



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

October 2013



CSH Affiliate

Felix Adler, Humanist Hero

At our monthly meeting on Monday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, Doug Peary will present the latest in his popular "Humanist Hero" series, this time on Felix Adler, the founder of the Ethical Culture movement.

Doug was ordained as a UU Minister in 1979 and was certified as a Humanist Celebrant the following year. He served as a Federal Labor Investigator with the National Labor Relations Board for 30 years. A founding member of the Humanist Association of Connecticut, he was its vice-president for many years and took a turn at president in 2000.

Felix Adler (1851 to 1933) was born in Germany to Reform Jewish parents. His father was a rabbi who went on to lead a Reform congregation in New York City. Adler was expected to replace his father as Rabbi but when he returned from graduate school in Germany he had been influenced by the writings of Emmanuel Kant, who rejected belief in personal gods and immortality. Instead, with the help of many wealthy people, he founded the Ethical Culture Society. Members worked to correct wrongs against the working class and poor by creating free or inexpensive housing, schooling and health care. Ethical Culture held meetings on Sundays and was open to all people without

Calendar of Events

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

OCTOBER

Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 20	Book discussion: Sam Harris — <i>Free Will</i> at Stephany Cousins's home in Bethany.	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting Main program: Doug Peary — <i>Felix Adler, Humanist Hero</i>	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 28	Special meeting Main program: Michael Werner	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Sat., 2	Humanist Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
TBA	Monthly Meeting Main program: TBA	TBA
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

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exception. No gods were worshipped; no prayers were given. Rabbis declared it a humanist organization. Ethical Culture spread across the country and beyond, and is still headquartered in New York City.

Adler was opposed to American imperialism and deeply involved in politics. He taught at Cornell College and was involved with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Unitarians in the Free Religious Association. He married a Jewish

Unitarian Helen Goldmark in 1880. They named their oldest son Waldo after Emerson.

Adler went on to teach at Columbia University from 1902 until his death. He assisted in the establishment of the American Humanist Association.

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

SANE Conference — October 19!

The Secular Assembly for the North East is just days away! Due to generous sponsorship by area humanist organizations, the cost is only \$35, including lunch. Register at: <http://www.saneonline.org>.

This day-long conference will be held at the University of New Haven in West Haven on Saturday, October 19. The speakers are: Jessica Ahlquist, the Rhode Island student who successfully got a prayer removed from her school's auditorium; Liz Heywood, who lost her leg as a child because her parents thought prayer was sufficient; Dennis Paul Himes, the Connecticut State Director of American Atheists; Sikivu Hutchinson, an author who writes about gender, race, and Atheism; Barry Kosmin, from Trinity College's Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture; David Niose, the president of the Secular Coalition for America; and David Silverman, the president of American Atheists.

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Michael Werner: October 28

Those of you who read "The Humanist" regularly may have seen an article in the current issue by Mike Werner of Wilmington, NC, entitled "Regaining Balance: Time to Get More Humanism Back into Unitarianism." It is a short summary of a provocative book, recently published by Religious Humanism Press. Mike is currently touring New England and will be in New Haven October 28, with copies of his book. We have arranged a special HAC meeting that evening, beginning as usual with refreshments at 7:30 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Further details will appear on the HAC-announce list. Mike has been President of the American Humanist Association; Vice President of the Unitarian Universalist Humanist group HUUmansists; member of the North American Committee for Humanism; an adjunct faculty member of the Humanist Institute; speaker for United Coalition of Reason; and current President of the Humanist Foundation. He was one of the founders of SMART Recovery, a Self-Management and Recovery Training program for addictions.

Book Group: "Free Will" by Sam Harris

Our next book discussion group meeting will be on Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Stephany Cousins's home at 154 Sperry Road, Bethany, Connecticut.

We will be discussing Sam Harris's "Free Will." A belief in free will touches nearly everything that human beings value. It is difficult to think about law, politics, religion, public policy, intimate relationships,

morality—as well as feelings of remorse or personal achievement—without first imagining that every person is the true source of his or her thoughts and actions. Yet the facts tell us that free will is an illusion. In this enlightening book, Sam Harris argues that this truth about the human mind does not undermine morality or diminish the importance of social and political freedom, but it can and should change the way we think about some of the most important questions in life.

"Free Will" is available in public libraries. It is also available on Kindle or Nook for a low price. This is a very short book, so no one should have difficulty completing it by Oct. 20.

We had announced at the book discussion group that we would also be reading Sam Harris's essay: *Lying*. That essay was available as recently as the end of September for downloading for a charge of \$1. It is no longer available, however, probably because a new (presumably expanded) edition is coming out in November. So, we will not be discussing that essay.

Directions to 154 Sperry Road, Bethany: Take the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) to New Haven. Take exit 59. At the end of exit ramp turn left (north) onto Route 69 towards Bethany. After crossing the Bethany town line (a sign is on the left side of road) travel less than a mile to find Bethway Road on the left. Turn left onto Bethway and the next left onto Sperry Road. Drive about a half mile watching for 2 mailboxes close together on the left side with the numbers 154 and 158. Turn left into the driveway just before the mailbox. The driveway climbs a somewhat steep grade and turns to the right near the cottage and goes to the house.

Most GPS devices give bad directions to this location, so please use the directions above.

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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.

<p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Adult \$35</p> <p>Family \$50</p> <p>Newsletter Only \$10</p> <p>Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>
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