



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

October 2005

## *The Archaeology of Mars*

Is there archaeological evidence for the existence of intelligent life on Mars—and has NASA spent the last 29 years trying to hide that fact? The source of this controversy is a grainy photograph taken on July 25, 1976 by a camera mounted on the Viking Orbiter spacecraft. Searching for potential landing areas on the Martian surface while flying at a little more than 1860 km (1162 miles) above a region of the Red Planet called Cydonia, the Orbiter camera caught sight of a surface feature that appeared to bear a striking resemblance to a human face. Called, obviously enough, The Mars Face, this feature of the Martian landscape has generated an enormous amount of controversy and speculation since its discovery. Does the Mars Face represent the single most significant archaeological discovery ever made? Does it prove conclusively that a spectacularly advanced society of intelligent, humanoid beings, developed on Mars, perhaps as much as 500,000 years ago? And what, if anything, is NASA trying to hide? Skeptical archaeologist Ken Feder will address these questions in his lecture, *The Archaeology of Mars*.

Join us and bring a friend on Monday, October 17 at 7:30

## *Calendar of Events*

### OCTOBER, 2005

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: Meet Muhammad Yunus, micro-credit inventor, in an episode of the PBS series: <i>The New Heroes</i>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at <a href="http://humanism.meetup.com">humanism.meetup.com</a> . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden Coffee and conversation Main program: Ken Feder <i>The Archaeology of Mars</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Wed., 19	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER, 2005

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Turkey and the West.	2:30 p.m.
Sat. 12	Book discussion: <i>The End of Faith</i> by Sam Harris	3:30 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> . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
TBA	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden Coffee and conversation Main program: TBA	TBA TBA TBA
Sun., 27	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 30	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions.	7:00 p.m.

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

p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike  
in Hamden for coffee and

conversation followed by Ken's  
presentation at 8:00 p.m.

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# Book Discussion: *The End of Faith*

The next book discussion will be on Saturday, November 12 at 3:30 p.m. and will be held at USNH in Hamden. The book will be *The End of Faith*, by Sam Harris. There are quite a few copies in Connecticut public libraries as well as in book stores. Manny has read this book and found it interesting and provocative as well as very readable. Please read this book before coming to the meeting.

Winner of the 2005 PEN award for nonfiction, this book is an analysis of the clash of faith and reason in the modern world. *The End of Faith* provides a harrowing glimpse of mankind's willingness to suspend reason in favor of religious beliefs, even when these beliefs inspire the worst of human atrocities. Harris argues that in the presence of weapons of mass destruction, we can no longer expect to survive our religious differences indefinitely. Most controversially, he maintains that "moderation" in religion poses considerable dangers of its own: as the accommodation we have made to religious faith in our society now blinds us to the role that faith plays in perpetuating human conflict. While warning against the encroachment of organized religion into world politics, Harris draws on insights from neuroscience, philosophy, and Eastern mysticism in an attempt to provide a truly modern foundation for our ethics and our search for spiritual experience.

# Humanist Conversations

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on October 1st in the USNH library to meet Muhammad Yunus in an episode of the PBS series: *The New Heroes*. If you wish to do research before the meeting, read *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty* or *Banker to the Poor: The Autobiography of Muhammad Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank*. As usual, refreshments will be served.

06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org).

Please include a SASE to have material returned. We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic

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

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