



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



UU Humanists Local Group

October 2021

HAC Monthly Meeting *Squirrel Hill: The Tree* *of Life Synagogue* *Shooting and the Soul* *of a Neighborhood* *with author Mark* *Oppenheimer*

Monday Oct. 18th, 7:00 p.m.

New Haven journalist and author Mark Oppenheimer (former "Beliefs" columnist for the NY Times) will speak on his new book "Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood."

Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, is one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in the country, known for its tight-knit community and the profusion of multigenerational families. On October 27, 2018, a gunman killed eleven Jews who were worshipping at the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill—the most deadly anti-Semitic attack in American history.

Many neighborhoods would be understandably subsumed by despair and recrimination after such an event, but not this one. Mark Oppenheimer poignantly shifts the focus away from the criminal and his crime, and instead presents the historic, spirited community at the center of this heartbreak. He speaks with residents and nonresidents, Jews and gentiles, survivors and witnesses, teenagers and seniors, activists and historians.

Together, these stories provide a kaleidoscopic and nuanced account of collective grief, love, support, and revival.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81444530449>

Calendar of Events

RSVPs are welcome at [meetup.com/cthumanist/events](https://www.meetup.com/cthumanist/events). You can view the latest newsletter and calendar at www.cthumanist.org with new and improved format. Thank you Richard!

Some programs are held ONLINE this month.

OCTOBER 2021

Mon. 4	Monday Social Dinner – At Mamoun's 85 Howe St in New Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 9	Explorations – The Polio Crusade	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sat. 16	Book Discussion: "The Evolution of God" by Robert Wright	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 18	Monthly Meeting –The Squirrel Hill Shooting with author Mark Oppenheimer	7:00 p.m.
Sun. 24	Board Meeting (all members are welcome)	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 25	Wood-N-Tap Discussion – "Ghosting"	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 30	Outdoor Explorations – Farmington Canal	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2021

Mon. 1	Monday Social – TBD	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 6	Explorations – TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 15	Monthly Meeting – Why I am a Humanist By Greg Seaman	7:00 p.m.
Sat. 13	Book Discussion: "The Wordy Shipmates" by Sarah Vowell	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 21	Board Meeting (all members are welcome)	3:30 p.m.
Mon. 22	Wood-N-Tap Discussion – TBD	7:00 p.m.

HAC Explorations -- Sat, Oct. 9, 2:30 p.m.

Seventy years ago, America was confronting a disease with health and social implications similar to today's COVID pandemic. Then, as now, a vaccine was developed. Unlike the 1950s, today's vaccines have not been widely embraced, despite the ubiquitous availability. The tale of the fifties, and that of now, holds many questions and some answers worth pursuing. Join us for this hour-long PBS American Experience episode, followed by discussion.

This event is held in the Children's Chapel at USNH. The Boshis will host. *USNH Covid policy requires masks, social distancing, and no food.*

www.cthumanist.org

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

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Notices and Events of Interest

USNH Event of Interest

Special Service on Humanism
Sunday, October 24, 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, USNH Minister, will speak, and USNH members who identify as Humanist will participate.

Contact GayleCWalter@gmail.com with questions.

Get involved with IRIS! The need is great.
<https://irisct.org/volunteer-application/>

Get the IRIS response to the Afghanistan debacle:
<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Ak40A9V8OXsqzH2TDCOb7Z7Hgvo?e=MOLPIY>

Yes, You Can Vote Absentee in This Year's Municipal Election

Applying for an Absentee Ballot as a political act!
<https://ctnewsjunkie.com/2021/09/27/op-ed-yes-you-can-vote-absentee-in-this-years-municipal-election-heres-why-you-should/>



Outdoor Explorations

Sat. Oct. 30th, 2 p.m. at Brooksvale Park in Hamden

We will take a fall foliage leaf-peeping walk on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. The walk will be about 2 miles along a very scenic section of the trail, which is paved (handicap-accessible) and mostly flat. Bring decent walking shoes and water. We will be meeting at Brooksvale Park in Hamden (524 Brooksvale Avenue) at 2 p.m. If the group wants, we may go to a local brewery afterwards for a pint.

Questions? Contact Aaron (email aaron.goode@gmail.com or telephone 203-589-9445). Rain cancels event.

Book Discussion: "The Evolution of God" by Robert Wright

Hosted by Kevin & Paula – Sat, Oct. 16th, 2:30 p.m.

From Amazon:

In this sweeping narrative that takes us from the Stone Age to the Information Age, Robert Wright unveils an astonishing discovery: there is a hidden pattern that the great monotheistic faiths have followed as they have evolved. Through the prisms of archaeology, theology, and evolutionary psychology, Wright's findings overturn basic assumptions about Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and are sure to cause controversy. He explains why spirituality has a role today, and why science, contrary to conventional wisdom, affirms the validity of the religious quest. And this previously unrecognized evolutionary logic points not toward continued religious extremism, but future harmony.

"An original, accessible and thought-provoking view of history...full of rich detail, ingenious insight and bold argument." – The Economist

We will meet in the Social Hall at USNH. Please only join us if you have been fully vaccinated. *Also, USNH Covid policy requires masks, social distancing, and no food.*

Upcoming:

Saturday, November 13: "The Wordy Shipmates" by Sarah Vowell (Zoom)

Saturday, December 18: "Adam Bede" by George Eliot

Wood-N-Tap Discussion: – "Ghosting"

Mon. Oct. 25th, 7:00 p.m. indoors at the Hamden Wood-n-Tap

This is our monthly dinner discussion group. We have returned to meeting in-person in the Middle Room at the restaurant.

A common complaint of job-seekers describing how they'll apply for a job, maybe even interview and then just not ever hear anything from the potential employer, this has become a term extended to all kinds of social disappearances. To get your thinking on the topic flowing, we offer an optional "Invisibilia" episode on the topic (<https://www.wnyc.org/story/a-friendly-ghost-story>). And we ask, is ghosting really a new phenomenon? Is it more common? Or are we just more aware of it? Have you done it? Do you feel bad about it?

Because we're meeting indoors, please only join us at 7:00 p.m. at the Wood-n-Tap at 2100 Dixwell Ave in Hamden if you've been fully vaccinated.