

# secular idaho

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

Free Thought Treasure Valley Coalition of Reason [www.tvcor.org](http://www.tvcor.org).

September 2015 [www.tvcor.org](http://www.tvcor.org).

## PAST IMPERFECT

*Jeanette Ross*

Nostalgia: a yearning for an imagined (or partial) past,; yearning for what did not happen. It's a way to cope with a sense of loss, isolation, disappointment. The untimely death of Svetlana Boym, a multitalented Harvard professor, photographer, novelist and playwright as well as author, reminds me of what is worth recording, remembering, re-visioning-- and what is not. This August, 2015, I'm shaking out Boym's notion of healthy and unhealthy aspects of nostalgia and using them to measure the current state of politics in our time and place.

Born a Jew in what is now Saint Petersburg, Russia, Boym made a study of the ways we can cope with our longing for a more perfect time. There is a harmless sort of nostalgia, looking back through rose-colored glasses. I know I have participated. Ask me how I navigated the adolescent years of my now-adult children and I'll tell you that I loved every minute. Seriously, how likely is that? Still, it's healthier to dwell on the best of the past, with family and co-workers.

Nostalgia motivates much of what we purchase, from 'art' on walls in hotels and other bedrooms, those tchotchkes at airports and on shelves everywhere and toys that linger long after teenagers have left home. Consider the top of my piano.

There's a danger, here, what folklorists call the Eden fallacy, starting history of a family or a faith with a lost perfect place. The familiar tale in the book of Genesis is one variant. Founders become heroes, their stories sacred; with time the early heroes are gods, christs who will return to redeem the losts, bring back the lost eden. Folklorists gathering family stories are not surprised to hear of lost fortunes; in southern Idaho, descendants of once- displaced southerners recall 'memories' of lost plantations. An amusing version of that quirk of invented pasts are the 'channeled' records of past lives, which contain many an Egyptian prince or Celtic queen. Alas, that channel has stopped broadcasting, unless you watch PBS.

Today we have a more dangerous variant of this on a national scale. One religious faith has reached reified status and a blinding nostalgia is at work. Boym speaks of longings built on a mythic past, invented and constructed memory that justify a forceful reconstruction of the present. There is a conflating of facts to justify invention of an enemy who justifies

annihilation—the redemptive violence of an action film, a shootout in the O.K. corral. In north Idaho, a newly elected legislator, Heather Scott, advertises herself wrapped in the rebel flag. Heather is not alone. Other politicians, pundits, at least one news channel and many members of the body public have moralized a fictional past and are ready to force their imagined ideal on the rest of us. We recognize the danger of this in other parts of the world. And yet here we are, with a large majority of those who are candidates for the office of president of the United States who want to deport millions of our residents, build their own Berlin Wall at two sides of our nation. We heard attorneys argue that the only deity-approved family is the (mostly fictional) one when every U.S. family was made of middle class Anglo Saxons with a benevolent patriarch coming home in his suit and tie, to be greeted by a neatly coifed wife holding the evening's apple pie. I have several books for beginner readers with just such illustrations. Look, Billy, look! Pie for dinner!

If we bring some careful thought to this talk we can imagine the evil that can result if campaign rhetoric becomes policy. How would we find those immigrants? Use the practices of East Germany, with neighbor turning in neighbor? Homeland security would be our growth industry. Would eliminating Planned Parenthood really lead to happier two parent families? More ominous, if that is possible, is the big stick style of relationship with other nations. Ordering Mexico to do our bidding, forcing relocation of millions of people into their country at the same time, would be a human disaster. The fence would be a new 'iron curtain' with guards with orders to shoot.

The anger and frustration that has encouraged these political candidates provides no evident comfort. We have a mean, self-reinforcing cycle. As one man said to me recently, loudly and triumphantly, at a meeting meant to plan citizen action, "You know what P.C. stands for? Passive cowardice."

The will to demand, to declare, to insist and condemn—these are presented as good-enough plan and proof, as credentials for leading a nation. It's a call for restitution, for revenge, resentful and begrudging rather than understanding one's circumstances or neighbors. "I'm done with educating. Educating our legislators changes nothing," said one friend of mine at the same meeting.



**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 3rd Mondays, Jan-Nov, in upper room of the Flicks, Boise. Open discussion and dining at 6:30pm; business 7pm; program 7:30pm Our next meeting will be September 21. **More at meetup page, see below.**

## President's Message

August was kind of a quiet month for Humanists of Idaho. There were no events to report on, and the speaker scheduled for our August meeting had to cancel at the last minute, so we held an open discussion on a variety of topics instead. We are still considering the possibility of changing the venue and timing of our monthly meetings, but haven't come up with anything workable as yet. Most of the places we looked at were either not affordable, or had other limiting issues. For now, and likely through the end of the year, we will continue meeting at the Flicks on the third Monday of each month. Changes will be posted on our Facebook and Meetup pages if and when we find a suitable venue that can meet our needs.

Boise State Secular Student Alliance (BSUSSA) is ramping up again now that the members are back in school. We look forward to supporting this group in the coming year, and will be posting their events – speakers, debates, etc – on our Facebook and Meetup pages. We all need to encourage growth in secular college programs, because they will be the future of Freethought and Humanism in generations to come.

Hyde Park is less than 3 weeks away, and we are looking for volunteers to help staff our booth during the fair. Fair dates are Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have some free time during those dates and are interested in spending a couple of hours helping out, you can contact me directly at [Celebrantvan@gmail.com](mailto:Celebrantvan@gmail.com). I will be scheduling volunteers in 2 hour blocks, and plan to have 2-5 people per shift, so that no one will be alone in the booth. If you can smile, talk, and count change, you are well qualified for this event. It will mostly involve handing out a variety of pamphlets and information, and selling an assortment of Freethought/Humanist items. Even if you can't volunteer, try to make it down to the Fair and say "Hi" to the crew.

Light The Night Charity Walk, to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, is coming up in October. I will be posting more detailed information on our Facebook page as soon as I have it.

**D G Van Curen President, Humanists of Idaho**

**Find the library page at the HOI website at**

**[http://idaho.humanists.net/?page\\_id=642](http://idaho.humanists.net/?page_id=642)**

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**Surprise!** *Congress does something right, for a change. Early August, Congress unanimously passed the Boulder-White Clouds bill that protects 275,000 acres of central Idaho as wilderness. This is not just beautiful, pristine land that mining companies have attempted to exploit for their profit, if not ours. This is the start of our water, the home of diverse populations of animals and plants under multiple threats. President Obama signed it to law.*

*For forty years, since the election of Frank Church, before the word "environmentalist" was invented, several farsighted men took the new senator up into the White Clouds, to show him the land that was vulnerable to mineral mining. Frank was convinced that this land deserved protection.*

*Then a young Cecil Andrus ran for governor on a promise of protecting this remarkable and unique place. Odds of doing this were not improving, until the amazing and improbable opportunity came. Read the story, as told by an insider, in this issue.*

**West Valley Freethinkers, Nampa** Contact Charlie B deep-bluesigh@gmail.com [wvfreethinkers@gmail.com](mailto: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** v begins at 6:30pm 1st & 3rd Mondays at Papa Joe's. Contact Sander Karas at <http://www.meetup.com/CosmosCoffeeClub>

**Humanists in Idaho Falls** meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Ask Doug at [gerstner\\_doug@yahoo.com](mailto:gerstner_doug@yahoo.com)

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

**Local Objectivists** meet monthly, last Wed 6pm at varying restaurants. Ask Tim Scharff at [scharffdesignworks@icloud.com](mailto:scharffdesignworks@icloud.com)

**Meet An Atheist** or several, socialize 2nd Tuesdays, typically at The Reef. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IdahoAtheist/>

**Human KIND project**

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

*There should be a word for it..*

## **Lover of Cities**

Jeanette Ross

I lost a hero this month. Lawrence Halprin changed our idea of city landscapes as he brought the best of the natural world into the built world. He designed parks that were meant to be places for everyone to find safety, respite, company if that was desired, and places to think about the city and oneself in new ways.

This was not a new idea as much as a return to an ancient idea. Our first cities were places to make life more comfortable for everyone, to work for common dreams. That led to the systems of canals that grew food for thousands, led to communities that invented writing and hanging gardens, to public buildings for public celebrations.

Halprin also saw a city's shared spaces as a place to be and believe in, a place of possibilities: safe access to shelter, food, work and companionship; opportunity, something to work toward; inspiration; surprises, special events. With restful and delightful public areas, those living in a city can identify themselves as belonging to a dynamic community with a way of living and not just a where of living--a place to settle in and become something different even when the outcome can't be known. That's the vibe of Portland today, where Halprin built his first park system. A mile long green stroll connects places to relax, reflect, stretch out, walk behind a waterfall, chat with the person on the bench next to you, have lunch

near green growing stuff. It is a city "designed as a sequence of spaces with an eye for people who will move through them, rather than as a series of formalized or picturesque architectural compositions," as he wrote in his book, *Cities*. Although gridded street structures limit this, a city can have places with variety, non-regimentation, unpredictability, places that accommodate 'change and fluctuation.' Some elements: a variety of textures, fences, steps, walls; Light by direct sun, lighting, shadows; Moving water for sound, evaporative cooling, spray, excitement, sparkly wildness, exuberance, reflections..

Halprin's approach to land design was revolutionary. He instituted a collaborative process that started with the people who lived in and used the city. I had the privilege of being part of this when one of Halprin's partners, Jim Burns, was hired to lead the re-building of the downtown of Moscow, Idaho. Every Saturday for six weeks, a different group would meet in a large room to share what they needed from Moscow streets. Farmers, professors, students in scattered apartments— drivers of grain trucks and bicyclists each had a turn to join the team that drew up final plans. I helped with these and wrote a final report that was published in the town paper.

*I re-experience downtown Moscow a couple of seasons each year. It has proved to be a useful and robust design, with a few blocks of Main Street a mostly-pedestrian area, with limited access and parking. Traffic circles around the center, one block away on each side, one direction for each, which allows for easy flow that didn't require widening streets. The spirit of a walkable small town remains.*



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Inside, high anxiety and grief. A ten year old girl was wracked with misery, begging her father, who said, no, you can't leave the property without us, no. I pointed out we'd had permission for several years now, but he was scared, and who could not understand? His wife stood mute with pain, near him. My partner reappeared—the night manager said we were the sole exception. A six year old ran up without brakes and jammed his whole self against my legs, saying, "I miss you!" Word was out that we had permission after all and two new boys joined regulars. We started off, the regular children dashing as far as they could, to the next corner, and still be seen.

In our room they found the stuffed toys. Mine, mine! I tried to shout over the mayhem that they could play with any and all, but only keep one each. Someone had left several mover's quilts in a corner of the room; one was immediately used to turn the one empty computer carrel into a cubby for the three youngest children and their army of stuffed critters. My enthusiastic six year old arranged the quilt quite competently before burrowing in himself.

I'd brought my set of 24 decorative edge scissors, a large swath of white paper from my paper roll, and a heap of papers to cut around, through—calendar scenic and animals. My helper sat down with the girls, ages four and ten, with my home-made paste;. Together they filled the sheet and Lisa posted it on the chalk board with magnets. Tres handsome. The boys amused and charmed me with extended play, giving voices to the various stuffed toys.. Later, one of the new boys asked if I would be back next week, and could we make puppets? Yes, of course! I'd also brought pin backs and compressed foam to make wearable pins. Our thirteen-year-old outlined and shaded his initials, really handsomely; I helped him mount them on the foam and then the pin back (I brought one of my glue guns). His brother used my permanent fine tip pen to print his name on white foam and we mounted that. The older girl requested a 'teddy bear' pin, which I made with her. Overall, everyone was cheerful and cooperative considering the drama that had almost cost them the privilege of having a night of play.

The two new boys were very polite and thanked me several times each, touching, almost embarrassing. This should be normal.

### Homeless in Boise.. Jeanette Ross

**August 27 2015** I had prepared for the class that I teach, most Thursday nights. It's called "Energizing Minds," and is funded by a grant shared by the Interfaith Sanctuary and Corpus Christi programs for the homeless. On paper it's for children of kindergarten through elementary school, but in practice it's whoever gets permission from parents to walk around the block from the shelter to a street-side classroom, for an hour and a half of play.

This evening I'd brought two big bags of stuffed toys donated by a friend, from a neighbor's older daughters, and in beautiful condition. Sanctuary children aren't allowed to bring toys inside the building but can play with them outdoors, then store all in a plastic tub (kept in a separate storage building).

6:30pm My partner and I were met by several anxious women living in the many tents lining the Sanctuary fence and building.. Was it true that police were coming to clear out all tents? How could they come on to Sanctuary's land, inside the gates? I reminded them that all public drive ways (including those alleys surrounding Sanctuary grounds and fenced area) are managed by Ada County Highway District. I gave one young woman, an 18 year old, information about how to contact one of the commissioners, a longtime friend of mine

No children were outside, very ominous and unusual. Apparently an emergency this week had led to new, strict rules. Paramedics had been called to hospitalize two very young children; a medical report suggested neglect leading to dehydration. Shelter managers gave orders to parents: Maintain eye contact with your children at all times or you will be asked to leave. Permanently.

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*Donations (tax deductible) through Idaho Atheist website ([mailbag@idhoatheists.org](mailto:mailbag@idhoatheists.org)), or contact us to donate via PayPal.*

**HumanKIND community page to join:**

[https://www.facebook.com/humankindproject2014\\_Group](https://www.facebook.com/humankindproject2014_Group)

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

# Boise State

# SECULAR STUDENT ALLIANCE

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## A typical Thursday in Boise Jeanette Ross

**August 20, 2015** the Corpus class was Lisa and me. Our students: One nearly three; three four year olds, and three brothers, ages six, eight, ten. I brought a stuffed tiger for tossing (meant it as a name game but all were long-time residents, immediately shifted to tossing the poor beast like a football, with screeches and dashes around furniture, past computer carrels., from backroom sink to the front door, over tables and chairs - This went on until one long toss knocked down the wall clock, which fortunately landed softly in our recycling bin. All were properly sobered; action stopped and the oldest, Matt, pulled up a chair, climbed on and carefully replaced the clock.

I brought out the four squeeze bottles dedicated to water play and water buckets I'd planned for a water-relay. Plan: squirt water at an empty bottle to scoot it down the sidewalk. (Our classroom holds donated plastic water bottles for the homeless community.) The older boys had no interest, were already seated at computers, but the younger ones loved our last water play and eagerly filled up their squeeze bottles. A little experimenting outside on the sidewalk and they all had plenty to practice for the fun of making the empty bottles scoot and twirl.

When that wore out with one child she ducked her head down and soaked her lovely and long dark hair in one water bucket; one boy immediately copied her, then the other. But not our solemn two year old. She watched with interest, drinking the water remaining in the smaller orange squeeze bottle. Next, the four year old instigator stepped with one sandal-foot in each bucket, and the boys imitated her.. more dunking, more squeezing water upon one's head. Happily it is a very warm evening. My partner and I stood there, laughing. What else to do? Finally the remains of the now well-used water were poured on the tiny grass patch and we went inside in for treats.

I brought out the stencils and paper and pens to start making a string of small banners to decorate our cork board. One four year old joined me and colored a planet from the space stencil. His younger sister clambered into one of the huge chairs and said, 'Color. Paper.' She was on one side of me, her brother on the other as she happily drew with markers, announcing each color as she tried them, then methodically replaced each cap and putting each pen back exactly where it came from in the little art case.

**BSU SSA** is a home for secular students., encouraging critical thought, 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 various -isms and non-religious worldviews through debates, workshops, speakers, movies, book club, discussion, and social gatherings.

### *Fall 2015 officers*

Lindee Neumeier - President, Colin Fenello - Treasurer  
Kendra Sanford - Secretary

One adult sat near the door where the younger ones turned an office chair into a carnival ride. Three children crowded into the seat and the fourth pushed it around in a circle. This went on until all were dizzy and it was time for us to go back. As adults tried to organize an exit (this meant turning off computers), one child busted out, with the boys right behind her. Eye contact! I went out to catch up, the two year old after me, as we started for Sanctuary. Then the youngest let out a howl. She forgot her picture! Most of the crew moving in the right direction while I retrieved the art. It was just the two of us turning the corner off Americana Boulevard to Cooper street. Cooper dead-ends at the Sanctuary fenced area and buildings. Police have cleared off the usual favorite camping/leisure area for Boise's homeless, under the freeway overpass, but have allowed those who will not or cannot fit inside sanctuary to park on Cooper for the night or set up tents around the perimeter of the Sanctuary fence and now the perimeter of the Sanctuary building itself.

Tonight Cooper street was filled, both sides, with homeless intending to spend the night in makeshift lean-tos and their vehicles. This is where a shooting (over a drug deal gone bad) happened a couple of months ago; that's why we have a security guard at the gate, now. But the guard can't see around the corner to help us. Truck doors sprawled open and we had a tricky traverse around persons under various influences, not able or willing to clear space for us to pass. It was our job to miss them. One vehicle door was spilling its passed-out male passenger on to the sidewalk. We carefully edged around vehicles and persons, avoiding the dog poop in the weeds edging the sidewalk. After a few feet of this, my child stopped and threw up her arms in that universal gesture: Carry Me. She didn't bawl like a baby, or complain, she just requested assistance. Know your limits, I say.

I picked her up and my goodness this is a sturdy little body, for not yet three years old. I struggled along, asking twice, hopefully, are you ready to get down? No. No. A hundred yards from the gate we saw her mother, seated at a picnic table by Sanctuary's back door, running tobacco from a large bag through a machine that packed it in cigarette papers. She was preparing for her husband's work shift the next day. She was much amused by her daughter's transition from Mature Child to tired and cranky baby. That's the way she is, and it's past her usual bedtime. In one of those many tents.



*Huumanists meet 3rd Sunday, 11:15:am, at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship library, next on Sept 20. Sages: Sept 10 and 24, 9:30am for no-host breakfast and programs, at Kopper Kitchen, near the Boise airport.*

## Sages South of the Border

You're invited to a friendly get-together and no-host breakfast this coming Thursday, the next meeting of the BUUF Sages. Dario Bollacasa will present "The Maya Then and Now." They built great cities, pyramids, astronomical observatories and were mathematical wizards. They ruled a vast territory for hundreds of years, and then they vanished with their cities in the jungle.

We will explore what they did and where they are now. We meet at the Kopper Kitchen, 2661 Airport Way, 9:30 am, Thursday, September 10. Newcomers welcome! Contact Tom von Alten at 208 378-1217 or [tva@fortboise.org](mailto:tva@fortboise.org) for more information.

## OUR CREATIVE WORK Jeanette Ross

*Making things purely for the joy of it— and seeking out the work of others— that impulse was built into the Renaissance, the renewal and celebration of what makes us uniquely human.*

*We dedicate Our September Sunday discussion to a show and tell or maybe mostly tell of our favorite part of creative production, either as craft or plastic arts. If you paint tole or canvass, work in wood, metal, clay or paper, enjoy a particular style of art or movement, we invite you to bring Sunday the 20th, 11:15 am, BUUF library, a sample (or an illustration, that's fine) of some piece of creative production that matters to you.*

*Last month we shared what we liked or what moved us in the genre of futuristic "science fiction" writing and film. Mentioned: Ray Bradbury's writing, Aldous Huxley, Peter Benchley, the Star Trek series, Soyent Green, Clockwork Orange, and the recent "Snow Piercer."*

*Several spoke of the warnings of the consequences of trends evident in our present world. An environmental crisis plays out to a new ice age, perhaps. Thrills and special effects, dystopias with trolls, evil aliens or living dead didn't figure as much as the poignant circumstances where natural disasters overwhelm the human capacity to act intelligently and together, for a common good.*

## Being reasonable isn't enough Jeanette Ross

How can we make a significant improvement in our state, one that will save huge amounts of money and improve the lives of thousands? First you need a lawmaker to propose a law, get it on the docket for the appropriate committee. The chair of the committee can request a hearing and you and allies can set out your case with facts, personal stories, estimate of cost savings for individuals, businesses like, say, hospitals, and state and county governments. Remember that the legislators object to any federally funded health program which guarantees better health care for millions.

Expanding Medicaid to include the working poor violates a basic part of the Republican party platform. We are fighting ideology with logic. How to proceed? At the first fall meeting of a group rallying around what is now the Healthy Idaho Plan, Liz Woodruff started with goals previously achieved (minimum wage for farmworkers, anti-bullying bill just last year, parity in coverage for mental health needs as part of insurance for state employees) as a long game. Almost nothing important is approved by the Idaho legislature in less than three years.

We are playing a **Long Game** that begins by organizing like-minded allies, planning tactics around identifying a goal, identifying who needs to be on board and what are the advantages, for whom—who resists, who objects, who might see a benefit once they recognize it... Then set meetings to firm up the concept, set agendas for meetings of coalition allies—begin advocacy of the concept; identify individuals with compelling stories, develop the comprehensive plan with action items tailored for each member organization and adjusted for committed individuals. Expect accountability, get specific, set deadlines. Assign best contact/advocates for essential decision-makers. Rally the troops, boots on the ground; work the legislative schedule for informational hearings, write a sample bill and outline essential elements with arguments and counter-arguments; prepare a 'cheat-sheet' with suggested language so everyone can be prepared to answer objections, respond to concerns. Learn from losses; consider ways to compromise, improve the language of the proposed bill.. build on what's lost; review, improve. Be prepared for the pressure of lobbyists.

## September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2`	3	4	5
6 ISOR	7 Cosmos Club	8	9	10 Sages	11	12
13 ISOR	14	15 meet an atheist	16	17	18 Hyde Park festival begins	19 Hyde Park
20 ISOR Humanists Hyde Park ends	21 Cosmos Club HOI	22	23	24 Sages	25	26
27 ISOR	28 news deadline	29	30 Objectivists			

### **Martin Balben, speaking to the Sages August 27 on passage of the new wilderness bill:**

Virtually everyone was amazed by the passage of the White Clouds Wilderness bill by unanimous consent, after thirty often-discouraging years. The final bill was a compromise—nobody was happy with the result, which is as good as is possible given the hyper-partisanship of recent years in Congress. Several pieces fell into place to make this possible. Obama's last minute decision to start his swing through Boise, the day after his state of the union address, happened when Boise's Mayor Bieter was in DC for a mayor's conference. Bieter was invited to ride back to Idaho on the President's jet—an opportunity for face time to speak of the need of the White Clouds for protection. The jet flew over Castle Peak on its way to Boise. CVI had three days to rally whoever didn't get a ticket to get inside. The limo route and the campus route were lined with people holding white cloud signs. Media coverage added visibility. Then in the personal receiving line to meet the President was the high school girl who, as a junior, started a club that earned her a ticket to DC to speak to both Senators. When she shook the President's hand she asked him, "Will you protect the White Clouds?" and he said, "Sure!" Leaders of Veterans groups signed on.

The high schooler had a conversation with Sarah Jewell, who added her encouragement. Recreation leaders gave it a nod. The re-grouping held fast when the President then announced that Congress had six months in which to pass a Wilderness bill before Obama would exercise his executive privilege to use the Antiquities Act to declare the area a national monument. There's a difference here in acreage and rules that apply. Each Monument begins negotiations for what acreage is protected to what extent from the day the declaration is signed, each monument with its own rules. This is the start of positioning, four or five years of unrelenting pressure to reach protections. The proposed area for a monument would have been double what was finally approved as wilderness (no guarantees on how much of the monument would have had similar protection to wilderness). Wilderness status is the gold standard, with no motorized traffic and a philosophical commitment to save the original nature of the place. (there are options available for buyouts of the inholdings). The Wilderness act protects 283000 acres a monument would have been double that size, the size of the CIEDRA boundaries. Cecil Andrus calls this the Risch bill. But the political will to pass a larger bill is gone.

A coalition of conservationists and recreationists first met in 1971 to try to find common ground. Cecil Andrus ran on the promise to support protections for Castle Peak—opponents, mining supporters insisted nothing was going on at Castle Peak but an airplane flying over got evidence of exploratory moly work and Andrus won. When Jim Risch voted against Mike Simpson's CIEDRA (Wilderness) bill in 2005/6 and ended what looked like the best chance so far, and with Congress divided, Bush still president, environmental groups met and agreed to join forces in a call for a monument status. This was when CVI was formed and established its purpose to fill in a gap. Still needed: grass roots conversations across the state, not just emails from Boise. CVI took this on. Allies all held firm, spoke publically as if the Monument was best option.

Don't discount the importance of spite and malice. Many of those congresspersons who allowed the maneuvers toward a unanimous consent would do anything in their power to prevent Obama from adding a win to his record. Various inholdings were grandfathered in to avoid a fight.. part of the River of no Return left out. Sandra Mitchell's group got additional trails that were conveniently left out of the Wilderness. But everything else has all the legal protections of true wilderness. No insiders are talking about the machinations that took place inside.. but the unanimous consent allows individual senators a linguistic excuse.

## **A Freethinker Friendly Church?**

Humanists at the Unitarian Universalist association's 2015 General Assembly proposed an active movement for UUs around the country to actively welcome atheists and agnostics.

Some proposals: Include language in published statements that explicitly welcome non-theists.

As a congregation, discuss ways to be more inclusive.

Provide times and spaces for celebration of the humanist worldview, including meetings and programs for humanist groups.

Reach out to the wider non-theist community and let them know you want to support them.

Humanists of Idaho  
P.O. Box 44913  
Boise, ID 83711-0913

### **Hyde Park Street Fair is September 18-20!**

*Have you signed up to work a shift in one of our booths at Hyde Park?  
Check facebook page of your favorite group and see Van's call for volunteers, inside.*