



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
 of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

November 2017

UU Humanists Local Group

Humanity Coalition

Please join us on Monday, November 20, at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when our guest speaker will be Kathleen Green, the new Executive Director of the Yale Humanist Community.

The Humanity Coalition is a project born out of current research Kathleen did in Connecticut for her doctorate dissertation. The focus is on collaboration between humanists and religious adherents in interfaith engagement. The findings are hopeful and highlight the unifying force of shared values. Kathleen will share her research and the exciting work happening at Yale Humanist Community.

Kathleen is also a Silliman College Fellow and a Doctorate of Ministry candidate at New York Theological Seminary in New York City. Kathleen is part of the faculty at Claremont Lincoln University where she teaches in the Interfaith Action masters degree program. She is also a certified positive psychology practitioner and author of two upcoming books: *A Flourishing Life - Applying the Principles of Positive Psychology in Everyday Life* and *Goodness Gracious*, a children's book of humanist reflections on gratitude.

The evening will start at 7:00 p.m. with conversation and refreshments. Kathleen will begin her presentation after brief announcements at 7:30 p.m. There will be plenty of time for questions. Come with a friend!

Membership Renewals

The HAC membership year runs from January 1 to December 31. Any board member will gratefully accept your renewal!

Calendar of Events

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

NOVEMBER 2017

Sat., 4	Explorations: Inside Arizona's Prisons	2:30 p.m
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sun., 19	Board meeting	2:00 p.m
Mon., 20	Monthly Meeting	7:00 p.m
	Main program: Kathleen Green, Executive Director of Yale Humanist Community: "Humanity Coalition"	7:30 p.m
Mon., 27	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: <i>My Family's Slave</i>	7:00 p.m

DECEMBER 2017

Sat., 2	Book Discussion: "Evicted: Poverty and Property in the American City" by Matthew Desmond	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m
Sat., 9	Explorations: TBA	2:30 p.m
Sat., 16	Book Discussion: "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari	2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m
Mon., 18	Annual Meeting & Elections	7:00 p.m
	Potluck dinner	7:00 p.m.
	Business meeting & elections	8:00 p.m.
	Winter Solstice Party	8:15 p.m
Mon., 25	Annual Brunch: TBD	TBD

www.cthumanist.org

www.meetup.com/cthumanist
www.facebook.com/cthumanist
www.twitter.com/cthumanist

Six Hundred Thanksgiving Dinners!

Meals on Wheels does not deliver on Thanksgiving, so Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers (IVCG) and Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) have taken 600 of the names of frail and elderly people to prepare and deliver their dinners. We need pies and frozen turkeys, drivers to deliver the dinners, and financial support to buy other necessary items. If you can provide any of these please call me, June Schafer, at 203-281-6232 by Sunday, November 19, for further instructions. Checks should be written to "IVCG" with "Thanksgiving for all" in the corner below, and mailed to me at 27 Thornton Street, Hamden CT 06517. Your help will be deeply appreciated!

— June Schafer

www.cthumanist.org

www.facebook.com/cthumanist • www.meetup.com/cthumanist • www.twitter.com/cthumanist

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**.

Officers

President	Richard Siddall (203) 264-2182 president@cthumanist.org
Vice-President	June Schafer
Secretary	Carol Siddall
Treasurer	Rebecca Williams

Committee Chairs

Program	David Schafer
Membership	Frank Avitable
Development	Carol Siddall
Publications	Richard Siddall
Publicity	Lisa Candido
Hospitality	Randy Olear

Newsletter

Editor	Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546 editor@cthumanist.org
Production:	Richard Siddall (203) 264-2182 webmaster@cthumanist.org

Copyright ©, 2017 Humanist Association of Connecticut.

Articles may be reproduced without written permission, providing attribution is given.

Published monthly by the **Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 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.

New Socks for Homeless Shelters

Gayle Walter is again collecting new socks to donate to local homeless shelters as part of the New Haven Free Public Library's annual drive. Please bring your donation to any HAC meeting.

Dinner Discussion – My Family's Slave

This month we look at how modern slavery played out in one family, from the perspective of one person who realized it was slavery. There are a lot of issues in here, and it's a rather long story. Fortunately, it's also available in audio, so you can either read the article on the *Atlantic* website <http://tinyurl.com/kgzgtu> or listen to it on Soundcloud <http://tinyurl.com/ycv67uz>. There is an amazing amount of context added by a compilation of responses the *Atlantic* received <http://tinyurl.com/ycepskfl>. If you had been in the author's shoes, do you think you would have handled the situation differently? Does reading this article make you think any differently about the relationship between immigration law and slavery? Come prepared to share how this article affected you and how it fits in with your thinking about life in America today.

This discussion will take place over dinner at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 27. Please read as many of the referenced articles as you can.

Book Discussion: "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond

Our book for November is "Evicted: Poverty and Property in the American City" by sociologist Matthew Desmond. Note that, due to scheduling conflicts and Thanksgiving, the discussion for the November selection will take place Saturday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From *Amazon*: In "Evicted," Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as "wrenching and revelatory" (*The Nation*), "vivid and unsettling" (*New York Review of Books*), "Evicted" transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

"Astonishing...Desmond is an academic who teaches at Harvard—a sociologist or, you could say, an ethnographer. But I would like to claim him as a journalist too, and one who, like Katherine Boo in her study of a Mumbai slum, has set a new standard for reporting on poverty." – Barbara Ehrenreich, *New York Times Book Review*

(Note: The December book discussion – "Sapiens" by Yuval Noah Harari – will still be held on the usual date, Saturday, December 16.)

2018 Slate of Candidates

Officers:

President — Richard Siddall
 Vice President — June Schafer
 Secretary — Carol Siddall
 Treasurer — Rebecca Williams

Committee Chairs:

Membership — Frank Avitable
 Hospitality — Randy Olear
 Program — Carol Siddall
 Development — Gayle Walter
 Publicity — Lisa Candido
 Publications — Richard Siddall

Nominating Committee:

Joan Rafford
 June Schafer
 Gayle Walter

USNH Social Cinema: "Whose Streets?"

The next USNH Social Cinema will be held on Friday, November 17, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The optional potluck dinner at 6:15 p.m. will be followed at 7:15 p.m. by the documentary "Whose Streets?" which documents the activism of citizens after the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO – often using camera footage filmed by the residents of Ferguson themselves. Described by *Rolling Stone* as "The most vital documentary of 2017."

For more information contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email.office@usnh.org