THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

AHA Chapter

September 2015

UU Humanists Local Group

Cancer, Croatia, and Italy

John Pawelek will return as the featured speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, September 21, with a talk about his lectures this summer at The Fritz Bender Foundation Cancer Research Meetings in Croatia and Italy. The meeting will be held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 7:30 p.m.

John is a long-time member of USNH and a research faculty member in the Yale School of Medicine, specializing in the cancer melanoma. He will describe his most recent findings on how melanoma cells metastasize. He will also give a brief chronicle of the beautiful spots in Croatia and Italy he and his wife Linda visited during the trip.

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, September 21. As usual, the evening will start with coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. John's presentation 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.

SEPTEMBER 2015		
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Thu., 17	Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony 2015 live simulcast	5:45 p.m.
Sat., 19	Book Discussion: "Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel" by Max Blumenthal	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m
	Main program: John Pawelek	8:00 p.m
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

OCTOBER 2015		
Sat., 3	Conversations: Program TBA, to be held at the Wilson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, 303 Washington Ave., New Haven.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sun., 11	Monthly Meeting	3:00 p.m
	Main program: Chris Stedman — *Can You Really Love Your Enemies?*	3:30 p.m
Sat., 17	Book Discussion: "It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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Humanist Conversations

The September Humanist Conversations meeting would have fallen on the Labor Day weekend, so we decided to take a break. Humanist Conversations resumes at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, at the Wilson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, at 303 Washington Avenue, New Haven.

USNH Cinema: Selma

On Saturday, September 12, the USNH social cinema at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden will resume after its summer break. The optional potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. will be followed by a special free screening of the Hollywood film, *Selma*, at 6:45 p.m. Dr. John Pawelek, who participated in the March in 1965, will give an introduction to the movie!

This film chronicles the period in 1965 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement.

Ig Nobel Awards Live Stream

Join us in the library at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 17. We will have pizza and live-stream the 2015 Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony, direct from the Sanders Theater at Harvard University. Sponsored by the *Annals of Improbable Research*, the Ig Nobel prizes celebrate science that first makes you laugh, and then makes you think. The ceremony starts at 6:00 p.m. and should be finished shortly after 8:00 p.m. We expect the ceremony to follow their time-honored formula, including some topical opera, paper planes, real Nobel laureates on stage, and Miss Sweetie-Poo to interrupt awardees who take more than their allotted time.

Email List

To join, send an email to: hac-anounce-request@cthumanist.org with the subject subscribe.

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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.

Book Discussion: Goliath: "Life and Loathing in Greater Israel" by Max Blumenthal

Our book for September is "Goliath: Life and Loathing in Greater Israel" by award-winning journalist Max Blumenthal (author also of "Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party on the Tea Party").

From the front flap:

"In Goliath, New York Times bestselling author Max Blumenthal takes us on a journey through the badlands and high roads of Israel-Palestine, painting a startling portrait of Israeli society under the siege of increasingly authoritarian politics as the occupation of the Palestinians deepens...

"As Blumenthal reveals, Israel has become a country where right-wing leaders like Avigdor Lieberman and Bibi Netanyahu are sacrificing democracy on the altar of their power politics; where the loyal opposition largely and passively stands aside and watches the organized assault on civil liberties; where state-funded Orthodox rabbis publish books that provide instructions on how and when to kill Gentiles; where half of Jewish youth declare their refusal to sit in a classroom with an Arab; and where mob violence targets Palestinians and African asylum seekers scapegoated by leading government officials as 'demographic threats.'"

Given the nature of the material, the book has engendered controversy. If you Google "atlantic afraid free speech," you will find a link to a December, 2013, *Atlantic* article: "Afraid of Free Speech, on Many Fronts: PEN, Google, China, *Goliath*" by James Fallows. This article discusses the debate, the purpose of the book, and includes links to other notable reviews of the book, including "The 'I Hate Israel' Handbook" by Eric Alterman in *The Nation*.

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

We're Invited

HAC member P. J. Deak alerted us to two programs at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, that may be of interest to HAC members, in addition to the showing of "Selma" on Saturday, September 12.

The first is on Sunday, September 20 at 1:00 p.m. Gwen Heuss-Severance will provide an introduction and background information for the discussion to follow of the January 30, 2015 *Wall Street Journal* article, "The Return of Anti-Semitism," by Jonathan Sack.

On Friday, September 18, at 7:00 p.m., Nancy Ellen Abrams will give a presentation and lead a discussion about her book, "A God That Could Be Real." Abrams dismantles several common assumptions and shows why an omniscient, omnipotent God that created the universe and plans what happens is incompatible with science—but that this doesn't preclude a God that can comfort and empower us. Presented by Beacon Press; the Yale Initiative in Religion, Science & Technology; and USNH.

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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