

The Hoosier Humanist

Herald

FreeThought Fort Wayne, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

Message from the President

August is National Immunization Awareness Month and as kids prepare to start school, this is good time to make sure their vaccines are up to date. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization currently prevents 2-3 million deaths every year. The first vaccine to protect children against malaria will be piloted in three African countries in 2018. Malaria kills one child every 30 seconds and over one million people die from malaria every year. Mass vaccination campaigns in Africa since December 2010 have nearly eliminated epidemics of meningitis A, an infection that can cause severe brain damage and even death.

Global measles mortality has declined by 84% from 2000 to 2016 due to vaccines. In 2016, the region of the Americas was declared free of measles due to a mass 22-year vaccination effort against measles, mumps and rubella. Polio is closer than ever to be eradicated due to a major vaccination effort. Vaccines also serve as a frontline defense against antibiotic resistance because they help reduce the need for antibiotic application. Vaccines not only protect our own children, but also those children who dare not get the vaccine due to a compromised immune system or other legitimate health condition.

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

FTFW at Pride Fest

FTFW hosted a booth at Pride Fest on 7/28/18 at 12-7 pm, where we were able to pass out a lot of educational materials and interact with a number of parties that seemed interested in joining us at future FTFW events. So, I would consider it a complete success! Below is a picture of our table, with FTFW board members Victoria Gipson (Director of Communication) and Chris Rex (Vice President). This

was also the first event we've had to showcase our new tablecloth, which looked fantastic!



Chris Rex, Vice 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!

Ignoring Intel: A Treacherous Path

Prior to 9/11, the Bush administration received several intelligence briefings in the spring and later in August regarding preparations for an al-Qaida attack on the United States. These briefings were downplayed by the administration but were a combination of intelligence gathered by the CIA and the FBI. Unfortunately, around 9 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, two passenger jets crashed into the World Trade Center towers, one crashed into the Pentagon and another crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.

This proved how important it is to pay heed to the information gathered by the professional intelligence agencies whose sworn duty it is to protect all citizens. This is the same intelligence community that is warning our current administration about the vulnerability of our electoral process to outside interference by Russia, whose leader is a sworn enemy to democracy here and abroad.

We have a president who stood before the nation in a news conference and openly sided with a dictatorial murderer who told Donald Trump that his countrymen did not meddle in our elections. Trump chose to believe this thug over people whose sworn allegiance it is to protect their citizens.

This was not fake news; you did see our president sell our security out from under us. Regardless of what Trump says, it happened. You saw it happen, live and uncut.

It is imperative that we have a leader who values the intelligence he receives from our intelligence communities. Our democracy depends on it, and one day lives may depend on it. The Mueller probe is not a "witch hunt," as evidenced by the indictments of 12 Russians the Friday before Trump's summit with Vladimir Putin. Let the investigation proceed. If Trump is innocent, he should have nothing to worry about.

Duane Thompson, Member of FTFW

Karen's Corner



**When did I realize
I was God?
Well, I was praying
and I suddenly realized
I was talking to myself.**

~ Peter O'Toole

Karen Mizner, President of FTFW

Religion and the Cessation of Medical Care

A recent newspaper article told the story of a teenage girl, [Jahi McMath](#), declared "brain dead" after complications following a "routine tonsillectomy." The hospital urged cessation of all life-sustaining medical treatment. Her mother, a Christian, resisted this. With the help of the pro-life Schiavo Foundation, the child was moved to a long-term care facility in New Jersey. After five years the girl died as a result of several surgeries for intestinal problems.

What should Humanists take from this tragic story? As a father who lost two children from accident and illness, I can only empathize with the pain felt by the mother.

There aren't many tragedies worse than the death of a child. As Humanists, we should resolve to promote science over religious belief. The mother's pain was exacerbated by her belief that medical experts should not "play God."

Legal and medical authorities approved the "Uniform Declaration of Death Act" in 1981. It has been adopted by 39 states, Indiana among them. A determination of death must be made after a rigorous application of accepted medical standards. That is the science.

The moral stance for us is beautifully stated in this quote from John Donne, "No man

is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore do not send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

Robert Brandt, Trustee 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

National Immunization Awareness Month

All August

August is the month to celebrate all the wonderful things vaccines have done for the human race. It is a great time to consult with your doctor or family physician to stay on top of your routine vaccinations, including tetanus, which should be boosted every 10 years for adults.

We Are Atheists Live Call-In Show

August 7, 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

August 11, 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.

Joint FTFW and UU Service

August 12, 2018 (Sunday): 10:30-11:30 am at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

FTFW will co-host the service at the UUCFW. Victoria Gipson (FTFW Director of Communication) will provide a unique Humanism service to highlight the similarities between the UU's Aspirations and the AHA's Principles of Humanism.

Meeting of the Minds

August 15, 2018 (Wednesday): 6:00-8:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

This is a recurring event for FTFW every month on the third Wednesday, whereby folks get together for an open discussion on a particular topic of interest. Be sure to bring your suggested discussion topic ideas and we will vote as a group on which one(s) to talk about.

FTFW Monthly Board Meeting

August 27, 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.

Dr. David P. Maloney Lecture

Place & Time TBD

Dr. Maloney will offer another free lecture, open to the public at a future date.

Details to come.



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