



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

August 2013



CSH Affiliate

## *A Suicide Economy or Its Opposite, What Will It Be?*

Our August monthly meeting, on Monday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, features Daniel Finn of Pioneer Valley Local First.

Daniel says his talk “will build on the work of authors and entrepreneurs, such as David Korten, Judy Wicks and Annie Leonard, and will show how many aspects of our economy are taking us down a suicidal path and that unless we want this to be our future, that changing direction will not only be necessary, but better for us and our economy. My talk will help to ask and come up with some of the answers to: What does the suicide economy look like? What are examples of it? If we do change direction, what might the living economy be like? Is economics truly about numbers on a short sighted balance sheet or having positive relationships with every stakeholder? Does ownership matter? Does place matter? Is the proliferation of triple bottom line companies necessary to our future or can companies like Exxon, Walmart, Monsanto, and the company formerly known as Blackwater be trusted to bring us into a bright and healthy future for all 7 billion of us. How might we get from here to there?

I invite you to come have this conversation with me and share your own perspectives.”

From having his birth be announced in the Congressional Record when his dad was a Minority Counsel for Rep. Silvio Conte on the Select Committee for Small Business to 2001 when he was one of the Founders of Pioneer Valley Local First, supporting locally owned,

## *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).

### AUGUST

Mon., 5	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 10	Humanist Conversations: “Ben’s Mill”	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly Meeting Main program: Daniel Finn of Pioneer Valley Local First on local and fair trade	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 24	Book Discussion: <i>The Life You Can Save</i> by Peter Singer	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 25	Alain de Botton’s “Atheism 2.0”	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### SEPTEMBER

Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: TBA	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sat., 28	Book Discussion: TBA	3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sun., 29	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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

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independent businesses and sustainability has been very important to Daniel through out much of his life. Daniel received his B.A. in Environmental Studies from Northland College in 1992 and in 1994 was in AmeriCorps in East LA, South Central and Watts doing environmental service work. Over the past 20+ years Daniel has dedicated his life to helping people

see why sustainable economics are the only type of economics worth pursuing. In 2010, Daniel was chosen by Business West as one of the Forty Under 40.

We will begin with our customary half-hour of refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. followed by Daniel’s talk at 8:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Bring a friend!

## *Conversations — Ben’s Mill*

Our August Conversations session will be held a week later than usual, at 2:30 p.m. on the second Saturday, August 10 at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Steve Boshi will show the Academy Award nominated documentary “Ben’s Mill” and lead the discussion.

Steve says “Take a voyage back in time to nineteenth century New England, when prior to the advent of the Industrial Revolution, handcraft accomplished the work of everyday life. By the middle of the century as Industrialization rose, they co-existed in a unique relationship. This odd combination continued to thrive into the late part

*Continued over*

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*Conversations, continued*

of the twentieth century in a mill in Northern Vermont known as “Ben’s Mill.” This fascinating film raises many thoughts and questions about the progress of civilization and the impact of human beings on the world they inhabit. Ben Thresher is gone now, but this film provides an appreciation of his legacy, and an opportunity to discuss its impact on the future.”

Refreshments will be served.

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# Book Discussion Group: “The Life You Can Save” by Peter Singer

The Book Discussion Group has selected “The Life You Can Save: Acting Now To End World Poverty” by Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. For the first time in history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Yet around the world, a billion people struggle to live each day on less than many of us pay for bottled water. In “The Life You Can Save,” Singer uses ethical arguments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to argue that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but morally indefensible. Singer urges readers to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves. This is a very short book, and it is widely available in public libraries, as well as in book stores and online. We will meet to discuss it on Saturday, August 24 at 3:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

# “Atheism 2.0” — What Humanists Can Learn from Religious Institutions

Join us for a special afternoon meeting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 25. We will start with half an hour of food and socializing at 4:00 p.m. At 4:30 p.m. we will show Alain de Botton’s TED talk, “Atheism 2.0” and then discuss de Botton’s ideas about secularism, lifestyle, and ethics. Please bring a snack to share.

# Hartford Area Humanists

All HAC Members and their guests are invited to attend a Pig Roast on August 3, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at Dan Blinn’s home in Glastonbury. There will be other food choices including hot dogs and vegan options. The event is a fundraiser sponsored by Hartford Area Humanists for a regional conference, SANE, to be held in October. The suggested donation is \$20. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Dan requested that people respond through the Meetup page so that he has an accurate head count: <http://www.meetup.com/Hartford-Humanists/events/127104852/>. In case of rain, the Pig Roast will be held on August 4. Come on out and have a great time, and help make the SANE Conference a great success!

At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, Dan Xenatro, President of Connecticut Valley Atheists, will be the guest of Hartford Area Humanists at Fire-n-Spice, a vegetarian restaurant at 248 Sisson Avenue in Hartford. Dan will be discussing whether Humanists should lead a vegetarian lifestyle. The restaurant gets great reviews.

**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.

**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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