



The Humanist Association of Connecticut

Newsletter for May, 2024

Welcome to May

We're putting together programs for the summer. Join us for the third annual state-wide picnic at Wharton Brook State Park on Saturday, August 10. We need a volunteer or two to turn up early and hold the pavilion for us. Please contact Carol Siddall (president@cthumanist.org) if you can help out. We're also planning our picnic in June at USNH in Hamden.

Calendar for May, 2024

Sat, 4	2:30PM to 4:30PM	Humanist Explorations - She Loves Me
Mon, 6	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Social Dinner at Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant, 85 Howe St, New Haven CT
Mon, 13	6:30PM to 8:30PM	Anniversary Meeting - Iran Nazario
Sat, 18	2:30PM to 4:30PM	"American Midnight" by Adam Hochschild at Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT
Sun, 19	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Board Meeting (online)
Tue, 28	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Northern Social Dinner at Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT

Humanist Explorations - She Loves Me



Saturday, May 4, 2024
2:30PM to 4:30PM

This event was rescheduled from April.

"She Loves Me" is based on the 1938 play "Parfumerie." A tale of two people who work in a small shop and are constantly at odds with one another, are unaware that they are romantically involved via a lonely-hearts club, writing to each other as "Dear Freund." Several film incarnations of this story are well known ("The Shop Around the Corner" and in the nineties,

Nora Ephron's "You've Got Mail"). This version, the Broadway Musical from 1963, is not well known but achieved the status of a "cult" show following its short original run. This production from 1978 by the BBC is stunning and charming and perfect for an early spring afternoon when love is in bloom.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Anniversary Meeting - Iran Nazario



Monday, May 13, 2024
6:30PM to 8:30PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE'RE MEETING A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL!

For our anniversary meeting, we're thrilled to be able to present Iran Nazario, founder of the Peace Center of Connecticut.

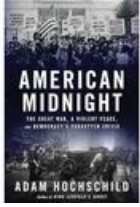
Abused as a child, beaten and recruited into gang life, homeless by 13, and imprisoned for his gang activities, Iran's history would cause many today to write him off as incorrigible and expect nothing but violence from him. Instead, he has become a gang mediator, motivational speaker and founded a not-for-profit to bring more peace into the world. Iran's life is evidence that a violent past doesn't determine a violent future.

How is this possible? Iran will give us an overview, and you will want to read his memoir for the full story. *Rage to Peace: From Wounded Child to Gang Member to Peace Advocate*, was just published in 2023. Bring your copies for an autograph, or purchase your copy directly from Iran on Monday (\$19.95/\$35 with autograph/cash, CashApp or PayPal).

We usually start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 6:30 PM, followed by the main program after brief announcements at 7:00 PM.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

'American Midnight' by Adam Hochschild



Saturday, May 18, 2024
2:30PM to 4:30PM

Our book for May is *American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis* by Adam Hochschild.

From Amazon: The nation was on the brink. Mobs burned Black churches to the ground. Courts threw thousands of people into prison for opinions they voiced. Self-appointed vigilantes executed tens of thousands of citizens' arrests. Some seventy-five newspapers and magazines were banned from the mail and forced to close. When the government stepped in, it was often to fan the flames.

This was America during and after the Great War: a brief but appalling era blighted by lynchings, censorship, and the sadistic, sometimes fatal abuse of conscientious objectors in military prisons

– a time whose toxic currents of racism, nativism, red-baiting, and contempt for the rule of law then flowed directly through the intervening decades to poison our own.

"A harrowing portrait of America in 1917–21, rife with racist violence, xenophobia and political repression abetted by the federal government. The book serves as a cautionary tale and a provocative counterpoint to our own era." – *New York Times Book Review*, Editors' Choice

Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT



"Survival of the Friendliest" by Brian Hare & Vanessa Woods
June 15, 2024



"Jude the Obscure" by Thomas Hardy
July 20, 2024

Northern Social Dinner



Join us at Butterfly Chinese Restaurant on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford for some friendly and interesting conversation!

Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT

Tuesday, May 28, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Other events

Social Dinner: Monday, May 6, 2024 7:00PM to 9:00PM

Mamoun's Falafel Restaurant, 85 Howe St, New Haven CT

Board Meeting: Sunday, May 19, 2024 7:00PM to 9:00PM



Revised COVID policy

We request that you be as fully vaccinated as possible

To join HAC or renew your membership, visit our membership page.

HAC is a chapter of the American Humanist Association, a member of the Connecticut Coalition of Reason, and a UU Humanists local group.

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c/o USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT 06517-2214