



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

May 2000



ASHS Affiliate

## May Program

For our 11th anniversary we are privileged to present Lois & Bob Wolsch. Professional educators experienced on all levels from preschool through graduate and in-service education of teachers and therapists, they have been working and speaking together about Humanistic concerns since the fifties. They've organized community educational programs, co-authored six books, numerous professional magazine articles, letters, and Op-Ed pieces for newspapers, presented workshops at conventions, and brought their children along on their speaking tour of the United States as "The Wolsch Readers Theatre Troupe."

The Wolsches ran a Sunday school as a one-room schoolhouse, and shared Sunday Morning Service, Community Concerns, and Religious Education committees. They've endured extended board meetings, radio interview/call-in shows, two doctoral programs, three theological schools, and one graduation at the Humanist Institute.

While Bob was the Humanist Chaplain and Professor at Western Connecticut State University, they conducted weddings and memorial services from cathedrals, barns, mansions, and their living room. They also initiated and ran Thomas Jefferson college groups and Free Thinker

## Calendar of Events

### MAY

- |           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| Mon., 15  | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.<br>Coffee and conversation.                                   | 7:30 p.m. |
|           | <b>11th Anniversary Meeting.</b><br>Program: Lois and Bob Wolsch will present "A New Three 'R's of Humanism." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21  | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.   | 1:30 p.m. |
| Tues., 23 | Dinner meeting at Yankee Silversmith Inn, 1033 North Colony Road, Wallingford. RSVP required.                 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Fri., 26  | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.<br>"Skeptics and True Believers."                            | 7:30 p.m. |

### JUNE

- |          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.<br>Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program: Doug Peary will present "Richard Feynman, Humanist Hero."     | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.                               | 1:30 p.m. |
| TBA      | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.                            | 7:30 p.m. |

### JULY

- |          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Sun., 2  | Annual picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury. | 12 noon   |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.      | 1:30 p.m. |

Societies in public libraries. Bob and the Pope even shared the anger of Jimmy Swaggart in an editorial by the latter.

The Wolsches are listed in three *Who's Whos*, and have been honored by a medley of organizations, including Unitarian/Universalists for Jewish Awareness (UUJA), which has established a *Wolsch Resource Library* in Boston. Now retired, they continue their speaking and writing about education and Humanism. Lois co-chairs a monthly 'Book Talk' at the Southbury Library. Their current concerns include education for: literacy, parks for dogs, separation of church and

state, and improving Humanist organizations.

Join us on Monday, May 15, 2000, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, where the Wolsches will discuss "A New Three 'R's for Humanism, centering on Relationships, Reasoning, and Responsibilities." Refreshments are served at 7:30 p.m. followed by the program at 8:00 p.m.

**HACC Web Site**  
[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

## RSVP NOW for Dinner at the Yankee Silversmith Inn

Would you care to dine with us on Tuesday, May 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Yankee Silversmith Inn? The restaurant is located at exit 66 off route 15 in Wallingford and prices range from \$10 to \$20 for an entree. We will have a private room, but we must know how many people intend to attend as soon as possible, in order to make reservations!

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Carol Stone at (203) 264-8546, Mickey Koth at (203) 948-8333, or Manny Ratafia at (203) 387-7348.

### Officers

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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.

## Humanist Conversations

On Friday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society in Hamden, the next Humanist Conversation will continue with the subject of science and religion. Our discussion will be based on Chet Raymo's book *Skeptics and True Believers: The Exhilarating Connection Between Science and Religion* (New York: Walker and Co., 1999. ISBN 0802775640, paperback, \$12.95).

"Of all species of life on earth, we are the one that wants to know."

"Science is based upon our ability to imagine what we cannot see."  
"Knowledge is an island in a sea of mystery."

"Art and science are each sublime activities of the human mind; we are less than human without either."

In the publisher's blurb on the back of the book, Chet Raymo is described as a "wise religious humanist." In his introduction, he labels himself a "thoroughgoing Skeptic." Indeed, he divides the world into Skeptics and True Believers. The former trust the ability of the human mind to sort out our world, accept the evolving nature of truth, and live with uncertainty. The latter look to a higher authority to explain the world, and find comfort in dogma and certainty, which provide a degree of emotional security not found in the Skeptic's uncertainty and doubt.

His goal is not to sever the world of science and religion, but to combine knowledge with religious feeling (which he considers to be reverence or awe in the face of the mysteries of the world). Scientific skepticism on the one hand provides a rational understanding of the world, but ignores on the other hand our need for emotional security in the face of the frequently incomprehensible (and sometimes terrifying) immensity of space and time.

Raymo believes that there is an "irreducible intuitive core to our knowledge that is immune to organized skepticism: our sense of self, our sense of other, and our sense of the inexhaustible mystery of the world . . . They are the bedrock of religious experience, upon which Skeptics will commence their search for emotional security."

Come to the discussion with your ideas and your appetites. We will order out for pizza or Chinese. We've had a request for Chinese, so if you know a local Chinese restaurants that delivers, bring one of their menus. Coffee and tea will be provided. For more information, contact Mickey Koth at (203) 498-8333 or mickey.koth@yale.edu.