



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

October 2001



ASHS Affiliate

## Assuring Literacy in Spite of Plato

Drs Robert & Lois Wolsch will disturb and enlighten their audience with a shocking exposure of how traditional school organization and practices, influenced by Plato and his followers, have created roadblocks to children's literacy. They will offer workable solutions and an invitation to discuss America's major educational issues so that we can overcome the problems and move the school bus down the highway to literacy and justice for all.

The Wolsches' new *Literacy Assured* series, published by Philadelphia-based Xlibris Press, consists of: "The Foibles of Phonics: And Other Roadblocks to Literacy," "Writers All Around Us: A Search & Enjoy Mission for Parents and Teachers," "Learning Through Speaking: 810 Performance-Based Language Lessons," and "Language Arts to Communication Arts: Reorganizing for Tomorrow's Literacy."

Join us on Monday, October 15, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven at the Unitarian Society of New Haven located at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for this vision of a future where literacy is guaranteed for all. The evening will begin as usual at 7:30 p.m. with half an hour of informal conversation with refreshments, and the program will start promptly at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a vigorous discussion.

## Coming Together

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks our regularly scheduled meetings took on meaning far removed from our originally scheduled program.

At the following Thursday's dinner at MisFitz we began by posing the question, "With prayer services and candlelight vigils all around us, what do

## Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER

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|----------|--|-----------|
| Fri., 5  | The Connecticut Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church & State: <i>How to be an Activist.</i> USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Thu., 11 | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury   | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.  | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Coffee and conversation.   | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program. Drs Robert & Lois Wolsch - <i>Assuring Literacy in Spite of Plato's Roadblocks</i>   | 8:00 p.m. |
| Fri., 19 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.   | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | <i>Tuesdays with Morrie.</i>   |           |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.  | 2:00 p.m. |

### NOVEMBER

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|----------|---|-----------|
| Fri., 2  | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.                      | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Planning meeting.   |           |
| Thu., 8  | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury                      | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.                         | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Coffee and conversation.  | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program. Mickey Koth - <i>Pat Duffy Hutcheon, Humanist Shero</i> | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.                           | 2:00 p.m. |

### DECEMBER

- |          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Thu., 6  | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 17 | Annual meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.     | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Coffee and conversation.                         | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Elections and Solstice Party                     | 8:00 p.m. |

## Get Involved!

Are you dying to be an activist but don't know where to start?

On Friday, October 5, from 7:30 - 9:30 at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut is pleased to co-sponsor a program with the Connecticut Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. This event is about getting involved, staying involved and having an impact. You will learn how to contact your state and federal representatives, write letters to the editor that get printed, write op-ed pieces that get published, make your presence felt in Hartford and Washington, and more.

Bring a friend and get involved on Friday, October 5, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Light refreshments will be served.

humanists do to create a sense of community?"

The monthly meeting, held on Sunday this month, began with an overview of the issues from three longtime-members viewpoints.

The ensuing conversations underscored why we are all humanists. Underlying both discussions was a desire for a rational response to the attacks

and a solution which would end in peace and dignity for all.

Fallwell and Robertson's statement was, of course, denounced as divisive and indicative of the general problem with fundamentalist religion. But most comforting was that we disagreed on several of the details. It was a healing experience to be amongst fellow humanists at such a traumatic time.

**Officers**

President Manny Ratafia  
(203) 387-7348  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)  
Vice-President Douglas 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)

**Newsletter**

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

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

**Another Shero!**

She's back! Mickey Koth will present another of her popular *Humanist Sheroes* series, this time on Pat Duffy Hutcheon, recipient of the 2001 American Humanist Association Distinguished Service Award.

Bring a friend to this long-awaited installment on Monday, November 19, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Refreshments and light conversation will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by the evening's presentation at 8:00 p.m.

**Conversations**

Join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden), and enjoy a lively conversation!

On Friday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. come for a segment of the TV series version of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. The following discussion will surely salve that part of the humanist which some refer to as "spiritual," without the supernatural connotations. The cost for the pizza is usually between \$5 and \$10 per person.

For a finale to the year, we'll meet to plan future topics on November 2 at 7:30 p.m. Bring your interests, ideas, newspaper clippings and appetite. The pizza for this event will be free.

**"Islam And The Modern World"**

Confused and concerned about widespread contradictions among descriptions of the teachings of Islam as they relate to the current crisis? Consider enrolling in a short course David Schafer is offering to meet this need. For eight weeks beginning Saturday, October 13, we will meet each Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon in the USNH library to discuss "Islam and the Modern World," using a variety of texts and videotapes to examine the evolution of Islamic beliefs and practices pertaining to such relevant topics as jihad, war, Christians, Jews, and the West. Starting with all the most pertinent Qur'anic texts, we will see that the contradictions are real and stem from conflicting movements that have developed within Islam itself throughout its very diverse history, with particular application to the past 25 years or so of "Islamic Resurgence."

There will be an information sheet and a sign-up sheet in the USNH lobby. If the time selected is not suitable for you, let David know what times would be better and he will entertain the possibility of a second weekly session. Call him at 281-6232 for more information.

**Mystic/Noank Discussion Series**

The next meeting of the humanist discussion group is scheduled for Saturday October 13 at 10:15 am. at the Mystic Noank Library.

The topic will be "Human Cloning". Why do we get upset and uncomfortable at the prospect? Is cloning of human beings unethical? Are we concerned that we will create damaged beings we cannot dispose of as we would a damaged cloned animal?

For more information and directions phone George Marcus at (860) 572-9188 or e-mail [gminnoank@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gminnoank@worldnet.att.net).

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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