

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Lisa Ridge*

As I begin my third year as NJHN President, I'm looking forward to the many speakers and events we are planning for the months ahead. We begin this new season with a trip to the Robert G. Ingersoll Museum in Dresden, NY on the weekend of August 13-14. We will spend a day learning about Ingersoll, the "Great Agnostic," one of the 19th Century's most prolific and respected orators and authors. That area of New York is sometimes referred to as the "Birthplace of Freethought," so if there's time, we might visit other sites of interest, such as the Mark Twain Exhibit and Gravesite in Elmira, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House and National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. We're planning to spend the night and return on Sunday. On August 27, we will hold our first Humanist Salon. Inspired by the model of the Red Bank Humanists and other Humanist groups around the world, the Salon is a members-only social gathering for the sharing of good food, drink and ideas.

"I want it all!"

That was my response to our strategic planning committee members as we discussed long-term goals for NJHN. And here's what I mean: I want to continue reaching out to provocative speakers for our program meetings and also provide opportunities for area Humanists to share their opinions on the issues of the day; I

want to celebrate observances of those days in the year that are meaningful to Humanists, such as the Equinox and Solstice days, Darwin Day, National Day of Reason, Earth Day, World Humanist Day, Ingersoll Day, Freethought Day, Church/State Separation Week, International Human Rights Day and HumanLight; I want to share social time with friends in my Humanist community here in New Jersey, as well as in New York and Pennsylvania; I want to do good deeds in my community by volunteering at the Community Food

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Bank of NJ, by comforting those who are faced with illness and injury, by working with prison secular groups; I want to create a Humanist book discussion group, and a group to take the online courses at the Institute for Humanist Studies; I want to support, both financially and with whatever talents I might possess, the secular Camp Quests that now exist, and work toward starting a Camp Quest in the Northeast; I want NJHN to represent a consistent and loud voice  
(continued on Page 3)

## EVENT SCHEDULE

Program meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the months September to June in the Bridgewater area.

### **August 13-14, 2005: Road Trip to the Ingersoll Museum!**

In celebration of Ingersoll Day, we will drive to the Finger Lakes region in New York State. We will visit the Ingersoll Museum (open only during the summer) and some of the many other local historical Freethought sites. To join us, email [info@njhn.org](mailto:info@njhn.org) or call 732-658-6440.

### **August 27, 2005: 7:00 pm - The Inaugural NJHN Humanist Salon!**

We will gather at the home of one of our members for hors d'ouvres, fine ales and wines, and socializing. Later in the evening, those interested will discuss an interesting topic (TBD).

To attend, email [info@njhn.org](mailto:info@njhn.org) or call 732-658-6440. Upon confirmation of your NJHN membership, you will receive the address and directions.

**September 28, 2005:** Program Meeting  
Conference Center at Arbor Glen  
100 Monroe St, Bridgewater, NJ

**Jeff McMahan**, Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University will discuss his 2003 book, [\*\*The Ethics of Killing: Problems at the Margins of Life\*\*](#), a careful look at issues including abortion, infanticide, the killing of animals, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

## IN MEMORIAM FELIX R. BREMY (1916-2005)

We are sad to report the death of long-time NJHN member, Felix Bremy, on April 20, 2005.

Felix Rudolph Bremy was born in Zurich, Switzerland on March 18, 1916. In his late teens, he emigrated to the United States where he found employment in a textile mill in Fair Lawn, NJ. World War II called him to active duty in 1941, where he served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. in the Pacific Theater until 1945. He attained the rank of Warrant Officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Felix and his soon-to-be wife Thelma started Bremy Electronics in Paterson, NJ in the 1940's. Their son Peter was born in 1952, and although Felix and Thelma later divorced, he remained devoted to Peter his entire life.

In the late 1970's, his interests turned towards his ongoing hobby of psychology. In the years that followed, Felix earned a master's degree and finally his doctorate in Counseling Psychology. He became a certified counselor in New Jersey and also developed his own therapy method, which he called Self-Liberation. He wrote a book of the same name, and sold many copies of the individual chapters which he published himself.

In the late 1980's, Felix met Muriel Lesser and they became beloved companions until his death. They retired together to Arbor Glen, where they were closely involved in the activities. For many years, Felix gave lectures once per month at the discussion group and also organized other in-house lectures. He served as head of the Health Committee. Felix could be found almost daily in the shop, creating works of art, a noticeable legacy he left to Arbor

Glen. These pieces can be found throughout the complex, both indoors and out.

Felix was a Humanist counselor with the American Humanist Association, and an active member of AHA. As previously noted, he was also a long-time member of the New Jersey Humanist Network. Felix was instrumental in the drafting of our first organizational bylaws and helped us arrange to hold meetings at Arbor Glen in recent years, which are always open to Arbor Glen residents.

We at NJHN extend our sincere sympathies to Felix's loved ones, and hope that his memory will live long in your hearts. We would like to thank Peter Bremy for his assistance in preparing this biography of his father. NJHN has made a memorial donation to the charity of Felix's choice: the *Friends Benevolence Fund* at Arbor Glen, which assists residents in need. If you'd like to make a donation in Felix's memory, please contact Lisa Ridg at (732) 658-6440.

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### WEBSITE TIPS

You can find NJHN on the web at [www.njhn.org](http://www.njhn.org). The website will always display the most up-to-date news about NJHN and our calendar of events.

Do you read the Humanist Network News? This is a weekly e-zine produced by the Institute for Humanist Studies. The e-zine is available on our home page and is updated automatically each week.

Our Home page typically highlights our most important upcoming events. For more details, and to find out what our future events will be, visit the

[Calendar of Events](#) page (found on the sidebar menu to the left).

The Calendar of Events page also provides addresses, maps and directions to our program meeting places and for all other locations at which we hold events.

Are you interested in becoming a member of NJHN? You can join online using our [web form](#) and even pay your membership dues if you have a PayPal account.

Have you considered listening to Freethought radio? NJHN hosts [Equal Time for Freethought](#) (usually 6:30 pm on Sundays) on the website. If you can't get WBAI on the radio, you can listen to the program online, and you can listen to [archived programs](#) from the show, usually less than a week after they air.

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### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Peter J. Schweinsberg is 33 years old. He was raised as a secular humanist by both parents in Huntsville, Alabama. He has lived in New Jersey nearly four years and works as a laboratory technician in the molecular biology and biochemistry department at Rutgers University.

Lance Wilhelm is 54, lives in Piscataway and is single. He works as a chemical lab assistant for NEI Corporation (nanotechnology). Raised Christian, even joining his high school Bible Club, he gradually dropped Christianity during his twenties. He first identified as an atheist after going to the 1986 American Atheists convention in Somerset as an interested, curious observer. A member of AA since 1986, he was recently named as Affiliate Outreach Director.

**AMERICAN ATHEISTS  
SPONSORS  
ATHEISTS IN FOXHOLES  
FOR HONOR AND  
RECOGNITION  
MARCH & RALLY IN  
WASHINGTON, DC**

American Atheists is sponsoring an Atheists in Foxholes Veteran's Day March & Rally on Friday, November 11, 2005. Please make plans to join NJHN members, both military veterans and civilians, for this historic event at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

From the American Atheists website: "There are no Atheists in foxholes!"

It's a claim that is repeatedly made by many politicians, media pundits and especially preachers. But is it true? No! There ARE in fact many "Atheists in foxholes" who have served and are serving our country proudly, in all branches of the armed forces. This group includes many people who describe themselves as Atheists, Freethinkers, Secular Humanists or with other appellations. Isn't it time that we acknowledged and saluted them? That is what the "Atheist in Foxholes" event is all about! This is an opportunity for these many men and women to make a proud statement that they, too, are serving their country. It is also an event where the rest of us - including our political and military leaders - can recognize and honor these "Atheists in Foxholes."

Who Can Participate? There is room for everyone to participate in some meaningful way in the "Atheists in Foxholes" Veterans Day event! Those who consider themselves "Atheists in Foxholes" who are serving or have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces are invited to participate in the March/Parade down the National

Mall. This part of the event is exclusively for these veterans. Please join the action! Everyone else, especially if you are an Atheist, Freethinker, Rationalist, Secular Humanist or other "flavor" of nonbeliever, you are invited to join us at the "Atheists in Foxholes" Rally, where the Parade of veterans will terminate. We are planning speeches, reading of greetings, entertainment and other events! Join us on the Mall in our nation's capital as we recognize and salute the Atheists in foxholes! All may contribute to the "Atheists in Foxholes" recognition salute! It takes money to put on this event. Your contribution helps cover expenses. Won't you help?

Who Else is Being Invited? We are inviting all Members of Congress plus leading U.S. Military Officials as well as President Bush to join us in this salute to "Atheists in Foxholes." Even if these people are not Atheists or nonbelievers, they are welcome to express their thanks for the role that these veterans are and have played in the defense of our nation!

An Important Postscript: This event is not a referendum on war in general or about a specific military action. It is about the many men and women - "Atheists in Foxholes" - who have served and are serving this country and helping to uphold our Constitution. Like the rest of our society, veterans and active military personnel have their own diverse political opinions on national policy. Instead, this event is about our leaders, our military and our society rejecting a discriminatory and marginalizing stereotype. It is about recognizing those many Atheists, Freethinkers and other nonbelievers who "stepped up" when they were needed in times of war or other crisis, and often put their lives at risk. They should be appreciated and honored

like all other members of the U.S. military.

**Attention Military Members:** Send American Atheists your photo! Military photos are preferred. Along with the photo they need your name, branch of service and years served. Your photo will be displayed on their website and on the Jumbotron on November 11 in Washington DC. Please email your information and attach your photo as a JPEG file. The photo does not have to be very large. Send to [photos@atheistfoxholes.org](mailto:photos@atheistfoxholes.org).

Visit [www.atheistfoxholes.org](http://www.atheistfoxholes.org) to learn more. Another site of interest is the Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers at [www.maaf.info](http://www.maaf.info).

If you'd like to attend this event with other NJHN members, please contact Lisa Ridge at [president@njhn.org](mailto:president@njhn.org) or call 732-658-6440.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
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in support of church-state separation issues, particularly regarding New Jersey's statutes regarding medical care exemptions for children for religious reasons and the refusal of pharmacists to dispense physician-prescribed and emergency contraceptives; I want to coordinate efforts with the various Humanist and other like-minded organizations in the state on common issues of interest, so that our voice will be heard and our opinions shared; I want to put a face and a name to the philosophy of secular humanism that is not defined by religious radicals.

"That's too much, you can't take on all these things yourself," I'm always told. I know they're right. I'm hoping you'll want to get involved with me. Think of the fun we can have doing it! Please let me know your thoughts.

## ATTENTION NJHN MEMBERS

Payments for membership renewal for the 2005-6 year are due. If you have not renewed your membership, please send a check to the attention of Linda Kieseling, NJHN Membership Committee, PO Box 8212, Somerville, NJ 08876. Alternatively, you can use your Paypal account to renew your membership at [www.njhn.org/registration.html](http://www.njhn.org/registration.html).

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

*Timothy Ridge*

Once again it has been a long time between bulletins. We apologize for the long wait and will strive, with myself as the new editor, to publish more consistently in the future. We plan to publish the NJHN Bulletin bimonthly, but at the very least it will arrive quarterly.

Summer is here and with it a little break from our monthly gatherings. NJHN had an interesting slate of meetings last spring.

In January the group discussed--somewhat contentiously--creating a strategic plan for the continued growth of the organization.

February brought not one, but two Darwin Day events on February 12: an educational day trip to the Liberty Science Center and a very well-attended meeting featuring the music of Sonny Meadows and speakers Victoria Alexander and Dr. Joseph Graves.

At our Wednesday night meeting in February, we enjoyed listening to Matt Brauer of Princeton University as he discussed the Intelligent Design movement from a scientific

## NJHN MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to become a member of NJHN, please fill out this form, make out a check to the New Jersey Humanist Network and send both to:

NJHN  
Post Office Box 8212  
Somerville NJ 08876

Members receive issues of THE NJHN BULLETIN free of charge.

- Individual membership - \$30  
 Family membership - \$45  
 Student/Limited Means membership - \$20  
 Bulletin subscription only - \$15  
 Receive bulletin via email only - Free

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_  
How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Please exclude me from the NJHN membership directory.

perspective. We returned to psychology in March, when Drs. Michael and Lidia Abrams discussed Rational-Emotive Behavior Therapy.

We had another group discussion in April, moderated by yours truly, on the subject of Fascism in American government.

In May, Dr. Maughn Gregory introduced us to Montclair State University's Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children.

We held our Annual Meeting in June. Four members were elected to positions on our Board of Directors. Returning for second terms are Lisa Ridge and Wanda Shiarappa. Joining them are new board members Peter Schweinsberg and Lance Wilhelm. Retiring from board service are Brad Holcombe and long-time members Sara Brown and Linda Kieseling.

Our annual Organizational Board meeting was held on July 17, 2005. NJHN Officers were elected as follows:

Lisa Ridge, President  
Timothy Ridge, Vice President  
Jay Holovac, Treasurer  
Wanda Shiarappa, Secretary

Lisa, Jay and Wanda continue in their positions, while Tim is an officer for the first time.

Our montly meetings in Bridgewater will resume at Arbor Glen on September 28 and at the Bridgewater Library on October 26. We hope to see you at an upcoming event.

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*I will not attack your doctrines nor your creeds if they accord liberty to me. If they hold thought to be dangerous - if they aver that doubt is a crime, then I attack them one and all, because they enslave the minds of men.*      – Robert G. Ingersoll

## SEEKING ALTRUISTIC ATHEISTS & HUMANIST HUMANITARIANS

From the AHA:

A reporter from a major national publication is seeking to tell the story of "a kind of regular person who feels it's a burden to be a secular humanist. Someone who might have a story of being discriminated against or who might feel afraid to share their beliefs with neighbors and coworkers for fear of fallout."

If you are such a person, please contact Roy Speckhardt at [roy@americanhumanist.org](mailto:roy@americanhumanist.org) or 1-800-837-3792 right away. If not, please inquire among your chapter members ASAP.

From Humanist Network News:

Do you put your humanist principles into practice by helping others in your community? Or do you know a non-religious person with an inspiring life story who has helped make the world a better place? If so, the BBC wants to hear from you.

The Institute for Humanist Studies is working with the BBC on an educational program provisionally titled **Secular Beliefs**. The show aims, in the words of the BBC, to "introduce pupils to a range of non-religious people and their beliefs, from ancient Greece to the present day. It will explore the meaning of terms such as 'atheist' and 'humanist' and will examine the ethics, values and sense of human meaning and purpose associated with them."

The BBC would like to include some segments on humanists whose charitable work reflects their humanist ethics. For example, a visionary lawyer who is committed to

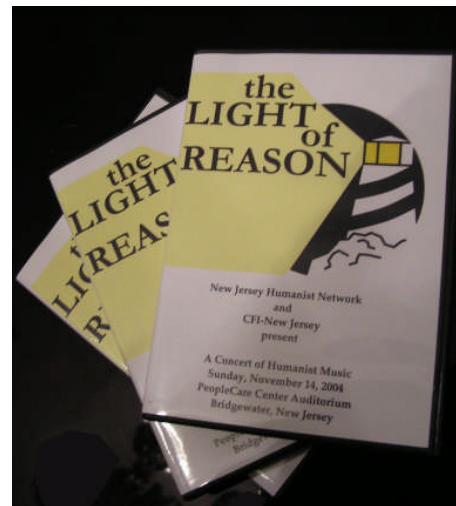
working with people on death row on a pro-bono basis, or a doctor who volunteers her time to a marginalized group. The BBC would prefer unsung heroes to celebrity atheists. The person would have to be willing to be interviewed, and possibly filmed in action. The program will be shot in the U.S. and the U.K.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else as a possible interviewee please email [Info@HumanistStudies.org](mailto:Info@HumanistStudies.org) with the subject line "BBC." The email should include a brief biography of the humanist humanitarian, explaining what they do and why. It should give the subject's contact details, including phone and email, and also their location and, ideally, address.

If you choose to take advantage of either of these opportunities, we would like to hear about it! Please copy NJHN on your email at [president@njhn.org](mailto:president@njhn.org).

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## HUMANIST CONCERT DVD NOW FOR SALE



Did you enjoy our Concert of Humanist Music last November? Did you miss it and wish you hadn't? Now you can watch the Premiere of

**The Light of Reason** in the comfort of your home. NJHN has produced a DVD of the concert, available for \$15.00 upon request.

**The Light of Reason** is a choral piece for men's voices, commissioned by NJHN through a grant from the James Hervey Johnson Charitable Educational Trust. South Jersey artist Dean Rishel composed the score which features text provided by NJHN members Harley Brown and Gary Brill.

The DVD showcases the **Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus** which premiered the piece on November 14, 2004 at the PeopleCare Center Auditorium in Bridgewater, NJ and also performed several other pieces from their repertoire. Also appearing are NJHN's own **Humanistics**, the early music group **Faire Morning**, and a barbershop quartet, the **FourTunes**.

The concert program can be viewed at [www.njhn.org/TLORprogram.pdf](http://www.njhn.org/TLORprogram.pdf)

Copies will be on sale at our meetings. You can also purchase one by mailing the form below to NJHN's PO Box, or by emailing to [president@njhn.org](mailto:president@njhn.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include shipping of \$1.50 per copy)

Please make checks payable to:  
*New Jersey Humanist Network*

## Additional Local Meetings and Events

### August 11, 2005: Ingersoll Day

Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-1899) is an important name within the Freethought community. His work continues to inspire the inquiring mind and inject reason within a world riddled by superstition. For many, Ingersoll is deserving of a special remembrance day and on August 11, rationalists from far and wide come together to celebrate his contributions to humankind. For further information, visit [www.secularseasons.org/august/ingersoll\\_day.html](http://www.secularseasons.org/august/ingersoll_day.html).

### August 14, 2005: 4:00pm - Red Bank Humanists

Free and open to the public. August Forums are held at the shore. Come join the sun, fun, and humanist conversation. Sandy Hook National Park, NJ outside the Seagull's Nest Restaurant. For more information, email: [president@redbankhumanists.org](mailto:president@redbankhumanists.org) call 732-939-6507 or visit [www.redbankhumanists.org](http://www.redbankhumanists.org)

### August 16, 2005: 7:00pm - Middlesex County Atheists Monthly Dinner

Come out for dinner and camaraderie with fellow atheists in your area.  
Chili's Grill & Bar • 867 U.S. Hwy 1 South • North Brunswick, NJ 08902

### October 27-30, 2005: Toward a New Enlightenment - 25th Anniversary of the Council for Secular Humanism

The Council for Secular Humanism celebrates 25 years with a world congress at the world headquarters of CSH. The conference will include special sessions convening members of the International Academy of Humanism, the Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion, and the Institute for the Secularization of Islamic Societies. Visit [www.centerforinquiry.net/events/csh-2005.html](http://www.centerforinquiry.net/events/csh-2005.html) for more information.



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Somerville, NJ 08876