



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

December 2013



CSH Affiliate

Solstice Celebration!

Come to our annual Humanist celebration of the season following our Annual Meeting, where we'll elect officers for the coming year, on Monday, December 16! Please bring a dish for the pot luck and an item or two for the silent auction. We will offer a varied program, including the traditional reading of Lois Woodrow's "Ode To The Tilt."

Mickey Koth has again agreed to share some selections with us, and Charlotte Moulyn will again play music worthy of her beautiful instrument. We'll also hear Steve Boshi, a veteran of many years on Broadway, who will be joined by Micky Koth and David Schafer in enjoyable works by Connecticut's own (late) Leroy Anderson. For those so inclined, there will be singing, dancing, prancing, merry-making, and possibly even a bit of frolicking! Don't miss this special treat!

Join us on Monday, December 16, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden!

Calendar of Events

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

DECEMBER 2013

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: <i>What Money Can't Buy</i> with Michael Sandel	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	Book discussion: "The Swerve" by Stephen Greenblatt	2:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Pot-luck dinner	7:30 p.m.
	Annual meeting and elections, followed by Solstice Party and silent auction.	8:00 p.m.
Wed., 25	Casual dinner at Tom & Deidre Kennedy's home in Shelton	4:00 p.m.

JANUARY 2014

Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 11	Humanist Conversations: <i>Frontline</i> episode from 1999: "The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela: An Intimate Portrait of one of the 20th Century's Greatest Leaders."	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m.
	Main program: Steve and Susan Boshi on Europe	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
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Book Group: "The Swerve" by Stephen Greenblatt

The Book Group will meet at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss "The Swerve: How the World Became Modern" by Stephen Greenblatt.

Nearly six hundred years ago, a short, genial, cannily alert man in his late thirties took a very old manuscript off a library shelf, saw with excitement what he had discovered, and ordered that it be copied. That book was the last surviving manuscript of an ancient Roman philosophical epic, "On the Nature of Things," by Lucretius—a beautiful poem of the most dangerous ideas: that the universe functioned without the aid of gods, that religious fear was damaging to human life, and that matter was made up of very small particles in eternal motion, colliding and swerving in new directions.

The copying and translation of this ancient book, the greatest discovery of the greatest book-hunter of his age, fueled the Renaissance, inspiring artists such as Botticelli and thinkers such as Giordano Bruno; shaped the thought of Galileo and Freud, Darwin and Einstein; and had a revolutionary influence on writers such as Montaigne and Shakespeare and even Thomas Jefferson. (Text courtesy of *Amazon.com*)

January Humanist Conversations:

Frontline's "The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela"

On Saturday, January 11, we will watch the comprehensive 1999 Frontline biography of Nelson Mandela, "The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela: An Intimate Portrait of one of the 20th Century's Greatest Leaders." (111:30 min)

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Email List

To join, send an email to:
hac-announce-request@cthumanist.org
with the subject **subscribe**.

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Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Program	David Schafer
Membership	Halina Platt
Development	Manny Ratafia
Publications	Carol Siddall
Publicity	Dan Blinn
Hospitality	Randy Olear

Newsletter

Editor	Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546 editor@cthumanist.org
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Thanks From ICM!

Here are portions of a letter from “Skip” Borgerson, Interfaith Cooperative Ministries’ Interim Coordinator, thanking all of you who contributed to ICM’s program to provide Thanksgiving dinners for 400 homeless and elderly shut-ins again this year:

“I cannot believe how many people you’ve got on that list...! That is simply phenomenal! I’m sure [you’ll] win the honors this year, hands down. ...Such wonderful results. Many, many thanks to you and [all those who helped]. You are just great!”

You’ll be happy to know that every dollar, ounce of food, and minute of effort you donated truly helped someone in need!

2013 Annual Meeting

Come cast your vote Monday, December 16! We will vote on the slate of officers for 2014. Remember, only members may vote, and nominations may be made from the floor.

Proposed January — December 2014 slate of officers:

President – June Schafer
 Vice President – Carol Siddall
 Treasurer – Carol Podgwaite
 Secretary – Deidre Kennedy

Committee Chairs:

Programs – David Schafer	Development – Manny Ratafia
Membership – Halina Platt	Publications – Richard Siddall
Publicity – Dan Blinn	Hospitality – Randy Olear

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Joan Rafford, June Schafer, and Gayle Walter

Humanist Dinner, December 25

Tom and Deidre Kennedy have kindly offered to host an early evening dinner at their home in Shelton. Tom & Deidre will provide a lasagna and a ham. If anyone would like to bring something, an appetizer or dessert would be welcome. Dress is casual. This is a chance to get out of the house on a day when most of the country is closed, and spend a few minutes with some like-minded friends. Please RSVP for an address by phone at 203-922-1548.

Winfred Rembert Calendars

When USNH first formed a partnership with the Waverly housing project, Winfred Rembert lived near the project with his wife and 8 children. Long before, he had served 8 years on a chain gang in Georgia. As we came to know him he said he knew how to paint pictures on leather. His friends provided the leather and he painted amazing pictures. When he began to be recognized, Yale Art Gallery gave him a showing. His work has now been displayed by many galleries and museums. We have made a 2014 calendar based on his work. It costs \$12, and most of the money will go to help Waverly children. Calendars will be available at our December meeting.

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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.

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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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