

HOI President's Message

Merry Solstice and Happy New Year to all. By the time you read this, 2018 will be upon us. It is an unavoidable consequence of the march of time. A new year, and possibly some new directions for Humanists of Idaho. We are hoping to have a banner year in Freethought outreach and special events, as we try to grow our membership and become more involved.

I would like to remind everyone that HOI elections are this coming spring, so any of you who are interested in pursuing a board position should contact our Vice President, Pat Acks, and let your intentions be known. We could use some new blood at the top, with some really good ideas, so don't be shy.

In November, our parent organization ended web hosting for local chapters. It happened quickly and caught us by surprise. Since then, new hosting has been found, and I have been working to build a new website. It is still a work in progress, and likely will be for a few months.

Unfortunately, the change in web host also meant that our former site address – humanistsofidoaho.org – is no longer active. New url: <http://humanistsofidoaho.angelfire.com/>. Drop by and check us out. Of course, all events and activities will still be calendared at our meetup page, and our Facebook page remains the same.

Our next board meeting is January 15th, and we will be starting our 2018 planning and brainstorming. Last year's merger with ISOR has left us with some unfinished business, so we will be putting the finishing touches on that at the January meeting.

Anyone having suggestions for new business, future events, possible charitable efforts, and outreach, should contact me before then with suggestions at CelebrantVan@gmail.com.

D G Van Curen

President, Humanists of Idaho

New: the Dalai Lama's Insights *noted by Paul Rolig*

An Appeal to the World - The Way to Peace in a Time of Division is a small book published in 2017. It features a number of insightful observations by the Dalai Lama, packaged in the form of questions posed by co-author Franz Alt, with responses by the Dalai Lama. It's a very quick read at 113 pages and lots of blank space.

Secular Humanists will find much to agree with, and even cheer, in this work. Some sample quotes follow. From the Preface: "Over the last few years, the Dalai Lama has come to consider ethics across religious divisions to be more and more important. And today he goes a step further, making a statement unparalleled for a religious leader: 'Ethics are more important than religion. We are not members of a particular religion at birth. But ethics are innate.' In the talks he gives worldwide, he refers to 'secular ethics beyond all religions' with growing frequency." (p. 2)

"I see with ever greater clarity that our spiritual well-being depends not on religion, but on our innate human nature, our natural affinity for goodness, compassion, and caring for others." (p. 8)

"I suggest more listening, more contemplation, more meditation. I agree with Mahatma Gandhi: 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' ... I will always stand by nonviolence." (p. 10)

Rejecting Donald Trump's calls for "America First" and "Make America Great Again, he appeals instead for a global perspective, based on the observation that "In today's global world, everything is interconnected." Similarly, he decries increasing nationalism, and appeals for compassion for refugees.

In all, there are 29 topics addressed from the Dalai Lama's perspective of global responsibility and secular ethics.

Will this book change any minds? I will hazard the prediction that rigid religious fundamentalists and die-hard fans of Donald Trump would put it aside after just a few pages. However, the calm exposition of so many eminently sensible observations might just help open-minded folks see things from a more secular perspective.

Link to this book on Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B072VGNMRG/ref=smi_www_rco2_go_smi_g2609328962?encoding=UTF8&btkr=1&ie=UTF8

Humanists of Idaho Starting January 1995

General meetings were at the Flicks; board meetings at smaller venues. Detailed minutes for both were regularly published in the organization's newsletter. These are summaries by J Ross

January 5, 1995 The first person president and early organizer Tim Teater brought two guests: Dan Kinikini and Myla Batson-Kinikini. Tim introduced Myla as the chair of a new organization, the Idaho Coalition for Religious Liberty. Dan and Myla spoke about the need for and purpose of their group; this was followed by a discussion on the topic "Religion and Free Inquiry in conflict: what can we do about it?"

February 2, 1995 Secretary Mary Fran Groll shared state of Idaho requirements for a Certified Humanist Counselor or Celebrant. Certification allows the approved person to perform wedding ceremonies, memorial services and attendance to other human needs; none are yet certified in Idaho.

Martin Shapiro then presented a talk on "Coevolution, an effort to develop "an effective means for individuals to influence the evolution of our culture and society so that it becomes and remains supportive of individual fulfillment and of the balance between human activities and other systems in the ecosphere. . . He presented Coevolution as a theory, a process, and hopefully, a movement."

March 2, 1995 Attendees voted to advertise in the religion section of the Idaho Statesman. Martin Shapiro suggested work to create a "permanent forum or vehicle to address divisive issues in the community, where each side could present information/education to reduce fear and ignorance. Matthew and new member Dan Kinikini will "keep us informed on Coevolution projects." The meeting adjourned and Dan Kinikini spoke about his "less traveled path from Tonga to Humanism."

March 23 1995 The board met to nominate their proposed slate of officers for the coming election: Dan Kinikini for President, Jim Holden for Vice President, Mary Fran Groll for Secretary, and Joe Voight for Treasurer. Mary Fran's report on the cost to advertise in the Statesman led the board to consider alternatives. All members were asked to submit material to Joe for the newsletter.

April 6 1995 The meeting began with the night's speaker, Dr. Dewey Dykstra, professor of physics at BSU, who said he is a member of the American Humanist Association and wanted to join HOI before offering his presentation.

Past president Tim Teater, who was honored with gift of a plaque. Member Pat Hall urged donations to ACLU in appreciation for "their willingness to take on the issue of the cross on Table Rock."

Idaho Society of Reason has joined Humanists of Idaho.

Meetings are held 2nd Sundays in Boise, 4th Sundays Nampa, starting with a noon potluck. Watch for any changes and details at

<https://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Idaho/>

Objectivists meet last Wednesdays at 6pm, varying restaurants. Contact Tim Scharff, scharffdesignworks@icloud.com

April 20 1995 board meeting the President, Dan Kinikini suggested "an open discussion on "Looking forward to the next year," to learn the membership's interests, which could include "unstructured get-togethers at member homes and other venues. Dan appointed a communications committee to assist with the newsletter. As part of the goal of "sufficient funds to bring in high profile speakers," attendees considered holding a luau in September, "catered as a donation by the Kinikini family with roast pork, a rice dish, a potato dish, fruit and punch." The next meeting will have election of officers.

May 4 1995 The nominating committee's slate of officers was approved. In the discussion of "needs, desires and expectations" for the coming year, "the following were mentioned: Acceptance/support from like-minded individuals; a positive approach; an intellectual forum; growth; taking action on important issues; meeting human needs on a personal level." The question of whether or not Humanism is a religion was sparked by the assumptions made by the editor of the Idaho Statesman. John Harms mentioned that Unitarians have a program on Humanism scheduled "for the near future." After some discussion, members agreed to continue meeting in July and August, despite expected lower attendance. The luau plans would proceed. Before closing the meeting, "each member explained briefly the belief system they were raised with and how they became Humanists or reached their current set of beliefs."

June 1 1995 Mary Fran opened the meeting with an announcement that Dan's work situation has changed, with full time work on a night shift that has led to his resignation from the board. The July meeting was changed to dinner at the Flicks for an informal gathering, including spouses.

June 22 1995 board meeting, Joe suggested two possible speakers for August, BSU Interim Dean for Social Sciences, Dr. Warren Vinz, or Dr. Michael Blair from the Sociology Department. At the July board meeting, Jim Holden took the President's position, Lynne Fuster became the new Vice President. Matthew Shapiro is soliciting sponsorships to assist printing a book on southwest Idaho demographics, as part of creating a community profile. Each sponsor will receive a copy of the book; the board voted to make a donation.



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. See the meetup page or Facebook for calendar of events.

Officers for Humanists of Idaho

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Membership	open
Newsletter	Jeanette Ross
Charitable giving	open

Records of Humanists of Idaho by J Ross

August 3 1995 opened with request for volunteers to staff an HOI booth at the Hyde Park Street Fair. The business meeting closed quickly to allow Dr. Michael Blair, who studies political and social movements, address “the current shift to right extremism.

“Just a few of the topics addressed: Many groups are moving simultaneously. Can they coalesce behind a charismatic leader such as Oliver North? Will the Republican Party be the unifier? Are we seeing neo-fascism? What is Fascism? He defined this for us as ‘right wing totalitarianism,’ and listed the defining elements to look for. Incidentally, it was noted that some of the most politically violent people are in this state, in Nampa.

“A criminal/industrial complex is arising. A wartime organization is the paradigm of right wing extremism and ultra nationalism. The religious right is undemocratic; they want cultural hegemony. Why the shift, and how far will it go? This is a reaction to significant liberal movements such as the environmental movement, the peace movement, the feminist movement, and civil rights movement, etc. We need a spirited defense of liberalism to counter the onslaught—the principles of liberty, democracy, tolerance of differences, liberal values, the founding principles of our society.” Mary Fran concludes, “Those who were absent missed a great discussion!”

September 7 1995 A brief business meeting and passing of a sign-up sheet for Hyde Park left most of the time for Dr. Warren Vinz. “Dr. Vinz addressed religion and politics from an historical perspective. Americans have been polarized on this issue since Day One. Who is right, those who accommodate or are separationists? There are conflicting precedents. Both sides can cite quotation from the forefathers that seem to take both sides of the debate. While Madison and Jefferson won the first round on separation between church and state, they lost on the issue of using public funds for chaplains for the military and for Congress.

Public schools have been more or less secular, while chaplains and prayer remain in other areas of the public domain. There is no unitary voice or guidance from the past. The courts selectively use history to give some flexibility, albeit with inconsistency.

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Inconsistent interpretation of the dividing long between public and private expression of religion is not the only problem. Dr. Vince also objects to the media report on differences. “The courts selectively use history to give some flexibility, albeit with inconsistency. The media makes the issues that divide us appear worse. They are not. Each generation faces the same issues. Yet, the constitution makes clear that no religious test shall be required to hold any office or position of public trust. Government policies must not be based on religious authority.” What we need, he declares, is a change in the environment of public discourse and debate, moderation and forbearance.

We should teach the roots of our societal divisions and learn to live with fundamental differences, confront the reality and accept pluralism as a key to American diversity, make pluralism a blessing rather than a bane.” Mary Fran concludes, “This is a summary of points addressed.”

September 21 1995 The meeting opened with appreciations expressed to all who donated tables and other supplies, and those who ‘set up and took down’ the booth.

President Holden observed that “it seems the booth was a success as an information booth but not as a fund raiser. It appears we should have charged twice as much for merchandise, more prominently displayed the items for sale, and had more Darwin bumper stickers and emblems.

RETURNING TO HOI MINUTES fall 1995

Someone offered to build display shelving while another with computer capability will design logos and print a flyer. She is working on a T-shirt design. There remains a need for a banner or poster.

Jim Holden will contact two possible speakers, Dr. Chuck Skoro on “Economics and Morality” and Dr. Larry Reynolds on “The Ethical and Economic Foundations of Health Care.” A call after the meeting confirmed Dr. Reynolds at the October meeting and Dr. Skoro on November 2nd.

October 5 1995 Opening remarks reveal that minutes of the previous meeting, the group’s preferred way to provide transparency, were printed in the newsletter. Membership was now 28.

“Matthew Shapiro mentioned that he has completed his book on Demographics of the Southwest Idaho System and is ready for his Co-evolution organization to move into culture-changing community projects.

Lynne encouraged involvement in Rational Recovery of projects to alleviate spousal abuse.” They agreed that these are overlapping possibilities.

“The night’s speaker, Dr. Larry Reynolds, was introduced and talked to us about the ethical and economic foundations of health care in the United States. He defined ‘re-allocation, ‘reciprocity’ and ‘market exchange’ systems as well as ‘ontological,’ ‘de-ontological’ and ‘consequentialist’ ethics.

“While giving an historical overview he pointed out that Adam Smith believed that sympathy for one’s fellow humans should keep us behaving ethically and that Smith’s economic theory was akin to a three legged stool, including morality, market and jurisprudence, and not just free market or laissez faire transactions.”

Adam Smith’s confidence in the beneficial consequences of competition have not proven to be justified. “The American Medical Association spent huge sums of money to label Harry Truman a Communist when he tried to reform health care years ago, and donated four million dollars to Congressional campaigns in 1991.” Given the over-size influence of the AMA at this time, there is no equivalent counter-balance.

“He stated that a growing number of economists think that main stream economic theory doesn’t work in many cases. Economics equal ‘markets’ to most people, and market theory does not fit all situations. You can measure board feet and costs of lumber operations, but what is a salmon worth?

More to the point, he asked, “What is a life worth? Should you spend two hundred thousand dollars for a kidney transplant to save one child’s life when the same amount of money at five dollars each could save more than forty thousand children in third world countries from dying from dysentery? And who gets the available kidneys?

“Dr. Reynolds stated that efforts to reform the health care system based on market theory are doomed to fail. “Market’ basis for decision-making means solving health resources allocation problems through exchanges. You can’t give everything to all people.

“The notes continue, “In answer to questions, Dr. Reynolds stated that ‘Just because you have a problem doesn’t mean there is an answer to it.’ But he did offer some policy prescriptions, including putting more resources into public health care.

“This means more than ‘medical care’ and includes clean water, clean air, updating infrastructure (replacing dangerous pipes). This also requires having community based insurance rating systems rather than different risk pools, and viewing health care as a community responsibility rather than an individual problem.

“We need more sense of community, as in the Canadian and British systems and as opposed to ‘every man for himself.’ But health care is big business.

“Dr. Reynolds believes we are going into a great transformation period but are too close to the situation to really define it. Turning human well-being into a cash-flow problem ignores the intangible, difficult-to quantify costs of neglect of public health.”

Mary Fran reminds members that the run of challenging and important issues under discussion is not over. “In keeping with our current theme of ‘Human Morality and Ethics,’ a colleague of Dr. Reynolds will be our speaker at the next meeting.”

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More Outstanding Presentations for HOI

October 27 1995 The board discussed choices ahead: “Should we take a break from speakers and assess where we are and what the membership wants? Did they enjoy the last four speakers? Do they want more internal round-table discussions? What are their opinions on ethics and morality without ties to religious absolutes? Organizational questions were also asked. Is our message attracting people? Is our message getting out?” One active member, Lynne, suggested listing meetings in the Unitarian newsletter, paying for a trial advertising in the Boise Weekly. She is working on a flyer suitable for information and recruitment

November 2 1995 Old business was settled, contacting the Halls on how to help the homeless at Thanksgiving, and gathering information on Rational Recovery. Fran will look into these.

Matthew Shapiro has four projects in mind: creating a forum for divisive issues; reducing or eliminating conflict between Judeo-Christian traditions and environmentalism; life-quality compensation options in employment, not related to money; and introducing insights from systems theory into public education.

Mary Fran will invite Rev. Elizabeth Greene to speak and will put a notice in the Unitarian bulletin regarding meetings of Humanists of Idaho.

“Dr. Chuck Skoro, from Boise State University’s Economics Department addressed the topic of economics and morality. He briefly traced certain trends in public morality in which economics has played a role, contrasting the differences between societies where people saw themselves as primarily members of a group to those who saw themselves primarily as individuals.

Various ways of looking at property and property rights were discussed.

“Economics comes out of the English enlightenment and Puritan thought. It may be seen as science but has an underlying dogma of individualism. We have trouble seeing ourselves as part of something bigger.”

Dr. Skoro observes that “the Republican political movement now in Washington D.C. is trying to link their platform to Christianity, which is a difficult leap or assumption to make, as Judeo-Christian thought has never been hyper-individualistic.” Dr. Skoro noted that economists don’t have a good handle on the growing gap between rich and poor.

November 17 1995 Another board president has suddenly resigned; at the board meeting vice President Lynne Fuster moves up. Next speaker, Elizabeth Greene can’t come until February, and considering everything else the next membership meeting was replaced with a solstice party December 10, hosted in Mayfield Idaho. Joe will put membership renewal notices in an obvious place on newsletters.

December 22 1995 shows three new members, including Vi Harms. The board agreed to “officially give our support to local organizations with compatible interests such as human rights and anti-harassment organizations, Hospice and possibly the Hemlock Society, Idaho Memorial Association, and Snake River Alliance. Activities of common interest could be listed in our monthly letters to the membership.”

January 4 1996 Old business: dues assessments will come due in October, prorated for those who would not be due yet. Speakers, they decided, were important enough to gather member donations to help cover the \$25 gratuity. Despite slow growth of the building fund it was kept intact. They discussed ways to raise visibility (letters to the editor recommended) and an event to join either the “No Newt” rally at the Basque Center or Idaho Conservation League at the Grove, same day.

What about printing a statement of purpose on the meaning of ‘Humanism’? They took the easy way, copying one they liked.

Jim Holden suggested that everyone join the Unitarians and make use of their resources, including a meeting space with parking. And what about community involvement? Volunteering with other groups? Book donations? Meals for the homeless? To be continued.

Sages Traverse to 2018

On New Year's Eve, the annual "Poetry and Piano" service was set between the themes of Hope and Intention. Let's extend the conversation with a potpourri of verse that inspires you. Bring a poem or two to share at the next meeting of the BUUF Sages. We'll meet at the Kopper Kitchen (2661 Airport Way) over a no-host breakfast at 9:30 am, Thursday, January 11. Newcomers are welcome! We'll have some books of poetry you can look at if you can't find yours. Contact Tom von Alten (tva@fortboise.org or 208 378-1217) for more information.

BUUF Humanists meet for conversation 3rd Sundays, 11:15 am, in the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship library, this month on January 21 to plan future programs and consider ways to reinforce our intentions.

BUUF Sages meet 9:30am, 2nd Thursdays, January 11 and 25, 9:30am, at the Kopper Kitchen, near the Boise airport.

HOI Records in 1996

January 19 1996 Board President Lynne has a poster for the newsletter. Mary Fran will see if Rabbi Fink will speak on Judaism and Humanism. Maybe a spring social?

February 1 1996 At business before their speaker, attendees accepted pro-rating dues, agreed to share information of like-hearted events. And use of telephone tree for reminders. Rev. Elizabeth Greene bases UUism on freedom, reason, tolerance, noting how in history and philosophy it overlaps with humanism. Miracles and folkloric additions to sacred texts were mentioned—that mysterious tri-une deity, various miracles, divinity of Jesus. One version of shared beliefs: love of the 'good,' idea that reason and conscience are the final authorities for an individual's religious belief, honoring of inspirational scripture old and new, the growing belief in the nobility of humanity. On spirituality and prayer: she uses theistic language, thinks humanism does not address the importance of emotion.

February 21 board meeting Lynne has assembled a new member packet and a home page for the internet. She passed around a draft calling card. Mary Fran had notice of the next meeting for Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. Join, she says. Marie Hoff from BSU will speak on human needs and the Environmental Crisis for March meeting.

March 7 1996 Dr. Marie Hoff listed myriad environmental problems, tracing their effects on persons and communities, including physical and mental health, poverty, unemployment, violence, war and migration, the breakdown of relationships and community. Those most at risk are children, the poor, poor nations and workers. Nearly a third of pollution comes from military activity.

Marie asked, "What changes must be made to meet human needs: changes in personal consumption; alternative transportation, alternative energy sources, reform of political economy, change to accounting methods related to the environment; developing policy supports to accomplish the above. Despite the oncoming, ongoing crises, human needs can be met without conflict. "Whereas people are often told they can have either the environment or a good economy she responds, 'you cannot cut off the branch you are sitting on. We are all fundamentally dependent on the natural world in the long run.

"Marie spoke of decline of leisure and effects of overwork in families as a form of esthetic pollution. Some ways of changing this: Olympia Washington has set goals of being a sustainable city through round tables, kitchen talks. "

She sees overpopulation as an effect, rather than a cause. "We are all on spaceship earth together and there is no exit. This beautiful globe hurtles on its mysterious cycle of spring summer fall and winter. Some passengers work like slaves, are deprived of the rich table and beautiful views. They are dumped on garbage generated by fortunate passengers who can enjoy luxury for now but will ultimately reckon with limits of a self-contained ship whose only source of replenishment is the sun. How can we imagine and contribute to development of an ecological economy, oikonomia on this earth ship?

March 22 board A Williamsburg Charter, a Golden Rule for Civic Life, was discussed. Joe will print their charter summary of principles in the next newsletter for future discussion. They considered participating in Earth Day April 21. For the next meeting they will walk around the corner to the art museum for a docent talk and tour about the work of Robert Helms.

April 4 1996 Officers proposed for May elections: Lynne for President, Lou Ray for Vice President, Mary Fran for Secretary, Joe for Treasurer. PAT Hall passed out information on efforts to stop shipment of nuclear waste on trains through Boise. Then all walked to BAM to see the work of area artist, Robert Helms.

HOI in 1996, continued

April 19 1996 Lynne asked for a calendar of events in each newsletter, both HOI and outside events of interest. Next is the May elections meeting.

May 2 1996 Those nominated were elected. Members also voted for a summer recess, with informal gatherings instead. No decision was made on the Williamsburg Charter. The judge's ruling in Rae Ann Leech's case was applauded in a Statesman letter. The Harms' passed on notice of an upcoming speech by Sam Day; Gay Pride march will be June 15 after a rally.

June 6 1996 Statesman Bill Roberts asked how humanists teach morals to their children and was invited to attend a meeting but did not show. Matthew Shapiro reported on an educational project using participatory democracy. Speakers this night were Bev Hancock from the Hemlock society and Al Bunch from Idaho Memorial Association. Bev funded Idaho's Hemlock society to allow death with dignity; the Society overall has 30 000 members, 90 chapters, plus much literature to share, including books on assisted suicide, euthanasia, physician aid-in-dying, and Final Exit, on death with dignity.

Bev described recent court cases as well on the organization's goals. "Polls show that between 70 and 80% of those interviewed believe physician assistance in dying should be an option for hopelessly ill and terminally ill patients.

She quoted a judge from Ninth Circuit Court: "Those who believe strongly that death must come without physician assistance are free to follow that creed, be they doctors or patients. They are not free, however, to force their views, their religious convictions or philosophies on all other members of a democratic society, and to compel those whose values differ from theirs to die painful, protracted and agonizing deaths." Bev stressed the need for making one's wishes known and having a living will and a durable power of attorney. She passed out a form letter which could be sent to one's physician.

Al Bunch passed out information on Idaho memorial Association, the non-profit consumer group which promotes simplicity, dignity and economy in funeral arrangements. There is a one time \$25 fee to join. IMA contracts with Accent Funeral Home of Meridian to provide basic and optional funeral services at a reasonable price in the Boise Valley area. Costs start at \$630 for a simple cremation. AMA members meet annually to vote their officers. Al suggested other advantages to membership "Preplanning is helpful, forcing one to have information needed already at hand when the time comes. Reciprocal agreements with memorial societies in other states are often available.

John and Vi Harms offered history of the group."

July 12 1996 A letter from new member Bev Hancock was read, the entry fee and registration papers settled, handouts ready. Board members will share calling list to remind members of social gatherings. The next board meeting was **August 2**. Mary Fran will provide AHA with our member list and bylaws, as requested. Materials for Hyde Park booth were arranged, including denim-look caps with Darwin fish emblem, stickers, Bertrand Russell's book, "Why I am not a Christian."

September 5 1996 finalized the Hyde Park booth, using a table borrowed from Jim Holden's union hall. Mary Fran donated sale items, Lou Ray arranged to pick up and hold things overnight. Jim agreed to invite the minister of Metropolitan Community Church, Tyrone Sweeting, to speak on the status of gays in Idaho. Joe Heitz will ask ICL leader Pat Ford to speak in November. The **September 20** board meeting settled details of Hyde Park, arranged responses to those who signed up for information at the park event.

October 3 1996 President Lynne McKibbin led discussions—who will take over the newsletter from ever-faithful Joe Voight? Pat Ford, from Idaho Conservation League spoke, with a history of the conservation movement in Idaho the past 30 or so years. "His talk and the discussion touched on many issues including clashes within the conservation and environmental communities, political components, increased awareness in younger people, opposition from farmers, ranchers, loggers, miners, real estate developers, the Sagebrush Rebellion, nuclear waste issues and the need to save salmon and steelhead.

"The conservation movement started with hunters and fishermen. While Idahoans appear far more aware and supportive now than in the sixties and seventies, more actually got accomplished then with Cecil Andrus as Governor and Frank Church in Congress. The picture in Idaho in the nineties has been bleak due to current office holders. Virtually no progress has been made and victories have been stopping bad things from occurring.

"Pat told us that breaching the four lower dams in the Columbia Snake River system would save the salmon and steelhead. Fish need rivers. Drawdowns would help enormously. Barging has proved a dismal failure. But the Army Corps of Engineers has no intention of stopping barging because then they would have to do something about their dams. Pat is optimistic about the future but thinks nothing is likely to happen without a long struggle. He passed out a handout entitled 'Extinction is not an option—wild steelhead and salmon belong in Idaho.'"

Excerpts from Wally Keltner's Strategic plan for HOI, circa 2008-9

Vision: HOI will be recognized and respected as Idaho's leading organization promoting and protecting Humanism. ***Mission:*** to educate about Humanism, encourage rational thinking, demonstrate Humanist values and fellowship, to provide support for freethinkers. ***Values:*** reason, tolerance, ethical behavior, democracy, active minds, fellowship, learning, human rights, compassion, charity, earth stewardship. ***Goals:*** present six educational programs each year; maintain a library. Inform members and the public about humanist-related news, information relevant to HOI and its values. Operate a bulletin board of events; maintain a website. Attract new members.

Demonstrate our values by charitable acts and gifts, by volunteer activities. Select a new charity, donate at least \$500. Increase membership to 44. Support two new volunteer activities.

Support a Humanist celebrant. Support regular member meetings, and at least one social event a year. Support the BUUF Humanist group and a BSU group. Work with local affiliate groups and provide information of their activities.

Humanists of Idaho
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***Please consider joining us with a membership
in Humanists of Idaho, the sponsors of this newsletter.***

*A single one year membership of \$25 or family membership of \$45
means that you are supporting the humanist cause in Idaho.*

*With assistance from activists in Idaho Society of Reason, HOI organizes
events, maintains social and other media (including the newsletter) and
educates itself on policy and law related to secular society.*

See page three for who to contact and how.

*And if you have joined, please attend our May annual meeting to help
select leaders for the next two years. HOI is a democratic nonprofit.*