



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



AHA Chapter

July 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

## All Life Springs From a Single Cell

Please join us on Monday, July 17 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, when John Pawelek will be our featured speaker with an updated version of his talk on evolution, *All Life Springs from a Single Cell*.

A prominent USNH member and a long-time cancer investigator at the Yale School of Medicine, John has fascinated us in the past with presentations on his work focusing on the skin cancer melanoma.

John Pawelek, Ph.D., is a member of the research faculty in the Department of Dermatology and the Yale Cancer Center, Yale School of Medicine. His research interests focus on cancer cell fusion with migratory white blood cells as a mechanism of metastasis. He has authored nearly 200 peer-reviewed papers in the areas of skin pigmentation and melanoma and is past president of the Pan American Society for Pigment Cell Research. He has won several awards for this work, including the IFPCS inaugural award of the Henry Stanley Raper Medal, and the Japanese Society for Pigment Cell Research award of the Takeuchi Medal. He was honored in June, 2010 when the inaugural "John

## 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).

### JULY 2017

Sat., 1	Explorations: <i>Coney Island</i>	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: <i>Riders of the Purple Sage</i> by Zane Grey	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting Main program: John Pawelek — <i>All Life Springs From a Single Cell</i>	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Mon., 24	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT: The Johnson Amendment	7:00 p.m

### AUGUST 2017

Sat., 5	Explorations: <i>The Twelve Chairs</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 19	Book Discussion: <i>The Kingdom of Speech</i> by Tom Wolfe	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting Main program: Doug Peary — <i>John Dietrich and the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis</i>	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

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

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M. Pawelek Lecture" was presented at the 4th Meeting of the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research held in Guanzhou, China. He frequently lectures at scientific conferences in the US

and abroad.

The evening will start at 7:00 p.m. with an informal period of conversation and refreshments. John's talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. Come and bring a friend!

## Dinner and Discussion: The Johnson Amendment

In his acceptance speech for the Republican Nomination, President Trump vowed to repeal the Johnson Amendment. More recently, on May 3rd, he signed an executive order instructing the IRS to exercise discretion in cases related to the Johnson Amendment. What is the Johnson Amendment? Is it good or bad from a humanist perspective? Join us to consider this together over dinner on Monday, July 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamden Wood-n-Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue, in the Hamden Mart parking lot.

Required reading: *Politifact* on the history of the Johnson Amendment: <http://bit.ly/2akY3wt> and NPR's quick five questions explanation of the Johnson Amendment: <http://n.pr/2k846aK>.

Optional reading: The text of 26 U.S. Code § 501 published at Cornell's Legal Information Institute at <http://bit.ly/2sV2Ptv>.

This is the first of what we hope will be a regular dinner discussion in the spirit of Hartford Area Humanists' Dinner Club. Because we need to make sure we can all sit together, please RSVP to [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org) or at [meetup.com](http://meetup.com).

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The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

**Social Dinners**

Please join us on the first Monday of each month for our social diner at 7:00 p.m. at the Turkish Kebab House at 1157 Campbell Avenue in West Haven!

**Book Discussion: “Riders of the Purple Sage”**

Please join us at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we will discuss our book for July: *Riders of the Purple Sage*, a classic western by Zane Grey. Numerous copies are available in public libraries, and it is even available free online at Project Gutenberg, since it’s out of copyright.

From *Goodreads*: Told by a master storyteller who, according to critic Russell Nye, “combined adventure, action, violence, crisis, conflict, sentimentalism, and sex in an extremely shrewd mixture,” *Riders of the Purple Sage* is a classic of the Western genre. It is the story of Lassiter, a gunslinging avenger in black, who shows up in a remote Utah town just in time to save the young and beautiful rancher Jane Withersteen from having to marry a Mormon elder against her will. Lassiter is on his own quest, one that ends when he discovers a secret grave on Jane’s grounds. “[Zane Grey’s] popularity was neither accidental nor undeserved,” wrote Nye. “Few popular novelists have possessed such a grasp of what the public wanted and few have developed Grey’s skill at supplying it.”

“Zane Grey epitomized the mythical West that should have been. The standout among them is *Riders of the Purple Sage*.” – *True West*

Our book for August will be *The Kingdom of Speech*, the most recent work from “new journalist” Tom Wolfe.

From *Amazon*: [The book] is a captivating, paradigm-shifting argument that speech – not evolution – is responsible for humanity’s complex societies and achievements.

From Alfred Russel Wallace, the Englishman who beat Darwin to the theory of natural selection but later renounced it, and through the controversial work of modern-day anthropologist Daniel Everett, who defies the current wisdom that language is hard-wired in humans, Wolfe examines the solemn, long-faced, laugh-out-loud zig-zags of Darwinism, old and Neo, and finds it irrelevant here in the *Kingdom of Speech*.

[Note: Book Group participants will recall Dan Everett and his adventures in linguistics, religion, and the Amazon from our selection *Don’t Sleep, There are Snakes* in April 2014.]

“Tom Wolfe aims his unparalleled wit at evolution, arguing that complex language is the singular superpower that allows humans to rule the planet.” – Harper’s Bazaar

**Explorations: “The Twelve Chairs”**

This story, based on the 1928 novel by Ilf and Petrov, takes us back to the years following the Russian Revolution, as the aristocracy finds itself struggling to adapt to communist governance. While a seemingly Tolstoyesque tale, the screenplay is written and directed by Mel Brooks, and will keep you in suspense, and probably hysterics, as well. As summer draws to its close, this is a great way to spend a lazy afternoon.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

<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: _____
		_____