



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2008



CSH Affiliate

## Ernestine Rose, Humanist Hero!

Many of us know that our member, Bonnie Cohen, has a passionate interest in women's rights issues. Join us on Monday, September 15, when Bonnie presents her humanist s/hero, Ernestine L. Rose.

Noted author and fourth-generation freethinker Barbara Ehrenreich wrote: "If there is one cause which has a logical and consistent affinity with free thought, it is feminism." Ernestine L. Rose is the embodiment of the merger of these two philosophies. Born in 1810 in a Jewish ghetto in Poland to an Orthodox rabbi and his wife, Ernestine was provided with an education which embraced knowledge of the Hebrew language and the bible. But her intellectual capacity had no room for blind faith, and by the age of 14 she rejected the bible and Judaism and discounted as utterly false the notion that woman was inferior to man and insisted on equality for both sexes.

Author of the treatise, "In Defense of Atheism," Rose arrived in the United States in 1836. In addition to speaking out in favor of the abolition of slavery and equal educational opportunities, she launched her successful campaign to secure legal rights for married women, becoming the first lobbyist for women's rights. Rose's fight to resurrect women from the state of "civil death"

## Book Discussion

### "Creating a World Without Poverty"

The next book we will read is "Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism" by Muhammad Yunus. Copies are available at public libraries as well as at bookstores and online.

We will meet to discuss this book on Saturday, September 6, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

As an additional optional item, at 1:15 p.m. we will show the 53-minute video of a speech Muhammad Yunus gave at MIT shortly before being awarded the Nobel prize.

As always, feel free to invite a friend.

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com).

### SEPTEMBER, 2008

Sat., 6	<b>Book discussion:</b> <i>Creating a World Without Poverty</i> by Muhammad Yunus Video of Yunus at MIT Book Discussion	1:15 p.m. 2:30 p.m.
Mon., 8	Social Dinner at Bear & Grill, 385 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 298-0742 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 13	Humanist Conversations: <i>Primetime</i> , Why Every American Should Care About China	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> Bonnie Cohen. <i>Ernestine L. Rose, My Humanist S/Hero</i>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Thu., 18	Waterbury-Area Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 24	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER, 2008

Sat., 4	<b>Bible Reading Group (rescheduled from Sept.)</b>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 11	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> TBA	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Thu., 23	Hartford-Area Dinner at Taste of India, 139 S Main St., West Hartford. (860) 561-2221.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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

which the institution of marriage bestowed upon them spanned the years of 1839 to 1860, culminating in the passage of the Married Women's Property Acts.

Join us at 700 Hartford

Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation. Bonnie's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m. Remember to bring a friend!

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

**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.

**Officers**

President June Schafer  
(203) 281-6232  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)  
Vice-President Douglas Peary  
Secretary Richard Siddall  
Treasurer Douglas Peary

**Committee Chairs**

Program David Schafer  
Membership Carol Podgwaite  
Development Manny Ratafia  
Publications Carol Stone  
Publicity June Schafer  
Hospitality Randy Olear

**Newsletter**

Editor Carol Stone  
(203) 264-8546  
[editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org)  
Production: Richard Siddall  
(203) 264-2182  
[webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org)

Copyright © 2008, Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto: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.

**Dinner Notes**

We've had to re-schedule the Lemongrass dinner to Wednesday, September 24. We hope to see you there!

**Conversations**

Bring a friend on Saturday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m. to 700 Hartford Turnpike when we will view and discuss the August 6 broadcast of ABC's *Primetime* entitled, "Why Every American Should Care About China: The Emerging Superpower Is Forging Relationships Where the U.S. Isn't," by Bob Woodruff, Gabrielle Tenenbaum, Susan Schaefer and Meena Hartenstein.

The program consists of four segments:

1) *The Failure of Western Countries. Angola:* Chinese loans with few of the strings typically attached by Western sources are spent on Chinese-built enterprises paid for by ten-thousand barrels of oil per day.

2) *We're In This Together.* Brazil's entire soy crop goes to China and the demand is bringing more land under cultivation.

3) *Burying the Past with Money.* Cambodia was wrecked by the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge was strongly supported by China. But now money and Chinese manufacturing are in play.

4) *The United States as China's Partner?* Buying the United States' debt and selling manufactured exports around the world.

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m. for this fascinating, timely discussion!

**Ride Needed**

A member who lives in West Hartford would like to attend our meetings, but needs a ride. If you can help, please contact Carol Stone at (203) 264-8546 or [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org).

**Bible Discussion Group, Part V**

The next meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be on Saturday, October 4, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. In addition to discussing the reading materials, we will watch a 15-minute video segment.

For October 4 please read the following:

A. In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel:

*Chapter 16. The Ten Commandments 250-259*

*Chapter 17. A Religion of Laws 260-279*

*Chapter 18. Worship on the Road 280-295*

B. In Wikipedia:

o "Ten Commandments"

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten\\_Commandments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ten_Commandments)

Section 4, *Religious Interpretations*, which covers Judaism, Samaritan, Christianity, Islam, and Other Traditions and Section 5, *Controversies*.

Note the different versions within religions and among different religions.

o "Seven Laws of Noah"

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven\\_Laws\\_of\\_Noah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Laws_of_Noah)

o "Five Pillars of Islam"

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five\\_Pillars\\_of\\_Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Pillars_of_Islam)

Please go through the assigned reading materials and feel free to invite a friend.

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