



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2009



CSH Affiliate

20th Anniversary

Join us Monday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we'll celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Humanist Association of Connecticut with a potluck, cake and reprise!

In the spring of 1989 the Humanists Association of Central Connecticut held its organizational meeting at USNH in what is now the Social Hall. Our speaker was Fred Edwards, then executive director of the American Humanist Association. We are thrilled that Fred will return for our 20th anniversary!

Starting as a local chapter leader in 1977, Fred went on to be executive director at the AHA for fifteen years, and editor of *the Humanist* for twelve. Most recently he served as director of communications for the AHA and he has just become the leader of a new organization, the United Coalition of Reason, with the purpose of developing coalitions of local humanist, freethought, atheist, Humanistic Jewish, and Ethical Culture organizations all over the country.

Fred's talk will be "Making Humanism Relevant." He says about this topic, "Humanists have gotten good at critiquing traditional religion. But we didn't become humanists merely to make such debunking our focus. Humanism offers a larger view that takes us in positive new directions. And many of those directions include vigorous activism toward social change. There is a long history of humanist and freethought social action to inspire us. Putting our values to work is a central part of our tradition. Sometimes we've had to do this by going against the grain of popular religion; at other times we've been able to leverage our influence through common cause with religious allies."

At the end we'll discuss what we believe to be the central

Calendar of Events

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

APRIL, 2009

Fri., 3	Pizza and video of President Obama's views on religion.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: The Bailout	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	Book discussion: <i>Doubt, A History</i> by Jennifer Michael Hecht (first half of book)	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	20th Anniversary Celebration! Main program: Fred Edwards, "Making Humanism Relevant"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 29	Hartford-Area social dinner at Szechuan Tokyo, 1245 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-0180 for directions	7:00 p.m.

MAY, 2009

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Book discussion: <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> by Mitch Albom	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting Main program: Ken Feder	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 28	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.
Sat., 30	Bible Discussion: David the King, Solomon, after Solomon	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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humanist social issues of today.

We'll begin our meeting on Monday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. with a pot-luck dinner. Fred's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m. Please consider bringing a dish to share. We will also have cake!

Conversations: The Bailout

Join us Saturday, April 4, at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 2:30 p.m., when we will watch and discuss the March 27 segment of Bill Moyers on the Bailout.

Refreshments will be served.

Obama's Views on Religion

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Friday, April 3rd, when we'll watch Barack Obama's keynote address to Call to Renewal's Building a Covenant for a New America conference on June 28, 2006 in Washington, DC., and his address at the 57th Annual National Prayer Breakfast on Feb. 5, 2009.

We'll start with optional pizza at 7:00 p.m. (The cost will be split among the participants.)

At 7:30 p.m. we'll show the videos and then discuss them.

www.cthumanist.org

E-mail List

To join, send an e-mail addressed to hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org with the subject subscribe.

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Walk Against Hunger

This year's Connecticut Food Bank "Walk Against Hunger" will be on Sunday, May 3, at East Rock Park in New Haven. Registration starts at 1:00 p.m. with the walk at 2:00 p.m.

If you'd like to join the HAC team as a walker or sponsor one of our walkers, sign up at any HAC meeting in April or contact Richard Siddall at webmaster@cthumanist.org.

Bible Discussion — David the King, Solomon, after Solomon

- The next meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. As always, please do the reading and feel free to bring a friend.

Reading for May 30:

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

- Chapter 27. David the King, pages 474-492
- Chapter 28. Solomon's Wisdom, pages 493-518
- Chapter 29. North and South, pages 519-537

B. Look through the following:

- The Wikipedia entry on "Books of Samuel" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel).
- The Wikipedia entry on "David" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David>).
- The Wikipedia entry on "Solomon" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon>).
- The Wikipedia entry on "Rehoboam" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rehoboam>).
- The Wikipedia entry on "Elijah" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elijah>).
- The New World Encyclopedia entry on "Elijah" (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Elijah>).

C. Bring in a joke (optional)

- If you like, bring in a joke or short humorous writing that relates to the readings for this meeting.

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

Next Two Books — "Doubt: A History" (Part 1) on 4/18 and "Tuesdays with Morrie" on 5/9

The next book we will read is "Doubt: A History: The Great Doubters and Their Legacy of Innovation from Socrates and Jesus to Thomas Jefferson and Emily Dickinson" by historian Jennifer Michael Hecht. Copies of the book are at public libraries as well as bookstores and online. We will meet to discuss the first half of this book — the Introduction and Chapters 1 through 5 (through page 215) — on Saturday, April 18, when we'll meet from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike

in Hamden. As always, feel free to invite a friend or two.

After "Doubt: A History," we will be reading "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom (Note: This is the book by Mitch Albom, not the play of the same title by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom, although you may want to read the play as well as the book.) We will meet to discuss "Tuesdays with Morrie" on Saturday, May 9, 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

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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