



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

March 2009



CSH Affiliate

## Parenting Beyond Belief

Join us on Saturday, March 14, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden when Dale McGowan, co-author and editor of the acclaimed book "Parenting Beyond Belief: On Raising Ethical, Caring Kids Without Religion," and "Raising Freethinkers," will talk to us about parenting.

The visit, part of Mr. McGowan's book tour for "Raising Freethinkers", will be co-sponsored by the Unitarian Church in Westport and the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County. In addition, our monthly meeting has received a generous donation from the Empanda-Volunteers Meetup group (meetup.com).

Dale will be giving a mini-seminar on parenting at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, March 14. There is a \$10 charge for individuals attending the seminar, and \$15 for couples.

Contact USNH for more information, or register online at [parentingbeyondbelief.com](http://parentingbeyondbelief.com). Our monthly meeting will follow at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon.

We will begin our meeting on Saturday, March 14, at 2:30 p.m. with the traditional half-hour of coffee and conversation. Dale's talk will follow brief announcements at 3:00 p.m., and the discussion will end promptly at 5:00 p.m. so that he can continue onto other commitments in Fairfield county that evening.

Please consider bringing a refreshment to share, as our president, June Schafer, who has kept us in refreshments non-stop since our very first meeting, is still recuperating from knee surgery and may not be able to join us.

## Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT. RSVP for dinners at [humanism.meetup.com](http://humanism.meetup.com).

### MARCH, 2009

Sat., 7	<b>Humanist Conversations: The Obama Code</b>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 9	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 14	Parenting seminar by Dale McGowan at USNH (Cover charge: \$10 individuals; \$15 couples)	9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Sat., 14	Monthly meeting <b>Main program: Dale McGowan, editor &amp; co-author of "Parenting Beyond Belief"</b>	2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sat., 21	<b>Bible Discussion: Other Gods, Samuel, Saul, David and Psalms</b>	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 26	Hartford-Area social dinner at the Bombay Olive, 450 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-3000 for directions	7:00 p.m.

### APRIL, 2009

Fri., 3	Pizza and video of President Obama's views on religion.	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 4	<b>Humanist Conversations: TBD</b>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 6	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 18	<b>Book discussion: <i>Doubt, A History</i> by Jennifer Michael Hecht</b>	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 20	20th Anniversary Celebration! <b>Main program: Fred Edwords, American Humanist Association's director of communications</b>	7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 26	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Thu., 30	Hartford-Area social dinner at the Bombay Olive, 450 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT 06110. (860) 561-3000 for directions	7:00 p.m.

### MAY, 2009

Sat., 2	<b>Humanist Conversations: TBD</b>	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	<b>Book discussion: <i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> by Mitch Albom</b>	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Mon., 18	Monthly meeting <b>Main program: TBD</b>	7:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

[WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG](http://WWW.CTHUMANIST.ORG)

## Conversations: The Obama Code

Join us Saturday, March 7, at 700 Hartford Turnpike at 2:30 p.m., when we will read and discuss an article by linguist George Lakoff, giving his analysis of President Obama's national address. The article is available online should you wish to read it beforehand. Visit:

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/02/25-12>

Refreshments will be served.

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

**E-mail List**

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**Obama's Views on Religion**

Join us Friday, April 3rd, at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, when we'll watch two speeches in which Barack Obama talks about his religious views. We'll start with optional pizza at 7:00 p.m. (The cost will be split among the participants.) At 7:30 p.m. we'll show the videos and then end the evening with a discussion.

**Bible Discussion — Other Gods, Samuel, Saul, David and Psalms**

The next meeting of the HAC Bible Discussion Group will be from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden.

For March 21, please read the following:

- A. In "How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture, Then and Now" by James L. Kugel:
  - Chapter 24. *The Other Gods of Canaan*, pages 417-435
  - Chapter 25. *Samuel and Saul*, pages 436-457
  - Chapter 26. *The Psalms of David*, pages 458-473
- B. Read the following:
  - The Wikipedia entry on "Books of Samuel" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books\\_of\\_Samuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Books_of_Samuel)).
  - The Wikipedia entry on "Psalms" (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalms>).
  - Read a few Psalms. One of the many places where you can find a collection of the Psalms is at <http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt2601.htm>
- C. Bring in a Joke (Optional)
  - If you like, bring in a joke or short humorous writing that relates to the readings for this meeting.

**Next Two Books — "Doubt: A History" on 4/18 and "Tuesdays with Morrie" on 5/9**

The next book we will read is "Doubt: A History: The Great Doubters and Their Legacy of Innovation from Socrates and Jesus to Thomas Jefferson and Emily Dickinson" by Jennifer Michael Hecht. Copies of the book are at public libraries as well as bookstores and online. We will meet to discuss this book on Saturday, April 18, 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Information on this book follows. As always, feel free to invite a friend or two.

After "Doubt: A History," we will be reading "Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom (Note: This is the book by Mitch Albom, not the play of the same title by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom, although you may want to read the play as well as

the book.) We will meet to discuss "Tuesdays with Morrie" on Saturday, May 9, 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. About "Doubt: A History:" Poet and historian Jennifer Michael Hecht says that as a scholar she always noticed the "shadow history" of doubt out of the corner of her eye. She shows how non-belief, skepticism, and doubt have paralleled and at times shaped the world's great religious and secular belief systems. She suggests that only in modern time has doubt been narrowly equated with a complete rejection of faith, or a broader sense of mystery. Interview with the author on NPR's Speaking of Faith: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/doubt/>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>Adult . . . . . \$35                  Family . . . . . \$50                  Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10</p> <p>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): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-Mail Address: _____</p> <p>Please add me to the e-mail Announce List (circle one): YES NO</p> <p>Where did you hear about us? _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>
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