

Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum

The Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum (LAF&SF) incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in April with a mission to “invite people to join in exploring together the mysteries of faith and science by looking deeply into both”. The interim Board of Directors (until our first Annual Meeting, held on November 6) was Nels Hoffman (Treasurer), Chick Keller, Glenn Magelssen, Laura McClellan (President), Morrie Pongratz, Bob Reinovsky (Secretary), Laurie Triplett (who replaced Eric Ferm when Eric moved away), Dan Winske, and Gerry Wood (Vice President).

Our Summer 2016 Discussion Series was held on Wednesday nights during June and July on the topic of “What Makes Us Human?”. The format was similar to the previous summer with dinner provided by a local church, a short presentation, a few questions and discussion from the large group, and then small group discussions moderated by facilitators. We had the privilege of hosting Prof. Justin L. Barrett, Thrive Professor of Developmental Science, School of Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, in mid July. [Prof. Barrett](#) is founding editor of the *Journal of Cognition and Culture*, and author of numerous articles and chapters concerning the cognitive science of religion. He presented two keynote addresses titled “From *Homo erectus* to *Homo religiosus*” and “When Science “Explains” Religious Beliefs: Basic Approaches and Implications”.

Our 2016/2017 winter series is a book study of the books listed below (with book discussion leaders in parenthesis).

- “Divine Vintage: Following the Wine Trail from Genesis to the Modern Age” by Randall Heshett and Joel Butler (Glenn Magelssen)
- “Dying into Life: the Yoga of Death, Loss and Transformation” by Guru Terath Khalsa, Ph.D. (Neil Goodman)
- “God After Darwin: A Theology of Evolution” by John F. Haught and John Haught (Morrie Pongratz)
- “One World” by John Polkinghorne (Bob Reinovsky)
- “Science and Religion: A New Introduction (2nd Edition)” by Alister McGrath (Dan Winske)
- “Solidarity Ethics: Transformation in a Globalized World” by Rebecca Todd Peters (Laurie Triplett)

We hope that this winter book study will prepare us to move together to the next step of discussing tough questions regarding the co-existence of faith and science (e.g., How much does God know about the future?, Why is there suffering?), which has been adopted as our vision.

The first Annual Meeting of the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum was held on November 6. There was good discussion and the following slate of Board Members (term limits in parenthesis) was elected: Neil Goodman (2), Nels Hoffman (2), Chick Keller (1), Glenn Magelssen (2), Laura McClellan (1), Cannon Odom (1), Morrie Pongratz (2), Bob Reinovsky (1), Dan Winske (2), Gerry Wood (1). There are currently 17 members of the Los Alamos Faith & Science Forum. To find out about membership, please contact Laura McClellan (la.mcclellan@icloud.com).

Submitted by Laura McClellan on behalf of the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum