



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

June 2014

Is it Time to Rein in the Surveillance State?

Please join us on June 16 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Our monthly meeting will feature a return visit by Andrew Schneider, Executive Director of both the ACLU of Connecticut and the ACLU Foundation of Connecticut

The National Security Agency's mass surveillance of American citizens has greatly expanded in the years since September 11, 2001. Recent disclosures have shown the government is regularly tracking all of the calls of almost every ordinary American and spying on a vast but unknown number of Americans' international calls, text messages, and emails.

In Connecticut, our privacy is being threatened by law enforcement's use of technologies such as automated license plate readers, cell phone tracking and the proposed use of drones for surveillance. Are these technologies appropriate and if yes, how do we balance our right to privacy?

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. Andrew's talk will follow brief announcements 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.

JUNE 2014

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: Thomas Piketty, his research in his own words.	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Andrew Schneider of ACLU/CT, "Is it Time to Rein in the Surveillance State?"	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

JULY 2014

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
Sat., 12	Book Discussion: "The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark" by Carl Sagan	2:00 p.m
Mon., 14	Monthly Meeting Main program: Dan Blinn, a humanist in Israel	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 20	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

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Humanist Conversations

Are wealth inequalities returning to pre-World War One levels? French economist Thomas Piketty has pulled together extraordinarily diverse data sets to conclude that they are, and that we're headed back to an era of family dynasties controlling the majority of global wealth. Join us on Saturday, June 7, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike when we'll watch a video in which Piketty makes his case and open the floor for lively discussion. Refreshments will be served.

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USNH Cinema, Friday June 6

This month's Humanist Cinema will be held Friday, June 6, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. This month's film will be *Inequality For All*, a passionate argument on behalf of the middle class, featuring Robert Reich demonstrating how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy.

The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by the movie promptly at 7:00 p.m. Discussion follows.

The Demon-Haunted World

The Book Discussion Group will next read and discuss "The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark" by Carl Sagan. The discussion will be held on Saturday, July 12 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

How can we make intelligent decisions about our increasingly technology-driven lives if we don't understand the difference between the myths of pseudoscience and the testable hypotheses of science? In one of his last and most celebrated books, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and distinguished astronomer Carl Sagan argues that scientific thinking is critical not only to the pursuit of truth but to the very well-being of our democratic institutions. Casting a wide net through history and culture, Sagan examines and authoritatively debunks such celebrated fallacies of the past as witchcraft, faith healing, demons, and UFOs. And yet, disturbingly, in today's so-called information age, pseudoscience is burgeoning with stories of alien abduction, channeling past lives, and communal hallucinations commanding growing attention and respect. As Sagan demonstrates with lucid eloquence, the siren song of unreason is not just a cultural wrong turn but a dangerous plunge into darkness that threatens our most basic freedoms. The book is available in many public libraries. Refreshments will be served.

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">MEMBERSHIP</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): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>
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