



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
 of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

April 2016

UU Humanists Local Group

## Ending Homelessness in Our Time

Join us on Monday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to celebrate our 27th anniversary with a potluck dinner (please bring something!) and a talk by Alison Cunningham, Executive Director of Columbus House.

Governor Malloy recently announced that Connecticut has ended homelessness for Veterans. There is a statewide effort to end all forms of chronic homelessness by the end of this year; the campaign is named Zero: 2016.

What does it mean to declare an end of any kind of homelessness? How are we accomplishing this goal? What happens next?

Alison Cunningham will talk about these recent milestones, citing best practices and current trends in addressing the issue of homelessness in our region and across the state.

Columbus House, Inc., opened its doors in 1981 to serve people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing shelter and housing and by fostering their personal growth. Alison Cunningham served as Shelter Manager from 1987 to 1989, then served on the Board of Directors until 1996. She began her

## 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).

### APRIL 2016

Mon., 4	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 10	<b>Conversations: <i>The Ten Year Lunch</i></b>	2:45 p.m.
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: <i>Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic</i> by Matthew Stewart	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Anniversary Meeting & Potluck Dinner <b>Main program:</b> Alison Cunningham of Columbus House: <i>Ending Homelessness in Our Time</i>	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:00 p.m.
Sat., 30	Outing to Peabody Museum	11:00 a.m.

### MAY 2016

Mon., 2	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	<b>Conversations:</b> Program TBA.	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Stephen Glassman of ACLU/CT	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i> by Viktor E. Frankl	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:00 p.m.
Sat., 28	Outing: TBA	

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

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist)  
[www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist)  
[www.twitter.com/cthumanist](http://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

tenure as Executive Director in 1998.

Under Cunningham's leadership, Columbus House has shifted its focus from managing homelessness to finding the

solutions to end it. The agency now supports over 350 people in permanent supportive housing across the state, has a robust rapid re-housing program and

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Homelessness, continued

has been a model for integrating services that help people regain their independence. In October 2013, Columbus House opened the first state-funded respite program, serving twelve people who are homeless in a recuperative care setting. These and other focused initiatives provide intensive

services that help people move out of homelessness.

Cunningham currently serves on the Reaching Home Steering Committee, is the former Co-Chair of Greater New Haven Opening Doors, and has served two terms on the board of directors of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, as

well as other boards and committees. She graduated from Yale Divinity School with an M.Div. in 1984 and was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Albertus Magnus in 2005.

We'll start with a potluck dinner at the new time of 7:00 p.m. Our main talk will follow brief

## ***Humanist Conversations: The Ten Year Lunch***

Join us on Sunday, April 10, 2015 at 2:45 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

As we continue to broaden the focus of Conversations, the consideration of multiple aspects of the Human experience is paramount. Science, The Humanities, Arts and Letters, and many other disciplines are all worth consideration, but conversation is often overlooked despite its import. Humor is another component of the Human experience, and a vastly underrated one at that. Join us as we return to the 1920's to experience the great wit of the authors and artists who were the members of the Algonquin Round Table and the society they inhabited. Refreshments will be served.

## ***Humanist Blood Drive — May 5***

The Atheist Humanist Society of CT and RI is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive for the National Day of Reason. The Blood Drive will be at the New London Public Library from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Please, if you can, take the opportunity to give at this event. The Red Cross was difficult to convince to run this event in the first place, and the drive must meet their collection goals in order to continue from year-to-year. You must register in advance to participate.

For more information or to register, choose one of the many available contact options: <https://www.facebook.com/AHSCTRI> — <http://www.atheisthumanist.org> — [AHSCTRI@gmail.com](mailto:AHSCTRI@gmail.com) — (860) 576-9247 — <http://redcrossblood.org> — (800) RED-CROSS

## ***April 30 Outing: Yale Peabody Museum***

Join us on Saturday, April 30, at 11:00 a.m. at the Peabody Museum of Natural History, located at 170 Whitney Avenue in New Haven, for a self-guided tour of the *Fossil Fragments: The Riddle of Human Origins* exhibit. Rebecca has arranged for a \$5 ticket price, so contact her to RSVP at (203) 900-4221 or [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org). Learn about the scientists who brought this wealth of information to our world and then view the fossil records that remind us we were not always human. To save your spot, please RSVP on meetup or email at [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org). Don't want to drive into the city? Take the J bus from the Hamden plaza (23 minute bus ride); a one day pass is \$3. For those interested in lunch and chatting about the exhibit, we will find a restaurant at the end and do separate checks.

Watch these pages for upcoming plans for details of a tour of Grove Cemetery, the oldest incorporated cemetery in the USA, a trip to the Yale Center for British Art (which is re-opening in May), and more!

## ***Reason Rally 2016***

The second Reason Rally will be held at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, from Thursday, June 2, to Sunday, June 5. The free main event will be held on Saturday, June 4.

For more information please visit <http://reasonrally.org/>.

## ***Yale Humanist Community April Events***

April is a busy month for the Yale Humanist Community. The day-long CARE conference at the Mart Twain House in Hartford kicks off “Humanism at Yale Week” on Saturday, April 2.

Next is a Humanist Haven on Sunday, April 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Wendy Thomas Russell, who will be talking about raising secular children.

On Monday, April 4, they will hold a STEAMMM activity at 3:00 p.m. and a Needs of New Haven Aids Project at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, April 5, Jamil Smith will talk on “Question All Authority: Intersectional Journalism as a Humanizing Force” at 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 6, the launch party for the crowdfunding phase of the Green Light Project will take place at 7:30 p.m.

On Thursday, April 7, Lesley Hazleton will talk on “The Agnostic Adventure: How Mystery and Doubt Keep Us Human.”

On Friday, April 8, Peter Manseau will talk on “Twenty Gods or None: Belief, Unbelief, and the Making of a Nation” at 6:00 p.m.

Finally, on Saturday, April 9, Dr. Laurie Santos will lead an Animal Gratitude Ceremony at 1:00 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, please visit <http://yalehumanists.com/week2016/>.

## ***Book Discussion: “Nature’s God”***

Our book for April is *Nature’s God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic* by Matthew Stewart. The discussion will take place Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

From Amazon: “America’s founders intended to liberate us not just from one king but from the ghostly tyranny of supernatural religion. Drawing deeply on the study of European philosophy, Matthew Stewart brilliantly tracks the ancient, pagan, and continental ideas from which America’s revolutionaries drew their inspiration. In the writings of Spinoza, Lucretius, and other great philosophers, Stewart recovers the true meanings of ‘Nature’s God,’ ‘the pursuit of happiness,’ and the radical political theory with which the American experiment in self-government began.”

(Discover how the founding principles of America tie to our earlier selection, *The Swerve*: “The revival of the Epicurean philosophy that followed upon the rediscovery of Lucretius in early modern Europe was *the decisive episode in the history of modern thought* [emphasis added]. It was more important than what we now call the scientific revolution, which was really its consequence rather than its cause.” - pg. 80 of “Nature’s God”)

“A lively, powerful, and erudite refutation of the myth that the framers of our secular Constitution had any intention of founding an orthodox Christian nation.” — Susan Jacoby, author of *Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism*

The book is readily available in numerous libraries around the state.

Refreshments will be served.

Our book for Saturday, May 21 will be *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl.

## ***Week of Action 2016: April 28 – May 4***

Join the Hartford Area Humanists at the 33rd Annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger on May 1 at 12:30 p.m. Register with Team Hartford Area Humanists at <http://hartfordhumanists.org/walk>. If you need a ride to Hartford, please call Rebecca at (203) 900-4221.

The Week of Action is an initiative of the Foundation Beyond Belief in response to the National Day of Prayer and National Day of Reason as a way to come together regardless of beliefs to benefit our communities. Foundation Beyond Belief is urging all humanists to do at least one good deed during Week of Action. The actions can be large or small, with groups or as individuals, and benefitting entire communities or a single person.

**Email List**

To join, send an email to:  
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with the subject **subscribe**.

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# USNH Social Cinema

USNH social cinema at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden moves to the first Saturday for the month of April. The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, will be followed by the documentary film *Divide In Concord* at 7:15 p.m.

In 1775 in Concord, Mass., patriots fired the famous “shot heard round the world” that began the American Revolution. Now follow a modern day revolution as 84 year-old Jean Hill wages war against the bottled water industry. For three years Jean has worked to rid the town of Concord of single-serve plastic water bottles. Witness the story of her controversial crusade.

Bring your returnable bottles to Social Cinema both as a donation to help support awareness of environmental issues, and as a visible statement of how much plastic we create.

For more information call 203-288-1807 or email [office@usnh.org](mailto:office@usnh.org)

# Speaker Fund Challenge Results!

Development committee chair Rebecca Williams offered to match up to \$250 of total donations to the speaker fund between New Year and the March 21 monthly meeting. We’re pleased to announce that due to some generous donations, \$125 was raised and Rebecca will be matching that amount. Thank you, Rebecca!

# USNH Passover Seder

The USNH Passover Seder will be held on Saturday April 23 at 6:00 p.m. and features a participatory retelling of the Exodus story from a contemporary social justice perspective. It is a potluck, and HAC member Amy Wexler has a ton of suitable recipes. No bread is allowed; this is part of the tradition. RSVP to Amy at 203-901-0300, or by email at [blueroosters@aol.com](mailto:blueroosters@aol.com)

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). We welcome humanist-themed letters, articles, poetry, news items, cartoons, and illustrations.

Please include a SASE to have material returned. Approximate circulation: 180 copies. Annual subscription price \$10.00, included in membership.

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

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