



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

May 2016

UU Humanists Local Group

ACLU/CT's Stephen Glassman

Join us on Monday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when we are joined by Stephen Glassman, Executive Director of the ACLU of Connecticut.

The ACLU has essentially two permanent clients: the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States. Current priorities in Connecticut are focused on comprehensive criminal justice reform, rectifying racial bias and injustice, protecting First Amendment rights, addressing Fourth Amendment privacy concerns, expanding LGBT rights while addressing attempts to use religion to discriminate, and the ongoing importance of ensuring that our state respects the rights to due process and equal protection. The Connecticut chapter is actively engaged in ensuring that the freedom to practice one's religion and the freedom to not practice any religion are equally protected, particularly in a political climate where there is heightened pressure to favor one religion over another through intrusive government actions.

Stephen Glassman, a former state cabinet official and non-profit executive with a long

Calendar of Events

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

MAY 2016

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 7	Explorations: Norman Rockwell — Painting America	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting Main program: Stephen Glassman of ACLU/CT	7:00 p.m 7:30 p.m
Sat., 21	Book Discussion: <i>Man's Search for Meaning</i> by Viktor E. Frankl	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Sat., 28	Outing to the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven.	11:00 a.m.

JUNE 2016

Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 11	Explorations: Program TBA.	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 18	Book Discussion: <i>The Octopus: A Story of California</i> by Frank Norris	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Sat., 25	June Picnic at Gayle Walter's home. Rain Date: Sunday, June 26.	

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history of working for human rights, joined the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut as its executive director in December 2014. Steve served as a board member of the Maryland ACLU affiliate for eight years

and of the Pittsburgh chapter of the Pennsylvania affiliate for three years. From 2002 to 2011, he served as chairman of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He was among the

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ACLU, continued

first openly gay state cabinet officials subject to the confirmation process in the country. Before assuming his current position, Steve was president of the Community Design Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which focuses on economic and community development to foster livable, equitable and sustainable communities. Earlier in his career he practiced architecture

as the principal of “Art and Architectural Design” for 25 years. He also served as vice chairman of the Baltimore Civic Design Commission from 1990 to 1995, co-chaired the first national conference on “Diversity in the Design Professions,” and served for five years as the vice chair of the Diversity Committee of the American Institute of Architects national board of directors. Steve earned a bachelor’s degree in art

history from Brown University, a master’s degree in architecture from Yale University and a post-graduate certificate for senior executives in state and local government from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

We’ll start with a half hour of coffee and conversation at the new time of 7:00 p.m. Our main talk will follow brief announcements at 7:30 p.m.

Humanist Explorations: Norman Rockwell — Painting America

We’ve renamed Humanist Conversations to better match its current focus — explorations of facets of being human. Topics will vary across the arts, sciences, history, music, etc.

Join us on Saturday, May 7, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Arguably America’s most familiar painter, Norman Rockwell was best known for his magazine covers, advertising, and calendars. His art and interpretations of the human spirit were far deeper than what initially meets the eye. A major talent from a very early age, his struggles with demons that colored his life and perspectives inform a side of him that is not well known. Come and explore the brilliant art of this avuncular American icon at our next Explorations. Refreshments will be served.

Humanist Blood Drive Cancelled

In last month’s newsletter, we announced that the Atheist Humanist Society of CT and RI planned to hold a Blood Drive for the National Day of Reason on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Unfortunately, AHSCTRI had to cancel the blood drive after their organizer dropped out and the Red Cross concluded they would be unable to guarantee sufficient units of donated blood.

AHSCTRI would like to encourage everyone who was planning to attend their blood drive to contact the Red Cross and give blood anyway.

May 28 Outing: The Grove Street Cemetery

Join us on Saturday, May 28, at 11:00 a.m. at the Grove Street Cemetery, the oldest incorporated cemetery in the USA, in New Haven. Please contact HAC development committee chair Rebecca Williams to RSVP at (203) 900-4221 or development@cthumanist.org, or just RSVP on our meetup listing for this event. We will meet at the main gate at Grove and High Streets at 11:00 a.m. The tour will be followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Reason Rally 2016

The second Reason Rally will be held at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, from Thursday, June 2, to Sunday, June 5. The free main event will be held on Saturday, June 4.

For more information please visit <http://reasonrally.org/>.

Sign up for a bus to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, at: <http://rallybus.net/reason-rally>.

Book Discussion: “Man’s Search for Meaning”

Our book for May is *Man’s Search for Meaning* by Viktor E. Frankl. The discussion will take place Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Psychiatrist Viktor Frankl’s memoir has riveted generations of readers with its descriptions of life in Nazi death camps and its lessons for spiritual survival. Between 1942 and 1945 Frankl labored in four different camps, including Auschwitz, while his parents, brother, and pregnant wife perished. Based on his own experience and the experiences of others he treated later in his practice, Frankl argues that we cannot avoid suffering, but we can choose how to cope with it, find meaning in it, and move forward with renewed purpose. Frankl’s theory—known as logotherapy, from the Greek word logos (“meaning”)—holds that our primary drive in life is not pleasure, as Freud maintained, but the discovery and pursuit of what we personally find meaningful.

“One of the outstanding contributions to psychological thought in the last fifty years.”—Carl R. Rogers (1959)

On Saturday, June 18 we will discuss *The Octopus: A Story of California* by Frank Norris.

Like the tentacles of an octopus, the tracks of the railroad reached out across California, as if to grasp everything of value in the state. Based on an actual, bloody dispute between wheat farmers and the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880, *The Octopus* is a stunning novel of the waning days of the frontier West. To the tough-minded and self-reliant farmers, the monopolistic, land-grabbing railroad represented everything they despised: consolidation, organization, conformity. But Norris idealizes no one in this epic depiction of the volatile situation, for the farmers themselves ruthlessly exploited the land, and in their hunger for larger holdings they resorted to the same tactics used by the railroad: subversion, coercion and outright violence. In his introduction, Kevin Starr discusses Norris’s debt to Zola for the novel’s extraordinary sweep, scale and abundance of characters and details.

Yale Humanist Community May Events

At the Sunday, May 15 Humanist Haven, to be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Grove, a co-working space at 760 Chapel Street in New Haven, author Kaya Oakes will talk about “Belonging without Believing: Building Community Outside of Religion.”

Institutional religions may offer individuals a framework for community-building and finding inspiration—but they often fail to meet us as we arrive, with all of our doubts and questions. How can we connect with others, find purpose, and change society outside of a religious framework without simply reacting against religion? Author Kaya Oakes will lead a gathering where we will reflect on these questions, share examples, and most importantly, share stories from our own lives.

Kaya Oakes is the author of four books, most recently including *The Nones Are Alright: A New Generation of Believers, Seekers, and Those In Between*. She teaches writing at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also a contributing writer at Religion Dispatches, America, Commonweal, and many other publications, and a contributing editor and writer at *Killing the Buddha*, “a religion magazine for those made anxious by churches.”

The Yale Humanist Community’s next Humanist Haven will be in the fall.

YHC Greenlight Project Crowd-Funding Campaign Ends May 11

The Yale Humanist Community’s project to donate a public art piece to be displayed on the New Haven Green each winter continues with a crowd-funding campaign that ends May 11. Their campaign page at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/green-light-project--3#/> includes a nice video introducing their concept. Donors receive bonuses depending on the level of donation made.

Email List

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

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

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 Published monthly by the Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27

USNH Social Cinema

There will be no USNH Social Cinema in May. The final Social Cinema before the summer will be at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on the first Friday of June. The optional potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 3, will be followed by the documentary film *A Place at the Table* at 7:15 p.m.

A Place at the Table is a 2012 documentary film concerning hunger in America directed by Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush, with appearances by Jeff Bridges, Raj Patel, and chef Tom Colicchio. Even though 1 in 4 American children don't know where their next meal is coming from, this movie suggests hunger can be ended once and for all and offers a solution in addition to personal stories of hunger.

For more information call 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

SMART Recovery Meetings

SMART Recovery is a modern, science-based, addiction recovery program. The SMART Recovery 4-Point Program® teaches self-empowering skills to help participants build and maintain motivation; cope with urges; manage thoughts, feelings and behaviors; and achieve lifestyle balance to prevent relapse.

We're pleased to announce a new weekly Monday-evening SMART Recovery meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, at the American Legion Post on Main Street in West Haven. This joins the Wednesday evening meetings sponsored by the Yale Humanist Community, which are held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Billiard Room at the Grove, 760 Chapel Street, New Haven. The Humanist Association of Connecticut sponsors the Saturday morning meetings, held from 10:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Wilson Branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, 303 Washington Avenue, New Haven.

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. 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.

<p>MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>! 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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____ Address: _____ _____ Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____ Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO Where did you hear about us? _____ Comments: _____ _____</p>
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