



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

JUNE 2011



CSH Affiliate

## Picnic June 11

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 11th from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the lovely home of Dr. Bob and Ms. Joan Rafford at 57 Clearview 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.)

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.

## Walk Against Hunger

This year the Connecticut Food Bank's "Walk Against Hunger" was on **Sunday, May 1**, at East Rock Park in New Haven. Our team of walkers gathered over \$450 in donations.

Thank you to everyone who walked and/or donated!

## 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

Sat., 4	Movie, "The Pledge of Allegiance Blues," followed by conversation with the filmmaker, Lisa Seidenberg.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 11	Picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 12	Social walk in Woodbridge, with optional group lunch to follow	10:30 am to 12:00 noon
Sat., 18	Humanist Conversations: Forgiveness	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 30	Social dinner at Imperial Caribbean Restaurant, 51 Shunpike Rd., Cromwell. (860) 613-0005	7:00 p.m.

### JULY

Sat., 2	Poetry pot-luck David Schafer on American Poetry	1:00 to 2:00 pm. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 4	Independence Day Cookout at Crystal Lake, 100 Livingston Road in Middletown	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 11	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 17	Book discussion: <i>God is Not One</i> by Stephen Prothero	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: P.J. Deak	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 28	Social dinner: Location TBA	7:00 p.m.

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

## Movie & Discussion with Director

On June 4, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will view the 72-minute documentary, "Pledge of Allegiance Blues," about Michael Newdow's quest to remove the words "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. Lisa Seidenberg, the director of the film, will lead a discussion following the viewing. Refreshments will be served.

## Conversations: Forgiveness

This month's Humanist Conversations will be on the third Saturday, June 18th, at the usual time, 2:30 p.m.

Generally regarded as a positive response to human wrongdoing, forgiveness is a conceptually, psychologically, and morally complex phenomenon. Forgiveness has over the past quarter century engendered the interest of scholars and practitioners in such disparate fields as psychology, law, politics, international affairs, sociology, and philosophy. To assist our discussion, we will watch a short excerpt from the PBS film *Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate*.

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

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**Newsletter**

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## Independence Day Cookout

Brian Ditter and Tara McLaughlin invite HAC to a cookout and pot luck on Independence Day, Monday, July 4, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Crystal Lake Park, Middletown.

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

If you have a little extra time to help set up that morning, please be sure to let Brian know when you call.

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Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT

## Pot Luck—Poetry and Pot Luck

Join us on July 2 at 1:00 p.m. when we will have a pot luck meal and a discussion on poetry led by David Schafer, including poetry related to Independence Day. The pot luck will be from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the discussion and poetry will run from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. We will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. For the pot luck, please bring an appetizer, main dish or salad, or a dessert.

## Woodbridge Walk

Join us on Sunday, June 12, from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon for a walk on a paved walking/jogging trail in Woodbridge followed by optional lunch. Fitzgerald Trails is located at 100 Center Road in Woodbridge, Connecticut, and there's plenty of parking at the Woodbridge Town Library at 10 Newton Road.

If you stand in front of the library with the entrance behind you, in front of you will be the main parking lot and across the street you will see a building. Walk to the street (which is Center Road) and cross the the other side of the street. Turn left and walk about 50 yards. The walking trail will be on your right. We will meet on the walking trail adjacent to Center Road. If you arrive after 10:30 a.m., just wait at this location and you will see us in a few minutes as we walk around the track. You can also try calling Manny Ratafia on his cell phone at 203-901-9553. Afterwards, some of us will go to a nearby diner or other restaurant for lunch.

The event will be canceled in the event of rain. If in doubt about the weather, contact Manny Ratafia: e-mail: [manny@ratafias.com](mailto:manny@ratafias.com), hm 203-387-7348, mobile 203-901-9553.

For more information on the trail, go to:  
[http://www.srcog.org/Trails\\_files/TrailMapWLTFFitzgerald.pdf](http://www.srcog.org/Trails_files/TrailMapWLTFFitzgerald.pdf)

## Book Group: "God is Not One" by Stephen Prothero

The next HAC book discussion will be on Sunday, July 17, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and we will meet at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is "God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World—and Why Their Differences Matter" by Stephen Prothero.

Lots of copies of the book are available in Connecticut public libraries <<http://www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia>> as well as in book stores and online. This discussion will be led by Bill McWilliams.

Stephen Prothero is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Religious Literacy* and a professor of religion at Boston University.

06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto: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.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
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.	
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