



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

July 2015



CSH Affiliate

John Dietrich, Humanist Hero

Doug Peary returns as the featured speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, July 20, with the latest in his popular series of Humanist Hero talks. This time, the subject is John Dietrich. Doug is a former president, vice-president, and treasurer of the Humanist Association of Connecticut and author of two "Humanist Heroes" books. As usual, the meeting will be held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 7:30 p.m.

John Dietrich was born in 1878 and raised in the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania. In 1905 he became a Reformed Minister and served until defrocked in 1911. He became the Unitarian pastor of the First Unitarian Society of Spokane, taking its membership from 60 to 1500.

He moved to the First Unitarian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota in late 1916. The membership was in decline and Dietrich increased it to over 1000, with over 2000 attending services at times. His services reached far more people over the radio. He met Curtis Reese in 1917 and the two of them made religious humanism popular all over the country. He became known as "the Father of Humanism."

Calendar of Events

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

JULY 2015

Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:30 p.m
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting Main program: Doug Peary — John Dietrich, Humanist Hero	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sat., 25	Book Discussion: "36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction" by Rebecca Newberger Goldstein	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m

AUGUST 2015

Sat., 1	Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: David Schafer on Global Warming	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sat., 22	Book Discussion: "Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty" by John M. Barry	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

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In the late 1920's a group of religious humanists worked to produce a naturalistic, religious, Humanist Manifesto, which was published in 1933.

Hundreds of his sermons were published over the years in what was called the "Humanist Pulpit."

He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by the Unitarian Meadville Lombard Seminary. In 1936 Raymond Bragg was hired to be the humanist minister in Minneapolis, and

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- President Carol Siddall
(203) 264-8546
president@cthumanist.org
- Vice-President June Schafer
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Committee Chairs

- Program David Schafer
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- Publications Richard Siddall
- Publicity Deidre Kennedy
- Hospitality Randy Olear

Newsletter

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

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John Dietrich, Continued

Dietrich became senior minister until he retired in 1938.

In 1941 the Dietrich family moved to Berkeley, California, where he remained active until his death from cancer at age 80 in July, 1957.

His widow, Margaret, wrote his biography, "The Circle of Earth, The Story of John H. Dietrich."

We will start our meeting with 30 minutes of coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. Doug's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m.

Book Discussion: "36 Arguments for the Existence of God: a Work of Fiction" by Rebecca Newberger Goldstein

Our book for July is "36 Arguments for the Existence of God: a Work of Fiction" by award-winning philosopher and freethinker Rebecca Newberger Goldstein. The discussion will take place Saturday, July 25, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

From the jacket:

"Hilarious, heartbreaking, and intellectually captivating, '36 Arguments' explores the rapture and torments of religious experience in all its variety."

"'36 Arguments' proves that you can be both smart and funny, that Albert Einstein and Albert Brooks have more in common than their first names...The payoff is sublime." - Chicago Tribune

The book is readily available in numerous libraries around the state. 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 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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