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Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland
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Meeting at DuPage Unitarian Church, 4 South 535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville IL 60563

THIS MONTH: Wed. May 9, 2007 7:30-9 p.m.

Topic: AMERICA'S MOST REVEILED MINORITY

Speaker: The Rev. Edward Searl, minister at Hinsdale Unitarian Universalist church.

What does it mean to be an atheist in America today? What is the difference between a "strong" and a "weak" atheist? Is atheism actually a religious experience?

Ed Searl describes himself as humanistic in orientation, steeped in Natural Religion. He favors back roads and small towns throughout America, urban strolls in Chicago neighborhoods, ethnic restaurants, vegetarian food and country cafes. Influences include Emerson and Parker, Twain, Jung, Fromm and Frankl, Steinbeck and Sinclair Lewis, J. W. Krutch and Hal Borland.

He studied American history at the University of Delaware and the University of Vermont graduate school, receiving his theological training at McGill University's Faculty of Religious Studies in Montreal. He recently completed a five volume series of quote books for Skinner House Press. The first four deal with the great rites of passage of a human life: birth, coming of age, love and marriage, death and remembrance. *In Praise of Animals* completes the series and will be published this spring.

UPCOMING: Picnic Sat. June 30, 2007 1-3 p.m.

As summer presents itself, it seems appropriate to celebrate in convivial warmth before the season's hiatus. Plan to bring a shared dish for this Saturday event. We can meet inside if it rains. Some members will have returned from the AHA annual meeting and will report on events in Oregon. Other than that, we can simply enjoy one another's company as we wait for the resumption of meetings in the fall. Let us know if this fits your schedule so we can plan ahead.

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland meets on the second Wednesday evening from September to June.

We offer a variety of stimulating speakers including explorations of social responsibility, personal philosophy and science. Got a suggestion? We are always eager to add to our roster.

Other occasions include our "philosopher's lunch," a casual get-together of like minded people on the third Thursday at 1:00 during the June to September period, our annual Darwin Day potluck and Labor Day picnic.

Membership for the first year is \$35, increasing to \$45, or \$55 for couples, in the second year. Besides being a member of our Chapter (HWSC), this includes membership in the AHA, which will get you six issues of *The Humanist* magazine and *The Free Mind*. In addition, a book on Humanism is sent to each new member. For further information, contact Jack Sechrest at 630 554-8058 or jack@skognet.com.

NEW TO HUMANISM?

The following was written by Frederick Edwords, former editor of *The Humanist*.

It is easy to summarize the basic ideas held in common by both Religious and Secular Humanists. These ideas are as follows:

Humanism is one of those philosophies

1. ...for people who think for themselves.
2. ...focused upon human means for comprehending reality.
3. ...of reason and science in the pursuit of knowledge.
4. ...of imagination
5. ...for the here and now
6. ...of compassion
7. ...of realism
8. ...in tune with science today
9. ...in tune with today's enlightened social thought
10. ...in tune with new technological developments

Humanism is, in sum, a philosophy for those in love with life.