



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 March 10, 2010

Speaker: David Gorman

Topic: "Alabama Bluesman Lives a Life of Humanist"

Ever since he heard blues musicians play at his grandmother's juke joint, Willie King was consumed by the blues. His life story is about great music as well as about care, interest and concern for the community he grew up in. King's career started on a plantation with a one-string, homemade diddly-bo. Six recordings and a DVD later, along with numerous national and international festival performances, enabled Willie King to gain a substantial national and international reputation. Unlike B.B. King and Howlin' Wolf, he gave up record contracts and probable fame and fortune to stay home to serve his friends and neighbors. He spent his life helping others to survive extreme poverty and racial terrorism in his rural Alabama community, driven by empathy and fueled by self-taught blues. He was a regular performer in local clubs and juke joints as well as events for the Southern Poverty Law Center. Although he died in 2009, Willie continues to inspire thousands through his music and assist others in his foundation to pass on cultural arts and survival skills, known as the Rural Members Association.

Dave Gorman is a civil engineer, humanist and Unitarian Universalist. He lived for three years in a small African village under the auspices of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada. He now works as a municipal director in suburban Chicagoland. He will tell us more about bluesman Willie King via clips from a filmed documentary.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Humanist Monthly Luncheon

Thursday, March 18 at 1:15 p.m.

Where: Panera's on Butterfield at Naperville Road

No agenda, no requirements, just a casual gathering of Humanists in a friendly setting. Contact Jack Sechrest at (630) 554-8058 or jack@skognet.com to learn more.

69th AHA Annual Conference

June 3-6, 2010

Where: [Doubletree Hotel](#) in San Jose, California.

To learn more, check www.americanhumanist.org.

DO YOU BELONG?

Our organization is comprised of very active people who add voice to political, social and moral issues. Joining together is synergistic – the whole being greater than its parts. Membership with the AHA includes a one-year subscription to the *Humanist* (6 issues) and the *Free Mind* newsletter (4 issues). Members also receive discounts to conferences and other special events. New members receive "*Humanism as the Next Step*" by Lloyd and Mary Morain as a special bonus. AHA also supports grassroots advocacy in Washington and around the nation, as well as legal advocacy in defense of the First Amendment and humanists' rights. In addition, membership advances humanist education and scholarship and increases humanist visibility through national advertising and online communications and supports local chapters such as ours. Our meetings are always open to visitors and friends, reliant on members to serve as leaders and guides. If you have been a visitor who has considered joining, simply check the AHA website at www.americanhumanist.org or talk to Jack Sechrest at jack@skognet.com or (630) 554-8058 to learn more.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

- Iowa State Representative Dawn Pettengill (R) is proposing a resolution that would change the Iowa constitution to require lawmakers to say "so help me God" when being sworn into office. According to the Associated Press, Pettengill said it was offensive to her own faith not to require the phrase in the oath.
- The American Humanist Association has called on President Obama to issue a presidential proclamation declaring February 12 to be Darwin Day and recognize the importance of teaching evolution in science classes. According to Roy Speckhardt, executive director of the American Humanist Association, "Our petition garnered over 10,000 signatures after circulating for only a short while. ...This is something mainstream America wants to see happen."

WORDS TO CONSIDER

In youth men are apt to write more wisely than they really know or feel; and the remainder of life may be not idly spent in realizing and convincing themselves of the wisdom they uttered long ago.

-- Nathaniel Hawthorne