

Central Colorado Humanists
P.O. Box 1353
Salida, Colorado 81201



Humanism is a philosophy that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives capable of adding to the greater good of humanity.

Dear Friends,

2017 was an incredible year for the Central Colorado Humanists!

With that in mind, your Board of Directors put together this “**Year in Review**” for your enjoyment. It takes a village to have such a successful year. So many people gave of their time and expertise to make CCH what it is: a valued part of Chaffee County. Thank you to everyone for joining and getting involved!

Our Many Accomplishments

First, our membership has increased from 133 in 2016 to 177 by the end of the 2017!

As of last spring, we now have Stammtisch monthly in both Salida and Buena Vista.

The excellent quality and variety of our Sunday Science programs has helped increase our exposure. People in our community are talking about the Humanists! By mid-year, we knew that we had to find a larger venue. We were very excited to kick off the new year in our new home, the Salida SteamPlant Ballroom.

Our 2017 Sunday Science topics were:

- January: **2016 Science and Technology - The Year in Review**, presented by Dan Bishop
- February: **“Darwin’s Dangerous Idea”**, a DVD on our Darwin Day Celebration
- March: **Ancient American Lifeways in the Arkansas Valley**, presented by Mark Mitchell, Paleocultural Research Group
- April: **An Overview of our Local Forest - Their Natural Life Cycles and current NFS Management Goals**, presented by Lisa Corbin, San Isabel NFS
- May: **Fire Mitigation with Insights into how a Fire Burns**, presented by Damon Lange, Colorado Forest Service
- June: **Climate Change - Facts, Fears and Follies**, presented by Ed Berg
- July: **Artificial Intelligence**, presented by Steven Sarns
- August: **Mars - History, Astronomical Perspective and Future Manned Missions**, presented by Dan Bishop
- September: **Building a Rover to Explore Europa**, presented by Greg Justice and the Boys and Girls Club

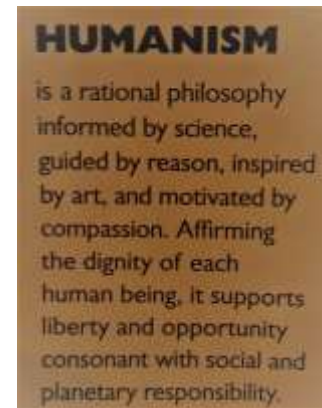
- October: ***Cryptology***, presented by Silas Gonzales
- November: ***Fire and Ice - Amazing Geologic Events that formed the Upper Arkansas Valley Landscapes of Today***, presented by Cindy Williams
- December: ***Gene Editing (CRISPR) and the Redesign of Life Forms***, presented by Becky Berry

All Sunday Science presentations are available in DVD. If you missed one, ask to check it out at the membership table on any Science Sunday.

On the National Level

Dan Bishop proposed that CCH petition the American Humanist Association to add “guided by reason” to their list of humanist attributes. Our chapter had already made the change locally. The proposal was considered by the national AHA board and adopted!

Our chapter appeared in the American Humanist Association bi-monthly magazine twice this year. First, the AHA reported early in the year on our Human Light Celebration. Then, in the November/December edition, they published a letter to the editor entitled “Feeling Good about Doing Good”, written by Jane Jolley to compliment our chapter’s good work.



Community Outreach

Our May highway cleanup day was on the same day as the Arkansas Headwater’s Recreation Area Clean Up Green Up Day. Our biggest volunteer group yet came out to pick up trash on our section of Highway 291.

Our Personal Hygiene Project donated hundreds of toothbrushes, bottles of shampoo, razors, and deodorant at the Salida Community Center Food Bank at the first of each month. Dan and Ann Bishop handled this project this year. We are looking for other members to jump in for that distribution day and represent our organization.

Several members enjoyed a great day counting wildlife with Cindy Williams at the Central Colorado Conservancy Nature-A-Thon this year. We collected over \$1300 for the Conservancy and hope to continue with two teams next year.



We collected over \$5,000 at our Labor Day Yard Sale on G Street using Hannelore Gabriel’s front yard. Never did we think we would have such success two years in a row! Save your treasures - we plan to continue with another Yard Sale in 2018.

With the Yard Sale profits, the 2016 Human Light Silent Auction proceeds, and your generous donations, CCH was able to award four \$1,000 scholarships in the spring to area High School Seniors and three scholarships to continuing college students who were receiving their second scholarship from us.

Social

It's so important to have time to get to know everyone better, talk about our interests and share our views as Humanists. Our Sunday Discussion Brunch had enthusiastic and large turnouts to discuss "Alternative Facts" as well as Climate Change and "Envision Chaffee County." Our Annual Picnic, held in mid-July at the Buena Vista River Park Pavilion, and our Human Light Celebration again gave us a chance to talk with new members and reconnect with old friends.

Caring Committee

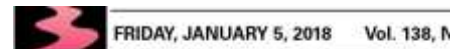
Several of our members suggested that we might benefit by a network of caring for each other in times of personal crisis. After a member survey and several planning meetings, the Caring Committee was formed. Right away, we were able to put the Committee in action to help out during the recent flu season.

And on January 5th, we hit the front page of the Mountain Mail!!!
We hope you are looking forward to 2018 as much as we are!

Peace,

Your Board of Directors
Central Colorado Humanists

Jane Jolley, President
Dan Bishop, Vice President
Libby Fay, Treasurer
Marilyn Moore, Secretary
Rod Otley
Dan Smith
Louise Fish
Gene Marsh



Science on Sundays