



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2008



CSH Affiliate

## *“Iraq and Palestine: Historical Discourse as a Factor in Maintenance of Occupation”*

Khalil Iskarous is a political activist in the New Haven area. He was born in Cairo, Egypt and has traveled in Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. He participates in the immigrant rights movement, prisoner rights movement, and antiwar movement, and works on uniting the various struggles for human and civil rights. He is a member of Unidad Latina en Accion, People Against Injustice, and Connecticut United for Peace. We are pleased to announce that he will join us on Monday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike as the latest distinguished speaker in our ongoing series, “Practical Pathways to Peace.”

His talk “Iraq and Palestine: Historical Discourse as a Factor in Maintenance of Occupation” will focus on how occupation is maintained and prolonged, especially in Iraq and Palestine, and how it may one day end. Violence is of course the principle method for maintaining an occupation. However, violence is not enough. Occupying powers can only maintain power through an

## *Calendar of Events*

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com).

### **FEBRUARY, 2008**

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: “Enjoying Podcasts without an iPod”	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 11	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> Khalil Iskarous: “Iraq and Palestine: Historical Discourse as a Factor in Maintenance of Occupation”	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 28	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.

### **MARCH, 2008**

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly meeting <b>Main program:</b> Ken Feder	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 22	<b>Book discussion:</b> George Orwell’s <i>1984</i>	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 26	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 29	<b>Bible Reading Group:</b> Biblical scholarship.	2:30 p.m.

**WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG**

extensive historical discourse to justify their occupation and blaming the victims. The goal of the talk will be to lay out the discourses of power generated by the U.S. and Israel and to point out deep flaws in these narratives. It will also be claimed that successful struggle against occupation is also not built on violence alone. A discourse of liberation and agency has to replace

the discourse of power. Moreover, the construction of such a discourse of liberation is an open project.

So join us and bring a friend to 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, Monday, February 18. Coffee and conversation starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by this presentation at 8:00 p.m. Optionally, bring some food to share during our coffee time!

## *Conversations: Enjoying Podcasts without an iPod*

At our next Humanist Conversations, on Saturday, February 2, 2008, Carol Stone will give a short orientation on podcasts, MP3 players, and a little bit of other modern technology that may have crept up on you while you were not paying attention. Carol will dispel assumptions such as “you need an iPod to listen to podcasts,” will demonstrate a couple of inexpensive MP3 players, and will show how to find humanist-oriented podcasts on the internet.

The program will be even better if you participate. Have you been reading political information on-line? Have you seen links to podcasts and not been able to access them? This won’t be just about podcasts, so bring the address of a few websites you find informative or just want to learn how to use!

The program will take place at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, starting at 2:30 p.m.

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

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

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- President June Schafer  
(203) 281-6232  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)
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- Program David Schafer
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- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Stone
- Publicity June Schafer
- Hospitality Randy Olear

**Newsletter**

- Editor Carol Stone  
(203) 264-8546  
[editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org)
- Production: Richard Siddall  
(203) 264-2182  
[webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org)

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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.

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

# Darwin Day is February 12!

## Book Discussion — Orwell's 1984

Join us on Saturday, March 22, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss *1984* by George Orwell. Copies of this classic book are available at public libraries as well as at bookstores and online.

Until then, remember that war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength.

## Bible Discussion Group

The first meeting of the HAC Bible Reading Group will be on Saturday, March 29, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

The book we will be discussing at this first meeting and at our other meetings in the near future is *How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now* by James L. Kugel, based on his extraordinarily popular course at Harvard. Copies of this book are available at public libraries as well as at bookstores and online.

The plan for this group is to go through the book at a reasonable pace over a period of time and to include readings from other sources at each meeting.

The assignment to prepare for this first meeting has four parts:

A) The New York Times review article "Reading Is Believing, or Not" By David Plotz. (Available at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/16/books/review/Plotz-t.html>)

B) In *How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now* by James L. Kugel, the following:

Preliminaries — pages xi-xiv

The Rise of Modern Biblical Scholarship — pages 1-46

C) The article "The Editorial Team Behind the Bible — Interview with Richard Elliott Friedman." (Available at

[http://www.beliefnet.com/story/139/story\\_13986.html](http://www.beliefnet.com/story/139/story_13986.html))

D) In the Wikipedia article on the Documentary Hypothesis, you will learn how familiar figures such as Thomas Hobbes and Baruch Spinoza were involved in the study of who wrote the bible.

(Available at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary\\_hypothesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_hypothesis))

If you have difficulty obtaining the additional readings (A, C or D above), you can contact Manny ([development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org) or (203) 387-7348), any board member, or you can even ask your local librarian for help!

## Hartford Events

Ed and Edith Savage invite you to two February programs at the Hartford Unitarian Meetinghouse, 50 Bloomfield Ave in Hartford. Each program will be presented twice, once at the 9 a.m. and once at the 11 a.m. services.

"Tapestry: Ecological Living," created by Edith Savage, will be presented on February 3. It will include songs about saving planet Earth with talks by ecological activists Peter Magistri and Andy Bauer. An exhibit of energy-saving strategies will follow the services.

"Why should an Atheist be interested in Eschatology?" will be presented by Ed Savage on February 24.

For directions visit <http://www.ushartford.com/map.html> or call the Meetinghouse at (860) 233-9897.

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