



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

December 2000



ASHS Affiliate

Solstice Celebration

Come attend our annual Humanist celebration of the season following the elections on Monday, December 18! In addition to our bounteous table (er, bring a dish) we will offer a varied program devised to favor every taste, including the traditional reading of Lois Woodrow's "Ode To The Tilt" and music by Mickey Koth's group, Wild Notes.

Be there or be bored, Monday, December 18, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Elections

Come cast your vote Monday, December 18! Here is the proposed January — December 2001 slate of officers:

President – Manny Ratafia
Vice President – Doug Peary
Secretary – June Schafer
Treasurer – Richard Siddall

Committee Chairs

Program – Nat Wolf
Membership – Bob Rafford
Development – Mickey Koth
Publications – Carol Stone
Webmaster – Richard Siddall
Publicity – June Schafer
Hospitality – *Shared Leadership*

(Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Helene Goward, Joan Rafford, and June Schafer.)

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

Fri., 8	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.	7:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	
	Coffee and conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	Annual meeting, solstice party and silent auction.	8:00 p.m.

JANUARY

Fri., 5	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Article: "A Scientist Looks at Evolution and Religious Humanism" by Dr. David Schafer, <i>Religious Humanism</i> , vol. XXX numbers 3 and 4.	7:30 p.m.
Sat., 13	New London discussion group at the Mystic Noank Library. Topic: "The War on Drugs."	10:15 a.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	
	Coffee and conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Dr. David Schafer, "The Human Genome, from Mechanisms to Morals"	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	1:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

TBA	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.	7:30 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	
	Coffee and conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Ken Feder "Lost: One Continent. Reward: A Scientific Appraisal of the Myth of Atlantis."	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	1:30 p.m.

Silent Auction Again!

The Development Committee will again hold a silent auction at the Solstice Celebration. All earnings from the auction will be added to the endowment fund. How can you be involved? In several ways:

1. Donate items for the auction. Ideas are CDs, gift baskets of food items, gift certificates, handmade items, etc. You can bring them with you to the holiday party. If you'd like, it would be helpful, but not necessary, to let me know what you intend to bring.

2. Come to the holiday party and bid on these items!

Any questions? Suggestions? Contact me by phone at (203) 498-8333 or by e-mail at mickey.koth@yale.edu
-Mickey Koth, Chair, Development Committee

MEMBERSHIP DUES	
Adult	\$35
Family	\$50
In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. The membership year runs from 1/1 to 12/31.	

Officers

President	Douglas Peary president@cthumanist.org
Vice-President	Manny Ratafia
Secretary	June Schafer
Treasurer	Richard Siddall

Committee Chairs

Program	Nat Wolf
Membership	Helene Goward & Bob Rafford
Development	Mickey Koth
Publications	Carol Stone
Webmaster	Richard Siddall
Publicity	June Schafer
Hospitality	Joyce Wolf

Newsletter

Editor	Carol J. Stone (203) 264-8546 editor@cthumanist.org
Production:	Richard L. Siddall (203) 264-2182 webmaster@cthumanist.org

Copyright © 2000, Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, all rights reserved. Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. All submissions should be made to this address, as should requests for permission to reprint articles. If you need material returned to you, please include a SASE and clearly mark the material to be returned. All material sent to the Editor will be considered for publication. We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic strips, news items, cartoons and other illustrations related to humanism. Material may also be submitted by e-mail to editor@cthumanist.org. Approximate circulation: 100 copies. Subscription price \$10.00 per annum, free to members of the association.

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.

All About Genes, from Mechanisms to Morals

On Monday, January 15, 2001, Dr. David Schafer will satisfy a request of several members by answering the question: what is all this gene and DNA business, anyhow?

For those not familiar with our founder's career, he developed a molecular diagnostics (DNA) laboratory at the West Haven VA Medical Center during 1997 and 1998. This would explain why anyone would ask him such a question! He also has decades of experience as an educator, so expect to be able to follow along.

David plans to explain the fundamentals of what a gene is, what a genome is, what a chromosome is, what DNA is, what DNA is made of and how it is constructed, what DNA does and what is the result of gene action, how the products of gene action (expression) are involved in the formation of an organism (human or other), how the products are involved in the function of the organism, and how these functions work together to create complex functions, including some that appear to control aspects of human behavior, even some that we may regard as moral determinants.

Bring a curious friend to this enlightening event at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2001 at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Thanksgiving a Wonderful Success!

350 and more persons were provided for on Thanksgiving Day in connection with the ICM dinner. Thank you all for your great generosity, your caring, your volunteer efforts!! With your help we provided 350 dinners as scheduled, and had enough left over for another 25 dinners for shut-ins, and leftovers for 75 dinners on the following night for the evening soup kitchen!

— June Schafer

Mystic-Noank Meeting

The next meeting of the Mystic-Noank humanist discussion group is scheduled for January 13, 2001 at 10:15 am. As usual it will be at the Mystic Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. The library telephone number is (860) 536-7721.

The topic for this meeting will be "The War on Drugs." Aside from the many practical considerations — Does the government have a right to interfere with personal choice? Prohibition required a constitutional amendment and proved to be a disaster. What is so different about drugs? Is it less ethical to be affected by drugs than by alcohol? Your thoughts are important.

If you need more information, please contact George or Paula Marcus at gminnoank@worldnet.att.net or (860) 572-9188.

January Conversations

The January 5 conversation topic is in the calendar on page 1.