

# Annual Report of the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum

December 31, 2022

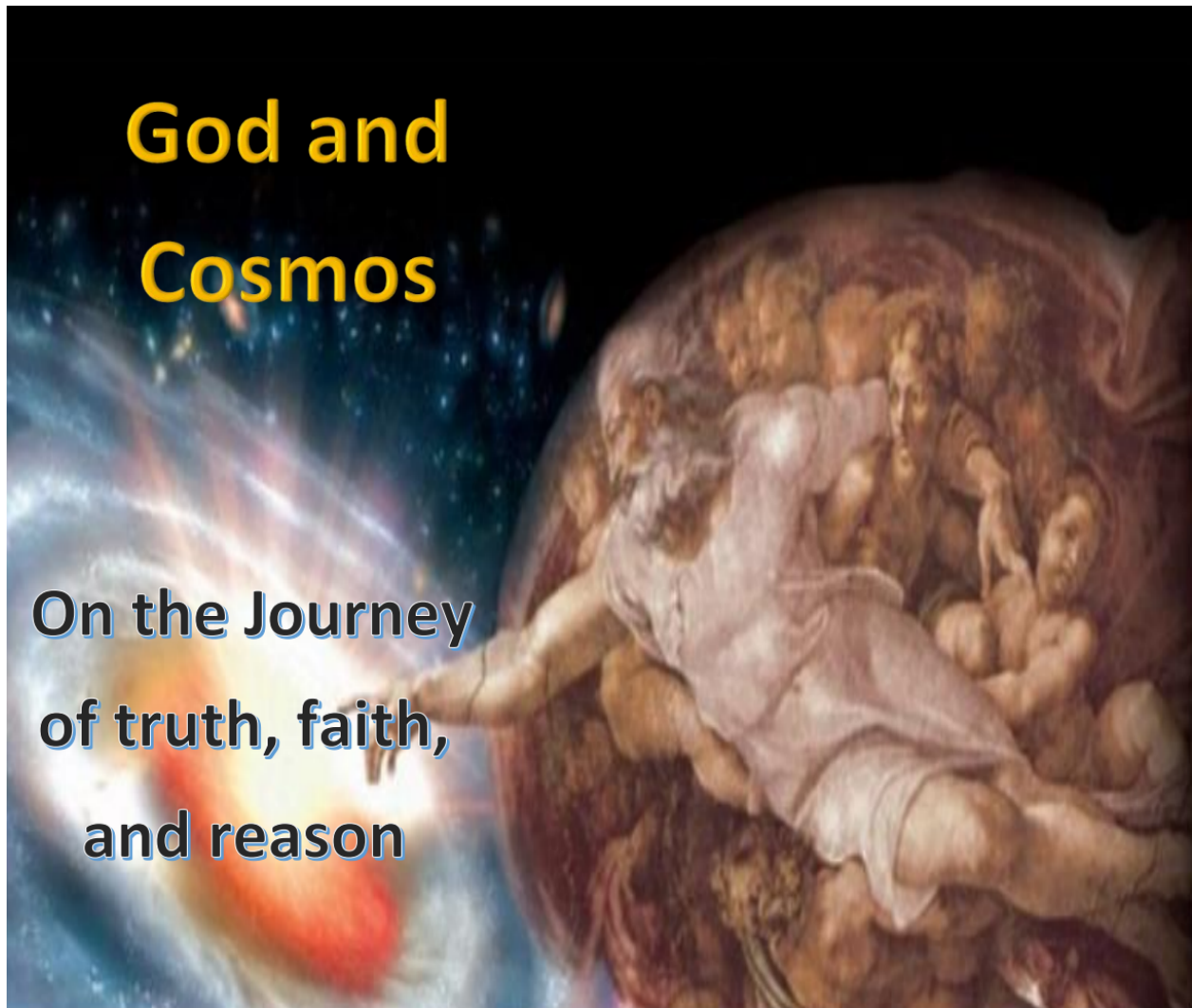
## Summary

At the end of 2022, the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum completed its sixth year as an official 501 (c)(3) corporation as well as its 9<sup>th</sup> season of presenting a summer seminar series. The theme of this year's series was God and Cosmos – On the Journey of Truth, Faith, and Reason. These timely issues were addressed weekly by members of the forum in live presentations held in Kelly Hall at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church and an electronic format via Zoom. This was the first summer following the Pandemic, and our normal activities resumed. The Forum's external speaker was Dr. Martinez "Marty" Hewlett, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, and currently Professor at UNM-Taos since 2003. Professor Hewlett presented: Darwinian Evolution: Perspectives from Science, Philosophy, and Theology." Our summer lecture series was quite successful, as summarized in this report. The new website (<http://www.losalamosfaithandscienceforum.org>) provides more information, not only about the 2022 season but also concerning prior years. Appendices to this report add further information. Appendix A is a list of the Forum Board members. Appendix B is the agenda of the annual meeting held in November. Appendix C: is the Financial Report for 2022.

## Summer 2022 Activities

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum investigates contemporary issues at the interface of faith and science with a weekly lecture series every summer. This year we considered a wide range of topics, under a unifying theme: "God and Cosmos – On the Journey of Truth, Faith, and Reason." We happily reinstated our usual supper-lecture-discussion format at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church. In addition, we continued to use social media, via Zoom to stream our talks out to participants who could not attend in person as well as to new participants interested in these topics. The use of zoom's interactive features 'chat' and 'voice' enabled zoom attendees to participate in the question and answer segment and the table discussion. Typically, we had an average of 51.1 attendees of which 36.5 people were live in Kelly Hall and an average of 17.9 people on-line during these talks and the discussions that followed. Copies of the abstracts for this season's presentations, viewgraphs, and videos of the talks themselves can be found on our new website: [www.losalamosfaithandscienceforum.org](http://www.losalamosfaithandscienceforum.org).

Press release from Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum, May 2022



## God and Cosmos: On the Journey of Truth, Faith, and Reason

The Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum invites you to a summer of celebration of being together again and continued examination of issues at the interface of faith and science:

- extending the discussion on human origins and evolution,
- expanding the boundaries of faith and embedded truth,
- exploring the nature of God's interaction with humankind.

This, our 9<sup>th</sup> season of Wednesday events runs from June 1 to August 3. Our season starts with our invited external speaker – Prof. Martinez Hewlett, professor emeritus of cellular biology from U. Arizona. He now lives in Taos and teaches at UNM. He will review and compare models

for human evolution. Later talks this summer on evolution consider experiments on the origin of life by Patrick Berg, MD and the importance of bacteria and viruses in the evolutionary process by Glenn Magelssen, PhD. In addition, we expand the boundaries of faith with presentations related to religion and science to include two talks related to Eastern Orthodox Christianity by Dr. Victoria Erhart (UNM-LA) and Father Jesse Robinson (Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Santa Fe). There also will be a talk on the science of Buddhism by John Ambrosiano, PhD, and a discussion on the image of God by Eric Ferm, PhD. The deep issues of truth in faith and God's role in the discovery process will be addressed in talks by Gary Stradling, PhD., Nelson Hoffman, PhD and Chick Keller, PhD.

We are returning to our pre-pandemic mode of an evening program that starts at 6 pm with a light supper, then the featured presentation at 6:30, followed by questions for the speaker, and concluding with table discussions related to the evening's topic.

These events are free and open to the public. They will all be held in Kelly Hall at Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church, 3900 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos. The hall is large enough for people to spread out as comfortably as they like. The presentations and subsequent discussions will also be available on zoom. The zoom link is easily found on our website: [www.lafsf.org](http://www.lafsf.org) Also on the website is the complete summer schedule.

Here is the schedule of the presentations:

**June 1:** Darwinian Evolution: Perspectives from Science, Philosophy, and Theology by Professor Marty Hewlett

**June 8:** The Science of Buddhism by Dr. John Ambrosiano

**June 15:** Images of God in the Bible, Art, and in our Scientific Work by Dr. Eric Ferm

**June 22:** Eastern Christianity & Science by Dr. Victoria Erhart (UNM-LA)

**June 29:** Origin of Life by Patrick Berg, MD

**July 6:** The Orthodox Church, Faith vs Knowledge, St. Isaac 7<sup>th</sup> century by Fr. Jesse Robinson

**July 13:** Understanding Confidence & Uncertainty in Religion & in Science by Dr. Gary Stradling

**July 20:** The Hologenome Theory of Evolution by Dr. Glenn Magelssen

**July 27:** Interactions with the Divine – a statistical view by Dr. Chick Keller

**Aug. 3:** 'The Heavens Declare': The Universe and Judeo-Christian Truth Claims by Dr. Nelson Hoffman

## Other Board Activities

Members of the Board attended national Faith & Science conferences in Los Alamos and beyond. John Singleton attended the annual conference of the Guild of the Scholars of the Episcopal Church in October 2022 and gave a talk on quantum mechanics.

Dan Winske, Morrie Pongratz, Susan Sprake and Chick Keller (member) attended the New Mexico Chapter luncheon of the Society of Catholic Scientists held at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, NM on October 29, 2022. Nels Hoffman, Susan Sprake, and Glenn Magelssen listened via zoom to some of the Biologos conference this summer. The New Mexico Chapter of the Society of Catholic Scientists NM had a book group study of Christopher Baglow,'s book *Faith, Science, & Reason, Theology on the Cutting Edge*, 2nd Edition and met via zoom. Robert Reinovsky, Dan Winske, and Gary Stradling attended Goshen Religion and Science Conference March 11-13, 2022 online, "Trauma and the Environment: Then How Shall We Live", with speakers, Drs. Ann Milliken Pederson and Jennifer Gubbels, Augustana University. Morrie Pongratz, and Dan Winske attended the Society of Catholic Scientists, SCS Annual National Conference, online June 3-5, 2022. There was no Lenten Series this year and our writer's group did not meet.

## 2022 Annual Meeting

### Summary

The Forum's annual meeting was held in person and via Zoom on Sunday, November 13, 2022. Nineteen Forum members were in attendance along with five non-members. President Susan Sprake presented a summary of the year's activities. Treasurer Bob Dryja presented a financial summary. Glenn Magelssen gave a short presentation on "A Brief History of Wine." A discussion of possible topics for next summer's lecture series occurred. The election of new Board Members took place, as summarized below. A copy of the agenda for this meeting is found in Appendix B.

### Possible Topics for Next Summer

Susan began with topics that were proposed in previous years:

- Climate change
- Quantum mechanics and uncertainty
- Emergent behavior
- The nature of thought.
- The Age of the Earth
- Super intelligence
- Biblical Archeology
- The methods and evidence used in New Testament criticism

- Fine tuning constants of the universe

Topics offered at Annual Meeting both new, expanded, and previous:

- Fine tuning in biology
- New Testament Criticism
- Biblical Archeology
- A Theology of Cosmology
- Evolution of our minds (good, bad, and evil come from the environment)
- Nature of Thought
- Climate change

### **Election of Board Members**

- Board members of the Forum are elected to two-year terms by vote of attending members.
- Board members serve two-year terms with a maximum of three consecutive two-year terms (6 consecutive years). They must wait one full year before running again.
- Today, elections for board members to serve for 2023 will be held.
- At the board meeting in January 2023, the new Board of Directors will elect new officers for the 2023 year.
- Nels Hoffman, Glenn Magelssen, Morrie Pongratz, and Dan Winske are completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the board and are not eligible for reelection to serve in 2023.
- Robert Dryja, Susan Sprake, and Gary Stradling are finishing their 1<sup>st</sup> year of their 2<sup>nd</sup> term at the end of 2022. They will begin their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 2<sup>nd</sup> term in 2023 (no vote necessary)
- Five board members are completing the first year of their 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term in 2022 and beginning their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their two-year term in 2023: Patrick Berg, Andrea Favalli, Nick Hengartner, Daniel Holladay, and John Singleton. (No vote necessary)
- Three board members, Amy Birnbaum, Eric Ferm, and Michelle Stump will finish the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 1<sup>st</sup> term at the end of 2022. They are up for election to begin their 1<sup>st</sup> year of their second term in 2023. Michelle Stump has indicated that she wishes not to be considered for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. (vote)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> year of their second term in 2023**

Amy Birnbaum

Eric Ferm

- Four (4) members are interested in joining the board in 2023 for their 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> two-year term**

**Previous Board Members**

**New**

- Charles “Chick” Keller
- Robert “Bob” Reinovsky

John Ambrosiano  
Kirk Weisbrod

Nels Hoffman, Glenn Magelssen, Morrie Pongratz, and Dan Winske are completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the board and are not eligible for reelection to serve in 2023.

In the years 2016-2022 -

Nels Hoffman has served as President, was a founding member, and served as chair of the (external) speakers committee for seven years. Nels has given approximately eight lectures since 2016.

Glenn Magelssen has served as a board member and has given six lectures and was a founding member of the forum.

Morrie Pongratz has served as Secretary and Publicity Chair and has given three lectures.

Dan Winske served as President from 2019 -2021 (3 years) and Treasurer from 2017-2018 (2 years). Dan gave four summer lectures from 2017 – 2020.

Between them, they have given at least twenty-one lectures in the summer program over the last six years and have served in multiple capacities.

*We thank them for their service on the board.*

## **Board Member elected for 2023**

Amy Birnbaum and Eric Ferm to the first year of their second term

John Ambrosiano, Chick Keller, Bob Reinovsky and Kirk Weisbrod for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their 1<sup>st</sup> term.

At the next board meeting scheduled for January 11, 2023, the Board of Directors will elect new officers for the year.

## **Appendix A: Organization of the 2022 Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum**

### **Board of Directors**

- Amy Birnbaum; Member, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
- Patrick Berg; Member, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Robert Dryja (Treasurer); Member, Unitarian Church of Los Alamos
- Andrea Favalli; Member, Catholic Church
- Eric Ferm, (Vice President); Member, Plymouth Congregational Church, Fort Collins, CO
- Nelson Hoffman; Member, First United Methodist Church of Los Alamos

- Nick Hengartner; Member Catholic Church
- Daniel Holladay, Church of Christ
- Glenn Magelssen; Deacon, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Morris Pongratz (Secretary); Member, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
- John Singleton, Member, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
- Susan Sprake; (President); Member, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
- Gary Stradling; Member, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Michelle Stump; Member, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
- Dan Winske Member, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

### **Officers for 2022**

- President – Susan Sprake
- Vice President – Eric Ferm
- Secretary – Morris Pongratz
- Treasury – Robert Dryja

### **Committee Chairs**

- Budget – Robert Dryja
- Membership – Robert Dryja
- Strategic Planning – open
- Planning for 2022:
  - Curriculum – open
  - Logistics – open (group effort)
  - Website design and maintenance – Patrick Berg & Nels Hoffman
  - Publicity – Morris Pongratz
  - Visiting/External Speaker – Dan Winske, Susan Sprake

### **Appendix B: Agenda for the Annual Meeting (November 13, 2022)**

Meeting held in person and remotely via Zoom

- Welcome
- Introduction of attendees
- Review Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting

- Comments on 2022 Annual Report – Susan Sprake - Members
- Financial report – Bob Dryja
- Comments from committee chairs
- Glenn Magelssen: “A Brief History of Wine”
- Suggested topics/themes for 2023
- Comments from Forum members
- Election of board members  
2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term; 3<sup>rd</sup> two-year term  
New Board Members
- Adjournment

## **Appendix C: Financial Report for 2022**

### **Los Alamos Faith and Science Forum 2022 Annual Financial Summary Complete Twelve Months**

The following table is for the complete twelve months of 2022. Several members made membership payments or donations during the last week of December. The Forum nearly maintained the same cash balance for the year. It started with a balance of \$9,125.42 and finished the year with a balance of \$9,119.68. This was a decrease of \$5.74 for the year.

#### **Key Points**

- Most financial activity occurred in June through August as a part of the summer program activities.
- Two churches, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and White Rock Presbyterian Church, donated \$1,300.00.
- Individual contributions were for memberships or for dinner donations during summer presentations.
- Total income for the year was \$3,287.75 and expenses were \$3,293.49
- Twenty-three people made membership payments for 2023. Nine of these people also made donations or membership payments for 2022 or 2024.



- Another fourteen people have not made membership payments but are included in the email listing.

Twelve Monthly Income/Expense Summaries																			
	Church	Individual		Total	Profressional	Occupancy		Other	Total	Monthly									
	Contributions	Contributions	Memberships	Revenue	Fees	Maintenance	Printing	Expenses	Expenses	Balance									
Dec-21										\$ 9,125.42									
Jan-22		\$ 170.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 215.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,340.42									
Feb-22				\$0.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,340.42									
Mar-22				\$0.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,340.42									
Apr-22				\$0.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,340.42									
May-22				\$0.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,340.42									
Jun-22	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 541.75		\$1,541.75				\$ 420.67	\$420.67	\$ 10,461.50									
Jul-22		\$ 554.00		\$ 554.00	\$ 1,469.60			\$ 622.33	\$ 2,091.93	\$ 8,923.57									
Aug-22		\$ 147.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 162.00				\$ 780.89	\$ 780.89	\$ 8,304.68									
Sep-22				\$ -					\$0.00	\$ 8,304.68									No financial transactions September
Oct-22				\$ -					\$0.00	\$ 8,304.68									No financial transactions October
Nov-22	\$ 300.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 485.00					\$0.00	\$ 8,789.68									
Dec-22		\$ 135.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 330.00					\$0.00	\$ 9,119.68									
Totals	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,552.75	\$ 435.00	\$3,287.75	\$ 1,469.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,823.89	\$ 3,293.49	\$ 9,119.68									As of December 31, 2022
										\$ (5.74)									Change from Dec 2021 to Dec 2022