



Humanists of West Suburban Chicagoland



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

KNOW YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THIS MONTH

Saturday June 19, 2010 from noon to four

(Note the special date)

A Summer Solstice Celebration and Potluck

Speaker(s): AHA Conference Attendees

Topic: Who, What, Where and Because

The seasonal changes present an opportunity to ritualize. The following is a description of the first day of summer as celebrated around the world. Ancient Druids saw it as a time of magic. In Russia this holiday was connected with fertility, purification and water. Girls might float flower garlands on the rivers and tell their fortunes from their movement. Others would jump over the flames of bonfires. Nude bathing was also practiced. In Spain, the emphasis was on medicinal plants, especially in relation to health, youth and beauty; the protective character of fire to ward men off evil spirits and witches and, again, the purifying, miraculous effects of water. In Sweden, the first day of summer was thought to be when magic was strongest. It was considered a good night to look into the future. In contrast to Russia, young people picked bouquets of different flowers and put them under their pillow in the hope of dreaming about their future spouse. In the late fifteenth-century, John Mirk of Lilleshall Abbey, Shropshire, gives his discription of England as follows: "*At first, men and women came to church with candles and other lights and prayed all night long. In the process of time, however, men left such devotion and used songs and dances and fell into lechery and gluttony turning the good, holy devotion into sin.*"

Here at HWSC, we might share the sinful delight of summer sun at DUUC and a potluck lunch followed by a brief report about the Annual Conference. A potluck means you bring a dish of food 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. If your plans are last minute, come anyway. We'll find room.

HUMANIST MONTHLY LUNCHEON

(Philosopher's Lunch)

Thursday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Country House at Lisle

6460 College Road in College Square, Lisle, IL

(Northwest corner of Green Trails and College in Lisle)

Although our meetings are on hiatus over the summer, the philosophers continue meeting year round. Call Jack Sechrest (at the above) if you plan to attend or not.

At our HWSC annual meeting in May, we elected officers for the coming year. Below is a brief biography of each.

Stephanie Downs Hughes: A sociologist and activist, Stephanie is the leader of **Just Views**, a monthly film and discussion group meeting at the DuPage Unitarian church on the second Friday at 7:20 p.m. She is the founder of the Diversity Dinners program and serves as Co-Chair of the American Humanist Association (AHA) Feminist Caucus. Last December, she was awarded the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award by the mayor of Naperville.

Howard Katz: His third year on the Board, Howard is a Humanist Celebrant, offering services like baby naming, marriage ceremonies, and memorials. He is president of the Humanist Society comprised of certified celebrants within the AHA and a nominee for the AHA Board, its election taking place later this year. Howard works with computers and lives in Batavia.

Jack Sechrest: This HWSC chapter was founded by Jack Sechrest and Mike Werner (who has since re-located in North Carolina), both members of DuPage Unitarian church. Jack has held several positions in the AHA. Under his guidance, this chapter was named the chapter of the year and grown to its highpoint of a hundred members, settling at somewhere in the 80s as of today. Jack lives with wife Perry and their three dogs in Oswego where we hold our whiz-bang Labor Day picnic (details at the next newsletter). He is a retired teacher.

Paul Sellnow: You may have attended Paul's talk at the HWSC meeting in April or heard him sing during the DUUC services on Sunday morning. This is Paul's first year on the HWSC Board. An IT professional and one-time aspiring opera singer, he holds a Master's Degree in Music and an MBA. Paul lives in Naperville.

Jane Winter: A former Roman Catholic, Jane is a member of DUUC and a freethinking humanist. She regrets that it took so long to find and embrace humanism and hopes that her work on the board can bring Humanism out of the closet and into the mainstream. Jane has taught in the field of Special Education, working with physically handicapped students. She and husband Mike Winter live in Wheaton and have four children, ages 16-26.