



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

May 1999



ASHS Affiliate

## Tenth Anniversary Celebration!

### *“Humanism Is Alive and Well at the Institute”*

Jean Kotkin - Monday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

The Humanist Association came into being in May, 1989, and every year at this time we invite a distinguished speaker to help celebrate the anniversary of this event. We are proud to announce that this year our speaker will be Jean Kotkin, who will talk to us about the Humanist Institute, the premier institution for training Humanist leaders in North America. Jean came to the Humanist Institute at the height of a rich and varied career with Ethical Culture, one of the major streams of the Humanist movement. The following brief biography captures some of that career: “A former teacher in Montreal, Canada, she has been a reporter, editor, and freelance writer for the Ethical Culture Schools and Society; assistant director of the creative science program at New York University (1968-1970); executive director of the American Ethical Union (1970-1987); Ethical Culture leader (since 1981); executive director and faculty member at the Humanist

## Calendar of Events

### MAY

- Mon., 10 Anniversary meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike.  
**Note change of date.**  
 Coffee & conversation 7:30 p.m.  
 Jean Kotkin, Leader, New York Ethical Culture Society; Humanist Chaplain, Columbia University, etc., will speak on "Humanism is Alive and Well at the Institute". 8:00 p.m.
- Fri., 21 Special meeting at 608 Whitney Avenue.  
 Coffee & conversation. 7:30 p.m.  
 Steven Novella, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, Yale University School of Medicine, Associate Editor of the Scientific Review of Alternative Medicine, and President, New England Skeptical Society, will speak on: "Alternative Medicine". 8:00 p.m.
- Sun., 23 Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike. 1:30 p.m.

### JUNE

- Mon., 21 Monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike.  
**Note return to usual location.**  
 Coffee & conversation. 7:30 p.m.  
**VOTE: Invitation from the First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven**  
 Mr. Ron Loomis, Director of Education for the American Family Foundation: “Cults on Campus: The Appeal, the Danger” 8:00 p.m.

### JULY

- Sat., 17 Annual picnic at the Raffords. Directions to follow. noon

Institute (since 1984); Pastoral Counselor (since 1988); Humanist Chaplain, Columbia University (since 1996); and the International Humanist and Ethical Union nongovernmental organization representative to the United Nations for the past twelve years. She has over twenty speaking engagements annually and has officiated at over 900 Ethical/Humanist

marriages, memorial services, and naming services.” A dynamic and engaging speaker, Jean will bring us the exciting story of the rapid growth of the “university” that is setting the course of future leadership from all the diverse strands of Humanism. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy a piece of birthday cake!

-David Schafer

## “Alternative Medicine”

*Presented by Dr. Steven Novella*

Dr. Steven Novella will bring us up to date on a subject of profound interest to all of us, “Alternative Medicine.”

The world-wide increase in the popular demand for greater control over all aspects of our lives, widespread distrust of the authority of a medical science that is too often unable to explain and justify its methods to the satisfaction of frightened and suffering patients, the high cost of advanced medical care and doubts about the adequacy of medical insurance, and the promise of miraculous and possibly inexpensive results from treatments rooted in ancient cultures, has led to the rapid and often bewildering growth of a great variety of forms of alternative medicine—from acupuncture to “therapeutic touch,” from herbal medicines to prayer. Add the well-recognized fact that for certain conditions some alternative techniques may offer as much real hope for relief as scientifically based therapies. All this makes it increasingly necessary for those who want to consider all their options to keep well-informed in order to make rational health decisions. Just before he was scheduled to speak for us in March, Dr. Novella attended a major conference on the status of alternative medicines. He keeps a close tab on this swiftly changing field, and is exceptionally well equipped to answer your questions.

This exciting program has been rescheduled for Friday, May 21, at the First Unitarian-Universalist Society of New Haven, 608 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. Refreshments and conversation are at 7:30 p.m., and the main program starts at 8:00. Come and bring a friend!

## Schafers to Help Train Ministers

David Schafer will miss our tenth anniversary celebration. David will be helping to train eleven selected young Unitarian Universalist ministers who want to know more about Humanism, May 10-12 in Minneapolis. June Schafer will be heading out to join David immediately after the monthly meeting.

UU ministers get inadequate training in Humanism. These have elected to be in the Humanist camp. June will be a designated resource on social action, her area of specialty.

## Important Vote at June Meeting

Please plan to attend the June meeting at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) on Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will be voting on an invitation from the First Unitarian Universalist Society (FUUS) to make greater use of their facilities.

Members will speak for and against an increased relationship with FUUS. If you have an opinion, please come and make it known!

(Voting is a privilege of membership. Have you paid your 1999 dues?)

## Cult Appeal?

Mr. Ron Loomis, Director of Education for the American Family Foundation and past President of Cult Awareness Network will present “Cults on Campus: The Appeal, the Danger” on Monday, June 21.

We will receive a small taste of a several-day workshop Ron presents on college campuses around the country. A champion of the right to choose or change your religion, Ron lives in New London with his family.

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The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month.

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

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