



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

August 2009



CSH Affiliate

## David Schafer on “The Missing Years in the Evolution of Humanism”

Our regular monthly meeting, on Monday, August 17, will begin at 7:30 p.m. with half an hour of refreshments and conversation. The main program, at 8:00 p.m., will begin with a few announcements and continue with David’s talk, followed by discussion.

David explains his presentation in the following words:

“When we Humanists are asked for a short history of our movement, most of us are likely to begin with the Age of Enlightenment (ca. 1700-1800 CE), or perhaps somewhat earlier, with the European Renaissance (ca. 1300-1600 CE). But after the Enlightenment, it’s quite likely that we’ll skip over a century or more and move directly to the Humanist Manifesto of 1933, when modern Humanism, at least modern American Humanism, took what was arguably its first concrete shape. At this point the inquiring mind will ask, with some justification, ‘But what about the nineteenth century, and the first third of the twentieth? Didn’t anything worth mentioning happen then?’ These are fair questions, and it seems to me that the answers might be worth our consideration.

“I plan to examine some of the essential features of American Humanism, as it was defined in that first Humanist Manifesto, and ask how these features may have been influenced by, or even dependent upon, major events, personalities, and movements of the nineteenth century. To help jog my memory and organize my

## Calendar of Events

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

### AUGUST, 2009

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: Robert Reich Interview	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 9	Bible Reading Group: hour-long video	2:00 p.m.
	Discussion on: Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah	3:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	Book Discussion: “Doubt,” part 2	3:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: David Schafer — <i>The Missing Years in the Evolution of Humanism</i>	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 26	Hartford-Area social dinner at Szechuan Tokyo, 1245 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-0180 for directions	7:00 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER, 2009

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Something for Labor Day	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 14	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: P. J. Deak on Intellectual History	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 30	Hartford-Area social dinner, location TBA	7:00 p.m.

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

talk I’ll use the famous 15 theses of the Manifesto, and group their subjects—conveniently for my purposes, and some might say arbitrarily—into five somewhat overlapping categories: philosophy, religion, the physical world, human nature, and finally human values (where I’ll touch on ethics and morals, politics, economics, and esthetics). Along the way, I’ll have quite a bit to say about such sweeping topics as Romanticism, Imperialism, Transcendentalism, Evolution, the American Civil War, and Victorianism, and such major historical figures as Immanuel Kant, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.”

David hopes there will be something in this talk for everybody. Come and bring a friend!

## August 15: “Doubt” part 2

We will discuss the rest of the book “Doubt: A History: The Great Doubters and Their Legacy of Innovation from Socrates and Jesus to Thomas Jefferson and Emily Dickinson” by Jennifer Michael Hecht on Saturday, August 15, 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

On April 18, we covered the first half of the book, the introduction and chapters 1 through 5 (through page 215), and we will discuss the rest of the book at this upcoming meeting.

Copies of “Doubt: A History” are at public libraries as well as bookstores and online. As always, feel free to invite a friend!

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

**E-mail List**

To join, send an e-mail addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **unsubscribe**.

**Officers**

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

**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 © 2009, 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: 180 copies.

Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

***Conversations: Robert Reich on Lobbyists and Healthcare***

Join us on Saturday, August 1 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when will watch and discuss the June 12, 2009, episode of *Bill Moyers Journal*, in which former Labor Secretary Robert Reich sits down with Bill Moyers to talk about the influence of lobbyists on policy, the economy, and the ongoing debate over health care. Refreshments will be served.

***Bible Discussion — More on Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah***

The HAC Bible Discussion Group will next meet from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 9 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will view a video for the first hour, and will discuss the readings (and the video) during the last two hours. As always, please do the reading and feel free to bring a friend.

For August 9:

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

- Chapter 28. Solomon's Wisdom, reread pages 506-514
- Chapter 30. The Book of Isaiah(s), pages 538-568
- Chapter 31, Jeremiah, pages 569-597

B. Look through the following:

- The Wikipedia entry on "Book of Proverbs," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Proverbs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Proverbs)
- The Proverbs, available online at <http://www.biblestudy.org/bible-study-by-topic/proverbs/introduction.html> and <http://www.tldm.org/bible/old%20testament/proverbs.htm>
- The Wikipedia entry on "Isaiah," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaiah>
- The Wikipedia entry on "Jeremiah," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book\\_of\\_Jeremiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Jeremiah)

C. If you like, bring a joke or short humorous writing (or a proverb) that relates to the readings for this meeting.

***Conference Info***

The Freedom from Religion Foundation will hold their 2009 convention in Seattle, WA, November 6-8 2009. [ffrf.org/events](http://ffrf.org/events)

The American Humanist Association will hold their 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in San Jose, CA, June 4-7, 2010. [americanhumanist.org](http://americanhumanist.org)

The Unitarian Universalists' General Assembly is scheduled for June 23 - 27, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. [uua.org/events/generalassembly](http://uua.org/events/generalassembly)

The James Randi Educational Foundation's Amazing Meeting 8 will be held July 8-11, 2010 in Las Vegas. [randi.org/site/index.php/amazing-meeting.html](http://randi.org/site/index.php/amazing-meeting.html)

No 2010 information was available yet for conferences for the International Humanist and Ethical Union, American Atheists or the Center for Inquiry. We'll keep our eyes peeled for more conferences!

**MEMBERSHIP**

Adult . . . . . \$35  
Family . . . . . \$50  
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10

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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_