



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2013



CSH Affiliate

## *A Scientist's Quest To Understand Metastatic Cancer*

Our September monthly meeting, on Monday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, features a return visit from USNH member and Yale cancer researcher Dr. John Pawelek.

John says of his talk "Twenty years ago, on a rainy Saturday morning in February, I was in my office perusing cancer journals—a survival exercise shared by colleagues around the world in our collective need to keep abreast of 'the literature.' I came upon a letter-to-the-editor from three Czechoslovakian scientists with the surprising question as to whether metastasis occurs when cancer cells fuse with white blood cells. From that point on I have devoted my career to this question. This summer I, along with co-authors from Yale, the University of Colorado, and the Denver Police Crime Lab, detailed the first proof that this was indeed the mechanism of metastasis in at least one human being and probably many more. In this presentation I will give a personal account of this unexpected journey and the potential impact of our discovery on cancer therapies of the future."

John Pawelek, PhD is a long-time member of the research faculty in the Department of Dermatology and the Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine. His research interests focus on cancer cell fusion with migratory white blood cells as a mechanism of metastasis. He has authored nearly 200 peer-reviewed papers in the areas of skin pigmentation and melanoma and

## *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).

### SEPTEMBER

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: The surprising story of the song "Strange Fruit"	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 Main program: John Pawelek "A Scientist's Quest To Understand Metastatic Cancer"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 28	Book Discussion: "Why I Am Not a Christian" by Bertrand Russell	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 29	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
TBA	Monthly Meeting Main program: TBA	TBA
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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

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is past president of the Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research. He has published seminal works on melanocortin-1 receptors, melanocortin action and UV light, and the enzymology of melanogenesis—including discovery of the melanogenesis enzyme dopachrome tautomerase. He has won several awards for this work, including the PASPCR Career Achievement Award, the IFPCS inaugural award of the Henry Stanley Raper Medal, and the Japanese Society for Pigment

Cell Research award of the Takeuchi Medal. He was honored in June, 2010 when the inaugural "John M. Pawelek Lecture" was presented at the 4th Meeting of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research, Guanzhou, China. He frequently lectures at scientific conferences in the US and abroad.

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

## *Conversations — Strange Fruit*

In September, our Conversations session will be back to its normal time slot on the first Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 7 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will show a PBS video on "Strange Fruit," the lynching-protest song made internationally famous by Billie Holiday, and the surprising story of the writer.

Refreshments will be served.

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**Book Group: “Why I Am Not a Christian” by Bertrand Russell**

Our Book Discussion Group will meet to discuss “Why I Am Not a Christian and Other Essays on Religion and Related Subjects” by Bertrand Russell, on Saturday, September 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Dedicated as few men have been to the life of reason, Bertrand Russell has always been concerned with the basic questions to which religion also addresses itself — questions about man’s place in the universe and the nature of the good life, questions that involve life after death, morality, freedom, education, and sexual ethics. He brings to his treatment of these questions the same courage, scrupulous logic, and lofty wisdom for which his other work as philosopher, writer, and teacher has been famous. These qualities make the essays included in this book perhaps the most graceful and moving presentation of the freethinker’s position since the days of Hume and Voltaire. “I am as firmly convinced that religions do harm as I am that they are untrue,” Russell declares in his Preface, and his reasoned opposition to any system or dogma which he feels may shackle man’s mind runs through all the essays in this book, whether they were written as early as 1899 or as late as 1954.

This book is widely available in public libraries, as well as in book stores and online. Refreshments will be served.

**SANE Conference — October 19**

The inaugural Secular Assembly for the North East (SANE) conference will be held Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the University of

New Haven. Admission to the conference is \$35 and covers all of the day’s speaker sessions, coffee/tea, and lunch (including vegan options). Speakers include Jessica Ahlquist, David Niose, Liz Heywood, Dennis Paul Himes, Sikivu Hutchinson, Barry Kosmin, and David Silverman. The Humanist Association of CT is a major sponsor of this event, and we hope you will attend. It will be a great opportunity to meet local, state, and national secular leaders and to further build our secular community. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.saneonline.org/> Space is limited; please register soon!

**USNH Cinema: The March on Washington**

Friday, September 6, in the Social Hall, the season’s first USNH Cinema and potluck dinner will take place. The dinner, which is optional, will start at 6:30 p.m., and the screening will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. If you can, please bring school supplies (paper, spiral notebooks, pencils, markers, etc.) for Waverly schoolchildren. The program is open to everyone, so bring a friend. This month David & June Schafer will show a moving White House presentation of a program of freedom songs to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the March on Washington. The room will rock as legends like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez sing old favorites, and President Obama and his family listen and sing along appreciatively. Stick around for a vigorous discussion of the significance of what the March on Washington did and did not achieve. If you were present at the original March, or even if you weren’t, you’ll love this!

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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](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org). We welcome humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry, news items, cartoons, and illustrations.

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<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____                  Address: _____                  _____                  Telephone: _____                  E-Mail Address: _____                  Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO                  I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO                  Where did you hear about us? _____                  Comments: _____</p>
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