



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

August 2005

Attacking Freedom:

How Evangelicals War on American Pluralism

“Sixteen hundred years ago, evangelicals succeeded in destroying western civilization. Today in America, they’re mounting a second assault.”

This is how Brian Trent addresses the latest title-fight between religious fundamentalism and rationality, with particular focus on the last days of the classical world in Alexandria, the murder of its celebrated humanist, and what this may mean for today’s political stage.

Brian Trent is a writer of many interests. In 2004, his essays appeared in three consecutive issues of *The Humanist* magazine. One of these articles, “Technology and Tomorrow: A Challenge to Liberty,” was selected for publisher H.W. Wilson’s book, *U.S. National Debate Topic 2005-06*.

Trent’s historical novel “Remembering Hypatia” was published in February of 2005. See www.rememberinghypatia.com.

Bring a friend and join us on Monday, August 15 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m., followed by Brian’s presentation at 8:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST, 2005

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| Sat., 6 | Humanist Conversations: Movie - <i>Promises</i> . | 2:30 p.m. |
| Tues., 9 | Dinner at Contrassegno 4137 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com . (203) 248-3600 for directions. | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Coffee and conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Brian Trent: <i>Attacking Freedom: How Evangelicals War on American Pluralism</i> | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 28 | (Note Date) Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden | 2:30 p.m. |
| Wed., 31 | Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions. | 7:00 p.m. |

SEPTEMBER, 2005

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| Sat., 3 | Humanist Conversations: Selections from Studs Terkel’s <i>Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do</i> . | 2:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 10 | Picnic and book discussion at Bill & Kathy Lyon’s home in Cornwall | |
| | Picnic | 1:00 p.m. |
| | Book discussion: Antonio Damasio’s <i>Looking for Spinoza</i> | 3:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 12 | Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. RSVP at humanism.meetup.com . (203) 799-9601 for directions. | 7:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Coffee and conversation | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Panel Presentation: What’s Going On in Humanism Today. | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden | 2:30 p.m. |
| Wed., 28 | Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions. | 7:00 p.m. |

www.cthumanist.org

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To join, send an e-mail addressed to majordomo@cthumanist.org with **subscribe announce** in the body of the message.

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Newsletter

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August Conversations: Movie

Join us in the library at 2:30 p.m. on August 6 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will watch the movie *Promises*. Meet seven Palestinian and Israeli children who live in and around Jerusalem within twenty minutes of each other and see what they see.

As is our custom, refreshments will be served.

September Conversations: Working

Participate in a special Labor Day celebration on September 3 at 2:30 p.m. Choose a write-up of a job you are not familiar with from the Studs Terkel classic *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do* (ISBN: 1565843428) and come prepared to share it. Each write-up describes someone's job and is typically under ten pages long.

Refreshments will be served.

Picnic and Book Discussion

Join us on Saturday, September 10, for a picnic and book discussion in the northwest hills of Connecticut at the lovely home of Bill and Kathy Lyon. The picnic will start at 1:00 p.m. and the book discussion will begin at 3:30 p.m. Directions to the Lyon's will be included in the September newsletter.

The book will be *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain* by Antonio Damasio. ISBN: 0156028719.

What are feelings? How do they work? Why would a neuroscientist go on a pilgrimage to a dead philosopher's home?

In the seventeenth century, the philosopher Spinoza examined the role emotion played in human survival and culture. Antonio Damasio suggests that Spinoza's understanding of emotion was mostly right. Meet the historical Spinoza through the eyes of a scientist who appreciates the dangers of the time in which he lived as well as the modern import of his ideas.

editor@cthumanist.org.

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

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