



Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland



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

THIS MONTH

LABOR DAY PICNIC

When: Sunday Sept. 5, 2010 beginning at 3:00 p.m.

**Where: At the home of Jack and Perry Sechrest
452 Burr Oak Dr., Oswego IL**

This is the opening salvo of the coming year for our Humanist chapter. There's wine, lemonade and the best-est potluck you can imagine, all under a garden tent large enough for a wedding reception or a doggie show. Plan to bring food to share and contact Jack Sechrest at (630) 554-8058 or jack@skognet.com to let him know how many will be in your party.

A special treat will bring Roy Speckhart, executive director of AHA, and Maggie Ardiente, director of development as Jack's guests. Maggie edits the AHA's newsletter, *Free Mind*, was Vice President of the JMU Freethinkers, and is a former Board member of the Secular Student Alliance. Roy has appeared on CNN Headline News and Fox News, serves as a board member of the Humanist Institute and the United Coalition of Reason and is an advisory board member of the Secular Student Alliance.

MONTHLY HUMANIST MEETING

Sept. 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at Dupage Unitarian Church

Speaker: Steve Macek, author and activist

Title: Definitely Not Comcastic: Why the Proposed Comcast/NBC Merger is Bad for Workers, Consumers and American Democracy.

Ownership of America's media is already concentrated in the hands of a few giant conglomerates. The proposed Comcast/NBC merger will consolidate their ownership even further. Comcast, an anti-worker, conservative corporation with a horrible record of customer satisfaction would control a vast TV and cable empire. It also threatens the free and open use of the Internet. This presentation will explore the various reasons that this merger is bad for workers, consumers and American Democracy. And it will outline steps citizens can take to prevent the deal from going forward.

Steve Macek, activist and founding member of Chicago Media Action, teaches media and urban studies at North Central College. He is author of *Urban Nightmares: The Media, the Right and the Moral Panic over the City* (University of MN Press, 2006). His articles on media policy have appeared in *The Nashville Tennessean*, *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, and *The Seattle Times*.

HUMANIST MONTHLY LUNCHEON(s)

(Philosopher's Lunch)

When: Thursday, Aug. 19 and Sept. 16 at 1:00 p.m.

**Where: Country House Restaurant
6460 College Road in College Square, Lisle IL**

Want light, interesting conversation? How about a bit of *gemütlichkeit* in the middle of your harrowing day? This group of Humanist explorers meets year round. Share your readings, opinions or corny jokes with fellow liberals as you break bread and enjoy one another's company. We have a private room and the prices range from modest to medium. RSVP Jack Sechrest at jack@skognet.com or (630) 554-8058.

THINGS TO APPLAUD

- The passage of the Fair Sentencing Act, now signed into law, is expected to diminish racial divide within prisons, reduce prison over-population, and save millions in tax-payer dollars. The act targets high-level dealers and traffickers while limiting the excessive penalties for low-level crack offenders.
- Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker declared the California ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional, writing that "Marriage in the United States has always been a civil matter...[and] may permit religious leaders to solemnize marriages but not to determine who may enter or leave a civil marriage."
- The Supreme Court affirmed the 9th Circuit Court's decision allowing the California Hastings College of Law to deny recognition to a Christian-only student group. "Equality, not religious based discrimination, is the core American principle here," said Bob Ritter, attorney and legal coordinator of the Appignani Humanist Legal Center.
- Katharine Hepburn, AHA's Arts Award winner in 1985, has been memorialized on the 44 cent stamp.
- U.S. District Court Judge Barbara B. Crabb ruled the 1952 statute creating the National Day of Prayer unconstitutional saying its "sole purpose is to encourage all citizens to engage in prayer, an inherently religious exercise that serves no secular function."
- At the last National Prayer Breakfast, President Obama included nontheists in reference to Haiti, saying "The compassion and decency of the American people is expressed... by Americans of every faith, and no faith, uniting around a common purpose, a higher purpose."