



THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

AHA Chapter

July 2001



Nash Boutros Does Evil On July 23

One of our most popular speakers is returning this month. Nash Boutros, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Yale University, will talk to us about "Humanism and the Problem of Evil." "Evil" is one of many English words whose meanings have been influenced by the King James translations of Greek and Hebrew words in the Bible. Popular discussions of villains like Timothy McVeigh or mothers who kill their own children may feature this word, but what does it mean?

In English "evil" seems to connote "excessive" badness (this is clearer in German, where the words *Uebel* and *ueber* mean "evil" and "over."). In the 23rd Psalm, "I will fear no evil" really means little more in the original Hebrew than "I won't be afraid of any harm, or trouble, or unpleasantness (*ra-a*)."¹ In Plato's philosophy evil became a kind of abstract reality, a force or principle in the world or in human nature that makes bad things happen, and this influenced Christianity. In New Testament Greek ("deliver us from evil"), *apo tou ponerou* can mean "from evil" or "from the evil person" or "from the Evil one (the Devil); *ho poneros* suggests one who not only causes terrible things to

Calendar of Events

JULY

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|----------|---|-----------|
| Sun., 22 | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 23 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program. Dr. Nash Boutros - <i>Humanism and the Problem of Evil</i> | 8:00 p.m. |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Thu., 2 | Dinner at MisFitz Inn in Southbury | 7:00 p.m. |
| Fri, 3 | Humanist Conversations | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., 5 | Board Meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 20 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Panel Discussion: <i>Globalization</i> | 8:00 p.m. |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Mon., 17 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Manny Ratafia - <i>The High Costs of Prescription Drugs</i> . | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 2:00 p.m. |
| Fri, 28 | Humanist Conversations | 7:00 p.m. |

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new members David and Hattie Roberts of Southbury.

happen but enjoys doing so. Shakespeare's Iago has been described as acting out of "motiveless malignity."

So what, if anything, does "evil" mean to Humanists? Is it anything more or less than "really, really bad"? What causes some people to become "evil" or to do "evil" things? Come and

bring a friend to hear Nash's fascinating talk and join in the discussion to follow. Remember: we have moved this meeting to the fourth (NOT the usual third) Monday of the month, July 23! As usual, we'll begin at 7:30 p.m. with a half hour of refreshments and informal conversation.

Humanist Conversations

The next Humanist Conversation is Friday, August 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

This month we will continue the discussion of "Evil" begun at July's monthly meeting. We will

watch an excerpt from a February 7, 2001 Nightline broadcast which will introduce former United Nations Peace-Keeping commander Romeo D'Allaire and the dilemma which has destroyed his life. The discussion will focus on the

experience of helplessness in the face of evil.

As usual, we will order out for pizza (you can opt out if you like) and light refreshments will be provided.

Please bring a friend at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, August 3!

We're on the internet! Visit us at:

www.cthumanist.org

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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.

MEMBERSHIP

Adult	\$35
Family	\$50
Newsletter Only	\$10
In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. The membership year runs from 1/1 to 12/31. Please mail checks payable to Humanist Association of Central Connecticut to:	
Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	

Dinner Meeting in Southbury

Our next dinner meeting will be at MisFitz Inn, 53 Oak Tree Road in Southbury, on Thursday, August 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

MisFitz Inn is on a side street, just off Main Street South. Park on either side of the street, but avoid the liquor store. Visit <http://www.cthumanist.org> to view their menu. Entrees range from \$12.00 - \$19.00, with sandwiches from \$7.00.

Please RSVP to Carol Stone (e-mail editor@cthumanist.org or phone (203) 264-8546) by July 31 so the restaurant can adjust staffing to accommodate us.

The Other 'G' Word

Did all the jobs go south of the border with the passage of NAFTA? Has our standard of living improved as a result? What was the point of the riots in Seattle? Is there going to be a McDonald's in every town around the world? Whatever happened to local cuisine and traditions? The wealth of the world already belongs to the precious few; is that trend going to become more pronounced?

What questions occur to you when you hear the word *Globalization*? Our program director has assembled a panel of informed and concerned citizens to tell us the pros and cons, the reasons and the consequences, of this most pressing and controversial issue.

Join us for our regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. for this timely presentation.

In Mysterious Ways

"Faith moveth mountains!" So the new-Elect (the 'born-again') will tell us, if we let them—a dubious premise humanists reject, because we LIKE the mountains where She set them.

-Walter Wells

Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the membership reminders that went out with the last newsletter. Your dues payments are much appreciated.

Incidentally, if you did not pay this year or last year, you would not have received a renewal reminder. Please check your checkbook register, or call the treasurer or membership committee chair to ask when you last paid.

We would like to recognize the following members for their generous donations to the association:

Helen Flores
Lois Woodrow

Name(s): _____	
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Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO	
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