



# The Utah Humanist

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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*,  
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Humanist Association

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## President's Message

I have been deep in thought about many things this month. I recently turned 50 and as a result, my reflections have been deeper than usual, and the dream of the planet has been weighing heavily on my mind. We are witnessing more history with the plight in the Ukraine currently. As a child, I grew up under the red scare. I have seen the Wall fall in Germany, the fall of the USSR, several wars worldwide, the current pandemic and so many other pieces of history. I have friends worldwide that I am concerned for and stand with. For a person of ethics and empathy for all humanity, this can feel daunting and heavy. At the same time, I feel a tremendous sense of hope. Hope for change. Hope for the future. Hope for human strength in the solidarity of humanity. Hope for the best of ourselves to triumph. Hope for peace. Hope for wisdom. Hope for growth.

In my half a century of life, witnessing so much on a global scope, I have lived a full life on a personal level too. Connection with people from all the avenues I have travelled has been my proudest accomplishment. My relationships and friendships with people are treasured above all. It is with this in mind, that our community's health and strength is part of my focus. I have heard from many of you about what you would like to see moving forward. This ranges from going back to normal and having monthly meetings to still staying remote until we are further assured of safety by credible authorities of this pandemic. For the next couple of months, we will be remote, but with hope, we will plan our summer BBQ and possibly other activities so that we can meet safely and be together.

My friends, I see you. I hear you. I think about you often. I want safety and happiness for you. Witness the world around you. We are all craving connection. Think about how you, as a humanist, can provide connection safely to your circles. Be the example that you feel helps spread hope in our message. Until we can meet again, we wish you happiness and safety. Keep pursuing knowledge and strength during this time. But most importantly, know that you are in our thoughts and that you are not alone.

See you all soon,

*Melanie White-Curtis*  
President, HoU

### Inside This Issue

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# Belief in the Hereafter

Secular humanists do not believe in the hereafter. That's fine. But there is something going on here that might make us change our minds. It is this. Believers in the afterlife can never find out that they are wrong. They can never be disappointed. After all, if there is no life after death, then there is no disappointment after you die. No life, no disappointment.

But suppose that there is life after death. Then believers will be fine with that. So, either way, whether there is life after death or not, after they die, believers are not going to be disappointed.

It seems, then, that we should all believe in the hereafter—considering that the belief makes us happier right here right now. And in the end, we have nothing to lose.

OK. Now that we believe in the hereafter, we can think more about what this implies. For one thing, members of other species would have to be included. The idea is that, if we humans survive death, then so do our fellow primates. Not to mention the cows and pigs on our farms, and the puppy dogs and pussy cats in our homes. However, most people consider the idea that animals survive death to be absurd. After all, if animals cease to exist when they die, then why should we think that humans are any different?

So, in conclusion, we see three things: first, that we have nothing to lose by believing in immortality; second, that we really do stop existing when we die; and third, that being in touch with reality may not be not consoling.

All of which brings to mind a poem by Czeslaw Milosz. It goes like this:

*If there is no God  
Not everything is permitted to man  
He is still his brother's keeper  
And he is not permitted to sadden his brother  
By saying there is no God.*

In the end, when thinking about the hereafter, the real question has got to be: what are we here after? People differ here.

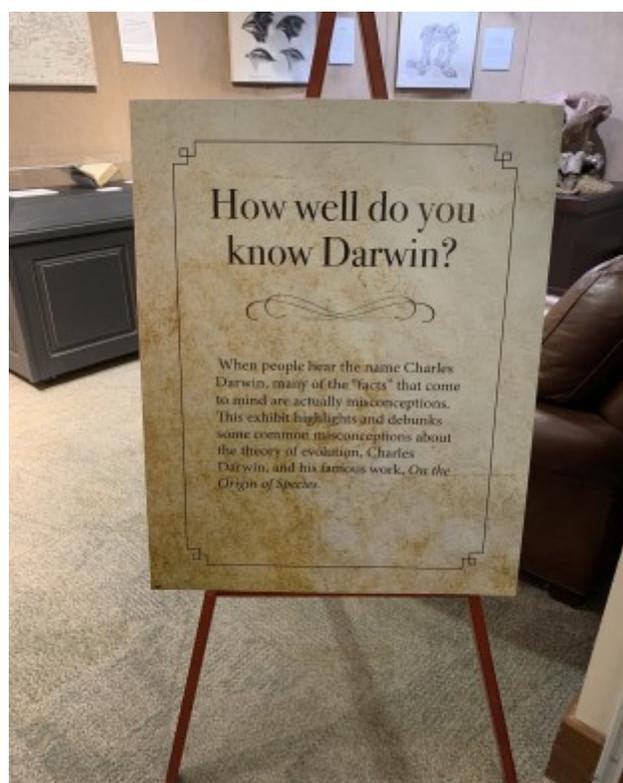
—Laurent Beauregard  
*Humanists of Greater Portland  
March 2002 Newsletter*

# Darwin Exhibition

Currently there is an exhibit of Charles Darwin's life and work going on at the Bean Life Science Museum on BYU's campus in Provo, UT. I visited it last week and was very impressed. First, I was amazed that on a religious school's campus, it would be as well done as it is. That said, it is at the Bean Life Science Museum, which, is very impressive. There are no admission fees, and it is a wonderful activity for all ages.

The exhibit is small and lovely. It talks about Darwin and his adventures. It focuses on his work and common misperceptions about who he was, his work and why it is so important now. There are several copies of the *Origin of the Species* on display, ranging from children's books to a copy of the first edition publication. Have fun and enjoy!

*Kindest regards  
Melanie White-Curtis*





**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.



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**Key Contacts:**

Melanie White-Curtis—385-495-3786  
 melaniewhitecurtis@gmail.com  
 Wayne Wilson—801-561-0406  
 wwilson@xmission.com

**Website:**

<https://HumanistsOfUtah.org>

**Newsletter Contributors:**

Melanie White-Curtis  
 Laruent Beuregard,  
*HGP, March 2022*

>> Put Your Name Here <<  
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# 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**  
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## Membership/Renewal Application

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

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- \$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 online with PayPal!**

## 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.

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



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All Public in person  
meetings are CANCELLED  
again until further notice  
Due to the Pandemic



## Humanists of Utah

*A Chapter of the American Humanist Association*

P.O. Box 1043  
West Jordan, UT 84084