

# THE AT NEWSLETTER

*Promoting Humanism and the Separation of Church and State*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE HAT ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Our annual review of HAT for the members  
by the Steering Committee.  
See a fuller description on Page 5  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/97138103>

### THE FORUM

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/97138103>  
See opposite column, bottom, for other details.  
Review the HAT website for more listings.

### BEYOND BELIEVING

The second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m. -  
9:00 p.m.  
Toward living a more Humanist life!  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
[https://zoom.us/j/ 91169150379](https://zoom.us/j/91169150379)

### HAT TALKS

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Touch base with members and non-members.  
Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://zoom.us/j/426263324>

### THE SPEAKER SERIES HAT TALKS

Occurs every four months or so.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

The Forum program and other programs and events take place via Zoom. Contact a SC member if you have enquiries about events, or have other questions. The HAT website is also an excellent resource!

HAT Website: [www.humanisttoronto.ca](http://www.humanisttoronto.ca)

**Beyond Believing** Members and guests discuss their past and current struggles in their journey from religion to secular / humanist life every second Monday.

**HAT Chat** An unhosted civil talkfest where discussions can be on anything at all. Casual and accommodating.

**THE SPEAKER SERIES** Speaker events occur on Saturdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. as scheduled. Dates and times may vary to accommodate speaker availability. Please see the left column for details about upcoming speakers.

## THE FORUM / HAT TALKS

The Forum continues to be one of HAT's most popular programs! Each Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00, we meet to discuss a topic of Humanist interest, share our ideas and make new friends. A few times per year HAT Talks takes over The Forum time slot. Each Hat Talks presents a HAT member speaking to the group on a topic of personal interest or expertise. You too can be a HAT Talker. Apply within!  
You don't have to be a HAT member to attend either event. Just click the Zoom link at the designated time: <https://zoom.us/j/97138103>

The HAT Newsletter  
Vol. 30, Issue 1 (2023)  
EDITOR: Cornelia Laven

The HAT newsletter is published on a quarterly basis. Copy deadline is at least ten days prior to publication.

The editor welcomes your contributions! Submissions are preferably from members, relatively current, signed by you, your own work or quoted material on which you comment and, as well, not opposed to the spirit of humanism. The editor's preference is that your submissions be emailed as attached MS Word documents or simply pasted into your email as unformatted text. The editor reserves the right to select materials and to edit these for style, length and content. Submissions may include articles, photos, poems, illustrations, book reviews and so forth.

The aim is *never* to rewrite your meaning, but to ensure clarity and balanced, ethical reporting practice. Space is limited and we cannot guarantee publication. All opinions are those of the authors and *not* necessarily those of the editor, steering committee or HAT members.

**Next Copy Deadline**  
TBA

### Mail or Email Submissions and Advertising

CO-ORDINATOR  
Humanist Association of Toronto  
Box 68559, 360A Bloor St West  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1X1

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

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

HAT Website: [www.humanisttoronto.ca](http://www.humanisttoronto.ca)

### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

*Greetings Members,*

*I will be completing the first newsletter here for 2023. Should you be interested in becoming a newsletter editor please let me know or SC members know. After fourteen years, I am leaving my post.*

*What I valued most while working on the HAT newsletters is that I was doing so on behalf of members. I greatly appreciated your warm applause at a previous AGM, after I briefly spoke on the value of the newsletter format over time.*

*The AGM takes place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Please see information about the AGM on one of the final pages of the newsletter. The Proxy sheet is also on our website or has been emailed to you.*

*I will continue to participate in HAT and hope to see you at key events.*

*c.l.*

## HAT STEERING COMMITTEE

The HAT Steering Committee meets monthly to conduct the business of the association. Since HAT is a member-driven organization, your presence and participation are essential. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

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

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

Membership Secretary.....Rinnie Loewe

Web Administrator.....Dan McLean Jr.

Recording Secretary.....TBD

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

Public Relations Officer.....Glen Erikson

Spokesperson..... Debbie Firestone

Newsletter Editor .....Cornelia Laven  
[HatNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:HatNewsletter@gmail.com)

External Representative.....TBD

Members at Large: Tanya Long, Janet Rudd

## NOTEWORTHY MOTIONS / KEY RESOLUTIONS OF THE RECENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

In December 2022, HAT decided to apply for Membership with Humanists International (HI) to broaden the scope of our involvement in world humanism and take advantage of HI's impressive network of service and engagement.

In January, we submitted our application.

In April, the HAT Coordinator interviewed a membership representative of HI.

The next steps will entail a deeper dive by HI into HAT's internet presence and history and finally a posting of our candidacy for membership to all current HI member organizations asking for feedback.

As we foresee no negative feedback, we expect approval of HAT's HI membership this summer.

## Personalized

### HUMANIST CEREMONIES

Are you or one of your relatives planning a wedding?

Will you soon be organizing the funeral of a friend or relative or pre-planning your own?

Would you like to have a naming ceremony for your new baby or grandchild? Or a coming-of-age ceremony for a young adult?

We are licensed humanist officiants who collaborate with you to create meaningful life-passage ceremonies that fit with your values, beliefs and traditions. We are also creating brand new traditions that fit with a secular humanist worldview.

See the HAT website for more officiants in your area!

## HUMANIST OFFICIANTS AT YOUR SERVICE

MARTIN FRITH, BES, M.Div., RMFT  
TORONTO

[info@ceremonieswithchoice.ca](mailto:info@ceremonieswithchoice.ca)  
(416) 362-1141  
[www.ceremonieswithchoice.ca](http://www.ceremonieswithchoice.ca)

SARAH BOYER MESSENGER  
TORONTO AND MUSKOKA

[sarah@sarahmonies.ca](mailto:sarah@sarahmonies.ca)  
(416) 731-1958  
[www.Sarahmonies.ca](http://www.Sarahmonies.ca)

MANDY ST GERMAINE  
RICHMOND HILL, TORONTO, COLLINGWOOD

[mandy@mandystgermaine.com](mailto:mandy@mandystgermaine.com)  
(416) 806-8027 / (705) 446-5634  
[www.MandyStGermaine.com](http://www.MandyStGermaine.com)

JANET RUDD  
GREATER TORONTO AREA

[Janetontarioceremonies@gmail.com](mailto:Janetontarioceremonies@gmail.com)  
(647) 866-4494  
[www.janetontarioceremonies.com](http://www.janetontarioceremonies.com)

MARY ANNE FARAH  
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[maryanne@humanistceremonies.ca](mailto:maryanne@humanistceremonies.ca)  
416-419-2617  
[www.humanistceremonies.ca](http://www.humanistceremonies.ca)

SYLVIA MCGROARTY  
OAKVILLE

[sylviamcgroartyofficiant@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviamcgroartyofficiant@hotmail.com)  
(289) 681-4933

ARRAN LIDDEL  
TORONTO

[ArranLiddel@gmail.com](mailto:ArranLiddel@gmail.com)  
647-712-7736



## Hall of Fame Member Interview: George Goldberg, Treasurer

*Please tell us a little bit about your background.*

I was born in London, Ontario in 1931. I got a BA at Western University, moved to Toronto and worked at what was then Metro Toronto Social Services.

*How did you become a secular humanist?*

My late wife Maxine and I joined a Humanist group around 1962 when the leaders were people like Jack and Willi Gazan. Maxine and I came from a Jewish background, but never thought that religion made any sense.

*When did you become involved with HAT and what role did you play?*

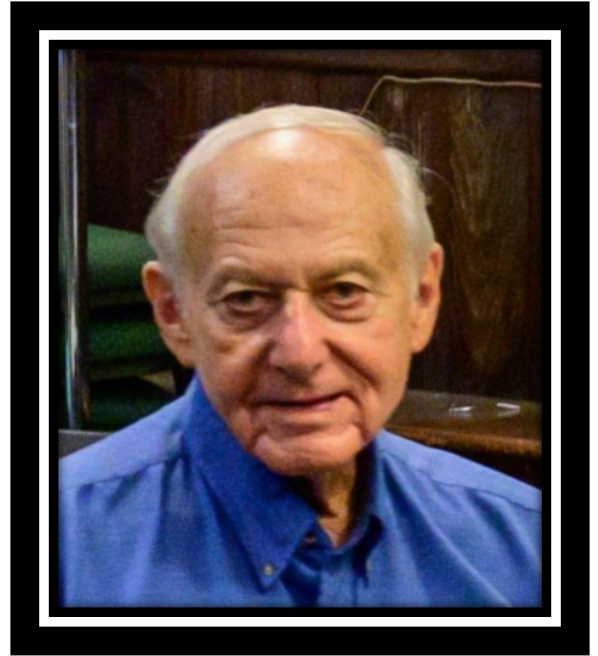
I think I became involved with HAT in the late 1990s; I was treasurer for quite a number of years. I have attended and still continue to attend HAT meetings as well as many Humanist Canada and Centre for Inquiry Canada conventions.

*What does HAT mean to you?*

I like going to Humanist meetings and conventions to be in the company of non-religious people. I have attended some of the HAT Zoom meetings for the interesting topics and lively discussions.

*What are your current interests?*

Since 1960 I have been a vegetarian for health, animal cruelty and environmental reasons. I have also been a member of the NDP since 1960. I'm an enthusiastic supporter of Madeline Weld's Population Institute. Over-population is a concern of mine. It is quickly using up the world's resources and is causing so many refugees to flee their home countries. For fun I enjoy theatre, film, dance, operetta and reading.





The Humanist Association of Toronto  
**2023 ANNUAL MEETING**  
Saturday, April 22, 2023, 11:00 to 1:00 p.m.

The Agenda will be comprised of:

- a review of our past year of events, operations and experiences
- a snapshot in time of the Association's position
- the Election of our 2023/24 Steering Committee
- a look forward to the coming year of HAT and Humanism with an open and fulsome discussion with participation from all members

The event is open to all members, friends and guests but only members in good standing will be permitted to vote.

The AGM will be virtual on Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/971381033>  
but you can attend (audio only) if you have any sort of telephone by following these instructions:  
Dial one of these numbers: 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588  
Key in the Meeting ID 971381033 when prompted  
Use the following phone commands as needed  
**\*6** – to Mute and **\*6** again to Unmute  
**\*9** – to Raise hand

**IMPORTANT REQUEST:** If you are unable to attend the Meeting, please can you complete and return the PROXY form (see REVERSE) to the below email address.

To comply with our Constitution, an AM must be duly constituted by meeting Quorum requirements for attendance. Your Proxy will ensure we meet those requirements. Thank you!

If there are any questions, please address them to me as below.

Sincerely,  
Richard Dowsett  
HAT Coordinator 2022/23  
[HATcoord@gmail.com](mailto:HATcoord@gmail.com)  
905.516.0639



**Humanist Association of Toronto**  
**PROXY**  
**for the Annual Meeting of Members**  
to be held  
ONLINE via Zoom  
11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 22th, 2023

I, being a HAT member, hereby appoint:

\_\_\_\_\_

or failing him/her:

\_\_\_\_\_

to attend and act for and on behalf of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of Members of the Humanist Association of Toronto, Inc. (HAT) and at any and all adjournments thereof, with full power of substitution in the premises and, without otherwise limiting the generality of the foregoing, direct the proxy holder named above to vote, or withhold from voting, as specified below:

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Name of HAT member (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Signature of HAT member \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This proxy is solicited by the Steering Committee of the Humanist Association of Toronto. A member has the right to appoint a person, who need not be a member, to act as his/her proxy at the General Meeting other than the person designated in the above form of proxy. To exercise this right, the name of the desired proxy holder may be inserted in the space provided in this form of proxy or another appropriate form of proxy may be substituted.*

*This form of proxy must be executed by the member or his/her attorney or proxy holder duly authorized in writing.*

*Note: From the Constitution of the Humanist Association of Toronto:*

*Section 7 (viii), Members may be represented at meeting by proxy but no member/representative may be proxy for more than 5 members.*



# Humanist Association of Toronto

www.humanisttoronto.ca

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 (use next line if necessary). \_\_\_\_\_

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
Individual	\$30
Student/Limited Resources	\$10
Household	\$40
Limited Income Household	\$15
Life Member	\$200
Donation	
TOTAL	

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 [www.humanisttoronto.ca/join-hat/](http://www.humanisttoronto.ca/join-hat/).

- ❖ The current quarterly newsletter is available on the website but would you prefer a print copy of the upcoming newsletters by snail mail? Yes  No
- ❖ 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