



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

January 2006



CSH Affiliate

“Terrorism and Tourism”

Our first program of 2006, on Monday, January 16, will feature Jon Miceler, ecotourism entrepreneur and adventurer, in his third visit with us over the past three years. His topic on this occasion will be “Terrorism and Tourism.” As those who have heard him previously know, Jon spends alternate periods of every year in Hamden and the 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.

Jon, who is part visionary idealist and part tough-minded pragmatist, is engaged in work that he believes can lead to a better future for both the people and the environment in this remote part of the world. Since 2002 his efforts have been supported by a prestigious MacArthur Foundation grant, and this grant was recently renewed for another 3-year period. In addition, because of his uniquely extensive experience in the area, Jon has been chosen to produce a forthcoming PBS documentary on the reopening of the legendary Burma Road, with funding by the same foundation.

Returning from Asia only a few days before his talk here, he

Calendar of Events

JANUARY, 2006

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: Hybrid cars.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Jon Miceler	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 25	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 29	Book discussion, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden: <i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe	3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY, 2006

Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: TBA.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 13	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com . (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: <i>Darwin After a Century and a Half</i> , presented by David Schafer.	8:00 p.m.
Wed., 22	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.

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will brief us on his latest trip. As usual, we’ll start off with a half hour of informal conversation and refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

Jon Miceler’s talk will begin promptly at 8:00. Don’t miss this very special presentation. Bring a friend and join us!

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Humanist Conversations

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Carol Stone is the happy owner of two hybrid cars. She will discuss whether or not she has actually saved money or the environment, how hybrid vehicles work, and what your current options are if you want to spend less at the pump.

As usual, refreshments will be served.

Book Discussion: Things Fall Apart

We will discuss *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe, on Sunday, January 29 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 first two-thirds of *Things Fall Apart* is an affectionate description of the culture of an Ibo clan told from an insider’s viewpoint, focusing on the life of Okonkwo, one of his tribe’s most respected leaders. The customs and religion of the Ibo village are described with sympathy and simplicity, creating a sense of nostalgia for a way of life completely exotic to Western sensibilities, but making the reader feel the force and logic of a traditional culture seen from within. [...] Disaster comes, of course, in the shape of white missionaries. In the last part of the story, evangelizing Christians and English colonial administrators establish themselves in the Ibo village, and act to corrode and unravel the traditional life of the Ibo people. An escalating series of misunderstandings and conflicts between the whites and natives lead to the inevitable tragic ending. In the last paragraph of the novel, the perspective shifts suddenly to that of the English colonial administrator, and ends with one of the most powerful and affecting last lines of any novel I’ve read.” -from a reviewer at Amazon.com

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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 - i Family \$50
 - i Newsletter Only \$10
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