



The Humanist Association of Connecticut

Newsletter for August, 2026

Welcome to August

Calendar for August, 2026

Sat, 1	2:30PM to 4:30PM	Humanist Explorations - The Radium Girls
Sun, 2	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Board Meeting (online)
Mon, 3	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Social Dinner at Thai Stories, 16 Selden Street, Woodbridge CT
Sat, 15	2:30PM to 4:30PM	"The Triumph of Seeds" by Thor Hanson at Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT
Mon, 17	6:30PM to 9:00PM	Monthly Meeting - Reality Foundations Theory
Sun, 23	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Board Meeting (online)
Tue, 25	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Northern Social Dinner at Pacific Buffet & Grill, 20 Ives Rd # 301C, Wallingford CT

Humanist Explorations - The Radium Girls



Saturday, August 1, 2026
2:30PM to 4:30PM

One of the marvels of the early twentieth century were alarm clocks that glowed in the dark. Produced by a firm known as Westclox Big Ben (the smaller devices were called Baby Ben), the luminescent dials were made by a company with manufacturing facilities in Orange, New Jersey, and Waterbury, Connecticut. Hand-painted by female employees starting in the 1920s, the active component in the paint that created the iridescent glow was radium. This is the

story of the women who were sickened and suffered, and eventually killed as a result of this work. The owners of the companies involved were fully aware of the effects the radium would have on anyone handling it, and kept their knowledge secret. This tragic tale and its outcome is told here in devastating detail. Please join us for this informative and enlightening presentation.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Social Dinner

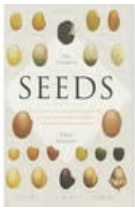


Monday, August 3, 2026
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Join us at Thai Stories for our monthly Social Dinner, and discuss a wide range of topics with like-minded people. (We're holding these dinners in Woodbridge for a while! The restaurant is just off Rt. 15, near the junction of Rt. 63 and Rt. 69)

Thai Stories, 16 Selden Street,
Woodbridge CT

"The Triumph of Seeds" by Thor Hanson



Saturday, August 15, 2026
2:30PM to 4:30PM

Our book for August is *The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, & Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History* by American

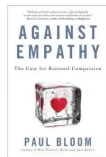
conservation biologist and author Thor Hanson.

From Amazon: We live in a world of seeds. From our morning toast to the cotton in our clothes, they are quite literally the stuff and staff of life: supporting diets, economies, and civilizations around the globe. Just as the search for nutmeg and pepper drove the Age of Discovery, coffee beans fueled the Enlightenment and cottonseed sparked the Industrial Revolution. Seeds are fundamental objects of beauty, evolutionary wonders, and simple fascinations. Yet, despite their

importance, seeds are often seen as commonplace, their extraordinary natural and human histories overlooked...A fascinating scientific (and historic) adventure, [this book] is essential reading for anyone who loves to see a plant grow.

"A fascinating, inspiring, and entertaining book...Hanson takes one of the least-impressive-looking natural objects and reveals a life of elegance and wonder." – *New York Times Book Review*

Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT



"Against Empathy" by Paul Bloom
September 19, 2026



"The People, No" by Thomas Frank
October 24, 2026

Monthly Meeting - Reality Foundations Theory



Monday, August 17, 2026
6:30PM to 9:00PM

We've spent decades operating under the comforting delusion that political disagreement is a marketing problem—that if we just serve up more facts and

slightly tidier logic, reasonable people will finally see sense. It hasn't worked. What if we aren't dealing with bad-faith arguments or widespread stupidity? What if we're simply dealing with incompatible concepts of what counts as "truth," who holds legitimate authority, and what society is even for?

Join us for an eye-opening presentation on Reality Foundations Theory, a compelling framework that maps out these hidden rules for reality. We'll explore why traditional arguments consistently fail, how distinct psychological rule sets

shape our perceptions, and a possible way to bridge the divide when logic alone does nothing.

Our speaker is local amateur philosopher Kevin Muldoon. Kevin spends his days as a Design Systems Architect, exploring the systems behind design, technology, and organizations — how structure, incentives, and assumptions shape both outcomes and understanding. We'll meet for coffee and conversation at 6:30 PM followed by this exploration at 7:00 PM.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Northern Social Dinner



We'll be meeting again in Wallingford at Pacific Buffet & Grill (<https://pacificbuffetandgrill.com/>). Come join us for some friendly and interesting conversation!

Pacific Buffet & Grill, 20 Ives Rd # 301C, Wallingford CT

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Other events

Board Meeting: Sunday, August 2, 2026
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Board Meeting: Sunday, August 23, 2026
7:00PM to 9:00PM

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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