



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

November 2006



CSH Affiliate

## “Weird Science”

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden!

Dr. Steven Novella will be talking about the nature of science — good, bad, and weird. Our society is increasingly dependent upon science and technology, yet the public understanding of science is falling way behind. We are assaulted by an elaborate masquerade where con-artists, cranks and charlatans pretend to be scientists while pseudoscience and ideologies are represented as science. It is more important than ever for the public to be able to distinguish real quality science from the various imitations.

Dr. Novella is host of The Skeptics Guide to the Universe ([www.theskepticsguide.org](http://www.theskepticsguide.org)), a weekly science podcast; president of the New England Skeptical Society ([www.theness.com](http://www.theness.com)), a non-profit organization dedicated to science education and the public understanding of science; and a neurologist at Yale.

Informal conversation and refreshments start at 7:30 p.m. Steve’s presentation will begin at 8:00 p.m. This promises to be a highly informative and entertaining evening, so bring a friend!

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT

### NOVEMBER, 2006

Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: “Moral Realism”	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	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., 12	Hike in East Rock Park	10:30 a.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting Main program: Steven Novella, “Weird Science”	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 29	Dinner at Black-eyed Sally’s, 350 Asylum Street, Hartford. (860) 278-7427 for directions.	7:00 p.m.

### DECEMBER, 2006

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	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., 10	Book Group: “Inheriting the Holy Land: An American’s Search for Hope in the Middle East” by Jennifer Miller	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Annual meeting & Solstice celebration Elections followed by the Solstice Celebration and silent auction.	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Mon., 25	Brunch at Shangri-Lee, 965 South Main Street, Cheshire. (203) 250-8888 for directions.	11:30 a.m.

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

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

## Autumn Hike in East Rock Park

Tom & Halina Platt are planning to lead a hike from the main parking lot at the top of East Rock on Sunday, November 12th, at 10:30 a.m. via trails to nearby Indian Head and Snake Rock. Indian Head is a bit lower than the Rock, but closer to New Haven Harbor. It has a small octagonal cement slab that was used for a gun emplacement during WW I in case the enemy was so foolish as to send a war ship or U-boat into Long Island Sound and the harbor. Snake Rock is the lowest and most southerly hill in the park, and now that the leaves are falling,

we may get a bit of a view. After about an hour and 15 minutes of tramping, they then will return to the parking lot and the summit of East Rock to have lunch. Everyone should have water to carry on the hike, but if you wish, your lunch may be left in a cool spot in your car until the return. Alternatively, some folks may choose to have lunch elsewhere, such as at a local restaurant. Rain Date: Nov. 19.

To get to the meeting spot, get on to Davis St. in Hamden, which extends from Whitney Ave., opposite Hamden Hall School to a traffic light on Ridge

Road near where the latter joins State St. Turn into the park at its entrance from Davis and take the first left. Pass by the parking area near this junction and keep to the right of any road forks you come to until you get to the summit. Drive right on by the few parking spaces at the overlook and circle around the monument tower until you see a “Park” sign and take a sharp right into the lot where we will meet. If you plan to join Tom & Halina, please contact them at (203) 787-5686 or [thomas.s.platt@snet.net](mailto:thomas.s.platt@snet.net).

**E-mail List**

To join, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **unsubscribe announce** in the body of the message.

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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.

# Dan Potts

We were deeply saddened by the sudden death of our good friend Dan Potts on Thursday, October 26. Several of us attended his memorial service on Monday, October 30. His obituary is online at: [http://obit.beecherandbennett.com/obit\\_display.cgi?id=350080&listing=Current](http://obit.beecherandbennett.com/obit_display.cgi?id=350080&listing=Current)

# Book Group: Inheriting the Holy Land

Join us on Sunday, December 10, from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to discuss "Inheriting the Holy Land: An American's Search for Hope in the Middle East" by Jennifer Miller. Copies are available in Connecticut public libraries as well as in book stores and online.

Jennifer Miller will be coming to talk at USNH in January, provisionally 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, January 21, in a program jointly organized by HAC and USNH.

"Miller's book provides a fresh and sparkingly well-written look at the contradictions and consequences of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

—*Madeleine Albright*

"The next generation is critical to Israeli-Palestinian peace. Jennifer Miller's important book tells you why."

—*Mahmoud Abbas*

"Miller has brought her talents as a keen observer and engaging storyteller to the captivating tale of the young generation of Israelis and Palestinians."

—*Shimon Peres*

# Secular Ethics: Moral Realism

Join us for Humanist Conversations on November 6 at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss the issues raised by David Koepsell's October 16th talk on Moral Realism and the secular basis for ethics.

# Black-eyed Sally's for Dinner

Dan D. has kindly offered to host a social dinner at Black-eyed Sally's, 350 Asylum Street, Hartford, on November 29 at 7:00 p.m. Black-eyed Sally's serves up award-winning BBQ and Cajun cooking. This is a special treat you won't want to miss! For directions, please call the restaurant at (860) 278-7427. Please RSVP at <http://humanism.meetup.com/3/> or to Dan at (203) 232-9769.

# 400 Thanksgiving Dinners

Because Meals on Wheels doesn't deliver meals on Thanksgiving Day, each year Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) prepares and delivers 300 Thanksgiving dinners to frail and elderly people in their homes. ICM also prepares and serves 100 sit-down Thanksgiving dinners for homeless persons at 311 Temple Street. It has become a HAC tradition for our volunteers to help cook a turkey, bake a pie, carve a turkey, deliver a meal, or give money. If you can do any of these things please see June Schafer after any meeting, or call her at (203) 281-6232.

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