



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2009



CSH Affiliate

Solstice Party

You are cordially invited to take part in our annual celebration of the Winter Solstice, on Monday, December 21, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We'll start at 7:30 p.m. with tasty pot-luck refreshments continuing through the evening. After a very short business meeting to elect officers, we'll begin our welcome of winter in our customary manner with a reading of Lois Woodrow's poem "Ode to the Tilt," honoring the inclination of the Earth's axis. Folk music will be provided by Mickey Koth and her musical friends. For those so inclined, there will be singing, dancing, prancing, merry-making, and possibly even a bit of frolicking!

This year a special feature of the evening will be a sketch by P.J. Deak entitled, "Observations of Hope: Charles Dickens in America, 1842." P.J. will tell us about the impact of the author's famous visit to this country on his frame of mind, noting that "A Christmas Carol," with its optimistic message, was written the following year. As Garry Wills writes, "the 1840's, as we shall see, was a time of burgeoning 'voluntary associations', great new transformative organizations, numberless projects of social reform... (and) a communitarian impulse that was felt all over America." (from *Head And Heart*, 2007).

We'll conclude by revealing the results of an evening-long silent auction, to which anyone may contribute and where anyone may win. Proceeds will help fund our future events. Unsure what to bring? Items that have done well in the past have included books, music, trinkets, and jewelry. It's all great fun, so come with a dish to share, an item for the auction, some money to spend on the auction, and remember to bring a friend!

Calendar of Events

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

DECEMBER, 2009

Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 12	Humanist Conversations: Movie and discussion: "Trio" of W. Somerset Maugham stories.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 19	David Schafer presents "The Historical Bible"	3:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Annual meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Annual meeting and Solstice party, music and P.J. Deak on Charles Dickens	8:00 p.m.
Fri., 25	Annual brunch at Pacific Buffet & Grill, 20 Ives Road, Wallingford. (866) 462-1506.	12:00 noon

JANUARY, 2010

Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: TBD	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 23	David Schafer presents "The Historical Bible"	3:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 26	Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 30	Book discussion: <i>Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!</i>	3:00 p.m.

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Sumerian Texts And The Book Of Genesis

The second in our series of monthly discussions on "The Bible from the Standpoint of Scientific and Historical Analysis" will be held on Saturday, December 19, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. This episode will be concerned with comparing the Creation Story in the book of Genesis with the much older Sumerian myth known as "Enuma Elish." We'll be taking a look at the history of comparative studies of the texts, together with the role of major archeological discoveries in the 19th and 20th centuries. Handouts will be distributed. We cordially welcome everyone interested in this subject to join in these discussions. For further information call David Schafer, 203-281-6232.

Conversations: "Trio"

Join us on Saturday, December 12 at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 2:30 p.m. Steve Boshi is bringing us a very special and unusual movie, *Trio*. Introduced by W. Somerset Maugham himself, this 1950 movie is a compilation of three of his stories, "Mr. Know-All," "The Verger" and "Sanatorium." We'll decide Saturday if we want to watch just two or all three stories. Refreshments will be served.

www.cthumanist.org

Email List

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

To unsubscribe, send an email addressed to [hac-announce-re-quest@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **unsubscribe**.

Officers

President	June Schafer (203) 281-6232 president@cthumanist.org
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Committee Chairs

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

Newsletter

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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: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

Thank You!

400 Thanksgiving dinners-cooked, served, and delivered to many needy people! Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible!

Nominations

We would like to extend a special thank-you to the members of the Nominating Committee: June Schafer, Joan Rafford, and Gayle Walter. The Committee presents the following nominations for January 1 through December 31, 2010:

Officers

President: June Schafer
 Vice-President: Douglas Peary
 Secretary: Richard Siddall
 Treasurer: Carol Podgwaite

Committee Chairs

Programs: David Schafer
 Membership: Halina Platt
 Development: Manny Ratafia
 Publications: Carol Stone
 Publicity: June Schafer
 Hospitality: Randy Olear

Members of the association will be able to vote on the slate of officers at the annual meeting preceding our winter solstice party in December. If you have any suggestions for alternative candidates, or would like to serve on the board or one of the standing committees, please contact June Schafer or any one of the current officers or committee chairs.

Book Discussion: "Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman!"

The next book discussion will be on Saturday, January 30, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. and we will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is "Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman! (Adventures of a Curious Character)" by Richard P. Feynman. Copies are available in Connecticut public libraries (try <http://www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia> to find libraries) as well as in book stores and online. An unabridged audio book is also available.

One of the greatest scientists of the twentieth century, as well as Doug Peary's June 2000 Humanist Hero, Feynman received the following awards during his career: Albert Einstein Award (1954), E. O. Lawrence Award (1962), Nobel Prize in Physics (1965), Oersted Medal (1972), National Medal of Science (1979).

Dine With Humanists!

Want to do something humanist on December 25? Join us for brunch at noon at Pacific Buffet & Grill, located at 20 Ives Road in Wallingford.

Not available that day? Why not join us at one of our social dinners? On January 4 we'll be dining at the Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd in Orange at 7:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, January 26, we'll be dining at Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave. in Rocky Hill at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

MEMBERSHIP	
Adult	\$35
Family	\$50
Newsletter Only	\$10
Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	
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.	
Name(s):	_____
Address:	_____
Telephone:	_____
E-Mail Address:	_____
Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO	
Where did you hear about us? _____	
Comments:	_____