



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

July 2019



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly Meeting

### ALEC -- July 15, 7:00

Join us on Monday evening for a presentation on ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. ALEC describes itself as a non-partisan, non-profit organization. But what goes on behind closed doors? Corporations on ALEC task forces vote on "model" bills and resolutions, and sit as equals with legislators voting on the ALEC task forces and various working groups. Who are some of the members? ExxonMobile, The Koch Foundation, and Castle Rock Foundation (Coors), to name a few. Alumni? John Boehner, Tom Delay, Donald Rumsfeld, and Scott Walker have been members. Featured speakers have included Newt Gingrich, Dick Cheney, George Allen and others. Is any of this lobbying? How can it be legal? Can any of this be a good thing? Richard Siddall will take us into an understanding of what ALEC is, how it works, who it helps and who it harms. Don't miss it!

## 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).

### JULY 2019

|          |  |                           |
|----------|--|---------------------------|
| Mon., 1  | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House<br>1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven                                   | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sat., 6  | Explorations, "Broadway Musicals:<br>A Jewish Legacy"  | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly Meeting -- ALEC  | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sat., 20 | Book Discussion: "Before you Know It"<br>by John Bargh   | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board Meeting  | 3:30 p.m.                 |
| Mon., 22 | Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap<br>2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden,<br>Topic "The Evolution of Religion" | 7:00 p.m.                 |

### AUGUST 2019

|          |   |                           |
|----------|---|---------------------------|
| Sat., 3  | Explorations, TBD   | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 5  | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House<br>1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven        | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sat., 17 | Book Discussion: "The Hate U Give"<br>by Angie Thomas                         | 2:30 p.m.<br>to 4:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly Meeting   | 7:00 p.m.                 |
| Sun., 25 | Board Meeting   | 3:30 p.m.                 |
| Mon., 26 | Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap<br>2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, Topic TBD | 7:00 p.m.                 |



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Contact

President--Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546  
president@cthumanist.org  
Newsletter Editor--Jim Ritter  
editor@cthumanist.org  
Mailing address: 700 Hartford Turnpike  
Hamden, CT 06517-2214  
Submissions and requests for permission to  
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Please take a minute to send in  
your 2019 dues to the address  
above: \$35 individual -- \$50 family  
-- \$10 postal newsletter only  
Many thanks to those already paid!

**Explorations: Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy -- July 6, 2:30 p.m.**

This PBS documentary, narrated by Joel Grey, explores the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical. Featuring interviews and conversations with some of the greatest composers and writers of the Broadway stage, this film showcases the work of some of the nation's pre-eminent creators of musical theatre including Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, George and Ira Gershwin, Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and many others.

**Book Discussion: Before You Know It—The Unconscious Reasons We Do What We Do -- July 20, 2:30 p.m.**

Dr. Bargh takes the reader into his labs at New York University and Yale where he and his colleagues have discovered how the unconscious guides our behavior, goals, and motivations. He reveals what science now knows about the pervasive influence of the unconscious mind.

**Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion - The Evolution of Religion July 22, 7 p.m., Hamden**

For discussion at the Wood 'N' Tap in Hamden, here are two interviews with Dr. Azim Shariff, who studied the evolution of religion. The first is a Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orF-R8eDhBU> and the second is a Hidden Brain episode: <https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=629616978>

**Event Report - AHA Conference Watch Party**

8 HAC members and friends met at Gayle and Gordon's house to watch the annual AHA Conference. This was the first time the AHA Conference was live-streamed. We watched talks on a wide variety of topics of importance and interest to modern day humanists. This was an enlightening and enjoyable gathering, let's do it again next year!

**Annual Picnic**

This annual event was a great gathering, as always, with lots of tasty food and good conversation. This year nineteen members and 3 friends came to relax and visit. A fiddle appeared and two members entertained us with a variety of familiar tunes.

**HAC Membership Drive**

As of the Annual Picnic we had 48 paid members. If you have not yet paid your 2019 dues, please mail your check to HAC c/o USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden 06517.

**We need you!** There are many opportunities available to support this group, such as:

- Kitchen help is always welcome at the monthly meeting! (see [Carol S.](#))
- Shopping for coffee, snacks and supplies (see Carol S.)
- Submit ideas for activities or newsletter items to the editor.
- Visit a board meeting to see what goes on behind the scenes.