



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

September 1999



ASHS Affiliate

Randi at Yale

The Humanist Association of Central Connecticut is co-sponsoring The Amazing Randi's visit to Yale on Friday, September 10, at 7:00 PM in the Davies Auditorium, located in Becton Hall at 15 Prospect Street.

James Randi has an international reputation as a magician and escape artist, but today he is best known as the world's most tireless investigator and demystifier of paranormal and pseudo-scientific claims.

Last year the American Humanist Association issued a Chapter Grant to HACC to assist and foster the Yale College Humanists and Secularists. We are using a portion of this grant to co-sponsor James Randi's visit with the New England Skeptical Society and the Yale College Humanists and Secularists.

Please come early and enjoy the show!

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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

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| Fri., 10 | James Randi, the Davies Auditorium at Yale | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 18 | Inaugural meeting of the New London group at the Noank-Mystic Library
Main program: David Schafer on "Varieties of Humanism" | 1:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 20 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation.
Main program: David Schafer on "Science and the Humanist" | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

OCTOBER

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| Fri., 1 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Discussion on Jared Diamond's "Guns, Germs and Steel" | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 18 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation
Main program: Helene & Bill Goward - "Slow Boat to Paradise" | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 24 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

NOVEMBER

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| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation
Main program: Ken Feder, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at CCSU. Topic: TBD | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

New London Group

We are pleased to announce that Humanists in the New London area will be meeting for the first time on Saturday, September 18th at 1 PM at the Mystic & Noank Library, and the speaker will be HACC President David Schafer, who will talk on "Varieties of Humanism."

The Library is at 40 Library St., Mystic. The telephone number is (860) 536-7721.

We're hoping New London will be the first of many local groups with their own programs, and this will give members who have difficulty attending the programs in Hamden an opportunity to take a greater part in Humanist activities.

Bylaw Vote

At the September meeting there will be an important vote to adopt new bylaws for the association. The proposed replacement bylaws were circulated at the August meeting. These are the results of more than two years of work, first by the Development Committee, and then by the Board itself. The new bylaws correct some omissions in the existing version, and more closely match the way the organization is doing business.

Although the changes appear minor, the process of revising the bylaws has been exhaustive. We expect that future revisions will be made a line at a time.

Copies of the proposed bylaws are available from the editor.

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The deadline for each issue is three weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

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

HACC Web Site:

<http://www.cthumanist.org>

Humanist Conversations

By Mickey Koth

The next Humanist Conversation will be on Friday, October 1 at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Unlike previous meetings, at which we talked about specific articles or had everyone research the proposed topic, this meeting will focus on the best-selling book "Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fate of Human Societies" by renowned scientist Jared Diamond. (The paperback edition is currently 20% off at your ubiquitous chain bookseller with the initials B & N)

At the last meeting, it was suggested that we discuss Chapter 1. However, this is a fairly short chapter that doesn't get into the subject too deeply, so I suggest that anyone interested should read as much of the book as possible.

And remember, we will order out for pizza and will provide coffee and tea.

Fifty Years Together

David and June Schafer are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Please join them on Sunday, September 12, at either the 9:15 or the 11:15 service at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. The music David composed for their wedding, to a Shakespeare sonnet, will be performed, and the service will be followed by cake.

Joyce Wolf suggested contributing to the HACC endowment fund as a way of thanking the couple for their decade of tireless efforts toward the future of our organization. If you agree, checks made out to the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut with "endowment fund" or "Humanist Heroes Speaker's Fund" in the memo portion can be accepted by our treasurer, John Magnesi, or any board member.

FUUS Lecture

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven (FUUS) announces its September *Food For Thought* speaker meetings.

Dr. Malcolm Bowers, Jr. will speak on "What Do Psychiatric Medications Do in the Brain?" on Friday, September 17th at 8 PM at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven, located at 608 Whitney Ave. Dr. Bowers is a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University and a world authority on the effects of drugs on the brain.

The *Food For Thought* speaker meetings are organized and led by HACC member Nash Boutros, whom we congratulate on his graduation from the Humanist Institute Course for Humanist Leaders on August 21st, in New York City.

The meeting is open and free to the public. Refreshments will be served at 7:30 PM. For information call Francis at (203) 562-0672.