

Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland

Meeting at DuPage Unitarian Church, 4 South 535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville IL 60563 (<http://howsc.org>)

Oct. 2007

THIS MONTH

Oct. 10, '07 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at DUUC

Speaker: Dean Reschke, President, Board of Education, District 203

Topic: Protecting Public Education from Ongoing Siege

You may have read about the turmoil at the Naperville Board of Education meetings as board members grappled with the matter of science curriculum and the choice of textbooks at the high school. Parents packed the auditorium, presenting passionately held opposing views. As board president, Dean Reschke had to make sure that both sides were heard while at the same time, maintaining order. On Oct. 10th he will talk about the continuing attempts to change the curriculum and undermine public education in favor of the alternative. Come hear him talk about the role of education and its overall value in our society.

Dean Reschke graduated from Naperville high school in 1975 and is the parent of a 2002 and 2005 graduate. He received an award for Outstanding Commitment to Community/School Partnership from District 214's Community Education Foundation. His philosophy is that "Every student can grow, and acquire the skills, values and character to be successful citizens. We all share the responsibility for so nourishing our young people."

PLANNING AHEAD

Go see the Darwin exhibit at the Field Museum. This is what HWSC members and friends who have been there tell us. In addition, Howard Katz, Humanist Celebrant, has pointed out another opportunity, namely a Darwin symposium to be held Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. at the James Simpson Theatre, West Entrance, The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information call (312) 665-7621

Don't forget to save the regular February date for our own Darwin Day celebration that always features a potluck supper and a super speaker. Watch this space for further details as they are formed.

DIDYOU KNOW...

(information taken from our AHA website: www.americanhumanist.org)

- Humanist Celebrants (including our own Howard Katz) are available to conduct Humanist, non-religious and inter-religious weddings, memorials, baby naming and life-cycle ceremonies.
- In the 1950s, a campus Humanist group was formed at Columbia University. John Dewey joined that group and Warren Allen Smith, then a student, still has Dewey's un-cashed membership check as a memento.
- In May of 2006, a team of pro bono lawyers formed the Appignani Humanist Legal Clinic to defend the rights of religious and secular minorities in cases relating to violations of First Amendment rights.

NOTABLE QUOTE FROM ROGER BREWIN

(UU minister and editor of *The HUumanist*)

I have members who literally weep with frustration that we see as (a big part of) our purpose to keep the doors open for the next wanderer, who says, with great relief upon arrival, "I never believed I'd find a place like this." They (the weepers in frustration) are also the folks who would sacrifice much of our diversity (especially the edgier parts) in order to create a "core of beliefs" that would make it easier to say and to see what we are about, in order to grow our ranks by filling them with religious middle of the roaders. To me there is nothing more noble than being the oasis, the refuge, the lifeboat, and at the same time the vanguard of the revolution.

One day, long after my retirement, when we (humanists, rationalists, liberals, etc) become much more mainstream, we (UU churches, humanist communities, etc) shall, I suppose, have to be "more than this." We will have to provide meaning, not to a threatened minority, struggling to establish ourselves, but to a majority who will take all that we struggled to establish for granted. How boring that will be. How glad I am that it will be somebody else's job. What a great time this is, to both be keepers of the light against the storms of irrationality, and to be storming the ramparts of the old order.