Fifth, defend LGBTQ rights.

Sixth, defend core civil rights and civil liberties from erosion, which includes protecting voting rights and encouraging independent redistricting.

Seventh, mobilize the American people to vote and take action to protect the umbrella of democracy under which we live and thrive.

She recommended the following resources:

www.allindemocracy.org

www.aclu-in.org

www.aclu.org/voter

volunteer@aclu-in.org to email the ACLU to volunteer

I encourage everyone to exercise your democratic right and vote in every election.

Remember the adage, "if you don't vote, you can't complain." While that sentiment is not in our constitution, your voice matters, and every vote matters.

Karen Mizner, 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



**Every election
is determined by
the people who show up.**

Your VOTE is your VOICE

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

Japanese Space Elevator

A Japanese company, Obayashi, collaborating with Shizuoka University, is planning to build a space elevator and make it operational by 2050. "What is a space elevator?" you may well ask. The space elevator is a very fuel efficient and cost effective elevator that will reach about 59,652 miles above the Earth. It will use robotic cars powered by magnetic linear motors to move its payload of supplies or people to a new space station.

This ambitious project is possible thanks to the use of a new technology, called carbon nanotechnology, as the elevator's cable with a tensile strength 20 times stronger than steel cable. At the present time, nanotubes can be made to a length of three centimeters or about an inch, but the company expects to be able to make much longer nanotubes by 2030. The cable would be tethered to the Earth, likely in an ocean, and then anchored at a new space station orbiting the Earth.

Currently, using rockets to lift cargo into space costs about \$22,000 per kilogram (about 35.3 ounces), but with the use of a space elevator, the cost would be about \$200 per kilogram. The space elevator would be able to provide solar power, make space exploration missions easier/cheaper to launch, and allow for a space tourism industry. It would seem that once again, the stuff of science fiction may well become part of our future.

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

Amazon Smile



Do you make purchases on Amazon? Did you know that FreeThought Fort Wayne is now a charitable organization listed on Amazon Smile? Simply use the link on the Amazon Smile logo above or look up the charity, "American Humanist Association," in New Haven, IN (on Amazon Smile) to have Amazon contribute 0.5% of your Amazon purchase (at no cost to you!) to FTFW. You can also find a link to contribute to [our Amazon Smile](#) on the FTFW website under the "Stores" menu.

Annual Membership Renewal



**NOW is the time
And we want YOU!**

**Yes, it's our annual member renewal time
Please renew your membership dues by going to**

<https://www.freethoughtfw.org/becoming-a-member/>

**There are lots of membership options
Including becoming a "Monthly Steward"**

OR

Just see a FTFW Board Member at any meet up.



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.

Festivus Shirt Pre-Orders



Festivus
long sleeve shirt

Pre-order now and
pick-up at Festivus, Dec 8th!

Proceeds are donated to
 FreeThought Fort Wayne

Upcoming Events

Election Day

November 6, 2018 (Tuesday): 6:00 am-6:00 pm

If you were unable to vote early for the mid-term election, today is your last opportunity to do so. Get out and vote! Your vote is your voice!

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): 1:15-3:15 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.

FTFW Monthly Board Planning Meeting

December 9, 2018 (Sunday): 1:15-3:15 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

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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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

