



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

January 2005



CSH Affiliate

## *Ecotourism In India, Tibet, And Myanmar*

Jon Miceler, 2002 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation grant, returns for our January program. Fluent in Tibetan, Jon lived for many years in China before undertaking his project in "ecotourism," which he defines as "tourism done right," sensitizing travelers to the culture and ecology of areas they visit.

Jon has just returned from that politically highly sensitive corner of south Asia where Myanmar (formerly Burma), China's Xizang (Tibet), and India's Arunachal Pradesh (formerly the Northeast Frontier Agency) intersect. He will update us on his experiences since he last spoke to us in March, 2003.

Join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, on Monday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. We'll start with refreshments and conversation. Jon's talk, with slides and plenty of time for discussion, will start at 8:00 p.m. Come and bring a friend for this fascinating program!

## *Dinners*

Join us for dinner at Pasta Fair on Monday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. We would appreciate the effort, if you would RSVP via [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com) in order to maintain the New Haven humanism presence at [meetup.com](http://meetup.com). This dinner was originally advertised to be held at Contrassegno on Whitney Avenue in Hamden, but will now be held at Pasta Fair, as Contrassegno is not open on Mondays.

Please plan to join us Wednesday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. when we will enjoy another authentic Portuguese meal at Lisboa Restaurante, 19 Lafayette Street in Waterbury.

## *Calendar of Events*

### JANUARY, 2005

Sat., 8	Humanist Conversations: what would be in a Humanist orientation course?	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	<b>CHANGE OF VENUE:</b> Dinner has been moved to Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a>	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	Book discussion at Manny Ratafia's home, 3 Penny Lane, Woodbridge, (203) 387-7348: Eric Hoffer's <i>The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements</i>	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden Coffee and conversation Main program: an update from adventurer, entrepreneur, and environmentalist, Jon Miceler	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:00 p.m.
Wed., 26	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY, 2005

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 14	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a>	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 20	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden Coffee and conversation Main program: Darwin Day lecture from Massimo Pigliucci, Ph.D.	3:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m.
Wed., 23	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

## *Conversations*

What would you like to see in a Humanist orientation course?

To answer that question, we plan to explore associated questions: How does your humanism affect your life? What is your understanding of Humanism? Upon what is that based? What are the best books or articles that explain the ideas of humanism? Bring any relevant reading material to share.

Join us for this exploration with an eye toward future programs at 2:30 p.m. on January 8 at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Refreshments will be provided.

## *Elections*

The members present at the December meeting approved the slate of nominations for the year 2005. Officers and committee chairs are as follows:

### *Officers*

President: Richard Siddall  
Vice-President: Douglas Peary  
Secretary: June Schafer  
Treasurer: Cynthia Harvey

### *Committee Chairs*

Programs: David Schafer  
Membership: Cynthia Harvey  
Development: Manny Ratafia  
Publications: Carol Stone  
Publicity: June Schafer  
Hospitality: Randy Olear

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

**E-mail List**

To join, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **unsubscribe announce** in the body of the message.

**Officers**

- President Richard Siddall (203) 264-2182 [president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)
- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary June Schafer
- Treasurer Cynthia Harvey

**Committee Chairs**

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Cynthia Harvey
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Stone
- Publicity June Schafer
- Hospitality Randy Olear

**Newsletter**

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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.

**Did You Notice?**

In February we will meet on Sunday the 20th at 3:30 p.m. Our speaker will be internationally-known author and award-winning geneticist, Dr. Massimo Pigliucci.

**The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements**

Manny Ratafia has been kind enough to invite us to his home in Woodbridge on Saturday, January 15 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the fascinating and enlightening classic, *The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements* by Eric Hoffer.

“One of the most provocative books of our immediate day.” — *Christian Science Monitor*

- Directions to 3 Penny Lane in Woodbridge, (203) 387-7348:
- **FROM THE NORTH** (Note: This is also a good way to go if you're coming from the South): Take Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) to exit 59. At the end of the ramp, make a left turn (toward Woodbridge). At the second light (about 50 feet), make a left turn onto Lucy Street. Go to the end of Lucy Street (about 100 yards). Make a right turn onto Route 63. Go to the second light and make a left turn onto Route 114 at the Blue Check Deli. Go one mile. At the fire station, bear right onto Newton Road. Go just under one mile and make a left onto Penny Lane. 3 Penny Lane is the first house on the right (the white brick house).
  - **FROM THE SOUTH** (from Fairfield County): Take Route 15 (Merritt Parkway) to exit 57. Take Route 34 East toward Woodbridge and New Haven. At the 2nd major intersection, make a left onto Route 114. Continue on Route 114 past Routes 243 and 313. A short distance after passing Route 313 you will see a police station and immediately afterward, a fire station on your left. At the fire station, make a sharp left turn onto Newton Road. Go just under one mile and make a left onto Penny Lane. 3 Penny Lane is the first house on the right (the white brick house).
  - **FROM NEW HAVEN**: Take Whalley Avenue toward Woodbridge (away from downtown New Haven). When you are near the border of Woodbridge you will see a Walgreen's on your right, a gas station in front of you and a diner on your left. Go straight ahead (don't bear right). Whalley Avenue's name will change to Amity Road/Route 63. Continue on Amity Road/Route 63. Make a left turn onto Route 114 at the Blue Check Deli. Go one mile. At the fire station, bear right onto Newton Road. Go just under one mile and make a left onto Penny Lane. 3 Penny Lane is the first house on the right (the white brick house).

**Sad News**

We recently received a very unexpected email from Donna Wilson, a Cataloging Consultant at Olin/Chalmers Libraries at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, informing us of the death of our longtime member Virginia Clark. Friends began to investigate her whereabouts when she didn't arrive on a planned visit to Gambier, where she still maintained a home. We are told she

died in her sleep at her home here in Connecticut. We believe Virginia is survived by two sisters.

You may recall Virginia spoke in July of 2004 on her research into Freethinkers in England. Her fascinating presentation spoke volumes about the humanist information squirreled away as-yet uncataloged in libraries and collections around the world.

If you should happen upon an obituary, please forward it to us, so that we may share it here.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
Family . . . . . \$50	_____
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	E-Mail Address: _____
	_____
	Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
	Comments: _____
	_____