



# Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland



Meeting at DuPage Unitarian Church, 4 South 535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville IL 60563

(<http://howsc.org>)

## THIS MONTH

**Wednesday February 10, 2010**

**Special Darwin Day Celebration**

**Potluck beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

**Program beginning at 7:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: David Niose, AHA President**

**Topic: "Does Humanism Have Survival Value?"**

Although Charles Darwin was reared Anglican, his family on both sides had strong Unitarian roots. A scientific bent sent him toward naturalism and his earth-shattering theories of evolution earned him a seat in the Humanist pantheon. As we celebrate that connection, we look to our own roots and examine our future survival.

David Niose has written extensively on social and political issues. He has met with freethought groups around the country, emphasizing the importance of improving the public image of Humanists away from the religious right. Niose sits on the advisory panel of the Secular Coalition for America (SCA). He is a member of the Humanist Association of Massachusetts, the Secular Student Alliance (SSA), and is a founding member of Greater Worcester Humanists. Niose has served as President of the American Humanist Association (AHA) since January 2009. He has been an AHA board member since 2005 and served as Treasurer from 2005 to 2008. He is a graduate of Boston University School of Public Communication (B.S., Journalism) and Suffolk University Law School (Juris Doctor, cum laude).

This event will be preceded at 6:30 by a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share, one serving times four for each person in your party. Choices might be appetizer, salad, rolls, casserole or dessert. Reservations with Jack Sechrest at [jack@skognet.com](mailto:jack@skognet.com) or (630) 554-8058 by Monday Feb. 8th. Find you can attend at the last minute? Just come. We'll make room.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Thursday, Feb. 18 at 1:15 p.m.**

**What: Philosophers Lunch**

**Where: Panera's on Butterfield at Naperville Road**

Contact Jack Sechrest at [jack@skognet.com](mailto:jack@skognet.com) or (630) 554-8058 to learn more.

**June 3-6, 2010**

**What: the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the AHA**

**Where: Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California.**

To learn more, check [www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org).

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

- The International Darwin Day Foundation is a nonprofit educational corporation, its mission to promote the public education about science and to encourage the celebration of science and humanity. It is managed by the AHA as an autonomous program and governed by a three-member Board of Directors. The dual mission of The International Darwin Day Foundation is to promote public education about science and encourage the celebration of Science and Humanity.

- In response to the Haiti earthquake, Humanist Charities, established in 2005, has raised more than thirty-two thousand dollars to help in its aftermath, a way that exemplified how religious faith isn't required for good works. It also raised over \$100,000 for past relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Kashmir earthquake, the South Asian Tsunami and other disasters. Humanist Charities also supported Sebastian Velez and the Children of the Border project, raising thousands of dollars to expand emergency medical services for expectant mothers living in the Haitian border region of the Dominican Republic in 2008. Humanist Charities is an adjunct of the American Humanist Association. Contributions can be made by calling 1-800 837-3792 or send monthly using a form at the AHA website [www.humanstcharities.org](http://www.humanstcharities.org).

- It was reported that 800,000 rifle sights provided to the U.S. Marine Corps will have coded references to New Testament Bible passages. The inscriptions include references to Second Corinthians of the New Testament and the book of Revelation. Citations Trijicon, a Michigan-based company, is providing the sights under a \$660 million multi-year contract. Spokespeople for the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps said their services weren't aware of the markings, and that officials are figuring out what steps to take now that the issue has been brought to their attention.

## WORDS TO PONDER

...a belief in God, did not essentially differ from that which is often called the sense of sublimity; and however difficult it may be to explain the genesis of this sense, it can hardly be advanced as an argument for the existence of God, any more than the powerful though vague and similar feelings excited by music.

---Charles Darwin