



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

November 2019



UU Humanists Local Group

Monthly Meeting—A Voice for Progressive Policy in CT with Rep Joshua Elliott - Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM at USNH

Our next monthly meeting will be a joint meeting with the Hartford Area Humanists at the Unitarian Society of New Haven in Hamden, CT. Our guest speaker will be State Representative Josh Elliott, one of the few openly secular legislators in the United States. Since his election, Rep. Elliott has consistently been a strong advocate for progressive policies in our state. He has also supported the Secular Coalition of Connecticut's legislative initiatives and priorities.

Elliott grew up in Connecticut, attended high school in Hamden and graduated with a B.A. in Sociology from Ithaca College. He later went on to obtain his J.D. at Quinnipiac School of Law. He is co-owner of Thyme & Season in Hamden, which he also manages, and Shelton's The Common Bond Market.

Elliott currently serves as Assistant Majority Leader and vice chair of the Commerce Committee. He is a member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee and Energy & Technology Committee.

Refreshments will be served at the meeting. You are welcome (but in no way required!) to bring something to share.

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

NOVEMBER 2019

Sat. 2	Explorations, "State of Surveillance"	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: "Assassination Vacation" by Sarah Vowell	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting: "Progressive Policy, CT" Presenter State Rep Joshua Elliott	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden Topic: "Liberals and Conservatives"	7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2019

Mon. 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 7	Explorations, TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 16	Annual Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 21	Book Discussion: "The Soul of an Octopus" by Sy Montgomery	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 23	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden Topic: TBD	7:00 p.m.

Note to Renew

Please take a minute to send in your 2020 dues to the HAC mailing address: \$35 individual, \$50 family, \$10 postal newsletter only. You may always bring your cash or check payment to the annual meeting or to any HAC meeting. The fee will be waived in case of hardship, just let us know.

December Brunch

Join us for the annual brunch on Wednesday December 25 at Pacific Buffet and Grill, 20 Ives Rd., Wallingford, CT at noon.

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist . www.facebook.com/cthumanist . www.twitter.com/cthumanist

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Events and Opportunities

Socks in the City

Socks of all sizes for all ages are needed. SOCKS are the item of clothing MOST NEEDED at shelters in New Haven. Please bring new warm socks to the front desk of the library on Elm Street or bring them to any HAC event and Gayle Walter will deliver them to the library.

Thanksgiving Outreach

For many years June Schafer has been a primary driver of this ambitious effort to deliver meals on Thanksgiving morning. Volunteer at thanksgivingnewhaven@carenewhaven.org. To donate, contact <http://www.carenewhaven.org> and select "Donate".

Explorations: State of Surveillance

--Nov 2, 2:30 p.m.

We will watch and discuss a short *VICE on HBO* documentary, 'State of Surveillance' with Edward Snowden and Shane Smith. In 2016, around the time a judge ordered Apple to help the FBI break into a terrorist's phone, VICE co-founder Shane Smith interviewed Edward Snowden about capabilities of government-sponsored surveillance around the world and whether any of us can truly protect our information.

Book Discussion: Assassination Vacation by Sarah Vowell - Nov 16, 2:30 p.m.

Sarah Vowell is a pacifist, someone who abhors violence of any kind. She's nauseated by war and the thought of murder, which makes her obsession on assassinated American presidents a strange one, indeed. Yet her morbid curiosity is filled with humor as she gallivants across the country looking for anything with a connection to these three men and their killers. Her story involves an assortment of friends who accompany her on different legs of the journey, tour guides and museum curators who offer unique perspectives, and her notes on the markers/monuments, or lack thereof that she came to find.

-- Rebecca Skane, [The Portsmouth Review](#)

Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion: What Are the Real Differences Between Liberals and Conservatives?

--NOV 25, 7 p.m., Hamden

One way to help bridge the political divide and reduce political polarization in the United States is for both sides to better understand one another. The alternative may be the catastrophic failure of our democracy within the next few decades.

View the 18-minute video in the link below featuring Psychologist Jonathan Haidt who has studied the five moral values that form the basis of our political choices, whether we're left, right, or center. In this eye-opening talk, he pinpoints the moral values that liberals and conservatives tend to honor most.

https://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind

We need you!

There are many opportunities available to support this group, such as:

- Arrive early before any of the 3 monthly HAC events at USNH to
 - Make coffee and set up the refreshment table
 - Provide hospitality to unfamiliar faces, offering name tags and the newsletter
- Stay after to help cleanup and return equipment, chairs and supplies to their proper places