



The Humanist Association of Connecticut

Newsletter for February, 2024

Welcome to February

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2024, please visit the membership page on the HAC web site.

We had to postpone two events in January that we will get to enjoy in February, Humanist Explorations and the Hartford-area dinner.

The final book discussion and panel discussion on *The Other Side of Prospect* happen on the last two Sundays of the month. There's a flyer for the panel discussion on the HAC web site. You can also download a flyer with the selections for the regular HAC book discussion at the Wilson branch of the New Haven Free Public Library. The February book discussion will be on the fourth Saturday as the library will be closed for the Presidents' Day weekend.

FYI, our announcement list will unsubscribe you if email to you is rejected by your email provider for an extended period. If you haven't received any announcements for a few weeks, visit the mailing list page to resubscribe.

Calendar for February, 2024

Sat, 3	2:30PM to 4:30PM	Humanist Explorations - The Art of Charles and Margaret Mackintosh
Mon, 5	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT
Sat, 10	6:00PM to 9:00PM	Courtesy Posting: 16th Annual Fairfield County Darwin Day Dinner at The Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd S, Westport CT
Sun, 18	12:00PM to 2:00PM	The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion
Mon, 19	6:30PM to 9:00PM	Monthly Meeting - Science Education that's Fun, Messy, and Loud
Sat, 24	2:30PM to 4:30PM	"Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison at Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT
Sun, 25	12:00PM to 3:00PM	The Other Side of Prospect: Author Talk followed by Panel Discussion
Sun, 25	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Board Meeting (online)
Tue, 27	7:00PM to 9:00PM	Northern Social Dinner at Butterfly at Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT

Humanist Explorations - The Art of Charles and Margaret Mackintosh



Saturday, February 3, 2024
2:30PM to 4:30PM

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, the world of Art and Architecture began to evolve into a style known as "Art Nouveau" (New Art). This new approach to art and the message it conveyed was revolutionary in many respects. Architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh was one of the most illustrious figures in this movement. Less well known was his wife, Margaret MacDonald Mackintosh, but she was an artist of unparalleled brilliance in her own

right. Once, when approached about his level of capability, Mackintosh responded, "I had talent, but Margaret had genius." Their lifelong collaborative efforts were such that he signed their work with both names. This presentation will explore some of the finest and most important works of the Fin de Siècle and provide a view into the changes in the world of art into the Twentieth Century.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Courtesy Posting: 16th Annual Fairfield County Darwin Day Dinner



Saturday, February 10, 2024
6:00PM to 9:00PM

Now in its sixteenth year, this event is a celebration of science, evolution, and Charles Darwin.

The event includes dinner, a science quiz, and a talk on "Using the Oceans to Address Climate Change" delivered by Associate Professor Matthew Eisaman from Yale.

More details, including the price and how to register, are at <https://darwindayct.org/>

RSVPing here does NOT get you a ticket for the dinner. Make sure you register. There is a fee for the dinner. A limited number of walk-in registrations are available.

Questions, please contact John Levin at (646) 221-9134 or jlevin6@zoho.com.

The Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd S, Westport CT

The Other Side of Prospect: Book Discussion

THE OTHER SIDE OF PROSPECT



A STORY OF COURAGE, INQUIRY, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM



Sunday, February 18, 2024
12:00PM to 2:00PM

The Unitarian Society of New Haven and the Humanist Association of Connecticut will be holding three book discussions prior to the author-led panel discussion on Nicholas Dawidoff's *The Other Side of Prospect*. The panel discussion will be on Sunday, February 25, 2024. The book discussions will be held on Sundays from 12 noon to 2 PM in the USNH library on January 14, January 28 and February 18. Gayle Walter and Becky Sandman will co-

facilitate and hope to have a different focus at each discussion.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Monthly Meeting - Science Education that's Fun, Messy, and Loud



Monday, February 19, 2024
6:30PM to 9:00PM

Jane Copes is convinced that science activities should Start With the Stuff not the vocabulary. She is an inorganic chemist who has taught in college, worked in industry, and started her own business to bring science fun to libraries, schools, birthday parties, and other informal venues. This evening she will entertain you with Color Changing Solutions, Flaming Farts, Indoor Rockets, and at least two more experiments that

use grocery store items for their special effects. We'll have time to chat about her approach to convincing kiddos of all ages that science is fun. Join us for half an hour of coffee and conversation at 6:30 PM, followed by Jane's presentation after brief announcements at 7:00 PM!

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

'Invisible Man' by Ralph Ellison



Saturday, February 24, 2024
2:30PM to 4:30PM

Our book for February, Black History Month, is Ralph Ellison's classic *Invisible Man*.

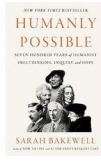
Note: This discussion will be on the 4th Saturday of the month due to the Presidents' Day weekend closure of the library.

From Wikipedia: *Invisible Man* is Ralph Ellison's first novel, published in 1952. It addresses many of the social and intellectual issues faced by African Americans in the early 20th century, including Black Nationalism, the relationship between black identity and Marxism, and the reformist racial policies of Booker T. Washington, as well as issues of individuality and personal identity.

Invisible Man won the U.S. National Book Award for Fiction in 1953, making Ellison the first African-American writer to win the award. In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Invisible Man* 19th on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century.

"A book of the very first order, a superb book ...it is tragicomic, poetic, the tone of the very strongest sort of creative intelligence." – Nobel Prize-winning author Saul Bellow

Wilson Branch Library, 303 Washington Ave, New Haven CT

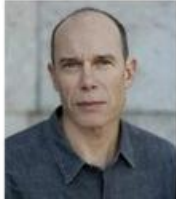
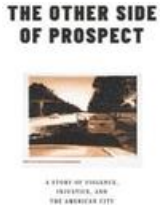


"Humanly Possible" by Sarah Blakewell
March 16, 2024



"The Last Temptation of Christ" by Nikos Kazantzakis
April 20, 2024

The Other Side of Prospect: Author Talk followed by Panel Discussion



Sunday, February 25, 2024
12:00PM to 3:00PM

This event is being Co-sponsored by the Unitarian Society of New Haven and the

Humanist Association of Connecticut.

The Other Side of Prospect is a prizewinning book of intimate reporting on inequality, race, class, and violence, told through a murder and intersecting lives in an iconic American neighborhood. The author, Nicholas Dawidoff, will give a talk with Q&A. Following a break at about 1:15/1:30, with refreshments, Nicholas will moderate a panel discussion. Panel Participants will be Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell (who is also a former

New Haven Police Chief), Editor-in-Chief of *The Inner-City News* Babz Rawls-Ivy, and lawyer for the wrongly convicted Ken Rosenthal. There will also be opportunities for purchasing copies of the book and for book signing. Please join us for the entire afternoon if you can, but you are welcome to come for just the talk or just the panel discussion, if that is what your schedule allows.

USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden CT

Northern Social Dinner at Butterfly



Tuesday, February 27, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM

This month we're going to try the Butterfly Chinese restaurant on Farmington Avenue in West Hartford. Join us for some friendly and interesting conversation!

Butterfly Restaurant, 831 Farmington Ave, West Hartford CT

Other events

Social Dinner: Monday, February 5, 2024
7:00PM to 9:00PM

Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave, West Haven CT

Board Meeting: Sunday, February 25, 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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