



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



AHA Chapter

January 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

## A Journey in Spain

Join us on Monday, January 16, in the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) Social Hall and escape to Spain with our humanist tour guides, Steve and Susan Boshi.

Steve says, "In 711 AD, North African Muslims, or Moors, stormed across the Mediterranean into Gibraltar, and began the domination of the Iberian Peninsula. By 1492, the reconquista had pushed them from Spain, leaving behind Catholic rule, strongly influenced by Muslim culture. Join us for an armchair voyage to this fascinating place where we will explore some of the most important destinations in Spain, including Barcelona, Toledo, Cordoba, and Granada with its magnificent Alhambra."

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 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](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### 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 - snowed out</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Steve & Susan Boshi: A Journey in Spain	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought</i> by Susan Jacoby	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 29	Board meeting (rescheduled from January 22)	2:00 p.m

### FEBRUARY 2017

Sat., 4	Explorations: <i>Out of my Dreams</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: <i>The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart</i> by Bill Bishop	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting Main program: Darwin's Ecological Experiment	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

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

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## Yale Art Gallery Tour

Hartford Area Humanists will be holding a guided tour of the Yale Art Gallery at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 15. The event listing on the HAH meetup site says, "We will take a one hour tour of the museum's general collection followed by a short walk to Panera Bread for coffee and conversation. The museum is free and coffee will be separate checks. Those wanting to car-pool, please call Rebecca at (203) 900-4221." Street parking is free in New Haven on Sundays, and there is a garage conveniently located nearby at 150 York Street.

## Humanist Explorations: *Out of my Dreams (rescheduled)*

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, February 4, 2017 at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

## Save the Date!

After the 2016 Presidential Election, many people are looking to become more active politically.

Organized by the Connecticut chapter of the Secular Coalition for America (SCA), Connecticut's first Secular Advocacy Day will be held on Monday, March 13 at the State Capitol in Hartford. You can register now at <http://ct.secular.org/> It will feature a briefing by Amanda Knief of American Atheists. This is your chance to let your legislators know that they have secular constituents, and what our issues are.

SCA has held successful advocacy days in California for years. Don't miss the first one in Connecticut. Please plan to attend!

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

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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.

## Membership Renewals

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

## Book Discussion: "The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought"

Our book for January is "The Great Agnostic: Robert Ingersoll and American Freethought" by Susan Jacoby. This was to have been our selection for December, but we had to cancel that discussion due to snow. "The Great Agnostic" is 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

The discussion will be held in the library at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 21.

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)

In February we will be discussing a book mentioned by Bill Clinton during his appearance at the Connecticut Forum: "The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America is Tearing Us Apart" by journalist Bill Bishop. The February discussion will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 18.

## USNH Social Cinema: The True Cost

The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the documentary *The True Cost* at 7:15 p.m. in the USNH Social Hall at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Saturday, January 28.

This is a story about the clothes we wear, the people who make them and the impact it's having on our world. *The True Cost* invites us on an eye-opening journey into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.

For more information contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email [office@usnh.org](mailto:office@usnh.org)

## New Officers and Committee Chairs for 2017

Thanks to everyone who voted at the Annual Meeting in December. Our new team of officers and committee chairs are listed above. We'd like to thank Carol Podgwaite for six years of service as Treasurer, and welcome Frank Avitable to the board as our new Membership Committee chairperson.

<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: _____