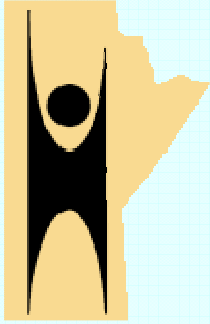


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# Manitoba Humanist



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Humanist  
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Manitoba

We're on the  
Web!

See us at:

[mb.humanists.ca](http://mb.humanists.ca)

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Editor & Librarian:  
Donna L. Harris

[ham\\_librarian@yahoo.ca](mailto:ham_librarian@yahoo.ca)

## Humanist Association of Manitoba

### Upcoming events

#### Monthly Meeting Saturday, February 14, 2009

Viscount Gort Hotel, 1670 Portage Ave. at Route 90

### Happy Birthday Charlie Darwin!

Start Time: 7:00 pm

Ending no later than 10:00 pm

(note: there is no meal being offered as part of this event)

Two Speakers = Twice the Fun!



**Barrie Webster**

*'The Descent of Man': Infrequently Discussed Ideas of the Mature Darwin*

**Heather McDonell**

*Birds, Bees, and Darwin: The evolution of reproductive strategies in animals*

PLUS...prizes, games, quizzes, cool discussions... and cake!

[Join us for our Charles Darwin Birthday Party!](#)

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#### Monthly Meeting Saturday, March 14, 2009

Guest Speaker: Azin Nasser  
Topic: the Bahai faith

#### Monthly Meeting Saturday, April 11, 2009

Guest Speaker: Dr. Prof. Arthur Schafer  
Director, The Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics,  
University of Manitoba

## HAM's Annual General Meeting

On January 10, 2009, the Humanist Association of Manitoba held its Annual General Meeting, at the Viscount Gort hotel. The meeting opened with a "Cec Muldrew moment" in honor of past members Cec Muldrew and Dennis Ousey.

Reports from various members of the executive were delivered, including Membership, Financial, Outreach, Library, Newsletter and Website. Overall, the organization had a good year. While expenses were greater this past year, the organization continues to grow in terms of memberships.

Total donations were also still a bit smaller than in the past. HAM now encourages members to make an occasional donation to cover expenses, rather than passing the hat at every meeting. Just a reminder, that members also now receive a charitable tax receipt for their donations.

The result of the election of executives is as follows:

**President:** Jeff Olsson  
**Vice President:** Neil Schipper  
**Treasurer:** Helen Friesen  
**Secretary:** Heather McDonell

### Members at Large with Specific Portfolios:

Webmaster: Grant Rogerson  
 Newsletter & Library: Donna Harris  
 Outreach: Sophie Shulman  
 Facilities: Randy Gibson

### Members at Large:

Myrna Donald  
 Katie Higham  
 Jake Peters  
 Dan Roach  
 Marlene Woligroski

Brian Latour withdrew his name this year due to time commitments.

Our past president and vice-president, Barrie Webster and Barry Hammond are remaining on the executive as Members at Large.

- Donna Harris

## Campus Group Reaches a Compromise with the U of A

The members of a student group on the campus of the University of Alberta recently reached a compromise with the university over the use of "God" in the convocation language.

The wording in the traditional speech urged graduates to use their degrees "for the glory of God and the honour of your country." The new speech now says degrees should be used "...for all who believe to serve your God".

While it doesn't do away with the mention of God altogether, it's at least more inclusive and recognizes the existence of non-believers.

We're sending a big shout out to the 150-odd members of the University of Alberta Atheists and Agnostics, to recognize their achievement, and to wish them future success.

## Canadian Humanist News

From the Humanist Association of Canada:



### ATHEIST BUS CAMPAIGN

As many of you already know, the British Humanist Association has launched an ad campaign on London city buses with the slogan: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." This campaign was launched in response to a Christian ad from June 2008 that stated that all non-Christians would be going to the fiery pits of Hell.

We feel that a parallel campaign, but with a distinctly Humanist feel, would be of immense value to our organization. For this reason, we will be launching ads across the country on buses in major cities, and in the popular subway system in Toronto, within the next few weeks. This advertising campaign is our best opportunity since last summer's landmark convention to bring attention to Humanism and to continue to fight for secularism in Canada.

We cannot emphasize enough how important your donations are for this initiative. You can help by donating any amount on our website by clicking on this link:

[www.humanistcanada.com/donations](http://www.humanistcanada.com/donations). If you donate \$500 or more, you

will receive a complimentary HAC anniversary T-shirt. If you donate \$700 or more, you will receive a complimentary lifetime membership in our organization. All donations over \$20 will receive tax receipts.

An additional way to help is by suggesting a slogan for our campaign. Entries can be submitted on our website on the donation page. All entries will be reviewed. If your slogan is selected, then you will win a complimentary one-year Household Membership.

**ED. NOTE: We here at HAM are excited about all the recent media coverage regarding the atheist bus campaign, and we'll explore what options we have to bring it to Winnipeg. Stay tuned...**

### NEW NAME

In response to the overwhelming feedback received (over 75%) in favour of a name change, we have begun the process of changing our name to: Humanist Canada. Our official name for tax purposes will remain Humanist Association of Canada, but we will be "doing business as" Humanist Canada. We have already seen a boost in public awareness for our organization through internet search engines with our website url:

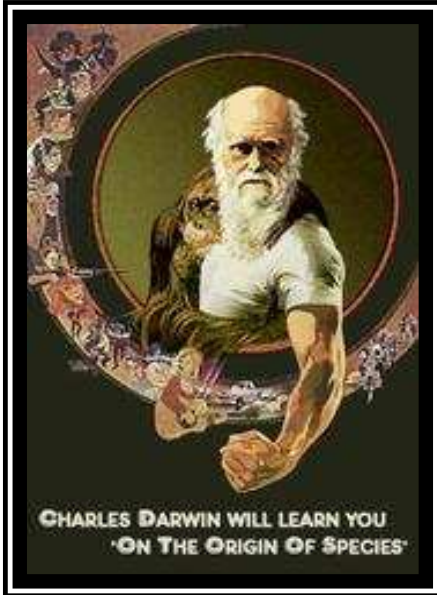
[www.humanistcanada.com](http://www.humanistcanada.com) that is now also displayed on all literature and materials.

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*"Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Give him a religion, and he'll starve to death while praying for a fish."*

- Timothy Jones

## Local Darwin Day Events



### University of Manitoba

The Department of Biological Sciences is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, and the bicentennial of Darwin's birthday with two public lectures:

Both events take place at:  
Robert B. Schultz Lecture Theatre  
Room 172, St. John's College,  
92 Dysart Road

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

**Dr. Barry Glickman**, University of Victoria: *Darwin Backwards While Looking Forwards*

Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm

**Dr. Brian Hall**, Dalhousie University: *Fish that Climb Waterfalls and Other Facts that Charles Darwin Would Have Loved*

### University of Winnipeg

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 pm  
University of Winnipeg  
Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall

**Dr. James Hanley**, Department of History, University of Winnipeg, on "Darwin's Context: The History of Life before the Origin of Species"

Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm  
University of Winnipeg  
Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall

**Dr. Scott Forbes**, Department of Biology, University of Winnipeg, whose research focuses on the evolution of families.

March 11<sup>th</sup> evening  
University of Winnipeg

Speakers are evolutionary psychologists Martin Daly and Margo Wilson. They will address the significance of Darwin in evolutionary thought and experimentation. For more details, please check the University of Winnipeg website.

## Getting to Know... Jeff Olsson

This is the first in a continuing series that will focus on the members of HAM's executive. Jeff Olsson just recently became president of HAM.




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*"My young son asked me what happens after we die. I told him we get buried under a bunch of dirt and worms eat our bodies. I guess I should have told him the truth - that most of us go to Hell and burn eternally - but I didn't want to upset him."*

-- Jack Handy  
(Saturday Night Live – aka Phil Hartman)

**What is your favourite color?** *I actually don't have a favourite colour, but if pressed on the issue I would have to say blue. Oddly, I don't own anything blue except my jeans and a suit jacket that I hardly ever wear.*

**If you had one word to describe yourself, what would you choose?** *"Skippy"*

**What is your middle name?** *David*

**Do you have a hero? If so, who and why.** *Carl Sagan is my hero because he took the time to write the books that ultimately helped me to make the leap to a rational world view. He took a very complicated subject (scientific rationalism) and explained it to me "slowly" and with a pile of good examples.*

**Do you have a favourite meal or dessert?** *The vegetarian stir fry that Leslie (his wife) makes for us.*

**Were you named after someone?** *I am named after the boyfriend of the nurse who assisted the doctor during my birth. My Mom and Dad had not taken the time to think of a name for me before the event actually unfolded. I am the only one in my family that does not*

*have a Swedish name. As a result my mother cannot pronounce my name correctly to this day. She is 71 years old.*

**Who is your favourite author and/or book?** *Carl Sagan, The Demon Haunted World – Science as a candle in the dark.*

**Pets. Do you have any? If so, what kind?** *2 cats, spunky and sammy*

**If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would it be?** *I would go to Sweden, walk into the woods and find the rune stones on which are carved stories about my ancestors.*

**What is one thing that really irritates you?** *Can't think of anything right now.*

**Are you a morning person or a night owl?** *I am a morning person, apparently I am the only one in my family, so I have to be quiet about it.*

**What's the last thing you bought yourself, just for fun.** *A new Laptop computer.*

**Do you like to dress up for Halloween?** *Not particularly, but I do it anyhow.*

**If so, what was your most memorable costume?** *I was a 120volt electric plug, Leslie was the socket... "Grrrowl"*

Richard Dawkins in Minneapolis

The Purpose of Purpose: A Lecture by Richard Dawkins

Wednesday, March 04, 2009 7:00pm - 9:30pm

Sponsored by CASH http://cashumn.org/index.php (Campus Atheists, Skeptics & Humanists)

Location: Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota University of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN

Executive: Jeff Olsson Neil Schipper Helen Friesen Heather McDonell

Members at Large: Myrna Donald Randy Gibson Barry Hammond Donna Harris Katie Higham Jake Peters Dan Roach Grant Rogerson Neil Schipper Sophie Shulman Marlene Wallace Barrie Webster

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

checkbox New Member checkbox Renewal

Membership Category: checkbox Individual Membership \$25.00 checkbox Individual Limited Income \$10.00 checkbox Household Membership\* \$45.00 checkbox Household Limited Income \$15.00

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. 4.

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

I would like to make a donation to HAM of: checkbox \$10 checkbox \$20 checkbox \$30 checkbox \$50 checkbox \$100 checkbox Other:

PAYMENT: checkbox Cheque checkbox Money Order checkbox Visa checkbox Mastercard checkbox 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.