



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

January 2003



ASHS Affiliate

Italy and Humanists

Walter Wells, who, as most of us are painfully aware, is a long time Italophile, not only refuses to accept therapy for his lamentable condition, but indulges the vice whenever possible. Most recently, he spent a few weeks this summer at a villa about half way between Florence and Prato, from which base, in a rented Lancia sedan, he retraced steps he had taken in the past. Walter asks your indulgence if those steps were sometimes slightly unsteady; for the villa is smack in the center of one of the major estates of Count Contini Bonacossi, producer of some splendid Chianti, and of those delectable new experimental wines for which oenophiles, who tend sometimes to be a little befuddled, can think of no more evocative name than "Super Tuscans".

Walter has promised to share some of his less private recollections with us at our January meeting, including his contacts with some Italian humanists and a word or two about Humanist political parties in Europe. So bring a friend and join us at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 17 at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for conversation followed by Doug Peary on "Why I am a Humanist" at 7:50 p.m. and Walter's entertaining and informative presentation at 8 p.m.

Walter Wells Does it Again for the First Time!

Our own Walter Wells, not only an American-Italian-American and Knight of the Italian Republic but a New Haven maven of grand opera, has pulled off something of a coup, a feather in his 11th Ward aldermanic cap. He has arranged a

two-day observance, open to the public, of the birthdate on January 13 of tenor Charles Kullman, New Haven native, who from his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1935 to his final performance in 1961 was a star in all the major opera houses of the world. It was

said that while he was a natural lyric tenor yet he was "the most versatile tenor ever to sing at the Metropolitan."

On Monday, January 13 at 2 p.m. a wreath will be placed upon Kullman's tombstone in Evergreen Cemetery by Madame

Continued overleaf

Calendar of Events

JANUARY, 2003

Sat., 11	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike [Name deleted] reports on the Godless Americans March on Washington.	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 13	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk. Coffee and conversation Doug Peary — <i>Why I am a Humanist</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:50 p.m.
	Main program. Walter Wells — <i>Italian Humanists</i>	8:00 p.m.
Wed., 22	Dinner at Connecticut's oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY, 2003

Sat., 8	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike <i>What are we for?</i>	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk. Coffee and conversation TBD — <i>Why I am a Humanist</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:50 p.m.
	Main program. Doug Peary — <i>Walter Kaufmann, Humanist Hero</i>	8:00 p.m.
Wed., 26	Dinner at Connecticut's oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.

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Conversations

Our next Humanist Conversations meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, January 11th, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. [Name deleted] will talk about participating in the American Atheists "Godless Americans March on Washington" that took place last November. He will also show film clips from this event. As usual, light refreshments will be provided.

In February the conversations group will take up the question, "What are we for?" on Saturday, February 8 at 3:30.

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E-mail List

To join send an e-mail addressed to majordomo@cthumanist.org with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

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Thank You!

Thank you from the children of the Waverly housing project who received Christmas gift certificates from your donations.

Why Not?

Why not join us for friendly conversation over a meal? We meet in Orange at Gabriele Restaurant and in Woodbury at the Curtis House. Call Carol Stone at (203) 264-8546 for directions.

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Walter Wells – Continued

Lili Chookasian, former contralto star of the Metropolitan, now in charge of opera instruction at the Yale School of Music. To complete this occasion Walter will provide a recorded rendition of Charles Kullman himself singing a uniquely beautiful version of Sir Arthur Sullivan’s “The Lost Chord.”

The following evening, January 14, at 7 p.m., in the new Program Room of the New Haven Public Library, New Haven Mayor DiStefano will host a public program further commemorating the birthdate of Charles Kullman. Barbara Lamb, in charge of Yale University’s Office of Cultural Affairs for New Haven, will conduct the ceremony. Michael Morand, Associate Vice President of the Yale Office of New Haven and State Affairs, will speak. Alderman Walter Wells will read a welcoming letter written for the occasion from Joseph Volpe, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera, and will present a thrilling multimedia program of recorded music and slides on the life and career of Charles Kullman. A public reception will conclude the observance.

We congratulate Walter Wells on yet another memorable achievement!

Mystic/Noank on Utilitarianism

The Mystic/Noank group is meeting Saturday, February 15 at the Mystic Noank Library at 10:15 a.m. Relevant background information on the topic, which is Utilitarianism, is available on the internet at <http://www.utilitarianism.com/index.htm> and at <http://www.utilitarianism.com/index.htm>.

If you need directions call George at (860) 449-0800.

Jean Somerville Kotkin

Jean Somerville Kotkin passed away at the Roosevelt Hospital of the St. Luke’s Roosevelt Medical Center in New York City on Saturday, January 4, 2003. She was 80.

A leader in the American Ethical Union, the American Humanist Association and the New York Society for Ethical Culture, she was also the administrator for the Humanist Institute for many years, as we learned when she came to Connecticut to speak for

our tenth anniversary in May of 1999. Vital and active right to the end, Jean has left her mark on humanism and will long be remembered fondly and respectfully by those fortunate enough to know her.

A memorial service will be held in a few weeks. Details will be available through the New York Society for Ethical Culture, which can be reached by phone at (212) 874-5210.

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to editor@cthumanist.org. Please include a SASE to have material returned. We welcome letters, articles, photographs,

poetry, comic strips, news items, cartoons and other illustrations related to humanism. Approximate circulation: 120 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

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