



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

November 2005



CSH Affiliate

The Implications of Naturalism

Join us on Sunday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m. when we will meet Thomas W. Clark, founder and director of the non-profit Center for Naturalism and creator of naturalism.org, among the web's most comprehensive resources on scientific naturalism and its current implications and applications. His presentation is entitled, *Tough Mind, Tender Heart: The Progressive Implications of Naturalism*.

Scientific naturalism holds that there is a single, natural world in which we are included, not a world divided into categorically natural and supernatural realms. This means we are fully physical beings; we don't have immaterial souls or contra-causal free will. Although tough-minded, this scientific understanding of ourselves has tender-hearted, progressive implications. Realizing that we are completely caused creatures, and seeing precisely how we are caused, grounds an ethics of compassion and supplies the basis for effective action. By challenging the myth of the freely willing, self-made self, naturalism gives us the motive and the means to bring about a more flourishing, non-punitive culture.

Thomas is also founder and host of the Davis Square

Calendar of Events

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 humanism.meetup.com . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 20	Note Date Change. Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Thomas W. Clark – <i>Tough Mind, Tender Heart: The Progressive Implications of Naturalism</i> .	8:00 p.m.
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.

DECEMBER, 2005

Sat., 10	Humanist Conversations:	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 12	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 19	Annual meeting and Solstice Party, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Pot-luck dinner, coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Annual meeting and elections, followed by the Solstice Party	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Brunch at Shangri-Lee, Cheshire.	12:30 p.m.

WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG

Philosophy Café in Somerville, MA, the Boston area's first philosophy café. He lectures and writes on science, naturalism, ethics, free will, criminal justice,

consciousness, and related philosophical and social concerns.

So join us on **Sunday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m.** at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden!

www.cthumanist.org

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Humanist Conversations

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 5 in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to explore modern-day Turkey via Christopher Caldwell's September 25, 2005, New York Times Magazine article, "Bordering on What?" The article is available in libraries and will be available at the discussion.

As usual, refreshments will be served.

Book Discussion: The End of Faith

We will discuss *The End of Faith*, by Sam Harris, on Saturday, November 12, at 3:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book is readily available in the Connecticut public library network. Please read this book before coming to the meeting.

The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason by Sam Harris is a genuinely frightening book about terrorism, and the central role played by religion in justifying and rewarding it. Others blame "extremists" who "distort" the "true" message of religion. Harris goes to the root of the problem: religion itself. Even moderate religion is a menace, because it leads us to respect and "cherish the idea that certain fantastic propositions can be believed without evidence". Why do men like Bin Laden commit their hideous cruelties? The answer is that they "actually believe what they say they believe". **Read Sam Harris and wake up.**

—Richard Dawkins, The Guardian

"At last we have a book that focuses on the common thread that links Islamic terrorism with the irrationality of all religious faith. *The End of Faith* will challenge not only Muslims but Hindus, Jews and Christians as well."

—Peter Singer, professor of philosophy at Princeton and author of *The President of Good and Evil: The Ethics of George W. Bush*.

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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