



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2007



CSH Affiliate

An Art Historian in Indochina

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 17 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for an awesome tour of Indochina.

In January of 2006, Dolores (Dody) Gall traveled to Cambodia and Thailand and saw the amazing ruins of Angkor in Cambodia, a holy city built by the Khmer kingdoms from 800-1200 A.D. The temple ruins cover over 16 miles and were destroyed by invaders in 1430. She stayed in the city of Siem Riep and visited the Killing Fields Memorial dedicated to victims of the Pol Pot genocide. She then flew to Bangkok, Thailand (ancient kingdom of Siam), a multi-racial city of Buddhist, Hindu, Chinese temples and the Royal Palace. At Kanchanaburi in the north, she walked Hell Fire Pass and the bridge on the River Kwai and visited the War Museum documenting the Allied POWs who died there in World War II. Farther north is the "Golden Triangle" by Chiang Rai, once the center for opium smuggling but now a tourist destination. A side trip to Myanmar (formerly Burma), and then a forest trek on elephant near Chiang Mai, the nation's premier crafts center.

We promise you an informative Powerpoint presentation of

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at humanism.meetup.com.

SEPTEMBER, 2007

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: <i>A Brief History of Disbelief</i> , Part 3: "The Final Hour"	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	Book Group: <i>Moral minority: Our Skeptical Founding Fathers</i> by Brooke Allen	2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting Main program: Dolores Gall: "Arts of Southeast Asia" — photographs from her recent trip	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 27	Hartford-Area Dinner: Puerto Vallarta, 826 Queen St., Southington, CT 06489. (860) 736-0060 for directions.	7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER, 2007

Sat., 6	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 8	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly meeting Main program: Sherwin Wine commemoration.	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 25	Hartford-Area Dinner: Location TBA.	7:00 p.m.

WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG

these remarkable sites, all within an hour!

Dody Gall, trained as an art historian, worked at Yale for over 25 years, first at the Yale Art Gallery, then the British Art Center and finally, the School of Architecture. She was also responsible for two exhibits at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History, where she is now

an active volunteer. She has traveled a great deal, hoping to see the world's art and architecture.

Please join us on Monday, September 17 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will begin with our customary half-hour of conversation at 7:30 p.m. followed by our tour at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

Dinners

This month's Hartford area dinner will be held at Mexican restaurant Puerto Vallarta, 826 Queen St., Southington, CT 06489. The restaurant is on Route 10 in Southington, just north of exit 34 off I-84, conveniently close to both Hartford and Waterbury. (860) 736-0060 or www.puertovallartausa.com.

Conversations:

A Brief History of Disbelief, Part 3

Join us for Humanist Conversations on Saturday, September 1 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when we'll show the third and final episode of Jonathan Miller's *A Brief History of Disbelief*, a series that is currently showing on some PBS stations. We saw the first episode at the July 16th meeting of the association, and the second episode at last month's Conversations meeting.

The third episode is entitled, "The Final Hour."

Continued overleaf

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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.

First Freedom First

If you missed the First Freedom First petition in person, you haven't missed your opportunity to read and sign it. All you have to do is visit the website at: <http://www.firstfreedomfirst.org>

Conversations: Continued from front page

“The history of disbelief continues with the ideas of self-taught philosopher Thomas Paine, the revolutionary studies of geology and the evolutionary theories of Darwin. Jonathan Miller looks at the Freudian view that religion is a ‘thought disorder.’ He also examines his motivation behind making the series touching on the issues of death and the religious fanaticism of the 21st century.” — from the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/documentaries/features/atheism.shtml>

Our organization now owns an original DVD of this series courtesy of the American Humanist Association, one of the series sponsors on PBS. You will find the video quality much improved.

This episode will last about an hour, leaving us with an hour to discuss the program and to decide what to discuss on October 6th. Refreshments will be served.

September Book Discussion

The next book we will read is “Moral minority : Our Skeptical Founding Fathers” by Brooke Allen. There are lots of copies in Connecticut public libraries as well as in bookstores and online. We will meet on Saturday, September 15, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Book Description:

In her lively refutation of modern claims about America’s religious origins, Brooke Allen looks back at the late eighteenth century and shows decisively that the United States was founded not on Christian principles at all but on Enlightenment ideas. Moral Minority presents a powerful case that the unique legal framework the Founding Fathers created was designed according to the humanist ideals of Enlightenment thinkers: God entered the picture only as a very minor player, and Jesus Christ was conspicuous by his absence. The guiding spirit of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, Ms. Allen explains, was not Jesus Christ but John Locke. In direct and accessible prose, she provides fascinating chapters on the religious lives of the six men she considers the key Founding Fathers: Franklin, Washington, John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton.

- From Amazon.com

The thesis of this informative polemic is that the founders were deists, not devout Christians.

- New York Times, Editor’s Choice

Well documented, exuberantly argued and quite persuasive.

- George Will in New York Times Sunday Book Review

Invitation

Please consider yourself cordially invited to participate in the High Holiday Services with the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Westport. Admission is free, but they recommend reservations. To RSVP call (203) 226-5451. For more information, visit www.humanisticjews.org or call the same number. Services are held on September 12, 13, 21 and 22. You may also wish to attend an open house brunch on September 9. Please RSVP by September 7.

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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.		E-Mail Address: _____
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