

“Humanism is a philosophy of joyous service for the greater good of all humanity, of application of new ideas of scientific progress for the benefit of all.”

-Linus Pauling, American scientist, Nobel Prize winner

“When we speak of equality, of women and men, of Blacks and Whites, of all the world’s people, we are talking about humanism.”

- Gloria Steinem

“It seems to me that the idea of a personal God is an anthropological concept which I cannot take seriously. I also cannot imagine some will or goal outside the human sphere.... Science has been charged with undermining morality, but the charge is unjust. A man’s ethical behavior should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties and needs; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death.”

-Albert Einstein, scientist, Nobel Prize winner in physics

“Human decency is not derived from religion. It precedes it.”

-Christopher Hitchens

“Being a Humanist means trying to behave decently without expectation of rewards or punishment after you are dead.”

-Kurt Vonnegut, American novelist



South Jersey Humanists

PO Box 743
Oceanville, NJ 08231-0743

www.southjerseyhumanists.com

sjhumanists@gmail.com



[facebook.com/SJHumanists](https://www.facebook.com/SJHumanists)

twitter.com/SJHumanists

[meetup.com/South-Jersey-Humanists](https://www.meetup.com/South-Jersey-Humanists)

**Official Chapter of the
American Humanist Association.**

Affiliate of American Atheists

Affiliate of Center for Inquiry

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We Believe in Good!

“My country is the world, and my religion is to do good.”

– Thomas Paine, The Rights of Man, 1791

What is Humanism?

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without theism and other supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity. In short, humanists live a life that aspires to be “good without God.”

Humanism is a global philosophy which cuts across culture, class, race, ethnicity, gender, and ability.

Other Humanists You Might Have Heard Of:

- Isaac Asimov*
- Margaret Atwood*
- Richard Dawkins*
- Frederick Douglass
- Roger Ebert
- Albert Einstein
- Betty Friedan*
- Stephen Fry
- Katharine Hepburn
- Seth MacFarlane
- Bill Maher
- Bill Nye the Science Guy*
- Joyce Carol Oates*
- Gene Roddenberry
- Salman Rushdie
- Carl Sagan*
- Jonas Salk*
- Dan Savage*
- Charles M. Schulz
- Rod Serling
- Benjamin Spock
- Gloria Steinem*
- George Takei
- Mark Twain
- Neil deGrasse Tyson
- Kurt Vonnegut*
- Alice Walker*
- Joss Whedon
- Walt Whitman

*American Humanist Association
“Humanist of the Year”

Who are the South Jersey Humanists?

Our meetings are open to anyone with an interest in humanism, and our members come from counties across Southern New Jersey.



We may call ourselves by many names: skeptics, atheists, agnostics, brights, freethinkers, nonbelievers, secularists, or rationalists, to name a few. But we join together to advance four important goals:

Make the World a Better Place

We aim to show our commitment to human growth and development through service and participation in the community. We believe that we improve ourselves as well as others by acting with altruism and empathy.

Promote Secularism and Critical Thinking

Society flourishes in an environment of open, reasonable discussion free from the influence of institutional power. For this reason we fight the intrusion of religion upon government as well as government upon belief.

Challenge Stereotypes

Though our numbers are increasing, far too many Americans believe that it is impossible to lead a good and ethical life without belief in God. By being up-front about ourselves, we serve as living disproof of this prejudice.

Provide Mutual Support

Life can be very difficult when one's beliefs are out of step with much of society. Many of us feel rejected by neighbors, employers, institutions -- even family. For this reason, we provide a supportive environment for one another.

You might be a humanist if:

- You believe that we give meaning and shape to our own lives.
- You are skeptical of the claims of religion.
- You believe that much of the world's problems are the result of selfishness, cruelty, indifference, and ignorance.
- You feel that one's belief should be determined by the degree of evidence.
- You feel that beliefs must be supported by scientific evidence and critical thinking -- and those that cannot should be abandoned.
- You believe that when you die you will live on in other people's memories, through your children, and through the work you have done.
- You believe morality comes from thinking hard about the consequences of one's actions and the effects they have on others.
- You believe in respecting and protecting the earth for future generations.
- You are convinced by the evidence for evolution.
- You believe that scientific explanations for how the universe began are the best explanations we have.
- You believe that animals should be treated well because they can suffer too.
- You believe that other people matter and that it is important to treat other people well because that makes everyone happier.

DID YOU KNOW that there have been over 2870 different deities worshipped by various cultures since the beginning of recorded history?