

**Welcome and Chalice Lighting**

I'm glad we're all here this evening to share reflections and ideas, and to be part of a Society where such meetings are valued.

**Brief Check-ins: Limited if more than 6 are present.**

**Opening Readings**

**On Objectivism:**

“My philosophy, Objectivism, holds that:

1. Reality exists as an objective absolute - facts are facts, independent of man's feelings, wishes, hopes or fears.
2. Reason (the faculty which identifies and integrates the material provided by man's senses) is man's only means of perceiving reality, his only source of knowledge, his only guide to action, and his basic means of survival.
3. Man - every man - is an end in himself, not the means to the ends of others. He must exist for his own sake, neither sacrificing himself to others nor sacrificing others to himself. The pursuit of his own rational self-interest and of his own happiness is the highest moral purpose of his life.
4. The ideal political-economic system is laissez-faire capitalism. It is a system where men deal with one another, not as victims and executioners, nor as masters and slaves, but as traders, by free, voluntary exchange to mutual benefit. It is a system where no man may obtain any values from others by resorting to physical force, and no man may initiate the use of physical force against others.”  
- Ayn Rand, 1962 (<http://www.aynrand.org>)

“Reason is an attribute of the individual. Thought is a process performed not by men, but by man in the singular. No society, committee, or ‘organic’ group can do it. What a group can do in this regard is only: to leave the individual free to function, or to stop him.”

- *The Ominous Parallels* by Dr. Leonard Peikoff

“To say ‘I love you’ one must know first how to say the ‘I.’”

- Howard Roark, *The Fountainhead*, by Ayn Rand

“I swear - by my life and my love for it - that I will never live for the sake of another man, nor ask another man to live for mine.”

- John Galt, *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand

**On Humanism:**

“What we offer is a chance for you to join in our search for the meaningful life without dogma and using the best tools of both mind and heart, both reason and compassion.” (<http://www.huumanists.org/>)

## A Silent Moment....

### Main Subject: Objectivism : What is it value to you?

Rev. Sarah Oelberg describes Humanism as including the following values. Note the similarities and differences with Objectivism:

- Showing love to all humans is a worthy goal.
- Immortality is found in the examples we set and the work we do.
- We gain insight from many sources and all cultures, and there are many religious books and teachings that can instruct us about how to live.
- We have the power within ourselves to realize the best we are capable of as human beings.
- We are responsible for what we do and become; our lives are in our own hands.

[\(http://www.uua.org/\)](http://www.uua.org/)

### Questions:

1. Have you read any of Ayn Rand's work and if so, what impact did it have on you?
2. Do you agree with the idea that reason is the highest value for humans? That collectivism is evil?
3. What are the main similarities and differences between Humanism and Objectivism?
4. Ayn Rand would probably want to be judged on the logic of her arguments. Can you find any faulty assumptions in Ayn Rand's philosophy?

**Individual communing:** 6 minutes per individual, 3 minutes of group response for each.

**Open Discussion (facilitated by \_\_\_\_\_)**

### Business:

Planning for summer service hosted by Sapere Aude

Next meeting location: UU Meeting House Date: 5/25/11 (2nd & 4th Wed.)

Meeting Plan author: \_\_\_\_\_

### Closing

“Men learn from others, they build on the work of their predecessors, they achieve by cooperation feats that would be impossible on a desert island. But all such social relationships require the exercise of the human faculty of cognition; they depend on the solitary individual, "solitary" in the primary, inner sense of the term, the sense of a man facing reality firsthand, seeking not to crucify himself on the cross of others or to accept their word as an act of faith, but to understand, to connect, to know.”

- *The Ominous Parallels* by Dr. Leonard Peikoff