



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December



UU Humanists Local Group

Annual Meeting and Winter Solstice Celebration

Monday December 21, 7:00 p.m.

After a short end-of-year report & election of officers, we will share music, song, poetry, crafts, recipes, and short stories of cheer!

Members & friends, Welcome!

Bring Your Own Merriment!

Festive attire optional but encouraged (especially from the waist up!)

Our Winter Solstice Celebration will begin with music from Wild Notes! specially prerecorded for us by Mickey Koth and her group.

You are invited to make a donation to Connecticut Food Bank, through the Humanist Association of Connecticut Team on their website:

<https://p2p.onecause.com/connecticutfoodbank>

Our goal is \$500. Please give as generously as you are able to; no amount is too small!

We will interact with a Winter Solstice & Humanism Quiz/Discussion MC'd by Jim Ritter, with an assist from Manny Ratafia.

The Celebration will not be complete until we have the annual reading of the "Ode to the Tilt!" with Doug Peary doing the honors.

Welcome to our gathering!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88574313816>



Calendar of Events

RSVPs are welcome at meetup.com/cthumanist/events. You can find out about events and get the latest newsletter at www.cthumanist.org. Programs are held ONLINE this month.

DECEMBER 2020

Sat. 5	Explorations Topic: Leaving Violent Groups (four stories)	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 7	Monday Social Zoom (Turkish Kebab House)	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 19	Book Discussion: "Seven Types of Atheism" By John Gray	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 21	Annual Meeting & Winter Solstice Celebration	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 27	--- No Board Meeting This Month ---	
Mon. 28	Monday Discussion Zoom (Wood-n-Tap) Topic: Rumors	7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 2021

Sat. 2	Explorations Topic: --- by ---	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 4	Monday Social Zoom (Turkish Kebab House)	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: "The Shallows" By Nicholas Carr	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting Topic: TBA Speaker: ---	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Monday Discussion Zoom (Wood-n-Tap) Topic: ---	7:00 p.m.

Winter Solstice

Why do you observe the winter solstice? Is it relevant today, or is it just a wonderful excuse for a celebration? (This question will be on the quiz.) Winter Solstice observation dates as far back as the Neolithic period in the tail end of the Stone Age. Ancient humans lived and died by the seasons and considered equinoxes and solstices alike to be sacred days. The fertility of the crops and the livelihood of livestock and health of the people depended on the observance of the solstice rituals. Today? We are ruled by time, not the seasons. The time unit, the second, is defined by the unperturbed ground-state hyperfine transition frequency of the cesium-133 atom. We have electric lights to keep away the dark. But in the short days of winter we still welcome the promise of spring, and we look to the winter solstice for that solace.

www.cthumanist.org

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

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<https://www.cthumanist.org/mailman/listinfo/hac-announce/>

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Topics of Interest

CONNECT Delegates Assembly

Dec. 2, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Meet to engage on issue priorities, and prepare to start 2021 in powerful public action. HAC members are welcome to attend. Please register here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4z8okwe>

"LEAVING GOD: Why I Left God and Why So Many Others Are Too"

Film Trailer: <http://bit.ly/2vypoRq>

The 7pm, Dec 5th screening will be followed by a live Q&A with the filmmaker, John Follis. To Register, go to: <https://bit.ly/2TyAJPI>
This is an HFFC event.

The Power Worshipers - Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism

Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m.

A revelatory investigation of the Religious Right's rise to political power. Register at <https://www.meetup.com/Humanist-Society-of-Greater-Phoenix/events/268790669/>

RESCHEDULED USNH Climate Change Workshop

January 27, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Join us in a climate change workshop. To sign up, email melinda.tuhus@gmail.com and put CLIMATE WORKSHOP in caps in the subject line.

Virtual Walk/Runs - Register now and support the Friends of Rudolph Day of Giving
<https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewHaven/ChristopherMartinsChristmasRunforChildren>

Humanist Explorations: Leaving Violent Groups

- December 5 - 2:30 p.m.

Four individuals tell their stories. View these videos in advance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSH5EY-W5oM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qkSMkiGWdg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azR11dI-Cts>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdHJw0veVNY>

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84940641947>

Monday Social (Turkish Kebab House)

- December 7, 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/88032651877>

Book Discussion: "Seven Types of Atheism"

by John N. Gray

- December 19, 2:30 p.m.

For a generation now, public debate has been corroded by a shrill, narrow derision of religion in the name of an often vaguely understood "science." John Gray's stimulating and enjoyable new book, *Seven Types of Atheism*, describes the complex, dynamic world of older atheisms, a tradition that is, he writes, in many ways intertwined with and as rich as religion itself. [...] Gray explores the various ways great minds have attempted to understand the questions of salvation, purpose, progress, and evil. The result is a book that sheds an extraordinary light on what it is to be human.

"[John Gray] challenges the presuppositions and positions of contemporary atheists and secular liberals in this powerful book . . . Gray alluringly invites readers to reconsider what atheism is and should be." - *Amazon*

Monday Discussion (Wood-n-Tap) Rumors

December 28, 7:00 p.m.

Heidi Larson studies how medical rumors originate and spread. In this talk, she shares what her research has found and proposes a solution. How can we take this information and use it on today's issues? Before the meeting, watch https://www.ted.com/talks/heidi_larson_why_rumors_about_vaccines_spread_and_how_to_rebuild_trust

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89066022040>



Tech Tip

All meetings for the time being are online. Don't miss any! Join with your computer or smart phone using the clickable links in this newsletter.

We Want Your Membership!

Join our 46 members! New Members who join between now and December 31 are covered for 2021. Renewing members, please keep your membership active by paying your 2021 dues as soon as possible.

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, c/o 380 Hitchcock Road #272, Waterbury, CT 06705.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO

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As a chapter of the American Humanist Association we share your information with AHA.

* * * Please fill out and send the top half of this page with your check so that we can update your membership information. * * *

As of this writing, our slate of Nominees is as follows:

President	Carol Siddall
Vice President	open
Secretary	Carol Ritter
Treasurer	Nina Stein
Program Chair	Gayle Walter
Publications/ Editor	Jim Ritter
Publicity	Aaron Goode
Membership	open
Hospitality	Amy Wexler
Development	Richard Siddall
At large	Frank Avitable
At large	Douglas Peary

Further nominations may be made from the floor