

The Hoosier Humanist **Herald**

FreeThought Fort Wayne, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Our newsletter has a new name! It will now be the "Hoosier Humanist Herald" as opposed to the "Hoosier Herald."

Message from the President

I'm writing this in the aftermath of yet another national tragedy, this time the killings in a Parkland, Florida high school. It's difficult to maintain any kind of positive outlook in the face of yet another such incident. I fall back on the first paragraph of Humanist Manifesto III: "Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity."

This is in stark contrast to the outworn views being expressed wherever you look. To me, it is a light and guide in the midst of darkness. To those of us who adhere to this philosophy, it should be a clarion call to present our case to as many as are willing to listen.

My hope is that the Humanist Manifesto will give purpose to each, comfort the afflicted, and provide hope for the future. The last sentence of the Manifesto is also worth revisiting: "The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone."

Robert Brandt, President of FTFW

Karen's Corner



**You don't believe in
Leprechauns and you're
not expected to prove
they don't exist.
I shouldn't have to prove your
god doesn't exist either.**

Karen Mizner, Treasurer of FTFW

Hoosier Humanist Hour 95.7 FM

The Humanist perspective deserves to be heard and fully understood, which is why FreeThought Fort Wayne has assembled a radio show called the Hoosier Humanist Hour that airs every Tuesday 5-6 pm on WELT 95.7 FM. Those of us who are a part of the Hoosier Humanist Hour are dedicated to putting Humanism on display for all to see by having discussions that provide the Humanist perspective on science, philosophy, politics, religion, or any number of topics.

Our radio show is a weekly hour-long discussion for the benefit of our audience

in the hopes that they not only learn something useful and interesting, but also understand more fully what it means to be a Humanist. The diverse array of topics that we cover are chosen in advance by our membership. We have also had the privilege of interviewing certain pundits such as Victoria Gibson and Anthony Magnabosco on topics ranging from women's rights to street epistemology, which is a Socratic approach to conversation that challenges people to question the strength of the foundations of their beliefs. Additionally, we also have a platform that allows anyone to engage with us and be a part of the conversation via our Facebook page, @Hoosier Humanist Hour FM 95.7. Anyone visiting the page may suggest a future topic or address a comment, question, or concern they may have about anything regarding the radio show.

As the radio show has trekked on over the years and grown into what it has become, we have decided to reach beyond just radio. John Loftus and I, Calyb Tittman, are prepared to announce that we wish to launch a live, call-in television show unofficially titled, "We Are Atheists." Our goal to further spread the Humanist Philosophy on a fun and engaging medium, where anyone may call in to discuss why they believe what they believe, or perhaps voice some objection they might have with humanism or atheism. On this show, we hope to tackle as many of the hard-hitting questions relating to theism, humanism, and atheism as we can in an hour-long production brought to you by Fort Wayne's own local Humanists. Keep an eye out on FreeThought Fort Wayne's closed Facebook group for updates on our progress.

If you would like to volunteer for either the Hoosier Humanist Hour, or We Are Atheists, please e-mail me at PianoMan_number1@yahoo.com; use the subject line "HHH" or "We Are Atheists." You may also find me on Facebook as a member of closed FreeThought Fort Wayne and send a private message.

Calyb T., Director of the Hoosier Humanist Hour

Science Corner

Scientists are planning to build the most powerful laser ever. Researchers are upgrading the Shanghai Superintense Ultrafast Laser Facility (SULF), to create a 10 PW (1 Peta Watt is the power that 16 trillion incandescent light bulbs consume) laser power. At the heart of their laser is a single cylinder of titanium-

doped sapphire about the width of a Frisbee. The laser pulses last less than a trillionth of a second but the power is roughly 1,000 times the electrical generation of the whole planet at any moment in time.

By 2023, a further 10 times higher power is expected at which point, if focused on a target of just 3 micrometers, they will deliver energy that is 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 (that's 24 zeros) times higher than the sun delivers to Earth per unit area. The coolest application of these lasers is in "breaking the vacuum" where particles are seemingly generated out of nothing. Quantum electro dynamics says that virtual particle and anti-particle pairs constantly pop in and out of existence in space, but they can't be detected because they exist for too short of a time.

This laser will be able tear those pairs apart and the gamma rays they emit will create an avalanche of other particles which can be detected and thereby creating real particles out of nothing. This is completely new physics. Scientists hope to document photon-photon collisions which have not been observed so far and contradict classical physics. Such innovations have implications such as imaging of short lived biological and chemical phenomena, fusion energy generation, cheaper and more powerful particle accelerators and much more.

V, Executive Director 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 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

March is National Women's History Month

Watch for historic posts to our Facebook page celebrating the women of our country.

Pi Day

March 14, 2018 (Wednesday): 6:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

A time to celebrate 3.14, the first three digits of the irrational number, Pi, which is critically important for calculations involving circles. Come celebrate with us as we talk Pi while judging (cash donations go to support the pie of your choice) and eating pie. We will then watch the movie, "Hidden Figures," around 6:45 pm in honor of National Women's History Month.

Is religious faith reasonable?

April 18, 2018 (Wednesday): 7:00 pm at Brookville Road Community Church

Brookville Road Community Church will be hosting a debate on question, "Is religious faith reasonable?" BRCC has invited Jim Spiegel to defend the rationality of faith as well as John Loftus to argue the opposition. A Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Taylor University, Spiegel has published over eighty articles and book chapters; his work has primarily explored topics in ethics and philosophy of religion, and includes his books *The Benefits of Providence*, *The Love of Wisdom*, *How to be Good in a World Gone Bad*.

Loftus (a member of FTFW) is a leading atheist writer and thinker, a former evangelical minister and Christian apologist, and has been a teacher at several Christian and secular colleges; his books include *Why I Became an Atheist*, *The Outsider Test for Faith*, and *Unapologetic*. The debate is free and open to the public, and will be held on April 18th at 7:00 pm in the BRCC main auditorium (7480 W US-52, New Palestine, IN).



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