



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

November 1999



ASHS Affiliate

## *"A Goliath In New York"*

This month's main program will feature Ken Feder, Ph.D., professor of anthropology at Central Connecticut State University, and an occasional and eloquent speaker for the New England Skeptical Society.

Entitled "A Goliath In New York: The Sad Tale of the Cardiff Giant," Monday's talk will be about archaeological frauds, focusing on the Cardiff Giant, a nineteenth-century hoax presented as the remains of a giant petrified man. Scientists (the Peabody Museum's own O. C. Marsh included) instantly declared it to be a humbug, but that made little difference to the majority of believers. This is a good story with plenty of implications about the role of science in society.

The meeting will be held November 15th at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by the main program at 8:00 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

## *Calendar of Events*

### NOVEMBER

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|----------|--|-----------|
| Sat., 13 | New London group meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. Discussion on ethics and politics.             | 10 a.m.   |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.   | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program: Ken Feder, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at CCSU. "A Goliath in New York: The Sad Tale of the Cardiff Giant." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.  | 1:30 p.m. |
| Sun., 28 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Discussion on "Humanism and Democracy."                                       | 3:00 p.m. |

### DECEMBER

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|----------|--|-----------|
| TBA      | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced.                                | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 11 | New London group meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. Program to be announced. | 10 a.m.   |
| Mon., 20 | Annual meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.                                  | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Elections and other business.  | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.  | 1:30 p.m. |

### JANUARY

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|----------|--|-----------|
| TBA      | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced.                                | 7:30 p.m. |
| TBA      | New London group meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. Program to be announced. | 10 a.m.   |
| Mon., 17 | Annual meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.                                  | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program: David Schafer on "African American Intellectuals and Humanism."                            | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.  | 1:30 p.m. |

## *Election Update*

With elections coming up at the Annual Meeting in December, and numerous officers unable to stand for re-election, this year's contest promises to be unusually sweeping.

The Nominating Committee will present the proposed slate at the November 15th meeting, so if you are unable to attend, please call June Schafer at (203) 281-6232 for a copy. Additionally, there is still time if you would like to recommend someone or volunteer; please call June.

As always, there will be a last-minute call for nominations from the floor before the election.

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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.

### Officers

President	David Schafer (203) 281-6232 president@cthumanist.org
Vice-President	Douglas Peary
Secretary	June Schafer
Treasurer	John Magnesi

### Newsletter

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## New London Group News

The New London group's next meeting will be from 10 am to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 13, 1999, at the Mystic & Noank Library at 40 Library St., Mystic. Note that the library itself will be closed but that the meeting room will be open.

The group will discuss expectations of political leaders. Do their personal and social ethics affect their political effectiveness? These discussions view the human condition from a nonreligious point of view.

For directions and/or further information call George or Paula Marcus at 860-572-9188.

## Doug Peary to Speak at FUUS

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven's *Food for Thought* speaker series will feature HACC vice-president Rev. Douglas Peary talking on "Philosophy, What Is It Good For?" on Friday, November 19th. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by the main presentation at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting is open and free to the public. FUUS is located at 608 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. For information call Francis at (203) 562-0672.

## Website News

Would you like to receive this newsletter via e-mail? Would you like to get announcements of upcoming events (and television shows) of interest to humanists in your e-mail box? If your answer to either of these is "yes!", why not log onto our website and sign up?

Our webmaster updates the website often, so visit regularly! Our URL is <http://www.cthumanist.org>

## Humanist Conversations

By Mickey Koth

The Humanist Conversations will meet in November at a new day and time: Sunday, Nov. 28, at 3:00 p.m. No Friday evenings were available this month that would work. We are a busy bunch of people!

The topic this month is Humanism and Democracy. The eighth point of The Humanist Manifesto II is "We are committed to an open and democratic society." Later this same document states "We believe in the right to universal education." Our discussion this month will combine these two ideas, based on two readings. The first is a short section of Corliss Lamont's *The Philosophy of Humanism*: chapter VI, section 3, "Humanism and Democracy." The most current edition of this book is the 8th, published in 1997, but earlier editions will suffice for this reading. The second reading is an article by David Schafer in a special issue of the journal *Humanism Today*, entitled *Humanists and Education* (vol. 11, 1997). David's article, "The Dilemma of Democratic Education," is on the web at:

<http://www.humanist.net/institute/humanism-today-vol-11.html#schafer>

We will meet at the Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, in the library. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be provided. Call (203) 498-8333 or e-mail (mickey.koth@yale.edu) for more information.