

What is Humanism?

Humanism is the contemporary expression of a long tradition of free thought. It is a worldview that has inspired many of the world's great thinkers and creative artists.

Humanists believe we can build a better world if we...

...seek human, rather than divine, solutions to the world's problems through the application of critical reason, free inquiry and the scientific method.

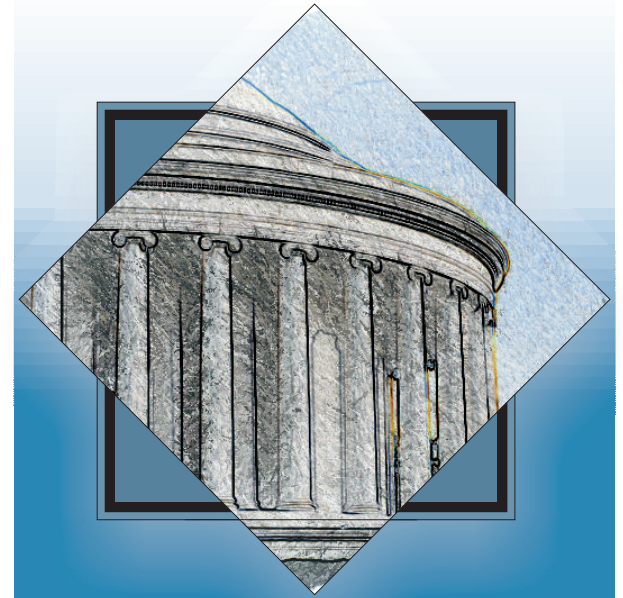
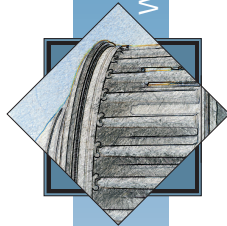
...continually weigh and test dogmas, ideologies and traditions, whether religious, political or social, against observation, rather than accepting them on faith.

...support democratic forms of government and affirm the worth, dignity and right to self-determination of every human being.

...maintain the separation of church and state and the freedom of and from religion.

...combine personal liberty with social responsibility, and recognize our dependence on, and responsibility for, the natural world.

Washington Area Secular Humanists
P.O. Box 15319 Washington, DC 20003



Do you find religion unfulfilling?

Do you value freedom of thought, expression and conscience?

Are you looking for a place to speak your mind on issues affecting our world?

Washington Area Secular Humanists
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Humanists believe we can achieve personal fulfillment through...

...a constant search for truth, with the understanding that new knowledge and experience constantly alter our imperfect perception of it.

...a concern for *this* life and a commitment to making it meaningful through better understanding of ourselves, our history, our intellectual and artistic achievements, and the outlooks of those who differ from us.

...a search for viable individual, social, and political principles of ethical conduct, judging them on their ability to enhance human well being and individual responsibility.

...a conviction that with reason, an open market-place of ideas, good will and tolerance, progress can be made in building a better world for ourselves and our children.

Secular humanists...

...are further distinguished by a commitment to the pursuit of humanist goals outside of a religious framework.

WASH Offers

- Intellectually stimulating programs at chapters in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia
- Social and recreational events, including dinners, parties, movies, hikes and trips
- Informal discussion groups for exploring topics of interest to humanists
- WASHline, our lively monthly member newsletter, including articles, program schedules, book and movie reviews, and more
- Internet resources - an informative web site, and a number of e-mail list servers
- Connection to the larger humanist community through formal and informal alliances
- Opportunities to engage in activism and outreach on important contemporary issues
- Service to the public and the media as a source of information about humanist perspectives on issues of contemporary concern

If you are looking for a community of people who pursue a meaningful life without religion, or are examining your beliefs and wish to explore humanist approaches to knowledge and values, membership in WASH is an excellent place to begin.

The Mission of WASH

Washington Area Secular Humanists was incorporated in 1989 as a non-profit, education organization. Its purpose is to promote scientific literacy and critical thinking, to provide a forum for humanists and others to explore humanist principles and how they relate to all aspects of human experience, and to study the significance of humanism throughout history.

For information about WASH meetings and events, or to obtain a membership application, please visit our web site at www.wash.org or email your request to info@wash.org.

WASH is a Cooperating Local Group of the **Council for Secular Humanism**
www.secularhumanism.org

WASH is an Affiliate of the **American Humanist Association**
www.americanhumanist.org

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