

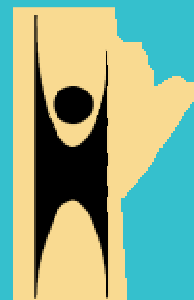
Manitoba Humanist



Join us at
the Red
River Ex!
JUNE 21st
See page
2 for
details!

Published by and for the
Humanist Association of
Manitoba

*“We are beyond
belief”*



The Ex is here. The Ex is here!

Think of us as we step out
into the unknown!

Will we be greeted as
heroes? Or will we be
pilloried, scolded and bullied?
Will we sit there for hours by
ourselves, twiddling our
thumbs? Or will it be non-
stop action, drama and fun?

We'll let you know once it
happens!

The Humanist Association of
Manitoba is sharing our space
with the Winnipeg Skeptics.
We like to call our little oasis
an “Escape to Reality”.

We're in the home stretch of
preparing for our booth at the
Red River Exhibition. Signage
has been ordered. Brochures
are being printed. And

volunteers are being
scheduled (hint, hint).

We've got a space in the Ex's
new building, called Exhibition
Place. There are many other
booths there, but we have no
idea who our neighbours will
be.

If you haven't been out to the
Ex in a while, be sure to come
on out!

There's lots to see and do at
the Ex besides the rides,
games and greasy food.

There are two stages with live
entertainment every day,
Aussie Kingdom with live
marsupial critters, Chef Scott
Landry, Extreme Dogs, a
military display from the Dept
of National Defence, and so
much more.

www.mb.humanists.ca



June brings lots to
celebrate! See page 3
for a list of this month's
celebrations!

Check out all the details at the Ex's website:
www.redriverexhibitionpark.com/the_ex.

So come on out. And to make it extra special, we're having a HAM gathering at the Ex.

All HAM members and friends are invited to join us at our booth in Exhibition Place at 7:00 P.M. on June 21st.

We'll go get corn dogs and little donuts, maybe take in a show, go on a ride or two, and just have ourselves a great time!



See you there!!!

- Donna Harris

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

At our May meeting, we learned about the John Howard Society, Manitoba Chapter, from its' executive Director, John Hutton.

Hutton's belief is that jails are for people who we're afraid of, not those who we're mad at. It's expensive to house inmates – at least \$100,000 per year for each person. It would actually be cheaper to ensure increases to programs that help inmates with a variety of issues. Since many of those who end up in jail may be lacking in education or employment, or have other problems such as mental health issues or substance addictions, this approach certainly makes sense. What Hutton is advocating is more of a preventative approach to crime rather than a punitive approach.

A preventative approach would mean that it would be worth supporting the prison programs that Corrections Services Canada already runs, as well as those offered by such organizations as the John Howard Society. Hutton cited the example of Texas, which in the last couple of years has beefed up its' drug treatment programs so there are no waiting lists. As a result, crime is going down.

Personally, I believe that is a wonderful idea. For someone with mental health issues or an addiction, sitting in a jail cell is not going to help. Only appropriate treatment will help them move beyond whatever led them to break the law.

Some of us disagreed with Hutton's approach to repeat offenders, however. He believes that one can never give up on someone – giving them 4, 5 or 6 chances. I believe it all depends on the type of offences, and that there's got to be a point at which the victim's rights take precedence over the offender's rights. They may be small in numbers, but there are some individuals who won't change their ways, and the rest of society deserves to be protected from them.

All in all, it was a fascinating and provocative presentation.

- Donna Harris

SOME QUICK FACTS FROM CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

The current offender population profile includes:

- More than one in four male offenders in custody is serving a sentence for homicide.
- Some 13 percent of men and 24 percent of women offenders in custody are identified with very serious mental health problems.
- About three out of four offenders arrive at a federal institution with a serious substance abuse problem.
- An over-representation of Aboriginal offenders – 17.3% of the institutional population, while the general Aboriginal population is 2.7 percent of the adult Canadian population.

Source: Profile of a Canadian Offender/CSC

LOTS TO CELEBRATE IN JUNE!!

June 21st kick starts the 11 days of Celebrate Canada!

This includes:

- National Aboriginal Day (June 21)
- Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (June 24)
- Canadian Multiculturalism Day (June 27), and
- Canada Day (July 1)



Not to mention, of course, the Summer Solstice, also on June 21st!



Summer solstice over Stonehenge

THE 2ND ANNUAL M*A*S*H FILM FESTIVAL IS COMING

The second annual M.A.S.H. Film Festival has been scheduled for Sunday, August 14, 2011.

This year's theme is "Morality / Ethics", and the fest will feature "The Best of the Internet".

Join other free thinkers, humanists and skeptics to watch short films featuring – or about such personalities as:

- A.C Grayling
- Al Gore
- Mr Deity (*left*)
- The Thinking Atheist
- Richard Dawkins (*below*)



- Sam Harris
- Steve Martin
- Steven Weinberg
- Mitchell and Webb
- Tim Minchin
- AND MANY MORE!

Mark your calendar! And pick up tickets early for this popular event.

NO END OF THE WORLD – WE'RE STILL HERE!

Well May 21, 2011, has come and gone and while more rational people were having a good snicker and rolling their collective eyes thousands were not.

It seems Yahweh's cosmic vacuum was on the fritz and its selective sucking of mind, body and Christian souls didn't happen. The rapture was a bust. While we all have a good laugh at the, shall we say less enlightened, the gullible, and the downright nutty, I have to ask myself, what's the cost?

What is the cost to the believers of 89-year-old Harold Camping, a civil engineer and self-taught Bible sage? A quick perusal though the world's

news outlets found this; CBS news pegs the amount at around \$1 million in advertising paid for directly and indirectly by his followers through his radio ministry.

Robert Fitzpatrick, a retired transportation agency worker in New York, said he had spent more than \$140,000 of his savings on advertisements in the run-up to 21 May to publicise the prediction. When interviewed after his comment was, "I can't understand it, just can't understand it." (BBC May 22/11).

The Haddad children have problems. Their parents believe they (the children) won't get raptured. In the last two years their parents have quit their jobs, stopped working on their house and stopped saving for college. All so they could work full time at getting the word out (Boston.com May 20/11).

The Washington Post reported that suicide prevention hotlines were set up in case believers fell into depression after the apocalypse failed to happen.

Then there is Lyn Benedetto of Palmdale County, California who cut her daughters' throats, then her own in an unsuccessful murder/suicide attempt. She believed "The Tribulation"—a worldwide period of wars, epidemics and natural disasters before Jesus returns to earth—was about to occur and she didn't want the girls to suffer through it, sheriff's officials said. (KTLA .com)



What to do with the Harold Campings of the world? Is there anything we can do? Personally, I would like to lock him up, sell off his \$117 million dollar radio empire and use the money for education and literacy programs. Yes, I realize that due process thing and the fact that the old codger probably hasn't technically done anything illegal, which may have an effect on my plan, but there is always wishful thinking. Alas, there is really only one thing we can do. Starve these charlatans of the only thing that keeps them in business, gullible believers.

This is a clear case of religious faith being detrimental to the advancement of the human species. I would never try to force the religious to live according to any particular worldview. I don't want to deny them the freedom of conscience. I don't want to ban their holy books or close down their places of worship. I would like, however, to engage them in battle, one that is long since overdue; a battle of ideas.

It's time to get our word out.

- Patrick Morrow

N.E.E.D.S. NEEDS YOU!

Have you ever considered what a culture shock it must be for someone from another part of the world to immigrate here to Winnipeg? The climate. The customs. The food. Especially if you've just escaped from a violent or chaotic part of the world. It must be a huge upheaval – especially for children.

There's an organization called N.E.E.D.S. Inc. that provides assistance for these newcomers. N.E.E.D.S. stands for Newcomers Employment & Education Development Services Inc.

N.E.E.D.S. Inc. provides accessible services and support to immigrant and refugee children and youth and their families.

Their goal is to enhance their integration into Canadian society by providing youth with employment, education and social recreation programs supported by psycho-social educators

(usually social workers).

The organization is always in need of donations and/or volunteers. In particular, their LINK Mentorship program, which matches refugee youth, ages 12 to 18, with positive mentors and refugee families with positive Canadian families to enhance their integration into Canadian society.

Their website is www.needsinc.ca, or contact N.E.E.D.S. Inc. at 940-1278 if you're interested in finding out more about their volunteer programs.

LAST LAUGH

Senior Texting Codes (STC)

Let the kids have their little codes...like, BFF, LOL, WTF, etc. Here are some codes for the Young at Heart:

ATD – At the Doctors'
BFF – Best Friend's Funeral
BTW – Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT – Bring Your Own Teeth
DWI – Driving While Incontinent
FWBB – Friend with Beta Blockers
FWIW – Forgot Where I Was
FYI – Found Your Insulin
GGPBL – Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA – Got Heartburn Again
IMHO – Is My Hearing-Aid On?
LMDO – Laughing My Dentures Out
LOL – Living on Lipitor
OMSG – Oh My! Sorry, Gas
ROFL...CGU – Rolling on the Floor Laughing, Can't Get Up!
TTYL – Talk To You Louder
WAITT – Who Am I Talking To?
WWNO – Walker Wheels Need Oil

Use them in good health!

GGLKI – Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking In!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 17th through Sunday, June 26th

Red River Exhibition
HAM and Winnipeg Skeptics' Escape to Reality!
Location: Exhibition Place
Come on out and visit us!!!!

Tuesday, June 21st

Solstice Gathering at the Red River Exhibition
Location: Our Booth at Exhibition Place
Time: 7:00 p.m. til ?
Cost: Gate admission plus snacks, rides, etc.

Sunday, August 14, 2011

M.A.S.H. Film Festival
Location: Park Theatre Café, 698 Osborne Street
Topic: "Morality/Ethics" – Short Films, The Best of the Internet

Saturday, September 10, 2011

Regular Meeting
Location: Canad Inn Polo Park
Speaker/Topic: Laura Creek Newman,
Special Event: Drawing of HAM'S "Get Real" raffle

Executive:

Jeff Olsson, President
Donna Harris, Vice President
Helen Friesen, Treasurer
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Myrna Donald
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Allison Nelson
Jake Peters
Grant Rogerson
Neil Schipper
Scott Shabaga
Sophie Shulman

Newsletter Editor:

Donna L. Harris
ham_librarian@yahoo.ca

We're on the Web!

See us at:

mb.humanists.ca



Yes, I would like to BECOME A MEMBER of the Humanist Association of Manitoba

New Member Renewal

Membership Category:

- Individual Membership \$25.00
- Individual Limited Income \$10.00
- Household Membership* \$45.00
- Household Limited Income \$15.00

* After July 1st, just pay ½ the yearly fee for the rest of the year. After October 31st, pay full fee and get the entire next year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone#: _____ Cell #: _____

Email address: _____

*Household Memberships: Please give the names of all additional Humanists in your household 18 years or over:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DONATION (Tax receipts issued for all donations of \$10 or more)

I would like to make a donation to HAM of:

- \$10 \$20 \$30 \$50 \$100
- Other: _____

PAYMENT: Cheque Money Order
 Visa Mastercard Amex

Please complete the following if paying by credit card:

Account No. _____

Expiry Date: ____/____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to:
Humanist Association of Manitoba and mail to:
*Humanist Association of Manitoba, 7 Pinehurst Lane,
Mitchell, MB, R5G 2J3.*

Or bring your form and the fees to any HAM meeting and give it to Helen Friesen, or any member of the executive.