



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

January 2016

UU Humanists Local Group

Touring Russia with the Boshis

Note: We will be starting our monthly meetings half an hour earlier than has been our traditional time. We will start with coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. followed by our main monthly presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Join us on Monday, January 18, in the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) Social Hall and escape to St. Petersburg with our humanist tour guides, Steve and Susan Boshi.

Steve says, "St. Petersburg is the capital of Imperial Russia; the Land of the Firebird; home to the literature of Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy, the music of Tchaikovsky and Glazunov, the great decorative art of Faberge, the fine art of the Hermitage, and Orthodox Cathedrals dripping with artwork that will make you feel like you are in heaven (if only there was one). Join us for a vicarious journey to this magical place. A few surprises along the way will add further spice to this sensuous evening."

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at the new time of 7:00 p.m. The main presentation will follow brief announcements at 7:30 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.

JANUARY 2016

Sat., 2	Conversations: Documentary: Dr. Lise Meitner	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: Steve & Susan Boshi in Russia	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2016

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Conversations: Program TBA.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting Main program: TBA	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sat., 20	Book Discussion: <i>My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel</i> by Ari Shavit	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist

www.facebook.com/cthumanist

www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Speaker Fund Challenge

Rebecca Williams has offered to match up to \$250 of total donations to the speaker fund between now and the March 21 monthly meeting. To take advantage of this challenge, please drop your donation in the box marked Speaker Fund at a monthly meeting, give your donation to any board member, or mail your donation to the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517.

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CARE Conference: April 2

In October, 2013, members of Connecticut's secular community held the SANE conference (Secular Assembly for the Northeast) at the University of New Haven. It's time to do it again.

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, the full-day 2016 CARE conference (Connecticut Assembly for Reason and Ethics) will be held at the Mark Twain House and Museum, 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford. The packed day will include some nationally-known speakers, a chance to visit the Twain House itself, and an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. Ticket prices, times, and the speaker list will be announced in January. Register at <http://conference.ctcor.org/> to receive updates to the plan!

Yale Humanist Community January Events

The Sunday, January 3, Humanist Haven "Fail Hard and Often," has been canceled, as speaker Adam Garner was unexpectedly called away for a family function.

At the Sunday, January 17, Yale Humanist Community board member Vlad Chituc will ask, "Is Humanism Only for Humans?"

How should Humanists treat animals? Vlad will argue that the ethical commitments many of us share are inconsistent with supporting animal agriculture and that even small, sometimes counterintuitive changes to our diet can create a measurable and meaningful impact to prevent animal suffering and environmental damage.

Vlad Chituc is a freelance writer and research associate at Duke University. His writing on atheism, veganism, and the social sciences have been published in *The Daily Beast*, *Time*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Religion Dispatches*. He graduated with a B.S. in psychology from Yale University in 2012.

Salam Neighbor - Social Cinema Special Event

This is a special USNH event in support of IRIS and Syrian refugee resettlement in New Haven.

To better understand refugee life, filmmakers Zach Ingrasci and Chris Temple spent one month living alongside displaced families in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp. "As the first filmmakers ever allowed by the United Nations to register inside a refugee camp, we are able to share a personal view on the world's most pressing crisis. We uncovered overwhelming trauma, but also the untapped potential our uprooted neighbors possess." The movie, *Salam Neighbor*, will be shown at 7:15 p.m. in the social hall at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Saturday, January 16. It will be preceded by an optional potluck which starts at 6:30 p.m., and followed by a discussion.

For more information please call 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

Reason Rally 2016

The original reason rally was one of the major secular events of 2012. The second reason rally will be held at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, from Thursday, June 2, to Sunday, June 5. The main event will be held on Saturday, June 4.

One of the rally's sponsors is the Secular Coalition for America, which will hold its annual Lobby Day training on Thursday, June 2, 2016. Lobby Day participants will have a chance to meet their congressional representatives on Friday, June 3.

For more information, and to book tickets for the rally, see <http://reasonrally.org/>.

Some members of member organizations of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason have discussed car pooling and bus transportation and discovered that Rally Bus has a site for people to sign up for a ride to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, at: <http://rallybus.net/reason-rally>. The bus will leave around 1:30 am the morning of June 4 from One Union Place in Hartford and is expected to be back in Hartford around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 5. They need at least 40 people to sign up to actually run the bus, and the price will be around \$90.

Humanist Conversations: Dr. Lise Meitner

Join us on Saturday, January 2, 2015 in the library at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, when Steve Boshi will introduce us to a brilliant scientist you've probably never heard of.

Steve says, "The year is 1938, and the discovery that the atom can be split is close to hand. The research is conducted by one the world's leading nuclear physicists. She is never acknowledged for her brilliant work during her lifetime, or thereafter, as a consequence of racism, bigotry, sexism, and misogyny. Join us to learn about and understand the story of Dr. Lise Meitner."

The documentary is about an hour long and refreshments will be served.

2015 Annual Meeting

On Monday, December 21 we voted in officers and committee chairs for the period of January through December 2016 as follows — President: Carol Siddall, Vice President: June Schafer, Treasurer: Carol Podgwaite, Secretary: Richard Siddall. Committee Chairs — Programs: David Schafer, Development: Rebecca Williams, Membership: Lisa Candido, Publications: Richard Siddall, Hospitality: Randy Olear, Publicity: Rebecca Williams.

New member Lisa Candido replaces Halina Platt as membership committee chairperson. Halina did a great job in that role for six years and will be missed.

We decided to try starting our monthly meetings a half-hour earlier than we traditionally have, so we will begin meeting for coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. and starting our program at 7:30 p.m. beginning in January.

We're also going to try splitting our collection with a charity. Half of the December collection will be donated to Integrated Refugee Immigration Services (IRIS) for the Syrian refugees coming to the New Haven area.

Rebecca Williams announced a challenge to raise money for our speaker fund. She will match the first \$250 we raise between now and the March monthly meeting.

Doug Peary announced that he will be publishing some of John Dietrich's sermons this summer. Dietrich was the subject of Doug's most recent "Humanist Hero" presentation.

Book Discussion: Their Eyes Were Watching God

Our book for January is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by African-American writer Zora Neale Hurston. The discussion will take place Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Wikipedia:

This 1937 novel is [Ms. Hurston's] best known work. The novel narrates main character Janie Crawford's "ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny." Set in central and southern Florida in the early 20th century, the novel was initially poorly received for its rejection of racial uplift literary prescriptions. Today, it has come to be regarded as a seminal work in both African-American and women's literature. *TIME* included the novel in its 2005 list of the 100 best English-language novels published since 1923.

"A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don't know how to live properly."

—Zadie Smith, novelist

Supplementary reading for the discussion is the chapter "Religion" from Hurston's autobiography *Dust Tracks on a Road*.

As we are in winter, the snow date for this discussion is Saturday, January 23. Watch for announcements if there is inclement weather on or near the discussion date.

Both books are readily available in numerous libraries around the state.

Refreshments will be served.

Email List

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

To unsubscribe, send an email to:
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USNH Social Cinema

On the second Friday of January, January 8, USNH social cinema at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden will present the film, *The Soloist*. The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the film at 7:15 p.m.

Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx star in an extraordinary and inspiring true story of how a chance meeting can change a life. *The Soloist* tells the poignant and ultimately soaring tale of a Los Angeles newspaper reporter who encounters a brilliant and distracted street musician, with unsinkable passion, and the unique friendship and bond that transforms both their lives. The remarkable performances make for an unforgettable experience in what is hailed as “a courageous and uncompromising film” (Gene Shalit, *TODAY*).

For more information call 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

Warhol & Mapplethorpe Exhibit

Rebecca Williams is organizing a trip to see the exhibit, *Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls*, at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford on Saturday, January 23, 2015. If enough people sign up, the cost will be \$9/person. The group will meet in the café at the Atheneum at noon. Sign up on the Hartford Area Humanists meetup site, or email Rebecca at development@cthumanist.org.

“Focusing on New York in the 1970s and early 80s, *Warhol & Mapplethorpe: Guise & Dolls* will explore the vibrant and tumultuous era of change through the work of Andy Warhol and Robert Mapplethorpe, both of whom created significant bodies of work in self-portraiture, in which particular disguises, characters and ambiguous personalities are evoked.”

There’s no snow date as the exhibit ends its run the following day.

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