



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

March 2012



CSH Affiliate

Freethought's Forgotten History: Tom Flynn Presents Robert Green Ingersoll and the Freethought Trail.

NOTE: Our monthly meeting will be **March 12**, the second Monday instead of our usual third Monday of the month.

Freethought lecturer Robert Green Ingersoll was America's most famed and controversial orator, yet few today recognize his name. He may be the most remarkable American most people never heard of. Ingersoll is not alone in being forgotten by history. West-Central New York (centered on the Erie Canal between Utica and Rochester) was a cauldron of social ferment, including freethought, abolition, women's rights and more.

You may recognize Tom Flynn as the Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism, editor of *Free Inquiry* magazine, a journalist, novelist, entertainer, and folklorist. Tom Flynn is also the director of the Ingersoll Birthplace Museum in Dresden, New York, in the heart of the Finger Lakes. We're very pleased that Tom will give us an illustrated lecture on the life and accomplishments of Ingersoll, and discuss highlights of the surrounding Freethought Trail. Bring a friend to this introduction to fascinating, forgotten Americana — or perhaps the plan for your next motor trip!

We'll meet Monday, **March 12**, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 7:30 p.m. for refreshments and conversation, followed by Tom's talk 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.

MARCH

Sat., 3	Humanist Conversations: The Freedom Riders.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 12	Monthly Meeting (Note the date!) Main program: The Center for Inquiry's Executive Director, Tom Flynn, "Freethought's Forgotten History: Robert Green Ingersoll and the Freethought Trail"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Thu., 22	Hartford Area Dinner at Hanfins Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

APRIL

Sun., 1	Book discussion: "God's Harvard" by Hanna Rosin.	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Anniversary Meeting Main program: Ken Feder	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Hartford Area Dinner at Hanfins Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599	7:00 p.m.

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Conversations: The Freedom Riders

One of the most influential social processes in the American twentieth century was the Civil Rights Movement. The years of the most visible struggle lie between the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. the Board of Education* that reasoned that racial separation was inherently unequal and the 1964 Civil Rights Act which provided some means for Federal enforcement of its provisions.

There were several vital campaigns which riveted and mobilized the American public; the Freedom Rides of 1961 was one. Principles of non-violence were put into play against locally organized violence and institutional collusion and indifference to a government's obligation to protect unpopular rights. And much of it was brought before the public by national media.

Conversations will watch the 2011 Program "Freedom Riders" that retells the story of the Summer of 1964 with historic film clips and contemporary interviews with participants. A thirty-second preview is available at: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2192094957>.

Join us on Saturday, March 3, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We'll get underway more expeditiously than usual because the complete program, while compelling, is nearly two hours long.

Refreshments will be served.

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UU Passover Seder Invitation

You're invited to a Unitarian version of the Jewish Passover Seder on Saturday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford turnpike in Hamden.

This is a pot luck meal, but a financial donation is acceptable in lieu of bringing a dish. Absolutely no bread, pies, cakes or anything with leavening.

Call Amy Wexler at (203) 901-0300 for more information, to make reservations, and get copies of recipes.

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Friday Night Cinema at USNH March 2 & April 6

David Schafer has put together a series of movies for discussion for USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The evening starts at 6:30 p.m. with an optional potluck dinner, followed by the film at 7:00 p.m. and then a discussion.

The **Friday, March 2** film is an hour-long documentary film, based on a year-long investigation by Frontline and the American University Investigative Reporting Workshop, called "Lost in Detention." The film is narrated by Maria Hinojosa, well-known PBS news correspondent.

The film examines the current US immigration enforcement system, and stories of hidden abuse in detention centers. It begins with a close look at the Secure Communities program, in which Immigration and Custom Enforcement records are shared with local law enforcement agencies. Although its goal has been to target criminals, thousands of non-criminal immigrants have also been deported.

The **Friday, April 6** movie will be "How Open the Door? Black Pioneers in a White Denomination." And the **Friday, May 4** movie will be Charles Ferguson's Academy Award winning "Inside Job."

Book Group: "God's Harvard"

We have selected "God's Harvard: A Christian College on a Mission to Save America" by Hanna Rosin for our next book. The discussion will be on Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m.

Since 2000, America's most ambitious young evangelicals have been making their way to Patrick Henry College, a small Christian school just outside the nation's capital. Most of them are homeschoolers whose idealism and discipline put the average American teenager to shame. This school grooms these students to be the elite of tomorrow, dispatching them to the front lines of politics, entertainment, and science, to wage the battle to take back a godless nation. Hanna Rosin spent a year and a half embedded at the college, following the students from the campus to the White House, Congress, conservative think tanks, Hollywood, and other centers of influence. Her account captures this nerve center of the evangelical movement at a moment of maximum influence and also of crisis, as it struggles to avoid the temptations of modern life and still remake the world in its own image.

Many copies are available in Connecticut libraries as well as in book stores and online. To find a library in Connecticut, visit: <http://www.iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia>

We hope to see you on Sunday, April 1 at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 3:00 p.m. for what promises to be an interesting discussion!

Refreshments will be served.

Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to 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
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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 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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