



THE NEWSLETTER OF
The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
 of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

January 2018

UU Humanists Local Group

Travels in Northern Germany and the Czech Republic

Join us on Monday, January 15, in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Steve and Susan Boshi will give their annual travelogue, this time covering their trip to Northern Germany and The Czech Republic.

Steve says, "The cities of Berlin and Dresden, bombed to smithereens during The Second World War seventy years ago, have risen from the ashes, and are vibrant and beautiful destinations. Prague, the lovely medieval capital of The Czech Republic, escaped, largely unscathed, and continues to flourish. We will explore the highlights of these places along with some time in Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad) a spa town on the German-Czech border, and Gorlitz, on the Polish-German border, a perfectly preserved location which served as the filming location for the 2014 film, "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

We will start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 7:00 p.m. Then Steve and Susan will help us escape from the winter weather after brief announcements at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion: Decentralization via Centralization

On January 4, Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook, posted his annual personal challenge (<https://tinyurl.com/yanoaurn>). Reporting about it pretty much split into two camps: 1) Mark Zuckerberg vows to fix Facebook (<https://tinyurl.com/yd7d48yp>) and 2) Facebook will be implementing cryptocurrencies (<https://tinyurl.com/y7akhp8g>). I'd like to bring your attention to the last paragraphs of Zuckerberg's post, where he talks about centralization versus decentralization. Consider this explanation of decentralization contributed by the Decentralization Thematic Team of the World Bank: (<https://tinyurl.com/yccsg5m>). Next please consider this article from February, 2014, predicting 21 technologies will decentralize the world (<https://tinyurl.com/yabay8nw>). How many of them have you heard of? Why or why not? Do you see the irony in this entire discussion? Come and talk this over with your friends on Monday, January 22 at the Wood-n-Tap at 2100 Dixwell Avenue in Hamden at 7:00 p.m.

Because we need to make sure we can all sit together, please RSVP to programs@cthumanist.org or at meetup.com/cthumanist.

Calendar of Events

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

JANUARY 2018

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| Mon., 1 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 | 7:00 p.m |
| Sat., 6 | Explorations: "Sacred Cod" (postponed due to weather) | 2:30 p.m |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly Meeting
Main program: Steve & Susan Boshi, Travels in Northern Germany and the Czech Republic | 7:00 p.m
7:30 p.m |
| Sat., 20 | Book Discussion: "The Machine Stops" and "A Story of the Days to Come" | 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. (203) 248-9663.
Topic: Decentralization via Centralization | 7:00 p.m |

FEBRUARY 2018

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| Sat., 3 | Explorations: "Sacred Cod" | 2:30 p.m |
| Mon., 5 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 | 7:00 p.m |
| Sat., 17 | Book Discussion: <i>The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion</i> by Jonathan Haidt | 2:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m |
| Mon., 19 | Monthly Meeting
Main program: TBA | 7:00 p.m
7:30 p.m |
| Sun., 25 | Board meeting | 3:30 p.m |
| Mon., 26 | Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663.
Topic: TBA | 7:00 p.m |

www.cthumanist.org

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

Women's March Connecticut

Connecticut State Capitol, Saturday, January 20, 1:00 p.m.
<https://www.womensmarch.com/connecticut>

www.cthumanist.org

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

Email List

To join, send an email to:
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To unsubscribe, send an email to:
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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.

Darwin Day Dinner

6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 10, in Darien, CT. Call John Levin at 646-221-9134 or visit darwindayct.org for more details.

Book Discussion: “The Machine Stops” and “A Story of the Days to Come”

For January, we will be discussing two short futuristic science fiction works written in the early 1900s: E.M. Forster’s “The Machine Stops” and H.G. Wells’ “A Story of the Days to Come.” The discussion will take place Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

From Amazon: First published in 1909, Forster’s short science fiction work, “The Machine Stops,” posits a technology-dependent humanity now living underground, its every need serviced by machines. But what happens if – or when – the machines stop? “The Machine Stops” was named one of the greatest science fiction novellas published before 1965 by the Science Fiction Writers of America.

From Wikipedia: [Wells’ “A Story of the Days to Come”] depicts two lovers in a dystopian future London of the 22nd century and explores the implications of excessive urbanization, class warfare, and advances in the technology of medicine, communication, transportation, and agriculture...Socially and economically, however, it predicts a very stratified class structure and a largely communal society where few mega-corporations control all means of production.

Light snacks will be served.

Explorations: Sacred Cod

We will show the 2016 documentary film, “Sacred Cod: The Fight for a New England Tradition,” on February 3 at 2:30 p.m.

As employment in coal mining disappears in West Virginia, an analogous situation exists in the New England cod fishery. This in-depth documentary examines a multi-pronged problem with few easy answers and predicts what the future may hold in store.

Some snacks will be provided; a bite to share is welcome.

Although this event is free and open to the public, we will be providing an opportunity to donate to offset the cost of licensing of this current film.

Join us for this enlightening documentary at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

USNH Social Cinema

USNH will hold the next Social Cinema on Saturday, January 20, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. The optional potluck dinner, starting at 6:15 p.m., will be followed at 7:15 p.m. by the documentary, “I Am Shakespeare: The Henry Green Story,” which tells the story of 19-year old Henry Green who, while living a dual-life as a brilliant young actor and inner-city gang member in New Haven, was shot and left for dead shortly after his inspiring performance in Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet.” Filmmaker Stephen Dest will answer questions after the screening.

If you have questions, contact Jesse Greist at 203-288-1807 or email office@usnh.org

MEMBERSHIP		Name(s): _____
i Adult \$35		Address: _____
i Family \$50		_____
i Newsletter Only \$10		Telephone: _____
i Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.		E-Mail Address: _____
i In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to		Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO
i Humanist Association of Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.		I want my newsletter electronically <u>only</u> (circle one): YES NO
		As a chapter of the American Humanist Association we share your information with AHA. Please check this box if you do <u>not</u> want to be contacted by the Secular Coalition for Connecticut about legislative action <input type="checkbox"/>