



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

October 2010



CSH Affiliate

## *“An Unholy Alliance: The Entanglement of Church and State in Connecticut”*

We take great pleasure in presenting Andrew Schneider, the Executive Director of the Connecticut ACLU, as our featured speaker for the monthly meeting to be held Monday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

As chief executive officer of the ACLU of Connecticut and the ACLU Foundation of Connecticut, Andrew has overall responsibility for management and operation of both organizations. Before serving as the organization’s Executive Director in Connecticut, he was Executive Director of the ACLU of West Virginia for six years. During his tenure there, the affiliate’s membership more than tripled and its budget quintupled in size. In West Virginia, he spearheaded a successful campaign to pass legislation to combat racial profiling and for those efforts, he was honored by the NAACP with the Freedom Award.

From 1998 to 2001, he served as the Development Director for the ACLU in Connecticut. His other ACLU credentials include Development Director for the ACLU of New Mexico, Campus Groups Coordinator for the ACLU National Office, Board member of the ACLU of Virginia, and founder and president of the ACLU campus chapter at Washington & Lee University, where he earned his B.A. in European History.

Andrew is in the perfect position to give us a clear picture of just how entangled Church and State are right now in Connecticut, and what we can do about it.

Join us on Monday, October

## *Calendar of Events*

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [meetup.com/cthumanist](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### SEPTEMBER, 2010

Thu., 30 Event Changed: The Ig<sup>®</sup> Nobel Prizes webcast and pizza 7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER, 2010

Sat., 2	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> Cancelled	N/A
Sun., 3	Book Discussion: <i>The Good Earth</i> by Pearl S. Buck	3:00 to 5:00p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Circle Diner Restaurant, 441 Post Rd, Fairfield. (203) 255-9177	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 10	Movie: “Letting Go of God” by Julia Sweeney	3:00 p.m.
Sat., 16	David Schafer: “The Historicity of Jesus and Early Christianity: A Historical, Scientific, Scholarly, and Critical Examination” (finale)	2:00 to 5:00p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program:</b> Andrew Schneider, Executive Director, ACLU of Connecticut — “An Unholy Alliance: The Entanglement of Church and State in Connecticut ”	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 28	Social dinner: Avon Indian Grill, 320 W Main St. (Route 44), Avon, CT (860) 284-4466	7:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER, 2010

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Circle Diner Restaurant, 441 Post Rd, Fairfield. (203) 255-9177	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program:</b> TBA	8:00 p.m.
Thu., 18	Social dinner: Avon Indian Grill, 320 W Main St. (Route 44), Avon, CT (860) 284-4466	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

18, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will begin with refreshments and

conversation at 7:30 p.m. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by Q&A and discussion.

## *“The Good Earth” — Book Discussion*

The next book discussion will be on Sunday, October 3, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The book we will be reading is Pearl S. Buck’s 1934 Pulitzer Prize-winning classic novel, “The Good Earth.” Lots of copies in lots of editions of both the printed book and of unabridged audio recordings are available in Connecticut public libraries <<http://iconn.org/FindALibraryInConnecticut.aspx?cat=consortia>> as well as in book stores and online.

[www.cthumanist.org](http://www.cthumanist.org)

**Email List**

To join, send an email addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **subscribe**.

To unsubscribe, send an email addressed to [hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org](mailto:hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org) with the subject **unsubscribe**.

**Officers**

- President June Schafer  
(203) 281-6232  
[president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org)
- Vice-President Douglas Peary
- Secretary Richard Siddall
- Treasurer Carol Podgwaite

**Committee Chairs**

- Program David Schafer
- Membership Halina Platt
- Development Manny Ratafia
- Publications Carol Stone
- Publicity June Schafer
- Hospitality Randy Olear

**Newsletter**

- Editor Carol Stone  
(203) 264-8546  
[editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org)
- Production: Richard Siddall  
(203) 264-2182  
[webmaster@cthumanist.org](mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org)

Copyright © 2010, Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321. Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org).

Please include a SASE to have material returned. We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic strips, news items, cartoons and other illustrations related to humanism. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

# October 16: The Historicity Of Jesus?

On Saturday, October 16, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, we will conclude our detailed examination of the origins of Christianity and the veracity of the diverse Christian narratives, including whatever evidence there may be concerning the existence of Jesus. We'll review the cyclical history of challenges to the received narratives, considering a variety of questions that have been repeatedly raised about the historicity of the New Testament and of Jesus. We will compare competing narratives of Christian origins in the light of known specific events in the recorded history of the times. Detailed handouts will be distributed on all phases of the course to date, plus materials not previously presented. Alternating brief summaries of video materials shown, lectures on important new historical topics, and group discussion of all these subjects, we'll bring together all the loose strands of our examination to date of the documented origins of Christianity. Finally we will compare and contrast the published analyses of a list of outstanding scholars regarding all these truth claims. Our aim will be to reach a provisional group consensus based on all available evidence concerning all the issues. To help you prepare more fully for this session I'll suggest reading and thought assignments on our "announce" list from time to time over the coming days. Refreshments will be served.

## The Ig<sup>®</sup> Nobel Prizes webcast

In place of our previously announced Hartford-area social dinner for September, we're hosting the Connecticut Drinking Sceptically meetup group's webcast of the 2010 Ig<sup>®</sup> Nobel Prizes on Thursday, September 30, in the library at USNH. Pizza is scheduled to arrive at 7:00 p.m., and the webcast is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

This is the same webcast you can watch on your computer at home. It should be more fun watching it with a bunch of other people. Well, assuming we placate the wifi gods and can get the webcast to work.

"The Ig Nobel Prizes honor achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think. The prizes are intended to celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative — and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology.

"In a gala ceremony in Harvard's Sanders Theatre, 1200 splendidly eccentric spectators watch the winners step forward to accept their Prizes. These are physically handed out by genuinely bemused genuine Nobel Laureates."

Since we won't be eating in the library, you may want to make sure you arrive closer to 7:00 p.m. if you wish to eat.

## Julia Sweeney's "Letting Go of God"

Julia Sweeney says she was a "happy Catholic girl" when, one day, she walked into church and signed up for a Bible-study course. "What an eye opener that was!" she says. "Next thing you know, I was on a quest for something I could really believe in." In "Letting go of God," she shares her journey from faith with humor and honesty. Come watch this wonderful film on Sunday, October 10 at 3:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Name(s): _____
Adult . . . . . \$35	Address: _____
Family . . . . . \$50	_____
Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10	Telephone: _____
Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	E-Mail Address: _____
In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to	Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street,	Where did you hear about us? _____
Hamden, CT 06517-1321.	Comments: _____
	_____