



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

July 2020



UU Humanists Local Group

## *In Memoriam: June Schafer*

HAC founding member and past President June Schafer passed away at home on the night of June 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 89. Her incredible spirit will be missed by everyone who knew her.



## *Monthly Meeting The 2020 Election Speaker Cheri Quickmire Monday July 20, at 7 p.m.*

Our speaker will be Cheri Quickmire, Executive Director of Common Cause of Connecticut. Cheri will give us an update regarding the 2020 election and answer questions about related concerns.

<https://www.commoncause.org/connecticut/>  
event link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89872956113>

## *Calendar of Events*

RSVPs are welcome at [meetup.com/cthumanist](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist).

Programs are held ONLINE this month.

Unless otherwise noted, use link at [www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

### JULY 2020

|         |  |                           |
|---------|--|---------------------------|
| Sat. 4  | Humanist Explorations Topic: "13 <sup>th</sup> "<br>Presenter: Carol Siddall   | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon. 6  | Monday Social (Turkish Kebab House)  | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sat. 18 | Book Discussion: "Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer,"<br>by Barbara Ehrenreich | 2:30 p.m.<br>4:30 p.m.    |
| Mon. 20 | Monthly Meeting Topic: "The 2020 Election"<br>Speaker: Cheri Quickmire   | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sun. 26 | Board Meeting  | 3:30 p.m.                 |
| Mon. 27 | Business meeting – Bylaw revision  | 7:00 p.m.                 |

### AUGUST 2020

|         |   |                           |
|---------|---|---------------------------|
| Sat. 1  | Explorations Topic: TBD<br>Topic: TBD   | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon. 3  | Monday Social (Turkish Kebab House)   | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sat. 15 | Book Discussion: "Elmer Gantry"<br>by Sinclair Lewis  | 2:30 p.m.<br>4:30 p.m.    |
| Mon. 17 | Monthly Meeting Topic: "Finding Realness, Meaning and Belonging in our Digital Lives"<br>Speaker: Chris Stedman | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sun. 23 | Board Meeting   | 3:30 p.m.                 |
| Mon. 24 | Monday Social (Wood-n-Tap) Topic: TBD   | 7:00 p.m.                 |

## *Monday Social (Turkish Kebab House) – July 6, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us online for our Virtual Social Dinner, and discuss a wide range of topics with like-minded people. Link to event:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84258791250>

## *We Need Your Membership!*

Did you forget to pay your dues? It's never too late. Mail your check (\$35 individual, \$50 family) to Treasurer Nina Stein at 380 Hitchcock Rd., #272, Waterbury, CT 06705

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

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

## Contact

President--Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546  
president@cthumanist.org

Newsletter Editor--Jim Ritter  
editor@cthumanist.org

Mailing address: 700 Hartford Turnpike  
Hamden, CT 06517-2214

Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to the editor.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit  
<https://www.cthumanist.org/mailman/listinfo/hac-announce/>

Approximate circulation: 180 copies.

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

Copyright © 2020 Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission, providing attribution is given.

## USNH Event of Interest

1) Grocery Card Purchases Earn \$\$ for USNH Social Justice Action (5%)

Please order for pickup on Saturday, July 18. Send a check to USNH, noting S&S or ShopRite in the memo line, and then drive by USNH on Saturday morning, July 18 (from 10-noon) to pick up your cards. If you prefer to pay via PayPal (adding the PayPal service charge), please contact Jamie in the USNH office at

[office@usnh.org](mailto:office@usnh.org) 203.288.1807 ext201

2) Electoral Justice

USNH volunteers have written and mailed 3,000 postcards in the past month. These postcards support people of color whose voting rights are threatened by helping them check their voter registration. The national initiative supports the efforts of the NAACP on a state by state basis.

You can help by purchasing rolls of postcard stamps, contact [UUthevote@usnh.org](mailto:UUthevote@usnh.org). Pick up postcard packets (batches of 20/40/60) Saturday mornings in the USNH parking lot or help by purchasing rolls of postcard stamps.

Contact [UUtheVote@usnh.org](mailto:UUtheVote@usnh.org)

## Humanist Explorations: "13<sup>th</sup>"

Carol Siddall, Presenter

--July 4, 2:30 p.m.

Prior to the meeting, please watch the Netflix documentary, "13<sup>th</sup>," directed by Ava DuVernay. This is an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. It opens by showing how these roots are right there in the 13th Amendment. Netflix has released it free on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

## Book Discussion: "Natural Causes"

by Barbara Ehrenreich

-- July 18, 2:30 p.m. (Location TBA)

From Amazon:

A razor-sharp polemic which offers an entirely new understanding of our bodies, ourselves, and our place in the universe, *Natural Causes* describes how we over-prepare and worry way too much about what is inevitable. One by one, Ehrenreich topples the shibboleths that guide our attempts to live a long, healthy life -- from the importance of preventive medical screenings to the concepts of wellness and mindfulness, from dietary fads to fitness culture... Both funny and caustic, [the author] tackles the seemingly unsolvable problem of how we might better prepare ourselves for the end -- while still reveling in the lives that remain to us.

"Ehrenreich's sharp and fearless take on mortality privileges joy over juice fasts and argues that, regardless of how many hours we spend in the gym, death wins out. An incisive, clear-eyed polemic, *Natural Causes* relaxes into the realization that the grim reaper is considerably less grim than a life spent in terror of a fate that awaits us all."

-- Matthew Desmond, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Evicted"

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4120669052?pwd=S1VQTzFzMERJd2ZoRjBKL2NlUzZGladz09>

## Special Business Meeting - July 27, 7 p.m.

This meeting is to discuss and vote on proposed changes to the bylaws of our organization. Please plan on attending if you are a member! See page 3.

Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88227833297>

## AHA Conference

Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Free to all, register online at [conference.americanhumanist.org](http://conference.americanhumanist.org)

## Connecticut Food Bank

Donate online at [www.ctfoodbank.org](http://www.ctfoodbank.org) or send checks to:

Connecticut Food Bank, 2 Research Pkwy, Wallingford, CT 06492

## Attending Events

Join Meetup and scroll through the Humanist Association of Connecticut listings. This is a good way to RSVP and get a link to the meeting.

**Members**, please plan to attend a special meeting on July 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss and vote on proposed changes to the bylaws of our organization. Attendance link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88227833297>

Here are the proposed modifications to the bylaws:

#### Article 4 Section B

Currently reads:

B. The Board shall consist of the officers of the Association and the chairpersons of the Standing Committees.

Proposal:

B. The Board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the chairpersons of the Standing Committees, and up to two at-large members.

#### Proposal to add two items to Article 4:

F. A board member may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the entire board at a regularly scheduled board meeting.

G. When impractical to meet in person, the Board may meet and vote electronically or combine in-person votes with electronic votes.

#### Article 5 Section B

Currently reads:

B. An annual business meeting shall be held in December for the purpose of  
(1) electing officers;  
(2) electing chairs of the Standing Committees; and  
(3) conducting any other business properly brought before the membership.

Proposal:

(B.) (2) electing chairs of the Standing Committees and at-large members; and

#### Article 5 Section E

Current reads:

E. To conduct business at a business meeting a quorum must be present and shall consist of 45% of the membership.

Proposal:

E. To conduct business at a business meeting a quorum must be present, which shall consist of 25% of the membership.

#### Proposal to add one item to Article 5:

G. When impractical to hold in person, a business meeting may be held electronically or in some hybrid form of in person and electronic.

Here end the proposals.

The purpose of these changes is as follows on page 4.

The purpose of these bylaw changes is presented below:

Article 4 Section B and Article 5 section B (2):

We are proposing to add up to two at-large members to the board.

Article 4 Section F:

There is nothing in our bylaws at the moment to allow a board member to be removed, if necessary. This is one of those options you never want to use, but would be best to have in place before it's needed, so we're including it here. Notice we proposed a rather high number of board members to actually accomplish this.

Article 4 Section G and Article 5 Section G:

There is currently nothing in our bylaws to prevent us from doing official business electronically, but there is also nothing explicitly allowing us to do so. We are proposing to explicitly include the ability to do official business without meeting in person, and are foreseeing the possible need to provide a mix of in-person and electronic methods in the near future.

Article 5 Section E:

We have struggled to have sufficient members present to hold business meetings for some time. And while we hope holding meetings electronically will allow more people to participate, we are proposing to lower the number of members needed to validate a business meeting. We still want people who rarely appear in person to continue to support the organization by being members.

Voting will begin on the day of the special meeting in order to allow for modifications to the proposed bylaws at the meeting. If we are unable to form a membership quorum on that day, we will send the final proposed changes as voted in the meeting to the HAC-Announce list and will collect votes by email until midnight on August 3. The meeting will be recorded and voting will not be secret.