



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2006



CSH Affiliate

## Ellery Schempp: A Living Humanist Hero

\*\*\* *Note Date and Time* \*\*\*

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for our 17th Anniversary meeting!

On November 26, 1956, sixteen-year-old Ellery Schempp read from a borrowed copy of the Qur'an instead of the required Bible passages. After being sent to the principal's office for his protest, young Ellery wrote a letter to the American Civil Liberties Union requesting help "in freeing American youth in Pennsylvania from this gross violation of their religious rights."

Although Ellery graduated from high school the following year, his younger brother and sister were still in the Abington schools, allowing his family to maintain standing long enough to bring the case before the Supreme Court. In 1963 that court found in favor of the Schempps, and declared mandatory Bible reading unconstitutional.

This was only the first time young Ellery would contribute to changing the world in which we live.

In 1967 Ellery's doctoral thesis was entitled, *Nuclear Quadrupole Resonance in Nitrogen Heterocycles*. This is part of the science behind

*Continued on back page*

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL, 2006

Sat., 29	Humanist Conversations: Immigration Issues	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 30	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.

### MAY, 2006

Mon., 1	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.
Sun., 7	Anniversary meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	2:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program: Dr. Ellery Schempp: <i>Church and State—Personal Thoughts 40 Years after Abington vs. Schempp.</i></b>	3:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Book discussion, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden: <i>The Da Vinci Code</i> by Dan Brown.	3:30 p.m.
Sun., 28	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 31	Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions.	7:00 p.m.

### JUNE, 2006

Sat., 3	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 5	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., 19	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program: Dr. David Schafer reporting on the recent Humanist Institute Colloquium on Humanist Education.</b>	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 28	Dinner at Café Biaggio, 379 E. Main St., Waterbury. (203) 757-1865 for directions.	7:00 p.m.

### JULY, 2006

Sat., 1	Picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	12-4 p.m.
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[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

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*Ellery Schempp — Continued from front page*

what we commonly know of as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In the 1980s, Dr. Schempp participated in the engineering and marketing of advanced MRIs at GE Medical Systems. His physics career has spanned the globe and included a variety of issues, such as as nuclear waste disposal, alternative energy storage, high-temperature superconducting materials, and even fiber optics. He has 33 papers in peer-reviewed science journals on his publications list.

Dr. Schempp is also involved in historical preservation, tutors middle- and high-school students, and enjoys mountain climbing.

Join us with a friend at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Sunday, May 7. Coffee and conversation starts at 2:30 p.m. followed by Dr. Schempp's talk, "Church and State—Personal Thoughts 40 Years after Abington vs. Schempp," at 3:00 p.m.

***Conversations: Immigration***

Join our discussion of Immigration at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will view a brief video to focus our discussion. Refreshments will be served.

***Book Group: The Da Vinci Code***

We'll discuss Dan Brown's popular and controversial novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, on Sunday, May 21 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We plan to schedule a follow-up meeting for which we will read selected articles critiquing various claims in the book. For this first discussion, your mission is to read the book or listen to it on tape. There are many copies of both the book and the unabridged recording in local public libraries. You may also want to watch the movie which is expected to be released on May 19. We'll discuss the story on May 21 and consider the claims of the book at a later date. Refreshments will be served.

***Picnic Coming In July***

Bob and Joan Rafford have once again invited us to their lovely home in Middlebury for the annual HAC picnic. This year the event will be held on Saturday, July 1st from 12 to 4 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>i Adult . . . . . \$35 i Family . . . . . \$50 i Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10 i 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): _____ Address: _____ _____ Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO Where did you hear about us? _____ Comments: _____ _____ _____</p>
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