



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

June 2010



CSH Affiliate

## **Picnic June 19**

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 19th from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the lovely home of Dr. Bob and Ms. Joan Rafford at 57 Clear-view Knoll Road in Middlebury.

The Raffords will provide hot dogs (regular and vegetarian), soft drinks and beer. Bring a chair and something to share! (Don't bother with the chair if it's raining.)

*Directions Over*

## **Barbeque: 5/30 & 6/20**

Brian Ditter and Tara McLaughlin invite HAC to a barbecue and pot luck Sunday, May 30, noon to 4:00 pm at Crystal Lake Park, Middletown. We're invited to identical barbecues on these Sundays: June 20, July 4 and September 5.

Please RSVP: Brian Ditter: (860) xxx-xxxx, (860) 704-0439 or Tara McLaughlin: (860) 545-5065.

Brian and Tara will provide burgers/steaks, beverages, chips, and fixings. Please bring a dish to share. Tell the attendant you're there for the barbeque to

*Directions Over*

## **Conversations: Populism**

Join us Saturday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will watch and discuss the interview with Jim Hightower from the Friday, April 30, 2010, Bill Moyers Journal.

Some in the media have labeled the Tea Party, "populism." Jim Hightower explains why it's not. Come hear about the history of populism and why Jim Hightower wants more of it.

Refreshments will be served.

## **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).

### **JUNE, 2010**

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Populism	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: "The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination" (part 3)	2:00 to 5:00p.m.
Sun., 13	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 19	Annual Picnic at the Raffords' in Middlebury	Noon to 4:00p.m.
Sun., 20	Barbeque at Crystal Lake in Middletown	Noon to 4:00p.m.
Thu., 24	Social dinner, Michel Angelo's Pizzeria, 825 Cromwell Ave., Rocky Hill. (860) 257-3136	7:00 p.m.

### **JULY, 2010**

Sat., 3	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 4	Barbeque at Crystal Lake in Middletown	Noon to 4:00p.m.
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Equinox Diner, 285 Boston Post Rd, Orange. (203) 298-4100	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 10	Showing of PBS documentary by Ken Burns on Mark Twain	2:00 to 5:00p.m.
Sat., 17	David Schafer: "The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination" (part 4)	2:00 to 5:00p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: P.J. Deak on Abner Kneeland	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 29	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)

## **Historical Jesus?**

So far we've had two sessions of our "Historical Jesus?" series. On April 10 we watched and discussed the first hour of the PBS video "From Jesus to Christ," which seemed to present a rather accepting, conventional view of the Jesus story. On May 15, by contrast, we began to find problems with this view as we watched the second hour, which pointed out that during the 40-year "silent period" after the death of Jesus the only recorded "witness" to Jesus was Saul/Paul of Tarsus, the Jewish Roman citizen who first persecuted Jesus' followers and then preached a kind of disembodied Jesus, revealing Paul himself had never known Jesus as a living human being. We also saw another film that rejected the idea of Jesus as a real person. In our third session, from 2 to 5 p.m. on June 12, we'll examine psychological effects of the Roman destruction in 70 CE of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, and compare line for line the first Gospel of "Mark" that followed it with those of "Matthew" and "Luke" that came after it—always asking what evidence, if any, for Jesus as a historical person we can reliably derive from the available documentation. Even if you've missed the first two sessions, you'll learn a lot. Come and bring a friend!

[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**.

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

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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**

Thank you for your support, and a special thanks to Micky Koth for the great buttons!

**MEMBERSHIP**

Adult . . . . . \$35  
Family . . . . . \$50  
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10  
Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.

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.

Directions to the Raffords'

From New Haven: Take CT-8 north to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on CT-64 to the first stoplight...

From Stamford: Take US-7 north to I-84 and go east to Exit 17. At the exit turn left onto CT-63, go straight to the second stoplight, and turn left again onto CT-64...

From Hartford or Torrington: Take CT-8 or I-91 south to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on CT-64 to the first stoplight...

...From the junction of CT-64 with CT-63: Head west on CT-64 less than one mile, passing through one more stoplight. If you pass a gas station you have gone too far. On the right, look for Tzepos Law Firm sign. At that sign, turn right onto Clearview Knoll Road and drive to the top of the hill. Number 57 is the last house on the left. Park in the driveway or on the street.

If you have any trouble finding them, the Raffords' phone number is (203) 758-9798.

***“Paul Robeson: A Biography”***

Our next book discussion will be on Sunday, August 1, 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is “Paul Robeson: A Biography” by Martin Baum Duberman. Note that a paperback edition of the same book is titled “Paul Robeson: A Biography (Lives of the Left)”. Lots of copies are available in Connecticut public libraries as well as in book stores and online. Reviewers describe this book as enthralling, classic, marvelous, splendid, grand and monumental.

Directions to Crystal Lake

avoid paying the entrance fee.

From New Haven: take I-91 N to exit 15 for CT-68 toward Yalesville/Durham. In 0.3 mi turn right onto CT-68. In 0.9 mi route 68 takes a left. Follow 68 for 4.2 mi, when you will turn left onto CT-17 (Main St.) Take your 2nd right (0.5 mi.) onto Haddam Quarter Rd. In 1.7 mi. turn left at Arbutus St. In 1.4 mi. take a slight right onto Livingston Rd. The entrance to the park will be on your left in 0.6 mi.

From Hartford: Take I-91 S and take exit 22S on the left to merge onto CT-9 S toward Middletown. Take exit 11. At the end of the exit turn left onto CT-155 (Randolph Rd.) toward CT-17/Durham. In 0.7 mi. turn left at Millbrook Rd. (there's a traffic light and a fire station on your left). In 1.4 mi turn right onto Livingston Rd. and then turn right into the park.

From 84: Take I-691 E toward Meriden and continue onto CT-66 (eastbound). In 2.0 miles turn right onto CT-147 S. In 2.3 miles turn right and continue on CT-147 and CT-157. In 2.5 miles turn left onto Middlefield Rd. At the end of Middlefield Rd. turn right onto CT-17 (Main St.) and then take your first left onto Haddam Quarter Rd. In 1.7 mi. turn left at Arbutus St. In 1.4 mi. take a slight right onto Livingston Rd. The entrance to the park will be on your left in 0.6 mi.

***Lois Wolsch***

Our longtime friend and member Lois Wolsch died on April 2nd. At the May meeting, Halina Platt circulated a card which she sent to the family. Some members also attended the memorial on May 16.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO  
Where did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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