



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

August 2007



CSH Affiliate

“Truth:

The New Agenda for Peace and Security”

As you may know, we were very disappointed and concerned when our July speaker fell ill. So we are delighted to announce that he has fully recovered and will present his talk to us on Monday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike! Eugene B. Kogan is the latest speaker in our “Practical Pathways to Peace” series. On this occasion he will present both why and how truth is vital for the survival of our democracy, for the sustainability of our domestic and foreign policies, and for the progress of peace, security and stability in the world. He will leave us with tools that we as citizens can use to bring truth back into the political life of our country.

A Senior Political Analyst with Americans for Informed Democracy (aidemocracy.org), Eugene’s research interests include U.S. foreign policy, Congress, international security, and nuclear proliferation in North East Asia. In May of this year, Eugene was presented the Pi Sigma Alpha Award and delivered the 2007 Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture (on congressional war powers) at Quinnipiac University. (Pi Sigma Alpha is the U.S. National Political Science Honor Society.) From February to May, he was a Maimonides Jewish Leaders Fellow at Yale

Dinners

This month’s Hartford area dinner will be held at Mexican restaurant Puerto Vallarta, 826 Queen St., Southington, CT 06489. The restaurant is on Route 10 in Southington, just north of exit 34 off I-84, conveniently close to both Hartford and Waterbury. (860) 736-0060 or www.puertovallartausa.com.

Calendar of Events

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

AUGUST, 2007

Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: <i>A Brief History of Disbelief</i> , Part 2	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 11	Potluck picnic at Bill & Kathy Lyon’s home: 120 Dudleytown Road, Cornwall, CT	11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
including:	Book Group: Chapter 6 of <i>The Varieties of Scientific Experience</i> by Carl Sagan	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Rescheduled: Eugene B. Kogan “Truth: the New Agenda for Peace and Security”	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 30	Hartford-Area Dinner: Puerto Vallarta, 826 Queen St., Southington, CT 06489. (860) 736-0060 for directions.	6:45 p.m.

SEPTEMBER, 2007

Sat., 8	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 10	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Dolores Gall: “Arts of Southeast Asia” — photographs from her recent trip	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 27	Hartford-Area Dinner: Location TBA.	6:45 p.m.

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University, studying the Jewish way of leadership. After he last visited us in 2005, he worked as Deputy Editor of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* in the Department of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science. This fall, he will be

entering Brandeis University as a Ph.D. student in political science.

We’ll begin with refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. followed by Eugene at 8:00. Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, August 20. Please bring a friend!

Conversations:

A Brief History of Disbelief, Part 2

Join us for Humanist Conversations on Saturday, August 4 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when we’ll show the second episode of Jonathan Miller’s *A Brief History of Disbelief*, a series that is currently showing on some PBS stations. We saw the first episode at the July 16th meeting of the association, when it substituted for the scheduled talk by Eugene Kogan, who was not well enough to give his presentation.

Continued overleaf

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Officers

- President June Schafer
(203) 281-6232
president@cthumanist.org
- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary Richard Siddall
- Treasurer Douglas Peary

Committee Chairs

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Carol Podgwaite
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Stone
- Publicity June Schafer
- Hospitality Randy Olear

Newsletter

- Editor Carol Stone
(203) 264-8546
editor@cthumanist.org
- Production: Richard Siddall
(203) 264-2182
webmaster@cthumanist.org

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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.

Conversations: Continued from front page

The second episode is entitled, "Noughts and Crosses." "With the domination of Christianity from 500 AD, Jonathan Miller wonders how disbelief began to re-emerge in the 15th and 16th centuries. He discovers that division within the Church played a more powerful role than the scientific discoveries of the period. He also visits Paris, the home of the 18th century atheist, Baron D'Holbach, and shows how politically dangerous it was to undermine the religious faith of the masses." — from the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/documentaries/features/atheism.shtml>

Our organization now owns an original DVD of this series courtesy of the American Humanist Association, one of the series sponsors on PBS. You will find the video quality much improved.

This episode will last about an hour, leaving us with an hour to discuss the program and to decide what to discuss on September 8th. Refreshments will be served.

August Book Discussion & Potluck

Join us on Saturday, August 11, for a picnic and discussion at the lovely home of Bill and Kathy Lyon from 11:00 a.m. until around 4:00 p.m. The Lyons will provide meat for the grill and soft drinks. Feel free to bring a side dish, beverage and/or lawn chair.

From 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. we will discuss a chapter of the book, *The Varieties of Scientific Experience*, which is a collection of lectures given by Carl Sagan. Our discussion will focus on Chapter 6, "The God Hypothesis," pages 147-168 and the Q&A for this lecture which is on pages 234-244.

Directions to 120 Dudleytown Road in Cornwall, Connecticut, from the New Haven area. Route 8 north to exit 38 (Thomaston). Turn left off the ramp. Turn left onto 254 toward Litchfield. Turn left at the end of 254 onto 118. Turn right onto Route 63 before Litchfield center. Turn left onto Route 4 at the rotary in Goshen. Stay on Route 4 when it turns left. Watch for a sign for Cornwall Village. Turn left onto Pine Street (directly opposite Route 125). At the end of Pine St. turn left onto Valley Road. After 2 miles, continue on Valley Road past the second street on the left (Everest Hill Rd.). The road will fork and you will see Castle Road on the left and an unmarked road on the right, which is Dudleytown Road. Take the right fork onto Dudleytown Road. The road turns to dirt about half-way up the mile-long hill. At the end there's a metal gate, beyond which is a dirt path. The driveway is on the right. #120 is painted on the telephone pole.

Call the Lyons at (860) 672-0550 if you get lost.

Please Sign the First Freedom First Petition

The American Humanist Association (AHA) is one of the organizations supporting the First Freedom First campaign to express support for the guarantees of religious liberty in the Bill of Rights. From the website

(www.firstfreedomfirst.org): "The founders of our nation believed that all Americans should have the right to worship according to their own beliefs, or not to worship at all. So strong was their commitment to religious

freedom that they enshrined it in the first sentence of the Bill of Rights."

The AHA has asked us to circulate a paper petition and return it to them. The petition will be available at all August events.

MEMBERSHIP		Name(s): _____
i Adult	\$35	Address: _____
i Family	\$50	_____
i Newsletter Only	\$10	Telephone: _____
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.		E-Mail Address: _____
		Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
		Where did you hear about us? _____
		Comments: _____

