



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2013



CSH Affiliate

Thursday 4/11 Anniversary Meeting,

Robert B. Tapp on Humanists, Nones, and the New Atheists

Join us for our 24th Anniversary, complete with cake and potluck on **Thursday, April 11** at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Best-selling books have spotlighted Sam Harris, Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, and Christopher Hitchens. Of course traditional religious thinkers have criticized them. But they have also faced criticisms from many humanists. How are those controversies related to the increasing percentage of Americans who identify as "religious Nones" or as "Spiritual But Not Religious?"

We are very pleased to have Robert B. Tapp, Ph.D, as our anniversary speaker. Dr. Tapp has been a tireless educator of humanists for decades. Random highlights of his lengthy career include Summer Lecturer, Starr King School for the Ministry, 1959; Dean, Humanist Institute 1993-2005; Professor of Humanities and Religious Studies, University of Minnesota, 1972-1994. He has been published regularly since 1953 in such varying publications as *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*, *Journal for Humanistics* (Utrecht), and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. I'm barely scraping the surface with this list. Please visit his website at rbtapp.com. You'll be glad you did!

Join us with a dish for the potluck on **Thursday, April 11** at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden to be followed by Bob's talk after brief announcements at 8:00 p.m. for this very special anniversary treat!

Calendar of Events

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

APRIL

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Humanist Conversations: Doug Peary on death with dignity	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 6	A.C. Grayling interview at RJ Julia Booksellers, 768 Boston Post Rd., Madison	6:00 p.m.
Thu., 11	Anniversary Meeting, starting with potluck dinner *NOTE THE DATE*	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Dr. Robert Tapp, Dean Emeritus of the Humanist Institute	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 20	Book Discussion: "Good Without God" by Greg Epstein.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 30	Hartford Area Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444	6:30 p.m.

MAY

Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Ken Feder "Lye Stones, Cider Presses, and Sacrificed Virgins: Converging Evidence at the Mystery Hill Site in NH"	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 28	Hartford Area Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444	6:30 p.m.

Conversations - Aid in Dying

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when Rev. Douglas Peary will discuss HB 6645 - legislation currently under consideration in Connecticut that would allow terminally ill, mentally competent patients get a doctor's prescription for medication to end their suffering.

Doug Peary is one of the founding members of the Humanist Association of Connecticut, was its vice-president for many years and took a turn at president in 2000. Raised a conservative Baptist fundamentalist Christian on a Maine potato farm, Doug's spiritual journey led

him to become an ordained UU Minister in 1979. In 2004 he published his first book, "Humanist Heroes," a compilation of his very popular presentations. He is now working on volume two.

More recently, Doug has become an active advocate for Compassion & Choices, a group that provides education, counseling and advocacy concerning end of life choices. He has been actively involved in the effort to pass this legislation and will give us an update on its progress through the State Legislative process.

Refreshments will be served.

www.cthumanist.org

www.facebook.com/cthumanist • www.meetup.com/cthumanist • www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Email List

To join, send an email to:
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4/5 – The Man Without a Past

Aki Kaurismäki’s “The Man Without a Past” (Mies vailla menneisyyttä) has won many cinematic awards, most notably the 2002 Grand Prix of the Cannes Film Festival and a 2003 Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone described it as “a delicious blend of hilarity and heartbreak.” It is also highly original, memorable, and provocative. Friday, April 5, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Potluck 6:30 p.m. Film 7:00 p.m. Discussion follows.

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Announcing our Hartford-Area Affiliate: Hartford Humanists

HAC is pleased to announce the establishment of a new affiliate organization, Hartford Humanists. Hartford Humanists will plan, coordinate and implement activities and events of interests to humanists living in the greater-Hartford area, including the monthly dinner series in Rocky Hill. Although its events and activities will typically take place in the greater-Hartford area, all Hartford Humanist events will be open to all HAC members. The April monthly dinner meeting, which will be on Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m., will be dedicated to discussing and planning the new organization. All are welcome to come and participate in the formation of the newest member of the Humanist community, whether you live in the Hartford area or not. Wood-n-Tap Restaurant, 12 Town Line Rd, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Book Discussion: Good Without God

The Book Group will be meeting on Sat., April 20 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss “Good Without God: What A Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe” A provocative and positive response to Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, and other New Atheists, “Good Without God” makes a bold claim for what nonbelievers do share and believe. Author Greg Epstein, the Humanist chaplain at Harvard, offers a world view for nonbelievers that dispenses with the hostility and intolerance of religion prevalent in national bestsellers like “God is Not Great” and “The God Delusion.” Epstein’s “Good Without God” provides a constructive, challenging response to these manifestos by getting to the heart of Humanism and its positive belief in tolerance, community, morality, and good without having to rely on the guidance of a higher being.

Copies are available in public libraries, in book stores and online.

2013 Walk Against Hunger

The Connecticut Food Bank’s 2013 Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger will be held on Sunday, May 5, and the Humanist Association of Connecticut will once again be participating. Connecticut Food Bank is one of President June Schafer’s favorite charities, and the Food Bank supports June’s work through USNH at the Waverley Townhouses in New Haven.

You can join our team of walkers by going to the Connecticut Food Bank’s site at <http://ctfb.convio.net/goto/wah-hac2013> and signing up. (Team name is Humanist Association of Connecticut) Or, you can donate to support our team at the same place. You can also make donations by mail to HAC, or in person at any of our upcoming events. Please make checks payable to Connecticut Food Bank.

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. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

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.

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