



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

June 2003



CSH Affiliate

Bring a Chair and Something to Share

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 14, rain or shine, at the lovely home of Dr. Rob and Ms. Joan Rafford, 57 Clearview Knoll Rd. in Middlebury. Festivities run from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

Bring a chair and something to share. The Raffords will provide hot dogs, soft drinks and beer.

Telephone: (203) 758-9798 if you need extra directions.

From the New Haven area:

Take Rt. 8 north to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on Rt. 64 to the stoplight...

From the Stamford area:

Take Rt. 7 north to I-84 and go east to Exit 17. At the exit turn left onto Rt. 63, go straight to the stoplight (Rt. 64), and turn left again onto Rt. 64...

From the junction of Rt. 64 with Rt. 63:

Head west on Rt. 64 less than one mile, passing through one more stoplight. If you pass a gas station you have gone too far. On the right, look for Tzepos Law Firm sign. At that sign, turn right onto Clearview Knoll Road and drive to the top of the hill. #57 is on the left. Park in the driveway or on the street.

Calendar of Events

JUNE, 2003

Sat., 7	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike <i>After the Iraq War</i>	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Annual Picnic at the Rafford's home in Middlebury, 57 Clearview Knoll Rd., Middlebury Bring a chair and a dish to share.	12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 25	Nash Boutros on Evil with discussion and dinner at the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	6:30 p.m.

JULY, 2003

Thu., 3	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	7:30 p.m.
Mon., 14	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk. Coffee and conversation David Schafer - <i>Why I am a Humanist</i> Main program. Walter Wells — <i>All Too Humanistic—That Fine Italian Hand</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:50 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 30	Dinner at Connecticut's oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.

WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG

Conversations

Join us Saturday, June 7, 3:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Society of New Haven. We will have a video and discussion following up the Iraq War, with such suggested themes as "Following Through to Democracy after Military Victory," "Follow the Oil Money," "A Hard Act to Follow," and "Between Iraq and a Really Hard Place?"

Light refreshments will be served. David Schafer will lead.

www.cthumanist.org

Nash Boutros does Evil in Woodbury on June 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Carol Stone (editor@cthumanist.org or (203) 264-8546) by Monday, June 23.

At our brainstorming meeting at the beginning of this year, someone requested a discussion on evil for the Woodbury dinner group. This request will finally bear fruit on Wednesday, June 25 (the date was wrong in the May newsletter) at the Curtis House in Woodbury. In order to provide sufficient time for a lively discussion as well as a presentation and dinner, we will begin at 6:30 p.m.

About our speaker: 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 Osama bin Laden, 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)." 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 happen but enjoys doing so. Shakespeare's Iago has been described as acting out of "motiveless malignity."

Dr. Boutros will bring us up-to-date on current research and consider the question of 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?

Directions to the Curtis House, 506 Main Street South, Woodbury, CT 06978 (203) 263-2101:

The Curtis House is located on the Main Street South (Rt. 6) just north of the intersection with Rt. 64.

From northern Fairfield county, take Rt. 84 east to exit 15 in Southbury. Take Rt. 6 north into Woodbury. The inn will be on your left about 1/4 mile after the intersection with Rt. 64.

From Waterbury and areas to the east, take Rt. 84 west to exit 17. Stay straight on Rt. 64 through Middlebury into Woodbury. At the end of Rt. 64, turn right onto Rt. 6. The inn will be on your left about 1/4 mile after the turn.

From the south, take Rt. 67 north through Oxford and Southbury. When Rt. 67 splits off of Rt. 6 north of central Southbury, stay on Rt. 6 and continue into Woodbury. The inn will be on your left about 1/4 mile north of the intersection with Rt. 64.

Freethinker Support Group

A Freethinker Support Group is forming in Woodbury at the Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society this Summer.

Examining alternatives: reason versus faith, action versus prayer, spirit versus spirituality, science versus pseudoscience, deism versus theism, naturalism versus supernaturalism.

We will welcome all who value helpful alternative views – Bhudditarians, Jew natarians, Ethical Culturalists, Humanists, UU's for Jewish Awareness, agnostics, atheists, and secularists.

Dr. Robert Wolsch, Humanist Minister, originator of Unitarians for Jewish Awareness (UJA), and retired Humanist chaplain at Western Connecticut State University and long-time member of the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut will lead the first discussion, Sunday July 6 at 3 p.m. at the Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society (MUUS).

Directions to MUUS:
122 South Pomperaug Avenue
Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 266-4810

Take I-84 to Exit 15 (Rt. 6, Southbury) go North on Rt. 6 (from West go left; from East go right), go 3.3 miles. (Keep track of the distance so you won't miss the turn.) Come to Milestone Motel on the left, motel is behind trees; look just beyond Woodbury Auto Parts. You will also see a golf driving range on right. Bearing left on angular road, which is South Pomperaug, go one short block (you will see signs for several small businesses there) and take a left.

David Schafer at Hungry? GA 2003

As many of us are aware, David Schafer is a member of the board of HUUmanists – the humanist sub-organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. David reports that the HUUmanists have been granted four slots on the program of the upcoming General Assembly in Boston. On Friday morning, June 27, at 10:00 they will present a panel on the topic “If Not God, What? – A Humanist Elevator Speech.” Participants in the printed program will include Rev. Sarah Oelberg (Hanska, MN), president of HUUmanists, and Dr. David Schafer. Since the program was finalized they have added two younger panelists, both UU Humanist ministers, Revs. Brian Eslinger (Ames, IA) and Kathleen Korb (Naples, FL). This panel will be repeated on Saturday afternoon, June 28, at 1:30, when the annual meeting of HUUmanists will follow it immediately.

The other two program slots, on the Monday of June 30 at 9:45 a.m. and again at 4:00 p.m., will be filled by Prof. David E. Bumbaugh, Jr., of Meadville/Lombard Theological School, whose phrase, “vocabulary of reverence,” was cited by the present UUA President Sinkford as an inspiration for his controversial “language of reverence” initiative when he indicated his personal preference for

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We will be meeting for a purely social dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange on Monday, June 7 and again on Monday July 14 at 7:00 p.m.

We'll also be meeting for dinner and a talk followed by discussion on Evil in Woodbury at the Curtis House on Wednesday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. The following month we will return to our usual time of 7:00 p.m. at the Curtis House and have a purely social dinner on July 30.

Please RSVP to Carol Stone (editor@cthumanist.org or (203) 264-8546).

David Schafer at Stamford

On Sunday, June 8, our very own David Schafer will give the presentation, entitled “UU Humanism, Past, Present and Future” at 10:00 a.m. the Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford at 20 Forest Street in Stamford, Connecticut. David says the major emphasis will be on the future, and he might even sing.

FFRF Celebration 7/4 – 7/6

The Alabama Freethought Association is hosting the Freedom From Religion Foundation Annual Celebration on July 4th, 5th & 6th in Lake Hypatia, Alabama. (Note that they absolutely do not accept meal orders after the deadline of June 15, and it's inconvenient and not as much fun to have meals elsewhere. So, if you're planning on going, sign up before 6/15.)

Details are available at: www.alfreethought.org/pages/july4/2003/index.html

inclusion of some mention of “God” in UU principal documents. Dr. Bumbaugh will speak on the question, “Is There a Humanist Language of Reverence?” and his talk is expected to point out similarities and differences between his conception of such a language and Sinkford's. Overall,

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,

members of HUUmanists are looking to these programs at GA 2003 as an outstanding opportunity to present UU Humanism in constructive, clear, and well-informed fashion. If you are planning to attend GA 2003 or know others who are, please consider these programs.

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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Humanist Hero Talk at FUUS

At 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 22, during the normal Sunday Morning Service at the First Unitarian Universalist Society Of New Haven, 608 Whitney Avenue in New Haven, our very own Rev. Douglas Peary will be presenting on Steve Allen.

Steve Allen, the comedian, who entertained and created the Tonight Show before Johnny Carson, was outspoken on religious and criminal issues. Once when he spoke out against the mafia he found a horses leg on his front step.

He wondered why we only hear about Catholic Mafioso and why the Catholic Church never speaks out against the Mafia. Allen had a son who spent several years in a Jesus Cult. Allen became a student of the Bible and wrote several books on his view of the Bible and theistic teachings. He discovered Humanism and became an active Humanist spokesman for several years until his death. He wrote over 50 books and it has been said that he never had an unpublished thought. He said the most inappropriate phrase to describe the Bible is "The Good Book" because it condones acts which are illegal or immoral and is filled with error. He said the God of the Bible is a monstrous, vengeful tyrant exceeding in bloodthirstiness and insane savagery the depredations of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Attila the Hun and any other mass murderer of ancient or modern history.

He used his sense of humor to make the world a better place to live. When asked what he thought of sex on television he said, "You would have to be careful of the antenna."

He wrote about the end of life, "The Years. The number doesn't matter now; the years are coming fast. What matters is their quality and which shall be the last. I wish you well in any case, and if by dying first, I could improve your coming days I'd happily take the worst... So here's to hope, which never turns its eyes to what is past, but runs into the future years unearthing joy at last."

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.

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Comments: _____
