



Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland



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

THIS MONTH

Oct. 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at DuPage Unitarian Church

Speaker: Hemant Mehta, author and activist

Title: “How Campus and Local Secular Groups Are Getting Their message to the Masses.”

Back following considerable applause, Hemant Mehta brings his message to and about the coming generation as it explores its own expression of Humanism. It began with a romp through the Internet via e-Bay. His bold assertions caught on, featured in *The Wall Street Journal* and later in his book, *I Sold My Soul on e-Bay* (WaterBrook Press, 2007). Today he serves on the board of directors for Foundation Beyond Belief (a charity and fundraising organization) and the Secular Student Alliance (aimed at serving college groups nationwide).

Hemant Mehta holds degrees in Mathematics and Biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Master’s Degree in Math Education at DePaul University. While at DePaul, he helped establish their first secular student group, Students With Out Religious Dogma (SWORD). Currently he teaches high school math in suburban Chicago. His blog can be viewed at FriendlyAtheist.com.

HUMANIST MONTHLY LUNCHEON

(Philosopher’s Lunch)

When: Thursday, Oct. 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Garlic and Ginger
1633 N. Naper, Naperville IL

This is an ongoing group of Humanists that would delight in your crashing their party. It includes casual attire, a modestly priced meal and lingering conversation with the like-minded. Whether you’re new, regular or just curious, we invite you to attend once, twice or on a regular basis. Just RSVP Jack Sechrest at jack@skognet.com or (630) 554-8058 for a seat at our table.

RIDERS TAKE A WALK

Harry Reid tried. Seeing the ongoing frustration of some Democratic voters who wept tears of frustration over the poor performance of election promises, he introduced two issues dear to the hearts of liberals: Immigration reform and Gay Rights in the military, attaching them as riders to a military spending bill. The attempt failed. But it reminded us that these issues are still alive – and each of us needs to vote in November.

THE HUMANIST GOES SEXY

Listen up all you non-members. If you think the American Humanist Association is stodgy and dull, take a gander at the October issue of *The Humanist* (available online at thehumanist.com). Beginning with the cover that pictures a woman in sketchy attire, its table of contents entices further with features looking at the burqa and feminism both pro and con along with the evolution of the burqa and the thong. These three articles are written by lawyers and a research scientist and presented, as expected, in a sober and serious way. But if that’s not good enough, the issue also includes an interview with an adult film star (read pornography), whose firm Humanist commitment is commendable, honest and refreshing. She is married and lives a traditional and quiet life in suburbia. Hey folks, check it out. We’re everywhere. Oh, and by the way, membership to the American Humanist Association includes a subscription to *The Humanist* magazine. Just let Jack Sechrest know you’re interested and he will lead the way. So now that that tabu has been broken, maybe we can begin talking about money and politics. Oops. We’re already doing that, aren’t we?

WORTHY OF REVIEW

We often get caught up in the very real need to reform and improve our world, our society, and our lives. But below are a few snippets of sweetness to embrace today.

Great wide, beautiful, wonderful world
With the wonderful waters round you curled,
And the wonderful grass upon your breast,
World you are beautifully dressed.
■ William Brightly Rands

Is it so small a thing
To have enjoyed the sun,
To have lived light in the spring,
To have loved, to have thought, to have done;
To have advanced true friends,
And beat down baffling foes?
■ Matthew Arnold

That’s the wise thrush;
He sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
■ Robert Browning