



The Utah Humanist

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HumanistsofUtah.org

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Humanists 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*,
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Humanist Association

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1991-2019

Rawlins B. Young 1938 ~ 2019

Rawlins B. Young of Salt Lake City has left the third planet from the sun on August 19, 2019, after 81 years of anthropological study. He succumbed to complications of scleroderma. While on this planet he served proudly on the Sugarhouse Community Council for several decades and was active in the Democratic Party. He was a lifelong member of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City and affiliated with the Humanists of Utah.

Rawlins was a son of Loretta Wagner and Rawlins B. Young Sr. He was a brother of Joan Babcock, Diana Haman, and Patricia Miller, who are now on their next tachyon journey. Still remaining on this planet is his brother John A. Young of Salt Lake City. He is also survived by many nieces, great nieces, nephews, and great nephews.

Graveside service will be conducted by Humanist Celebrant Jared Anderson at the Salt Lake City Cemetery, N Street & Forth Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah at 1:00 PM on September 6, 2019. A Celebration of Life service will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City, 569 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, Utah on November 10, 2019, at 4:00 PM conducted by Rev. Tom Goldsmith. In lieu of flowers send donations to the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake and Humanists of Utah.



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Humanists of Utah

Humanism 101:

The Coolest Approach to Life
You May Not Have Heard of!

JARED ANDERSON, MA, CHM

Humanist Celebrant and founder, Olam Institute



SEPTEMBER
12

THURSDAY
7:30

ELLIOTT HALL
569 S. 1300 E.
Salt Lake City

What is humanism anyway? This is a question that we frequently get asked. Come to our September 12th meeting in Eliot Hall at the First Unitarian Church located at 569 South 1300 East in Salt Lake City and get some insights.

Jared Anderson (MA, CHM) is a Religious Humanist chaplain focusing on the intersection of human needs and religion. He taught university courses on religion for thirteen years and now ministers in prison, hospice, and university settings. He founded the Olam Institute, which fosters constructive approaches to religion and religious education.

The meeting will include a lecture followed by a Q&A session and an informal discussion with light refreshments. The public is welcome; there is no charge although donations are happily accepted.

Please come and bring your friend(s)!

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/>

Nonprofit

Humanists of Utah is a nonprofit organization supported in large part by dues paying members. Our other major source of funds comes from generous gifts, mostly from the same dues payers who give a little more. In February 2003, chapter member Marion Craig died and left HoU a bequest of \$20,000. We invested this money in an endowment fund. The interest is still helping to pay for banquets, special events, etc. When you create your personal will please consider leaving a gift to Humanists of Utah.



What is Humanism?

Humanism 101 is the topic of our upcoming September meeting. The question of just what humanism is has been discussed in our chapter since we formed in 1992. Here is one of the first published "answers."

Flo Wineriter Speaks Out On Humanism

The following article was published in the Daily Herald of Provo, Utah on Sunday, November 22, 1992.

Humanism's basic message is that man alone is responsible for the world and its dreams, and moral values derive their source from human experience," said Florien J. Wineriter, President of the Utah Chapter of the American Humanist Association.

Wineriter spoke at a recent Unitarian meeting where he discussed humanism and its message. The former radio journalist said humanism is a quest for life's values, and a belief that we can solve our own problems without having to ask for supernatural guidance. He has observed that religion attempts to teach moral values through fear of punishment, whereas humanism teaches moral values through caring.

Wineriter's own journey into humanism was triggered by the events of World War II. As a religious young man, he felt a concern about the ethics of killing another human being on the other side of the world who might believe in the same religion as he. After studying the many religious wars of the past, Wineriter concluded, "If beliefs in God create so much bloodshed, even among those who share the same religion, then I want and need a basic belief that holds more hope for the future of the human race, and for peaceful resolutions of conflicts."

The Humanist Counselor believes we must have freedom of choice and experience a wide range of full liberties. "There is no area of thought that we are unwilling to explore, to challenge, to question, or to doubt," as our philosophy tells us.

Humanists want to maintain a separation of church and state. "Our founders were fearful of religious domination because of past experiences when countries mingled faith and govern-

ment." Wineriter believes that churches should continue to have the freedom to lobby and take positions on issues, however the fault lies when individual lawmakers make decisions based on the belief that church should be the final authority because their leaders are spokespersons for God. "The authoritarian mentality is not conducive to democratic governments. This nation is politically and economically secular, and we must not equate religious affiliation with patriotism. Our Constitution provides that there shall be no religious test of any kind," says Wineriter.

Prayer in public meetings should not be allowed because, in rural Utah especially, it becomes an extension of theocracy. "Prayer in civic meetings continues the mood of yesterday's priesthood meeting," as Wineriter put it. He believes humanists should take an active role in their communities by helping others recognize the difference between secular authority and religious authority.

Many religions are threatened by humanistic thoughts, says Wineriter. Garth Brooks' recent song "We Shall Be Free" is presently being censored by radio stations in Tennessee because of its apparent secular message. The following lyrics appear to be the most controversial.

"When we're free to love anyone we choose,
When this world's big enough for all different views,
When all can worship from our own kind of pew,
Then we shall be free."

Brooks has summed up humanism in just a few simple words, and it has upset the traditional religious ideas of country music.

Being a humanist does not lead to immoral behavior, as some people believe. "Humanism teaches us to be responsible, caring people and to continually search for the highest human ideals" he emphasized.

—Flo Wineriter

Published in February 1993 Newsletter



Interfaith Prayer Meeting HoU Represented

I was sitting facing the International Peace Gardens, listening to Imam Yasir talk about the history of Islam in Utah. I had been asked to present at this Interfaith Prayer Meeting as a prison chaplain, but it also gave me an opportunity to introduce myself and speak as a humanist. This meeting was sponsored by Roots of Peace, an organization that removes landmines from war-torn countries and then establishes agriculture, going from “mines to vines.” For example, in Vietnam those who have been injured by explosions now harvest black pepper, the land producing life instead of death.

I used the invitation to speak about prison chaplaincy to speak about humanity. I made the point that those who are incarcerated are not fundamentally different than we are...they just have had different opportunities and challenges. In general, we are as good and successful as we are incentivized and empowered to be. I tell the volunteers I train that prison requires the same life skills as on the outside...just with catastrophic consequences. I dream of a world where we all have the guidance, support, and resources we need to thrive. Taking seriously all the problems the prison industrial complex causes, it still remains true that we invest in inmates to a strikingly high level. The irony has sobered me that the care for inmates is governed by the constitution, while care for staff is governed by capitalism. Staff spend hours with each inmate during their intake interview. They ask about their background, their relationships, their education, their struggles. A care plan is designed to help with each of these factors. Years of programs and opportunities are provided so that inmates can become better versions of themselves.

I clearly stated that many, if not most, inmates are in prison because we have failed them. What would the world be if we invested in every human, not when they fall through the cracks, but when they are children? What if we gathered close each child when they are five,

ten, fifteen, every year if needed? What if we asked them about their background, goals, struggles and victories? I submit that prisons would become unnecessary.

Having presented on prison chaplaincy, I walked from location to location and heard prayers offered by different religious leaders. This is one of my dreams...to increase awareness and respect for Humanism by moving through religious and other spaces as an open Humanist. I am grateful to have the chance to participate as a humanist on the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable.

—Jared Anderson
Humanist Celebrant

HoU YouTube Channel

Humanists of Utah now has its very own YouTube channel!

We will be posting all of our future speaker's presentations (not counting technical difficulties or the speaker's privacy choice). We currently have Volunteers of America of Utah CEO Kathy Bray's talk on the VOA's Utah Homeless Youth Shelter. More to follow!

Where to find it?

There is a link on the [HoU web page](#) under **Media**->Videos (thanks Lisa Miller!) or search YouTube for the “Humanists of Utah” channel.

Don't forget to subscribe; this will make it easier to find in the future!

—Brian Trick





Humanists 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!**

Disclaimer: 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.

←—————→

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

Humanist Celebrant



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

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

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 , 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	Humanism 101 <i>Jared Anderson</i>	Sept 12	7:30 ^T	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Sept 19	7:30	TBA
General Meeting	Climate Change	Oct 10	7:30 ^T	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Oct 17	7:30	TBA

Humanists of Utah

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

P.O. Box 1043

West Jordan, UT 84084