



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2005



CSH Affiliate

Richard Dawkins, Humanist Hero

Join us Monday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when Douglas Peary, vice president of this organization, will introduce us to humanist hero Richard Dawkins.

Richard Dawkins is the holder of the Charles Simonyi Chair of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University in England and Vice President of the British Humanist Association. He proudly declares himself a Secular humanist and Atheist.

Dawkins was born in Nairobi, Kenya to British parents in 1941. He studied at Oxford and taught at the University of California before returning to Oxford. He has spent his life studying animals, genes, and genetics and wrote several books including "The Blind Watchmaker," "River Out of Eden," and "A Devil's Chaplain."

Dawkins has said that we must stop respecting religion and submit it to the same scrutiny as any other argument and he has no faith in the absurd. To him the scientific view of the world is true and inspiring, making it exciting. He has said that faith is an evil to be opposed.

Inspired by the life stories of

Calendar of Events (Corrected)

MAY, 2005

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: Phil Donahue Interview of Ayn Rand	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Book discussion at the USNH library: Bernard Lewis's <i>The Crisis of Islam</i>	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden Coffee and conversation Main program: Doug Peary: <i>Richard Dawkins, Humanist Hero.</i>	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 25	Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

JUNE, 2005

Sat., 4	Annual picnic at the Raffords' home, 57 Clearview Knoll, Middlebury.	12 noon
Wed., 15	Dinner at Contrassegno, Route 10, Hamden. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	Humanist Conversations: Topic TBD	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 19	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 29	Dinner at <i>Lisboa</i> , 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789	7:00 p.m.

WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG

outstanding Humanists, our speaker began writing the first of 17 Humanist Hero presentations in 1986, which are now available as a book entitled, "Humanist Heroes."

Bring a friend on Monday, November 17 to 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation followed by Doug's presentation beginning at 8:00 p.m.

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.

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Discuss Ayn Rand on May 7

In light of the frequent efforts of the Bush Administration to intrude into our personal lives, some may wonder if no government interference in our lives would be best. How much is the right amount of government? Should we have laws that restrict our personal choices where there is minimal effect on others? Would a completely free market economy create affordable goods for all? Should people be forced, via taxation, to help others? Does belief in God undermine our ability to make rational decisions?

Join us in the library at 2:30 p.m. on May 7 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, We will view a video of a Phil Donahue interview of Ayn Rand recorded in 1979. Where do Humanists stand relative to her positions? Refreshments will be served.

Book Discussion

Join us on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss Bernard Lewis' controversial book, "The Crisis of Islam." The book is available from many public libraries. Although the author is considered one of the most qualified to write this book, some still disagree with his conclusions. Where do you stand? As usual, refreshments will be served.

Dinners

Please join us for an Italian dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange, on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Also, please plan to join us Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 p.m. when we will again enjoy another authentic Portugese meal at Lisboa Restaurante, 19 Lafayette Street in Waterbury. Please RSVP for these events via humanism.meetup.com or by email to editor@cthumanist.org.

06517-1321. 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.

<p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>i Adult \$35</p> <p>i Family \$50</p> <p>i Newsletter Only \$10</p> <p>i In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of 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>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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