



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2009



CSH Affiliate

Two American Non-Violent Social Activists

Join us Monday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when P. J. Deak will present a discussion of the roots of the American anti-slavery movement, focused on the non-violent activism of Benjamin Lay and Samuel Joseph May.

Is it true that a 4' 7" vegetarian pacifist living in a cave north of Philadelphia began the American anti-slavery movement? Or that a self-described "non-resistant, woman's rights, anti-capital punishment, Garrisonian abolitionist" Minister would help transform the United States into a more tolerant nation through his courage, determination and non-violent activism?

Some of the most admirable figures from the American anti-slavery movement are barely mentioned in conventional history books. Two in particular — Benjamin Lay (1681-1760) and Samuel Joseph May (1797-1871) — not only committed their lives tirelessly to the struggle for freedom and equality but were determined to accomplish this end while upholding their strong beliefs in non-violence.

Benjamin Lay was born a Quaker in England and worked as a sailor for many years before settling on the island of Barbados as a shopkeeper in 1710. Slave plantations dominated the island, many owned by Quakers. Lay and his wife became sympathetic to the plight of the enslaved Africans and expended much effort attempting to convince the Quakers on Barbados to end the use of slave labor. They eventually moved to the Pennsylvania colony where they spent their remaining years encouraging the Society of Friends to oppose slavery — often using

Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER, 2009

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations: Video: Charlie Chaplin's <i>Modern Times</i>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 14	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly meeting Main program: P. J. Deak on Two American Non-Violent Social Activists	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 30	Hartford-Area social dinner at Szechuan Tokyo, 1245 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-0180 for directions	7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER, 2009

Sat., 3	Book Discussion at Doug Peary's home, 63 Forest Hill Road, North Haven: "The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama	3:00 p.m.
Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 10	Humanist Conversations: TBD	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly meeting Main program: "Joe Gould's Secret" video	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Sat., 24	Bible Reading Group: hour-long video Discussion on the final 5 chapters of Kugel's guide	2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 28	Hartford-Area social dinner, location TBA	7:00 p.m.

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extravagant, theatrical performances.

Samuel Joseph May was born in Boston. He was integral to the formation and the leadership of the American Anti-Slavery Society — at one point giving up his congregation to be president of the society full-time, at another being co-secretary of the society with his close friend Susan B. Anthony. May was a conductor on the Underground Railroad in Brooklyn, Connecticut and later in Syracuse, New York — concealing and

transporting runaway slaves into Massachusetts and Canada from 1834 through the end of the Civil War. He was also directly involved in the incident in Canterbury Connecticut involving Prudence Crandall and her school — May was Ms. Crandall's primary counsel in the matter and led the planning and funding of her defense.

Join us Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. for coffee and conversation, followed by brief announcements and P.J.'s talk at 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

Conversations: Modern Times

Join us Saturday, September 5 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we'll watch and discuss *Modern Times*, the

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Email List

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Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Program David Schafer
Membership Carol Podgwaite
Development Manny Ratafia
Publications Carol Stone
Publicity June Schafer
Hospitality Randy Olear

Newsletter

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

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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 Meeting Starts Early

Our October monthly meeting will start half an hour earlier than usual, since we'll be showing a full-length movie.

Modern Times — continued from page 1

Charlie Chaplin classic dedicated to the human condition in the industrial, economic and social circumstances of the early 20th century.

In 1931 Chaplin told a newspaper interviewer, "Unemployment is the vital question ... Machinery should benefit mankind. It should not spell tragedy and throw it out of work".

"The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama

We will discuss "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" by Barack Obama on Saturday, October 3, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Doug Peary and Gabriella Brand have been kind enough to open their home for our book discussion. This is 1.6 miles from our usual meeting place (see directions below).

In addition to the printed book, there is also a six hour audio version, read by Barack Obama. You can either listen to the audiobook or read the print version. There are lots of copies of both at public libraries as well as bookstores and online. Please bring a snack to share. As always, feel free to invite a friend or two.

Directions to the home of Doug Peary and Gabriella Brand at 63 Forest Hill Road in North Haven.

Heading North or South on Route 15:

Take the Whitney Avenue exit (exit 61). Turn toward New Haven (left if you are heading north and right if you are heading south) onto Whitney Avenue and go 0.4 miles. Turn left onto Wayland St. and go 0.4 miles. Turn right onto Forest Hill Road and go 0.1 miles. Number 63 is a white single-story home with black trim.

From USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden:

Take a left out of the parking lot onto Hartford Turnpike. At the traffic light, turn left onto Skiff Street. At the next traffic light, turn right onto Ridge Road. Take your first left onto Buell Street and then your first left again onto Forest Hill Road. The third house before the end of the street, number 63, is a white single-story home with black trim.

Bible Discussion — Last Meeting

The next and final meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will see a video from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and will discuss the video and readings and the book in general from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please bring a snack to share and, as always, feel free to bring a friend.

Reading for October 24:

In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel, read the remainder of the book, which is the following:

- Chapter 32. Ezekiel, pages 599-616
- Chapter 33. Twelve Minor Prophets, pages 617-634
- Chapter 34. Job and Postexilic Wisdom, pages 635-643
- Chapter 35. Daniel the Interpreter, pages 644-661
- Chapter 36. After Such Knowledge, pages 662-689

This is your last chance to bring a topical joke or short story, too!

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Newsletter Only	\$10	Telephone: _____
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.		E-Mail Address: _____
		Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
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