



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2005



CSH Affiliate

## *Evolution: is it a logical fallacy?*

We are celebrating Darwin Day on Sunday, February 20 with refreshments at 3:30 p.m. and our speaker at 4:00 p.m.!

We humanists are committed to the search for truth, presumably including scientific truth about the universe and our place in it. The neo-Darwinian theory of evolution is the scientifically accepted explanation for the history and diversity of life on earth. Ever since the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* his theory has been under attack on a variety of grounds. Currently, evolution is experiencing an especially ferocious onslaught, without precedent in modern times, from some well-financed and well-organized groups. The theory is even accused of being incoherent or logically fallacious.

We are delighted to present one of evolution's most lucid and entertaining expositors, Prof. Massimo Pigliucci of SUNY at Stony Brook, who will examine some of the common accusations of logical inconsistency in the theory of evolution, showing why they are unjustified, and in the process explaining clearly for us what evolution is all about.

Dr. Pigliucci has recently become Professor in the Department of Ecology & Evolution at SUNYSB. He is an authority in evolutionary biology and also has a Ph.D. in the philosophy of science. He has published 65 technical papers and five books. He has won the Dobzhansky Prize from the Society for the Study of Evolution, of which he is now Executive Vice President. Be sure to come to this Sunday afternoon meeting and bring a friend!

Join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, on Sunday, February 20 at 3:30 p.m. We'll start with refreshments and conversation. Dr Pigliucci's talk will begin at 4:00 p.m.

## *Calendar of Events*

### FEBRUARY, 2005

Sat., 5	Memorial service for Virginia Clark, Courtyard by Marriott, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, Connecticut, (860) 635-1001.	2:00 p.m.
Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Does Humanist Manifesto III describe your humanism?	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 (Note Date/Time)	3:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	3:30 p.m.
	Main program: Darwin Day lecture from Massimo Pigliucci, Ph.D. <i>Evolution: Is it a Logical Fallacy?</i>	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 23	Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.

### MARCH, 2005

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 12	Book discussion at the USNH library: Susan Jacoby's <i>Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism</i>	3:30 p.m.
Sun., 13	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden (Note Date/Time)	3:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	3:30 p.m.
	Main program: Dr. Nash Boutros. <i>Is Freedom Overrated?</i>	4:00 p.m.
Tues., 15	Dinner at Contrassegno, Route 10, Hamden. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a>	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 20	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 30	Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

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

## *Conversations*

Does Humanist Manifesto III describe your humanism?

For your convenience there is a copy of Humanist Manifesto III enclosed with this newsletter.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on February 5 at 700 Hartford Turnpike for this exploration of humanism. Refreshments will be provided.

## *Dinners*

Join us for dinner at Pasta Fair on Monday, February 14 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).

Please join us Wednesday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. when we will enjoy another authentic Portugese meal at Lisboa Restaurante, 19 Lafayette Street in Waterbury.

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

**E-mail List**

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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.

**Books!**

Buy Dr. Pigliucci's books on the web! Purchases through links on our website will give HAC a portion of your purchase!

**Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism**

Our next book discussion will be held in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden on Saturday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m. The book will be Susan Jacoby's "Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism."

We suggest that everyone read pages 1-11 (Introduction), 186-226 (Chapter 7, Dawn of the Culture Wars), 227-267 (Chapter 8, Unholy Trinity: Atheists, Reds, Darwinists), 317-347 (Chapter 11, Culture Wars Redux), and 348-365 (Chapter 12 Reason Embattled).

If you have time, you may want to read the rest of the book as well.

Copies are available in Connecticut libraries as well as at bookstores and on-line.

We look forward to seeing you on March 12!

**Virginia Clark**

Many of you will remember Virginia's talk to the Humanist Association of Connecticut at our regular monthly meeting last July. She had just returned from her annual sojourn in London, where she was conducting research on English freethinkers. Her talk was a report on her most recent studies. We are saddened to lose her quiet, rational voice.

This comes via Choice, where Virginia worked.

Virginia Clark-Baker died January 3, 2005. She was born on October 4, 1929 in Alliance, Ohio to Harold Clark and Rachel Clark Shollenberger. Virginia was high school salutatorian in 1947 and valedictorian of the class of 1951 at Mount Union College. In 1956 she earned the Master's degree in library science from the University of Chicago. Her excellent skills as librarian and a lifetime of reading and research took her to Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio as a reference librarian. There she married Robert L. Baker, Professor of History at Kenyon.

Virginia was one of the original founding editors of "Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries" and managed several subject sections until her retirement. She also served as Project Editor of the 2nd and 3rd editions of Books for College Libraries, a 6-volume publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

She maintained a second home in Clinton, Connecticut, near the offices of "Choice." Her husband's research had often taken them to London. After his death, Virginia made London her third home. There she volunteered her librarian skills at the historically significant Women's Library and the South Place Ethical Society at Conway Hall, sang in several choral groups, and thrived on London's rich cultural life.

Above all, she was a loyal and beloved friend of many, including her sisters: Charlotte Clark of Gresham, Oregon, and Dorothy Clark Hostetter of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, February 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, Connecticut, (860) 635-1001.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Adult . . . . . \$35</p> <p>Family . . . . . \$50</p> <p>Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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