



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

October 2002



ASHS Affiliate

The High Cost of Prescription Drugs

A year after this talk was originally planned, pharmaceuticals are still the fastest growing healthcare cost in America, and there is still no letup in sight. For many, prescription drugs are a major cost of living, alongside food and housing; some simply can't pay for the medicines needed.

Today's advances in biology make possible an unprecedented explosion of new drugs. While these new drugs may lower overall healthcare expenditures while improving health, these costs are often passed along directly to the consumer because a patient's medicines are less likely to be paid by insurance than his/her healthcare services. Furthermore, it is especially aggravating to many that companies charge people in other countries far less than Americans for the same drugs.

On October 21, Manny Ratafia will discuss how the current situation came about and what can and should be done to change it. He will review the roles of doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, employers, governments, the media, and our behavior as consumers.

Manny has consulted and published reports on biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and other technology-based industries. His research and opinions have been published and quoted in more than 100 general, trade and scientific publications around the world including *Business Week*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He has been interviewed on national and international television and on U.S. radio programs. His reports have been purchased by the major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as well as governments, universities and consulting firms throughout the

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER, 2002

Fri., 11	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike Bring a book to recommend.	7:30 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike Coffee and conversation Bob Quint — <i>Why I am a Humanist</i> Main program. Manny Ratafia — <i>Pharmaceutical Pricing</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:50 p.m. 7:50 p.m.
Wed., 23	Dinner at Connecticut's oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 26	Mystic-Noank discussion group picnic	2:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER, 2002

Mon., 4	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk. Coffee and conversation Bonnie Cohen — <i>Why I am a Humanist</i> Main program. Rob Rafford — <i>Genealogy</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:50 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Wed., 20	Dinner at Connecticut's oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	2:00 p.m.

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world. He has also published several newsletters, including *TMG's Pharmaceutical Pricing Monitor*.

Join us Monday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700

Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to learn about and discuss this important and controversial subject. Remember to bring a friend!

(Expansion at the USNH is still going on — follow the signs to the current entrance.)

Conversations

Our next Conversations meeting will be held in the library at the Unitarian Association of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 11. Bring a book to introduce and recommend, or just turn up to get some reading recommendations for the winter season.

There will be light refreshments at this meeting instead of the usual pizza. You may wish to have dinner beforehand.

Mystic/Noank Discussion Series

Join the humanist discussion group for a picnic October 26 at 12 noon at Esker Point Park. In case of inclement weather Lynn Anderson was kind enough to offer her home which is very close to Esker Point.

For more information contact George Marcus by phone at (860) 449-0800 or e-mail gmingroton@snet.net.

www.cthumanist.org

E-mail List

To join send an e-mail addressed to majordomo@cthumanist.org with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

To unsubscribe send an e-mail addressed to majordomo@cthumanist.org with **unsubscribe announce** in the body of the message.

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Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to 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: 120 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

God In the Pledge: What Should We Do?

A Community Forum on “God In the Pledge: What Should We Do?”, featuring Dr. Michael Newdow and a distinguished panel representing a variety of views, is being organized by the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism to be held in Westport at the Unitarian Church at 3 P.M. on Sunday November 10. For more information or to order tickets (\$10), call 203-226-5451 or visit their web site at <http://www.humanisticjews.org/forum.htm>.

Dr. Michael Newdow is the man who single-handedly presented the “Under God” issue successfully to the Federal Ninth District Appellate Court. The Appellate Court ruled that the 1954 law, which changed the Pledge of Allegiance by adding the words “under God”, was unconstitutional. The court did not rule that the original Pledge, or that teaching it in classrooms, was unconstitutional. It did rule that the amendment “put students in the untenable position of choosing between participating in an exercise with religious content or protesting.”

March on Washington

Come join fellow members at the Godless Americans March on Washington D.C. November 1 and 2. We will be taking the bus, organized by the New Jersey Humanist Network, from Penn Station leaving at 3:30 p.m. on November 1st.

They have also arranged for hotel rooms, travel from the hotel to the march, etc. Visit the Godless Americans web site at: www.godlessamericans.org.

Contact [name deleted] at [e-mail address deleted] or (203) xxx-xxxx for more information.

From the Godless Americans web site you can find other groups with busses to the event which do not include an overnight stay, but rather leave early on Saturday morning and return the same day.

The following information about the march is directly quoted from the web site:

The main event will take place on Saturday, November 2, 2002. The Godless Americans March

On Washington will be held on the National Mall, with a march and rally at the west side of the US Capitol Building.

The march itself begins promptly at 11:00 a.m. We will assemble on the mall on the east side of 14th street near the Washington Monument. Groups and individuals will form up behind a large Godless Americans banner for the parade in the direction of the capitol, and head down the wide pedestrian path.

Godless Americans March On Washington Marshals will be available to direct the flow of the march, answer questions and deal with any special needs or other situations.

The march will take 20-30 minutes. Once assembled at the rally location, we [American Atheists] will have a program including speeches from representatives of various Atheist, Freethought, Secular Humanist and other nonbeliever groups, along with entertainment.

<p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Adult \$35 Family \$50 Newsletter Only \$10</p> <p>In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to Humanist Association of Central Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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