



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*,
Official publication of the American
Humanist Association

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1991-2020

Solstice Banquet

Our annual Banquet was well attended! All 44 participants seemed to have a good time. There were representatives from Atheists of Utah and Freethought Forum. We look forward to working more closely with them and other similar organizations in the coming year and beyond.



Beginning next year we plan to modify the format to join the HumanLight Festival that was originally started in the late 20th Century by the New Jersey Humanist Network. The name HumanLight comes from a non-supernatural emphasis on humanity with “Light” pointing to human reason. The event is designed to celebrate the “positive human values of reason, compassion, humanity and hope.” The celebration is also supported by the American Humanist Association.

Board of Directors Election Results

- 58 ballots created and sent to members
- 23 ballots returned
- 23 votes for Loren Florence, MD, Craig Wilkenson, MD, and Wayne Wilson. Two write in votes were cast for Jared Anderson. Jared was formally accepted to the Board at our monthly meeting on December 19 meeting

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Humanists of Utah 

What Can I Do?

Personally Combating the Climate Crisis

An interactive community discussion
by BOB LANE

JANUARY
9
THURSDAY
7:30
ELLIOTT HALL
569 S. 1300 E.
Salt Lake City

All Humanists of Utah monthly meetings are free and open to the public, and donations are gratefully accepted though not required. Please bring interested friends and family!

President's Report

Happy New Year, everyone! We are entering not only a new year, but a new decade and here at HoU, we are optimistic and excited about the future of the organization and humanism in general. In the spirit of reflection and future vision, I would like to give you an update on what we accomplished this year and what we are looking at moving forward.

For 2019, we set out three specific goals: to become a community versus a group, to gather a dynamic board and officer cadre for future leadership, and to make ourselves a known and active entity in the Utah secular community. I feel that all of these have been accomplished and will be a solid foundation for 2020. Accomplishments this year include:

- Nearly doubling of average meeting attendance
- Increases in HoU social media membership and activity
- Upgrading branding and trade dress of HoU media and communications

- Launch of new version of website (please go check it out at humanistsofutah.org)
- Launch of HoU YouTube channel for viewing our speakers and events
- Participation in Utah Pride parade, all-secular community events and service projects
- Hosting community events including Charles Darwin birthday, the Summer Barbeque, and our Winter Solstice Banquet
- A wider variety of speakers for monthly meetings, including subjects as varied as: climate crisis, international refugee entrepreneurship, judicial ethics, healthcare, meditation and mental health and more

For 2020, we will be focusing on growing our active membership, branding HoU with more participation in the community and modernizing our framework, tools and messaging for further impact. We aim to participate in regional gather-

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President's Report

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ings and increase our presence with events such as Utah Pride and civic events/ceremonies. Additionally, we will be re-branding the Winter Solstice banquet as HumanLight to dovetail with national AHA efforts to provide a humanist-oriented holiday celebration for the community.

The unfortunate reality is that this impact and support is not free. The events all take money to put on. We have no paid positions and all of the hours and efforts are volunteered by your local HoU team. I am asking each of you reading this to consider financial support of Humanists of Utah so that we may continue our mission to provide education and a community in Utah based on Humanist principles. If you are a member currently, please renew when the time is up. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us officially—memberships start at just \$35 annually—for the cost of a cup of coffee each month. Regardless, we want you to come and participate with us in these fun events and informative meetings. We will see you there.

Thank you and we look forward to a successful year with your support!

—Jeff Curtis
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/>

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.

YouTube Channel

Humanists of Utah now has our 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). Our most recent posting is Jared Anderson's Humanism 101. It is an hour long but well worth your perusal, especially if you were unable to attend the September meeting. 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



Web Site Upgrades

This is a new series where Lisa Miller and Brian Trick will be exploring some of the groups that have either given talks to our chapter or have associated themselves with us through some other venue in depth. We want to be able to give some feedback on the group's activities and possible ways our chapter members can get involved.

HoU Out'n'About with the Citizens Climate Lobby

After Bill Barron and Tom Moyer, Citizens' Climate Lobby Leaders in Utah, spoke with the Humanists of Utah on "Solving the Climate Challenge" we (Lisa and Brian) had the opportunity to attend their Citizens Climate Lobby's (CCL) monthly meeting in September. The meeting was well organized and CCL's maturity around their messaging and focusing on their objectives was very evident. It should be noted that their plan is a truly bipartisan effort for meaningful Carbon Reduction through Carbon taxing legislation. As first timers we participated in a 1/2-hour pre-meeting where the essence of what the CCL is doing was explained. After that a general meeting with all the participants was held and a guest speaker presented a relevant issue. Details on this call can be found on the CCL's website at: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/dr-jonathan-haidt-on-how-moral-psychology-can-inform-climate-advocacy/>

After the General meeting the new members were put together again and a general discussion around opportunities and how they could help support the cause was discussed. Overall it was a very pleasant experience with a very well-organized group. In our opinion, any time and effort that you may have would be well spent helping the CCL. If planning on attending a call, please allow for an additional 1/2 hour before (and after) the meeting for your first time.

There are several opportunities for interested parties to help the CCL including contacting congress through writing, calling or tweeting.

For more information on the CCL's presentation to the HoU follow <https://humanistsofutah.org/climate-action/>

The CCLs home page is
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

—Brian Trick and Lisa Miller
HoU Board Members

I have substantially updated our Humanists of Utah website. Please come on over and take a look at humanistsofutah.org! We wanted to be able to have more interactive content—and finally the ability to pay for memberships and to make donations online. We now have a PayPal portal that will accept your payments. It notifies Leona so that you get credit and a receipt for your charitable contribution. It also lets Wayne know so that your membership records can be properly updated. The website should be more active in future so check back and see what we're up to.

The website still contains archived resources from all our newsletters going back to 1991. The information is presented logically and can easily be searched for content.

If you have a dinosaur selfie that you'd like to star in the Slide Show on our Front Page, please email a landscape orientation photo to lisa@humanistsofutah.org. Include a description of where it was taken.

—Lisa Miller

Save the Date Darwin Day 2020

This year's celebration will be at Thanksgiving Point on Saturday, February 15 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

There will be lectures, table displays, and much more. Plan now to be there!



Humanist Celebrant

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.



Humanists of Utah Board

Jeff Curtis-----President
 Melanie Curtis----- VP
 Lauren Florence, MD-----Secretary
 Leona Blackbird-----Treasurer
 Wayne Wilson-----Editor/Webmaster

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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

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

Now you can pay with PayPal!

Newsletter Contributors

Jeff Curtis
 Lisa Miller
 Brian Trick
 Wayne Wilson

>> 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 , 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	Addressing Climate Change Bob Lane	Jan 9	7:30	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Jan 16	7:30	TBA
General Meeting	Darwin Day 2020	Feb 15	1:00-5:00	Thanksgiving Point
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Jan 16	7:30	TBA

Humanists of Utah

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

P.O. Box 1043

West Jordan, UT 84084