



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

October 2009



CSH Affiliate

“Joe Gould’s Secret”

Note: On Monday, October 19, Our Meeting Will Begin at 7:00 p.m., Not 7:30!

Steve Boshi, who first brought the film of the musical “1776” to our attention, has identified another superb offering, which we’ve selected for our October 19 program. It is “Joe Gould’s Secret,” a film combining two sensitive *New Yorker* profiles, 22 years apart, of a unique human being, Joe Gould, by a great journalist, Joseph Mitchell, whom Newsweek called “the best reporter ever to write for *The New Yorker*.” It stars Stanley Tucci, who also directs the film, as Joe Mitchell, and acclaimed English actor Ian Holm as Joe Gould, with Susan Sarandon in a supporting role as artist Alice Neel. Mitchell is drawn to Gould, scion of the prestigious New England Goulds and a Harvard graduate, who has become an engaging Greenwich Village bum, who is adept at living off handouts for food, drink, and accommodations, and has long been preoccupied with writing a monumental record of 20,000 conversations he calls the “Oral History of the World,” for which he collects contributions to the Joe Gould Fund. By the end of the film, when the whole truth about Joe Gould’s secret is finally revealed, Joe Mitchell’s telling of his story has kept us so enrapt that we’re tempted to ignore it. It’s Joe Gould, not his secret, that we really care about.

Join us a half-an-hour earlier than usual on Monday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and the film at 7:30 p.m. and a bit of discussion at the end. 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.

OCTOBER, 2009

Sat., 10	Humanist Conversations: “Arguing the World”	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly meeting ½ Hour Early!	7:00 p.m.
	Main program: Video: “Joe Gould’s Secret”	7:30 p.m.
Sat., 24	Bible Reading Group: hour-long video	2:00 p.m.
	Discussion on the final 5 chapters of Kugel’s guide	3:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 27	Date Changed! Hartford-Area social dinner, Imperial Caribbean Restaurant, 51 Shunpike Road, Cromwell. (860) 613-0005	7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER, 2009

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: M. Barton Laws, Ph.D., of Tufts University Medical Center on Healthcare Reform	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 24	Hartford-Area social dinner, location TBA	7:00 p.m.

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Conversations: “Arguing the World”

Join us Saturday, October 10 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike to watch and discuss the fascinating movie, “Arguing the World,” followed by discussion. ([Http://www.pbs.org/arguing](http://www.pbs.org/arguing)). As usual, Refreshments will be served.

The below is excerpted from a review available on-line at: http://apolloguide.com/mov_fullrev.asp?CID=1206&Specific=1681

“Arguing the World’ is a documentary film about four New York intellectuals who [...] came from poor, working class Jewish families and all attended City College of New York in the 1930s.[...]”

“The film, through interviews with the four (Irving Howe, Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer and Irving Kristol), their friends and critics, and archival footage and still photography, takes us on their intellectual journeys. We go from the 1930s to the ’90s through such events as the 1932 U.S. presidential election, the 1936 Moscow trials of Trotsky, the forming of the Stalin’s Popular Front, the McCarthy investigations of the ’50s, the new young radicals of the ’60s, the Vietnam war, and the elections of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

“The four started out as leftist radicals but, with the exception of Howe, moved gradually to the right as they aged. Kristol went on to become a key founder of the neo-conservative movement. Glazer, an influential sociologist, eschews labels but admits an affiliation with the world of liberal policy. Daniel Bell, also a sociologist, defines himself as a liberal in politics, a socialist in economics, and a conservative in culture. Howe, a literary critic, was founder of Democratic Socialists of America and was a democratic socialist right up to his death in 1993.”

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Email List

To join, send an email addressed to hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org with the subject **subscribe**.

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Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to editor@cthumanist.org.

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.

Hartford Dinner

On Tuesday, October 27 (note the date change), when you find the plaza with the K-Mart, Imperial Caribbean Restaurant will in the back row of the plaza under a green and yellow sign.

Bible Discussion — Last Meeting

The next and final meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will see a video from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and will discuss the video and readings and the book in general from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please bring a snack to share and, as always, feel free to bring a friend.

Reading for October 24:

In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel, read the remainder of the book, which is the following:

- Chapter 32. Ezekiel, pages 599-616
- Chapter 33. Twelve Minor Prophets, pages 617-634
- Chapter 34. Job and Postexilic Wisdom, pages 635-643
- Chapter 35. Daniel the Interpreter, pages 644-661
- Chapter 36. After Such Knowledge, pages 662-689

This is your last chance to bring a topical joke or short story, too!

Opportunities to Help

Humanists everywhere would like to demonstrate our desire to help those who are disadvantaged, and the Humanist Association of Connecticut has two ongoing concerns.

Waverly Housing Project in New Haven has 52 units with about 90 children, aged 1 to 18. We are collecting basic school supplies for students from first grade through high school. Bring items or give money to HAC at any of our meetings throughout October, so we can provide for specific needs early in the school year.

Columbus House is a shelter for 100 homeless guests, both men and women. There is always a great need for socks and underwear (mostly in size Large). This will be an ongoing collection for our group through the coming holiday season.

"Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America"

The next book we will read is "Founding Faith: Providence, Politics, and the Birth of Religious Freedom in America" by Steven Waldman. Copies of the printed book and the unabridged audiorecording are available in public libraries and online. We will meet Saturday, November 21, 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will have a pot luck dinner until 3:30 p.m. and will then discuss the book. Please bring a dish to share!

Reviews from: <http://www.amazon.com/Founding-Faith-Providence-Politics-Religious/dp/1400064376>

"Steven Waldman, a veteran journalist and co-founder of Beliefnet.com, a religious web site, surveys the convictions and legacy of the founders clearly and fairly, with a light touch but a careful eye." —New York Times Book Review

"Well-wrought, well-written and well-reasoned—a welcome infusion of calm good sense into a perennially controversial and relevant subject." —Kirkus Reviews

MEMBERSHIP

Adult \$35
Family \$50
Newsletter Only \$10

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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