



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

October 1999



ASHS Affiliate

Slow Boat to Paradise

Last September, Helene and Bill Goward loaded their faithful old sailboat AURIGA to the gunnels and set off down the Intracoastal Waterway to Florida and ultimately the Bahamas - that subtropical archipelago some sixty to two hundred miles off the coast of Florida. In all, with return to Clinton CT the trip occupied some two hundred twenty days on the water with about seventy-four days in the northern Bahamas. It is reported that they arrived home still on speaking terms.

At our October 18 meeting Helene and Bill will share with you some of their adventures as they transited New York harbor, the coast of New Jersey, and then the sheltered inner coastlines of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. And then the crossing of open ocean, including the Gulf Stream to the Bahamas; then the joys and some negatives of island hopping and exploring the fabulous clear waters, endless pink sand beaches, and settled towns and cities; and finally the return trip up the coast to Clinton in April and May.

Whether or not you have ever dreamed of this or a similar adventure, come join these ancient mariners on October 18 to hear their story, and maybe

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

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| Fri., 1 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Discussion on Dr. Jared Diamond's "Guns, Germs and Steel" | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 9 | New London group discussion at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic, on "the Right to Die." | 10 a.m. |
| Fri., 15 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Discussion on Dr. Richard Dawkins' "Unweaving the Rainbow" | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 18 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Helene & Bill Goward - "Slow Boat to Paradise" | 8:00 p.m. |
| Fri., 29 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Discussion on David Schafer's article "A Scientist Looks at Evolution and Religious Humanism", from the summer 1996 issue of <i>Religious Humansim</i> . | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sun., 31 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

NOVEMBER

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| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 13 | New London group meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. Program TBA. | 10 a.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Ken Feder, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at CCSU. Topic: TBD | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

DECEMBER

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| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 11 | New London group meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library, 40 Library St., Mystic. Program TBA. | 10 a.m. |
| Mon., 20 | Annual meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Elections and other business | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |

some advice on how or how not to do it, and for some humanist commentary on life in the

southerly coastal US and in the beautiful Bahamas.

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The deadline for each issue is three weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

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

Bylaws Passed

The revised bylaws passed without opposition at the September business meeting. Copies of the ratified bylaws will be available at the October monthly meeting. You can also obtain a copy from the editor.

We're hoping to maintain the new bylaws through gradual revisions. If you have a suggestion for an amendment, please send it to the president.

Election Cycle Starts

No, we're not talking about national politics. The annual meeting in December is only weeks away, and the nominating committee is once again accepting suggestions for officers for the upcoming year. Committee members will phone the proposed candidates and confirm that they wish to stand for election. Remember you can always nominate candidates on election night.

This year promises big changes in the board of HACC. David Schafer announced at the September meeting that he will not stand for President, saying that it is time for a change. We will also need new heads of the programs and publicity committees, and a new treasurer. The other board members would welcome some opposition.

If you would like to recommend someone or volunteer, please call June Schafer at (203) 281-6232.

October Events & Conversations

The October board meeting will take place one week later than usual due to other commitments on the part of the President.

As described overleaf, the Gowards will be entertaining us with their humanist travelogue at the monthly meeting on Monday, October 18th.

We will also be holding several Humanist Conversations during October. The first will be on Friday, October 1st at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. This meeting will focus on the best-selling book *Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fate of Human Societies* by renowned scientist Jared Diamond. Anyone interested in attending should read as much of the book as possible.

On Friday, October 15th, we will consider the question, "Does science remove the wonder from the universe?" with a discussion of *Unweaving the Rainbow: Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder* by Richard Dawkins.

Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

If this book doesn't inspire you to poetry, it will inspire you to science. Since this is a 313-page book, we will focus our discussion on chapter 9, "The Selfish Cooperator," and if we have time, we will also cover chapter 10, "The Genetic Book of the Dead." If this seems a bit much, take into account that Dr. Dawkins is an extremely easy and pleasant read. (I will bring a special prize to raffle among those who come equipped with the combination to Dr. Dawkins' bicycle lock. ED.)

Finally, on October 29th, we will examine David Schafer's article from *Religious Humanism*: "A Scientist Looks at Evolution and Religious Humanism." David will make copies available to all who are interested in the discussion or topic.

Remember, we order pizza and provide coffee and tea!

HACC Web Site:

<http://www.cthumanist.org>

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