



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

November 2002



ASHS Affiliate

## “Genealogy and Humanism”

An introduction to the world of genealogy by a Humanist; some lessons for humanism. HACC member and co-founder Dr. Robert L. Rafford has been a genealogy researcher since 1973. He says of his presentation for us, “There are humanistic elements in the ancient practice of genealogy and I will introduce the group to genealogy and talk about some of the humanist elements I find in my full-time practice of genealogy.”

Municipal Historian for the Town of Middlebury, Dr. Rafford has taught genealogy since 1995, and has been a professional genealogy researcher since 1997. A charter member and president of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, founder of the Naugatuck Valley Community College Genealogy Club (now the Naugatuck Valley Genealogy Club), Dr. Rafford also serves on the Board of Directors of the Middlebury Historical Society.

Join us on Monday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for refreshments and informal conversation, followed by Bonnie Cohen on “Why I am a Humanist” at 7:50 and Dr. Rafford’s educational introduction to genealogy for humanists at 8:00 p.m. Remember to bring a friend!

## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER, 2002

Sat., 9	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 11	Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasrin in New Haven Talk for Yale Freethought, Room 101, Linsly-Chittenden Hall, 63 High Street	4:00 p.m.
	Book signing at Atticus Books on Chapel Street	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Tnpk.	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Bonnie Cohen — <i>Why I am a Humanist</i>	7:50 p.m.
	Main program. Rob Rafford — <i>Genealogy</i>	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.

### DECEMBER, 2002

Mon., 9	Dinner at Gabriele Restaurant, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Conversations, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Annual meeting and Solstice Party, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike	7:30 p.m.
	Coffee and conversation	7:30 p.m.
	Elections, followed by games, music and auction.	8:00 p.m.
Wed., 18	Dinner at Connecticut’s oldest inn, the Curtis House, Main Street South, Woodbury	7:00 p.m.

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

## “Female Salman Rushdie” on 11/11

The Humanist Association is extremely pleased to announce that the outspoken Bangladeshi woman doctor-author Taslima Nasrin will finally be coming to New Haven on the 11th of November. The occasion of her visit is a book tour sponsored by her publisher, Steerforth Books, to promote the translation of her memoir, *Meyebela, My Bengali Girlhood*. Taslima Nasrin first came to world attention with the publication of her novel *Shame*, about a poor Hindu family mistreated by Muslims. Her frank criticism of some aspects of Islam provided the basis for a *fatwa* against her in

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Bangladesh, with innumerable threats to her life. After escaping to Europe she returned to be with her dying mother, managing to leave Bangladesh once again when her mother died.

Everyone interested in women’s rights, freedom of speech, Islam, and Bangladesh will want to hear this courageous woman. She will have two public appearances on Monday, November 11. The first of these, to be sponsored by Yale Freethought, the student group formed several years ago with our assistance, will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Room 101, Linsly-Chittenden Hall, 63 High Street, just across from the Yale Art Museum. She will also appear at Atticus Books, on Chapel Street, at 7:00 p.m. the same day, for a book-signing opportunity. Make a note of the date now!

**God In the Pledge**

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>.

**Humanist Conversations**

At the next Conversations meeting member Jack Lander will present a humanist perspective on vegetarianism to be followed by discussion. Join us in the library at the Unitarian Association of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 9. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Adult . . . . . \$35</p> <p>Family . . . . . \$50</p> <p>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: <b>Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.</b></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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