



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

January 2010



CSH Affiliate

What the World Bank Knows but Won't Tell You

Richard Duffee studied philosophical psychology at the University of Chicago, earned an MA in English, then taught in high school, prison, and college. Intending to become a poor people's lawyer with the Legal Services Corporation, he earned a J.D. (with a certificate in International Law) at Pace Law School, but Clinton degraded the LSC to a telephone referral service. Duffee went to Southeast Asia, lived there nine years, taught at two Indian law schools and married into an Ex-Untouchable family. Discovering that it was 448 times easier for him to earn money than it was for a neighbor in India made him realize it was not necessary to consume more than the world average income adjusted for the purchasing power parity value of the currency of whatever country he was in.

The human benefit derived from an expenditure depends on who spends the money and what it is spent on. But when this perfectly obvious statement is quantified, the logical consequences are counterintuitive to people in developed countries who have not lived in an impoverished country. To calculate the actual economic conditions of countries, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme use formulae that flatly contradict all their public statements about the relative poverty of nations, confining the truth to their technical notes in order to save rich countries embarrassment.

Duffee began teaching the international dimensions of poverty in "Law and Poverty" courses in 1999 in India, first published his analysis in 2003, and has presented it at the World Social

Calendar of Events

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

JANUARY, 2010

Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Humanist Conversations: Foreclosure	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting Main program: Richard Duffee on Poverty.	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 23	David Schafer presents "The Historical Bible"	3:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 26	Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 30	Book discussion: <i>Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!</i>	3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY, 2010

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly meeting Main program: David Schafer on Darwin	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 20	David Schafer presents "The Historical Bible"	3:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 23	Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.

WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG

Forum, the Other Economic Summit, Green Party conventions, and to various church groups, civic associations, and activist groups, and a Lifetime Learner's Institute course called "Processes of Impoverishment." The January 18 talk will be a

summary of the most important findings.

Join us on Monday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and this informative and timely talk at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

Darwin Day Dinner A Real Treat

The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism will be holding their second annual Darwin Day Dinner on Friday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. at Quattro Pazzi Restaurant, 65 Fillow Street, Norwalk.

The program includes a lecture, "Evolution of the Universe," presented by Charles David Bailyn, the Thomas E. Donnelley Professor of Astronomy & Physics at Yale University.

Tickets cost \$60 (\$55 before January 31) and seating is limited. Reserve your place by mailing your check payable to Darwin Day Committee to: 249 Chestnut Hill Road, Norwalk CT 06851. For more information, contact the Southern Connecticut Darwin Day Committee by calling John Levin at (646) 371-9280 or emailing him at jlevin@tfm-llc.com, or Craig Tomarkin at ctomarkin@aol.com. You can also visit <http://www.humanisticjews.org/darwin/>.

www.cthumanist.org

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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: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed for 2010!

Conversations: Foreclosure

Steve Meacham, a community organizer for City Life/Vida Urbana, is doing something about the foreclosure crisis, one foreclosure at a time.

Join us on Saturday, January 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, when we will watch and discuss this segment from the December 18, 2009 edition of *Bill Moyers Journal*. Refreshments will be served.

Sumerian Texts And The Book Of Genesis

The second in our series of monthly discussions on "The Bible from the Standpoint of Scientific and Historical Analysis" will be held on Saturday, January 23 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

This episode will be concerned with comparing the Creation Story in the book of Genesis with the much older Sumerian myth known as "Enuma Elish." We'll be taking a look at the history of comparative studies of the texts, together with the role of major archeological discoveries in the 19th and 20th centuries.

We'll also view more of the film started in November. Handouts will be distributed, and refreshments will be served.

Here are two Wikipedia entries for those who would like to do some preparatory reading: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enuma_Elish and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_Henry_Layard. In addition, a fascinating story about Layard is found in Chapter 21, "Layard: A Dilettante Outwits a Pasha," in the widely available book, *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, by C. W. Ceram.

We cordially welcome everyone interested in this subject to join in these discussions. For further information, please call David Schafer, 203-281-6232, after January 10.

Book Discussion: "Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman!"

The next book discussion will be on Saturday, January 30, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. and we will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is "Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character)" by Richard P. Feynman. Copies are available in Connecticut public libraries (try <http://www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia> to find libraries) as well as in book stores and online. An unabridged audio book is also available.

One of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century, as well as Doug Peary's June 2000 Humanist Hero, Feynman received the following awards during his career: Albert Einstein Award (1954), E. O. Lawrence Award (1962), Nobel Prize in Physics (1965), Oersted Medal (1972), National Medal of Science (1979).

"Buzzing with energy, anecdote and life. It almost makes you want to become a physicist." — Science Digest

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