



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

March 2000



ASHS Affiliate

China

Due to family obligations, Doug Peary's talk has been postponed until June. Al Rader has graciously agreed to share his China tour with us several months ahead of schedule.

Somehow I managed to ask Al for a cross between a curriculum vitae and an explanation of how he ended up in China in the first place. I look forward to discovering if his presentation is as charming as this product of my request. -Ed

In 1998, Albert W. Rader, a retired Analytical Chemist specializing in Infrared Spectroscopy for over 24 years at the Tarrytown Technical Center of Union Carbide Corporation, became so old that he had to withdraw money from his IRA account and share part of it with the United States Government. Because he shared Thomas Jefferson's virtue of spending more on the finer things of life than he could afford, he had planned to retire part of his credit card debt with what was left of his IRA withdrawal.

However, being invited to join a joint MIT Alumni Travel Program and Museum of Science tour of China, not knowing when he would be recycled into the food chain, wanting to leave as little as possible to his heirs

Calendar of Events

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| Sun., 5 | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Discussion: <i>Free Inquiry</i> article "Of Myth and Men" by Robert M. Price. | 3:00 p.m. |
| Thu., 16 | Social Dinner at Jordan's Restaurant, Southbury | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 20 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Albert Rader on China. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 17 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Program: Jane Haddam, President, Connecticut Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 21 | Monthly meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation. | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Doug Peary will present "Richard Feynman, Humanist Hero." | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 20 | Board meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. | 1:30 p.m. |
| TBA | Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Program to be announced. | 7:30 p.m. |

and desiring to see the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River before the gorges filled with water by the dam being built there, he accepted their kind invitation and spent his IRA withdrawal and more on the tour. The 19-day tour from San Francisco included Beijing, the Great Wall, the Chongqing, a four-day cruise down the Yangtze River to Wuhan, a flight to Shanghai and a side tour to

Hong Kong. Approximately 1500 pictures were taken.

Albert W. Rader grew up in Martian City, Missouri, then a suburb one mile east of Kansas and seven miles south of Kansas City, Missouri. He has an S.B. degree in Quantitative Biology (1950) and an S.B. degree in Food Technology (1951) from

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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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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.

Dinner Meeting

You are cordially invited to dinner on Thursday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Jordan's Restaurant in Southbury. Please RSVP to Carol Stone (203) 264-8546 (editor@cthumanist.org) or Mickey Koth (203) 498-8333 (mkoth@snet.net) by Tuesday, if possible. Location: Jordan's Restaurant is in the Southbury Plaza, at the intersection of Main Street and Route 67.

From eastern Connecticut, take Interstate 84 to exit 15, take a right off the exit, turn right at the next traffic light into the plaza. Jordan's shares a building with a Webster Bank just off to the right when you enter the parking lot.

From western Connecticut, take Interstate 84 to exit 15, take a left off the exit, turn right at the second traffic light into the plaza. Jordan's shares a building with a Webster Bank just off to the right when you enter the parking lot.

From northern Connecticut, take route 6 south. Routes 6 and 67 converge at a traffic light in Southbury (you will be going straight). The Southbury Plaza will be on your left two traffic lights after the two roads converge. If you get to Interstate 84, you've gone too far. Jordan's shares a building with a Webster Bank just off to the right when you enter the plaza parking lot.

From southern Connecticut, either take route 63 to Interstate 84 westbound in Middlebury and follow the directions for eastern Connecticut, or take route 67 north from Amity, pass through Seymour and Oxford to Southbury, and turn right into the Southbury Plaza after you pass under Interstate 84. Jordan's shares a building with a Webster Bank just off to the right when you enter the parking lot.

Humanist Conversations

Buddha, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad: historical figures or cultural products of the human imagination?

The Humanist Conversations will meet Sunday, March 5, at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. The discussion will be based on an article by Robert M. Price, "Of Myth and Men: a closer look at the originators of the major religions — what did they *really* say and do?", found in *Free Inquiry*, Winter 1999/2000, p. 24-36. The article surveys biographical and philosophical aspects of Buddha, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad. Given the centuries that have passed since even the earliest of these four lived, is it possible to have accurate historical knowledge of them? Or should we view the founders and the legends about them merely as "cultural products of the human imagination?" What implications do our answers have for us as humanists and our views on the four religions?

Coffee and tea will be provided along with light refreshments. For more information, contact Mickey Koth at (203) 498-8333 or mkoth@snet.net.

China, continued.

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (the only school that accepted him) and an M.S. degree in Chemistry (1961) from the University of South Carolina (Thesis: The Synthesis of the Five Isomers of Dihydrobiphenyl). After leaving MIT, he worked on the polylactyl stearate bread softener in Kansas City, Missouri. He was a pharmaceutical salesman for Lederle Laboratories in the Columbia, South Carolina, territory. After the University of South Carolina, he worked in Gas Chromatography for Standard Brands, Inc., in Stamford, Connecticut, before escaping to Union Carbide. He received the World War II Victory Medal for joining the U.S. Army one day before the G.I. Bill expired (he needed a vacation from MIT). After retiring he called himself a bum. Now he claims to be an amateur philosopher.

Please join us on Monday, March 20, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. There will be refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m.; the main program starts at 8:00 p.m. -Ed.

Humanism Portal on the Internet

Nat Wolf has found a site on the Internet with enough links to keep any humanist busy for, well, hours at least. Check out James Haught's homepage on the web at <http://www.wvinter.net/~haught/>

FUUS Speaker

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven's *Food for Thought* evening speaker series continues on Friday, March 17, with featured speaker Ann Williamson, Ph.D. Biologist and Yale Professor who will speak on "The Ethics of Molecular Biology Research; should the individual DNA sequences be patented?". 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 more information call Nash Boutros at 203-676-7429.

New London News

The next meeting of the New London group will be at the Mystic & Noank Library from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 11. The library is located at 40 Library St., Mystic.

Tentatively the topic is "The Death Penalty." However this may change and anybody interested should check with George or Paula Marcus at (860) 572-9188 after March 1.

Mustard Seed

June Schafer was presented a Mustard Seed Award by Rev. Daniel Wade on behalf of the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) at their 28th annual dinner.

"June Schafer, a Vice President of Program for ICM and Chair of the Program Committee for ICM, has been a delegate to ICM's Board from the Unitarian Society of New Haven, in Hamden from the beginning of that congregation's membership. As Chair of the Program Committee, June takes on responsibilities way beyond anyone else for providing food and arrangements for our Thanksgiving dinner, our Annual Meeting dinner and our Martin Luther King Memorial Service reception, year after year. She also serves on the steering committee of the Connecticut Interfaith Budget Watch and recruits members of her Unitarian network to lobby Hartford for legislative initiatives to help the poor. June is Chair of her congregation's Task Force on Poverty and Economic Justice, which works with low income families at the Waverly Townhouses in New Haven. She has also been a devoted member of the steering committee of ICM's program for children in June of each year, called Summer in Faith."

June is also a student in the ninth class at the Humanist Institute and secretary of the HACC. Congratulations, June!

Obituary: Mary Wells

Mary Wells, wife of Walter Wells, died Sunday, February 13, after complications from a fall. They had been married 60 years, during which Mary, a nurse, had served alongside Walter in the various countries, from Italy to Latin America to Vietnam, where he was assigned as a United States diplomat. Those of us who knew Mary well will deeply miss her intelligent and caring presence. Our heartfelt sympathies are with Walter in this great loss.

A memorial service was held Saturday, February 26, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven.

Free for all Links

The latest change to the HACC web site is the addition of a free-for-all links page, where HACC members and other visitors can add their own links to interesting web pages. Please visit and add links you think will interest other members.

The HACC web site is at:
<http://www.cthumanist.org>

Humanist Professional Directory

To add your listing (free to members) call Carol Stone at (203) 264-8546 or e-mail editor@cthumanist.org.

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Humanist Announcements

Listings here are free to members. To add your listing call Carol Stone at (203) 264-8546 or e-mail editor@cthumanist.org.

Wild N'oats featuring Mickey Koth on Fiddle.

An evening of Celtic Music, Wed. Mar. 15 at Brainard Memorial Library, Haddam, CT. 7-8 p.m. Free Admission.

Audubon Coffee House, Sat., Apr 1, 7:30 p.m., Audubon Center, 1361 Main St., Rt. 17, Glastonbury. (800) 633-8402. Admission \$10. Directions: home.att.net/~ctaudubon.

For more information about either event, call Mickey at (203) 498-8333 or e-mail mkoth@snet.net.