



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CONNECTICUT

September 2012



CSH Affiliate

Three Major Civil Liberties Cases, Three ACLU Clients

On Monday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, ACLU of Connecticut Executive Director Andrew Schneider will speak on "The Clients: A Look at the Sacrifices of Individuals Who Make the ACLU's Work Possible," telling the gripping stories of ACLU clients in three major cases involving voter suppression; separation of church and state; and the challenge of Arizona's "show me your papers" anti-immigration laws.

As chief executive officer of the ACLU of Connecticut and the ACLU Foundation of Connecticut, Andrew has overall responsibility for management and operation of both organizations. Prior to coming to Connecticut, he was Executive Director of the ACLU of West Virginia for six years. During his tenure there, the affiliate's membership more than tripled and its budget quintupled in size. In West Virginia, he spearheaded a successful campaign to pass legislation to combat racial profiling. For those efforts, the NAACP honored him with their Freedom Award.

From 1998 to 2001, he served as the Development Director for the ACLU in Connecticut. His other ACLU credentials include Development Director for the ACLU of New Mexico, Campus Groups Coordinator for the ACLU National Office, Board member of the ACLU of

Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER

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| Sat., 8 | Humanist Conversations: Steven Pinker | 2:30 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 | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Andrew Schneider of the Connecticut ACLU | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 22 | Book discussion: "1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created" by Charles C. Mann | 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 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. Guest Speaker: Jason Deeble on the first <i>Camp Quest</i> in Connecticut | 6:30 p.m. |
| Sat., 29 | A Discussion With Henry Auer — "Global Warming: The Facts And The Issues" | 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. |

OCTOBER

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| Mon., 1 | Social Dinner at Turkish Kebab House, 1157 Campbell Ave., West Haven. (203) 933-0002 | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 6 | Humanist Conversations: TBA | 2:30 p.m. |
| Mon., 15 | Monthly Meeting | 7:30 p.m. |
| | Main program: Dan Blinn on "Current Issues before the Supreme Court" | 8:00 p.m. |
| Sat., 20 | Book Discussion: "Galapagos" by Kurt Vonnegut | 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| Sun., 21 | Board meeting | 2:30 p.m. |
| Tue., 23 | Hartford Area Dinner at Hanafin's Pub, 21 Rankin Rd., Glastonbury. (860) 659-8599. Guest Speaker: State Rep. Prasad Srinivasan | 6:30 p.m. |

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Virginia, and founder and president of the ACLU campus chapter at Washington & Lee University, where he earned his B.A. in European History.

Join us on Monday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford

Turnpike in Hamden. We will begin with refreshments and conversation at 7:30 p.m. The program will begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by plenty of time for questions and discussion. Come and bring a friend!

September 22 Book Group: "1493"

We will be discussing "1493: Uncovering The New World Columbus Created" by Charles Mann on September 22, at 3:00 p.m. Copies are available in public libraries. Refreshments will be served.

The following description of "1493" is from Goodreads:

From the author of "1491"—the best-selling study of the pre-Columbian Americas—a deeply engaging new history of the most momentous biological event since the death of the dinosaurs.

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Newsletter

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

Hartford Area Dinner & Speaker: Camp Quest

The guest speaker for September 25 at Hanafin's in Glastonbury will be Jason Deeble, who will be talking about Camp Quest's inaugural season in Connecticut. Tom and Deidre Kennedy's son attended the camp, and we hope he agrees to come and add a few words about the experience!

Join us at Hanafin's Irish Pub, 21 Rankin Road, Glastonbury for drinks and socializing at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:00 p.m. To car pool from Hamden, meet in the parking lot at USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike, at 5:40 p.m.

To Kill a Mockingbird

On the first Friday of each month from September through May, USNH holds a potluck movie and discussion night. As David and June are involved, of course these events are just right for Humanists!

On Friday, September 7, the potluck will be at 6:30 p.m. and the Oscar-Winning Gregory Peck classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. followed by a discussion.

Conversations: Steven Pinker

September Conversations will focus on a talk by Steven Pinker that presents, in brief, the reasons for his contention that "We are probably living in the most peaceful time in our species' existence." This is based on his book "The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined." You can preview the talk from the following link: http://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_on_the_myth_of_violence.html.

We will meet a week later than usual in September, on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden. Refreshments will be served.

Global Warming: The Facts And The Issues A Discussion With Henry Auer

Join us 4:00 p.m. at USNH on Saturday, September 29, when Henry Auer will speak on global warming. Henry will give an informal presentation open for discussion with participants. This meeting is intended especially for those without a scientific background. Henry will introduce the greenhouse effect and discuss whether recent warming is man-made. In addition, Henry will cover economic consequences of rapid warming. The meeting will include questions and answers and a group discussion. Henry believes it is important to act to overcome the bitter political stalemate that immobilizes the federal government on this and related issues. Henry is a seasoned scientist with many years in research and development, both in the biotechnology industry, and earlier, as a medical school faculty member. Most recently, until he retired in 2010, he was a patent agent focusing on biotechnology. Since 2010, Henry has become active in global warming and related environmental issues, including publishing his *Global Warming Blog* at <http://warmgloblog.blogspot.com>. Henry has an A.B. in chemistry from Princeton, and he earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Harvard.

The meeting will start with coffee and snacks from 4:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., which will be followed by Henry's presentation and a group discussion. You are encouraged to bring a snack to share.

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MEMBERSHIP	
Adult	\$35
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Our membership year is 1/1-12/31.	
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