



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

October 2008



CSH Affiliate

## Sources of Energy

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Monday, October 20, when Manny Ratafia will present "An Overview of New Sources of Energy."

Energy is becoming one of the key issues of our time. We, as individuals, are painfully aware of the increasing costs of gasoline, heating fuel, and electricity. Energy has also long been a central factor in global political and military issues, a major contributor to air and water pollution, and a key part of our national economy and the economies of countries throughout the world. Recently, fossil fuel-based energy sources have been identified as contributing to global warming with potential catastrophic effects to our planet. At our October 20 meeting, Manny will review the many new sources of energy that are being developed, some of which could dramatically impact these issues. Manny will discuss fusion, which has long been the ultimate source of energy and looks unlikely to be available in the foreseeable future; "clean energy" wind and sun which are rapidly being employed; "renewable" sources such as oil, ethanol and other fuel chemicals made from wood; hydrogen and fuel cells; and even plug-in hybrid

*Continued on page 2*

## 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).

### OCTOBER, 2008

Sat., 4	Bible Reading Group (rescheduled from Sept.)	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 11	Humanist Conversations: Election Issues	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 13	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 19	Cook & Care Walkathon, Edgerton Park, New Haven	1:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly meeting Main program: Manny Ratafia <i>Energy</i>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Thu., 23	Hartford-Area Dinner at Taste of India, 139 S Main St., West Hartford. (860) 561-2221.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 25	Book discussion: <i>Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln</i> by Doris Kearns Goodwin	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER, 2008

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	New Haven-Area Social Dinner, location TBD	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 9	Social Brunch at Coromandel, 185 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 795-9055 for directions.	12:00 noon
Thu., 13	Waterbury-Area Dinner at Lisboa, 19 Lafayette St., Waterbury. (203) 754-0789 for directions	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	Bible Reading Group: More on Moses	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 16	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 23	Monthly meeting Main program: Eugene Kogan. TBD	3:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

## Religulous — Movie Trip

Watch our website and announce list for plans to see Bill Maher's movie *Religulous* as a group, possibly as early as Friday, October 3rd.

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

### E-mail List

To join, send an e-mail addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **unsubscribe**.

### Officers

President	June Schafer (203) 281-6232 <a href="mailto:president@cthumanist.org">president@cthumanist.org</a>
Vice-President	Douglas Peary
Secretary	Richard Siddall
Treasurer	Douglas Peary

### Committee Chairs

Program	David Schafer
Membership	Carol Podgwaite
Development	Manny Ratafia
Publications	Carol Stone
Publicity	June Schafer
Hospitality	Randy Olear

### Newsletter

Editor	Carol Stone (203) 264-8546 <a href="mailto:editor@cthumanist.org">editor@cthumanist.org</a>
Production:	Richard Siddall (203) 264-2182 <a href="mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org">webmaster@cthumanist.org</a>

Copyright © 2008, Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto: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: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

### Energy — From front page

cars (which could actually be a source of energy). After Manny's talk, there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Manny's experience with energy and development of new energy sources includes consulting projects on technologies involving energy (including consulting on one of the first solar energy products way back in 1979), organizing venture meetings and judging venture contests including new energy technologies (several local wind and solar ventures were judged earlier this year), and working with startup companies that are developing new energy sources (including a local biotech company now getting launched working on converting wood and grass into oil).

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation. Manny's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m. Remember to bring a friend!

## Conversations

Join us on October 11, when we will discuss the upcoming election. Bring something to share for this discussion. What are the underlying issues? What do you see as being the most and least effective strategies of the different candidates? Is the national race coloring the way you view our more local races?

Bring a friend to 700 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, September 11 at 2:30 p.m. for this timely discussion!

## Member Albert Rader dead at 80

We regret to announce that long-time HAC member Al Rader died in an accidental fall after leaving his sister's house in Kansas City for a hike on September 1. A grave-side service was held September 8. Al was also a member of The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford.

You may remember that Al had been our featured speaker back in March 2000, and that our newsletter for that month contained a biography of Al's life and achievements, part of which is reproduced below:

*"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 the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-*

*nology (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 polyactyl 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."*

## Walkathon

A group of HAC members will be participating in this year's "Cook & Care Walkathon," a three mile charity walk starting in Edgerton Park in New Haven at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 19. Three out of the four charities to receive proceeds from this event focus on feeding the poorest people in New Haven.

There's more information at <http://www.cookandcare.org/>, including a route map and a PDF form you can print out and use to solicit pledges, if you'd like to join us.

This event is organized by the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM). June Schafer was the USNH delegate to ICM for many years, and was instrumental in keeping the organization together despite lack of support from some of the larger Christian churches in the New Haven area.

While the money raised during the walk will go to funding important charitable works, the services will be delivered by ostensibly Christian organizations.

Our understanding is that we cannot earmark the money for the least religious of the four beneficiaries as it all goes into a general pool. Therefore, when considering whether to join us on the walk, you'll be forced to decide whether the benefit to the end users is worth supporting a religious intermediary.

We will be walking as a team and hope to have something, possibly a team t-shirt, to indicate that fact.

Interestingly, a typical MS Walk offers two, five, and seven mile route options, so this three mile route should be achievable

## Bible Discussion Group, Part V

The next meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be on Saturday, October 4, from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. In addition to discussing the reading materials, we will watch a 15-minute video segment.

For October 4 please read the following:

A. In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel:

*Chapter 16. The Ten Commandments 250-259*

*Chapter 17. A Religion of Laws 260-279*

*Chapter 18. Worship on the Road 280-295*

The additional readings can be found on our website and in the previous newsletter.

## Bible Discussion Group, Part VI

The following meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be on Saturday, November 15, 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Reading for November 15:

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

*Chapter 19. P and D 297-316*

*Chapter 20. On the Way to Canaan 317-334*

*Chapter 21. Moses' Last Words 335-363*

B. Review the following:

- The article "The Editorial Team Behind the Bible—Interview with Richard Elliott Friedman"

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

- The Wikipedia entry on the "Documentary Hypothesis" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary\\_hypothesis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentary_hypothesis)).

C. Read the following:

- The Wikipedia entry on the "Passover" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover>).

- The Wikipedia entry on "Moses" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses>).

- The Catholic Encyclopedia entry on "Moses" (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10596a.htm>).

- The Wikipedia entry on the "Islamic View of Moses" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_view\\_of\\_Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_view_of_Moses)).

Please go through the assigned reading materials and feel free to invite a friend.

by even the most hardened couch potato. However, if this is considerably more exercise than you normally take, please consult with your physician or perhaps consider a cash sponsorship of

one of our team walkers.

Many thanks to Tom and Halina Platt for drawing everyone's attention to the walk and soliciting volunteers at August's book discussion.

## Book Discussion: "Team of Rivals"

The next book we will read is "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Pulitzer Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin. Copies of the book, which is available in both hardcover and paperback, are at public libraries as well as bookstores and online.

This book, I think, is particularly relevant to the current situation in U.S. politics and the upcoming presidential election. It is not a short book, but you have plenty of time to read it.

We will meet to discuss this book on Saturday, October 25, 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. As always, feel free to invite a friend or two.

The following is an excerpt of information and reviews from Amazon.com.

Goodwin makes the case for Lincoln's political genius by examining his relationships with three men he selected for his cabinet, all of whom were opponents for the Republican nomination in 1860: William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, and Edward Bates. These men, all accomplished, nationally known, and presidential, originally disdained Lincoln for his backwoods upbringing and lack of experience, and were shocked and humiliated at losing to this relatively obscure Illinois lawyer...

Ten years in the making, this engaging work reveals why "Lincoln's road to success was longer, more tortuous, and far less likely" than the other men, and why, when opportunity beckoned, Lincoln was "the best prepared to answer the call." This multiple biography further provides valuable background and insights into the contributions and talents of Seward, Chase, and Bates. Lincoln may have been "the indispensable ingredient of the Civil War," but these three men were invaluable to Lincoln and they played key roles in keeping the nation intact. —Shawn Carkonen

Team of Rivals doesn't just tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. It is a multiple biography of the entire team of personal and political competitors that he put together to lead the country through its greatest crisis. Here, Doris Kearns Goodwin profiles five of the key players in her book, four of whom contended for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination and all of whom later worked together in Lincoln's cabinet.

"An elegant, incisive study....Goodwin has brilliantly described how Lincoln forged a team that preserved a nation and freed America from the curse of slavery." — James M. McPherson, *The New York Times Book Review*

"Goodwin's narrative abilities...are on full display here, and she does an enthralling job of dramatizing...crucial moments in Lincoln's life....A portrait of Lincoln as a virtuosic politician and managerial genius." — Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

"Splendid, beautifully written....Goodwin has brilliantly woven scores of contemporary accounts...into a fluid narrative....This is the most richly detailed account of the Civil War presidency to appear in many years." — John Rhodehamel, *Los Angeles Times*

"Endlessly absorbing....[A] lovingly rendered and masterfully fashioned book." — Jay Winik, *The Wall Street Journal*

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
Family . . . . . \$50	_____
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
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: _____
	_____
	_____