

# The Hoosier Humanist Herald

FreeThought Fort Wayne, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

## **Message from the President**

Our new board members are installed. Congratulations to Chris Rex and Victoria Gipson on their re-election/election to our FTFW Board of Directors. Our roles are as follows, Chris Rex is VP again, Chris Woods is Secretary, V is now Treasurer, Victoria Gipson will be our Communications Director and I have assumed the role of President. In addition, Calyb T. is (and has been) the Trustee of the Hoosier Humanist Hour and Robert (Bob) Brandt will remain active in a Trustee role (yet to be determined).

All FTFW Board and Trustee positions are voluntary and open to any paid member who would like to take an active role in leading or supporting our group. All dues-paying members are welcome to attend board meetings which are usually held on the third Monday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Locations vary from month to month.

Volunteers are always welcome. Want to be a part of the radio show or our upcoming TV show? Would you like to write a short article (250-350 words) for the newsletter? Help organize or work an event? If so, please speak with a

board member, as we would love to hear your ideas.

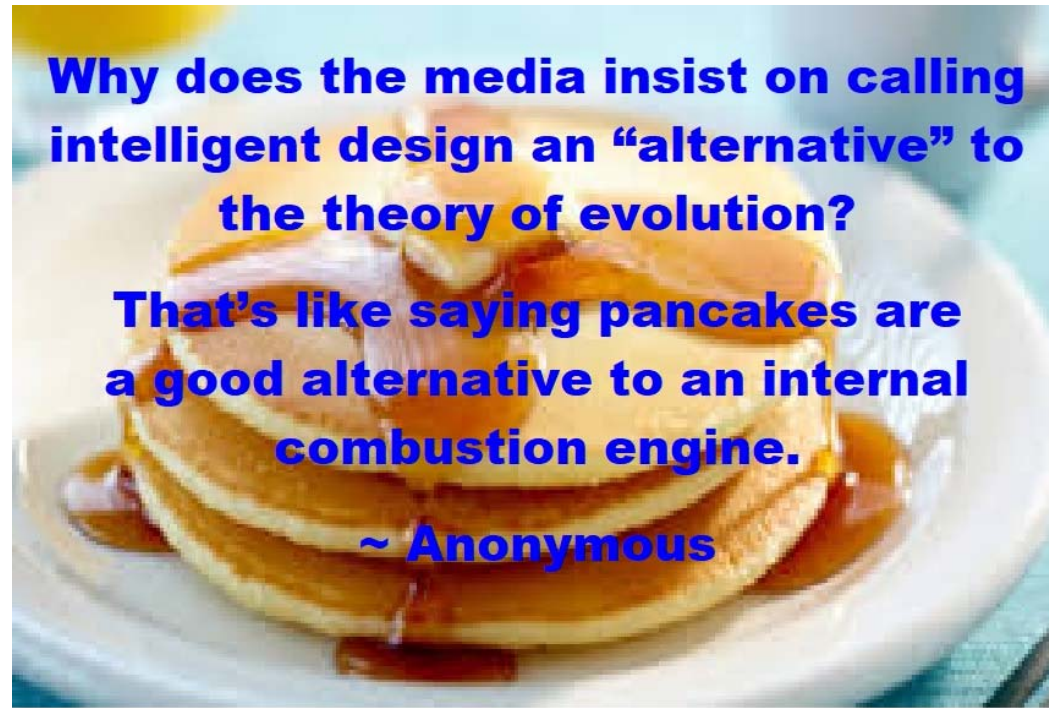
**BIG NEWS!** Thanks to Calyb and his team, we will soon be hosting a TV show called, “We Are Atheists.” The first televised show will be a debate on “Is There Good Evidence for Biblical Creation?” Kent Hovind (Christian fundamentalist and evangelist) will present the creationist perspective, John Loftus (former minister, now atheist advocate and author of many books on atheism) will speak to the atheist side, and Chris Rex (Ivy Tech biology professor) will give perspective from the biological point of view. Following this initial debate, the TV show will be a live call-in show shown semimonthly on cable TV networks.

We have a lot of exciting things happening in May so be sure to check our calendar or Facebook for more details.

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

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## **Karen's Corner**



Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

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## Hoosier Humanist Hour

Don't forget! You can listen to FTFW's weekly radio show live via the link on the [library's page](#) every Tuesday 5-6 pm., as well as the "About HHH" page on our [website](#).

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## FTFW CafePress Shop

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

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## Science Corner

On April 18th NASA launched TESS – the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite. The primary mission for TESS is to identify planets around stars in our galaxy. TESS can identify planets ranging in size from rocky Earth-size planets to Jupiter-size gas giants. The principal goal is to find small planets around big bright stars so that the planet's atmosphere can be characterized by follow up missions. TESS identifies the presence of a planet around a star by looking for the brief and minor dimming of a star that results from a planet passing between the star and Earth as it normally rotates around its host star.

TESS is expected to survey upwards of 200,000 stars and identify around 1,500 planets. Scientists estimate that of those about 500 will be Earth or super-Earth size (up to twice the diameter of Earth). TESS will divide the sky in many sectors and observe each for 27 days at a time. The telescope will be in a unique High Earth Orbit and will take 13.7 days to complete an orbit. The MIT Lincoln Laboratory is the developer of the most important parts on this telescope – the camera, including the lens and detector assemblies, lens hoods, and camera mounts. The telescope has four identical cameras for a total of 24 degree by 24 degree field of view. The image sensors, designed by MIT, are 16.8 Megapixel CCDs with low noise and low power capabilities. With this technology on board, the TESS observations are 30-100 times brighter

than those made by the Kepler telescope. The follow-up imaging will be done by the James Webb space telescope and other, ground-based telescopes.

V, Treasurer of FTFW

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## **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](mailto: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.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### ***Asian American History Month***

#### **All May**

May is the month to celebrate Asian American History.

### ***National Day of Reason***

#### **May 3, 2018 (Thursday)**

Proposed as a secular alternative to the National Day of Prayer, the National

Day of Reason allows humanists, atheists, and other freethinkers to celebrate the day as well.

***Community Harvest Food Bank Volunteering***

**May 12, 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. 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 at if you wish to volunteer.

***The Occupation of the American Mind***

**May 16, 2018 (Wednesday): 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne**

"Narrated by Roger Waters and featuring leading observers of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. media culture, the film explores how the Israeli government, the U.S. government, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces, often with very different motives, to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor." This event, sponsored by FTFW, the Hoosier Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (HUJJME), and the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace (ICMEP), is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

***American Humanist Association's 77th National Conference***

**May 17-20, 2018 at the Flamingo Hotel & Casino**

Join hundreds of humanists, atheists, and freethinkers for four days of

informative lectures, book signings, celebrity guests, networking opportunities, fun activities and more!

***FTFW Monthly Board Meeting***

**May 21, 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.



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