



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

April 2007



CSH Affiliate

Why There Is Already More Peace Than You Think

We are privileged to announce that our speaker for our regular monthly meeting at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on Monday, April 16, will be Bruce Russett, Dean Acheson Professor of International Relations and Political Science at Yale. Prof. Russett will present the second in our occasional series entitled "Practical Pathways to Peace" (the first speaker in the series, on January 21, was Jennifer Miller).

Past president of the International Studies Association and of the Peace Science Society (International), Russett has edited the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* since 1973. His grants and fellowships include eleven from the National Science Foundation and multiple awards from each of the Carnegie Corporation, the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, Fulbright-Hays, the MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the World Society Foundation of Switzerland. Among his 25 published books, the most recent are *New Directions for International Relations* (2005, edited with Alex Mintz), and *Purpose and Policy in the Global Community* (2006).

Calendar of Events

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

APRIL, 2007

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	Humanist Conversations: Reconsidering Sam Harris	2:30 p.m.
Sat., 14	Book Group: <i>Freakonomics</i> by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	2:00 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly meeting Main program: Professor Bruce Russett, Yale. "Why There is Already More Peace Than You Think."	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Wed., 25	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 29	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.

MAY, 2007

Sat., 5	Humanist Conversations, topic TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 7	Social Dinner at Pasta Fair, 262 Boston Post Road, Orange. (203) 799-9601 for directions.	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 21	18th Anniversary meeting Main program: Ellen McBride, former president of the American Ethical Union	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 27	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Wed., 30	Hartford-Area Dinner at Lemongrass, 7 South Main Street, West Hartford. (860) 233-4405.	7:00 p.m.

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Prof. Russett's intriguingly upbeat title will be "Why There Is Already More Peace Than You Think."

The evening will begin at 7:30 with our customary half-hour of conversation and refreshments.

Prof. Russett's lecture will begin promptly at 8:00. This will clearly be an outstanding opportunity to hear a world-recognized authority on this crucially important subject. Mark your calendar now and bring your friends!

www.cthumanist.org

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Conversations: Sam Harris

Join us for Humanist Conversations on Saturday, April 7 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

Let's talk about some of the less frequently considered ideas from *The End of Faith*. Sam Harris has become a recognized figure in discussions criticizing religion since the publication of this book in 2004. Many of us may be familiar with his thesis that as a guide for human conduct faith leads, inevitably, to dangerous, indeed, potentially disastrous conflicts. This is not all he has to say. Questions raised in Chapter 6 "A Science of Good and Evil" and Chapter 7. "Experiments in Consciousness" concern rational ways to look at experience. Chapter 7. begins, "At the core of every religion lies an undeniable claim about the human condition: it is possible to have ones experience of the world radically transformed. ... most of us know, however dimly, that extraordinary experiences are possible. The problem with religion is that it blends this truth so thoroughly with the venom of unreason." Consider this assertion and, please, bring any other points that interest you for discussion.

Book Group: Freakonomics

There's still time to join the discussion of *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner! We will meet on Saturday, April 14 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Either of the two editions of this book are fine for our discussion, and there are plenty of copies in Connecticut libraries.

"Steven Levitt has the most interesting mind in America, and reading *Freakonomics* is like going for a leisurely walk with him on a sunny summer day, as he waves his fingers in the air and turns everything you once thought to be true inside out. Prepare to be dazzled."

Malcolm Gladwell, author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*

Atheists Dine in West Hartford

The Connecticut Valley Atheists are hosting a social dinner on the first Wednesday of every month at the GoldRoc Diner, exit 44 off I-84, 61 Kane Street in West Hartford at 7:00 p.m.! This affiliate of the American Atheists is too new to be specifically mentioned yet at <http://www.atheists.org/ct/>.

MEMBERSHIP

- i Adult \$35
- i Family \$50
- i Newsletter Only \$10

i 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.

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