



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

June 2013



CSH Affiliate

Visit Italy With Humanists

Ready for a humanist-themed minivacation? Steve and Susan Boshi plan to carry us away on Monday, June 17 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Steve says, "In the early fourteenth century a new spring awakening began to grip Europe, predominantly in the Italian city of Florence. Building on Greek and Roman concepts nearly forgotten for a thousand years, this intellectual fervor grew to what has become known as the Renaissance.

"Join us for an evening of pictures and conversation of our fall trip to see the highlights of Bella Italia and a magnificent coda in the Swiss Alps."

We will begin with our customary half-hour of refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. followed by this special European escape at 8:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Bring a friend!

Picnic June 1

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 1st 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 to sit outside and something to share! (Don't bother with the chair if it's raining; we'll be inside.)

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

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

JUNE

Sat., 1	Annual Picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 8	Humanist Conversations: "The Soloist"	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: Steve & Susan Boshi "A Humanist Trip to Italy"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 29	Book Discussion: "The Believing Brain" by Michael Shermer.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 30	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

JULY

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting Main program: Dr. Gregory Shenk	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 27	Book Discussion: TBA	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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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.

Conversations - The Soloist

Conversations is meeting a week later than usual! On Saturday, June 8, we'll watch and discuss the 2009 film, "The Soloist," featuring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

USNH Cinema

The Friday, June 7th USNH Cinema will be the 2006 feature film, "Canvas," which, according to critics, is a "faithful portrayal of mental illness highlighted by terrific performances." A potluck diner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by a discussion.

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Email List

To join, send an email to:
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Publicity	Dan Blinn
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Newsletter

Editor	Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546 editor@cthumanist.org
Production:	Richard Siddall (203) 264-2182 webmaster@cthumanist.org

Thank You for Supporting the 2013 Walk Against Hunger

We would like to thank to everyone who participated in or donated to support our team in the Connecticut Food Bank's 2013 Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger. We had six walkers in the event on Sunday, May 5, and the Humanist Association of Connecticut team managed to raise over \$700!

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Hartford Area Humanists

The Hartford Area Humanists monthly dinner speaker series continues on Tuesday, July 9, when Dr. David Schafer will discuss the making of "Humanism and Its Aspirations: Manifesto III." The group meets in the back room of the Wood-N-Tap Restaurant at 12 Town Line Road in Rocky Hill at 6:30 p.m. You can keep up with new events at <http://www.meetup.com/Hartford-Humanists/>.

The Book Discussion Group: "The Believing Brain"

The Book Group will be meeting on Saturday, June 29 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss "The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies—How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths" by Michael Shermer.

Synthesizing thirty years of research, psychologist and science historian Michael Shermer upends the traditional thinking about how humans form beliefs about the world. Simply put, beliefs come first and explanations for beliefs follow. The brain, Shermer argues, is a belief engine. Using sensory data that flow in through the senses, the brain naturally begins to look for and find patterns, and then infuses those patterns with meaning, forming beliefs. Once beliefs are formed the brain begins to look for and find confirmatory evidence in support of those beliefs, accelerating the process of reinforcing them, and round and round the process goes in a positive-feedback loop. In "The Believing Brain" Shermer provides countless real-world examples of how this process operates, from politics, economics, and religion to conspiracy theories, the supernatural, and the paranormal. Ultimately, he demonstrates why science is the best tool ever devised to determine whether or not our beliefs match reality.

Copies are available in public libraries, in book stores and online.

Camp Quest New England!

Camp Quest is a residential summer camp for children of free-thinking parents and is dedicated to improving the human condition through rational inquiry, critical and creative thinking, scientific method, self-respect, ethics, competency, self development and personal growth.

Camp Quest New England will be hosting its first full week long summer camp in the summer of 2014! If you're interested in attending, volunteering or donating, please consider attending the picnic starting at 10:30 a.m. on the 10th of August, 2013, at Harkness Memorial Park in Waterford. To RSVP please visit:

http://www.campquestnewengland.org/enews/CQNE_Picnic.html

CQNE is seeking a lifeguard for camp in 2014. Please visit <http://www.campquestnewengland.org> for contact information.

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 humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry, news items, cartoons, and illustrations.

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.	
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I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO	
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