



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

# The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT



CSH Affiliate

August 2012

## The Rise of Secular Americans

Our featured speaker for August will be David Niose, President of the American Humanist Association. David will be talking about his new book, *Nonbeliever Nation: The Rise of Secular Americans*, on Sunday, August 19, at 3:00 p.m.

This talk will be in memory of Nat Wolf.

David says this talk will be “An overview of my book, *Nonbeliever Nation*, discussing several of the major themes, particularly the notion that an identity-oriented movement of Secular Americans stands the best chance of reversing the damage that has been done by three decades of Religious Right dominance.”

David Niose has served as president of the American Humanist Association since January 2009, following four years as treasurer of that organization. He also currently serves as vice president of the Secular Coalition for America. He blogs at *Psychology Today*, and has written extensively for many other publications. On a more local level, David is a founding member of Greater Worcester Humanists.

We will have copies of *Nonbeliever Nation* for sale at most events in August for \$16.25.

We'll start with half an hour of coffee and conversation at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, followed by David's talk after brief announcements at 3:30 p.m.

Bring a friend, and plan on having a great time!

## August 12 Book Group: “Nonbeliever Nation”

Since so many of us have already purchased and started the book, we have decided to meet on Sunday, August 12, at 2:00 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike to discuss David Niose's *Nonbeliever Nation: The Rise of Secular Americans*. Pick up a copy of the book online or at any of our events in August and join the discussion! Refreshments will be served.

## 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).

### AUGUST

|          |   |                                     |
|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Sat., 4  | <b>Humanist Conversations: <i>Is Christianity Good for American Politics?</i></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., 11 | Walk in Woodbridge at the Darling House   | 10:30 a.m.                          |
| Sat., 11 | Talk by Marsha Zellner, M.D.: “Does it Bite?” with potluck dinner beforehand.   | 4:00 p.m. potluck<br>4:45 p.m. talk |
| Sun., 12 | Book discussion: <i>Nonbeliever Nation: The Rise of Secular Americans</i> by David Niose.   | 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.              |
| Sun., 19 | Monthly Meeting in Memory of Nat Wolf:<br><b>Main program:</b> David Niose, President of the American Humanist Association, talks about his new book, <i>Nonbeliever Nation</i> | 3:00 p.m.<br>3:30 p.m.              |
| Sun., 26 | Board meeting   | 2:30 p.m.                           |
| Tue., 28 | Hartford Area Dinner at Hanafin's Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599.<br>Guest Speaker: Nancy Boone on Meeting Basic Human Needs in Connecticut.                   | 6:30 p.m.                           |

### SEPTEMBER

|          |   |                        |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| TBA      | <b>Humanist Conversations: TBA</b>  | 2:30 p.m.              |
| Sat., 1  | Cookout at Crystal Lake in Middletown   | Noon to 4:00 p.m.      |
| Mon., 10 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002  | 7:00 p.m.              |
| Mon., 17 | Monthly Meeting<br><b>Main program:</b> Andrew Schneider of the Connecticut ACLU  | 7:30 p.m.<br>8:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 23 | Board meeting   | 2:30 p.m.              |
| Tue., 25 | Hartford Area Dinner at Hanafin's Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599.<br>Guest Speaker: Jason Deeble on the first <i>Camp Quest</i> in Connecticut | 6:30 p.m.              |

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

## Conversations

On April 16, 2012, *New York Times* best-selling author Susan Jacoby, currently program director of The Center for Inquiry, and D'Souza, recent author of “What's so Great About Christianity?” and president of the King's College, debated “Is Christianity Good for American Politics?” Join us on Saturday, August 4, at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when we will watch and discuss a portion of this debate. Refreshments will be served.

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

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**Newsletter**

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
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| Production: | Richard Siddall<br>(203) 264-2182<br><a href="mailto:webmaster@cthumanist.org">webmaster@cthumanist.org</a> |

# Hartford Area Dinner & Speaker: Nancy Boone of CABHN

The guest speaker for August 28 at Hanafin's in Glastonbury will be Nancy Boone of the Legal Access Resource Center's Connecticut Alliance of Basic Human Needs. Nancy will be speaking on the extent to which basic human needs are being met in Connecticut and what efforts are underway to fill the gap.

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## Does it Bite?

*Talk and slide show by Marsha Zellner preceded by potluck dinner.*

Have you ever wondered what is real vs imagined of the stories of flesh-eating spiders or wolves and bears with a preference for human flesh? Marsha Zellner, M.D., will give an in-depth look (with illustrations) at the venomous snakes and insects in the continental US, and will discuss a variety of animal bites and the diseases associated with them. She will discuss identification, geographic location, those at risk, prevention, and urgent medical care for those unfortunate enough to be bitten.

Marsha is a full-time emergency medicine physician at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, and is board certified in internal medicine. She is also a certified Wilderness First Aid Provider. Marsha has extensive experience as a hike leader and educator for Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America.

The talk will be Saturday August 11 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. We will start with a potluck dinner from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Marsha's presentation will follow with plenty of time for questions and answers.

Please bring a dish to share!

## Cookout, Rain or Shine

Brian Ditter and Tara McLaughlin invite HAC to a cookout and pot luck the Saturday before Labor Day, Saturday, September 1, from noon to 4:00 p.m. under the pavilion at Crystal Lake Park, 100 Livingston Road, Middletown.

Please RSVP to Brian Ditter by text at (860) 262-1291, voice at (860) 704-0439, or Tara McLaughlin at (860) 545-5065. Please let Brian know if you can help set up that morning.

Brian and Tara will provide burgers/dogs, beverages, chips, and fixings. Please bring a dish to share. Tell the attendant you're there for the cookout at the pavilion to avoid paying the entrance fee.

## Woodbridge Walk/Hike

Join us Saturday, August 11. The walk/hike is from 10:30 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m., along an easy, shaded trail and will be followed by an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please bring drinking water to the hike. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. We will meet at the parking lot adjacent to the Thomas Darling House, 1907 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge. *Please arrive by 10:30.* The hike will be led by Marsha Zellner.

This event will be canceled in the event of rain. If in doubt about the weather, contact Manny Ratafia: e-mail: [manny@ratafias.com](mailto:manny@ratafias.com), home (203) 387-7348, mobile (203) 901-9553 or Marsha Zellner: home (203) 393-2816, mobile (203) 494-3856 or Nina Stein: home (203) 757-2539, mobile (203) 215-0022.

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.

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| i Family . . . . .  | \$50  |
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