



THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

February 1999



“African- American Cultures in a Multicultural Society”

Presented by David Schafer

It has become necessary to postpone Walter Wells's previously announced program for February and to move the program back to USNH (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden) for this occasion.

This coming Monday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m., in honor of Black History Month, the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut will offer a multimedia program on the complex origins, enormous diversity, and promising future of African-American cultural contributions to America and the world. Since we constantly hear about the stellar achievements and the profound influence of African-Americans in music and athletics, on this occasion we want to give particular emphasis to accomplishments in other areas. Using a variety of audio-visual materials, including a segment on the new Microsoft Encarta Africana CD-ROM, we'll take a historical look at African and African-American art, poetry, fiction, and ideas. You mustn't miss this exciting

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

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| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike. | |
| | Coffee & conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | "African-American Cultures in a Multicultural Society" | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike | 1:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 22 | Dr. Joe Nickell book signing at Yale Bookstore. | 4:00 p.m. |
| Fri., 26 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Topic To Be Announced | |

MARCH

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| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting at 608 Whitney Avenue. | |
| | Coffee & conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Steven Novella, MD, Professor of Neurology at Yale University, and President, New England Skeptical Society, will speak on: "Alternative Medicine". | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike | 1:30 p.m. |

APRIL

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|----------|--|-----------|
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting at 608 Whitney Avenue. | |
| | Coffee & conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Reverend Douglas Peary will speak on "Isaac Asimov - Humanist Hero". | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike | 1:30 p.m. |

MAY

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| Tue., 11 | Anniversary meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike. | |
| | Note change of date. | |
| | Coffee & conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | JeanKotkin, Leader, New York Ethical Culture Society; Humanist Chaplain, Columbia University, etc., will speak on "The Humanist Institute". | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike | 1:30 p.m. |

program, to be held at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Refreshments and conversation are at 7:30 p.m., and the main program starts at 8:00. Come and bring a friend!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Adult \$35
Family \$50

In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. The membership year runs from 1/1 to 12/31.

Dues Increase; Program Requests Solicited

By now we have all received the letter requesting payment of our membership dues for 1999. While the dues have increased by a significant percentage, they are still far from the kind of financial commitment required by many comparable organizations. The newsletter has taken the form you see here specifically to keep costs as close as possible to the existing expense of the monthly mailings. The new web page could easily use the entire increase, and we would love to be able to advertise to a wider audience, sponsor more well-known and popular speakers, and hold more meetings.

Please, if you are already a member, renew your membership today. If you haven't joined, please consider at least a donation.

The second page of the mailing was a questionnaire asking what kind of programs you would like to see. Please return your completed form as soon as possible so the program committee can include your desires in future events.

“Original Ghostbuster” Visits Yale *from Chris Mooney, Co-President, Yale College Society for Humanists, Atheists and Agnostics*

Dr. Joe Nickell, leading paranormal detective, will be paying a visit to Yale University later this month. Popularly known as “the modern Sherlock Holmes,” “the original ghostbuster,” and “the real-life Scully,” Dr. Nickell has investigated all varieties of mysteries, frauds, forgeries, and hoaxes, from the Crop Circles in Wiltshire, England to the Shroud of Turin.

A former stage magician and private detective, Nickell serves on the editorial board of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, for which he writes the column “Investigative Files.” The author of over fifteen books, Nickell has discussed his investigations in numerous forums, including “Larry King Live,” “Oprah,” the “Jerry Springer Show,” “Unsolved Mysteries,” “Politically Incorrect,” and “NBC Dateline.”

A forensics expert, Nickell is also touring to discuss his recent book *Crime Science*, which discusses the art and science of detective work. *Crime Science* uses examples from headline-grabbing investigations such as the O.J. Simpson case to demonstrate the importance of solid science in building criminal cases.

In *Crime Science*, Nickell and co-author John Fischer also discuss the death of Marilyn Monroe, the Lindberg kidnapping, the assassination of the Romanovs and the Atlanta child murders. They explain how police use fingerprints, fiber and DNA analysis and casts made from impressions of footprints to identify suspects.

Dr. Nickell will be in New Haven from February 20-24. On Monday, February 22 he will have a book-signing open to the public for *Crime Science* at the Yale Bookstore at 4:00 pm (77 Broadway Avenue, in New Haven).

Happy Anniversary, HACC!

This May is the 10th anniversary of the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut! Special thanks to all members, past and present, and especially those who have donated their time, food, expertise or money to the organization. We wouldn't be here without you!

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The deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month.

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