



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

November 2009



CSH Affiliate

## ***National Health Care Reform: Reconciling Justice And Liberty***

If you were to Google “blog stayin’ alive stop talking,” you would find a post with an unusual complaint: we need to stop talking about the flu and do something about more pressing matters, such as social inequity, which is the root cause of more deaths per year than even the worst H1N1 projections. <http://www.healthvsmedicine.blogspot.com> is a public health blog, and the author’s point of view is informed by his training, professional experience and lots of good, solid, peer-reviewed information. Join us on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m. for an unusually sane perspective on health care reform from someone who understands the intersection of public policy and healthcare delivery.

M. Barton Laws, Assistant Professor at Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine, was until recently Senior Investigator in Social Science and Policy at Latin American Health Institute in Boston. He has received research funding from the Robert Wood Johnson and Kaiser Family Foundations, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Research Program, the Charles Farnsworth Trust, and the Tufts/Brown/Lifespan Center for AIDS Research, as well as NIH. He has been project evaluator for numerous federally funded programs in HIV clinical case management, substance abuse treatment, and mental health services targeting people with HIV. He has had a particular interest in language and culture as factors in the provision of medical services, and physician-

## ***Calendar of Events***

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [meetup.com/cthumanist](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### NOVEMBER, 2009

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: <i>Capitalism Hits the Fan</i>	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	David Schafer presents “Sumerian Legends of Gilgamesh and the Great Flood”	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.
Thu., 19	Hartford-Area social dinner, Imperial Caribbean Restaurant, 51 Shunpike Road, Cromwell. (860) 613-0005	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	Book discussion and potluck dinner: <i>Founding Faith</i>	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

### DECEMBER, 2009

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Annual meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Annual meeting and solstice party	8:00 p.m.
Fri., 25	Annual brunch at the Pacific Grill & Buffet, Wallingford	12:00 noon

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

patient communication. He has developed a method for evaluating the quality of medical interpretation, and is the principal developer of the Generalized Medical Interaction Analysis System, a method for analyzing physician-patient communication with particular focus on antiretroviral therapy adherence. He has conducted research into medication taking behavior of people living with HIV, cross-cultural communication in pediatrics, tobacco sales and marketing in minority communities, and other aspects of medical

care and public health.

He has previously been a stage actor, a community organizer, director of research at United Way of Massachusetts Bay, and a consultant to non-profit organizations and government. He received a master’s degree in Environmental Policy and his doctorate in Social Policy from Brandeis University.

Join us on Monday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and this informative and timely talk at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

## ***Conversations: “Capitalism Hits the Fan”***

Join us on Saturday, November 7 at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 2:30 p.m. We will view and discuss the movie, *Capitalism Hits the Fan*. In this movie, University of Massachusetts professor of economics Richard Wolff presents a historical background for the current financial crisis and proposes structural change to our economic system as a remedy. Refreshments will be served.

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

**Email List**

To join, send an email addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.

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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.

***“Sumerian Legends of Gilgamesh and the Great Flood”***

Saturday, November 14, 2:30 p.m., in the library at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Our studies of Kugel’s book on the Tanach have proved so interesting to so many of us that we can’t stop just because we’ve come to the end. David Schafer has proposed to approach some of the same material from a slightly different slant. For starters let’s call our new series “The Bible from the Standpoint of Scientific and Historical Analysis.” Since the first people to write history, as far as anybody knows, were the Sumerians, we’ll start with them. It turns out that they wrote the first story of Noah and the flood—in Sumerian, of course. Not only that, it was imbedded in the first (and some will tell you the best) epic ever written, the heroic life story of Gilgamesh, who seems to have been one of the kings of the Sumerian city of Uruk, around 2700 BCE. We plan to begin our examination of these stories in their historical context in this session. David will bring some handouts, and also plans, in three or four days, to send out a few suggestions for focusing your reading, on the HAC-announce list. (If you’re not yet on the list, all you have to do is send an email addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.)

***Book discussion and potluck dinner: “Founding Faith”***

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. (The paperback edition, which has the same content, has a different subtitle.) 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

***Opportunities to Help***

Columbus House is a shelter for 100 homeless guests, both men and women. There is always a great need for new socks and underwear (mostly in size Large). Please bring your donation to any HAC event.

June Schafer is again involved in the annual cooking and delivery of 400 Thanksgiving dinners. Meals on wheels doesn’t deliver on Thanksgiving, so a small army of volunteers provides delivery as well as a meal for the homeless. Your tax-deductible check made out to “ICM” would be very helpful, or talk to June about how else you can help!

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Adult . . . . . \$35 Family . . . . . \$50 Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>
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