



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

May 2013



CSH Affiliate

## Ken Feder on Lye Stones, Cider Presses, and Sacrificed Virgins

We are pleased to welcome our favorite archaeologist, Kenneth L. Feder, Ph.D., to present this talk on Monday, May 20, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Ken says, "Researchers rely on multiple, independent channels of evidence converging on the same explanation to support a particular hypothesis. In the example presented here, I'll assess the converging evidence for the object called 'The Sacrificial Table' located at the Mystery Hill site in New Hampshire."

Ken is a professor of Archaeology at Central Connecticut State University. Additionally, Ken is co-author of one and author of five books, the most recent of which is, "Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology: From Atlantis to the Walam Olum."

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 20, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, followed by Ken's fun and informative talk at 8:00 p.m.

Bring a friend, and plan on having a great time!

## USNH Cinema

Friday, May 3 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden

This month's movie will be "The House I Live In," co-sponsored by the Anti-Racism Group and the Adult Religious Education Committee. The film sets forth the often devastating consequences of the unfortunately named "War On Drugs."

An optional potluck dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; the video will be shown promptly at 7:00 p.m.

## 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).

### MAY

Sat., 4	Humanist Conversations: Self-Identification	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 5	Walk Against Hunger at East Rock Park in New Haven	1:00 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.
	<b>Main program:</b> Ken Feder "Lye Stones, Cider Presses, and Sacrificed Virgins: Converging Evidence at the Mystery Hill Site in NH"	8:00 p.m.
Sat., 25	Book Discussion: "Deer Hunting with Jesus" by Joe Bageant.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 28	Hartford Humanists Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444. Speaker: Dr. James Hughes	6:30 p.m.

### JUNE

Sat., 1	Annual Picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 8	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	<b>Main program:</b> Steve & Susan Boshi "A Humanist Trip to Italy"	8:00 p.m.
Tue., 25	Hartford Area Humanists Dinner at Wood-n-Tap, 12 Town Line Road, Rocky Hill. (860) 571-9444	6:30 p.m.
Sat., 29	Book Discussion: "The Believing Brain" by Michael Shermer.	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 30	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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

## Conversations - Self-Identification

After, "I don't believe ...," what do we say?

Following the book discussion about Greg Epstein's "Good Without God" and Robert Tapp's talk, we'll continue the discussion about "secular" and "spiritual" and, perhaps, get to a few more of the touchy ideas like "agnosticism," "atheism" and "purpose." To this end, we'll have three short videos related to defining or explaining important

ideas that we probably mostly take for granted, like "self" and "mind." The videos are: a March 2011 TED talk by Antonio Damasio, "The Quest to Understand Consciousness;" Neil Degrasse Tyson on being claimed by/as atheist; and Andrew Newberg, "Why God Won't Go Away."

Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

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

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## Annual Picnic – Saturday, June 1

Bob and Joan Rafford have once again generously volunteered to host the annual HAC picnic at their home, 57 Clear View Knoll in Middlebury, on Saturday, June 1. The picnic starts at 12 noon and continues until 4 p.m., rain or shine. Please bring a lawn chair, but only if the weather is good. The Raffords will provide vegetarian and meat hot dogs, soft drinks and beer. Please bring a dish to share! Directions will be in the June newsletter.

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## 2013 Walk Against Hunger

There's still time to donate online or join our team!  
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) 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.

Connecticut Valley Atheists will be participating in the Hartford area Walk Against Hunger on the same day. Last year CVA raised slightly more than HAC despite some generous donations from our members. We are hoping to out-raise CVA this year.

## The Book Discussion Group: "Deer Hunting With Jesus"

A raucous, truth-telling look at the white working poor-and why they hate liberalism. *Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from the Class War* is web columnist Joe Bageant's report on what he learned when he moved back to his hometown of Winchester, Virginia, which, like countless American small towns, is fast becoming the bedrock of a permanent underclass. By turns brutal, tender, incendiary, and seriously funny, this book is a call to arms for fellow progressives with little real understanding of "the great beery, NASCAR-loving, church-going, gun-owning America that has never set foot in a Starbucks." We will discuss the book at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Saturday, May 25, at 3:00 p.m. There are plenty of copies of the book in local libraries. Refreshments will be served.

## Hartford Area Humanists

We would like to welcome our newest Humanist organization, voted into existence on Tuesday, May 28!  
All HAC Members are invited to the Hartford Area Humanists monthly dinner speaker series. On Tuesday, May 28, the guest speaker will be James Hughes, Executive Director of the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies. Dr. Hughes, a professor at Trinity College, will discuss what neuroscience reveals about the physiology and neurochemistry of happiness, morality, self-control and transcendence. We meet in the back room of the Wood-N-Tap Restaurant at 12 Town Line Road in Rocky Hill at 6:30 p.m.

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.

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	
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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