



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
**The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION**  
of CONNECTICUT



AHA Chapter

December 2018

UU Humanists Local Group

## Annual Meeting and Solstice Potluck with Program

Join us on Monday, December 17, as we celebrate the winter solstice in the Social Hall of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for our Annual Meeting and Solstice Potluck.

First we'll enjoy our traditional pot luck dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Next we'll have our business meeting at which we will elect officers for 2019, consider a bylaw change, and vote on several other items of business. Please watch for your invitation, which includes the proposed slate and background information on the various additional items up for your consideration.

As only members may vote, your invitation will remind you if you have renewed for 2018. We will cheerfully accept new memberships and renewals alike at the door!

Instead of the usual Solstice Party, we will follow the business meeting with a short talk on the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a powerful anti-progressive organization that undermines civil and human rights and is supported by many of America's largest businesses. Richard Siddall (the outgoing president) would like to invite the membership to join a boycott, and will present his case.

If you can, please bring a dish to share at the potluck.

## 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](http://meetup.com/cthumanist).

### DECEMBER 2018

Sat., 1	Explorations: The Alchemy of Bernini	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 3	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 15	Book Discussion: "The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve" by Stephen Greenblatt	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Winter Solstice Potluck Dinner	7:00 p.m.
	<b>Annual Meeting and Elections</b>	7:45 p.m.
	Main Program: "What is ALEC and why should you boycott the companies that fund it?"	8:15 p.m.
Tues., 25	Brunch at Pacific Buffet & Grill, 20 Ives Road, Wallingford.	noon

### JANUARY 2019

Sat., 5	Explorations: TBA	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 19	Book Discussion: "A More Beautiful and Terrible History" by Jeanne Theoharis	2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	Monthly Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Main program: TBA	7:30 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 28	Dinner Discussion at the Wood-n-Tap, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. (203) 248-9663. Topic: TBA	7:00 p.m.

[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)

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## Annual Brunch

Want to do something humanist on December 25? Join us for brunch at noon at Pacific Buffet & Grill, located at 20 Ives Road in Wallingford.

Not available that day? Why not join us at one of our social dinners? On Monday, January 7 we'll be dining at the Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Avenue in West Haven at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

There will be no dinner/discussion in December as the Wood-n-Tap in Hamden will be closing early on the fourth Monday of the month.

## Socks Needed!

SOCKS are the item of clothing most needed at shelters in New Haven, and the least often donated.

The main branch of New Haven Public Library (on Elm Street) has this specific ongoing collection.

Please bring new warm socks to the front desk or bring them to any HAC Event, and I will deliver them to the library for you.

Thank you!

— Gayle Walter

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

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**Email List**

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

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

**Officers**

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

**Committee Chairs**

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

**Newsletter**

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

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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.

## Explorations: Stone becomes Flesh: The Alchemy of Bernini

Join us at 2:30 p.m. in the library at 700 Hartford Turnpike on Saturday, December 1. An identifiable genius by the age of eight, Gian Lorenzo Bernini executed the art that gave ancient Rome the beauty we see today. A brilliant artist, architect and sculptor, he is recognized as being the craftsman who was able to transform a block of cold static marble into figures that seem alive. This documentary by the historian Simon Schama will plumb your mind and emotions in ways you would have not thought possible.

As usual, there will be light refreshments.

## Book Discussion: The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve

In November and December we have been reading books by two critically acclaimed authors we have enjoyed at previous discussions.

Our book for December is “The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve” by Stephen Greenblatt (author of “The Swerve,” which was a previous selection for the group). The discussion will take place Saturday, December 15, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in the library of the Unitarian Society of New Haven at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

From Amazon:

...Greenblatt uncovers the tremendous theological, artistic, and cultural investment over centuries that made these fictional figures so profoundly resonant in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim worlds and, finally, so very “real” to millions of people even in the present...[He] explores the intensely personal engagement of Augustine, Dürer, and Milton in this mammoth project of collective creation, while he also limns the diversity of the story’s offspring: rich allegory, vicious misogyny, deep moral insight, and some of the greatest triumphs of art and literature.

The biblical origin story, Greenblatt argues, is a model for what the humanities still have to offer: not the scientific nature of things, but rather a deep encounter with problems that have gripped our species for as long as we can recall and that continue to fascinate and trouble us today.

“[A]lmost dizzying in its scope; Greenblatt draws from history, religion, art and science, and he writes about all of these fields with infectious enthusiasm. It’s a strikingly intelligent book, but it’s also accessible; he’s a clear, unpretentious writer who can hardly hide his fascination with the subject.”

– Michael Schaub, *NPR Books*

## YHC Green Light Project Unveiling, December 9

Several years ago, the Yale Humanist Community started a public art project called the Green Light Project. This is a light sculpture, *Lighthouse*, to be placed on the New Haven Green during the “holiday season.” This year, the sculpture has been completed and lights up when approached. The unveiling ceremony, which will include remarks from Yale students, the Mayor’s office, and elected officials, will take place on Sunday, December 9 at 3:30 p.m. on the New Haven Green. The ceremony will be followed by a wine and cheese reception at 270 Temple Street with the *Lighthouse* artist and live music.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></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</p> <p>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"/></p>
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