



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

February 2001



ASHS Affiliate

Lost: One Continent; Reward: A Scientific Appraisal of the Myth of Atlantis

The story of Atlantis has intrigued people for more than two millennia: A great and powerful nation, rooted in the deepest strata of human antiquity, whose dominance over the ancient world ended virtually overnight, the result of an unimaginable cataclysm.

But what was Atlantis? Was it a real place, a dominant force on the world stage from a time only dimly remembered when its story was first committed to paper more than 2300 years ago? Was it the source of all subsequent civilizations, an inexplicably precocious society whose power was based on the control of paranormal forces? Or was Atlantis merely a plot device in a ripping good tale told by one of the ancient world's greatest minds?

History and archaeology provide the answers to these questions in a lecture to be given by Ken Feder, professor of anthropology at Central Connecticut State University and the author of *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*.

Join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Monday, February 19. We will have coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

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| Fri., 2 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Article: "A Scientist Looks at Evolution and Religious Humanism" by Dr. David Schafer, <i>Religious Humanism</i> , vol. XXX numbers 3 and 4. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 3 | New London discussion group at the Mystic Noank Library. Topic: "Transplants." | 10:15 a.m. |
| Sun., 4 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation.
Main program: Ken Feder "Lost: One Continent. Reward: A Scientific Appraisal of the Myth of Atlantis." | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

MARCH

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| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation.
Main program: Paul LaCombe, "Choosing a Death with Dignity." | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

APRIL

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| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 16 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation.
Main program: Doug Peary on "Huxley the Bulldog" | 7:30 p.m.
8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 22 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

Membership Reminder

Dues for the 2001 membership year are now due. If you've already paid, thank you! If not, you can pay by mail or in person at any of the meetings.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Adult \$35
 Family \$50
 In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. The membership year runs from 1/1 to 12/31.

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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

The next Humanist Conversation is Friday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. We'll discuss the topic that was meant for the last conversation: evolution. The discussion will be based on the article, "A Scientist Looks at Evolution and Religious Humanism" by Dr. David Schafer, *Religious Humanism*, vol. XXX numbers 3 and 4, which was distributed in the December and January monthly meetings.

Below are some websites which provide further reading.

On the Darwin Day website, there are pages about creationism which may come in handy for the conversation:

<http://darwin.ws/day/links/creationism.html>

To read the creationist's Five-Year Plan, see *The Wedge Strategy* at:
<http://www.humanist.net/skeptical/wedge.html>

A commentary on this plan is available at:

http://www.infidels.org/secular_web/feature/1999/wedge.html

For a web site devoted to Behe's Empty Box: Reviews and Criticisms of Michael Behe's book, *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution* and the hypothesis of Intelligent Design, see:

<http://www.spacelab.net/~catalj/box/behe.htm>

I'd say this is enough to get us started on a lively discussion.

As usual, we will order out for pizza, so bring your research, opinions and appetite!

Announcement List

For those of you who have Internet access, the Association runs an e-mail announcement list. This is an easy way to get reminders about upcoming events, and news about unscheduled changes.

You can subscribe to the list by following the instructions on our web site at <http://www.cthumanist.org/lists.html>.

Mystic-Noank Discussion

The next meeting of the Mystic-Noank humanist discussion group is scheduled for February 3, 2001 at 10:15 am. As usual it will be at the Mystic Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. The library telephone number is (860) 536-7721.

The topic for this meeting will be "Transplants." Nuances considered will include the ethics of interspecies transplants, human and primate cloning, and other ethical concerns connected with stem cell research. Your thoughts are important.

If you need more information, please contact George or Paula Marcus at gminnoank@worldnet.att.net or (860) 572-9188.

<http://www.cthumanist.org>