

Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland

Meeting at DuPage Unitarian Church, 4 South 535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville IL 60563 (<http://howsc.org>) September 2007

THIS MONTH

Sept. 12, '07 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at DUUC

Speaker: Ed Yohnka of the ACLU

Topic: Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism

As the war on terrorism drags on, Americans continue to worry about safety versus freedom, privacy versus the need for surveillance, cold facts versus innuendo. If our Civil Liberties are being eroded, how much is tolerable or even necessary? Where is the balance? Where is the control? Come to hear Ed Yohnka talk about his work within one of the most respected organizations that serves as guardian of our civil liberties.

Edwin C. Yohnka is the Director of Communications for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and as its primary spokesperson appears regularly on television, radio and other media to speak out on issues ranging from racial profiling and the inequities of the criminal justice system to matters relating to religious liberty and Internet privacy. He edits *The Illinois Brief*, the ACLU flagship publication. From 1987 until 1999, Yohnka served on the staff of the American Bar Association, spending most of that time as a Special Presidential Assistant in the ABA's Office of the President. He currently serves on the Human Subjects Review Committee for the American Bar Foundation.

LABOR DAY PICNIC

Oh, it was a glorious day with temperatures in the mid-80s and a light breeze to fan away most of the summer insects (once the food was brought inside) as 58 people joined for an afternoon of great food, conversation and family interaction. Young people ranging from baby to teenagers got to know one another in a casual and fruitful (pun intended) environment. Jazz duo of Curt Johnson and Karen Campbell added to the festive mood. Even the puppies seemed to enjoy themselves. The afternoon was recorded on videotape by hard-working Joanne Reid, who barely had a chance to sit down. She will offer an edited version later on, so be sure to ask about it at the next

meeting. And in case you missed it, make plans now to attend our next picnic in June. Because, to quote Kurt Vonnegut, "It doesn't get better than that."

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS IN HWSC

We know that those who attend our events, be they lectures, picnics or the philosopher's luncheons, are concerned citizens, involved with many organizations beside our own Humanist group. They appreciate the interaction with like-minded individuals, enjoying the free expression and the give and take of ideas relating to ecology and global warming, separation of church and state, and ongoing concerns about equality. These memberships might also include privileges like a reduced price for related products or admission to various events as added incentives to join.

Belonging to HWSC offers its own benefits such as an affiliation with The American Humanist Association, which originated around the time of the McCarthy Era when there were few voices to cry out for civil liberties beyond the AHA and the ACLU, as reputations and livelihoods were destroyed by patriotic extremists. It hasn't stopped there. Today the AHA continues its mission in Washington DC where, in conjunction with other organizations, it lobbies for Constitutional Rights and Freedoms.

In the Western Suburbs, HWSC members work to keep Naperville schools free from religious bias, further alternative energy in our community, and maintain a free and open dialogue within its conservative environment.

If these are some of your concerns, you can help by joining or renewing your membership. It will enable HWSC to bring in more notable speakers and expand its services to you. It will help support our national office. And it will give voice to the things we all find important. See Jack Sechrest for details at (630) 554-8058 (jack@skognet.com)

NOTABLE QUOTE FROM KENDYL GIBBONS

(UU minister and Board member of HUUMANIST)

[The Universe] doesn't need gods or angels or magical other worlds. The world we have is magical enough, holy

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enough, sacred enough. We are the ones who bring the eyes to see, the minds and souls to marvel. We are the ones who must build the meanings of our brief days out of what we find to be deeply and powerfully important, right here, out of the utterly natural stuff of life. The holy is nothing but the ordinary, held up to the light and profoundly seen.