



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2009



CSH Affiliate

## Cancer as an Evolutionary Phenomenon

Join us on Monday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when John Pawelek, PhD, will talk to us about Cancer as an Evolutionary Phenomenon.

A long-time cancer researcher at the Yale School of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, and the Yale Cancer Center, Dr. Pawelek specializes in the skin cancer, melanoma, and has won numerous awards for his work. He is a frequent world-wide lecturer and is the author of nearly 200 peer-reviewed publications. For the past fifteen years Dr. Pawelek has worked on a controversial theory of cancer metastasis whereby cancer cells spread throughout the body when they fuse with white blood cells. He recently summarized this work in the prestigious *Nature Reviews Cancer* and is featured in the January, 2009, issue of *Scientific American*.

We will begin our evening on Monday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. with a half-hour of friendly conversation followed by Dr. Pawelek at 8:00 p.m.

Please consider bringing a refreshment to share, as our president, June Schafer, who has kept us in refreshments non-stop since our very first meeting, is recuperating from knee surgery and will not be able to join us.

## Conversations The Civil Rights Movement

Join us Saturday, February 7, at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 2:30 p.m. We will view a video and discuss how the civil rights movement came about in communities. What was really happening beyond the headlines?

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com).

### FEBRUARY, 2009

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	<b>Humanist Conversations: The Civil Rights Movement</b>	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	<b>Book discussion: <i>What Evolution Is</i> by Ernst Mayr</b>	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting <b>Main program: John Pawelek — <i>Cancer as an Evolutionary Phenomenon</i></b>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Waterbury-Area Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions	7:00 p.m.

### MARCH, 2009

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	<b>Humanist Conversations: TBD</b>	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	Monthly meeting <b>Main program: Dale McGowan, author of "Parenting Beyond Belief"</b>	2:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	<b>Bible Discussion: Other Gods, Samuel, Saul, David and Psalms</b>	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Hartford-Area social dinner at the Bombay Olive, 450 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-3000 for directions	7:00 p.m.

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

## Celebrate Darwin's 200th Birthday

In honor of the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, the public is invited to attend the First Annual Darwin Day Dinner in Fairfield County, Connecticut on Friday, February 13, 2009 at the Continental Manor, 112 Main Street, Norwalk. The price is \$65 per person. Cocktail hour will begin at 7:00 p.m. and a banquet dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m.

The event will include a banquet dinner, a talk by a Yale expert on "Sex, Evolution, and Human Nature", an intriguing science quiz (with prizes), and the opportunity to socialize and have a good time.

Darwin Day is an international celebration of science and humanity held on or around February 12th, the day that Charles Darwin was born in 1809. It celebrates the discoveries and life of Charles Darwin—the man who first described biological evolution via natural selection with scientific rigor. More generally, Darwin Day expresses gratitude for the enormous benefits that scientific knowledge, acquired through human curiosity and ingenuity, has contributed to the advancement of humanity.

To reserve your place, visit <http://www.darwindayct.org>, fill out the form and mail it with your check. For questions contact John Levin at (646) 371-9280 or [jlevin@tfm-llc.com](mailto:jlevin@tfm-llc.com).

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

**E-mail List**

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***New Venue for West Hartford Dinner***

We'll be trying a new location for our West Hartford social dinner in March: the Bombay Olive, an Indian & Persian restaurant at 450 S. Main St., West Hartford. This is south of I-84, closer to West Farms Mall. The restaurant's phone number is (860) 561-3000.

Our New Haven area dinner will stay at the Turkish Kebab House on Campbell Avenue, West Haven for March.

Our second social dinner in February will be at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury.

***Bible Discussion — Other Gods, Samuel, Saul, David and Psalms***

The next meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

For March 21, please read the following:

A. In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel:

- Chapter 24. *The Other Gods of Canaan*, pages 417-435
- Chapter 25. *Samuel and Saul*, pages 436-457
- Chapter 26. *The Psalms of David*, pages 458-473

B. Read the following:

- The Wikipedia entry on "Books of Samuel" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books\\_of\\_Samuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel)).
- The Wikipedia entry on "Psalms" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalms>).
- Read a few Psalms. One of the many places where you can find a collection of the Psalms is at <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt2601.htm>

C. Bring in a Joke (Optional)

As always, please do the reading and feel free to bring a friend.

***Next Book: "What Evolution Is"***

Join us Saturday, February 14, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when we meet to discuss "What Evolution Is" by Ernst Mayr.

In addition to the book itself, please also read the introduction by Jared Diamond. Copies of the book are at public libraries as well as bookstores and online.

"One of the grand masters of twentieth century biology."

—Edward O. Wilson

"Mayr provides as convincing a testament to Darwin's genius as you are likely to find."

—New York Times Book

Review.

Ernst Mayr was the leading

evolutionary biologist of the 20th century. He was Professor Emeritus at the Zoology Department of Harvard University and for twenty-three years served as Curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Ernst Mayr was born on July 5, 1904, and died on January 3, 2005, at age 100.

Below is the internet address of a fascinating April 16, 2002, *New York Times* interview with Ernst Mayr, right after publication of this book.

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9F00E3D6103CF935A25757C0A9649C8B63> ('0' is zero.)

***Parenting Beyond Belief***

Our featured speaker for March will be Dale McGowan, editor of "Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion," and "Raising Freethinkers." Dale will be giving a mini-seminar on parenting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on the morning of Saturday, March 14. There is a \$10 charge for the seminar. Contact USNH for more information. Our monthly meeting will follow at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
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 Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	
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Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO	
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