



The Separationist Happy New Year

President's Corner

January 12th 2019

Presidents Column, Death.

A good friend died in December. My friend was lovable and colorful. His funeral was a large, Southern Baptist funeral in a small town. The service was meant to be graveside, but terrible weather brought it inside, and the church was overflowing. Mourners filled the pews, the seats for the choir, the seats for the organist, seats in the church's entryway. The rest stood along the walls. Three preachers eulogized him. One of the preachers in his parents' church had never met him, but the ones that had met him, decades ago, said the wrong first name once, the wrong last name once, and mis-named his mother once. They mis-stated my friend's profession. The service was about an hour and included no songs and no readings from any book save the Bible. Although photos played in a loop, no one who really knew our colorful friend spoke. Instead, preachers repeated some well-worn Christian funeral tropes and reminded already devastated people that, without Jesus, they're going to hell. They insulted our deceased friend by saying that perfect peace is available with the Lord, but that he just couldn't access it. They insulted his family by saying that he wouldn't come back to earth to be with his family even if he could, since heaven is so perfect. They shamed my family by asking for a show of hands of those who believe Jesus is god - we were the only 3 out of 200 who didn't raise our hands. All of these insults, however, are exactly what's expected at a Southern Baptist funeral, and the believers don't even realize they're being gaslighted. I honestly don't know what kind of funeral my friend would have wanted. I doubt, however, that this was it. What I know for sure is that it wasn't comforting, and it wasn't really about my friend. No one likes to think about their own death. When you're gone, you're gone, but if you want to keep some Southern Baptist preacher from bumbling and from insulting your loved ones, consider writing your wishes. Whatever you do, when I'm gone, don't say I'm in a better place. I'll just be dead. Even when I was alive, I wouldn't want to be in a stuffy place with mansions and streets paved with gold. My funeral isn't for me. The people who miss me are the ones who count. Don't shame them or insult them. Don't even try to make them feel better; instead, let them experience whatever they're experiencing - positive or negative. Just listen.

Bonnie Cleveland
President, Secular Humanists of the Low Country

SHL Book Group Selection

Not Seeing God

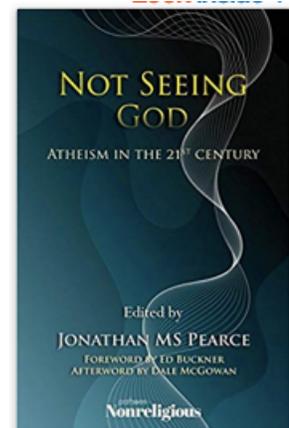
by

Jonathan Pearce

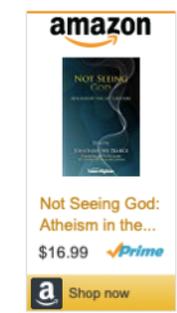
For our January book group meeting, we are reading

Not seeing God: Atheism in the 21st Century by Jonathan MS Pearce (2017) PB 296p. \$16.99, Kindle \$9.99.

Atheism is an evolving worldview – not the single proposition that God does not exist, but everything else that might or might not go with it. With only a single sentence about the existence of single entity, there is huge scope – necessity, even – for having to reasonably work everything else out. It's a lot more difficult to figure out the world when it's not handed to you in an old, outdated book. The world is sometimes a complicated place. With this in mind, Not Seeing God looks at the challenges of leaving religion, arguing for atheism, the role and position of atheism in society and where we go from here. Yvonne's Review: I enjoyed this book tremendously for its wit and logic. I highly recommend it.



Please remember that SHL receives credit when you purchase your book through Amazon when you purchase through our website. Simply go to the SHL website, open the book of the month and click on this Amazon Logo.



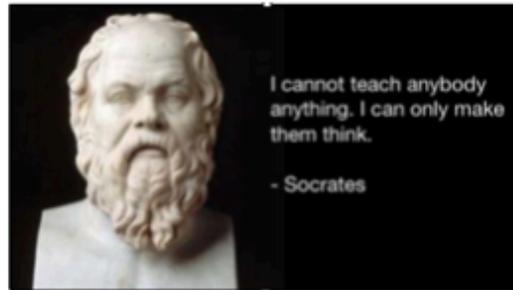
Book Group meets each month at Barnes & Noble

1812 Sam Rittenberg Blvd 4:00 PM to 5:30

Discussions about the book are always very engaging and we continue dissuasions at dinner afterwards at a local venue

Socrates Cafe at SHL's monthly gathering

What do YOU want to discuss with your fellow freethinkers? Our discussion meetings are always popular and loads of fun! This month we'll have a Socrates Cafe. Participants will suggest and vote on topics, and we'll entertain two separate topics during the hour. We'll continue the discussion at dinner afterward, Whether you're a long time SHL member or brand new please join the conversation.



Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry

Sunday, January 20, 2019

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Gage Hall

4 Archdale St.

Charleston, SC

February Volunteer Activity: Adopt a Highway

Saturday, February 2, 2019

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Grove Corner Grocery parking lot

2301 Cosgrove Ave

North Charleston, SC



SHL's adopted highway is Azalea Drive from the SC-7 exit to the King Street Extension in North Charleston, which runs past the Lowcountry Foodbank. From I-26 in either direction, take Exit 216B. At the corner with first stop light is a small store called Grove Corner Groceries. We have permission to park in their parking lot.

Picking up trash at the side of the road is a lot more fun than it sounds. We enjoy each other's company and conversation. It is a pleasant walk in the fresh air. And we usually find some interesting items.

As always, participants get a sense of accomplishment from making the world a better place and enjoy a chance to talk as we walk. We also have a sign put up by the Dept. of Transportation there that says that the road is kept clean by "Secular Humanists," which helps us let people know that our group exists and that we care about our community.

SHL will provide the necessary supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and reflective vests. Please join us if you can.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email our volunteer coordinators.

Hosted by Laura Kasman



Wednesday February 13th, 2019
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Muse Restaurant & Wine Bar
82 Society St. Charleston, SC

Hosted by: Elizabeth Taylor

Happy Hour is always a fun and relaxing evening of stimulating conversation over drinks (alcohol is optional) and yummy food among old and new friends! This month we will be meeting at Muse in downtown Charleston. Hope to see you there!

The Leading Edge of Reason

Letters and News from SHL contributors.

Letter to the Editor, Post and Courier

December 19, 2018

Real science by: Herb Silverman

I was pleasantly surprised to see in the Dec. 13 Post and Courier an informative and beautifully written science op-ed by Lucianne Walkowicz, an astronomer at the Library of Congress. She described the realities of space, dispelling common myths about gravity and black holes.

I hope science articles like this will become a regular feature. Eliminating pseudoscience, including but not limited to the daily horoscope, would save space.

I worry about readers who believe that zodiac signs foretell future events. Astronomy is a science, but astrology is not. It has the same predictive power as fortune cookies. After a nice meal at a Chinese restaurant the other day, my wife and I exchanged fortune cookies. Hers seemed better suited to me and mine to her. Switching daily advice for Aquarius and Virgo would provide equally effective results.

The paper recently published some fine articles and letters about problems and potential solutions regarding South Carolina's education system. Please be part of the solution, not the problem, by educating your readers to distinguish real science from pseudoscience and mythology.

Then again, perhaps I'm a skeptic because I was born a Gemini.

Herb Silverman
George Street
Charleston


January


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Years Eve 	1 New Years Day	2 	3	4	5
6	7	8 SHL Happy Hour 	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 	19
20 SHL Monthly Meeting	21 Martin Luther King Day	22	23	24	25	26
27  SHL Book Group	28	29	30	31 	February 1	February 2 SHL Highway Cleanup

Editors Note

In closing.

I recently volunteered to attempt to resurrect The Separationist.

This is my first attempt and being familiar for decades with Word programs and such it's been a bit of a Challenge. Thanks to Alex K. it has been a smoother endeavor than it could have been.

So here it is, late but a beginning. Improvements are coming.

In the future I'll be looking for contributions from the community and will have more info coming in that regard. In the meantime I'm on facebook at our sites and welcome contributions of interesting articles that might be printable. Especially cartoons. Of course those should reflect secularist viewpoints. February is closing in on us. So post your articles, ideas, and suggestions to me soon.

John Childs
(& Barb !)