



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

June 2012

## Picnic June 30

Join us for our annual picnic on Saturday, June 30th from noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine, at the lovely home of Dr. Bob and Ms. Joan Rafford at 57 Clearview Knoll Road in Middlebury.

The Raffords will provide hot dogs (regular and vegetarian), soft drinks and beer. Bring a chair to sit outside and something to share! (Don't bother with the chair if it's raining; we'll be inside.)

From New Haven: Take CT-8 north to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on CT-64 to the first stoplight...

From Stamford: Take US-7 north to I-84 and go east to Exit 17. At the exit turn left onto CT-63, go straight to the second stoplight, and turn left again onto CT-64...

From Hartford or Torrington: Take CT-8 or I-91 south to I-84 and go west to Exit 17. From the exit go straight ahead (west) on CT-64 to the first stoplight...

...From the junction of CT-64 with CT-63: Head west on CT-64 less than one mile, passing through one more stoplight. If you pass a gas station you have gone too far. On the right, look for Tzepos Law Firm sign. At that sign, turn right onto Clearview Knoll Road and drive to the top of the hill. Number 57 is the last house on the left. Park in the driveway or on the street.

If you have any trouble finding them, the Raffords' phone number is (203) 758-9798.

## Our Heartfelt Thanks!

We wish to express our deep thanks to Doug Peary and the rest of you for your recent kind and generous review of some of our activities as Humanists over many years. We particularly appreciated the warmth and humor of Doug's presentation and your responses.

To us Humanism is not about

## 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).

### JUNE

Sat., 2	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> <i>None without Sin; Kazan, Miller, and the Blacklist</i>	2:00 p.m.
Mon., 4	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 9	Book discussion: <i>god is not Great</i> by Christopher Hitchens, at Stephany Cousins' home in Bethany.	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sun., 17	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 26	Hartford Area Dinner at Hanafins Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599. Guest speaker: Susan Campbell	6:30 p.m.
Sat., 30	Annual picnic at the Raffords' home in Middlebury	12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

### JULY

Mon., 2	Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002	7:00 p.m.
Sat., 7	<b>Humanist Conversations:</b> TBA	2:30 p.m.
Mon., 16	Monthly Meeting <b>Main program:</b> Gregory Shenk, Ph.D. — "Sociobiology at Sixty-Six"	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
Sun., 22	Board meeting	2:30 p.m.
Tue., 24	Hartford Area Dinner at Hanafins Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599. Guest Speaker: TBA	6:30 p.m.

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

## Conversations: None Without Sin

Join us at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden on June 2 *at the earlier than usual time of 2 p.m.* when we will watch *None without Sin; Kazan, Miller, and the Blacklist* from the 2003 PBS American Masters series, a stunning retrospective of the era of the communist witch hunts of HUAC and the McCarthy hearings. If you're old enough, you may have had a flashback to that time when Alan West, at a town hall meeting in Jensen Beach, FL, on April 10, 2012, claimed that 78-81 members of Congress are members of the Communist Party. This movie will undoubtedly provoke much thought and lively conversation. Remember to join us at 2 p.m.!

individuals but about building a human community, a human family, and for over two decades now you have been for us an essential part of our local family. You have been a source of strength in up times and down, sickness and health. We always owe a very special debt to Bob and Joanie Rafford, who have

been with us and supported our efforts untiringly from the very beginnings of this community.

We look forward to spending more quality time together with all of you, and we'll always remember this occasion with great fondness.

With love,  
June and David Schafer

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# June 9 Book Group: Christopher Hitchens' "god is not Great"

Our next book discussion will be *god is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* by Christopher Hitchens. (Goodreads entry here: [http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43369.God\\_is\\_Not\\_Great](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43369.God_is_Not_Great))

This discussion will take place Saturday, June 9, at 2:30 p.m. (note early start time) at Stephany Cousins' home at 154 Sperry Road, Bethany (directions below).

The book is widely available at public libraries. Many libraries have electronic copies available for free download to Kindle or other ebook readers. Hitch himself narrates the audible recording and you may find that adds something to the experience.

Many thanks to Stephany for offering to host the discussion.  
Directions:

154 Sperry Road, Bethany: Take the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) to New Haven. Take exit 59. At the end of exit ramp turn left (north) onto Route 69 towards Bethany. After crossing the Bethany town line (a sign is on left side of road) travel less than a mile to find Bethway Road on the left. Turn left onto Bethway and the next left onto Sperry Road. Drive about a half mile watching for 2 mailboxes close together on the left side with the numbers 154 and 158. Turn left into the driveway just before the mailbox. The driveway climbs a somewhat steep grade and turns to the right near the cottage and goes to the house.

Most GPS devices give bad directions to this location, so please consider sticking to Stephany's directions.

## Hartford Area Dinner & Speaker: Susan Campbell

Susan Campbell To Speak on Religion's Problems — The Public Face of Christianity

The guest speaker for our June 26 Hartford-area dinner will be award winning columnist and author Susan Campbell, who will speak on "Religion's Problems: the Public Face of Christianity." Susan frequently wrote about religion and politics in her column with the *Hartford Courant* and currently in her blog at datingjesus.net. Author Wally Lamb had the following to say regarding Susan's book *Dating Jesus: A Story of Fundamentalism, Feminism, and the American Girl*: "In her youth, Susan Campbell was the class virgin, the sophomore homecoming princess, and the perennial smarty-pants winner of her fundamentalist church's Bible Bowl. But she was also a scrappy little outfielder and a self-described Missouri hillbilly whose budding feminism led her to question why girls and women should be content with second-class spiritual citizenship. That isometric push of irresistible force against immovable object followed Campbell into adulthood and is both the engine and the energy that drives her remarkable memoir, *Dating Jesus*. Simultaneously wisecracking and scholarly, both heartfelt and hilarious, Campbell's story gives testament to a 'Christ-haunted' life that rejects the chauvinistic dictates of religious dogma and insists on fairness and equal footing for all. Amen to that. I loved this book!"

We look forward to what promises to be a very special evening at Hanafin's Irish Pub, 21 Rankin Road, Glastonbury. Drinks and socializing at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:00 p.m. Those wishing to car pool from Hamden can meet in the parking lot at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden at 5:40 p.m.

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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](mailto:editor@cthumanist.org). We welcome letters, articles, photographs, poetry, comic strips, news items, cartoons and

other illustrations related to humanism. 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.

<p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>i Adult . . . . . \$35</p> <p>i Family . . . . . \$50</p> <p>i Newsletter Only . . . . . \$10</p> <p>i Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name(s): _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</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> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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