



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

February 2014



CSH Affiliate

## *Darwin vs Hitler: Why Evolution Makes No Comment on Ethics*

Paul Chiariello last spoke for HAC in November. We're bringing him back as our special Darwin Day speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, February 17.

Paul says of his talk: "In Ray Comfort's recent farcical introduction to Darwin's Origin of Species he makes a claim often repeated by Christian fundamentalists: the tragedies of Nazi Germany were inspired, fueled, and made possible by Darwin's 'theory' of evolution. If evolution is true, we're nothing but animals! Survival of the Fittest implies we ought not give a helping hand to those in need. In fact, so the argument goes, we should speed up the process. But is this what we should learn from what scientists claim about Natural Selection? And if not, what moral guidance if any might we glean from it?"

Paul Chiariello is the current Director of Operations and Co-founder of the Yale

## *Humanist Conversations*

At 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, we will watch and discuss the December 13, 2013, Bill Moyers episode featuring historian Richard Slotkin on the topic of the role of guns and violence in our society.

## *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).

### FEBRUARY 2014

Sat., 1	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> Bill Moyers episode with Richard Slotkin on guns and violence	2:30 p.m
Mon., 3	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 15	Book discussion: "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn	2:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Paul Chiariello — "Darwin vs Hitler: Why Evolution Makes No Comment on Ethics"	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

### MARCH 2014

Sat., 1	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> TBA	2:30 p.m
Mon., 3	<b>Social Dinner</b> at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Mon., 17	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Arthur Saxon — "P. T. Barnum"	7:30 p.m 8:00 p.m
Sun., 23	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

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

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Humanist Community. In addition, Paul works with the Rutgers Humanist Chaplaincy, mostly with their blog [AppliedSentience.com](http://AppliedSentience.com), as well as Camp Quest as the Program Director for Camp Quest New

England and the Director of the Humanism and Philosophy Curriculum at Camp Quest Inc. Paul earned his MSc in Comparative and International Education from Oxford University.

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

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# USNH Potluck/Cinema February 7

USNH will hold its monthly potluck, film, and discussion on Friday, February 7th, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. and the film at 7:00 p.m. This month a collection of short films will include: Idle No More; Honor The Treaties; The Elsipogtog Mi'kmaq resistance to fracking; and The Mayan Zapatista Silent Mobilization. Discussion will follow.

## Book Group: "Ishmael"

The Book Group will meet at USNH at 2:00 p.m. on February 15 to discuss "Ishmael: An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit" by Daniel Quinn. In case of bad weather, we will meet on February 22.

The narrator of this extraordinary tale is a man in search for truth. He answers an ad in a local newspaper from a teacher looking for serious pupils, only to find himself alone in an abandoned office with a full-grown gorilla who is nibbling delicately on a slender branch. "You are the teacher?" he asks incredulously. "I am the teacher," the gorilla replies. Ishmael is a creature of immense wisdom and he has a story to tell, one that no other human being has ever heard. It is a story that extends backward and forward over the lifespan of the earth from the birth of time to a future there is still time to save. Like all great teachers, Ishmael refuses to make the lesson easy; he demands the final illumination to come from within ourselves. Is it man's destiny to rule the world? Or is a higher destiny possible for him — one more wonderful than he has ever imagined?

The book is widely available at public libraries and at on-line and retail bookstores. Refreshments will be served.

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Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.

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