



Growing Humanism, a secular, rational and compassionate worldview through education, connection and community involvement in Toronto

## What's next?

### THE FORUM

Discussion from a Humanist perspective

FEBRUARY  
**17**  
Saturday

**What are the Impacts of an Aging Population?**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

FEBRUARY  
**24**  
Saturday

**TBA**  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

### BEYOND BELIEVING

Humanists' support transitioning from religion to secular, fulfilling lives

MARCH  
**11**  
Monday

**Beyond Believing and Darwin Day**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

APRIL  
**08**  
Monday

**Beyond Believing**  
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

### HAT CHAT

Touch base with members and non-members

FEBRUARY  
**21**  
Wednesday

**Hat Chat**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

FEBRUARY  
**28**  
Wednesday

**Hat Chat**  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

**SOCIAL GATHERINGS & SPECIAL DAYS**  
Days to Celebrate Humanism and ourselves

FEBRUARY  
**23**  
Sunday

**HIP - Hatters in the Pub**  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

MARCH  
**26**  
Sunday

**HIP - Hatters in the Pub**  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
[Learn more](#)

NEXT COPY DEADLINE  
**18 MARS 2024**

# I want YOU in my team

## HAT volunteer position: Meeting Reporter

Are you someone who has some time and the desire to contribute in a vital and concrete way to your Humanist Community?

HAT is looking for a Reporter for our monthly Steering Committee meetings.

We need you to turn our meeting conversations into text document minutes that will encapsulate the key information, action and decision points of our Monthly Meetings.

Skills - listening, writing, organization

Time - up to 3 hours per month

Please contact Richard, [HATCoord@gmail.com](mailto:HATCoord@gmail.com) if you are ready to contribute.

## Steering Committee

The HAT Steering Committee meets monthly to conduct the business of the association.

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

Coordinator [HatCoord@gmail.com](mailto:HatCoord@gmail.com)

Treasurer [HatTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:HatTreasurer@gmail.com)

Program Coordinator [HatProgram@gmail.com](mailto:HatProgram@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor [HatWebAdmin@gmail.com](mailto:HatWebAdmin@gmail.com)

<b>Coordinator &amp; Treasurer</b> Richard Dowsett	<b>Program Coordinator</b> Ryn Loewe	<b>Webadmin &amp; Newsletter</b> Sarah Coudert
<b>Public Relations</b> Glen Erikson	<b>Spokesperson</b> Catherine Francis	<b>Membership</b> Michelle Edmunds
<b>Member at Large</b> Tanya Long	<b>Member at Large</b> Janet Rudd	<b>Member at Large</b> Cornelia Laven

## Recents motions

- MOTION PASSED to initiate a \$500 minimum Quarterly Spending Initiative (QUARSI) to put member money into action
- MOTION PASSED agreement in principle to support CFI speaker event, Seth Andrews in Toronto, Aug 2024
- Dr. Christopher Labos will be our 2024 Darwin Day Speaker on Feb 10

## Humanist Ceremonies

Are you planning a wedding, a funeral, a coming-of-age or naming ceremony for a child?

Here are some licensed humanist officiants we trust to create meaningful life-passage ceremonies.

**Kerry Bowser - GTA**  
416-807-3094  
[kerry@kerrybowser.com](mailto:kerry@kerrybowser.com)

**Mary Anne Farah - Oakville, Toronto**  
289-837-0303 (L)  
416-419-2167 (cell)  
[maryanne@humanistceremonies.ca](mailto:maryanne@humanistceremonies.ca)  
[humanistceremonies.ca](http://humanistceremonies.ca)

**Janet Rudd - Toronto**  
647-866-4494  
[janetontarioceremonies.com](http://janetontarioceremonies.com)  
[janetontarioceremonies@gmail.com](mailto:janetontarioceremonies@gmail.com)

**Mary Beaty - Toronto**  
[marybeaty@gmail.com](mailto:marybeaty@gmail.com)  
[weddingsoftoronto.com](http://weddingsoftoronto.com)

**Julia Bailey - Large GTA**  
416-904-7783  
[officiant@thecelebrant.ca](mailto:officiant@thecelebrant.ca)  
[thecelebrant.ca](http://thecelebrant.ca)

**Sarah Boyer Messenger - Toronto**  
416-731-1958  
[sarah@sarahmonies.ca](mailto:sarah@sarahmonies.ca)  
[Sarahmonies.ca](http://Sarahmonies.ca)

**Mei Cheung - Oakville**  
905-616-8395  
[info@youroccasions.ca](mailto:info@youroccasions.ca)  
[youroccasions.ca](http://youroccasions.ca)

**Martin Frith - Toronto**  
416-362-1141  
[info@ceremonieswithchoice.ca](mailto:info@ceremonieswithchoice.ca)  
[ceremonieswithchoice.ca](http://ceremonieswithchoice.ca)

# A word from the editor

Hey everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. For those who navigated the challenges of spending time with religious family members, I hope you found moments of peace and joy amidst the complexity. I'm fortunate to have an atheist family, which seems to be a rarity in North America.

As we dive into this new issue, we're aiming to realign with our regular schedule. Moving forward, I'm committed to bringing you a fresh newsletter every quarter, just as you've come to expect.

Here's to a new year filled with happiness, health, and enlightening discussions. Stay curious and connected!

## Celebrating Festivus 2023: A Festive Success!

This past December 17th, we joyously celebrated Festivus 2023, marking a memorable and fun day. With an amazing turnout of 37 attendees, the event was bustling with a variety of activities. A heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who joined us – you made this Festivus truly special!

### Highlights of the Festivus

**Community Support:** In the true Festivus spirit of sharing and giving, we came together to support the Parkdale Community Food Bank. Our collective efforts resulted in a donation of \$365 and two large boxes filled with essential items.

**Honored Guests from HAT:** Our gathering was graced by the founders of the Humanist Association of Toronto (HAT), Olga and Johan van de Ven, who joined us to celebrate.



**Culinary Delights:** The feast was a cornucopia of everyone's culinary talents, with tables laden with dishes brought by attendees. Each contribution was a personal expression of care and community.

**The Festivus Pole:** Standing tall and unadorned, our Festivus pole served as a central gathering point where we shared grievances, stories, and moments of connection.

**Singing together with our favorite musician:** Glen, responsible for HAT's Public Relations, graciously honored us by skillfully playing guitar and leading the audience in traditional Christmas music, artfully infused with a humanist twist!



## Milestone

We express our deepest sympathies to Shannon for the loss of her beloved grandmother.

Shannon Fraser is a technical editor at an engineering and consulting firm. At work, she is an active member of the Black employee network and regularly participates in events supporting her LGBTQ+ colleagues. She discovered and joined HAT during the pandemic while seeking a nonreligious community that matched her feelings about the human spirit, her approach to morality, and her calls for justice. Shannon currently lives in Pickering, Ontario, with her two sons and her fiancé, Chris, and enjoys baking and playing the piano.



In a heartfelt narrative, [that you can find here](#), Shannon shared her journey of love, loss, and

reflection, offering a window into her personal experiences with her grandmother's devout faith and the complexities of navigating grief as a nonbeliever.

We are profoundly grateful to Shannon for her candidness and for reminding us that in the tapestry of human experience, each thread is woven with its own unique blend of beliefs, values, and emotions.

## Hats Off to Creativity

I've stumbled upon this beautiful secular "mantra" on [Reddit](#) and wanted to share it with you:

May all beings have fresh clean water to drink.  
May all beings have food to eat.  
May all beings have a home.  
May all beings have someone to share love with.  
May all beings know their true purpose.  
May all beings be well and happy.  
May all beings be free from suffering.  
Today, I shall do what I can to make this so.

## You can be part of this newsletter too!

Send us your submission before the next copy deadline to have a chance to be included in this newsletter.

Note that we may modify what you send to us, for readability or because of our limited space.

### Mail Submissions and Advertising

HAT EDITOR

Humanist Association of Toronto

Box 68559, 360A Bloor St West

Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X1

### Email Submissions

[HATCoord@gmail.com](mailto:HATCoord@gmail.com)

[HatWebAdmin@gmail.com](mailto:HatWebAdmin@gmail.com)



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member

Renewal Member

If new member: What influenced you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please print. If this is a 'Household' membership, please include all member names

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: We will only use your contact information for HAT-related communication.

**Please circle the appropriate amount(s)**

Membership HAT membership Cost	Amount
Individual	\$30
Student/Limited Resources	\$10
Household	\$40
Limited Income Household	\$15
Life Member	\$200
Donation	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Please pay in one of three ways:**

- By cheque payable to: Humanist Association of Toronto and mailed to:

**PO Box 68559, 360A Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON M5S 1X1**

- By Interac Email Transfer via your online bank.

Please send payment to the [HatTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:HatTreasurer@gmail.com) with a one word answer in lowercase answered question

- By Stripe online at [www.humanisttoronto.ca/join-hat/](http://www.humanisttoronto.ca/join-hat/)

❖ May we exchange your name and address with like-minded organizations?  Yes  No

HAT issues official Receipts for all Donations or Contributions.

We welcome your membership and hope to see you at our meetings and events!

Thank you ♥