



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

December 2016

UU Humanists Local Group

## Solstice Party

Join us on Monday, December 19, as we once more celebrate the winter solstice in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven. First we'll enjoy a delicious pot luck dinner at 7:00 p.m., with accompaniment by Mickey's (Mickey Koth's) Merry Melodious Musicians and their peppy tunes. Next we'll have a short business meeting and elect officers for 2017. Merry-making will resume with our annual reading of the traditional solstice poem, "The Tilt," by our late dear member Lois Woodrow, followed by folk songs, songs for fun, and a raffle for all — half of which one of us will win, and the other half of which will go to the group's treasury. (Tickets are \$1 each, \$5 for seven or \$10 for fifteen.) So let's all come and celebrate the joys of solstice together with our Humanist friends!

## Thanksgiving For All

This year Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (IVCG) organized a record 1222 delivered to elderly and disabled shut-ins in Greater New Haven. Of these 800 were prepared and delivered from the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK). Again you helped with your gifts, which were greatly appreciated by the needy. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

(You can still donate, just make the check out to IVCG and give it to June. -ed)

## Humanist Explorations: Out of my Dreams

As we begin a new year, albeit somewhat inauspiciously, we can celebrate the life and work of one of the true unsung (pardon the unintentional pun) humanists of the twentieth century, Oscar Hammerstein II. In his writing and the lyrics for a thousand songs, he touched upon the human condition in ways rarely exceeded for the sensitivity contained therein. Join us for this informative and uplifting look at one of the true optimists in all of history.

We will start the video at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

## 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).

### DECEMBER 2016

Sat., 3	Explorations: <i>L'Elegance</i> by Rumer Godden	2:30 p.m
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 17	Book Discussion: <i>The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought</i> by Susan Jacoby	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 19	Annual Meeting & Elections Winter Solstice Party	7:00 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 25	Annual brunch at Pacific Buffet, 20 Ives Rd #301C, Wallingford. (203) 269-6888	12:00 noon

### JANUARY 2017

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Explorations: <i>Out of my Dreams</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Steve & Susan Boshi: Travels in Europe	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>TBA</i>	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

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

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist)

[www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist)

[www.twitter.com/cthumanist](http://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

## Dine With Humanists!

Want to do something humanist on December 25? Join us for brunch at noon at Pacific Buffet & Grill, located at 20 Ives Road in Wallingford.

Not available that day? Why not join us at one of our social dinners? On Monday, January 2 we'll be dining at the Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Avenue in West Haven at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

## Membership Renewals

The HAC membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Any board member will gratefully accept your renewal!

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

[www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist) • [www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist) • [www.twitter.com/cthumanist](http://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

**Email List**

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

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

**Officers**

President Carol Siddall  
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president@cthumanist.org  
Vice-President June Schafer  
Secretary Richard Siddall  
Treasurer Carol Podgwaite

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Membership Lisa Candido  
Development Rebecca Williams  
Publications Richard Siddall  
Publicity Rebecca Williams  
Hospitality Randy Olear

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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: “The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought”

Our book for December is “The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought” by Susan Jacoby.

A biography that restores America’s foremost nineteenth-century champion of reason and secularism to our still contested twenty-first-century public square.

“Jacoby succeeds in capturing Ingersoll’s remarkable appeal across sectarian and political boundaries. His warmth, humor, tolerance, and rhetorical skill are vividly conveyed, and they are validated by much contemporaneous testimony from figures who would ordinarily have been expected to shun an infamous blasphemer.” – Frederick Crews, University of California, Berkeley

“Jacoby’s goal of elucidating the life and work of Robert Ingersoll is admirably accomplished. She offers a host of well-chosen quotations from his work, and she deftly displays the effect he had on others. For instance: after a young Eugene V. Debs heard Ingersoll talk, Debs accompanied him to the train station and then – just so he could continue the conversation – bought himself a ticket and rode all the way from Terre Haute to Cincinnati. Readers today may well find Ingersoll’s company equally entrancing.” – Jennifer Michael Hecht, *New York Times Book Review*

Supplementary Reading: To complement our October book, Paine’s “The Age of Reason,” please read Ingersoll’s wonderful essay *Thomas Paine* - [http://infidels.org/library/historical/robert\\_ingersoll/on\\_thomas\\_paine.html](http://infidels.org/library/historical/robert_ingersoll/on_thomas_paine.html)

Refreshments will be served.

## USNH Social Cinema: “13th”

The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by Ava Duvernay’s documentary *13th* at 7:15 p.m. in the USNH Social Hall at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Saturday, Dec. 17.

“A powerful look at how the modern-day prison labor system links to slavery. The film offers a timely and emotional message...” — *The Washington Post*

For more information contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

## Slate of Candidates for Officers and Committees 2017

**Officers**  
President — Richard Siddall  
Vice President — June Schafer  
Secretary — Carol Siddall  
Treasurer — Rebecca Williams

**Committee Chairs**  
Membership — Frank Avitable  
Hospitality — Randy Olear  
Program — David Schafer  
Development — Carol Siddall  
Publicity — Lisa Candido  
Publications — Richard Siddall

**Nominating Committee**  
Joan Rafford  
June Schafer  
Gayle Walter

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
! Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
! Family . . . . . \$50	_____
! Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
! Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	E-Mail Address: _____
! In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to	Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
! Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
	Where did you hear about us? _____
	Comments: _____