



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

January 2000



ASHS Affiliate

"20th-Century Emancipators"

Dr. David Schafer, Speaker

"Knowledge is power." Frederick Douglass emancipated himself from slavery by teaching himself to read and write, and much more. In the century just ended, other great leaders have arisen to spread this message. How they were able to achieve their greatness is an inspiring story for people of every racial heritage.

There are important connections to Humanism in many writings by African-Americans. Among the American philosophers most favored by contemporary Humanists is John Dewey, a signer of Humanist Manifesto I (1933). Dewey was the last of the so-called "pragmatist triumvirate," his predecessors being C.F. Peirce and William James. Pragmatism is often called America's principal contribution to philosophy, and versions of the pragmatist philosophy have strongly influenced many living Humanist writers.

Cornel West, Jr., has also made much of the importance of pragmatist ideas in 20th-century African-American thought. Both W.E.B. Du Bois and Alain Locke, who inspired the Harlem Renaissance, were students of William James at Harvard, where they acquired world cultural

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

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| Mon., 17 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: David Schafer on "African American Intellectuals and Humanism." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| Fri., 28 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Topic: World Trade Organization - pro/con. | 7:30 p.m. |

FEBRUARY

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| Mon., 21 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Valentine's Day program: Frank Vernava on "Eros, Philia, Agape, Humanism, and me." | 8:00 p.m. |
| TBA | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |

MARCH

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| Mon., 20 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Doug Peary will present "Richard Feynman, Humanist Hero." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

perspectives that enabled them to rise above the narrow confines of American prejudice. A recent collection of essays edited by Prof. Leonard Harris discusses *The Critical Pragmatism of Alain Locke*.

In his latest book, *The Cornel West Reader*, West speaks of "prophetic pragmatism" as "pragmatism at its best," and describes his own thinking as "Chekhovian Christianity with deep democratic commitments," adding, "I am obsessed with confronting the pervasive evil of unjustified suffering and unnecessary social misery in the world."

David will argue that when we strip away non-essential traditional references in West's writings, what we have left is genuine Humanism.

You mustn't miss this exciting program, to be held January 17th at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Refreshments and conversation are at 7:30 p.m., and the main program starts at 8:00. Come and bring a friend!

HACC Web Site:

<http://www.cthumanist.org>

Welcome New Board

We welcome our new officers, whose names can be seen in the list to the right.

Congratulations and best wishes for the coming year!

Silent Auction Results

The silent auction held at the annual meeting in December was not only a great deal of fun, it was also a successful fund raiser for the Association. We collected \$158.50 in winning bids, selling 26 of the 27 items contributed by members. The highest bid was \$25, but most of the winning bids were in the \$2 to \$5 range. The items included new and used books, gift sets, sweat-shirts, jewelry, and collectibles.

FUUS Speaker

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven's "Food for Thought" evening speaker series continues with featured speaker Nash Bou-tros, M.D. and Associate Profes-sor of Psychiatry at Yale, on "The Brain and Faith", on Fri-day, January 21. This will be nearly the same presentation we thoroughly enjoyed in Hamden last year, so bring anyone you wished could have been there. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by the main presen-tation at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting is open and free to the public. FUUS is located at 608 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. For information call Francis at (203) 562-0672.

New London Group News

The New London group's next meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb-ruary 5, at the Mystic & Noank Library at 40 Library St., Mystic.

This month the group will discuss, "What is the public's responsibility for those in need?"

For directions and/or further information call George or Paula Marcus at 860-572-9188.

Conversations

The topic this month is the World Trade Organization.

David Schafer and John Magnesi have agreed to prepare contrasting opening statements for the discussion to follow.

We will meet on Friday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, in the library. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be provided. As usual, we will order out for pizza. Call (203) 498-8333 or e-mail (mickey.koth@yale.edu) for more information.

Best Wishes

This was sent to me by a friend. I have no idea if its attribution is genuine or not, but it certainly expresses my feelings for the New Year, so I share it with you. -Ed

"I send you my best wishes for a year in which you will have pleasure in living every day with-out waiting for the days to be gone before finding charm in them, and without putting all hope of pleasure in the days to come." (Mme Marie Curie)

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The deadline for each issue is three weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Adult	\$35
Family	\$50

In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the member-ship fee. The membership year runs from 1/1 to 12/31.