

# SECULAR COLORADO

Hub | HOC | BA | FFRF | SA | SVC | AU | SAC

## Political Season



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## Humanists of Colorado

Complain all we want about how the presidential campaign has already been running for over a year, and has seven months to go yet. It doesn't matter. It's all anyone can talk about. It's all anyone will talk about until early November. It seems like all anyone will talk about for the rest of our lives.

Well, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, someone once said. The Humanists of Colorado will do just that on Sunday, April 10th, by devoting their monthly meeting to a showing of a presidential-campaign-based film, HBO's "Game Change". (film at 7:00 at the Hub; potluck dinner at 6:00 PM.)

From the Wikipedia entry:

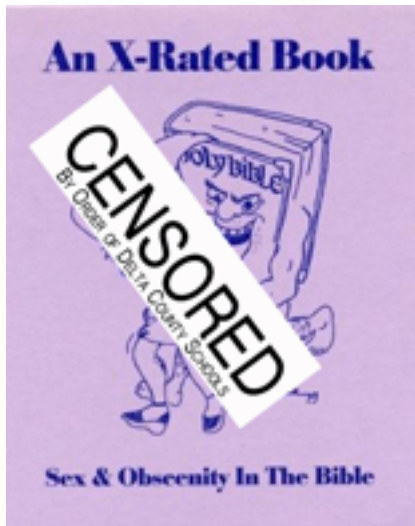
"Game Change is a 2012 American HBO political drama film based on events of the 2008 United States presidential election campaign, directed by Jay Roach and written by Danny Strong, based on the 2010 book of the same name documenting the campaign by political journalists Mark Halperin and John Heilemann. The film stars Julianne Moore, Woody Harrelson, and Ed Harris, and focuses on the chapters about the selection and performance of Governor of Alaska Sarah Palin (Moore) as running mate to Senator John McCain (Harris) in the Republican presidential campaign.

The film was well received by critics, with Moore's portrayal of Palin garnering praise, though Palin and McCain criticized it and refused to see it. Alessandra Stanley of the New York Times described Moore's depiction of Palin as "a sharp-edged but not unsympathetic portrait of a flawed heroine, colored more in pity than in admiration." Game Change has earned many awards, including a Critics' Choice Award, a Golden Nymph Award, three Golden Globe Awards, and four Primetime Emmy Awards."

Can't wait for the film about the 2016 political season!

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## Colorado school district censors FFRF pamphlets

On Friday, April 1, Delta County School District employees are scheduled to place Freedom From Religion Foundation literature, along with material from the Western Colorado Atheists and Freethinkers and The Satanic Temple, in schools for students to take. The School District has complained about two FFRF pamphlets: "An X-Rated Book: Sex and Obscenity in the Bible" and "What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?" Both of them are being limited to just the local high schools.

The School District objects to the cartoon cover of "An X-Rated Book," which shows a bible groping a young woman.

"It is inappropriate in a school setting; we would not allow any of the high school students to wear or otherwise display such a cartoon," says School District Attorney Andrew Clay. "Why would we allow them to carry it in the building? It may also qualify as hate literature, demeaning women."

Delta County School District officials are misconstruing the cover.

"The School District misses the point entirely," says FFRF Co-President Annie Laurie Gaylor. "The cover image is a feminist cartoon whose message is that the bible itself demeans women."

FFRF Staff Attorney Andrew Seidel also dismisses the School District's argument.

"The idea that that the pamphlet qualifies as hate literature is absurd, and if you're banning it on those grounds, then the district must ban the bible too," he says. "If you actually examine the pamphlet, you will see that it is comprised almost entirely of bible quotes. There is absolutely no way for the district to exclude the pamphlet and allow the bible to be distributed."

This gets to the larger point of why FFRF is insisting that it be allowed to dispense its literature. In spite of repeated FFRF requests, the Delta County School District has refused to stop the Gideons from passively distributing bibles in the local public schools. Since the School District has told FFRF that it will keep on giving the Gideons access, FFRF is making sure other perspectives get heard, too.

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### What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?



## Colorado school district censors FFRF pamphlets

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"The school has no ability to censor any materials based on their viewpoint once it opens a forum," says Seidel. "That is why open forums in public schools are such a bad idea. If you want to open a forum, you do not get to determine what is acceptable and not."

As a compromise, FFRF has put stickers over the cover of "An X-Rated Book," stating "censored by order of Delta County Schools." The organization is of the view that the attempt at censorship will likely backfire, since students are more likely to take "forbidden fruit."

The School District has also limited the distribution of "What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?" to local high schools, since it deems the cover to be a "pornographic picture."

"Albrecht Dürer's famous depiction of Adam and Eve in Paradise can be called many things, but it is not pornography," Seidel responds. "Dürer completed this engraving in 1504, and it is one of the most technically precise woodcuttings in all of art history. It has been displayed in the world's foremost museums and is a staple of most art history classes. The idea that this picture is somehow pornographic is, to be frank, absurd."

The other brochures and booklets such as "Why Women Need Freedom From Religion" and "Top 10 Public School State-Church Violations and How to Stop Them" are also being distributed to local middle schools.

In all their objections, Delta County School District officials are missing the forest for the trees.

"We do not think schools should be a battleground for religious ideas," Seidel wrote in a March 3 letter to the district. "But when schools allow the Gideons to prey on children, their message of eternal damnation for any who don't believe in their God must be countered."

The Delta County School District has brought this divisive controversy upon itself.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is a nontheistic organization with more than 23,000 members nationwide, including almost 700 in Colorado.

# GUEST OPINION

## Solitary Confinement

by Kathleen Hynes, Ph.D., Volunteer Speaker, ACLU of Colorado

Carol Bellamy, former Executive Director UNICEF, said, "When the lives and the rights of children are at stake, there must be no silent witnesses." Most of us agree kids need adults to be their voice when they cannot speak for themselves, and this is especially true of kids who are in Colorado's Division of Youth Corrections (CDYC). No more research needs to be undertaken to show the often times irreversible effects of solitary confinement, especially on juveniles.

The U.S.'s long standing policy and practice of placing juveniles in solitary confinement in jails and prisons is well documented; as is its condemnation by Human Rights Watch, the UN and many other organizations. Solitary confinement of children began over 100 years ago in the U.S. and picked up steam nationally in the late '80's and in Colorado in the '90s after our "summer of violence."

Extensive research confirms solitary confinement of children, whose brains are still developing, while not unusual, is cruel. Solitary wreaks profound neurological and psychological damage including: depression, hallucinations, panic attacks, cognitive deficits, obsessive thinking, paranoia, anxiety, and anger. Kids held in isolation have limited human contact, are often denied meaningful mental health care, medical care, education, contact with family, even reading material in a cell slightly larger than a king size bed.

Recent investigations by newspapers and advocacy groups documented kids in CDYC have been held in seclusion for days, weeks and even months at a time. While policy reforms are slowly taking hold to eliminate the use of confinement on kids, those reforms require proper funding and staffing to implement.

Advocacy groups, such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado (ACLU), the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC), and the Legal Center for People with Disabilities (The Legal Center), have all urged the Joint Budget Committee to fully fund the Division of Youth Corrections, so the Division comes in compliance with staffing standards required by Federal law. Staffing levels are critical because the investigations found often times isolation is used as a way "to manage" DYCs under-staffed facilities.

If you don't want to be a silent witness, send an email today to our joint budget committee. Tell them to stop solitary confinement of kids in Colorado by fully staffing up CDYC facilities.

Representative Millie Hamner, Chairperson [millie.hamner.house@state.co.us](mailto:millie.hamner.house@state.co.us)

Senator Kent Lambert, [senatorlambert@comcast.net](mailto:senatorlambert@comcast.net)

Senator Kevin Grantham [kevin.grantham.senate@state.co.us](mailto:kevin.grantham.senate@state.co.us)

Representative Bob Rankin [bob.rankin.house@state.co.us](mailto:bob.rankin.house@state.co.us)

Senator Pat Steadman [pat.steadman.senate@state.co.us](mailto:pat.steadman.senate@state.co.us)

Representative Dave Young [dave.young.house@state.co.us](mailto:dave.young.house@state.co.us)

# BOULDER ATHEISTS

On Sunday April 3rd Boulder Atheists held their Monthly Membership meeting at the Boulder Public Library. This was technically the March meeting which was postponed from the week before due to the conflict with Easter Sunday. The primary purpose of the meeting was the selection of new Board Members for the upcoming year. Since two of the current members, James Barron and Laura Silk have chosen to resign, it was necessary to acquire two new members. The members who are staying on for another year are Russ Holsclaw, Virgil Anderson and Marion Morgan, while the two new members who have volunteered to join are Timothy Ene and Roger Vossler. A president, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be chosen from among these Board Members at the first Board Meeting which will be held next week.



The rest of the meeting was spent watching a portion of the YouTube video entitled "We're doing it wrong, Street Epistemology" by Anthony Magnabosco followed by a group discussion on the subject. The video can be seen at the following link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp71\\_FRnlho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp71_FRnlho). In this video Anthony Magnabosco advocates for a much less aggressive approach to talking with believers. This technic centers around asking the believer simple questions as to why they believe in what they do in such a manner that stimulates them to question those beliefs themselves. Several examples were shown of Anthony using his old

method of confrontation with a street preacher and the failure of that technic compared to the use of epistemology in which those who he engaged in conversation did seem to acknowledge that their beliefs may be flawed. During the discussion it was generally agreed that while this approach may not be appropriate with every believer the tactics of confrontation seldom changes the mind of a theist and may even strengthen their resolve to believe. The video and discussion was intended to present an alternate approach to talking with believers by our members who will be volunteering to staff the Boulder Atheists booth at the upcoming Boulder Creek festival over the Memorial Day week end.



# SECULAR COLORADO

## Events

### Details in [Online Calendar](#)

#### *Tuesday, April 4*

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:00 PM (Hub) Open Board Meeting

7:00 PM (BA) Monthly Evening Social at Murphy's in Boulder

#### *Thursday, April 7*

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "Fight Club" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

#### *Saturday, April 9*

9:00 AM (DA, Hub) Another Lovely Early Season Hike, at Deer Creek Canyon Park

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

#### *Sunday, April 10*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

1:00 PM (Hub) Party Games at the Hub

#### *Monday, March 14*

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

## More Events

### Details in [Online Calendar](#)

#### *Tuesday, April 12*

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

5:30 PM (Hub) Newbie Night

#### *Wednesday, April 13*

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation Meetup

#### *Thursday, April 14*

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

#### *Saturday, April 16*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

#### *Sunday, April 17*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

12:00 PM (SA) Sunday Assembly, location TBD

2:00 PM (DA) Book Club

#### *Monday, April 18*

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

# SECULAR COLORADO

## Yet More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

### *Tuesday, April 19*

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

### *Thursday, April 21*

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "TBD" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

### *Friday, April 22*

7:00 PM (BA) Dinner in Lafayette

7:00 PM (Hub) Talk: The Importance of Water in Civilization

### *Saturday, April 23*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

### *Sunday, April 24*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

2:15 PM (BA) Lunch at the Med on Walnut

### *Monday, April 25*

5:30 PM (Hub) Social Hour Southeast, at Darcy's Bistro and Pub

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

## Yet More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

### *Tuesday, April 26*

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

### *Wednesday, April 27*

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation Meetup

### *Thursday, April 28*

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: TBD at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

### *Saturday, April 30*

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

### *Sunday, May 1*

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community, Pancake Breakfast Edition

### *Monday, May 2*

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

### *Tuesday, May 3*

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:00 (Hub) Open Board Meeting

7:00 PM (BA) Monthly Evening Social

# SECULAR CONTACTS

This permanent page will contain contact information for all groups included in this newsletter. It is a work in progress as of this issue, however!

## *Secular Hub*

**Website:** <http://www.secularhub.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/SecularHub/>

## *Humanists of Colorado*

**Website:** <http://humanistsofcolorado.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/humanism-160>

## *Boulder Atheists*

**Website:** <http://www.boulderatheists.org>

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Boulder-Atheists/>

## *Freedom From Religion Foundation*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/FFRF-Denver/>

## *Sunday Assembly*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Denver/>

## *Secular Volunteer Corps*

(Organized by the Secular Hub)

## *Americans United*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/Americans-United-for-Separation-of-Church-State-Colorado/>

## *Secular Adventure Crew*

**Meetup:** <http://www.meetup.com/SecularAdventureCrew/>