

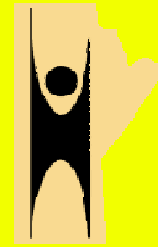
Manitoba Humanist



A Conversation with Winnipeg's Top Cop

CanadInns Polo Park,
1405 St Matthews Ave
Saturday, 08 November, 2014

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



HAAM

www.mbhumanistsatheists.ca

Join us as HAAM welcomes

Winnipeg's Chief of Police, Devon Clunis

When Chief Clunis was first appointed, he made some controversial comments about how more prayer would help to solve our crime problem, and was surprised by the resulting backlash. Now we have an opportunity to meet directly with the Chief about policing in this city, with its diverse population, and specifically address our concerns as non-believing Winnipeggers. Chief Clunis will begin the evening with a presentation entitled

"Creating a Culture of Safety".

In order to maintain respectfulness and decorum, and to ensure that HAAM's concerns are addressed, questions for Chief Clunis will be prepared in advance of the meeting by our executive team. We invite input from all our members BEFORE the meeting. If you have a question you would like asked or a concern you would like to express, please let us know ahead of time (contact info is on page 6). Additional questions that arise during the meeting can be written on the notepaper provided at the tables and passed to members of our executive for consideration. *There will be no 'open mike' Q and A at this meeting.*

5:30 to 6:30 - Social time. Come for dinner, drinks, or just chit-chat.

6:30 - HAAM meeting. Be there to hear all the latest news and plans.

7:00 to 8:00 - Presentation by Chief Clunis followed by Q and A with our executive members.

Dinner (optional) is available until 8:00 for those who may arrive late.



There were some great costumes at our October meeting! More photos on page 5.

Upcoming EVENTS

HAAM has lots more
events planned!
See page 2.

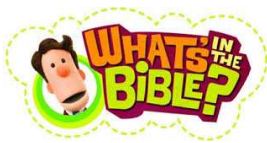
COMING UP!

HAAM meetings are always open to the public. If it's your first time out, welcome! Feel free to participate in the discussion, or just kick back and listen. Memberships are available at the door at all our events. Annual fees are affordable and help support community outreach as well as our own activities. *Contact and membership info is on page 6.*

All 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.

October:

Wednesday 29th, Atheist Bible Study get-together, San



Vito Coffee House, 2293 Portage Ave, 6:30 PM. This is an informal drop-in evening. Meet us for coffee, a sandwich or snack, or just conversation.

Everyone is welcome – even if you're only an occasional reader or just mildly curious.

November:

Sunday 2nd, Harmonizing Humanists rehearsal, 30 West Avenue, 12 noon. Our first practice was a huge success and a lot of fun! We tried a number of songs and decided to polish up a few of them to sing at the Solstice Party on Saturday December 20th. It's not too late to join! Please RSVP to our Facebook group or email HAAM to let us know you're coming so that we can make sure we have music for you.



Thursday 20th, Secular Parenting Group, St James-Assiniboia Public Library, 6:30 PM. Our first round table discussion on parenting was a huge success and attracted a large gathering. There was strong interest in continuing the discussion. So.... back by popular demand, the secular parenting group will meet again to share stories and tips on raising kids who are "good without god".

We will be in a larger 'program room' this time.



**YES, I'M
GOOD
WITHOUT
GOD!**

December:

Saturday 20th. Solstice Party. CanadInns Polo Park, 6:00 PM. Details are still being worked out – so stay tuned!



Save the dates:

For those who plan their schedules well ahead, here are our *tentative* meeting dates for the New Year.

Saturday January 31st - AGM and guest

August Berkshire from Minnesota Atheists

Saturday February 21st

Saturday March 1st, Film Fest, 1:00 PM

Saturday March 14th



Our conference for next fall is a go! **River City Reasonfest** will be held the weekend of 19 and 20 Sept 2015 at CanadInns Polo Park, and we have already booked our first speaker. We're not going to reveal the name just yet, but s/he is a published author, and a well-known name if you follow atheist news on the internet. Wanna get in on the excitement? We'll need lots of people to help in various capacities over the next year. Contact HAAM to volunteer (see page 6).

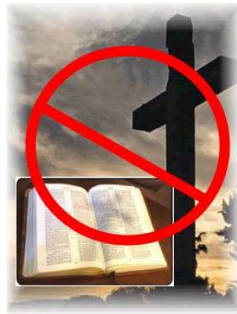
HAS YOUR THERAPIST TRIED TO SAVE YOU?

HAAM has received several requests recently from people looking for secular mental health professionals. In an effort to assist, our **Outreach Coordinator, Pat Morrow**, contacted the **Manitoba Psychological Society**, asking if they would be able to provide names of any of their members who provide secular counseling services. We received this rather unhelpful reply: Hello.

I do believe that I responded to a similar email request a couple of years ago.

No, we do not request information about our members' beliefs, or absence of religious beliefs, and do not plan to do so.

Any psychologist may be contacted and asked for this information, which they can choose to provide or not.
Teresa Sztaba, Ph.D., C. Psych.
Executive Director
Manitoba Psychological Society
Web: www.mps.ca



Can YOU help your fellow Humanists? If you know of a good secular therapist (psychologist, psychiatrist, or counselor), please consider providing his/her name to HAAM in confidence. **No personal details necessary**, just the name and contact info. If HAAM can compile a few names, then we can pass them along to others who ask. We would never reveal your name. Email mbhumanistsatheists@gmail.com. (This email goes directly to Pat Morrow.)



We are looking for enthusiastic members to join the **HAAM Executive** in the New Year. We need people who can help us to achieve our goals of building a supportive secular community and promoting critical thinking in the larger world. Meetings are usually held monthly, (dates and times determined by mutual availability), with online contact in between.

The main activities of our executive council are to plan and organize regular events (like monthly meetings, discussion groups, and solstice parties), and outreach activities and special events (like our information tables at the U of M and the Morden Corn and Apple Festival, and the Film Fest); and to set policy and plan for the future. Our biggest undertaking right now is hosting a conference (River City Reasonfest) next fall. The more people we have with energy and ideas, the more we can accomplish!

Elections will be held at our AGM on 31 January, 2015, so you have some time to think about it or ask questions. The offices of President and Vice-President

are both 2-year term positions and are up for election this year. We are also recruiting members-at-large to help out where needed. To be eligible, you must have been a HAAM member for at least 6 months prior to the election.

If being a regular member of the executive is too much for you right now, consider getting involved on an ad hoc basis. Have a book or issue you'd like to discuss with other non-believers? Host a round table discussion or book club meeting. Or just help out with a single event or project. Many hands make light work!

If you would like to be part of the action, contact HAAM (see page 6).

CHARITY OF THE MONTH

When HAAM member Lisa Stark took her own life in September, she requested that donations in her memory be made to Klinik Community Health Centre. Klinik operates two facilities - a health clinic on Portage Ave and a counseling centre on Broadway.

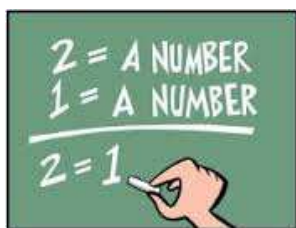
The health centre offers a myriad of services aimed at prevention of illness, health promotion, and education, including family practice, immigrant and refugee health care, reproductive health, HIV, Hep C, STI, and teen clinics. Counseling programs include those aimed at domestic abuse, sexual assault, suicide, post trauma, and crisis intervention. They also offer education programs promoting healthy life choices and baby wellness. HAAM is proud to honour Lisa's final wish and assist this valuable community resource as our November charity.



HAAM is putting the "H" on Humanism! Our monthly charity program is gaining momentum. We recently sent a cheque to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (September charity) for \$300, and collected enough money and supplies to make 7 gift boxes (about \$50 value each) for the Shoebox Program (October charity) for women in shelters.

Donations to the Charity of the Month may be made at the meeting, or by mail or via our website if you can't make it to the meeting (include a message that the donation is for the charity). Tax receipts are available from HAAM for donations of \$10 or more.

ON THE WEB



On the latest episode of Winnipeg's own Life, the Universe & Everything Else podcast: **Logical Fallacies**. Recorded live from SkeptiCamp, LUEE presents a primer on deductive

reasoning and commonly encountered fallacies, including Circular Reasoning, the Straw Man, the No True Scotsman, the Ad Hominem Attack, Poisoning the Well, and the Appeal to Tradition.

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 **October Death-a-Palooza** meeting covered a variety of topics related to death and dying, but one that was not addressed was grieving without religion. This is a thorny issue for many people. It can be a

difficult and new experience to grieve without the usual rituals and supports from your former religion; and atheists often find it upsetting to deal with a barrage of prayers and well-meaning comments from believers. If you relate to these concerns, you can find a wealth



of information and support available at **Grief Beyond Belief** <http://www.griefbeyondbelief.org/>. Check it out or bookmark it for later reference.



A Facebook Community page called **Secular Humanist Families of Winnipeg** was started by one of our members several years ago, but it has been dormant since 2012. Because the last Round Table



Discussion was such a success, with another planned in November, this seems like a good time to revive the group. If you are interested in sharing questions, stories, concerns, and advice with other secular parents and families, head over to the page and start the discussion. <http://tinyurl.com/ngaly7>

ARE YOU "OUT"?



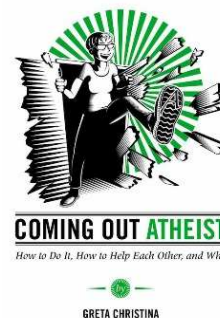
You may have noticed that some people in our photos and stories are identified by first name only. You may not know that some of our photos also have to be cropped. We need to do this to protect the identity of those who are not completely 'out' as non-

believers. Some participants in HAAM events decline to be photographed at all due to privacy concerns.

Even here in Canada, discrimination against non-believers is rampant. Many of our members and supporters feel the need to hide behind aliases or refrain from commenting on social media. The most common concerns are family rifts and job security.

If any of these concerns apply to you, here are some things to know about HAAM:

- We will never use your name or photo in any media (like this newsletter or on Facebook) without your permission.
- We do not reveal publicly the names of members or newsletter subscribers.
- You can use just your first name, or an initial, or a pseudonym, if you prefer. This provides enough anonymity for many people.
- If you would like to participate in online discussions or submit news or op-ed articles for our newsletter or web page, you can do so anonymously if need be. Simply send your contributions to HAAM at our email address, or message an admin on a Facebook page, and we will submit the content on your behalf.
- You are not alone. Sad as it is to have to hide one's worldview, that's reality for many. For a full discussion of this issue, or if you're uncertain about coming out, there are several good books on the subject. Try Greta Christina's new book **Coming Out Atheist: How to Do It, How to Help Each Other, and Why** (available at Chapters or



Amazon); or **Mom, Dad, I'm an Atheist: the Guide to Coming Out as a Non-Believer**, by David G. McAfee (in our HAAM library).



The violence continues in 2 Kings. Elijah concludes his ministry and hands over the reins to another up and coming prophet named Elisha. Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind by a chariot of fire. Major themes of Kings are God's promise, the recurrent apostasy of the kings, and the judgment this brings on Israel, (a vicious cycle of happiness, sin, and repentance). A few highlights of this charming book: God sends two bears to rip up 42 little children for making fun of Elisha's bald head; mothers boil and eat their own children; God has Jezebel thrown off a wall and feeds her body to the dogs; and Isaiah makes the sun move ten degrees backwards.

The Books of Chronicles are a narration of the history of the Jewish people, from Genesis to Kings, so almost all of it is repetition from these previous books. The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles are endless genealogies; this is probably the most boring book in the Bible. The rest of the book mainly recounts the reign of David. God killing Uzzah for trying to keep the ark from falling may be its only real highlight. 2 Chronicles focuses mostly on Solomon. We learn that the Biblical value for pi is three, and that a man named Asa died because when he was ill, he did not seek the Lord's help but turned only to his physicians.

Readings for the week of:

Nov 2: 2Kings 1-3; 4-5; 6-8; 9-11; 12-14

Nov 9: 2Kings 15-17; 18-19; 20-22; 23-25;
1Chronicles 1-2

Nov 16: 1Chron 3-5; 6; 7-8; 9-11; 12-14

Nov 23: 1Chron 15-17; 18-21; 22-24; 25-27;
1/2Chron 28-1

Nov 30: 2Chron 2-5; 6-8; 9-12; 13-17; 18-20

Please share your comments or questions on our Atheist Bible Study Facebook group page

<http://tinyurl.com/qf88xho>

COSTUME NIGHT AT DEATH-A-PALOOZA



Our anonymous Humanist Zombie with Fatemah Alhelal as a creepy witch.



Donna, as the Angel of Death, attacking Peter.



L to R: Tzipporah as an 'old bat', Heather McDonell as a shark attack victim, our Humanist Zombie, Chad Froese holding our little Ladybug, Dorothy Stephens, and Donna Harris.

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

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 1st*, pay just ½ the yearly fee for the rest of the year. *After October 31st*, 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 HA²M 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, 112 - 230 Barkman Avenue, Steinbach, MB R5G 0Y5.

Memberships are also available by credit card on our website, or by cash or cheque at any HA²M meeting or HA²M event.