



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2011



CSH Affiliate

## Solstice Celebration!

Come to our annual Humanist celebration of the season following elections on Monday, December 19! Please bring a dish for the pot luck and an item for the Silent Auction. We will offer a varied program devised to favor every taste, including the traditional reading of Lois Woodrow's "Ode To The Tilt," then joining in a rousing Solstice song or two, followed by some special music, including a flute selection by Mickey Koth, a cello piece by Charlotte Moulyn, and a short medley from "Fiddler on the Roof" by June and David Schafer.

Join us for some merriment on Monday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden!

## 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).

### DECEMBER

Mon., 19	Pot-luck dinner	7:30 p.m.
	Annual meeting and elections, followed by Solstice Party and silent auction.	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Annual brunch at Pacific Buffet, 20 Ives Rd #301C, Wallingford CT. (203) 269-6888	12:00 noon

### JANUARY

Sat., 7	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> Would the World Be Better Off Without Religion?	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program:</b> Steve Boshi on "France"	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>Half the Sky</i> by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Hartford Area Dinner, Location TBA	7:00 p.m.

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

## We Consider Joining the Secular Coalition for Connecticut

Last year Sean Faircloth spoke to us about the Secular Coalition for America (SCA), which lobbies the US Congress on behalf of separation of church and state and works to increase public recognition and respect for citizens with a naturalistic worldview. Their efforts are essential to us as

members of the Humanist Association of Connecticut.

An SCA affiliate, to be called the Secular Coalition for Connecticut, is now being formed to focus on state and local issues. Our organization has been invited to join it and send two representatives to serve on its Board.

Two of our members, Doug Peary and Dan Blinn, have volunteered for these positions. Please consider the invitation and be prepared to vote on December 19 on the questions of membership in the Secular Coalition for Connecticut and nominees to represent us on its Board.

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

**Email List**

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

To unsubscribe, send an email to:  
[hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org)  
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**Officers**

- President June Schafer  
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- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary Richard Siddall
- Treasurer Carol Podgwaite

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- Program David Schafer
- Membership Halina Platt
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Siddall
- Publicity Dan Blinn
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# Conversations: Debating Religion

Intelligence Squared U.S. ([intelligencesquaredus.org](http://intelligencesquaredus.org)) presents Oxford-style debates. The premise of the November 15, 2011 debate was, "The World Would Be Better Off Without Religion." The four-person panel included for the motion: Matthew Chapman, A.C. Grayling and against the motion: Dinesh D'Souza and Rabbi David Wolpe. On Saturday, January 7, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will watch the opening arguments and discuss the proposition ourselves. Refreshments will be served.

## Elections

Come cast your vote Monday, December 19!

We will vote on the proposal to join the Connecticut Chapter of the Secular Coalition for America and on the slate of officers.

Remember, only members may vote, and nominations may be made from the floor.

Proposed January — December 2012 slate of officers:

- President and Secretary – June Schafer \*
- Vice President – Doug Peary
- Treasurer – Carol Podgwaite

Committee Chairs:

- Programs – David Schafer
- Membership – Halina Platt
- Development – Manny Ratafia
- Publications – Carol Siddall
- Publicity – Dan Blinn
- Hospitality – Randy Olear

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Joan Rafford, June Schafer, and Gayle Walter

\* a cadre of volunteer clerks in rotation will take the board minutes for the Secretary.

[editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org). We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic strips, news items, cartoons and other illustrations related to humanism. Please include a SASE to have material

returned. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

### 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.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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