



Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland



Meeting at DuPage Unitarian Church, 4 South 535 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville IL 60563

(<http://howsc.org>)

THIS MONTH

Wednesday May 12, 2010

Speaker: Rabbi Adam Chalom

Topic: Secular Spirituality: Oxymoron or Emotional Meaning?

What is the balance between a secular lifestyle and spiritual or emotional fulfillment? Where do Humanists find what Humanistic psychologist Abraham Maslow called Peak Experiences? Is spirituality a concept inappropriate for Humanists? Join Adam Chalom, Rabbi of Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation and Dean for North America of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ), for a fascinating exploration.

Rabbi Adam Chalom earned a B.A. cum laude from Yale University in Judaic Studies, a Master's Degree at the University of Michigan in Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies, Rabbinic ordination from IISHJ, and his PhD at the University of Michigan in Near Eastern Studies. He joined the Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation in July 2004. Before then, he served for three years as co-Rabbi of the Birmingham Temple. Rabbi Chalom is also the North American Dean of the IISHJ, the leadership and rabbinical training institution of the world-wide movement of Secular Humanistic Judaism; the membership chair and secretary of the Association of Humanistic Rabbis; and serves on the editorial board of the quarterly journal, *Humanistic Judaism*.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Humanist Monthly Luncheon (Philosopher's Lunch)

Thursday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Country House at Lisle (note location)

6460 College Road in College Square

Lisle, IL 60532

(Northwest corner of Green Trails and College in Lisle)

We tried this new location last month and liked it. This does not make it our permanent home, but a nice variation where we can meet and enjoy a casual get-together. RSVP Jack Sechrest at (630) 554-8058 or jack@skognet.com.

69th AHA Annual Conference

June 3-6, 2010

Where: [Doubletree Hotel](#) in San Jose, California.

It's not too late to join Humanist across the country and be Good without God (or "good-for-nothing"). To learn more, check www.americanhumanist.org.

A Summer Solstice Celebration

Saturday, June 19th from noon to four

We celebrate the cosmos, the earth, and certainly the seasons. As we complete another year of programming, it's time for HWSC to relax and just enjoy being together. We have Kreves Hall and the yard where we can meander and smell the flowers under the summer sun. Lunch will be potluck followed by a brief report about the Annual Conference by Howard Katz, our very own Humanist Celebrant. A potluck means you should bring a dish to share, enough to serve four times the number in your party. Let Jack Sechrest know you're coming at (630) 554-8058 or jack@skognet.com

HWSC ANNUAL MEETING

Like most schools and some churches, HWSC operates from September to June. Our annual meeting in May will include the election of officers. The following have agreed to stand as candidates: Stephanie Downs-Hughes, Howard Katz, Jack Sechrest, Paul Selnow and Jane Winter. HWSC Members may offer names with consent of the candidate.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

- The Supreme Court ruled that a federal court went too far in ordering the removal of a congressionally endorsed war memorial cross from its longtime home in California. In its ruling, the justices said federal judges did not take sufficient notice of the government's decision to transfer the land in a remote area of California to private ownership. The move had been designed to eliminate any constitutional concern about a religious symbol on public land. The ruling was 5-4, with the court's conservatives in the majority.
- A U.S. District Court Judge in Madison, Wis., has ruled that the congressionally mandated National Day of Prayer proclamation is unconstitutional. Judge Barbara Crabb wrote that the statute that mandates the presidential proclamation "goes beyond mere 'acknowledgment' of religion because its sole purpose is to encourage all citizens to engage in prayer, an inherently religious exercise that serves no secular function in this context. In this instance, the government has taken sides on a matter that must be left to individual conscience." Following that ruling, David Niose, president of the American Humanist Association, called upon President Obama to recognize a National Day of Reason instead.