



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

April 2002



ASHS Affiliate

## “The Power Of The Secular Ethic”

Hear Harvard's Humanist  
Chaplain, Tom Ferrick, on  
Sunday, April 21

Join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven on Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 in the afternoon (NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!) when we will present our 13th anniversary speaker, Tom Ferrick, Humanist Chaplain of Harvard University.

Tom, a former Jesuit priest, and for some time a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Humanist Association, has made Humanist history by establishing his chaplaincy at Harvard. His advance summary of his remarks on “The Power of the Secular Ethic” focuses on the crucial role of ethics in Humanism. Using a series of concrete examples, he intends to “call Humanists to a renewed loyalty to our ‘fundamentals’ and, at the same time, to an embrace of the humanistic impulse wherever, as a blade of grass, it shows itself.” He adds, “Our Secular Ethic gives us the warrant to both criticize and praise human behavior across the board. Image should reflect identity. Our projected image could use a renewal. Our convictions are worthy of respect, not instruments of insult or hatred. Our sense of a unitary humanity invites us to respect every thread of positive humanness wherever we see it.”

As is our custom, we'll start off with half an hour of informal conversation and refreshments at 3:00 p.m. At 3:20 Tom Platt will speak briefly on the popular topic “Why I Am a Humanist.” Tom Ferrick's talk will begin promptly at 3:30. Afterward there will be ample opportunity for open discussion. You won't want to miss this major address by a speaker of great eloquence. We urge you to come and bring a friend!

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL, 2002

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| Fri., 5  | Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike<br>Topic: <i>The Moral Implications of Cloning</i>   | 7:30 p.m.  |
| Mon., 8  | Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange   | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Thu., 18 | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury  | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Sat., 20 | Council for Secular Humanism Executive Director Ed Buckner debates Rev. John Rankin, president and founder of the Theological Education Institute: <i>Does It Make Sense to Be an Atheist?</i> Covenant Presbyterian Church (The “Old Barn”) 124 Old Farms Rd., Simsbury CT 06070 | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Sun., 21 | Anniversary meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk.<br>Coffee and conversation<br>Tom Platt — <i>Why I Am A Humanist</i><br>Main program. Tom Ferrick, Humanist chaplain at Harvard., <i>The Power Of The Secular Ethic</i>   | 3:00 p.m.<br>3:00 p.m.<br>3:20 p.m.<br>3:30 p.m. |

### MAY, 2002

|                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Fri., 3               | Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike  | 7:30 p.m.  |
| Sun., 5               | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike  | 2:00 p.m.  |
| Mon., 6               | Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange   | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Thu., 9               | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury  | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Fri. 10 to<br>Sun. 12 | 61st Annual American Humanist Association Conference — Houston, Texas   |  |
| Sun., 26              | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike<br>Coffee and conversation<br>Joe Stachelek — <i>Why I Am A Humanist</i><br>Main program. Doug Peary: <i>Clarence Darrow — Humanist Hero</i> | 2:00 p.m.<br>2:00 p.m.<br>2:25 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m. |

### JUNE, 2002

|          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| Sun., 2  | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike                  | 2:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 3  | Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange | 7:00 p.m. |
| Fri., 7  | Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike                  | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 8  | Annual picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury.          |           |
| Thu., 13 | Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury            | 7:00 p.m. |

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

## “Moral Implications Of Cloning And Stem Cell Research”

On Friday, April 5, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, Humanist Conversations will take up the fascinating topic of what some people call “scientists playing God.” The suggested reading is Ursula LeGuin's intriguing short story, “Nine Lives,” from her collection *The Wind's Twelve Quarters*. As is our custom, we'll meet in the Library at 7:30 p.m. and optional pizza will be provided at \$5 per person.

Bring a friend and join us at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden) on Friday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

**E-mail List**

To join send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

To unsubscribe send an e-mail addressed to [majordomo@cthumanist.org](mailto:majordomo@cthumanist.org) with **unsubscribe announce** in the body of the message.

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**Newsletter**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
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**AHA  
Conference**

The 61st Annual Conference of the American Humanist Association will take place May 10 to 12 in Houston, Texas. This year's theme is "Humanism in a Changing World." Humanist of the Year is the 1979 Nobel laureate in physics, Steven Weinberg. April 17 is the early registration deadline. Phone (800) 837-3792 or visit [www.americanhumanist.org](http://www.americanhumanist.org).

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**Two Monthly Dinner Meetings**

For those of you who have been losing too much weight because you can't make the monthly dinner meetings at the MisFitz Inn in Southbury, we have good news. We've added a second dinner meeting at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange. If you attended the previous dinner meeting at this restaurant, you'll remember that the cuisine is Italian, the prices in the \$16-\$23 range for an entree, and that the staff doesn't mind if we sing opera quietly after the other customers have left.

The April dinner at Gabriele will be on Monday, April 8th. In following months it will be the first Monday. Just like our dinner meetings at the MisFitz Inn, we'll meet at 7:00 p.m.

We'll also be meeting for dinner in Southbury at MisFitz on Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

We expect to discuss the recent misfortunes of the Catholic Church along with some related issues in the humanist movement. So bring your ethical thinking caps, your commitment to humanity and your appetite.

Please RSVP for either or both of these dinners to Carol Stone ([editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org) or (203) 264-8546).

Don't forget to mark your calendar for May and June as well!

**Mystic/Noank Discussion Series**

The next meeting of the humanist discussion group is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at 10:15 a.m. at the Mystic Noank Library.

The topic will be taxes. We shall discuss the relative merits of a progressive income tax versus flat tax, and ask the question, "Should taxation be used solely to pay for government expenses or also for social policy?"

For more information and directions, phone George Marcus at (860) 572-9188 or e-mail [gminnoank@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gminnoank@worldnet.att.net).

**Debate**

"Does It Make Sense to Be an Atheist?" is the topic of a debate to be held on Saturday, April 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Church (The "Old Barn"), 124 Old Farms Rd., Simsbury CT 06070 (phone (860) 658-9772 for directions). This debate is open to the public; no admission will be charged; a voluntary donation may be suggested.

The speakers will be Ed Buckner and Rev. John Rankin. Ed Buckner is the Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism ([www.secularhumanism.org](http://www.secularhumanism.org)). Rev. John Rankin is the President and founder of the Theological Education Institute ([www.teihartford.com](http://www.teihartford.com)).

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto: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.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Adult . . . . . \$35  
 Family . . . . . \$50  
 Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10

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.

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