



Humanists Of ID, ID Atheists, BUUF
Senior Sages, BUUF Humanists, BSU SSA,
West Valley Freethinkers, ID Society of
Reason, Cosmos Coffee Club., Human-
Kind, south central Idaho groups

Free Thought Treasure Valley Coalition of Reason www.TVCOR.org

July 2015 www.secularidaho.org

President's Message

The featured speaker at our June meeting was Karen Ellis of Boise Farmer's Market. BFM is a Community Marketplace where local food and agricultural products are available year round, and where the community can learn about, and become engaged in, food system issues. BFM is a catalyst and incubator for local, food related activities in the region, and works to build community self reliance. This outdoor marketplace can be found at 10th and Grove on Saturdays, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Their magazine, "Edible Idaho", is a feature of the local farmers and food artisans that vend at BFM. Businesses that rely almost entirely on local products, like Bittercreek Ale House and Red Feather Lounge, are promoted by BFM.

To encourage, educate, and inspire children toward healthier eating, BFM has a program called "Kid's Sprouts Club", for ages 5-12, to the ultimate purpose of creating an interactive better understanding of where food comes from. Kids receive a "Passport to Health", a Sprouts tote bag, and tokens that they can use to purchase their own choices of fruits, vegetables, or food bearing plants to grow themselves. For more information on The Boise Farmer's Market, visit their website at <http://theboisefarmersmarket.com/>.

PrideFest was even bigger and better than last year, with more booths, more people, and more events - a fun, festive, and friendly day. Even the weather was near perfect for an outdoor celebration. HOI, in partnership with the other groups of TV CoR had our booth up near the grandstand, so we had great seats for the scheduled entertainment. The only way that the day could have been more festive, was if the Supreme Court decision was announced a week earlier, in time for PrideFest. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the booth, and also the visitors who were very generous with their donations to HOI charitable efforts.

Last Saturday in June the booth was up at Community Progressive, in Julia Davis Park. This event is a showcase of area non-profits and their impact on the community. There was a variety of entertainment, along with keynote speakers like Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb. Turnout was small, in part because of the number of events taking place around the city, and in part because of the afternoon heat. Despite the heat, we had a steady stream of welcoming visitors, and a chance to get better acquainted with our non-profit peers. The booth was located very close to the bandshell, so we had prime seats for the shows and speakers.

TV CoR again has an entry in the Fourth of July parade, and HOI members are encouraged to join in. There will be a truck leading the way, with walkers following behind, displaying signs and waving at people along the route. This will be our fourth consecutive year in the parade - a fun way to create public awareness of local freethought groups. Hope to see you all there.

D G Van Curen, Humanists of Idaho humanistsofidoaho.org

RECENTLY we lost a foundational mother of us all.

Anne Nicol Gaylor began by naming what became her life-long work, the Freedom from Religion Foundation, when she moved beyond her earliest work advocating for abortion rights in the 1970's. She raised money to provide abortions for the poor and then, recognizing the larger issue, government's role under a religious gloss, she began challenging laws that unconstitutionally support religious beliefs and preferences. Anne Nicol Gaylor died May 30, at the age of 88. She was true to her principles to the end, according to her daughter, Annie Laurie Gaylor. She arranged to be cremated and wrote the words that memorialize her on a small tombstone—
"Feminist — Activist — Freethinker."

With her husband, Dan Barker, the younger Ms. Gaylor succeeded her mother as co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation in 2004. Their group has challenged National Day of Prayer and a Year of the Bible, Good Friday as a state holiday in Wisconsin, required Bible instruction in a Tennessee school district, and many other laws and regulations.



Humanists of Idaho, a chapter of American Humanist Association & Council for Secular Humanism, is a nonprofit corporation promoting ethical, democratic, and naturalistic Humanism through public awareness, education and community involvement. We have met 4th Mondays, Jan-Nov, in upper room of the Flicks, Boise. Open discussion and dining at 6:30pm; business 7pm; program 7:30pm pm. Our next meeting will be July 20. *Learn more at meetup page, see below.*

Treasure Valley CoR Meeting at Smokey Mountain Pizza, Nampa, on May 28 2015

Members present: Dustin Williams, Lauren Studley, Idaho Atheists; Doug Van Curen, Humanists of Idaho; Paul Rolig, Humanists of Idaho; Jeanette Ross, BUUF, Humanists of Idaho; Sander Karas, Cosmos Coffee. Members not present: West Valley Free-thinkers; Idaho Society of Reason

4th of July Parade: Applications approved for a float and walkers. Theme is "Everything Idaho." Dustin suggested banner showing "Atheists from Idaho." Float riders and walkers can be dressed in all sorts of Idaho-related garb. Dustin took responsibility for the parade; donations toward the fee are encouraged (\$32 for non profit with float.) Members voted for the float.

Lauren volunteered to register for the **Chalk Art Festival** and will contact others to make a team. It was suggested to contact Daria and Char. Members voted in favor of joining **Interfaith Alliance** and to maintain contact

TVCOR Setup: Dustin had several suggestions for remodeling TVCoR to improve cooperation and communication. Coordinator will be Executive Director, in charge of calling board meetings, delegating event responsibilities, fundraising, and maintaining contacts with fringe groups. Members voted to retain Dustin as Executive Director.

Major events (dealing with finances) will require a non-profit to sponsor and provide the needed bank accounts for funding. Events will then be listed as "Treasure Valley Coalition of Reason, sponsored by Idaho Atheists/Humanists of Idaho." Media rep will be upgraded to **Public Relations Representative**. They will be in charge of contacting the media, government officials, and community leaders when needed. He will create and publish press releases for independent events (ie National Day of Reason). Members voted to retain Paul Rolig as the new PR Rep.

Dustin suggested a dedicated webmaster to maintain the word-press website, calendar of events, email contacts, and post news. Van volunteered and was approved as Webmaster.

A **secretary** will be needed to track votes, write up and distribute meeting minutes, and keep track of attendance. With some hesitation, Lauren agreed, and was voted in.

It was also decided that **core group members need to arrange for a representative** to attend TVCoR planning meetings. TVCoR membership will elect officers during the regular July meeting, allowing non-present members to comment. **Every event will have a Project manager** to report back to Executive Director regarding funds, plans, and requests for help. The ED will maintain contact with the Project Manager to be sure plans proceed in a timely manner.

Officers for Humanists of Idaho

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website manager Gary Mitchell gdog05@gmail.com Find more at www.meetup.com/Humanists-ofIdaho.

Notes from May TVCoR meeting, continued..

Community Progressive: Dustin reached out to the leader of Community Progressive, a showcase of progressive groups that have an event to spread word. The group voted in favor of joining the cause and appropriated Dustin the finances to apply. Lauren will be Project Manager. Jeanette gave \$20, Idaho Atheists gave \$25, Humanists of Idaho gave \$30. This will cover the \$65 entrance fee and \$10 liability fee. It was agreed that Van will help with setup with two tables and a canopy to cover the 10'x10' square. Volunteers will need to be rotated throughout the day, no less than 2 at any time.

Solstice Party: Dustin will contact Dan Kinikini to see if ISoR would like to host this year's Summer Solstice party, since it will be on a Sunday. **Pride:** The booth has been registered by Van. Gary from IA applied for the parade entry. Unitarian Universalists also have an entry. The idea of face/body painting for donations was raised by Jeanette and was considered a good way to make money. She will bring the paints. The smaller TVCoR banner will be carried and Gary volunteered to make tshirts.

Lauren Studley

West Valley Freethinkers, Nampa Contact Charlie B
deepbluesigh@gmail.com wvfreethinkers@gmail.com

C of Southern Idaho Secular group see Facebook
"Secular Student Alliance at CSI". For Freethinkers Twin Falls
Contact is Erica, erical@eaglemail.csi.edu

COSMOS COFFEE CLUB conversation varies. Meet
6:30pm 1st & 3rd Mondays at Papa Joe's (handicap accessible).
<http://www.meetup.com/CosmosCoffeeClub> Contact is
Sander Karas

Humanists in Idaho Falls meet at the Unitarian Universal-
ist Church. Ask Doug at gerstner_doug@yahoo.com

Idaho Society of Reason is part of Treasure Valley
Coalition of Reason. <http://meetup.com/nonthelist/events>

Local Objectivists meet monthly, last Wed 6pm at varying
restaurants. Tim Scharff now at scharffdesignworks@icloud.com

Meet An Atheist or several, socialize 2nd Tuesdays,
typically at The Reef. Their contact info is on next page.

Secular Families and Secular Homeschooling Con-
tact Candace Norvell, at secularmama@yahoo.com.

Human KIND project

<http://www.human-kind-project.com/>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/humankindproject2014>

Susan Harrington, May 7, 2015:

Today we are not only exercising our right to reserve these front steps of this Capitol building to hold this National Day of Reason event, but also we are making a statement. We are reminding our government officials that they cannot favor religion over nonreligion. In their capacity as government officials, they cannot favor those people who *believe in prayer* over those people who *think with reason*. Now, you wouldn't know this considering how some of our government officials act and what some of our government officials say. For example, this last legislative session, again, showed the favoritism of some of our state legislators toward a specific religion over another religion. Some Christian legislators refused to even listen to a Hindu prayer...one time. And yet, these same Christian legislators expect everyone else to listen to their christian prayers every day. They claim that this is a *christian nation*. Perhaps they should be reminded of the words of President John Adams in the Treaty of Tripoli, which begins, "" As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion..."

Our state legislators have shown favoritism toward religious parents over the well-being and lives of these parents' children. They have refused to hold accountable parents who would let their children die for religious "faith healing" reasons instead of providing BASIC medical care to their children. Here's an example: a few years ago, a 15 year old girl, on the Parma track team, got food poisoning. Her parents refused to take her to the hospital to have her stomach pumped. The girl vomited so violently that her esophagus ruptured and, eventually, she went into cardiac arrest. She died an agonizing death while her parents watched, prayed over her, and watched ... her die. Food poisoning? This girl doesn't get to have a life because of food poisoning? Because her parents believed it was God's will. Well, what do you think girl wanted? Do you think that if it was up to her, instead of her parents, she might have wanted to go to the hospital? She might have wanted to live? I don't know. But there was no reason for her to die. There are other stories, including the deaths of children resulting from

untreated urinary tract infection, untreated pneumonia, untreated Type I diabetes, and on and on...preventable deaths. There is a whole cemetery of these unnecessary deaths. It's called Peaceful Valley Cemetery and its about 30 miles of here. Idaho is one of six states that still allows this.

Where were our state legislators when these children needed them? And where are some of these same government officials today? They are not here with us.. they are with the National Day of Prayer folks, again showing their favoritism for religion over nonreligion, for prayer over reason.

We are all citizens. And no citizen should be looked upon as "2nd class" or "less worthy" because their religious opinions are not of the majority. Remember Hyapatia, remember Copernicus, remember Galileo, remember Charles Darwin...just to name a few. Remember all the brave men and women who have logically presented and then stood up for their less than popular ideas...those who have been persecuted and/or killed for their less than popular ideas...those whose ideas turned out to be ... correct! The earth is not flat, it is not the center of the universe, natural selection does happen.

We must continue to stand up, every day, for our rights to be treated as 1st class citizens, regardless of our religious opinion. We must educate ourselves about the law and speak up or, better yet, write letters so that we have a paper trail to either uphold existing laws protecting our rights to our religious opinions or to change laws to prevent religion from trumping a person's right to have a government that does not favor religion, let alone one particular religion. We must continue to be vigilant... and not only with the government officials who work inside this Capitol building and those who work inside our schools (our Superintendents, our Principals, our Teachers).

Children are, to use a legal phrase, a "captive audience." We must make sure that they are not subjected to religious indoctrination, or made to feel as outsiders, or be subject to ridicule or bullying from peers. No child should be singled out in any way or expected to defend his or her most personally held beliefs and opinions, be they religious beliefs and opinions or otherwise.
Continued on following page..



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Harrington, continued from page 3..

Here are some examples of how we can help. First, the Pledge of Allegiance was written in 1892 for a celebration of Columbus's 1492 landing in the New World. It was written by Francis Bellamy, a socialist. It read, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." In 1923, the words, "my Flag" were replaced with the words "the Flag of the United States of America". Then, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" in reaction to the Cold War. Francis Bellamy's daughter objected to this change. My point is that the Pledge of Allegiance *has been and can be* changed.

We're not told this in school. We're told to stand, put our hand over our heart, and say the Pledge. I remember saying the Pledge in 3rd grade, feeling weird about saying those 'under God' words. But, I was a good little girl, so I just said them. Every morning, I felt different. I have another memory of being in 9th grade. Again, every morning, we had to stand and say the Pledge. Now, however, I was silent during the 'under God' phrase. When the student next to me noticed and asked me why, I told him I didn't believe in God. Now, it's hard enough in school. Many students feel different as it is...it's sometimes an awkward time in our lives. We're unsure about a lot of things. We're trying to find ourselves, figure out who we are. But, for the most part, most of us are just trying to fit in. So, when something like this comes along, a public group statement, said in unison, about a belief in God, it often creates a very disturbing conflict between public image and personal integrity. Why should students who don't believe in god be expected to sacrifice their personal integrity so that they can fit it in?

Well, this is one reason I believe some people are so adamant about students saying the Pledge in school every day. It may be disguised as patriotism. But it's not about patriotism. It's about religion. It's about making students say those words, or at least listen to those words..."under God"...every day.

Ten years ago, the Idaho legislature considered a law requiring all public schools in Idaho to start each day with the Pledge. Previously, it was hit and miss, depending on where you went to school. I was the only person who testified against this law. I testified that there are other ways to illustrate patriotism to our students. There were heroic stories to tell and there were inspiring documents to read, like the book, for younger students, by Esther Forbes about Johnny Tremain or, for older students, there was Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlet. I testified that these were a better way to illustrate patriotism than the rote recitation of the Pledge, especially since some students objected to saying the Pledge. When I finished, one legislator spoke up loudly. He said, "Who wouldn't want to say the pledge except for some pinko commie." Really? This was in 2005! He must have not known that in 1943, The US Supreme Court ruled on a case in West Virginia involving Jehovah Witnesses. In West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, the court ruled that students cannot be forced to salute the flag or say the Pledge of Allegiance in school. This was a significant court victory for the Jehovah's Witnesses, whose religion forbid them from saluting or pledging to symbols, including symbols of political institutions. Now I am glad that they won this case. More recent challenges to the Pledge have not been as successful.

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Donatetions (tax deductible) through Idaho Atheist website (mailbag@idhoatheists.org), or contact us to donate via PayPal.

HumanKIND community page, how to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/humankindproject2014> Group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/436333686513039/>

Boise State

SECULAR STUDENT ALLIANCE

boisestate@secularstudents.org
advisor Robin W Allen

Susan Harrington.. Continued from previous page

As soon as the Idaho law passed, I wrote to my own children's principal, who was also the superintendent, and informed him of the new law and the choice available. I asked that he choose the National Anthem. So, from then on, for another year until my daughter graduated and for two years after that until my son graduated, every morning, the students listened to the first stanza of the National Anthem. Many times it was a recording, but sometimes various students with their band instruments would come into the office and play the Anthem over the intercom. For all I know, this may continue today, ten years from when it began. I greatly appreciate this Principal working with me and not making my kids listen to the Pledge every morning.

Sometimes, however, there isn't such an amiable solution. Just a couple of days ago on our Idaho Atheist Facebook page, a student wrote in asking if it was legal for a teacher to make him go out into the hall while the other students said the pledge. This student just wanted to sit quietly at his desk during the Pledge. The teacher insisted that he had to at least stand up...or go out into the hallway. Now, the Idaho Code says, in part, that "No pupil shall be compelled, ..to recite the Pledge of Allegiance ..." What's the definition of what is or isn't "compelling" to a student? Certainly making a student stand up and, thus, "show respect" during the recitation of Pledge or having to go out into the hallway is compelling that student to conform...or face the consequence of being... banished. NO, students do not need to stand up or leave the room. Students may sit at their desks, quietly, while the other students recite the Pledge. In fact, students may also raise their fist in silent protest, as long as they do so quietly and do not attempt to disrupt the class. If you or anyone you know is having problems with this Pledge issue, there are organizations and websites available with information about this, including the Freedom of Religion Foundation (FFRF) and the American Civil Liberties Union. You can write a letter to the school yourself or ask either one of these organizations to write a letter to the school on your or your child's behalf. Students shouldn't have to explain themselves or defend their right to opt out.

I remember, in 2nd or 3rd grade, walking the few steps from my school building to where my bus was waiting. At the bus, was a man handing out those small, green, New Testament bibles. He handed one to me so directly that I could not refuse it. When the same thing happened to my daughter when she was in 4th grade, I wrote to FFRF. . They wrote a letter to the school. The school attorney, in turn, replied and said that the practice would be immediately stopped.

BSU SSA is a home for secular students. We educate ourselves, encourage critical thought, practice open, rational, scientific examinations of the universe and our place in it. We believe ethics and morality can be based on humanistic and rational values. We present a positive view of atheism, agnosticism, rationalism, secularism, humanism, skepticism and non-religious worldviews. We offer debates, educational workshops, speakers, movies, a book club, open discussion, and social gatherings.

Fall 2015 officers

Isa Rios - President

Lindee Neumeier - Vice President

Colin Fenello - Treasurer

Kendra Sanford - Secretary

The Constitution of the State of Idaho, Article 9 (Education and School Laws), Section 6 (Religious Test and Teaching in School Prohibited) says, in part, ""No sectarian or religious tenets or doctrines shall ever be taught in the public schools"...and it continues..."No books, papers, tracts or documents of a political, sectarian or denominational character shall be used or introduced in any schools established under the provisions of this article, nor shall any teacher or any district receive any of the public school moneys in which the schools have not been taught in accordance with the provisions of this article." [Approved July 3, 1890]

A few years ago, we had an Idaho charter school called the Nampa Classical Academy (formerly known as the Nampa Christian Academy). It applied for a charter with the Idaho Department of Education. Now, charter schools are public schools, supported with public money. They have to follow the rules of other public schools. So, when Nampa Classical Academy turned in their annual budget, someone in the Department noticed that the school had bought bibles. The state began the process to pull the school's charter. The school appealed all efforts of the state and insisted that they had the right to use the bible (and the Book of Mormon) in their school instruction. On March 26, 2013, the State of Idaho won the important legal victory when the U. S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case on appeal. Although Federal case law allows use of the Bible in literary studies, our constitution forbids our public schools from using the Bible or other sectarian texts. The Nampa Classical Academy, by the way, closed down.

When a teacher in Oklahoma set out a box of bibles and told students to help themselves, one student complained to his mom that he felt pressured. This student's mom contacted the American Humanist Association, who informed the school that this passive distribution of bibles violated the separation of state and church. Consequently, her son was bullied at school, the mom received death threats, and they have decided that they need to move. The bibles can no longer be distributed but the family who stood up for their rights are the ones who fell they had to move.



Huumanists meet 3rd Sunday, 11:15am, at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship library, next on June 21. Sages: June 11 and 25, 9:30am for no-host breakfast and programs, at Kopper Kitchen, near the Boise airport.

Sages in Siberia

Sounds lovely during Boise's heatwave doesn't it? We won't have the full "winter in Siberia" experience, but the venue is air-conditioned. And Patty Nakaoki's stories and pictures from her trip on the Trans-Siberian Railroad are definitely going to be cool. Join us for an interesting presentation and a no-host breakfast, 9:30 am Thursday, July 9, at the Kopper Kitchen, 2661 Airport Way. Newcomers will be welcomed. (Ah, warmly.) Contact Tom von Alten at tva@fortboise.org or 208 378-1217 for more information or to be added to our reminder list.

July is

Two in the toasty afternoon

When you wear gauntlet gloves

To push a red wheelbarrow into shade

BUUF Huumanists meet July 19 to share a favorite poem or two. We enjoyed last month's topic, music that mattered—enough to extend it. Find your own favorite poem to share, in the BUUF library, after 10 am service (11:15 or so).

Those rumors of war.. Jeanette Ross

In his June 30 column for the New York Times, David Brooks looks once more through the rear view window and sees wars, culture wars, ahead. Conservative persons of note are feeling attacked at the same time that young folks live their reckless lives without dutifully taking time off from work or whatever on Sunday mornings to listen to important conservative persons! Still, is it really a war if only one side has its fists up?

Brooks offers his selective tally of the cultural missteps, the damage as he sees it. Children outside of wedlock (hilarious word!), a non-specific 'sexual revolution,' no-fault divorces. Plus penalties for domestic violence, and no way to use your 'No service to dogs or Indians' sign. He doesn't mention the 'spiritual but not religious' while noting in passing a lack of support for religious institutions. He doesn't mention the loss of jobs for young males, low pay for those who do find work. He doesn't mention the leg irons built into college loans, the costs of raising children, health care, school fees..

When the social support agencies in this country compare their collected wisdom and experience they do not conclude that the biggest need is a seat in a pew listening to a harangue and a prayer, or even a compassionate voice of authority.

It's a world with problems differing from those 50 years ago. Some adults, including parents of adult children, have depended too long on a continuum from commands and swats to humiliation and insults to demands, then warnings, rejection, anger. Compare to the style of courts and conservative religious authorities. A pattern emerges.

It's true, many of us entered adulthood as teens with an excess of confidence. What helps, now, is networks of friends, peers, plus access to reliable, fact-based information. Here's what happens if you spank your kids. Here's who you can contact if you desire alternatives.

Each generation has its own particular sorrows, frustrations, needs. Imagining a more perfect time, or closer attention to religious authorities, more penalties for non-conforming behavior, won't help us as much as prison reform, preventative support programs such as child care, mentoring for foster kids. We need swimming pools and summer activity programs in all neighborhoods and not just the gated communities. We need small business start-up loans and grants, free child care for working parents. Cops who play chess and checkers.

And look at the need for supportive housing. This week I had a personal experience with a family member who had to talk someone into acting as guarantor for her to rent an apartment. She's a working mother who fell a little short on the point system that would qualify her to renew her lease. The guarantor takes on all risk if there's an eviction, a bad roommate or let's say an illness that causes loss of work time and thus income to pay rent.

I volunteer at the Interfaith Homeless shelter and know how job or family stress or one broken-down car leads to catastrophe. Then how many can find work, without a permanent address? No address, no rent record, so no points, no nice apartment even if you have a month's rent, security deposit. Basically, you don't have a prayer.

July 2015

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“The God Delusion” By Richard Dawkins

Richard Dawkins is at the forefront of two great movements today. One is the growth of atheism and the rights of non-believers. The second is the advancement of biology and evolutionary science. Dawkins is a visible, pre-eminent lead in both causes. He speaks with wisdom, eloquence, and logic based upon his broad foundation of knowledge in the sciences, history and ethics. He can be surgically precise and slice to the core of an issue and prove it or dispel it with the methodology of the scientist. But he can, when appropriate, be very outspoken and emotional regarding the topic of atheism, going well beyond mere advocacy. This latter capability has earned him membership by public consensus as one of today's gang of “Militant Atheists”. He is also an emeritus fellow of New College, Oxford and was the University of Oxford's Professor for Public Understanding of Science. He is noted for his output of books and articles over several decades for the public and for the world of science.

Our author has done a great service for all non-believers with this magnificent book first published in 2006. For all who are atheist today, it provides a comprehensive summary of the foundations of atheism and the bases for non-belief. Reading “The God Delusion” will also help those in confusion about the truth of religion and will give them a path to reason and a welcome end to their spiritual limbo. It will undoubtedly “un-convert” a few fundamentalists, but as Dawkins explains in his book, this will be a rarity due to the effects of imprinting people from infancy with the mythology of religion. The true fundamentalist will cling to his or her religion and holy literature in the face of overwhelming evidence that religion is a human construct of fantasy and containing falsehoods, impossibilities, errors and conflicts with itself and the facts of the real world.

“The God Delusion” belongs on the required reading list for all atheists for their further enlightenment and to deepen and broaden their conclusion of the non-existence of god or gods. For the informed non-believer, the book will bring order to a disorganized cranium full of information. “The God Delusion” can be a manual for the atheists who are engaged with family, friends and the public. Today's atheists are more overt about their non-belief, and display a healthy skepticism and are often comfortable with less anonymity about non-belief. With more and more people “coming out” or accepting atheism, and with the strong curiosity inherent about it from the general public, non-believers are likely to be drawn into discourse on atheism. They may be asked (or challenged) to explain their own conclusions, or to defend non-belief in conversations, on the Internet, and in the public media. The non-believer's capabilities for this purpose will be significantly enhanced by reading “The God Delusion”. Then too, “The God Delusion” will prepare the non-believer to be a better citizen, participating in today's democratic process to thwart the Christian “sharia” government proposed by most of today's fundamentalist Republican candidates.

Wally Keltner

STILWELL'S 750-MILE HIKE TO OLD FAITHFUL

Humanist athlete Jeff Stilwell believes in a world without disease or war. To inspire others, Stilwell has declared a Lightning March For Humanity which began at Stevens Pass summit on June 21st and will end 750 miles later at Old Faithful in Yellowstone Park. Upon reaching Old Faithful, Stilwell will dare God to strike him with lightning. According to Stilwell, "I am tired of hearing people in the pulpit say that humanity cannot fix our problems," Stilwell said. "I say, whatever the problem, we are humanity and together we can fix it," he added. The Lightning March For Humanity will cover around eighteen miles a day for about 40 days. If you happen to pass by Stilwell, recognized by his signature blue shirt, tan shorts and straw hat, be sure to honk and wave. The March is sponsored by the Fullness Circles Foundation which is providing logistical support before and during the March. "We here at the Foundation encourage everyone to follow Jeff along the way by visiting our website, www.FullnessCircles.com/lightningmarch," says Foundation Director Manya Vee. *Continued below*

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P.O. Box 44913
Boise, ID 83711-0913

The public is invited to enjoy local musicians that will be performing for the Lightning March in the evenings at the campsites. For more information about the Lightning March including the route, campsites, and which musicians will be at the campsites, visit FullnessCircles.com/LightningMarch. Enjoy a brief video announcing the Lightning March at <https://youtu.be/gliVqWcNaQQ>.

From the foundation sponsoring Stilwell: "Wish to show your support for Jeff's commitment? Make a short selfie video like [this one \(this is of me!\)](#). Here's the script (about 5 seconds) "I'm (name) from (location). I agree with Jeff Stilwell. We are humanity. Whatever the problem, together we can fix it."

And that's it! Then send it on to me, Manya, via email : manya@fullnesscircles.com. If it's too big to send, email me and I'll tell you a way to send it. Please call me at [425-409-8423](tel:425-409-8423) with any questions at all)." Manya Vee, Director, Fullness Circles Foundation 409 Main St, Edmonds, WA 98020 [425-776-3778](tel:425-776-3778) FullnessCircles.com