



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

March 2010



CSH Affiliate

## *Celebrating William Lloyd Garrison*

William Lloyd Garrison was probably the most effective reformer of the 19th century, having more to do with ending slavery and achieving equal rights for women than anyone else of that century. Did he eventually become a humanist? Can we count him among our humanist fore-bearers?

A founding member of our organization, Rev. Dr. Robert Rafford is a semi-retired Unitarian Universalist minister, officiating at weddings, funerals and other events. He is a professional genealogist and the president of the Middlebury Historical Society and is Municipal Historian for the town of Middlebury. He was converted to humanism at the 1979 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

We will meet on Monday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike with a half-hour of refreshments and conversation. The formal program will begin after brief announcements at 8:00 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

## *Calendar of Events*

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

### MARCH, 2010

- |          |  |                   |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| Sat., 6  | Humanist Conversations: Evo-Devo (The rest of "What Darwin Never Knew")                              | 2:30 p.m.         |
| Sun., 14 | Book discussion: "Letters from the Earth" by Mark Twain  | 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly meeting  | 7:30 p.m.         |
|          | Main program: Rev. Dr. Robert Rafford on William Lloyd Garrison                                      | 8:00 p.m.         |
| Sat., 20 | David Schafer presents "Nephilim, untimely camels, and other anomalies in Genesis"                   | 3:00 p.m.         |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting  | 2:30 p.m.         |
| Tue., 23 | Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136 | 7:00 p.m.         |

### APRIL, 2010

- |          |  |           |
|----------|--|-----------|
| Sat., 3  | Humanist Conversations: Humanism & Human Nature  | 2:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 5  | Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100                           | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 10 | David Schafer presents "The Historical Bible"  | 3:00 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly meeting  | 7:30 p.m. |
|          | Main program: Ken Feder, Ph.D. "2012"  | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 24 | Potluck lunch and Mark Twain memorial film "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court"             | 1:30 p.m. |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting  | 2:30 p.m. |
| Thu., 29 | Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136 | 7:00 p.m. |

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

## *December 21, 2012: The End of the World As We Know It?*

December 21, 2012 marks the end of the current cycle of time according to the Maya calendar. But does that mean that the Maya predicted the end of the world on that date? Will time stop, the Earth stop rotating on its axis, the sun become a supernova, and will our entire solar system get sucked into a giant black hole at the center of our galaxy? Should we all be exchanging Christmas gifts early in December 2012, because none of us are going to

make it to the 25th of that month? Inquiring minds want to know. Our very popular Connecticut State University archaeology professor Dr. Ken Feder will attempt to ease your concerns about 2012 because he knows the Maya didn't predict anything particularly momentous on that date. Then again, maybe he's part of a government cover-up to prevent widespread panic before it's lights out for good. You decide at 7:30 p.m. on April 19 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

## *Conversations: Evo-Devo*

Join us Saturday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will watch and discuss the rest of the NOVA program we started with David Schafer on February 15. The search for mechanisms of heredity and change are presented in the concluding hour of "What Darwin Never Knew." We'll study the emergence of limbs and even relate human brains to our genetic structure.

Refreshments will be served.

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

**Email List**

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

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

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

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

Of special interest to humanists, David Schafer will be presenting Confucianism on March 7 at 11:15 a.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

# *Nephilim, untimely camels, and other anomalies in Genesis*

The fourth in our series of monthly discussions on “The Bible from the Standpoint of Scientific and Historical Analysis” will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

At the end of our last discussion, mention was made of interest in the section of Genesis where the “sons of God looked on the daughters of men and saw that they were fair.” This is but one of many apparent contradictions in Genesis we will visit on this occasion.

We cordially welcome everyone interested in this subject to join in these discussions. For further information, please call David Schafer, 203-281-6232.

Please note: the meeting following this will take place earlier in the month than usual. In April we will meet on the 10th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

## *Book Discussion: Mark Twain’s “Letters from the Earth”*

The next book discussion will be on Sunday, March 14, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. and we will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is “Letters from the Earth” by Mark Twain. Copies of the book or the unabridged audiobook are available in Connecticut public libraries, as well as in book stores and online.

For availability information in public libraries around the state, try: [www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia](http://www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia).

To purchase the book or read the reviews at Amazon.com, try: [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1615341099/humanistassoc-20](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1615341099/humanistassoc-20)

The book consists of a series of short stories, many of which deal with God and Christianity. The title story consists of letters written by the archangel Satan to archangels, Gabriel and Michael, about his observations on the curious proceedings of earthly life and the nature of man’s religions. Other short stories in the book include a bedtime story about a family of cats Twain wrote for his daughters, and an essay explaining why an anaconda is morally superior to Man.

## *Pot Luck & Movie — Mark Twain’s “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court”*

Please note in your calendar that on April 24 we will have a pot luck lunch and will view one of the film adaptations of Mark Twain’s “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court.” The pot luck lunch will start at 1:30 p.m. and we will show the film at 2:15 p.m. Please bring an appetizer, salad, sandwiches, or main dish. We will provide drinks and desserts. We will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Adult . . . . . \$35
- Family . . . . . \$50
- Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10
- Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.
- 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.

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