



Annual Report

2011

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The mission of the American Humanist Association (AHA) is to advance humanism. Advocating for equality for nontheists and a society guided by reason, empathy, and our growing knowledge of the world, the AHA promotes a worldview that encourages individuals to live informed and meaningful lives that aspire to the greater good.

Humanism by the Numbers

663,500 

Likes on Facebook

73,500 

Twitter followers

30,600 

Instagram followers

\$30.58M 

Earned media value

47,000 

Email subscribers

90+ 

Seminars, lectures, and events hosted

242 

AHA Chapters and Affiliates

The AHA was featured in major media outlets in 2021 including: *The Washington Post*, *Vox*, *Fox News*, *USA Today*, *Forbes*, *Religion News Service*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and more.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE
HUMANIST
VALUES

President's Message

Most of us started out 2021 hoping for a new beginning, for our families from the end of the pandemic, for our republic after the 2020 election, and for the AHA which was starting a search for a new leader.

Our nationwide search ended in great success when our new Executive Director, Nadya Dutchin, joined us in December. With impressive experience in nonprofit leadership and being a humanist dedicated to a more just and equitable world, she will be an asset to the humanist community. Her experience working with young people and BIPOC communities on the overwhelmingly important issue of our time, the climate crisis, will be of great value in executing on two of the strategic goals of the AHA: to accelerate participation by young humanists and to expand humanist involvement in social justice.

While we were in a leadership transition, our excellent staff team continued to work tirelessly under the interim leadership of Deputy Director Nicole Carr. We had another very successful virtual conference, and our Education Center hosted more than ninety virtual events on topics of concern to humanists, ranging widely from climate equity to children's mental health during the pandemic. During the largest grassroots lobby day in our history, humanists nationwide met with more than fifty congressional offices to advocate for the Do No Harm Act, intended to ensure that no one can use their religious beliefs to side-step long-established civil rights protections. Our legal efforts continued strongly, with our Legal Center filing a lawsuit on behalf of a

student and her parents against an Oklahoma school system that hosted a "missionaries" assembly every month for decades for students as young as prekindergarten, during which students were coerced into participating in talks about Jesus and were given copies of the New Testament. A clear violation of the Establishment Clause.

While the hopes for a great new beginning at the AHA came to fruition, the hopes we had across the planet for moving beyond the pandemic in 2021, did not. I wish you and your family the very best as we all work our way through some very challenging times for our physical and mental health.

Hopes of a new beginning for our republic also did not pan out. As a community that takes seriously our tagline about being good, the continued degradation of ethical behavior in our public life is of deep concern. A society in which a large fraction of politicians and other public officials consider it the norm to continuously lie about something as fundamental as the results of a presidential election, is a society with a very worrisome future. Organizations such as ours which represent a minority viewpoint need the highest standards of democracy and the rule of law to be maintained in our republic if we are to have any hope of a level playing field on which we can pursue our mission.

As the truth continues to be a casualty, we will be called on to make choices again in the 2022 elections. Registering and voting is the least we can all do to preserve our

democracy, but you could go further by impressing on all around you, especially young people, the critical importance of the nation's choices this year. Even as many leaders of the godly work in favor of voter suppression, doing whatever you can to make sure that every eligible voter who wants to vote is able to vote, would be a great way of being good and showing that you would rather be good than godly any day.

—Sunil Panikkath





Message from the New Executive Director

I joined the AHA in December of 2021 which means that the one month I completed didn't materially contribute to the overall accomplishments made by our staff and volunteers. However, the audacious goals laid out in the Strategic Plan and impact of the AHA's work are what prompted me to apply for, and ultimately accept, the opportunity to become its Executive Director. Over the course of pandemic throughout 2020 and 2021, I noticed a disturbing trend: the extractive practice of hiring Black women to diversify movements and solve internal diversity, equity, and inclusion issues with little to no support from Board members, funders, and other stakeholders. I was relieved to learn that this was not the case here at the AHA and was probably the largest contributing factor to my accepting this job. Because I value my health and sanity, I didn't want to be set up to fail, burn-out, or both and I was assured by the members of the Executive Search Committee, AHA Board, and AHA Staff that creating a healthy and beautifully diverse movement is a priority that everyone is passionate about achieving.

Once I began the onboarding process, I learned about the complex history of the AHA and its adjunct organizations and about the day-to-day work that continued on in the face of successes, challenges, failures, and the many opportunities to effect change in the world. An important part of the AHA's history occurred last year as my predecessor, Roy Speckhardt, departed the organization to make room for a BIPOC leader to push the organization and movement forward. For four months, the AHA did not have an Executive leader, but Nicole Carr ensured that operations continued seamlessly and worked closely with the Executive Search Committee to ultimately find and appoint me as its new leader. I'd like to thank both Nicole and Roy for their vision, diligence, and stewardship of the AHA and our Staff. I also want to express my deepest gratitude for each and every member of our brilliant staff who continued to support our members, chapters, donors, affiliates, and volunteers without missing a beat. Some of the programmatic successes AHA Staff achieved in the last year were:

- ▶ Our Call for Voices writing program experienced tremendous growth as the number of writers approved went up by 350%.
- ▶ We held the largest grassroots lobby day in AHA's history. In one day, humanists from across the country met with more than fifty congressional offices to advocate for the Do No Harm Act, which was introduced in the Senate with twenty-nine original cosponsors shortly after.
- ▶ We hosted a record of over ninety events through our education center for humanists worldwide.

Learn more about these achievements in the pages ahead. These successes have laid a solid foundation for us to continue to build on as an organization and as a movement. We have a lot of exciting work ahead of us as we work to transform the AHA and reinvigorate the humanist movement to lead the way to a more just and equitable society by our example and not just our words. Some of the priorities set out for me include executing on year two of the Strategic Plan and implementing the recommendations made after our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) audit to ensure that our organization and movement continue to dismantle the many facets of white supremacy culture and codify anti-racist practices in our work. It may seem daunting, but as we know—many hands make light work—and if we work to build power together with one another and other movement partners, grassroots organizers, and grassroots organizations we will create sustainable structural changes to manifest the progressive society we envision for ourselves and future generations. I want us to look forward together and take actions that are rooted in love, kindness, and abundance—even in the face of disappointment, fear, and frustration. Success for humanists (and our larger society) won't come easily, but we are on the precipice of irreversible damage to the Earth and every living being on it and we have to dig deep to find radical hope and solutions to our problems together. Please, take this as an invitation to join us in whatever way you can best serve the movement and I look forward to seeing you out there in the world making positive changes in our local communities and around the globe.

Yours in Humanism,

—Nadya Dutchin

American Humanist Association Board of Directors

As of January 1, 2022



Robert Boston



Vanessa
Gomez Brake



Candace Gorham



Abby Hafer



John Hooper,
Treasurer



Jennifer
Kalmanson



Howard Katz



Juhem
Navarro-Rivera



Sunil Panikkath,
President



Christine Shellska,
Secretary



Mandisa Thomas,
Vice President



Jason Wiles



Nadya Dutchin,
Executive Director

Defending the First Amendment

Commemorating its fifteenth year in 2021, the Appignani Humanist Legal Center (AHLIC) continues to be the leading advocacy arm of the nontheist movement. It defends the rights of atheist, humanist, and secular minorities in the courts, while adding the humanist perspective to the most significant church-state separation cases in the United States today. Our work expands religious freedom in the United States for all, which, as part of the First Amendment, is recognized as one of the most fundamental rights enjoyed by citizens of the United States. Through direct litigation, amicus briefs, warning letters, legal advocacy, and engagement with policymakers across the country, the AHLIC continues to make a lasting impact in legal and secular communities.

Litigation

VICTORY: Prayer at Public School Graduation Ceremonies

AHA successfully challenged a South Carolina school district's promotion of graduation prayers and use of a Christian venue for elementary graduation ceremonies. In early 2021 the Fourth Circuit granted our dismissal order closing one of AHA's longest running cases and forcing extensive changes on church-state separation in one of the largest school districts in South Carolina.

Missionaries Class at a Public School District

The AHA filed a lawsuit on behalf of a five-year-old and her parents against an Oklahoma school system that hosted a "missionaries" assembly for students, prekindergarten through eighth grade, every month for decades. During these assemblies, captive students were coerced into participating in talks about Jesus and were given copies of the New Testament and Christian coloring sheets, in clear violation of the First Amendment Establishment Clause.

Ten Commandments Display on Capitol Grounds

In May 2018, the AHLIC filed suit in federal court to remove a controversial Ten Commandments display from the state capitol grounds in Little Rock, Arkansas. The lawsuit alleges that the Ten Commandments monument is an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This contentious battle has all parties filing legion discovery and pretrial motions. We expect continued summary judgment activity in early 2022.

Police Prayer Vigil

In May 2018, AHLIC prevailed in District Court against the City of Ocala and its police department for sponsoring, promoting, and leading a prayer vigil. After losing, the City enlisted Jay and Jordan Sekulow, former Trump attorneys, to appeal the decision to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and, if necessary, all the way to the Supreme Court. AHLIC has worked tirelessly throughout 2021 strategizing, researching, and drafting our brief on the merits. We filed the brief in October 2021 and are currently awaiting the court's determination of whether to grant the defendants' request for oral arguments.

Demand-Letter Activism

In 2021, the AHA's legal team sent numerous demand letters to various government entities objecting to church-state violations. Virtually all were successfully resolved. Several noteworthy victories include:

- ▶ Demanding an end to unconstitutional legislator-led prayers in Aberdeen, Maryland;
- ▶ Ending a Texas public school's practice of using a moment of silence to promote prayer and church attendance to captive kindergarteners;
- ▶ Stopping a South Carolina public charter school from using a church for their graduation ceremony;
- ▶ Demanding that the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles provide humanist inmates with a secular alternative to mandatory programs with faith-based components, such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Amicus Brief (Friend-of-the-Court) Activity

The AHA's legal team submitted or co-signed five amicus briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2021:

VICTORY: Safeguarding First Amendment Rights

The AHLC filed a friend of the court brief supporting Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)'s case, *Uzuegbunam v. Preczewski*, at the Supreme Court. The AHA urged the Supreme Court to overturn an Eleventh Circuit ruling that left many victims of First Amendment violations without a remedy, like payment for damages. In March 2021, the Supreme Court issued an 8-1 opinion favorable to the AHLC's supported position.

Keeping Tax Dollars Out of Religious Schools

The AHA co-signed an amicus curiae brief, alongside Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the ACLU, supporting the State of Maine in *Carson v. Makin*. The brief asked the high court to uphold Maine's decision to protect their taxpayers from coerced funding of distinctly religious activities. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in this case on December 8, 2021 and is expected to rule sometime in the summer of 2022.

Protecting the Rights of Death Row Inmates

The AHA joined Freedom from Religion Foundation in a brief filed at the Supreme Court in *Ramirez v. Collier*. The brief argued that, in addition to being a barbaric relic based in religious scripture, the death penalty violates the First Amendment right to freedom of religious expression as well as the Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment. The High Court heard oral arguments on November 9, 2021. The case is awaiting decision.

Protecting Reproductive Healthcare Access

The AHA joined Americans United for Separation of Church and State in a brief filed in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.* The brief argued that the High Court should strike down Mississippi's pre-viability (fifteen week) ban on abortion because the viability standard—used by the Court for decades—removes from the political arena the inherently belief-laden question of when life begins, thus reducing religious strife and protecting religious pluralism. The Court heard oral arguments in the case on December 1, 2021.

Defending State-Church Separation

In *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, the AHA celebrated the First Circuit Court of Appeals' January 2021 ruling upholding the City of Boston's refusal to fly a Christian flag outside of city hall. The AHLC was one of several organizations to sign an amicus brief (filed July 2020) defending Boston's refusal under the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. The Supreme Court has since granted petitioners' request for review and AHLC is again signing on to an amicus brief supporting the City. Oral arguments in the case are scheduled for January 18, 2022.

Violation Reports and "Behind-the-scenes" Legal Action

The AHLC receives numerous Establishment Clause violation reports each month. We also advise organizations, state agencies, and individuals on how to navigate potential Establishment Clause issues. The details of these matters are confidential but generally have involved advising public officials on Establishment Clause concerns, supporting incarcerated people against religiously motivated parole boards, and providing legal strategy to nonprofit organizations.

“The separation of church and state forbids the government from imposing fundamentalist Christian doctrine on citizens. We gladly join our secular and religious allies in combating this unconstitutional assault on bodies of those who seek abortion.”

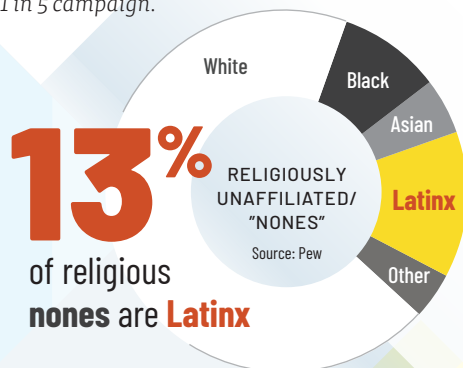
—Amicus brief for *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.*, American Humanist Association Legal Director and Senior Counsel **Monica Miller**



Social Justice Advocacy

The AHA is committed to social progress grounded in an embrace of reason, ethics, scientific inquiry, and compassion, rather than religious dogma. We work to disrupt oppressive systems through legal and legislative advocacy, education, partnerships, and alliances. We help organize protests for racial justice, immigration fairness, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive health access, environmentalism, women's rights, and other key humanist causes. Through this work, and with a focus on aspiring to the greater good of humanity, we strive to advance an inclusive world meant for all.

Infographic from the Latinx Humanist Alliance's 1 in 5 campaign.



The Empowering Action and Humanist Relief in Action Grants

Grants are part of the AHA's effort to support humanist individuals and groups participating in social justice organizing and mutual aid in their local communities. Projects funded in 2021 include:

Humanism and Social Justice Book Distribution

This project focuses on providing free books on humanism and social justice for BIPOC humanist students who are exploring humanism and social justice. These books are specifically for students that want humanism and social justice literature but don't have the means to purchase books.

Helping People Experiencing Homelessness

With a greater need to support local homeless communities, an AHA grantee is cooking homemade meals and providing sleeping bags, tarps, and hygiene supplies to their local homeless camp with the goal to meet people where they are, accept them for who they are, and offer them food and kindness with no strings attached.

Expanding Mental Health Services in Communities

This grant provides mental health first aid classes to community members who are unable to afford the classes themselves. Recipients of the grant will receive expert training as front-line helpers, to identify and intervene in mental health crises in their community. The goal is to educate and equip their community to better handle the mental health concerns of its members. The project also builds collaboration among local mental health professionals and community-minded local businesses.

The number of writers approved for the program went up by **25%** as compared to last year.

Total funding awarded **increased by 66.25%** in 2021 as compared to 2020.

Black Humanist Alliance

The Black Humanist Alliance held the Black Secular Gen Z Youth Forum which focused on the intersection of Black identity, gender politics, LGBTQI+ issues, and secular humanism. The three youth panelists and the moderator discussed how their journeys to secularism, their backgrounds, and their identities inform their ideas on current social and cultural issues in their communities and the world.



Latinx Humanist Alliance

The Latinx Humanist Alliance's 1 in 5 advertising campaign targeted reporters in the media to increase awareness and representation of the Latinx humanist community. Articles on and interviews with the Latinx Humanist Alliance were placed in four media publications including the *Chicago Tribune*, one of the top ten news sources in the country by readership and newspaper circulation. The Latinx Humanist Alliance, in partnership with the Midwest Academy, also hosted a two-day virtual grass-roots activism training to support social justice organizers that work in local communities.





AHA staff join the For the People Rally at the Supreme Court, June 2021

AHA Rallying in the Streets

The AHA demonstrated its commitment to justice by showing up with our partners to rallies, demonstrations, and marches in 2021. Staff and fellow humanists attended the No Time Limit on Equality rally in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, the Abortion is Essential rally during the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2021) Supreme Court oral arguments, and multiple voting rights rallies to demand the passage of voting rights legislation.

Call for Voices

The Call for Voices writing program focuses on increasing the visibility of writers historically marginalized in publishing and including more social-justice content in AHA publications. Articles published through this effort include "A New Tequila with a Splash of Appropriation" by Luciano Gonzalez-Vega, "Haiti's Revolution and What It Teaches Us" by Rogiérs Fibby, and more. The program experienced tremendous growth in 2021 as the number of writers approved for the program went up by 350%. More than double of total funding was given out in 2021 than in 2020.



“It is my deepest conviction that one of the ways to secure the future of humanism is through service, community and mentorship...The Latinx Humanist Alliance embodied the possibilities of these three pillars that define my humanist life stance while providing the space for me to continue to grow in these commitments on a daily basis.”

—**Anthony Cruz Pantojas**, co-chair of the Latinx Humanist Alliance, for the *Chicago Tribune*



Speakers from the Black Secular Gen-Z Youth Forum held by the Black Humanist Alliance in November (from top): Justin Mason Herrera, Lydia Mason, Kolawole Heyward-Rotimi, Chavonne Taylor, and Kaylin Elizabeth Nelson

Humanism on Capitol Hill

The AHA works with Congress to pass legislation that specifically protects members of the nontheist community and supports the separation of church and state. Our team meets one-on-one with elected officials and their staff to advocate on a variety of legislative and policy issues; helps draft progressive legislation; organizes briefings for members of Congress, Agencies, and their staffs; and hosts lobby days that bring AHA members to Capitol Hill offices (virtually, during the pandemic) to ensure politicians hear directly from their humanist constituents.

Lobby Day

We held the largest grassroots lobby day in AHA's history. In one day, humanists from across the country met with more than fifty congressional offices to advocate for the Do No Harm Act, working to ensure that no one can use their religious beliefs to sidestep our country's long-established civil rights protections. And our efforts made an impact: A few weeks after we hit the virtual marble steps of Congress, Senator Corey Booker introduced the bill in the Senate with twenty-nine original cosponsors.

National Day of Reason

As the AHA does each year, we led the effort to reintroduce the National Day of Reason Resolution in the House of Representatives. This year's resolution was introduced with an unprecedented number of cosponsors. The resolution affirms Congress's commitment to science and reason, and this year, Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-8), the champion of this legislation, chose to uplift the role of science and reason in getting through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grassroots Advocacy: Connecting Humanists to Government

Humanists from around the country sent more than 10,000 messages to Congress and the White House through our Humanist Action Headquarters, advocating for the issues humanists care about: from holding Trump accountable for the insurrection on January 6, 2021, to keeping private school vouchers out of COVID relief bills.

Reason, Truth, and Breakfast with the Congressional Freethought Caucus

The AHA organized the Congressional Freethought Caucus' inaugural Thomas Paine Breakfast where climate scientist Dr. Michael Mann and political theorist Dr. Danielle Allen joined members of Congress for a compelling discussion about how science, reason, and ethics can support secular democracy. The breakfast was hosted by caucus co-chairs Representative Jared Huffman (CA-2) and Representative Jamie Raskin (MD-8), who were joined virtually by members of Congress along with representatives of nontheist and secular organizations.



Roy Speckhardt @RoySpeckhardt

I just met with @SenFeinstein's and @SenPadilla's office to seek their support sponsoring the Do No Harm Act! The bill must be reintroduced in the Senate in the 117th. Let's restore the #DoNoHarm principle of the #FirstAmendment. #HumanistsontheHill

3:49 PM · Jul 26, 2021 · Twitter Web App

AHA Action Alerts use email and social media to mobilize action on issues important to the humanist community

Former AHA Executive Director Roy Speckhardt met with members of Congress to forward progress on the Do No Harm Act

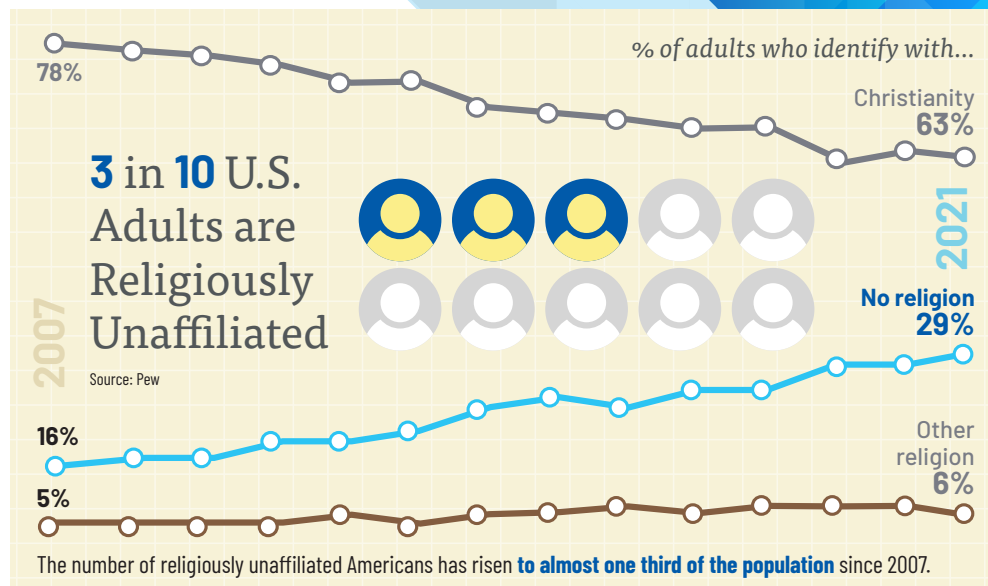
ACTION ALERT!

**Tell the Senate to
PUT ASIDE
PARTISANSHIP IN
THE UPCOMING
IMPEACHMENT
TRIAL**

AMERICAN
HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION
GOOD WITHOUT A GOD

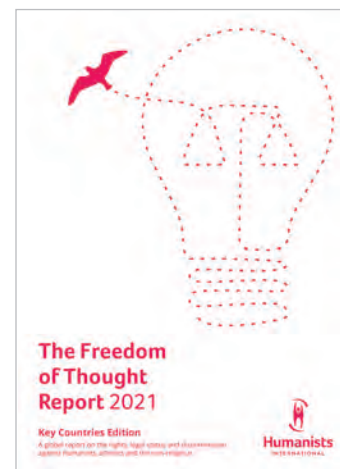
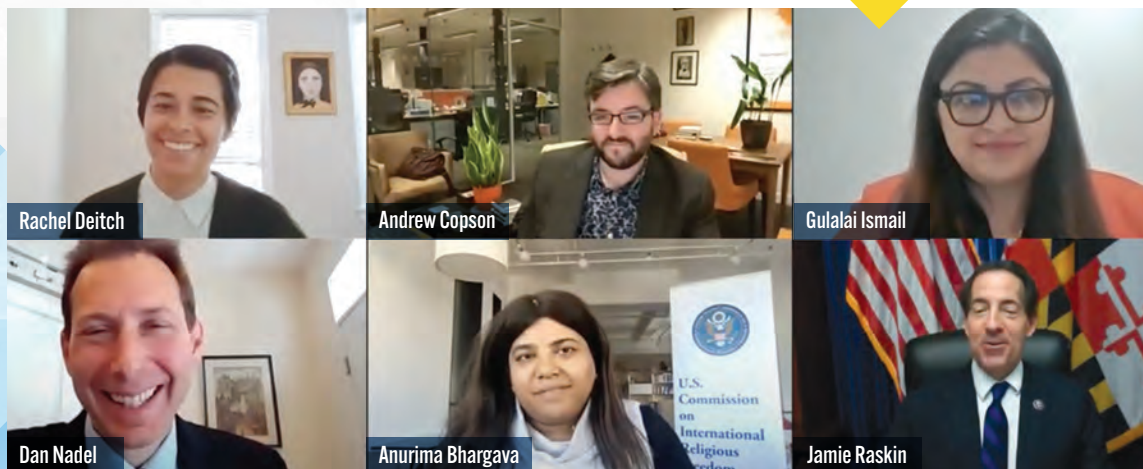
Freedom of Thought Report

The AHA proudly hosted the global launch event for Humanists International's 2021 Freedom of Thought report, which brought together 160 people from twenty-five countries. The Report details the risks faced by nonreligious individuals around the world, with focus on state-imposed discrimination defined as systemic, legal, or official forms of restrictions on freedom of thought, belief, and expression. The report sharply criticizes Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, as well as other countries, for grave violations against the rights of nonreligious people, including the enforcement of blasphemy laws, religious or ideological indoctrination in schools, and more. Special guests included Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD-8), USCIRF Commissioner Anurima Bhargava, State Department's Director of the Office of International Religious Freedom Dan Nadel, women's rights activist and Humanists International Ambassador Gulalai Ismail, and President of Humanists International Andrew Copson.



As the population of "nones" continues to grow, the AHA aims to be a political voice for humanists, atheists, and nonreligious Americans.

In November, AHA Policy and Social Justice Director, Rachel Deitch, moderated the global launch of Humanist International's Freedom of Thought Report with special guests, including Congressman Jamie Raskin (MD-8), Co-Chair of the Congressional Freethought Caucus.



Teaching Humanism and Growing Community

The American Humanist Association's Center for Education strives to provide educational opportunities and resources that serve humanist and secular communities. In 2021 the AHA's Center for Education hosted a record of **over ninety events** for humanists worldwide.

Webinars and Lecture Series

Our programs and webinars offer a wide range of topics of interest to our humanist community. The *Speaking of Humanism* series highlights humanist leaders and authors. *Critical Minds* and *Further Reflection* are both enrichment series providing an opportunity to learn about and discuss issues of critical concern to humanists. In 2021, we held a special topics series on *Energy, Equity, Health, and Solutions in Relation to Climate Change* with a panel of experts from across the nation.

HERE for Climate

The HERE for Climate project brings attention to the global climate crisis and engages humanists with actionable ways to combat climate change. Members from across the country came together to share their personal stories of how climate change effects their daily lives and what actions they take in response. In 2021, the AHA hosted four webinar series on HERE for Climate, educating humanists on the climate crisis.

Humanist Studies Program

The Humanist Studies Program (HSP) is dedicated to fostering humanist leadership that is ethically-grounded, informed, skillful, globally-responsible, personally-sustainable, and committed to meeting the genuine needs of real people. The curriculum committee revised the certificate program to include five fundamental courses *Humanist Worldviews: Then & Now* (Pre-requisite), *Humanist Philosophies: Nontheistic Worldviews & Understandings*, *Humanist Practices: What Do Nontheists Do?*, *Humanist Leadership: How to Run Nontheistic Organizations*, and *Capstone Course*.

Ten Commitments

The Ten Commitments represent humanistic values that promote a democratic world in which every individual's worth and dignity is respected, nurtured, and supported, and where human freedom and ethical responsibility are natural aspirations for everyone. We presented them in talks to various local groups and continued to sell Ten Commitments posters and badges. We wrote a series of articles exploring each commitment and their connection to our activism and HERE for Climate initiative.

Master Class

The Master Class is an opportunity for humanist leaders to delve into contemporary topics within a collaborative environment promoting problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication. Leaders work together to analyze and evaluate current issues relevant to the humanist life stance to better inform and enhance their roles as heads of like-minded organizations. The 2021 class, *Courageous Conversations: Toward a Communal Humanism*, focused on the current status, future model, and collective rebuilding of the humanist movement towards more diverse and inclusive communal humanism.

Humanism for All

The AHA supports over 250 incarcerated humanist members. With assistance from volunteers and staff, the AHA sent incarcerated humanists donated books and DVDs, over 250 winter holiday letters, and provided support for new prison chapters. Individuals and groups enjoyed taking and discussing printed versions of our online studies, including the Advanced Online Studies they received at a discounted rate.

In 2021, the Center for Education offered over ninety online events to a worldwide audience.

How America Lost its Mind:
Can science shed light on the rise of conspiracy theories and delusions?
Tuesday, February 23
7:30pm-9:00pm ET
LINK: zoom.us/j/9796537498
LECTURER: Dr. Mark Reimers, Associate Professor in the neuroscience program at Michigan State University
CRITICAL MINDS
CENTER FOR EDUCATION

What Can We Learn About Being Human From Life Online?
Explore what it means to be "real" in an age where the work of being human increasingly happens on the Internet.
Wednesday, May 26 | 8:30pm-9:00pm ET
LINK: americanhumanist.org/SpeakingOfHumanism
LECTURER: Chris Steadman is the author of *10% Finding Brains, Planning and Belonging in Our Digital Lives* and currently teaches in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Augsburg University.
SPEAKING OF HUMANISM
CENTER FOR EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION TO Reproductive Justice and Intersectionality
Dr. Colleen Pelech, Chief Medical Officer Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
Pamela Merritt, Executive Director of Medical Students for Choice
April 27 and May 4 | 7:00-8:00pm ET
Register for this 2-part session at: americanhumanistcenterforeducation.org
FURTHER REFLECTION
CENTER FOR EDUCATION

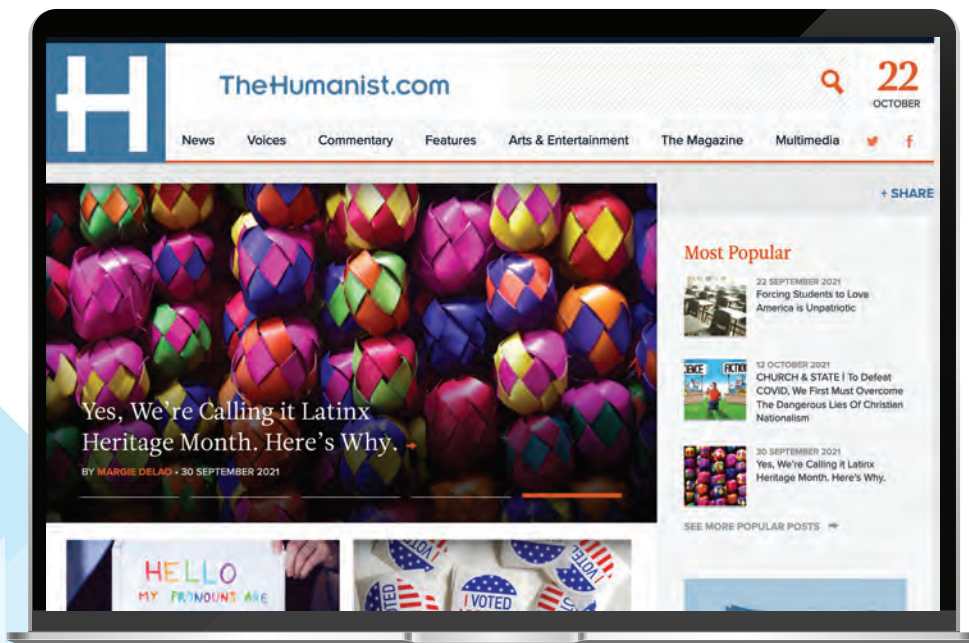
The *Humanist* Magazine and theHumanist.com

The AHA's flagship *Humanist* magazine and our weekly digital newsletter [theHumanist.com](https://thehumanist.com) bolster the AHA's ability to promote humanist values and community.

Committed to providing readers with intellectual and ethical adventure, in 2021 the quarterly *Humanist* magazine explored what the 2020 election revealed about secular voters; a scientific response to conspiracy delusions; energy, equity, health, and solutions to climate change; religious liberty; Dr. Anthony Fauci's take on humanism and science; and much more.

Operational for five years, TheHumanist.com is the daily online news site of the American Humanist Association. It is the online hub for news, politics, science, technology, art, and culture from a humanist perspective. It boasts over 48,000 page views per month, with 3,832 original pieces since launch. Popular articles in 2021 include "A Brief Look at the Four Waves of Feminism" by Margie Delao, "Signs You're Being Co-Opted by the Far Right" by Roy Speckhardt, and "10 Reasons to Wear a Mask" by Emily Newman.

In 2021, TheHumanist.com launched its Journeys to Humanism series. Journeys to Humanism strives to uplift humanist experiences by sharing reader submissions with our community.



2021 Humanist of the Year: Dr. Anthony Fauci

Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the U.S. National Institutes of Health



“ I look upon
myself as a
humanist.
I have faith in
the goodness
of mankind.”

The AHA's 80th Annual Conference

As the nation's largest humanist organization, it is our goal to help our members and supporters connect and to provide new opportunities for our movement to grow, succeed, and make a positive impact. Which is why each year, the American Humanist Association brings together people from across the country to celebrate the values of humanism at the Annual Conference.

Over 1,000 humanists, atheists, and freethinkers gathered online to celebrate eighty years of humanist thought and action at the American Humanist Association's 80th Annual Conference. Attendees enjoyed hearing from numerous speakers over the course of the weekend on topics ranging from advancing humanist values in a red state, putting humanism into action, the cultural and social constructed identities of the growing U.S. and diasporas of Latino/a/x/e community, a briefing on church-state separation, the neuroscience behind the surge in conspiracy theories, experiences with anti-Asian racism, anti-atheism, and sexism, connecting with humanists under forty, the history of humanism and the AHA, and the controversies surrounding teaching evolution in public schools.

While the country was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was absolutely essential to the AHA to create a welcoming, interactive community for humanists around the world.



Jennie Frishtick



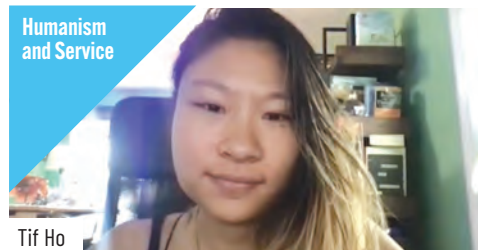
Lincoln Dow



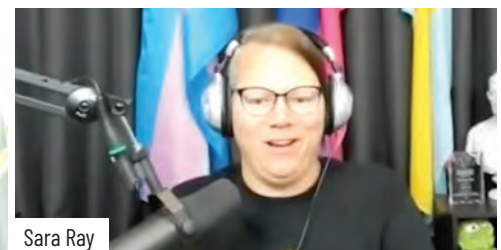
Julia Julstrom-Agoyo



Christian Hayden



Tif Ho



Sara Ray

Conference panels included *Organizing Young Humanists*, a discussion among four young leaders about how to attract youth to humanist chapters and events; and *Humanism and Service*, where Tif Ho and Sara Ray discussed how service draws on humanist values.

CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

1,000+ Conference attendees

3,800 Messages sent between attendees

54 Discussion topics posted on the community boards

6 Virtual meetups **220** Photos shared by attendees



American Humanist Association
80th Annual Conference

The Center for Freethought Equality

The mission of the Freethought Equality Fund PAC (FEF) and its affiliate, the Center for Freethought Equality (CFE) is to increase the number of open humanists and atheists in public office. The CFE is an adjunct of the American Humanist Association.

Humanists and Allies in Office

For the 2021 election year, FEF reached out to 195 candidates for special Congressional elections, state legislative races, and various local elections. Sixteen candidate questionnaires were returned, and the PAC endorsed twelve of these candidates (three allies and nine members of the atheist and humanist community). Of the endorsed candidates one was for the U.S. House of Representatives, seven for state legislatures, and three for local offices. Of the endorsed candidates, three won their races—all members of our community.

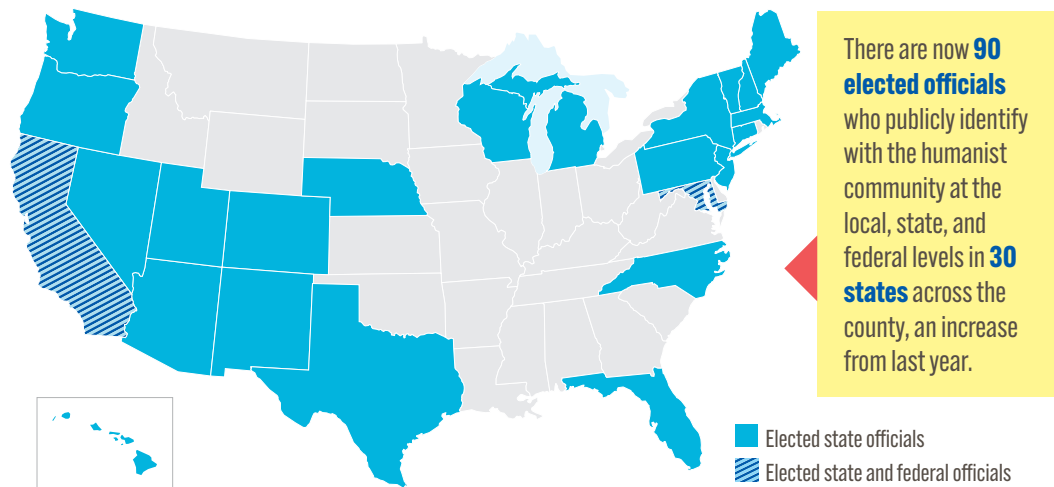
In the late summer of 2021 FEF sent out candidate questionnaires and information packets to 2022 Congressional candidates as they registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC). They sent out 656 packets (eighty-eight Senate and 568 House) and forty-four questionnaires were returned. The PAC endorsed twenty-six federal candidates by the close of 2021 and made campaign donations to those candidates.

Increasing Visibility of the Humanist Community

CFE made nine presentations to state and national atheist and humanist groups on how to increase the engagement of the atheist and humanist community in the political and electoral arena, as well as coordinated a monthly profile series on TheHumanist.com to feature our elected officials. CFE co-sponsored a panel discussion with the Ethical Society of St. Louis entitled “Facing the Threat of Christian Nationalism.” Ron Millar, FEF Coordinator, was a panelist at the American Atheists Convention “Atheists in Office” presentation, and was featured on an episode of the Freedom From Religion Foundation’s “Ask An Atheist” with Wisconsin State Senator Kelda Roys entitled “Nonbelievers Gaining Power in State Legislatures.”

Congressional Freethought Caucus

The Congressional Freethought Caucus membership continues to hold steady at fourteen. CFE intends to expand membership in 2022 with more Congressional meetings. In 2020 CFE continued discussions with state and local elected officials to help establish the Association of Secular Elected Officials. In 2021, CFE helped expand their board and held five model policy presentations on the Do No Harm Act, ensuring religious equality in healthcare, private school voucher programs and discrimination, mandating reporting by clergy of child abuse and neglect, and providing non-religious options for mandatory recovery programs. Two of these programs were conducted by elected officials, New York State Assembly member Harvey Epstein and Arizona State Senator Victoria Steele. The other three presentations were conducted by staff from the Center for Freethought Equality and other organizations.



To keep up-to-date with the activities of the Freethought Equality Fund PAC, become a member of the Center for Freethought Equality at cfequality.org/membership. Membership is free, but must be renewed annually per FEC (Federal Election Commission) regulations.

Additional AHA Programs & Adjuncts

Chapters and Affiliates

The AHA boasts a large network of local humanist groups, with 152 chapters and ninety affiliates across the country dedicated to promoting humanism and encouraging community engagement. With AHA's assistance, local groups have worked hard adapting to the pandemic and moved most of their programming online. In 2021 AHA helped 242 groups check in on their members' needs, reach humanists outside of their direct surrounding area with more accessible events, and serve the populations most devastated by the health crises. These groups hosted over 2,900 events for humanists across the country in 2021.

Humanist Legal Society

The Humanist Legal Society (HLS) promotes and protects humanist values in the legal system by providing support and networking opportunities to lawyers, judges, legal academics, law students, and paralegals throughout the United States and by fostering humanism in the law.



Central Florida Freethought Community, an affiliate of the AHA, promotes humanist values by tabling at Orlando Veg Fest in October.

The Humanist Society

The Humanist Society endorses and prepares humanist professionals to lead life celebrations and support people during difficult times. Celebrants, chaplains, lay leaders, and invocators provide millions of people with a meaningful alternative to traditional religious services and ceremonies across the nation. The Humanist Society assists professionals with training, resources, and networking with a wider humanist support network.



The Humanist Foundation

The Foundation ensures a lasting future for humanism through the generosity of members who have included the American Humanist Association or the Humanist Foundation in their will or other estate plan. Founded in 1980, the Foundation provides estate planning advice on wills, life insurance plans, trusts, and gift annuities for members who wish to support humanism for years to come. The Humanist Foundation's Humanist Heritage Project seeks to conserve the life stories of humanist leaders in a perpetual archive for historic preservation.





A Special Thanks to a Longtime Leader

Roy Speckhardt left his position as the American Humanist Association's Executive Director in 2021 to take on new adventures and make way for new leadership.

Roy drove the humanist perspective to new heights of awareness, acceptance, and prominence. He oversaw the AHA's exponential growth and evolution from a small organization focused more on the philosophical aspects of humanism to an advocacy powerhouse with significant access at all levels of government. During his tenure, the organization quadrupled its capacity and membership, and its annual reach grew explosively from thousands previously to millions today. He helped move the organization from a modest townhouse to a statement headquarters building in the heart of the nation's capital, a venue where the founding members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus gathered to determine its mission. Roy saw the organization achieve many firsts, from seeing humanists and other nontheists named in federal legislation, to launching the movement's first staffed social justice department, to seeing the first AHA staff attorney to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Being at the helm of such an organization as the AHA, whose mission is so critical to our times and whose influence far outstrips its size, was the greatest honor of my life, but I've decided it's time for me to step down and make room for new leadership. It is my emphatic hope that my seat is filled with a Black or Brown humanist because our movement has gone too long without such diversity at the helm and this would open the door for the AHA to truly achieve its potential as a humanist and anti-racist institution.”

—Former Executive Director of the American Humanist Association, Roy Speckhardt

Thank you, Roy, for your years of dedication to and leadership of the AHA and humanism!

Making a Difference: 2021 Supporters of the American Humanist Association

A special thanks to our donors in 2021. The list below features the names of donors who contributed \$200 or more in 2021. The support of all our donors—large and small—enables the work we do, and we regret that we could not publish the names of all of our members and supporters. Thank you for helping humanism move forward!

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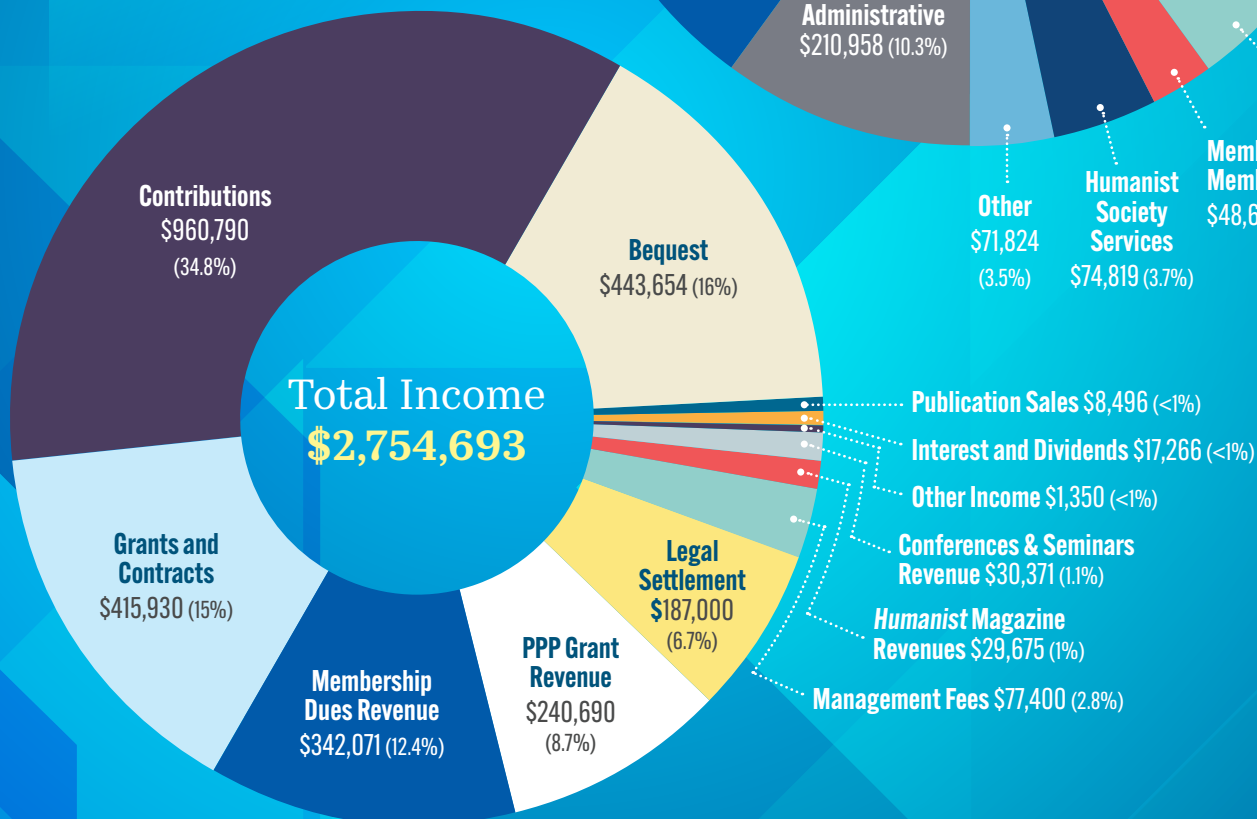
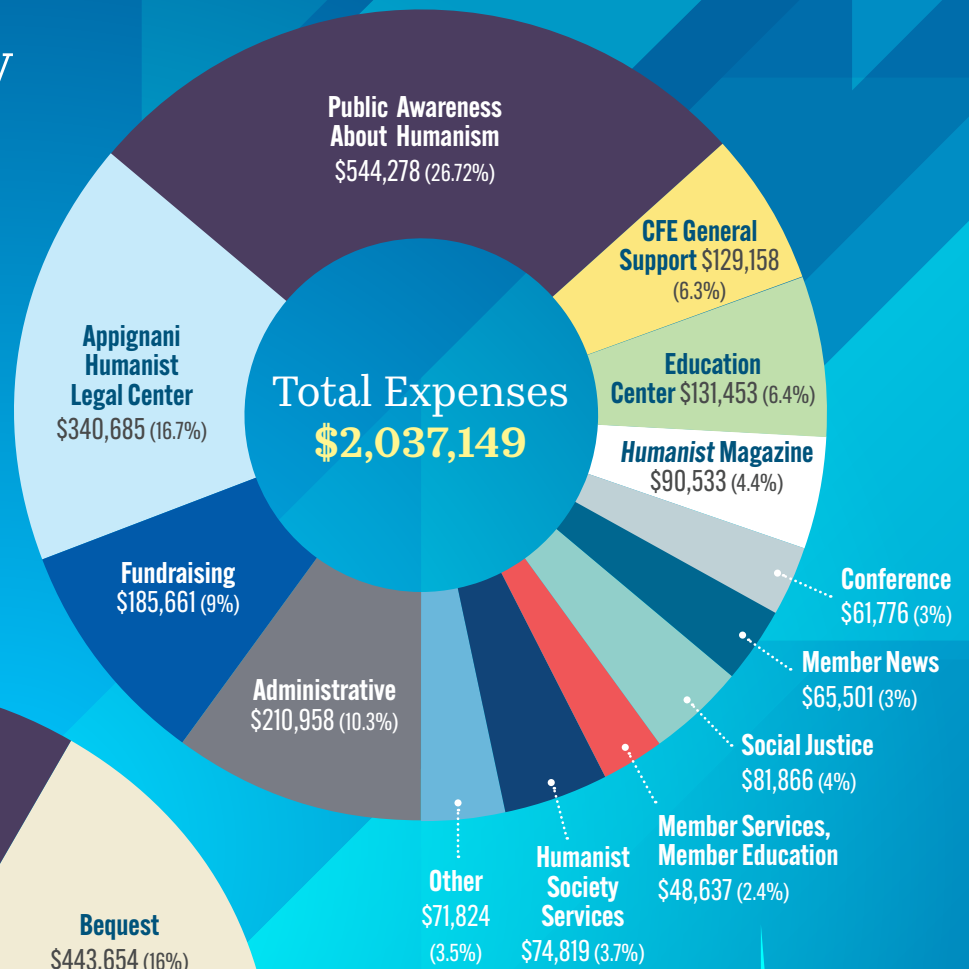
2021 BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Current	\$1,729,914
Fixed	\$45,867
Total	\$1,775,781

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities	\$156,649
Equity	\$1,619,132
Total	\$1,775,781



Ways to Support Humanism

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The American Humanist Association relies on the support of our members. Donations to the AHA are put directly to work protecting the separation of church and state, promoting humanist issues directly to our nation's leading policy makers, working towards social justice, supporting local humanist communities, and increasing humanism's visibility to the public. Please visit www.americanhumanist.org/donate to make a gift today.

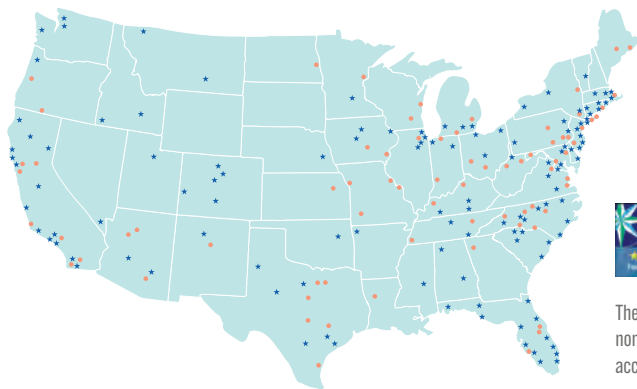
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AHA Chapters: ★ Chapter ● Affiliate



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