



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2010



CSH Affiliate

## Anniversary Meeting and Potluck Featuring Tom Flynn

**DATE: Monday, May 10**

We take great pleasure in announcing that Tom Flynn, Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism and Editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine, will be the speaker for our 21st anniversary potluck celebration.

You've seen the various religion polls and the reported percentages of unbelievers — and the polls vary widely. How do you know which polls are more reliable? Join Tom Flynn as he explores how sociologists and pollsters measure religious belief and unbelief. He'll also cover the controversies and scandals in the polling field, and what the polling data on religion really mean.

Tom Flynn is Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism and Editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine. A journalist, novelist, entertainer, and folklorist, Flynn is the author of numerous articles for *Free Inquiry*, many addressing church-state issues, as well as the best-selling "The Trouble With Christmas," about which he has made hundreds of radio and TV appearances in his role as the curmudgeonly "anti-Claus." He is also author of the critically acclaimed comedy science fiction novels, "Galactic Rapture" and "Nothing Sacred." His latest, "The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief," is a comprehensive reference work on the history, beliefs, and thinking of America's fastest growing minority: those who live without religion.

Bring a dish to share for our anniversary potluck dinner (with anniversary cake) on Monday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike, followed by Tom Flynn at 8:00 p.m.

## 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).

### MAY, 2010

Sat., 1	Humanist Conversations: Net Neutrality	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 2	Connecticut Food Bank "Walk Against Hunger," East Rock Park, New Haven. Donate or register to join us at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/2010hacwalkteam">http://tinyurl.com/2010hacwalkteam</a>	1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 10	NOTE DATE CHANGE Anniversary Meeting and Potluck  Main program: "Who Are These Doubters, Anyway? The Demography of Unbelief" - Tom Flynn, Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism and Editor of <i>Free Inquiry</i>	7:30 p.m.  8:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	David Schafer presents "The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination" (part 2)	2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 22	Book discussion: "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?" by Michael Sandel, at Marsha Zellner's home in Woodbridge.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 27	Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.

### JUNE, 2010

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 12	David Schafer presents "The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination" (part 3)	2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Sat., 19	Annual Picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 20	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 24	Hartford-Area social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.

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

## Conversations: Net Neutrality

Join us Saturday, May 1, at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will watch and discuss an article from the Friday, April 23, 2010, *Bill Moyers Journal*. "The Internet has transformed business, politics, and culture — but will a corporate agenda kill freedom of the Web? With radio and television dominated by mega-corporations, more and more Americans have turned to the Internet for news — but a recent court ruling gives Big Telecom more control over broadband. Bill Moyers talks with FCC commissioner Michael Copps to discuss the future of 'net neutrality', the fight for more democratic media and the future of journalism."

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.

***Walk Against Hunger, May 2<sup>nd</sup>***  
 Sponsor or join us in support of the Connecticut Food Bank!  
[tinyurl.com/2010hacwalkteam](http://tinyurl.com/2010hacwalkteam)

# Book Discussion: "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?"

On Saturday, May 22, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we will discuss "Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?" by Michael J. Sandel. (Note: This is not the paperback "Justice: A Reader," by the same author.)

"This book is absolutely indispensable for anyone who wants to be a good citizen. It shows how to balance competing values, a talent our nation desperately needs nowadays."—Walter Isaacson, author of *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*

"Harvard government professor Sandel dazzles in this sweeping survey of hot topics—the recent government bailouts, the draft, surrogate pregnancies, same-sex marriage, immigration reform and rep- arations for slavery[...]" —Publishers Weekly

Please bring a snack to share (no meat or seafood, please) and a folding chair.

Directions to Marsha Zellner's home, 229 Newton Road in Woodbridge. (203) 393-2816.

**From 15 heading to New Haven:** take exit 59, turn left onto 69 north for several hundred yards to Lucy Street (Golden Touch Cleaners on corner), turn left on Lucy Street, at light turn right onto Amity Road. Head north 3-4 miles. Approximately 1 mile after the 2 northbound lanes merge to one, turn left onto Rte 67 (Seymour Road). Take your first right (about ½ mile) - this is a small one-way uphill road that is at an angle. Take 1st right onto Enoch Drive. First driveway on right.

**From 8 south:** Take exit 22, turn left at end of exit onto 67. Follow 67 around right angle curve for about 3 miles. 67 will make another sharp curve to the right, where you will bear left onto Sanford Road. Follow Sanford Road to end, about 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Newton Road, which becomes 1 way in ½ mile. Turn left onto Enoch Drive. First driveway on right.

There is a pond with an island on the corner. The house is mauve, up the hill. Separate garage is brown.

## Historical Jesus?

The second monthly self-contained session of "The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination" will be held on Saturday, May 15, at 2:00 p.m. Each session includes handouts and fascinating video(s), plus presentation and discussion. This session will flesh out the state of Judaism under the Greeks and Romans during what is known to Christians as the "intertestamental period." This period, which for centuries has been widely ignored by popular Western (especially Christian) cul- ture, has in recent years become steadily and increasingly well docu- mented and interpreted. Research and scholarship in this field, not surprisingly, have had profound implications for our understanding of Jesus and his followers, with successive waves of discovery leading to an almost cyclical revival of the "search for the historical Jesus." For information call David Schafer at (203) 281-6232.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Adult . . . . . \$35  
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 Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10  
 Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.  
 In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the member- ship fee. Please mail checks for an- nual membership payable to Humanist Association of Connecti- cut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.

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