



# COWTOWN HUMANIST

## Volume Eight No 4 - June 2006

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I would like to express the membership's appreciation to our former editor, Jim Cheatham, for putting so much effort into compiling an excellent newsletter.

**The 'Friends of the library' is having it's annual meeting Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at the book store, so the Humanist meeting is moved to June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm Location: 5332 Trail Lake Dr**

For those interested . . . We dine at Joe's Italian Restaurant prior to the gathering. (South side of parking lot across from our meeting place) - Time 5:30

The DVD presentation is of a talk given by Professor Emeritus David Ray Griffin, based on a book he has written questioning the truth of 9-11 and the Commission's Report of same. It is a compelling argument and it is accompanied by shots of the Trade Center buildings as they are destroyed and the Pentagon after it was hit, questionably, by a 357 airliner. I personally feel Professor Griffin has a genuine argument with the reported events of that day and most certainly with the conclusions of the hand-picked artificers of the 9-11 Commission. The talk runs over an hour so we'll have to stop it before its conclusion but this talk will keep everyone in their seat and wide awake. Presented by Dick Trice

At our May meeting we elected a slate of officers for the next year. Don Ruhs, our former chair, chose not to seek re-election, while the present members of the board agreed to continue in their current posts. For the first time the members in attendance have chosen co-chairs to officiate at our meetings. Ken and Rollyn Carlson will be our chairpersons for the next year.

At the meeting, Dick Trice distributed a list of topics of possible concern to the membership. The expressed interest of the members is compiled with the greatest interest shown first, followed by others in descending order:

foreign affairs, current affairs, politics, social concerns, history, Documentaries, government, local organizations, philosophy, religion, economics, literature, book reports, biography, humor, great books, suicide, poetry, women's concerns, poverty, living wage, play reading

The following is from [www.religioustolerance.org](http://www.religioustolerance.org)

Secular Humanism a non-theistically based philosophy which promotes humanity as the measure of all things. It had its roots in the rationalism of the 18th Century and the free thought movement of the 19th Century.

Some factors that most Humanists share:

Either they do not believe in the existence of a deity, or they don't really care about the topic.

They believe that excellent codes of behavior and morality can be created through reason.

Humans created the gods and goddesses in their own image.

They are very concerned about human rights and equal opportunities for all.

They tend to be at the liberal end of the spectrum on such controversial topics as abortion access; equal rights for gays, lesbians and bisexuals; same-sex marriage, physician assisted suicide, separation of church and state, etc.

## Humanists of Fort Worth Annual Meeting Minutes May 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President, Don Ruhs, at Friends of the Fort Worth Public Library Book Store after the presentation on the Tarrant Food Bank.

Treasurer Dolores Ruhs gave the treasurer's report. The balance in the treasury is \$1,092.13. We ratified the donation of \$100.00 to the Friends of the Library.

Bylaws Dick Trice presented the bylaws changes recommended by the committee made up of Ray Weil, Dick Trice and Jim Fogleman. The substantive changes include 1) unlimited terms for elected officers; 2) establishment of a fiscal year; and 3) expansion of the executive board by up to three directors appointed by the Chair.

George Cramer moved to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws. The motion was seconded and CARRIED.

Elections The following slate of officers for next year was elected by acclamation:

Rollyn and Ken Carlson, Co-Chairs; Jim Cheatham, Vice-Chair; Reed Bilz, Secretary; Dolores Ruhs, Treasurer; Don Ruhs, Past-Chair. The terms will begin June 1.

We discussed changing our meeting date, but those present prefer second Wednesday.

Minutes will be published in the newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

**Tune to [www.freethoughtradio.com](http://www.freethoughtradio.com) an irreverent site devoted to exposing irrational and intransigent religious dogma. It's a radio station you may wish to bookmark for future occasional or even frequent listening.**

**Think it's time to pick up trash on "our" stretch of Granbury Rd? Anyone interested should contact Ray Weil at [alphamail@myway.com](mailto:alphamail@myway.com) or call 817-205-8603 so that a consensus may be reached as to when we can perform our clean-up. It's already June and we all know what the summers are like in Texas.**

Your officers may be contacted as follows:

Co-Chairs: Ken and Rollyn Carlson 5108 Lovell Ave Ft Worth, TX 76107 Phone 817-731-1422 email [feministsrfun@charter.net](mailto:feministsrfun@charter.net)

Vice Chair: Jim Cheatham 1582 CR 2730 Glen Rose, TX 76047 Phone 817-254-797-0277 email [halfrey@hyperusa.com](mailto:halfrey@hyperusa.com)

Secretary: Reed Bilz 6316 Walburn Ct Ft Worth, TX 76133 Phone 817-292-7974 email [rbilz@earthnet.net](mailto:rbilz@earthnet.net)

Treasurer: Dolores Ruhs 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook, TX 76126 Phone 817-249-1829 email [ruhds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruhds@sbcglobal.net)

Past Chair: Don Ruhs 1036 Hill Top Pass Benbrook 76126 Phone 817 249-1829 email [ruhds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruhds@sbcglobal.net)

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Past Chair and Webmaster: Russell Elleven 6120 Comfort Dr Ft Worth, TX 76132 Phone 817-370-2171 email [info@hofw.org](mailto:info@hofw.org)

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**I'd like to solicit articles from members who may wish to contribute anything of interest to our membership.**

Newsletter Editor: Ray Weil: Phone 817-205-8606 (cell) or 817-346-2402 (home) email [alphamail@myway.com](mailto:alphamail@myway.com)

For newsletter comments, complaints and/or suggestions

**Owe Dues? . . . . See Dolores Ruhs**