

# Manitoba Humanist



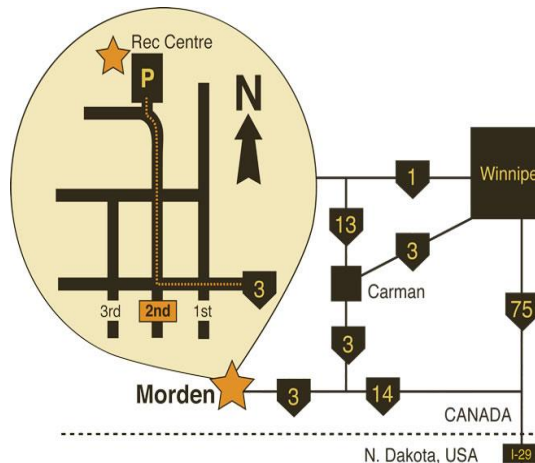
## Fossil dig adventure tour!

### NEXT WEEKEND!

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

Canadian Fossil  
Discovery Center  
111-B Gilmour Street,  
Morden, Manitoba

Come join us for an  
afternoon of fun,  
friendship, and learning!



HAAM is going on a day trip! Don't miss this exciting opportunity! We will be digging for marine reptile fossils from the ancient Western Interior Seaway, from the late Cretaceous period. This half-day dig is from 1-5 PM; museum tour is included. Cost: Children ages 10+ = \$50.00 and Adults = \$60.00 each; however, we are anticipating a group discount and expect the final cost to be less (exact amount may depend on the number who participate). **Email or phone HAAM to register** (contact info page 6). Space may be limited, so don't wait! More info on the DFDC web site <http://www.discoverfossils.com/adventuretours.html>

Published by and  
for the Humanists,  
Atheists, and  
Agnostics of  
Manitoba



# HAAM<sup>2</sup>

[www.mbhumanistsatheists.ca](http://www.mbhumanistsatheists.ca)

See you at the Corn and  
Apple Festival! Page 2



Check out what's new in the  
HAAM library  
See page 4



## COMING UP!

September will be the start of our new season, and HAAM has an exciting lineup of guests and topics planned! **We also have some new ideas to run by our membership so plan to attend our first meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and hear all the details.**

All our events are subject to change, and some details may be TBA. Watch future newsletters, our website, Facebook page, or join us on Meetup for more information as it becomes available.

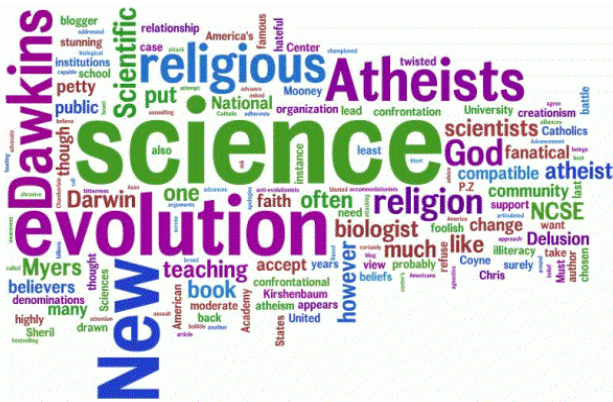
Join us! Get involved! Make new friends! Contact and membership info is on page 6.

### August:

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. Morden Corn and Apple Festival.** Stephen St between 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> St (south of Highway 3). <http://cornandapple.com/>

HAAM members will be back at our information booth, asking people what they believe and why they believe it, and letting those who don't believe know that there is a community of people out there for them. (We do not approach festival-goers; we wait for them to come and ask us questions.)

Our theme this year is **Science**: What it is, how it works, and why it is the most valuable tool our species has ever devised for understanding the universe.



So head out to Morden to enjoy the festival, and be sure to drop by our booth to say Hi! We have lots of fun out there, and we love to chat with old friends and meet new people! We will be there Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 10 PM, and Sunday noon to 6.

### September:

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. Zeteticon, Best Western Doublewood Inn in Fargo, North Dakota.**

Our neighbors to the south, the **Great Plains Atheists** of Fargo, will be hosting an inaugural convention for the discussion of critical thought, education, science, and reason: ZetetiCon 2014.



(zə'tetik/ adjective, noun - proceeding by inquiry; investigating inquirer). The following speakers have been confirmed for the event: August Berkshire, Richard Carrier, Matt Dillahunty, Fred Edwards, Katie Kruse, PZ Myers, Beth Presswood, Aron Ra, and David Silverman. Tickets are now on sale: Adult Admission \$65.00 Student (valid student ID required at door) \$30.00 Senior 65+ Admission \$30.00 V.I.P. Friday Night Dinner (limited quantity) \$65.00 Please visit [www.Zeteticon.org](http://www.Zeteticon.org) to purchase tickets for the convention and the VIP dinner event.

A number of HAAM members have already made plans to attend. Everyone is welcome to join them for what promises to be a fun and educational weekend!

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Kevin Campbell from the Fossil Discovery Centre, CanadInns Polo Park, 5:30 PM**

Did you know that 80 million years ago, Manitoba was under the middle of a giant ocean called the "Western Interior Seaway"? The Seaway split North America in two and spanned from the frigid waters of the Arctic Ocean to the warm currents of the Gulf of Mexico. That's why there are so many thousands of marine fossils in Manitoba, even though we're in the centre of North America. Our most famous fossil (so far) is "Bruce," a Tylosaur that was 43 feet long, on display at the centre.



Kevin Campbell, director of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden, MB, is our headlining act for the 2014-15 HAAM year! We're very excited to finally pin him down for a chat. Dr. Campbell can often be found behind the Discovery Centre's booth at the Morden Corn & Apple Festival, or supporting our group when we debate creationists. He's been a great ally and we've very excited that he's coming to speak to us! Kids are welcome: both the young kind, and the kind who go, "oooh, dinosaurs!"

**Save the dates:**

For those who like to plan ahead, here are the TENTATIVE dates for our remaining fall season meetings:

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** (Solstice Party)

**LOTS OF TRUTH IN THESE LIES**

An actress at last week's Fringe Festival was accused of blasphemy and found the word "slut" written in permanent marker on her car. So a group of HAAM'ers just had to check out the play! Here's the scoop from our president **Donna Harris**:

I can safely say that the controversy surrounding the Fringe play "Lies of a Promiscuous Woman" didn't hurt its box office at all, since the performance we attended was sold out. If you recall, this was the show whose posters were defaced by thugs concerned about the sacrilegious portrayal of the Virgin Mary. In fact, there was a procession of religious believers carrying a statue of the Madonna, and reciting Hail Marys, outside the building as we entered.

Like so many others, we had to see what the fuss was about. I'm pleased to report, however, that the show exceeded my every expectation.



The writing and story were well thought out, the acting by the main character was amazing, and the show provided both lots of laughs, and plenty of serious emotions.

The story itself wasn't new.

Mary is a Jewish temple virgin who fell for the chief priest's handsome son, and ended up pregnant. Hurriedly married to older bachelor Joseph to protect everyone's reputation, she was a loving mother to her darling son, Yeshua. Nothing supernatural about his birth or life at all.

Mary speaks plainly about her own life and times, the church itself, and the misogyny behind her position in the canon. She has been marginalized in her own story ("only six references to me in the whole new testament"), yet, in her version of events, she was, in every sense, the god maker.

Special kudos go out to writer and director Audra Lesosky, who has crafted an intelligent, thoughtful, yet humorous piece of theatre, and to lead actress Theresa Thomson, whose portrayal of Mary is full of genuine feeling.

**SUPPORT COMPASSION IN DYING**

Calling on all Winnipeg supporters of physician-assisted dying! On **October 15<sup>th</sup>**, the Supreme Court of Canada will rule on the landmark Gloria Taylor case (also known as the Carter case for the right to die).

Gloria Taylor (c. 1948 - October 4, 2012) was a Canadian who was an advocate of medically-assisted dying and suffered from Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.



In 2011 Gloria added her name to a legal challenge that seeks to allow seriously and incurably ill, mentally competent adults the right to receive

medical assistance to hasten death under certain specific safeguards. She was granted this right by a BC court, but the decision was challenged by the federal government. Gloria died of natural causes in 2012 without needing to exercise her right to assisted death, but the lawsuit continues. A positive outcome from the appeal to the Supreme Court will pave the way to legalize assisted death in Canada.



In support of the case, rallies are being planned across the country, and we want Winnipeg to stand tall and proud on this issue, too. Please save the date and join us as we collectively voice our support for choice!

If you are able to help out with the rally, please email the Winnipeg Chapter of Dying With Dignity at [infowinnipeg@dyingwithdignity.ca](mailto:infowinnipeg@dyingwithdignity.ca).

## ON THE WEB

Recent episodes of Winnipeg's own **Life, the Universe & Everything Else** podcast that you won't want to miss:



**Deepak Chopra and Dr. Oz** – Our panel discusses how celebrities use their influence to market questionable products, and segues into concerns about the safety and efficacy of dietary and medicinal

supplements in general.

**AllTrials and Vanessa's Law** - Bill C-17 (aka Vanessa's Law) is a proposed amendment to the Canada's Food and Drug Act intended to improve safety. So why are natural health products excluded from this bill? Plus a discussion of how failure to report the results of all research trials for a product can cause publication bias and misinformation.

LUEE podcasts promote secular humanism and scientific skepticism and are presented by the [Winnipeg Skeptics](#) and the [Humanists, Atheists & Agnostics of Manitoba](#). You can listen to LUEE on your computer or from your mobile device. Just search iTunes or Stitcher for "Life, the Universe & Everything Else", or visit <http://lueepodcast.wordpress.com>.



## OUR HOME-GROWN BLOGGER

There are thousands of blogs on the internet from amateur writers and philosophers all over the world who have something on their minds to share. But did you know that we have some pretty talented people right here at home? Check out the blog of one of our own

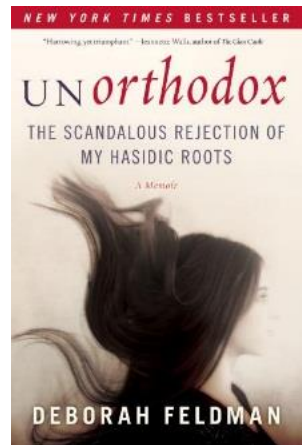


HAAM executive members, **Chad Froese**, as he tackles these familiar questions encountered by non-believers: "doesn't it take more faith to believe in science?", "how do you raise a child without religion?", "if you don't believe in god, where do you get your values?", the problem of evil, and other FAQ. You'll find Chad's blog at <http://chadfroese.blogspot.ca/>.

## IN THE LIBRARY

Did you know that HAAM has an extensive collection of books on relevant topics? Our librarian, **Diana Goods**, brings a different selection to each meeting.

Recent acquisitions include **Unorthodox** by Deborah Feldman (the memoir of a young Jewish woman's escape from orthodox Judaism), **Touching a Nerve** by Patricia Churchland (an examination of the latest brain research into consciousness, sensory experience, memory and free will), and **Horseshoe Crabs and Velvet Worms** by Richard Fortey (an engaging description of extinct organisms and so-called "living fossils" compared to their closest living, or recently living, counterparts, and how they fit into the evolution of life).



We currently have only two books on parenting: **Parenting Beyond Belief** by Dale McGowan, and **Just Pretend** by Dan Barker, but are planning to get more, as we have had a number of requests.

All members are welcome to borrow books. If you are interested in a particular book or topic, email HAAM so that Diana can bring it to the next meeting for you. We also welcome book suggestions or donations from members.

## WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

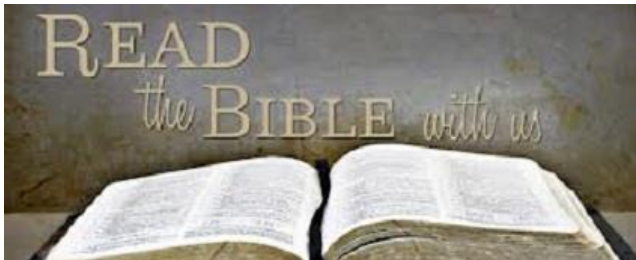
HAAM members come from every imaginable background - from a variety of religions, to varying degrees of religiosity, to no religion at all. In order to keep our group active and interesting, we need YOUR input. Do you have a suggestion for a meeting topic? Speaker? Book for our Book Club? Film or video? Event you think our members might be interested in? Opportunity for outreach?



Right now we are particularly looking for ideas for **charities** that people would like to see us support this coming year. Each month (except summer) our executive chooses a different charity, and we collect donations (money or other appropriate needs) at our events and meetings. We try to choose grassroots-type groups; usually, but not necessarily, local. This gives smaller charities exposure as well as support.

We also need your ideas for **humanist activities** that we could support or participate in as a group. Do you know of a fun activity that would benefit our community? Let us know so that we can incorporate it into our upcoming season.

## OPERATION READ THE BIBLE



For the first 3 weeks we will finish up the book of Numbers. It's not a fun book. God does a lot of punishing and killing, smiting people with leprosy and fiery serpents, and creating plagues and fires. This is also the book with the talking donkey and the man who was stoned for gathering sticks on the Sabbath.

Next we tackle Deuteronomy. This book consists of three sermons or speeches delivered to the Israelites by Moses on the plains of Moab, shortly before they enter the Promised Land. Chapter 6 contains the Shema Yisrael, the definitive statement of Jewish identity: "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Later quoted by Jesus in Mark 12 as part of the Great Commandment.)

In chapters 12–26 God lays out the Deuteronomic code - laws governing Israel's worship, the appointment and regulation of community and religious leaders, social regulation, and confession of identity and loyalty. A few examples: Kill rebellious or disobedient sons and everyone with religious beliefs that are different than your own. Women who wear men's clothing are an abomination unto the Lord. Don't wear garments of wool and linen woven together. A rapist must buy his victim from her father for 50 shekels. And if you don't obey all of these laws, God will smite you with hemorrhoids, madness, and blindness... and worse.

### Readings for the Week of:

**Aug 3:** Num 8-10; Num 11-13; Num 14-15; Num 16-17; Num 18-20

**Aug 10:** Num 21-22; Num 23-25; Num 26-27; Num 28-30; Num 31-32

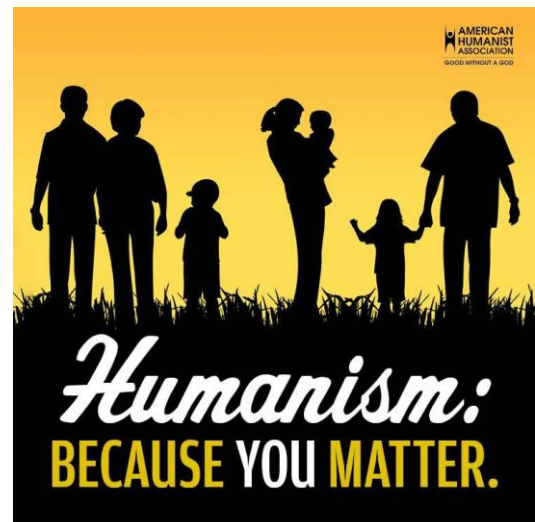
**Aug 17:** Num 33-34; Num 35-36; Deut 1-2; Deut 3-4; Deut 5-7

**Aug 24:** Deut 8-10; Deut 11-13; Deut 14-16; Deut 17-20; Deut 21-23

**Aug 31:** Deut 24-27; Deut 28-29; Deut 30-31; Deut 32-34; Josh 1-4

## PARTNERS FOR LIFE

HAAM is part of the Canadian Blood Services' Partners for Life program. If you donate blood, let the staff know that you wish your donation to count towards the Humanist Association of Manitoba's yearly pledge of just 10 donations. Our ID number is **HUMA008484**. Call 1 888 2DONATE to make an appointment.



**HAAM's Executive:**

**President** Donna Harris  
**Vice President** Heather McDonell  
**Treasurer** Helen Friesen  
**Secretary** Cheri Frazer

**Members at Large:**

**Todd De Ryck**  
**Chad Froese**  
**Gloria Froese**  
**Diana Goods – Librarian**  
**Pat Morrow – Outreach**  
**Bob Russell**  
**Dorothy Stephens – Newsletter**



Contact us at:

[mbhumanistsatheists@gmail.com](mailto:mbhumanistsatheists@gmail.com)

or Phone 204-612-0601



Humanists, Atheists, and Agnostics of Manitoba



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@MBHumanists



Yes, I would like to **BECOME A MEMBER** of Humanists, Atheists & Agnostics of Manitoba

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Household Memberships: Please give the names of all additional Humanists in your household 18 years or over:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Charity # 85080 5326 RR0001

New Member       Renewal

Membership Category:

- Individual Membership      \$30.00
- Individual Limited Income      \$10.00
- Household Membership\*      \$50.00
- Household Limited Income      \$15.00
- Lifetime Membership      \$1000.00 or more

\* After July 1<sup>st</sup>, pay just ½ the yearly fee for the rest of the year. After October 31<sup>st</sup>, pay full fee and get the entire next year.

**DONATION** (Tax receipts issued for all donations of \$10 or more)

I would like to make a donation to HA<sup>2</sup>M of:

- \$10     \$20     \$30     \$50     \$100
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please DO NOT send cash in the mail. Make cheque payable to: **Humanist Association of Manitoba** and mail to: Humanist Association of Manitoba, 7 Pinehurst Lane, Mitchell, MB, R5G 2J3.

Memberships are also available by credit card on our website, or by cash or cheque at any HA<sup>2</sup>M meeting or HA<sup>2</sup>M event.

June 2014