



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
 of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

June 2016

UU Humanists Local Group

Picnic: June 25

Join us for the HAC Annual Picnic on Saturday, June 25th, from 4 to 8 p.m., at the lovely home of Gayle Walter and Gordon Daniell at 51 Linden Street in New Haven. In the event of rain, the picnic will be postponed to Sunday, June 26th. If it also rains on Sunday, we'll try again next year.

They will provide hot dogs and veggie burgers. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

RSVP to Gayle at GayleCWalter@gmail.com.

If you have any trouble finding the location, Gayle's phone number is (203) 640-3694.

Directions

From South of New Haven:

Take the Trumbull Street Exit off I-91, which is the first exit past the 95/91 interchange. At the end of the ramp, take a right onto Orange Street. Go north on Orange Street 10 blocks to Avon Street. All the side streets are one way, so you need to go around the block to get to 51 Linden Street: take a right onto Avon, then a left onto Foster, then a left onto Linden Street.

From North of New Haven:

Take the Willow Street Exit off I-91, which is Exit 5. At the end of the exit ramp, take a right onto Willow Street. Go west on Willow Street to the third traffic

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at meetup.com/cthumanist.

JUNE 2016

Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 11	Explorations: <i>Confessions of a Train Spotter</i>	2:30 p.m
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: <i>The Octopus: A Story of California</i> by Frank Norris	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Sat., 25	June Picnic at Gayle Walter's home. Rain Date: Sunday, June 26.	4:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m

JULY 2016

Sat., 2	Explorations: <i>Raptor Force</i>	2:30 p.m
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: <i>The Social Conquest of the Earth</i> by E.O. Wilson	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting Main program: PJ Deak & Family on Raising Donations to House a Refugee Family	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:00 p.m

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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light at the corner of Willow and Foster Streets; there is a Pizza parlor on the near right-hand corner. Turn left onto Foster Street and take the first right onto Linden Street.

#51 is the last house on the right of the first block of Linden Street. It is a small

butterscotch-colored Victorian. There is a 2-car garage between the house and the market on the corner, which is Romeo's. If you go too far, you will be back to Orange Street. Because Linden Street is one-way, either park on the street and walk back or go around the block again.

Humanist Explorations: Confessions of a Train Spotter

We've renamed Humanist Conversations to better match its current focus — explorations of facets of being human. Topics will vary across the arts, sciences, history, music, etc.

The Reason Rally will be held in Washington, DC on the first weekend of June, and so will clash with our traditional time for Humanist Explorations. We will hold our June Explorations meeting a week later than usual on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

For those of us who remember the Monty Python troupe of the seventies, Michael Palin (no relation to Sarah) had a wonderful touch for travel, and a wry sense of humor. Join us, and him, for a journey of nostalgic bent as we travel the length of Britain by rail from London to The Isle of Skye in Northwest Scotland. This is a fascinating look at how railways, which originated in England, evolved and changed the world we inhabit. Refreshments will be served.

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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.

Book Discussion: "The Octopus"

Our book for June is *The Octopus: A Story of California* by Frank Norris. The discussion will take place Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Like the tentacles of an octopus, the tracks of the railroad reached out across California, as if to grasp everything of value in the state. Based on an actual, bloody dispute between wheat farmers and the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880, *The Octopus* is a stunning novel of the waning days of the frontier West. To the tough-minded and self-reliant farmers, the monopolistic, land-grabbing railroad represented everything they despised: consolidation, organization, conformity. But Norris idealizes no one in this epic depiction of the volatile situation, for the farmers themselves ruthlessly exploited the land, and in their hunger for larger holdings they resorted to the same tactics used by the railroad: subversion, coercion and outright violence. In his introduction, Kevin Starr discusses Norris's debt to Zola for the novel's extraordinary sweep, scale and abundance of characters and details.

On Saturday, July 16, we will discuss *The Social Conquest of Earth* by E.O. Wilson.

"Biologist E. O. Wilson's brilliant new volume, *The Social Conquest of Earth*, could more aptly be entitled 'Biology's Conquest of Science.' Drawing on his deep understanding of entomology and his extraordinarily broad knowledge of the natural and social sciences, Wilson makes a strong case for the synthesis of knowledge across disciplines. Understanding the biological origin of what makes us human can help us to build better theories of social and psychological interaction; in turn, understanding how other social species have evolved may help us to better understand the origin of our own. But the main reason that Wilson's book is successful is that he also brings into biology the best of what social science has to offer."

James H. Fowler - *Nature*

"A sweeping account of the human rise to domination of the biosphere, rounded out with broad reflections on art, ethics, language and religion." Jennifer Schuessler - *New York Times*

Both of these books are readily available in numerous libraries around the state.

Refreshments will be served at all of the discussions.

USNH Social Cinema

The final Social Cinema before the summer will be at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on the first Friday of June. The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3, will be followed by the documentary film *A Place at the Table* at 7:15 p.m.

A Place at the Table is a 2012 documentary film concerning hunger in America directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, with appearances by Jeff Bridges, Raj Patel, and chef Tom Colicchio. Even though 1 in 4 American children don't know where their next meal is coming from, this movie suggests hunger can be ended once and for all and offers a solution in addition to personal stories of hunger.

For more information call 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

MEMBERSHIP		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, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.		I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
		Where did you hear about us? _____
		Comments: _____