



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

December 1999



ASHS Affiliate

Elections

Come cast your vote Monday, December 20! Here is the proposed January – December 2000 slate of officers:

President – Doug Peary

Vice President – Mannie Ratafia

Secretary – June Schafer

Treasurer – Richard Siddall

Committee Chairs

Program – Nat Wolf

**Membership – Helene Goward
and Bob Rafford**

Development – Mickey Koth

Publications – Carol Stone

Webmaster – Richard Siddall

Publicity – June Schafer

Hospitality – Joyce Wolf

(Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Lenora Howard, Joan Rafford, and June Schafer.)

Solstice Celebration

Come attend our glorious Humanist celebration of the season following the elections on Monday, December 20! In addition to our bounteous table we will offer a varied program devised to favor every taste, including dramatic presentations on the order of "Touched by an Angle," Lois Woodrow's "Ode To The Tilt," readings from the poet Wislawa Szymborska; exquisite selections for violin, cello, and piano; and sharing of prized personal contributions by members of the company assembled. We urge you to come and bring at least one friend!

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

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| Mon., 20 | Annual meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee, conversation, and silent auction setup. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Elections followed by the Solstice Celebration and silent auction. | 8:00 p.m. |

JANUARY

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| Mon., 17 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: David Schafer on "African American Intellectuals and Humanism." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| Fri., 28 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Topic: World Trade Organization - pro/con. | 7:30 p.m. |

FEBRUARY

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| Mon., 21 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Valentine's Day program: Frank Vernava on "Eros, Philia, Agape, Humanism, and me." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 27 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike.
Program to be announced. | 3:00 p.m. |

Members and Friends

The Interfaith Cooperative Ministries Thanksgiving celebration was a warm and joyful event. June Schafer wants to thank everyone who contributed so generously. We helped feed full Thanksgiving turkey dinners with all the trimmings to 100 homeless and 200 frail elderly persons. In addition to June, we were represented at the event by Mickey Koth, who helped carve turkey and deliver meals.

Three members of the HACC (Mickey Koth, Carol Stone, and Richard Siddall) are off to the Humanist Institute in Washington, DC, December 3 - 5.

Look for David Schafer's article, "Prayer and Healing at St. Luke's," in the January/February issue of *the Humanist* magazine.

On a sad note, John Waters of Hamden passed away shortly before Thanksgiving. Prior to retirement, he was a corrections officer for the state of New York. He was a long-time supporter of the HACC, and was always interested in what we were doing. During the last year, June Schafer helped him go to doctor's appointments and to the grocery store.

Silent Auction

The Development Committee will sponsor a silent auction at the Solstice Celebration. What is a silent auction and how does it work? There is no auctioneer involved and no verbal bidding (thus, the silence, although there is usually laughter and jostling and ribbing involved). Donated items are placed on a table with a bidding sheet for each item. The first person who wishes to bid on an item writes her name and amount of bid for the item on the first line of the bidding sheet. Another person comes along, sees that someone has bid a ridiculously low amount for such a priceless treasure and, on the second line of the bidding sheet, writes in his name and bid, an amount usually (but not necessarily) only slightly higher than the previous bid, despite the obvious value of the treasure. The first person comes back to ensure that her bid is still the highest, sees that someone has outbid her, and, on the third line of the bidding sheet, writes in her name again, with a higher bid. A third person spies the treasure, decides that she cannot live without it, and writes in her name and an even higher bid. Thus it goes, with progressively higher bids, until the announced time at which the bidding closes. The last person to bid in this fashion has purchased the treasure by virtue of the highest bid.

The auction is entirely open for everyone to see. This encourages higher bidding, which helps the Humanist Association of Central Connecticut because all earnings from the auction will be added to the endowment fund.

At the end of the bidding, I will compile the bid amounts for each person, and upon payment, the winner goes home with their treasure(s) and the HACC adds to its endowment fund.

How can you be involved? In several ways:

1. Donate items for the auction. What sort of items? A few examples will help. We have a round of golf with Nat and Joyce Wolf with lunch afterwards for sometime in the spring. Ken Feder, the speaker at the last monthly meeting, donated a signed copy of his book *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science And Pseudoscience In Archaeology*. Another book that has been donated is *Why People Believe Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstition, And Other Confusions Of Our Time* by Michael Shermer. Other ideas are CDs, gift baskets of food items, gift certificates, handmade items, etc. You can bring them with you to the holiday party. If you'd like, it would be helpful, but not necessary, to let me know what you intend to bring.

2. Come to the holiday party and bid on these items!

Any questions? Suggestions? Contact me by phone at (203) 498-8333 or by e-mail at mickey.koth@yale.edu

-Mickey Koth, Chair, Development Committee

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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.

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FUUS Speaker

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven's *Food for Thought* evening speaker series continues with featured speaker Bill Yellig, Ph.D., on Eco-psychology (Psychology of the environment), on Friday, December 17th. Dr. Yellig, a well known psychologist in New Haven and an environmental activist. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by the main presentation at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting is open and free to the public. FUUS is located at 608 Whitney Avenue in New Haven. For information call Francis at (203) 562-0672.