



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

June 2007



CSH Affiliate

“Is Islam Compatible with Western Democracy?”

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. for the latest in the “Practical Pathways to Peace” series, when Michelle Koth and David Schafer will form a panel on a subject that is poorly understood by most of us—the nature of Islam and how we ought to interact with Muslims in our midst and around the world.

It has often been suggested that Muslim women must play a major role in Islam’s eventual adjustment to the realities of other belief systems. Michelle Koth, a librarian at Yale University, has been researching the status of women in Islam for the past seven years, reading a large number of important articles and many books on the subject and filling notebooks with her well-organized notes.

David Schafer has been studying and teaching comparative religion, including Islam, as an avocation for roughly 60 years, and especially during the past decade, at the end of a century of profound intellectual ferment within the Muslim world. Much of that ferment, incredibly, has passed almost unnoticed by the Western media.

Michelle and David are

Picnic on June 2

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 2nd from 12 to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the lovely home of Dr. Bob and Ms. Joan Rafford at 57 Clearview Knoll Road in Middlebury.

Bring a chair and something to share! (Don’t bother with the chair if it’s raining.) The Raffords will provide hot dogs (regular and vegetarian), soft drinks and beer.

Directions from the New

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at humanism.meetup.com.

JUNE, 2007

Sat., 2	Picnic at the Raffords, 57 Clearview Knoll, Middlebury	12 noon to 4 p.m.
Sat., 9	Humanist Conversations: Religious Humanism?	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 11	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 17	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting Main program: Panel Discussion: Is Islam Compatible with Western Democracy?	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Thu., 28	Hartford-Area Dinner at Mediza Mediterranean Restaurant, 35B Lasalle Road, West Hartford. (860) 233-3370.	6:45 p.m.
Sat., 30	Book Group: <i>The Undercover Economist</i> by Tim Harford.	3:30 p.m.

JULY, 2007

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations, TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting Main program: Eugene Kogan <i>Speaking Truth in the Search for Peace</i>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	3:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Hartford-Area Dinner at Mediza Mediterranean Restaurant, 35B Lasalle Road, West Hartford. (860) 233-3370.	6:45 p.m.

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currently writing an article together on some of the most recent developments in this important process of transformation, and would like to share their findings with you. As usual

the evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a half hour of conversation and refreshments. The evening will end with a vigorous question and answer period. Join us and bring a friend!

Haven area: Take Rt. 8 north to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on Rt. 64 to the stoplight...

Directions from the Stamford area: Take Rt. 7 north to I-84 and go east to Exit 17. At the exit turn left onto Rt. 63, go straight to the stoplight (Rt. 64), and turn left again onto Rt. 64...

...From the junction of Rt. 64 with Rt. 63: Head west on Rt.

64 less than one mile, passing through one more stoplight. If you pass a gas station you have gone too far. On the right, look for Tzepos Law Firm sign. At that sign, turn right onto Clearview Knoll Road and drive to the top of the hill. Number 57 is the last house on the left. Park in the driveway or on the street.

If you have any trouble finding them, the Raffords’ phone number is (203) 758-9798.

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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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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.

June 30 Book Discussion: *The Undercover Economist*

Join us on Saturday, June 30 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss *The Undercover Economist: Exposing Why the Rich Are Rich, Why the Poor Are Poor—And Why You Can Never Buy a Decent Used Car!* by *Financial Times* columnist Tim Harford.

Topics discussed in the book are not limited to: the power of controlling scarce resources, how supermarkets price goods to maximize profits and confuse consumers, and how inside information affects negotiations.

“The Undercover Economist is a book you must pick up if you want a fresh perspective on how basic ideas in economics can help in answering the most complex and perplexing questions about the world around us.”

—*Business Today*

“Anyone mystified by how the world works will benefit from this book – especially anyone confused about why good intentions don’t, necessarily, translate into good results.”

—*The Daily Telegraph*

“Beautifully written.... An Economics 101 class, taught by the most popular professor on campus. Harford shows readers how to think like an economist, demonstrating how theories like David Ricardo’s 1817 treatise on farm rents can be applied to coffee shop locations and the cost of oil.... If the ideas are allowed to penetrate, to sink into the arid topsoil of a mind too long out of school, they can change the way a reader sees the world. Once you understand that a ‘green belt’ of undeveloped land around a city drives up rents, you start seeing green belts everywhere.”

—Mary Wisniewski, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“Harford writes like a dream - and is also one of the leading economic thinkers of his generation. From his book I found out why there’s a Starbucks on every corner, what Bob Geldof needs to learn to make development aid work properly, and how not to get duped in an auction. Reading *The Undercover Economist* is like spending an ordinary day wearing X-ray goggles.”

—David Bodanis, author of *E=mc²* and *Electric Universe*

“Most people think economics is boring, difficult and irrelevant. In fact, economics is fascinating, comprehensible and highly relevant. As Tim Harford demonstrates brilliantly in this enjoyable book, the powerful underlying ideas of economics can, in the hands of the right person, illuminate every aspect of the world we inhabit.”

—Martin Wolf, Chief Economics Commentator, *Financial Times*; author of *Why Globalization Works*

Conversations: Religious Humanism?

Join us for Humanist Conversations on Saturday, June 9 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Ever since Humanist Manifesto One, humanists have been arguing about the terms “religious humanism,” “religion,” and whether humanism is a religion, philosophy, or both. David Schafer will provide some background material and lead a discussion on this intractable problem.

Refreshments will be served.

<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>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> <p>_____</p>
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