

# The Utah Humanist

June 2019

HumanistsofUtah.org

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**H**umanists of Utah is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. We are a nonprofit corporation organized to advocate and promote ethical, rational, and democratic humanism among our membership and the larger community.



**Humanism** is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. It affirms the dignity of each human being and supports individual liberty consonant with social and planetary responsibility. Humanism advocates participatory democracy, the open society, human rights and social justice. Free of supernaturalism, it recognizes human beings as part of nature and holds that values—be they religious, ethical, social, or political—have their source in human nature, experience, and culture. Humanism thus derives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than from theological or ideological abstractions, and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

—The Humanist,  
Official publication of the American  
Humanist Association

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## International Rescue Committee

Our May meeting featured Chef Noor and owner of Noor Al Sham restaurant and members of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City (more photos are available on our website.) The presentation focused on the IRC’s work with refugees in the area and highlighted the Spice Kitchen Incubator program, which helps international refugees with food backgrounds to come to Salt Lake City and to make a living off those skills, whether it be opening a restaurant, a food truck or catering. Successful programs all over the valley are up and running and support these entrepreneurial families in making their transition to America. Chef Noor afterwards treated us to on-site prepared Syrian baba ganouche and HoU provided a flavored fruit water bar. We had a great experience eating and empathizing with the refugee community by learning about the process and struggles they have had in trying to better their lives against tremendous odds and violence. You can order delicious international cuisine from a variety of countries and support the Spice Kitchen Incubator refugees at <https://spicekitchenincubator.org>



—Melanie Curtis  
Vice President, HoU

We are looking for a qualified CPA to audit the HoU books. If you can help please contact a Board member.

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# Direction

Humanists of Utah *present*

**FREE**

**ATHEISTS IN FOXHOLES**  
A virtual tour of religious and secular ethics and patriotism in war



**JASON TORPY**  
PRESIDENT  
Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF)

7:30 – 8:30 PM | Elliott Hall  
THU • June 13 | 569 S. 1300 E. SLC  
First Unitarian Church

Refreshments and meet the speakers to follow the discussion

**Humanists of Utah** has had a very busy—yet exciting—last couple of months! This has been part of our 2019 goal for extending our reach in the community as well as offering a large variety of humanist subjects and interactions at our monthly meetups. We have worked to boost public awareness and appearances as well as grow our relationships with allies and other groups in the state and it is paying off. This mix has enabled us to interact with more people than ever before and meet potential HoU members as well as members of our Facebook group online. If you haven't been to our monthly meetings in a while (or have never been to one), you will be surprised—come on out and socialize and learn with other humanists in northern Utah!

—Melanie Curtis  
Vice President, HoU

## Support the AHA

**Humanists of Utah** urges you to support the American Humanist Association.

The AHA is dedicated to preserving individual rights and promoting nationally the philosophy of humanism.

Membership brings you the *Humanist* magazine and *Free Mind* newsletter six times a year.

Annual membership is only \$45.00 (**\$35 Introductory Rate**) and can be paid with plastic. Phone (800) 743-6646 or write to:

**American Humanist Association**  
1821 Jefferson Place, NW  
Washington DC 20036

Or visit online:

<https://americanhumanist.org/>

Next up is a great opportunity for a national-level speaker to appear at our group: Jason Torpy, a former national board member of the American Humanist Association and current president of Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers (MAAF) will be in town to discuss “Atheists in Foxholes: Past & Present”. Come on out and hear stories of patriotism, valor and danger experienced by freethinkers in the midst of battle over many years. It will be sure to be inspiring and though-provoking! We want to show Mr. Torpy plenty of support for his visit, so grab a friend or two and come on down.



# Pride Celebration

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month and HOU participated in the Utah Pride parade (more photos are available on our website) as part of a secular alliance with our friends at Atheists of Utah and Sunday Assembly. There is indeed strength in numbers and the opportunity to band together to let over 100,000 people know that there exists



in Utah a place for freethinkers, rationalists and do-gooders without God is invaluable. We had several people show up from our Facebook group and from the local HoU group to march in the parade, where we debuted our new Humanists of Utah t-shirts (purchase yours for only \$20 at HoU meetings or at our Facebook group site). This cooperation reinforces the value of allies and community in promoting a philosophy and lifestyle that many people don't understand yet by the word "humanism" and is a tradition that we plan to continue in the future.

—Melanie Curtis  
Vice President, HoU



# Podcasts

Are you a fan of podcasts? I'm almost 100% podcasts on the daily commute these days. It's so much more fun to listen to something specifically tailored to your interests (they're also a great insomnia companion). Here are a few rock-solid favorites to check out.

**Ologies by Alie Ward.** Alie interviews experts in the 'ologies' fields - subjects like Teuthology, Phonology, Selenology, Malacology. It's thoroughly fascinating and very well done! The main problem I have is wanting to start a hobby of almost everything I hear about—hiving my own bees, brewing beer, sponsoring a dinosaur dig.

**This Podcast Will Kill You.** Hosted by an ecologist and epidemiologist, they take on diseases and explain them from a historical side and biology side – how diseases 'work', how our bodies 'work', how cures are found/discovered/imagined. I must admit that the range from "oh, that's so gross", to "oh, that's so cool" makes this a lot of fun to listen to.

**Levar Burton Reads.** Levar Burton reads short stories—mostly in the SciFi/Fantasy realm. From Ursula Le Guin to Haruki Murakami. It's like snuggling down with a cozy blanket and warm mug of something. Many of the stories hold powers to stay banging around in your head for months to come.

—Lisa Miller

# Solstice

*This piece was originally published in the January 1996 edition of this newsletter. I consider it to be one of my better pieces and it is the month of the Summer Solstice.*

Imagine our ancestors sometime between 30,000 and 200,000 years ago gazing at the sky considering the solstice. Then, as now, there must have been two basic approaches to nature: fear and wonder. Unfortunately, fear is the stronger emotion. Its legacies include myth, superstition, religion, and authoritarian governments and rulers.

Those who stood in wonder were able, through empirical observations, to explain the natural phenomenon of the solstice. The progeny of wonder are the arts, the sciences, and the humanities.

It is unlikely that most people approach the unknown exclusively with either fear or wonder. We all have a different mixture of these two basic emotions. Our challenge is to try to suppress the fears, and then experience and explain the wonders.

—Wayne Wilson



Stonehenge at the Summer Solstice



# Humanist Celebrant

**H**umanists of Utah meetings are open to the public and free of any admission charge. A discussion and light refreshments follow the speaker's presentation. Come join us and **bring a friend!**

**D**isclaimer: The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of Humanists of Utah nor the American Humanist Association. Reprinting of articles is permitted for humanist groups promoting the interests of humanism if attribution is properly stated.



### Humanists of Utah Board

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**Jared Anderson** (MA, BCC) is endorsed by the AHA Humanist Society as a Chaplain, Celebrant, and Lay Leader. He provides rituals across the life span for birth, coming of age, and divorce, as well as weddings and funerals. He specializes in designing personalized ceremonies that integrate ideas from art, history and popular culture. Contact him at [jared@humanistsofutah.org](mailto:jared@humanistsofutah.org)

## Membership/Renewal Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- \$50 Regular Annual Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$90 Regular 2-year Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$35 Regular Annual Membership with email delivery of the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$65 Regular 2-year Membership with email delivery of the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$20 *Student* Annual Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$20 Annual subscription to the *Utah Humanist* (I do not want to be listed as a member of **Humanists of Utah**)
  - Please send a *FREE* trial Subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ additional contribution to help promote public awareness of humanism
- ⇒ All contributions in excess of the \$20 subscription fee tax deductible.  
 ⇒ *Members* have the right to vote in Chapter elections and participate in Chapter decisions.  
 ⇒ Dues provide for information packets, honoraria to speakers, expenses of newsletter publication, trial subscriptions, copies to libraries, and newsletter exchange with other chapters.

**Humanists of Utah**  
**P.O. Box 1043**  
**West Jordan, UT 84084**

### Newsletter Contributors

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>> **Put Your Name Here** <<  
 >> **Write an Article!** <<

## Notes:

- ◆ *General Meetings* are for all members and the general public. There are no admission charges.
- ◆ *Discussion Group* meetings are open to everyone. A different book or topic is covered every month.
- ◆ *Board Meetings* are planning and business sessions. They are open to all members.
- ◆ Eliot Hall is in the First Unitarian Church located at 569 South 1300 East in Salt Lake City.
- ◆ RE 201 is upstairs in the East Educational Building at the First Unitarian Church.

## Charitable Giving While You Shop

### Amazon.com

Sign up for Amazon Smile and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to HoU:

- Log into amazon.com and open your personal account settings.
- Select “Your Amazon Smile.”
- Search for “Humanists of Utah.”  
This will find “American Humanist Association” in West Jordan because we use the AHA as our umbrella for sales tax exemption.
- Click the “Select” button.

If you have a bookmark for Amazon please modify it to go to smile.amazon.com—you always want to use the “smile” option.

### Smith’s Grocery Stores

Humanists of Utah is enrolled in Smith’s Inspiring Donations program. If you have a Smith’s Fresh Value card, you can register it to benefit Humanists of Utah. Simply visit [www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire), create an account, associate it with your Fresh Values card number, and then enter NPO Number: KQ330 within your “account summary.” All future purchases will now benefit HoU.

# Upcoming Events

Meeting	Topic	Date	Time	Place
General Meeting	<b>There ARE Atheists in Foxholes</b> <i>Jason Torpy, President MAAF</i>	June 13	7:30	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	June 20	7:30	TBA
General Meeting	<b>Homeless Youth Center</b> <i>Kathy Bray</i>	July 11	7:30	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	July 18	7:30	TBA



Happy Humanist

## Humanists of Utah

*A Chapter of the American Humanist Association*

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