

SECULAR COLORADO

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

Summer in Full Swing

Note the following great events!

Sunday, July 24

4:00 PM, the July Chapter Picnic of the Jefferson Humanists

Saturday, August 20

6:30 PM (Hub) Aron Ra: How Sensationalism Spoils Science

Friday, August 26

6:30 PM (Hub) Roy Zimmerman, The Machine (Music/Comedy)

Saturday, August 27

4:00 PM (JH) Roy Speckhardt reception in Golden

Sunday, August 28

5:00 PM (JH) Roy Speckhardt, at the Jefferson Unitarian, Golden

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Jefferson Humanists Join the Newsletter

The Jefferson Humanists are the newest chapter of the American Humanist Association to form in Colorado, having been founded in early 2014.

The group has tons of energy, a strong board, a fast-growing dues-paying membership, monthly meetings, and a great lineup of activities, including a summer picnic (on July 24) and an upcoming visit by the President of the American Humanist Association, Roy Speckhardt.

From the Jefferson Humanists' website, at:

<http://jeffersonhumanists.org>:

Our Mission is:

To advance a growing Humanist Community, ethical and life-affirming, devoted to the principles of science, reason, responsibility, inclusion and community service.

Membership in the Jefferson Humanists is open to anyone, focusing on but not limited to Jefferson County, Colorado. We meet the 4th Sunday of every month with a program on a topic of interest to humanists, followed by a social hour, and a buffet supper for a small donation.

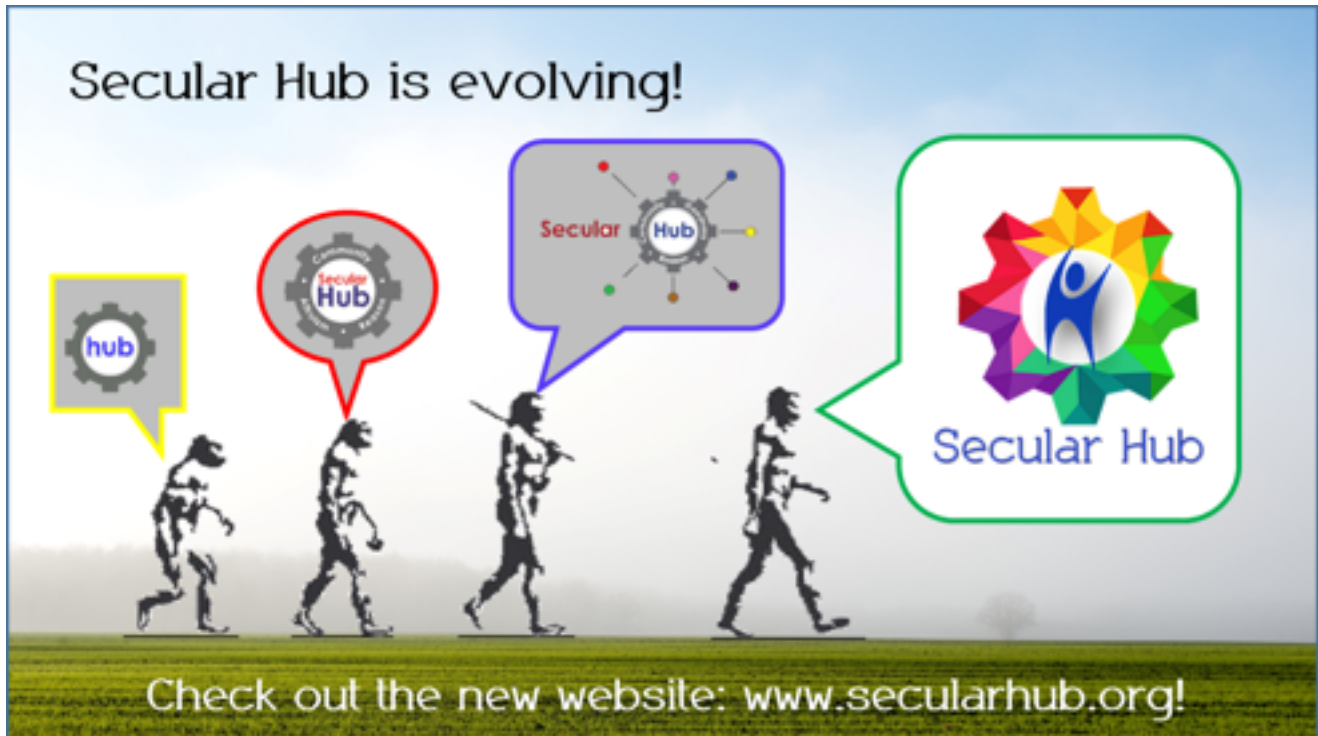
For more information about our history, joining Jefferson Humanists, our monthly programs, and additional resources about Humanism, you can:

See our expanded FAQ

Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/jeffcobu/manists/>

Join our Meet-up site at www.meetup.com/JeffcoHumanists

SECULAR HUB



New Website and Logo for the Secular Hub

After many attempts to organize a thoroughgoing overhaul of the Secular Hub website, the Hub finally found someone who could git 'er done. Thanks Terry, it looks terrific!

Notice that the logo has also undergone an upgrade. Keeping to the original gear/hub theme, it adds a cleverly intricate set of bold colors, as well as a curving version of the Happy Humanist symbol. We like it!

Secular Volunteer Corps To Reboot

One of the best offshoots of the Secular Hub is the Secular Volunteer Corps (SVC), which started as a Hub committee, then became a semi-independent entity, organizing diverse and satisfying volunteer opportunities for members of all the secular groups in the metro area, and anyone who wishes to join in.

The SVC has seen little activity this year, but on Sunday, August 7th, an organizational meeting will be held, and that should get it going again. Proceeds from the pancake breakfast that day will be used for the benefit of the SVC, and the meeting will be held afterwards, at 11:30.

If you are reading this newsletter, you probably don't volunteer through a church. Where to turn? The SVC is intended to play that role in your life. Come check us out August 7.

SECULAR HUB

Speakers at the Hub

The new leadership of the Secular Hub is busy lining up events featuring nationally-known personalities. Check out these two for openers, musician/comedian Roy Zimmerman and prominent atheist Aron Ra (featured at both a dinner and a talk)

All tickets for events can be purchased at secularhub.org/shop.



Aron Ra
August 20th, 2016 At Secular Hub
7:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)
Tickets \$20 non-members. \$10 members
(Tickets Available at secularhub.org/shop)

Have Dinner with AronRa! August 19, 2016
7pm-9pm- Wynkoop Brewing Co. \$60 a plate
(Fundraiser tickets available through secularhub.org/shop)

"IGNORANCE
is not just what you don't know.
It's also what you won't know"
AronRa





Speakers at the Hub

this machine

Secular Hub
3100 Downing St - Denver
Friday, August 26
@ 8 pm
\$18 or pay what you can

roy Zimmerman



Without a doubt, Roy Zimmerman is among the most honest political commentators of the last few decades.

BOULDER ATHEISTS

Boulder Atheists held their annual Summer Solstice Pot Luck Picnic on Sunday June 19th at Martin Park in Boulder. About 20 members participated, with a wide variety of menu items including freshly barbequed Bison burgers and a great selection of desert items.

A ping pong table was set up for the first time this year and became a popular pastime for both the members in attendance and a few people who were just passing by who obviously were not concerned that this was a gathering of atheists, as we had our "Boulder Atheists" banner prominently displayed overhead. As usual the conversation topics were very diverse ranging from religion to politics and social injustice.

The party lasted until closing time at 9:00 PM at which time everyone was extremely helpful at cleaning up the area we had reserved for the party. A big "Thank You" to all those who attended and made another Solstice Party such a great success.



Boulder Atheist also held an "Alter of the Brewpub and Distillery" at the Avery Brewing Company in Boulder on Tuesday, June 29th. This social gathering was hosted by Tom Kellogg, a former president of Boulder Atheists. The fun started at 6:00 PM on the outdoor patio where we all gathered around a single table under a beautiful Colorado summer sky and shared conversation and drinks with our fellow heathens.

More activities are being planned for the future so keep an eye on Meetup.com for announcements of these events

GUEST OPINION

The Secular Colorado newsletter welcomes Guest Opinion pieces from our readers. Write to:

info@humanistsofcolorado.org

Written on Sunday, July 17, 2016, after hearing of the killing of three police officers in Baton Rouge.

By Becky Greben

Wake up, white America. Another 3 policemen are dead.

As a white, 62-year old female, in my lifetime—2 or 3 generations - - I have seen:

- Jim Crow laws in effect in parts of the south
- The fact that, in 1961, it would have been illegal in about half the states for the mother and father of our current President to marry
- The rise of the Civil Rights movement and the assassination of its primary leader
- The abuse and/or murder of some of those that supported that movement, with the often known perpetrators failing to be brought to justice
- Hysteria in the white Chicago neighborhood in which I grew up, when black children were bussed into one of our local schools. People actually thought that 5th and 6th-graders would be bringing venereal diseases into our midst
- The challenge to black Americans - rhetoric from the 60s and 70s -- to "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps," but then when one succeeds, often the white response was, "Wait a minute. What are you doing up here next to me?"
- Some of my white acquaintances referring to our President using the "N" word
- A hilarious Eddie Murphy vignette on Saturday Night Live where , with make-up and a wig, he went out into the world as a white person, bewildered at the benefits bestowed upon him because of his new color. Of course it was exaggerated for comic effect, but it doesn't seem so funny anymore.
- Former first lady Roslyn Carter, who in an interview in the 1980s observed that President Ronald Reagan "allows us to be comfortable with our prejudices." And now the current political climate again allows us to be comfortable with our prejudices
- And now, the cluelessness of a current presidential candidate whose understanding of this nation's racial history is likely informed only from his own privileged landscape.

– Continued –

GUEST OPINION -continued-

By Becky Greben

I have also seen great strides made in what is loosely termed "race relations," but we're far from done. I can't imagine what it must be like to be a black person, especially a black male, trying to navigate his way through much of urban America. It's time white America recognizes this, admits it, and realizes the privilege we have had for so many generations. So-called white backlash of the type now evident is merely a fear of losing that privilege; a privilege that has not been earned nor necessarily deserved, but is simply a happenstance of history.

To be fair, I also can't imagine what it must be like to be a law enforcement officer, especially one in a troubled urban area. However, the cop is a community representative of our government, of our justice system. He/she is not judge, jury and executioner. It is likely true that police officers are underpaid, undervalued, and overworked. (So are school teachers, by the way, which kind of says something about our societal priorities.) A police officer's job comes with the understanding that his/her life may be endangered, but it also comes with a certain inherent authority, and so the performance of the job should be held to a higher standard. The challenges are surely enormous at times, but what we have seen recently is a lack of accountability when that authority has been used with lethal results. It's a law enforcement culture that needs to be changed.

When I was in my 20s I was standing in a long line at a bank, where a composed young black teller was trying to keep up with the demand. A man standing in front of me made some kind of ridiculous racist comment about the teller working so hard, like he was back in the cotton fields. A black woman standing behind me heard this and verbally ripped him - appropriately and with no profanity - up one side and down the other. To this day I have regretted that it was not ME who was doing the ripping. I wasn't taking responsibility.

And more recently, a black male friend and I were invited to an event in rural Nebraska. I offered to drive the 4 hours mostly for logistical reasons; I enjoy driving and had a more comfortable and reliable car. However, the thought actually crossed my mind that my friend, if he drove, would get pulled over on a DWB - driving while black. And as recent events have shown, this isn't an idle thought. What does it mean, what does it say about our system of law enforcement that I would actually consider this?

In a recent Thinking Atheist podcast, Mr. Alix Jules, head of a black non-believers group in Dallas/Ft. Worth, observed that when one has been in a position of privilege, then a demand for parity or equality feels like oppression. [Seth Andrews noted that this is worthy of a t-shirt.] This is applicable in most circumstances where a group that has traditionally held power or been the dominant influence, such as white people, males, or Christians in this country, finds that power and influence threatened. The response is defensiveness or claims of reverse discrimination and victimhood.

The disproportionate number of deaths of black citizens at the hands of law enforcement, and now the horrific responses in Dallas and Baton Rouge have complex dynamics, but they also represent the costs of white privilege. We cannot move on until the troubling history of our privilege is openly discussed and acknowledged, and we start to take responsibility.

In 1967, The Beatles said "All You Need is Love." When a reporter subsequently asked 1960s student activist Abbie Hoffman if this is the solution, he said *No, all you need is justice*. This has stuck in my head for decades because it still rings true.

JEFFERSON HUMANISTS

Meet Roy Speckhardt

Executive Director, American Humanist Association

At two events, August 27 and 28

Sponsored by Jefferson Humanists

Roy Speckhardt

is the Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, and a really great guy. Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of the most influential people in the Humanist world and Secular movement.

Speckhardt has served as Executive Director of the American Humanist Association since 2005. He is a frequent media commentator, having appeared on Good Morning America, CNN, Fox News, and NPR, among others. He also writes a regular column for The Huffington Post, and has given speeches at colleges, conferences, and local Humanist groups across the country.

He also serves on the boards of the Institute for Humanist Studies, the United Coalition of Reason, The Humanist Institute, and the Secular Coalition for America Education Fund. He served as deputy director of The Interfaith Alliance from 1995 to 2001. He is the author of *Creating Change through Humanism*, a book that lays out how and why people can lead moral and ethical lives without belief in a higher power.

Reception

Saturday, August 27, 4 pm – 6 pm

Tanglewood Park

13950 W 20th Ave., in Golden

Directions: From I70 west, take exit 263, go North on Colorado Mills Pkwy for about one block, then turn east on Denver West Pkwy. In a few blocks, you'll see the park details on your left

Appetizers and beverages will be served.

Please RSVP to barbaile@aol.com, to help us assure that we have enough food.

Sunday Meeting

Sunday, August 28

5 pm – 8 pm

Jefferson Unitarian Church

Mr. Speckhardt's program will be about growth of the humanists and secular movements in the United States and how humanism can bring about positive changes to our culture.

Dinner will be served following Roy's presentation.

Please RSVP to barbaile@aol.com, to help us assure that we have enough food.

SECULAR COLORADO

Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Sunday, July 24

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

12:15 PM (BA) Monthly Membership Meeting

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

4:00 PM (JH) July Chapter Picnic at the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden

Monday, July 25

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

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, July 26

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

Wednesday, July 27

6:00 PM (BA) Alter of the Brewpub and Distillery, at Saints Brewing Company in Boulder

Thursday, July 28

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social 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: "The Bourne Identity" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Saturday, July 30

9:00 AM (Hub, DA) Summer Hike at Beaver Brook Trail

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Sunday, July 31

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

Monday, August 1

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, August 2

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

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

7:00 PM (Hub) Secular Alphabet Soup, at the Hub

Wednesday, August 3

7:00 PM (Hub) Biweekly Meditation

Thursday, August 4

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social 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: "Death To Smoochy" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

SECULAR COLORADO

Yet More Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Saturday, August 6

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

11:00 AM (Multiple groups) Colorado Secular Picnic Solstice Picnic at Black Forest Regional Park in Colorado Springs, hosted by the Freethinkers of Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak Atheists.

Sunday, August 7

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community, benefits to the Secular Volunteer Corps

11:30 AM (Hub) SVC Meeting: Volunteerism, Charity, and Advocacy

Monday, August 8

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, August 9

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

5:30 PM (Hub) Newbie Night

Thursday, August 10

12:30 PM (BA) Weekly Lunch Social 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

Yet More Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Friday, August 12

7:30 PM (Hub) Hub Jam!

Saturday, August 13

9:30 AM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Sunday, August 14

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

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

Monday, August 15

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Don't Miss:

Saturday, August 20

6:30 PM (Hub) Aron Ra: How Sensationalism Spoils Science

Friday, August 26

6:30 PM (Hub) Roy Zimmerman, The Machine (Music/Comedy)

Saturday, August 27

4:00 PM (JH) Roy Speckhardt reception at Tanglewood Park in Golden

Sunday, August 28

5:00 PM (JH) Roy Speckhardt, at the Jefferson Unitarian, Golden

SECULAR CONTACTS

This page contains contact information for the groups collaborating on this newsletter.

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/>

Jefferson Humanists

Website: <http://jeffersonhumanists.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/jeffcohumanists>

Newsletter Inquiries:

Send articles for consideration, letters to the editor, or inquiries to:

info@humanistsofcolorado.org