



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

May 2015

## *Sheep, Spirits, Stars, and Massacres: Deciphering the Ancient Rock Art of North America*

We're pleased to announce Ken Feder, Ph.D., will give another of his popular talks at our May monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, on Monday, May 18.

Ken says, "From cave paintings of Ice Age animals in Paleolithic Europe to artistic depictions of historical events by nineteenth-century residents of Canyon de Chelly, art provides a window into the minds and lives of past peoples. I have spent the last few years examining sites in North America where indigenous artists told their stories, leaving behind comprehensible messages about their world. In my presentation, I will share some of that art and propose at least possible meanings for some those messages. There will, of course, be lots of cool pictures!"

Ken is a professor of Archaeology at Central Connecticut State University, author of five books and the co-author of another. He has been the token skeptic on several TV programs.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:30 p.m. Ken's talk will follow brief announcements at 8:00 p.m.

## *Conversations*

Please join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 to view and discuss the *Frontline* episode, aired October 28, 2014, that investigates the miscalculations and mistakes behind the brutal rise of ISIS.

Refreshments will be served.

## *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 2015

Sat., 2	Community Health Center Race for Mental Health at Hubbard Park, Meriden.	7:45 a.m.
Sat., 2	Conversations: <i>Frontline</i> on ISIS	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: David Niose's "Fighting Back the Right," with guest David Niose via Skype	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 17	Walk Against Hunger for Connecticut Food Bank at East Rock Park, New Haven	1:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Monthly Meeting	7:30 p.m
	<b>Main program:</b> Ken Feder — <i>Sheep, Spirits, Stars, and Massacres</i>	8:00 p.m
Sun., 24	Board meeting	2:30 p.m

### JUNE 2015

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 6	Conversations: TBA	2:30 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting	2:30 p.m
Sat., 27	Annual Picnic at Gayle Walter's home in New Haven	4:00 p.m

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

## *Week of Action: April 30 to May 6*

Week of Action is an initiative started by Humanist Rabbi Adam Chalom through the Foundation Beyond Belief. It takes place the week before National Day of Prayer and Reason, and is a way to come together to benefit our communities regardless of beliefs.

To participate we've chosen to support the Community Health Center Race for Mental Health on Saturday, May 2 at Hubbard Park in Meriden. Registration is from 7:45 - 8:30 a.m. followed by the kids fun run at 8:30 a.m., the 10k run up to Castle Craig at 9:00 a.m., and finally the 5k and health walk at 9:30 a.m. Registration for the 10k run is \$45 and is \$25 for the 5k and health walk.

Please contact Rebecca at [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org) with any questions.

## *2015 Walk Against Hunger*

The Connecticut Food Bank's 2015 Greater New Haven Walk Against Hunger on Sunday, May 17 is fast approaching, but there's still time to join our team or donate. Registration starts at 1 p.m. at East Rock Park, located at the corner of Cold Spring and Orange Streets in New Haven. The three mile walk starts at 2 p.m.

Go to our team page on the Connecticut Food Bank's site at <http://cthumanist.org/walk> to join our team of walkers or donate to support our team. You can also make donations by mail to HAC, or in person at any of our events. Please make checks payable to Connecticut Food Bank.

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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.

**Thank you for Renewing!**

Thank you to everyone who has joined or renewed their membership for 2015!

**Book Discussion: David Niose: "Fighting Back the Right"**

We are very pleased to announce that David Niose, Legal Director of the American Humanist Association, will moderate this discussion of his latest book live via Skype on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

In this book, "Fighting Back the Right," Niose posits that a true "progressive policy should be synonymous with human-centered policy." Consequently, political struggle must first and foremost be an effort by real people to retrieve the political system from institutional, nonhuman interests, i.e. "corporate people." In making his argument, Niose reviews the historical trajectory that led America to this point, discusses how the anti-intellectual right and corporate interests in tandem have capitalized on these events, and suggests what progressive humanists must do to retake control of the country. (Hint: Overthrow the notion of "corporate personhood.")

To discuss "corporate personhood" and the structure/culture of governing power, there are also several (mostly short) supplemental readings for the discussion:

- "Help! I've been colonized and I can't get up..." by Jane Anne Morris (available at: <http://democracythepark.org/articles/help-ive-been-colonized/>)
- CELDF's Statement on Efforts to Amend the U.S. Constitution following Citizen's United (available at: <http://www.celdf.org/citizens-united-v-fec---celdf-statement> )
- Chapter 3: Power from Contractionary Revolution by Frank Rotering (available at: <http://contractionism.org/books-2/> )
- Preface to Why America Failed: The Roots of Imperial Decline by Morris Berman

All but the last are available on-line. Please send an email to request that reading to: [editor@cthumanist.org](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org).

The discussion will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2015 in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden. Please note, to respect David Niose's schedule, the discussion will begin shortly after 2 p.m., so please plan to arrive a few minutes early so that we can begin promptly a few minutes after the hour.

Refreshments will be served.

**USNH Cinema**

On May 1, an optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by the documentary film, *Ride With Larry*, at 7:15 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

After a 20-year battle with Parkinson's, Larry has exhausted every conventional method of treatment, every drug, and even brain surgery. Refusing to give up, he seeks alternatives, discovering the untapped benefits of exercise. Now Larry will attempt a 300-mile bike ride across South Dakota. In this intimate portrait of courage, love, and community, Larry Smith refuses to give up, proving that if you love life, you'll fight for it.

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