Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

Table of Contents

The 10 Most Asked Questions Definitions
Beliefs
What Do Humanists Believe About...?
Values Morals, Ethics and Goodness
Faith and Reason
Life and Death
Organized Religion
Customs, Ceremonies and Celebrations
Some Non-believers You Might Recognize
Becoming a Humanist
Appendix: Further Reading and Resources
About the Author
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

The 10 Most Asked Questions

What is a humanist? A humanist is a person who contends that belief in a supernatural being is not essential to being a good person and living a good life. A short definition is “Being good without a god.”

Who might be a humanist? Among humanists are those who are call themselves agnostic, atheist, “bright”, cynic, deist, freethinker, naturalist, nothing, non-religious, rationalist, secular, secular humanist, skeptic, spiritualist.

What does a humanist believe about the purpose of life? For each individual to reach his potential and to help others do the same. And when choosing a purpose of life, your choice should be based on how you, as a human being, should relate to other human beings. Humanists think that almost everyone is capable of choosing purposes and goals that will help guide their life.

What does a humanist believe about afterlife? The only afterlife we humans might experience is the way we have affected individuals and institutions during our lifetime. There is neither heaven nor hell.

What does a humanist believe about salvation? They do not believe that anyone is born sinful or guilty. Therefore, they do not believe anyone needs to be “saved.”

What does a humanist believe about evolution? The earth is 4.5 billion years old. Plants, animals and humans have evolved and changed over millions of years. They were not created during seven days 6,000 years ago.

What does a humanist believe about praying? Because they lack belief in the existence of a supernatural being, they do not attempt to pray or make requests to a supernatural being.

What does a humanist believe about separation of church and state? They are energetic supporters of the separation of church and state.

What does a humanist believe about minorities? Humanists are accepting people. Believing in equal rights for everyone, they welcome people of all races, religions, national origins and sexual orientation.

What does a humanist believe about miracles? They believe that the laws of nature govern this world. And that “miracles” are events that really did not happen or are events for which mankind will have an explanation in the future.
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

DEFINITIONS

"I am a deeply religious nonbeliever... This is a somewhat new kind of religion." - Albert Einstein

What is a humanist? A humanist is a person who contends that belief in a supernatural being is not essential to being a good person and living a good life. A short definition is “Being good without a god.”

Who might be a humanist? Among humanists are those who call themselves agnostic, atheist, “bright”, cynic, deist, freethinker, naturalist, nothing, non-religious, rationalist, secular, secular humanist, skeptic, spiritualist.

How many humanists are there? About 1 billion in the world and 60 million in the U.S.

Is humanism a religion? No. It is a philosophy, a way of thinking.

What is a “non-religious" or “non-believing" person? This is a person without a belief in a god or supernatural being. Non-belief ranges from those who are sure there is no God to those who say, “I just do not know."

How does a humanist define a “good person”? A good person has values and characteristics that are endorsed by almost all people. For example: treating others fairly, being honest, telling the truth, helping the less fortunate, not harming others, not stealing, not deceiving others, doing your part, acting responsibly.

What are some common religious notions of God? God is a supernatural being who created the universe and knows everything past, present and future. God is present everywhere and has limitless power to change things in the natural world. He is a personal loving god; you can talk directly to him and he responds to prayer. He knows you and cares for you.

What other notions are there of God? Although the above definition is predominant in society, it is not the only definition of God. Many people view God as a “force", a “power", a “presence" or a “process" within the natural world.


What is an atheist? A person who does not believe in the existence of any gods.

What is an agnostic? A person whose view is that nothing can be known about the existence of a god. They say they simply do not know.
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

What is a “none”? These are people who are without religion but do not identify themselves as atheist, agnostic or humanist. Religion is irrelevant in their daily life. 20.2% of Americans reported either “none" (15%) or “don’t know (5.2%) when asked for their religious identity.

What are some common traits of humanists? Being critical thinkers, they are skeptical about many claims. Working hard to get the truth, they require evidence and proof, and often ask, "Is this reasonable? Does this make sense?" They are generally compassionate, accepting and inclusive.

Beliefs

"I have heard an atheist defined as a man who had no invisible means of support." John Buchan

What do humanists believe? Anyone can be a good person without having a belief in a supernatural being. Believing in a supernatural is irrelevant to being a good person. The effort to make a better world rests in the hands of humans. Although we humans may wish for a better world, we cannot expect assistance from a supernatural being that might not exist. Humanists respect the role of science and base their beliefs on claims supported by evidence. They believe that a person should want to be good and do good things, and that not believing in a supernatural is neither a barrier nor an excuse.

What do humanists not believe? They do not believe that to be a good person, one must believe in a supernatural being. They tend not to believe in claims and events that cannot be proven. They reject dependence on the supernatural, resurrection, reincarnation, and divine books. They do not believe in supernatural beings such as angels, ghosts, gods, and devils.

What are humanist beliefs based on? Humanist beliefs are based on evidence and reasonable proof. Has this (belief, concept, etc.) been good for mankind? Can humans alone, with no god to assist them, lead responsible moral lives? Humanists would exclaim, "Yes! Not only are we humans capable of doing so, but we must do so, because we cannot count on assistance from a supernatural being which might not exist."

Are humans capable of working out the values they want to live by? Yes, but often with great difficulty.
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

If God appeared on earth, would humanists then believe God exists? If the evidence were valid, they certainly would believe he, she or it exists.

Are nonbelievers trying to argue that they are superior? No, they seek only to be regarded as equal to believers.

What Do Humanists Believe About...?

“You should always go to other people’s funerals. Otherwise they won’t come to yours.” -Yogi Berra

Abortion A woman has the right to choose. Neither society, government nor religion should have a role in the subject.

Afterlife The only afterlife we humans might experience is the way we have affected individuals and institutions during our lifetime.

A better world Being optimists, humanists have hope for a better world, but believe that this better world will come about through the efforts of humans and not through praying to a supernatural being.

Evolution The earth is 4.5 billion years old. Plants, animals and humans have evolved and changed over millions of years. They were not created during seven days 6,000 years ago.

Heaven and Hell Humanists believe that there is neither heaven nor hell.

Minorities Humanists are accepting people. They welcome people of all races, religions, national origins and sexual orientation.

Gay marriage Being inclusive, they support it.

Miracles They believe that the laws of nature govern this world. And that “miracles” are events that really did not happen or are events for which mankind will have an explanation in the future.

Myths Myths are stories. Noah’s Ark is a typical myth. It is physically impossible to place two of each insect, animal etc. in one boat. For instance, there are 124,000 species of beetles. However preposterous, this is an example of a harmless myth. (But humanists wonder what type of god would be so angry, that with the exception of Noah’s family, he drowned every adult, child and baby.)

Praying Because they lack belief in the existence of a supernatural being, they do not attempt to pray or make requests to a supernatural being.

What do most humanists believe is the "purpose of life"? For each individual to reach his potential and to help others do the same. And when choosing a purpose of life, your choice
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

should be based on how you, as a human being, should relate to other human beings. Humanists think that almost everyone is capable of choosing purposes and goals that will help guide their life.

**Salvation** They do not believe that anyone is born sinful or guilty. Therefore, they do not believe anyone needs to be “saved.”

**School prayer** They support the current national legislation that prayer should not be part of a public school experience.

**Separation of church and state** They are energetic supporters of the separation of church and state.

**Socializing** Humans are social beings. We all need friends and we need institutions through which we can develop our potential and help build a better world. Organized religion and their local members can play a leading role.

**Virgin birth** This is physically impossible.

**Women’s rights** Being inclusive, they support the efforts to achieve equality, regardless of sex.

**Values**

"Religion can be like finding a new suit of clothes. Will it fit? Will you like it? You won’t know until you try it on. Maybe you’ll like it at first and then outgrow it. And then it won’t fit you anymore. You then have a choice. You can look around and try on another suit. Or go naked..." - Anonymous

**What are the most important values to humanists?** Try not to do harm, tell the truth, help the less fortunate, and seek justice in all its forms. Be generous with your resources, have courage, be fair. Try to achieve dignity. Use your power of reasoning. Be aware that earth is our only home; preserve and protect it. Be inclusive, not exclusive in matters of race, minorities, women, sexual preference, religion, financial status, and nationality.

**Do humanists believe that a god is necessary to create values?** No. Humans are quite capable of developing values that lead to a happy life.

**Are values timeless?** Can they and should they change? Values do change. For example slavery, now unacceptable everywhere, was once justified by many religious people, including Christians.
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

How do humanists regard the Golden Rule? Every religion’s sacred book includes The Golden Rule. It is easily understood by all. The good person tries to live up to the Golden Rule in both its positive and negative parts. The positive part: treat others the way you’d like to be treated. And the negative part: don’t do things to others which you would not want them to do to you. The Golden Rule is basic to all who want to pursue a good life.

Does the Golden Rule, a basic moral law in almost every religion, require or involve a god of any kind? No.

How do humanists regard the values espoused by Jesus, Mohammad, Buddha and leaders of the world’s religions? The major religions of the world are most proud of their leaders when they encourage their followers to be compassionate, caring and generous. Humanists share these same values.

Morals, Ethics, and Goodness

"The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one." – George Bernard Shaw

Where do our ethics come from? Humanists believe ethics come from human needs and human interests, tested by experience. They believe values are derived from social contracts that “work,” having proved they are the best way to treat others and to get along together. Over thousands of years, humans have learned things to do and things not to do in order to have a safer and happier life. Humanists believe our values come from our experience as humans trying to live together in harmony. Since humanists want a safe and happy life, they believe in values like truthfulness, courage and compassion.

What is “morality” to a humanist? Morality is about promoting human advancement. It’s about improving people’s lives, building a better world, and demonstrating concern for the happiness of others, while maintaining a strong sense of what is right and what is wrong. Morality is all about helping others live a better life, and alleviating their unnecessary suffering. Morality is about doing things that make you proud of yourself.

What elements are not included in a humanist’s definition of morality? Morality is not about religious books, heaven, hell, punishments, sinners, saints, promises and threats.

What do humanists believe “being good” is not? “Being good” is not simply reading a holy book, attending a church service, reciting an oath, worshipping, praying, invoking a deity, blindly following the dictates of an organization, living in fear, attending a certain school or college, participating in unique customs, wearing religious jewelry and displaying religious
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

How do humanists know what is right and what is wrong? Human experience tells us it is wrong to murder, steal, cheat and lie. Humans do not need a book to tell us these things. Neither do we need a book to tell us that it is right to be honest, caring and truthful.

What motivates a humanist to do good and be good? The same as anyone else: doing good makes you feel good about yourself. Being good can contribute to: Happiness Less stress More confidence that you are making good choices More self respect More friends

Why would a person who does not believe in God want to be good? Humanists do not believe that the only way you can get people to act decently is to promise them eternal reward (heaven) or threaten them with eternal punishment (hell). We are better off aiming for cooperation than aiming for selfishness. We must cooperate and get along with others; we need to give and take.

Does it make any difference whether a person is good without God, or good with God? Not to a humanist.

What non-religious organizations have "creeds" that might be termed humanistic? Almost all service clubs have creeds that embrace people of all religions. Rotary International is one. It has 1.2 million members in 34,600 clubs all over the world. Its creed is: “The Four Way Test" which asks, Of the things that we think, say or do: Is it the truth? Will it be beneficial to others? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

What notion of absolute morality has been used to justify almost every war ever fought? The one true God is on our side!

How many Americans believe that a belief in God is "necessary" for moral behavior? 47%.

What are some of the more popular books about nonbelievers published in the last few years, totaling more than a million copies?

Sam Harris: The End of Faith
Christopher Hitchens: God is Not Great
Richard Dawkins: The God Delusion
Daniel Dennett: Breaking the Spell
Greg Epstein: Good Without God David Niose: Nonbeliever Nation
Philip Zuckerman: Living The Secular Life
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

**Faith and Reason**

"If we are going to teach 'creation science' as an alternative to evolution, then we should also teach the stork theory as an alternative to biological reproduction."  Judith Hayes

What do humanists have faith in? They place their faith in humanity’s ability to overcome all types of problems-social, political, personal safety, health, economic, education. They do not need to look to a supernatural being for assistance or intervention. They believe people have within themselves the innate power and ability to make a better world. They feel confident that the future will bring more freedom, more free choice, and extended rights for more people. They have faith that an educated and free people make good choices for themselves, their loved ones, and their nation. They are confident that people, employing the scientific method, have the ability to solve problems, lead a better life and achieve happiness for themselves and others.

Who does a humanist have faith in? Himself (herself) and others whose goals, values and actions will lead to a better world.  Why do humanists lack faith in a god or a supernatural being? They have difficulty placing their faith in a god that might not exist, who allows people to suffer natural tragedies like earthquakes and floods, which indicates this god is either impotent or does not care. Humanist beliefs are not based on faith in God. Most often, they regard faith as a claim that has insufficient evidence to support it.

Before a humanist says he believes something, what questions might he or she ask? Is this claim reasonable? Is there credible evidence to support this belief?

**Life and Death**

"I once wanted to become an atheist. I gave up on the idea. They have no holidays."  - Henny Youngman

Do humanists believe in any type of afterlife? Not a physical afterlife. The only afterlife for a humanist is the effect they had on persons, causes and institutions with which they had been involved.

If humanists do not believe there is an actual life after death, how important is this life? Convinced that this life is all there is, they try to live the fullest life possible. They cannot wait for the “next life” to perform all the good they want to do. Humanists believe in life before death.

Copyright 2016, John Sias
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

What is a humanist funeral service like? Although often held in a religious building, it is not a religious event. It is a celebration of the deceased’s life, how the person affected others, and the positive affect the person had. Friends and relatives often speak.

Does suffering have a purpose? No. Suffering should be eliminated wherever it appears. Humans should oppose suffering in all its forms.

What is evil? Those conditions that create or perpetuate needless suffering.

Organized Religion

"I don’t believe in the afterlife, although I am bringing a change of underwear." - Woody Allen

What is the humanist view toward organized religion? Religion is important to millions. For many it provides answers to their questions and for others it provides hope and comfort. Organized religion encourages its members to lead a “good life." Most religions believe theirs is the only truly valid one and that all others are imperfect. Religion has been responsible for many wars and the killing of millions.

Do humanists regard religion as important? Yes. Religion, both nationally and internationally, plays a significant role in the political and moral decisions, which affect us all.

How do humanists value local religious organizations such as churches, synagogues and mosques? The local church is often the most welcoming organization in a community. You don’t need an invitation to attend. You are welcomed by all. (Unless maybe you are gay, a different color or “different.”) People are glad to see you. There’s no entrance fee or cover charge. Even if you can’t carry a tune, you are invited to sing. No institution on earth does a better job of bringing people together for the purpose of doing good.

No service club, no other non-profit organization, and certainly no government.

Do humanists want the same things out of life that believers want? There are some things that almost everyone on earth wants and are some of them. To feel safe. To be healthy, physically and mentally. To have sufficient shelter, food, clean water, clean air. To be free to speak, gather, talk, act, read. To be given the opportunity to be happy. To enjoy equal opportunities for yourself, family, and friends. To feel good about yourself.

Who has the most power to influence and control life on earth, a god or humans? Humanists believe that nature is neither influenced nor controlled by a god, and that humans must make the decisions and control life on earth. However, man’s actions are often influenced by what he believes (his religion's) god wants his believers to do. So in that respect, “God" has vast power and influence on what happens on earth.
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

Are there any churches in which many of its members are humanists? Many members of Unitarian-Universalist churches are humanists.

Do humanists have a written creed? They have no written creed.

Do humanists have a sacred book, like the Christian Bible or the Muslim Quran? No. Humanism is not a religion. It is a philosophy, a way of thinking. There are many books about and authored by humanists, but none are sacred.

Do humanists believe that God punishes certain groups or individuals? No. Nor do they believe that he helps or favors certain groups or individuals.

Do humanists believe that God favors one nation over another during time of war? No. However, down through history, all nations at war have believed that God was on their side. If humanists believe that a person can be good without God, do they also believe that people who do believe in God, cannot be good? Of course not. Good people are among both the believers and the non-believers.

Customs, Ceremonies and Celebrations

There are three religious truths: Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian faith. Baptists do not recognize each other in the liquor store or at Hooters. - Anonymous

Do humanists have any customs, ceremonies or celebrations that are unique to them? No. No secret handshakes, passwords or plastic membership cards. Humanism is a philosophy, not a religion, club or cult. How do humanists react to “holy days” like Easter, Christmas and Hanukkah? Because humanism is not a religion, they have no “holy days” and if they celebrate these holidays, they do not do so in a religious way.

How do humanists react to religious displays at public events? It can get aggravating when at a dinner of a non-profit organization, someone rises and “thanks God” for all the good things that were actually accomplished by the organization’s members, not by a supernatural being. And when a football team blesses itself before a game, imposing its religious beliefs on all those attending the event, humanists hardly believe this is an appropriate activity. Nor when the team thanks God for the win.

Copyright 2016, John Sias
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

Some Non-Believers you might recognize

"When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way. So I stole one and asked him to forgive me." - Emo Philips

Major Sources: Freedom From Religion Foundation and America Humanist Association

Edward Albee, playwright
Woody Allen actor, film director
Susan B. Anthony, feminist
Isaac Asimov, author
Mikhail Baryshnikov, dancer
Ludwig Van Beethoven, composer
Irving Berlin, song writer
Ingmar Bergman, film director
Leonard Bernstein, composer
Marlon Brando, actor
Johannes Brahms, composer
Pearl Buck, author
Warren Buffett investor, philanthropist
Luther Burbank, botanist
Robert Burns, poet
Anthony Burgess, author composer
George Carlin, comedian
Andrew Carnegie, philanthropist
Charlie Chaplin, actor
Winston Churchill, British leader in World War II
George Clooney, actor
Aaron Copland, musical composer
Clarence Darrow, attorney
Charles Darwin, naturalist
Richard Dawkins biologist, author
Eugene Debs, union leader
Claude Debussy, musical composer
Daniel Dennett, author educator
John Dewey, educator
Marlene Dietrich, actress
W.E. B. DuBois, civil rights activist
Ann Dunham, mother of President Barack Obama
Albert Einstein, physicist philosopher
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

Greg Epstein, Harvard humanist chaplain
Harrison Ford, actor
W.C. Fields, comedian actor writer
Tom Flynn, editor Free Inquiry
Henry Fonda, actor
Stephen Foster, musical composer
Anatole France, poet writer
Sigmund Freud, Austrian neurologist
Betty Friedan, feminine advocate
John Kenneth Galbraith, economist author
John Galsworthy, author
Bill Gates, businessman philanthropist
Ira and George Gershwin, song writers
Stephen J. Gould, author
Ulysses S. Grant, president
A. C. Grayling, philosopher author
Edmund Halley, astronomer
Sam Harris, author
Stephen Hawking, cosmologist
Katharine Hepburn, actress
Christopher Hitchens, author
Julian Huxley, biologist
Aldous Huxley, author
Henrik Ibsen, author
Thomas Jefferson, president
Elton John, singer and songwriter
Angelina Jolie, actress
John Keats, poet
Jerome Kern, song writer
Stanley Kubrick, film director
Paul Kurtz, author
Burt Lancaster, actor
Cloris Leachman, actress
Richard Leakey, anthropologist
Norman Lear, writer/producer/director
John Lennon, singer and songwriter
Sinclair Lewis, author
Jack London, author

Copyright 2016, John Sias
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

James Russell Lowell, poet author
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, poet
Bill Maher comedian, author
Karl Marx philosopher, economist
Abraham Maslow, psychologist
H. L. Mencken, satirist
James Michener, writer
John Stuart Mill, philosopher
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer
Paul Newman, actor
Jack Nicholson, actor
Bill Nye, science educator “The Science Guy"
Eugene O’Neil, playwright
J. Robert Oppenheimer, father of the atomic bomb
George Orwell, author and journalist
Linus Pauling scientist, peace activist
Steven Pinker, author educator
Brad Pitt, actor
Edgar Allen Poe, poet
Cole Porter, song writer
Marcel Proust, novelist critic essayist
Ayn Rand author, philosopher
Tony Randall, actor
James Randi ,scientific skeptic
Ron Reagan, president’s son
Auguste Rodin, sculptor
Richard Rodgers, composer
Carl Rogers, psychologist
Andy Rooney, author TV personality
Philip Roth, author
Jean Jacques, Rousseau philosopher
Salman Rushdie author
Bertrand Russell philosopher
Carl Sagan, astronomer author
Jonas Salk, developer of polio vaccine
Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood
George Santayana, philosopher poet
Jean-Paul Sartre, French playwright novelist

Copyright 2016, John Sias
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

William F. Schulz, Amnesty International CEO
Robert Schumann, composer
George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright
Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet
Upton Sinclair, author
B. F. Skinner, psychologist
Steven Soderbergh, film producer
Benjamin Spock, pediatrician
Stephen Sondheim, composer lyricist
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Pete Stark, former US Rep. from California
Rod Steiger, TV writer
John Steinbeck, author
Gloria Steinem, feminist activist
Victor Stenger, physicist
Rod Sterling, creator of “Twilight Zone"
Robert Louis Stevenson, author
Richard Strauss, composer
Meryl Streep, actress
Studs Terkel, author
Henry David Thoreau, author
James Thurber, humorist
Ted Turner, founder of UN Foundation
Mark Twain, author
Jesse Ventura, governor
Gore Vidal, author
Voltaire, playwright
Kurt Vonnegut, author
Alice Walker, author
H. G. Wells, author
Walt Whitman, poet essayist
Oscar Wilde, playwright
Ralph Vaughn Williams, composer
Bruce Willis, actor
Sherwin Wine, founder of Society for Humanistic Judaism
E. O. Wilson, biologist author
Virginia Woolf, author
Steve Wosniak, inventor
**Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions**

Frank Zappa, composer, film director  
Howard Zinn, social activist, academic

**Becoming a Humanist**

"As long as there are tests, there will be praying in schools." - Anonymous

Can anyone become a humanist? Yes. There are no entrance exams, dues, secret handshakes. No initiation ceremony, nothing to sign or pledge. Humanism is a way of thinking, a philosophy. Not a religion, not a secret society.

How does a person become a humanist? By reading, listening, talking, comparing, thinking.

Is it necessary to be a member of a humanist organization to be a humanist? No. No more than it is necessary to be a donor or worker for the Republican party to be considered a Republican. (Or a Democrat or an Independent.) Is there a ceremony, an initiation? No, humanism is a way of thinking, not a club or an organization. Are humanists often skeptical? Probably. Although generally optimistic, they want to be confident that they are moving forward on solid, proven ground. Facts and evidence are very important to them. Being skeptical is often necessary in searching for the truth.

Where does a humanist turn when he/she needs comfort and support? Family, friends, fellow humanists, neighbors, organizations he/she belongs to. What do humanists see as some of the benefits? Not living in fear of going to hell. Not feeling guilty (original sin). Freedom not to believe things that do not make sense to them. Freedom from having to have a relationship with a supernatural being they strongly suspect has never existed and cannot be known. Freedom from having to submit to an authority that cannot be questioned.

Will all 60 million humanists agree with the answers (or even the questions!) in this short Q & A? No, but probably neither would 315 million Americans agree on a Q & A about America. Or millions of Republicans agree on what constitutes their party. Same for the Democrats...
Appendix: Further Reading and Resources

American Atheists, www.atheists.org
American Ethical Union, www.aeu.org
Americans United for Separation of Church and State, www.au.org
Atheist Nexus, www.atheistnexus.com
Camp Quest, www.camp-quest.org
Center For Inquiry, www.centerforinquiry.net
Foundation Beyond Belief, www.FoundationBeyondBelief.org
Free Thought Action, www.freethoughtaction.org
Humanist Institute, www.humanistinstitute.org
International Humanist and Ethical Union, www.iheu.org
International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, www.iishj.org
James Randi Educational Foundation, www.randi.org
Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers, www.militaryatheists.org
Reason Project, www.project-reason.org
Secular Coalition for America, www.secular.org
Secular Student Alliance, www.Secularstudents.org
Skeptics Society, www.skeptic.com
The Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, www.csjo.org
The Humanist Society, www.humanist-society.org
The HUumanist Association, www.huumanists.org
The Society for Humanistic Judaism, www.shj.org
United Coalition of Reason, www.unitedcor.org
Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions

About the Author

John Sias is the author of seven books, among them 100 Questions That Non-Members Ask About Unitarian Universalism which has sold 35,000 copies. A former writer for the Boston office of the Associated Press, he was CEO of the Nashua, NH Chamber of Commerce and later served as president of the New England Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

A founder of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Nashua, Sias was its first president and first Big Brother. He adopted his Little Brother when Chris was 25, but first had to successfully argue for a change in a state law to do so. He and his wife have been foster parents to two boys.

The Greater Nashua United Way named Sias its Volunteer of the Year in 1997. He was the founder in 2005 and first president of the NH Prostate Cancer Coalition. The NH Charitable Foundation presented him its Humanitarian award in 2008, and also in that year, the Nashua Chamber of Commerce awarded him its “Citizen of the Year.” A graduate of Colgate University and Boston University, he is the father of two daughters and his adopted son. He has twice been a guest on the TODAY show.