



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2019



UU Humanists Local Group

## Monthly meeting Program: *Building Community within a Secular Life* - April 15, 7 p.m.

Humanist Celebrant Anita Peters invites us to consider what we do and do not celebrate and why. In a lively interactive presentation involving live audience polls, she will engage us in a discussion of our participation in various celebrations, religious holidays as secular events and universal life cycle events. Which occasions do secular humanists choose to celebrate throughout the year? In fact, she argues, we need our own humanist calendar of celebratory events. "When we celebrate together our values and philosophy of life, we create a community and affirm our community at the same time," says Anita, "an important development in building an understanding of secular humanism and what it means to be good without God." This year she is talking to as many humanists as she can in Connecticut and around the country. We are a stop on her journey to create a secular humanist calendar that encompasses humanism, voices our aspirations, recounts our history and expresses our values. Anita Peters has been a Humanist Celebrant since 2014 and is a member of The Humanists and Freethinkers of Fairfield County (HFFC). Anita initiated and organized participation in the international Death Café movement with two other Connecticut Humanist Celebrants in 2016.

## 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).

### APRIL 2019

Mon., 1	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 6	Explorations: "Dreamland" - Discuss Mark Twain's <i>Innocents Abroad</i>	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly Meeting Main program: Anita Peters: "Building Community within a Secular Life"	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 20	Book discussion: "Barabbas" by Pär Lagerkvist - A story of a liberated insurrectionist	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 22	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT.	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., 25	Dining Out for Life – A Benefit For AIDS Project New Haven – Caffé Bravo	6:00 p.m.

### MAY 2019

Sat., 4	Explorations, TBD	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	Book discussion: "How Democracies Die" by S. Levitsky and D. Ziblatt	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun., 19	HAC 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden	2:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board Meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 27	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap	7:00 p.m.

## *Walk Against Hunger* - May 18, 10 a.m.

[Walk Against Hunger](#) is Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m. (8:30 check-in) at Savin Rock Park in West Haven. Join hundreds of others who are walking to provide meals for Connecticut neighbors who struggle with hunger. There will be awards for most spirited and highest fundraising teams, as well as music, kids' activities, and more.

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

[www.meetup.com/cthumanist](http://www.meetup.com/cthumanist) . [www.facebook.com/cthumanist](http://www.facebook.com/cthumanist) . [www.twitter.com/cthumanist](http://www.twitter.com/cthumanist)

## Contact

President--Carol Siddall (203) 264-8546  
president@cthumanist.org

Newsletter Editor--Jim Ritter  
editor@cthumanist.org

Mailing address: 700 Hartford Turnpike  
Hamden, CT 06517-2214

Submissions and requests for permission to reprint articles should be made to this address or to the editor.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit  
<https://www.cthumanist.org/mailman/listinfo/hac-announce/>

Approximate circulation: 180 copies.  
The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

Copyright © 2019 Humanist Association of Connecticut. Articles may be reproduced without written permission, providing attribution is given.

*Please take a minute to send in your 2019 dues to the address above: \$35 individual -- \$50 family -- \$10 postal newsletter only Many thanks to those already paid!*

## Dining Out for Life - April 25, 6 p.m.

Members and friends of HAC will gather at Caffé Bravo, 794 Orange Street, New Haven to participate in this year's benefit AIDS Project New Haven. 25% of the proceeds go to APNH. Contact Gayle to sign up ([development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org))

## Save the Date! - May 19, 2 p.m.

The HAC 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary replaces the regular monthly meeting. Volunteer to be on the committee! ([president@cthumanist.org](mailto:president@cthumanist.org))

## Explorations: Dreamland - April 6, 2:30 p.m.

Before there was "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn" Mark Twain was a newspaperman. In 1867 he traveled to Europe and the Holy Land. He wrote *Innocents Abroad* to describe his experiences and thoughts on human nature and the underlying foibles and hypocrisy of his fellow travelers. Join us to explore this wonderful story, laced with Twain's humor and insight into human nature.

## Book Discussion: Barabbas - April 20, 2 p.m.

Our book for April is "Barabbas" by Pär Lagerkvist. The 1950 novel tells a story of the life of [Barabbas](#), the man whom the Bible relates was released instead of Jesus.

## Wood-n-Tap Dinner Discussion - April 22, 7 p.m.

What is terrorism? The Intercept ([Terrorism's Double Standard](#)) charges that the United States charges similar crimes differently based on the target. Do you think the difference in how we prosecute these crimes has a material effect on the number or the types of crimes committed? Join us for dinner and discussion.

## Fundraiser for the Connecticut Bail Fund

Saturday March 30 4:30 p.m. at the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven. This event with music and presentations is co-sponsored by USNH. Tickets available at the door - Pay What You Can!

## Sanctuary at UU Church of Meriden

USNH is a partner in this social justice project. You can contribute to purchasing Stop-and-Shop cards to support the sanctuary guests by sending your check to our mailing address (see Contacts section of this newsletter). Contact Gayle at [development@cthumanist.org](mailto:development@cthumanist.org) for details or if you are interested in visiting with the sanctuary guests.

## Week of Action - April 26 to May 2

Another opportunity for all of us. The Secular Coalition for America, working with Foundation Beyond Belief and the Secular Student Alliance, is joining forces with member organizations for a national Week of Action in the lead-up to the National Day of Prayer. Read all about it at <http://weekofaction.org>

**We need you!** There are many opportunities available to support this group, such as:

- Kitchen help is always welcome at the monthly meeting! (see Carol S.)
- Shopping for coffee, snacks and supplies (see Carol S.)
- Submit ideas for activities or newsletter items to the editor.
- Visit a board meeting to see what goes on behind the scenes.