THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

AHA Chapter March 2017 UU Humanists Local Group

Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower

Join us on Monday, March 20, in the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) Social Hall when Tom Krattenmaker will explain his view that secular society can benefit from the Jesus story.

Can nonreligious people follow Jesus? And if so, why would they want to? Emphatically yes, says Tom Krattenmaker — because it will deepen their lives and help create a more humane world. Krattenmaker, religion-in-public-life columnist and author of the book, "Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower," will discuss his provocative claim and show how the figure of Jesus, engaged in a secular way, is powerfully applicable to contemporary life, and how his ethic and example can transform much of what ails us both as individuals and a society.

Award-winning author and *USA Today* contributing columnist specializing in religion in public life, Tom Krattenmaker is communications director at Yale Divinity School. His books and articles have been honored by the American Academy of Religion, Religion Newswriters Association, Foreword Reviews, and others. Krattenmaker has spoken at numerous conferences and colleges around the country and has appeared in media outlets including PBS, Fox News, National Public Radio, ESPN, and *The New York Times*.

Our book discussion in May will feature Tom's book.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. The main program will follow some 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.

MARCH 2017		
Sat., 4	**Explorations:** The Great Cathedral Mystery	**2:30 p.m**
Mon., 6	**Social Dinner** at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	**7:00 p.m**
Mon., 13	Secular Advocacy Day at the Capitol.	**9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf	**2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m**
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting	**7:00 p.m**
	Main program: Tom Krattenmaker — "Confessions of a Secular Jesus Follower"	**7:30 p.m**
Sun., 26	Board meeting	**2:00 p.m**
APRIL 2017		
Sat., 1	**Explorations:** 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**
Sat., 15	Book Discussion: *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon* by Daniel Dennett	**2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m**
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting	**7:00 p.m**
	Main program: Arthur Saxon — "Circus RIP"	**7:30 p.m**
Sat., 22	March for Science (Hartford: noon, New Haven, 1:00 p.m.)	
Sun., 23	Connecticut Food Bank's Walk Against Hunger, Lighthouse Point Park	**1:00 p.m (registration)**
Sun., 30	Board meeting	**2:00 p.m**

www.cthumanist.org

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Humanist Explorations: The Great Cathedral Mystery

Begun at the end of the thirteenth century and structurally complete by 1418, the great cathedral of Florence, Italy, needs only a dome to enclose its vast altar which spans 150 feet. The problem is that no one knows how to accomplish the task. One man, trained as a goldsmith, and not an engineer or architect, steps forward to build the great dome of Santa Maria Del Fiore. Join us on Saturday, March 4 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike to witness and understand this monumental achievement of the Italian Renaissance and its impact on our civilization.

Secular Advocacy Day, March 13

Secular Advocacy Day is a lobby day where Connecticut's secular community meets with legislators in the State Capitol to discuss matters and legislation that are important to our community.

For more information visit http://ct.secular.org.

Email List

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

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

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Newsletter

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

Book Discussion: "The Invention of Nature"

Our book for March is *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by historian and writer Andrea Wulf. The discussion will take place Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 2 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon: "Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the most famous scientist of his age, a visionary German naturalist and polymath whose discoveries forever changed the way we understand the natural world. Among his most revolutionary ideas was a radical conception of nature as a complex and interconnected global force that does not exist for the use of humankind alone...In this illuminating biography, Andrea Wulf brings Humboldt's extraordinary life back into focus[...]Brilliantly researched and stunningly written[...]"

Humanist Experience

The hosts of the popular podcast, "The Humanist Experience," will be in Connecticut in March and will be telling HAC about their work. The exact date has not been confirmed yet. It will be announced on our email list, web site, and on Meetup.

The Humanist Experience podcast is billed as a country-trotting storytelling series produced for Foundation Beyond Belief. The creators say, "The main thrust of our work is to encourage people in the secular community to take Humanistic principles out of the realm of pure intellectualism and into action. Our primary vehicle for this is storytelling: usually stories of life-changing encounters with modern social issues, which serve as a catalyst for discussion and emotional education."

The co-hosts are Evan Clark, a facilitator, activist, and designer who is currently the chair of the Secular Student Alliance and has over 10 years experience creating and leading community groups for social change, and Seráh Blain, a mom, activist, and Humanist lobbyist with about 20 years political and nonprofit advocacy experience.

Walk Against Hunger: April 23

The Connecticut Food Bank has resurrected its popular Walk Against Hunger. This year the walk will be held in New Haven's Lighthouse Point Park on Sunday, April 23, with registration starting at 1:00 p.m. Join or donate to the HAC team via our web site at http://cthumanist.org/walk, or via the link for the walk on our Meetup site.

USNH Social Cinema: Traces of The Trade: A Story From The Deep North

The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the documentary *Traces of The Trade: A Story From The Deep North* at 7:15 p.m. in the USNH Social Hall at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Saturday, March 25.

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

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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